

# Assessment Process

## Habiba Gitay

habiba.gitay@anu.edu.au

### What is an assessment?

- **a critical and objective evaluation of information, for guiding decisions on a complex, public issue**
- **Based around policy-relevant or user/stakeholder questions**

### An assessment...

- ...does not present new research findings ....
  - **Most data already collected, peer-reviewed and in public domain or in other assessments**
  - **Can be gap filling, new runs of old models and synthesis**
- ...Focuses on policy questions/issues
  - **Judgement, clearly labelled, is required**
- ...is **not** an advocacy piece ...
  - **Must be balanced and evidence-based**
- ...is **not** an opportunity to promote your pet topics or own work or to develop personal research agendas

### Assessment Characteristics

- **process: open, transparent, representative**
- **technically accurate**
- **aims to reduce complexity but add value**
  - **summarisation, synthesis and sorting what is known and widely accepted from what is not known (or not agreed - uncertainty framework)**
- **conducted by a team of experts**
  - **broad range of disciplinary and geographical experience; different knowledge systems**
  - **Like working together and having fun!**

### Dealing with (un)certainty qualitative scale

Used in executive summary and Summary for decision-makers

### Quantitative scale

## CA Synthesis Report

- Concentrates on issues or questions
  - Gives focus
- **Two important outputs**
  - **Executive summary for each chapter**
    - Messages and sub messages or Key findings with certainty expressed
    - Narrative (iterative)
    - Linked to chapter outline/sections
    - Include information needs/gaps
  - **Summary for decision makers**
    - Use figures and tables generously
    - Bring in main points across chapters