



# ABS Transformation Programme

Sean Crick, Director Transforming  
Economic Statistics Program

September 2015



[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)



- Government has made a five year investment into the ABS.
- This will support the transformation through providing an urgently needed and critical update of ABS systems, business processes and statistical capabilities.
- This investment is expected to deliver a range of outcomes.

# Investment Objectives



reduce  
cost



reduce  
time to  
market



reduce  
statistical  
risk



enable



grow the  
business

reduce  
red tape



- **Statistical Business Transformation Program**
  - Provide the future technology, systems, processes and capabilities for the future
- **Transforming Statistics Program**
  - Position the ABS for the future

# What is TEPS?

Transforming Economic and People Statistics is responsible for articulating and driving the transformation of the ABS' statistical programs, through:

1. Developing a future-focused business strategy; and
2. Supporting the ABS' program around modernising infrastructure, processes and capabilities.

These programs will champion the increased solution-orientation of the ABS, to most effectively meet the information requirements of Australia in the 21st Century.

Collection-centred

Solution-centred

## Solutions under a **collection**-centred model

What can the ABS  
collect/access and produce?

What solutions can the ABS  
derive using ABS products?

How can the ABS most  
effectively align solutions and  
information requirements?

## Solutions under a **solution**-centred model

What is the information  
requirement?

What statistical solutions could  
meet this?

Which data sources and  
methods best support these  
solutions?



- Need strong involvement from key users/stakeholders early in the development phases:
  - Quality perspective (fitness for purpose)
  - Ensure solutions being developed suit our users
  - Leverage the expertise and experience of our users/stakeholders



# Transforming Economic Statistics





# A change in focus



- Statistics will be more independent of data sources
- Greater weight on providing user specific statistical solutions
- Greater emphasis on quality assurance through data confrontation
- Expanded Use of “Whole of Government” Business Data Collection Infrastructure
- Expanded use of administrative and transactions data



# A User Focus



Support macroeconomic policy  
i.e. fiscal and monetary policy

Support microeconomic policy  
i.e. industry support, innovation policy

**Accounts Compilation**

- Core economic accounts
- Labour Accounts
- Satellite accounts

**Unit Level Data**

- Business Register
- Business Longitudinal Database
- Household Economic Surveys Curfs

Integrate & distributional analysis

**Administrative Data**

- Further use of gov't admin data
- Exploit admin data owned by private sector i.e. scanner, transaction data

**Survey Data**

- More responsive & flexible
- More efficient & cost effective

Supplement & complement

Statistical Infrastructure:  
Frame, standards etc

Data Supply

Support Specific Policy Questions  
i.e. online retailing, carbon farming



# Six TES projects

1. Expanded and outwardly focused business register
2. Consolidated business surveys
3. Whole of government engagement
4. Increased use of transactions data
5. Enhanced labour statistics
6. Reengineering of systems and processes



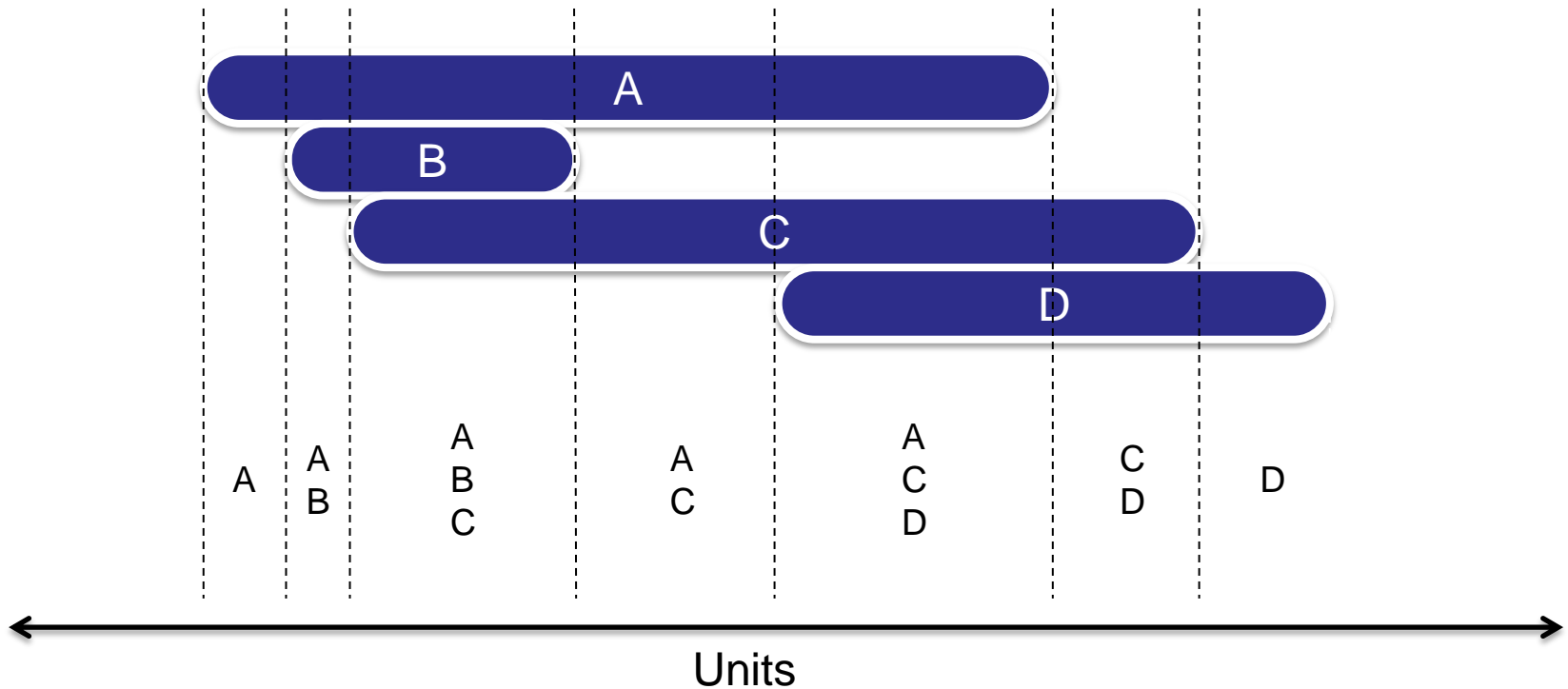


- An expanded and outwardly facing business register that will be:
  - A spine for firm level data
  - Infrastructure for unit and small area statistics
  - An output in its own right

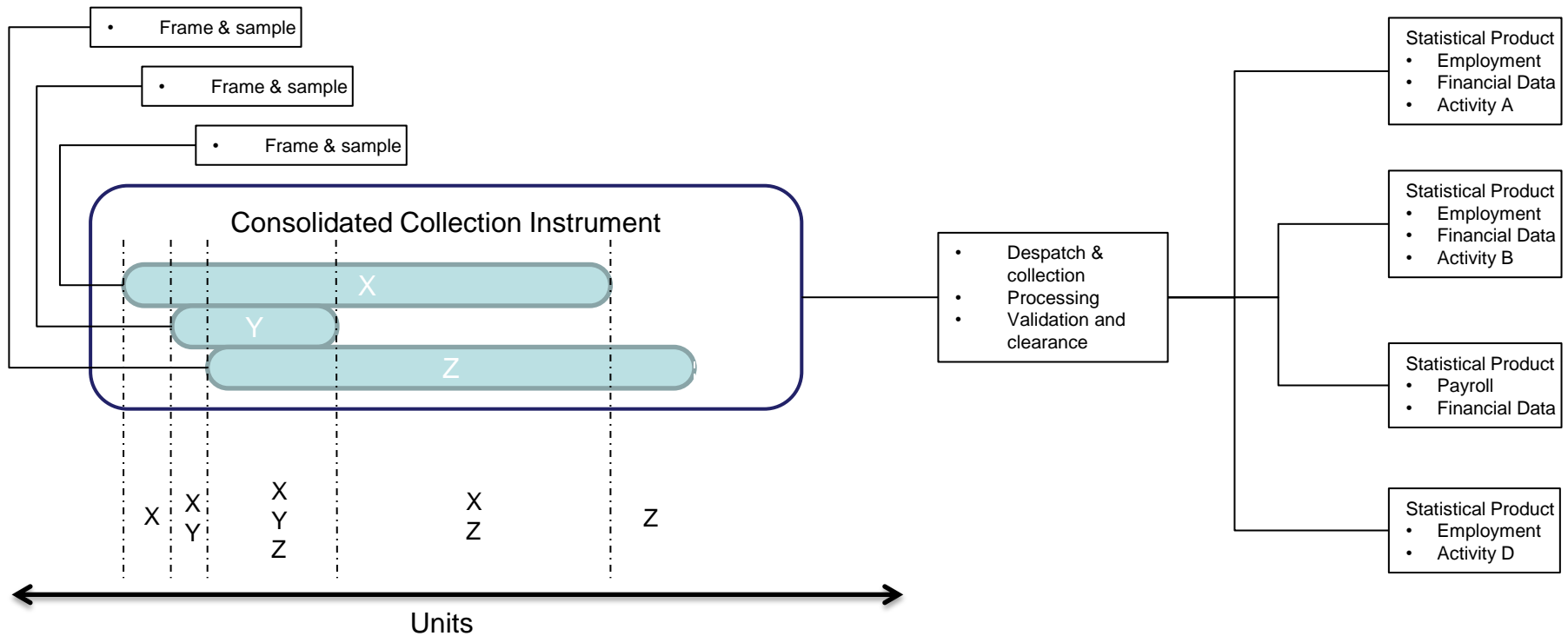


- Consolidation will bring us:
  - Aspirational target of one annual business survey, and significantly reduced number of sub-annuals
  - Reduced respondent burden through elimination of duplicate questions and improved targeting of questions
  - Increase opportunities for integration of data
  - Improved efficiencies through the collection phase

# Consolidation of surveys



# Consolidation of surveys





- A better relationship with providers, and a reduction in provider burden
- ‘Report once, use many times’ direction for businesses reporting to government.
- Improvements to data quality, with greater consistency across ABS estimates.
- Access to, and utilisation of new data sources



- An accelerated move into accessing and exploiting transaction data which will:
  - enable the ABS to meet current gaps within the statistical program;
  - improve the quality of existing key economic measures.



- Improving the set of available labour market data through use of business survey data and ATO data (LEED and one touch payroll)
- Providing options from synthetic estimates (combining household and business surveys) through to full set of labour accounts to better meet user needs

# Questions and comments

