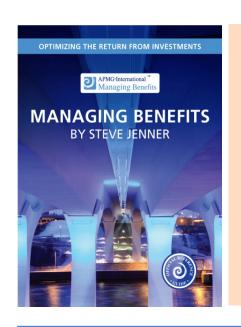
# Realizing Benefits from Projects & Programs

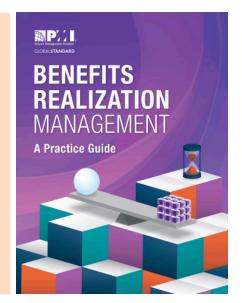
Problems, Causes, Solutions

Copenhagen: 13th November 2019

#### Benefits – the <u>rationale</u> for investment



Benefits are not just one dimension of portfolio, programme and project management; rather, they are the rationale for the investment of taxpayers' and shareholders' funds in change initiatives.



Benefit - The measurable improvement from change, which is perceived as positive by stakeholders, and which contributes towards to organizational including strategic objectives.

### Problem: the track record (globally) isn't good

"Most large capital investments come in late and over budget, never living up to expectations. More than 70% of new manufacturing plants in North America, for example, close within their first decade of operation. Approximately three-quarters of mergers and acquisitions never pay-off...And efforts to enter new markets fare no better" Lovallo & Kahneman

"it is found with overwhelming statistical significance that the cost estimates...are highly and systematically misleading" and demand forecasts are, "significantly misleading (inflated). The result is large benefit shortfalls". Bent Flyvbjerg

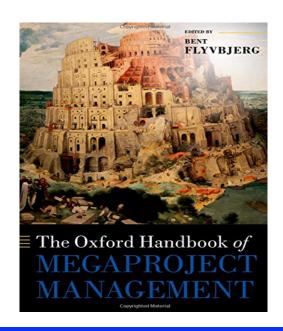
"project success appears to equate to achieving an acceptable level of failure or minimising lost benefits." **KPMG** 

"Up to 70% of change initiatives fail to deliver on the benefits that they set out to achieve." John Kotter

# Causes 1: The forecasts in business cases are (very) often (very) unreliable

Optimism Bias "We overemphasise projects' potential benefits and underestimate likely costs, spinning success scenarios while ignoring the possibility of mistakes." Daniel Kahneman

Strategic Misrepresentation – "the planned, systematic, deliberate misstatement of costs and benefits to get projects approved." In short, "that is lying". Flyvbjerg et al



"The best project selection system in the world is worthless unless the data is sound." Cooper & Edgett

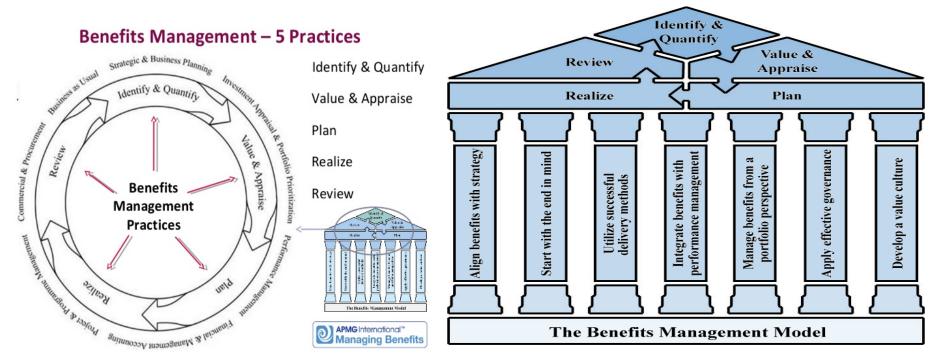
### Causes 2: Benefits Management has not always been applied effectively

- Activity rather than benefits-led change
- The 'build it and they will come' fallacy
- The 'Knowing-Doing gap'
- Box ticking' when all is said and done more is said than done" John Thorp

"A good deal of corporate planning ... is like a ritual rain dance. It has no effect on the weather that follows, but those who engage in it think it does. ... Moreover, much of the advice related to corporate planning is directed at improving the dancing, not the weather." Brian Quinn

Benefits Management - "Interest is high but few are doing it well" PMI & BCG

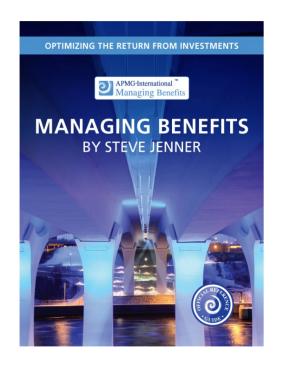
#### Solutions...

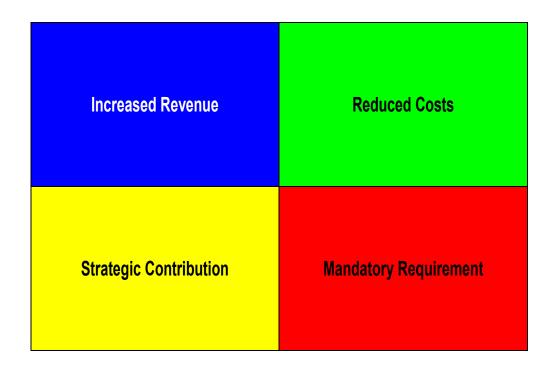


Source: Managing Benefits™

Based on Realism in planning & Enthusiasm in delivery

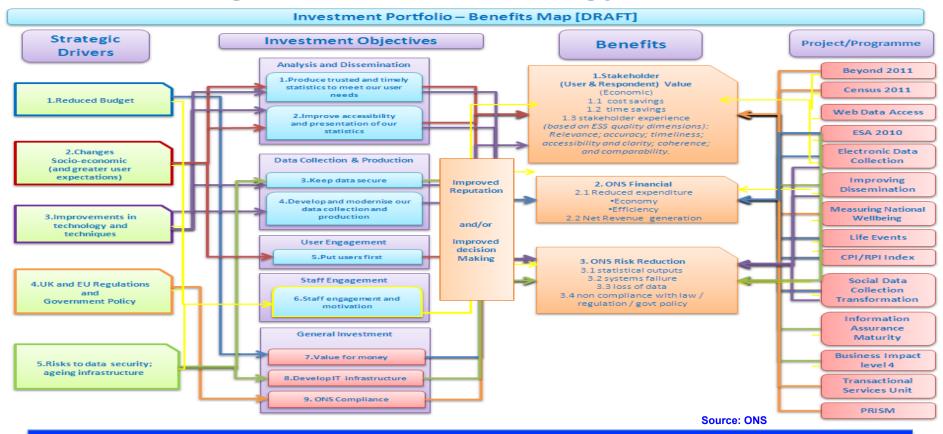
#### **Solutions – Treating Projects & Programs as Investments**





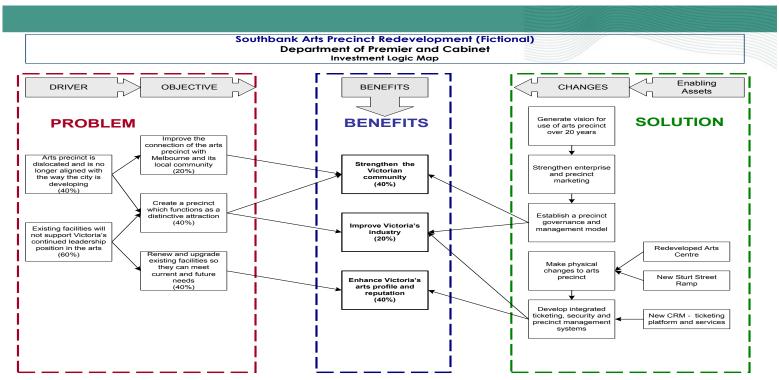
& tailor the investment criteria

### **Solutions 1. Align Benefits with Strategy**



"Project benefits can be considered synonymous with positive strategic impacts" PMI

#### Solutions 2. Start with the End in Mind



Source: Victorian Government Investment Management Standard

"Most corporate change programs mistake means for ends, process for outcome. **The solution: focus on results, not activities.**" Schaffer & Thomson

#### With more reliable forecasting...



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Routledge Teste & Presido Care

Curbing Optimism Bias and Strategic Misrepresentation in Planning: Reference Class Forecasting in Practice

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(Received May 2006; accepted August 2006)

ABSTRACT The American Plauning Association recently endorsed a new forecasting method called reference class forecasting, which is based on theories of plauning and decision-making that won the 2002 Nobel prize in economics. This paper details the method and describes the first instance of reference class forecasting in plauning practice. First, the paper documents that inaccurate projections of costs, demand, and other impacts of plaus are a major problem in plauning. Second, the paper explains haccuracy in terms of optimism bias and strategic misrepresentation. Third, the theoretical basis is presented for reference class forecasting, which earlieves accuracy in projections by basing them on actual performance in a reference class of comparable actions and thereby hypassing both opimism bias and strategic misrepresentation. Fourth, the paper presents the first case of practical reference class forecasting, which concerns cost projections for plauning of large transportation infrastructure investments in the UK, including the Edinburgh Tran and London's £15 billion Crossrail project. Finally, potentials for and barriers to reference class forecasting are assessed.



Article - McKinsey Quarterly

Bias busters: Taking the 'outside view'

With the Sponsor's & Business Case writer's names on Page 1 and Track Record on Page 2

#### And be clear about the benefits you are buying...

Financial: Cashable benefits

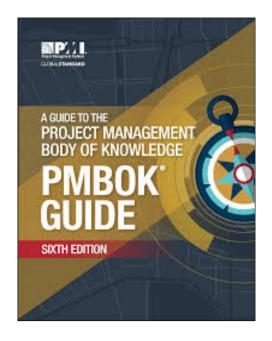


Financial: Non-Cashable benefits?

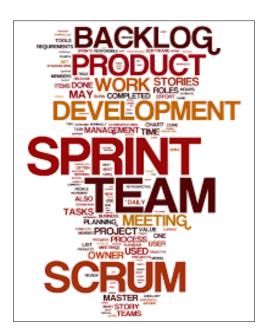


"We were survivors, dwellers forever in the cracks of the vast organisational chart. Disperse us, downsize us, squash us, transfer us, and we will reassemble someday, somewhere, to once again build new layers of redundancy, waste, and glaring irrelevance." Jimmy Lerner

#### **Solutions 3. Utilize Successful Delivery Methods**





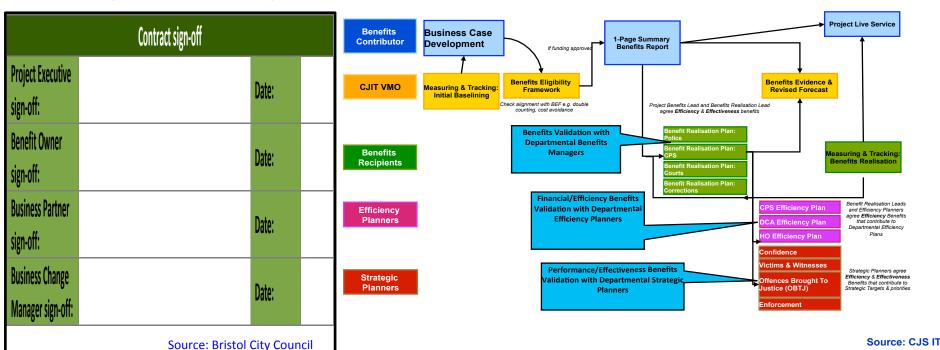


Caveat - With benefits <u>embedded</u> in the project or program...

# Because it's not the answer to poorly conceived and implemented initiatives

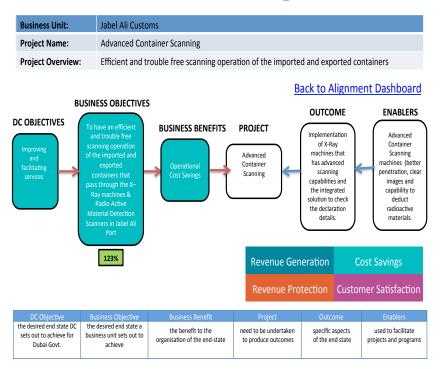


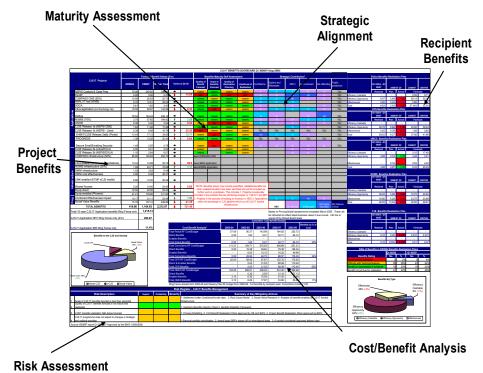
### Solutions 4. Integrate benefits with the performance management regime



Agreeing benefits with Benefit Owners & 'Booking' them in KPIs & Budget baselines

#### Solutions 5. Manage benefits from a Portfolio perspective

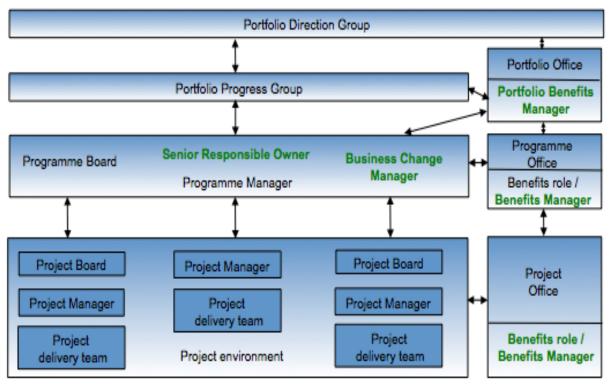


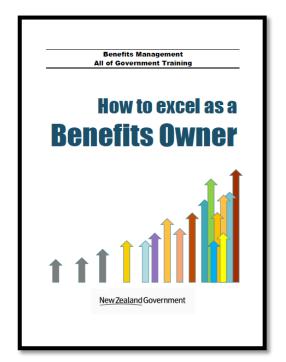


Source: Dubai Customs

An <u>organizationally-specific benefits</u> framework & asking: Is that the best we can do from our accumulated investment in change?

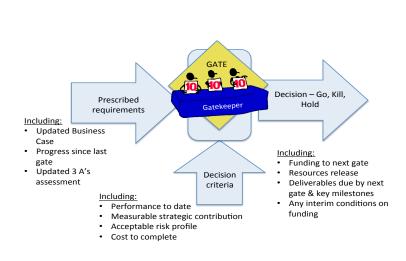
#### **Solutions 6. Apply Effective Governance**

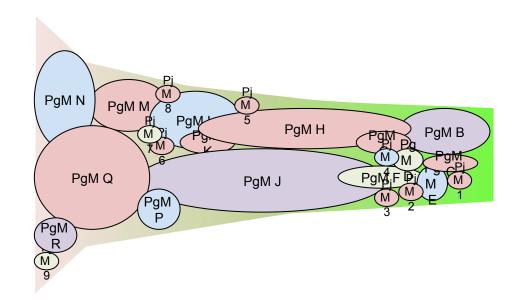




Source: Managing Benefits™

### With regular review of throughout the project (with formal recommitment to the benefits)



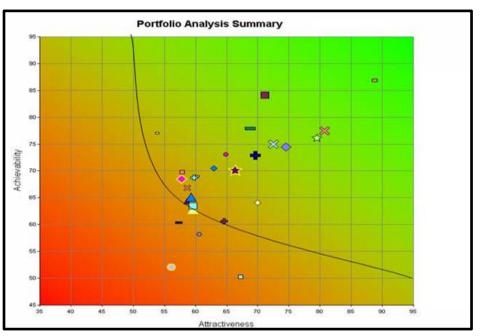


With Staged Release of Funding & no 'orphan' benefits

### Solutions 7. Develop a Value Culture - expecting & planning for improvement...

"By applying rigorous Benefits Management, expected benefits can increase from 70% to 85%, with an additional project or programme overhead that should not exceed 5%." Michael Payne

San Retna - "demonstrates how his company applied advanced portfolio management techniques to realize in excess of 80% of expected business benefits from its corporate investments"

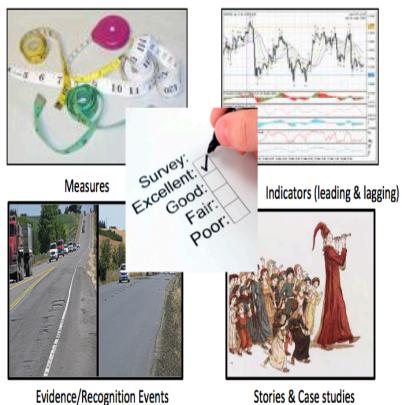


Based on Realism in planning & Enthusiasm in delivery

#### Solutions 7. Develop a Value Culture – and...

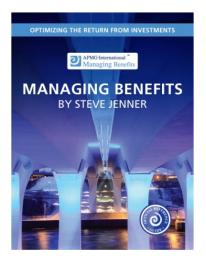








### Thank you / Mange tak



### Questions?

Email me at stephen.jenner5@btinternet.com
Free materials at www.stephenjenner.com

http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Managing-Benefits-4493501