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Subject: Comments on consultation paper

The consultation paper does a good job of identifying the types of actions that should be undertaken through the final action plan, when prepared. However, it is vital that the plan, unlike the consultation paper, focus not only on individual actions but most importantly on the linkages between actions, so that information and results from prediction and monitoring actions form iterative feedback and adaptive response loops with planning and management actions.

Without this, the action plan will just be a list of actions without a strategy. It will not provide a basis for prioritising, scheduling actions in relation to each other, or allocating funding. In its present form the consultation paper is so all-embracing that it could be used to justify almost any project (funding proposal) broadly related to climate change - i.e. almost any project that anybody dreams up could be linked to at least one of the 45+ specific actions.

I also have some more detailed technical ideas on how to maximise the effectiveness with which particular actions are implemented (under Strategies 2 and 3), but I see these as of secondary importance at this time. I would be happy to provide future feedback through our agency's contact officers once the draft action plan itself is available.

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