

Future Direction of ABS

- Over the next 5 years ABS will transform the way it manages information from data acquisition to statistical communication
- Providing for a richer information source as the evidence base for use by Governments and the community

Big Step Change

- Radical transformation of ABS business operations with ‘big step’ change
- ABS will be transforming, rebuilding and continue to undertake business operations



Foundations for Change

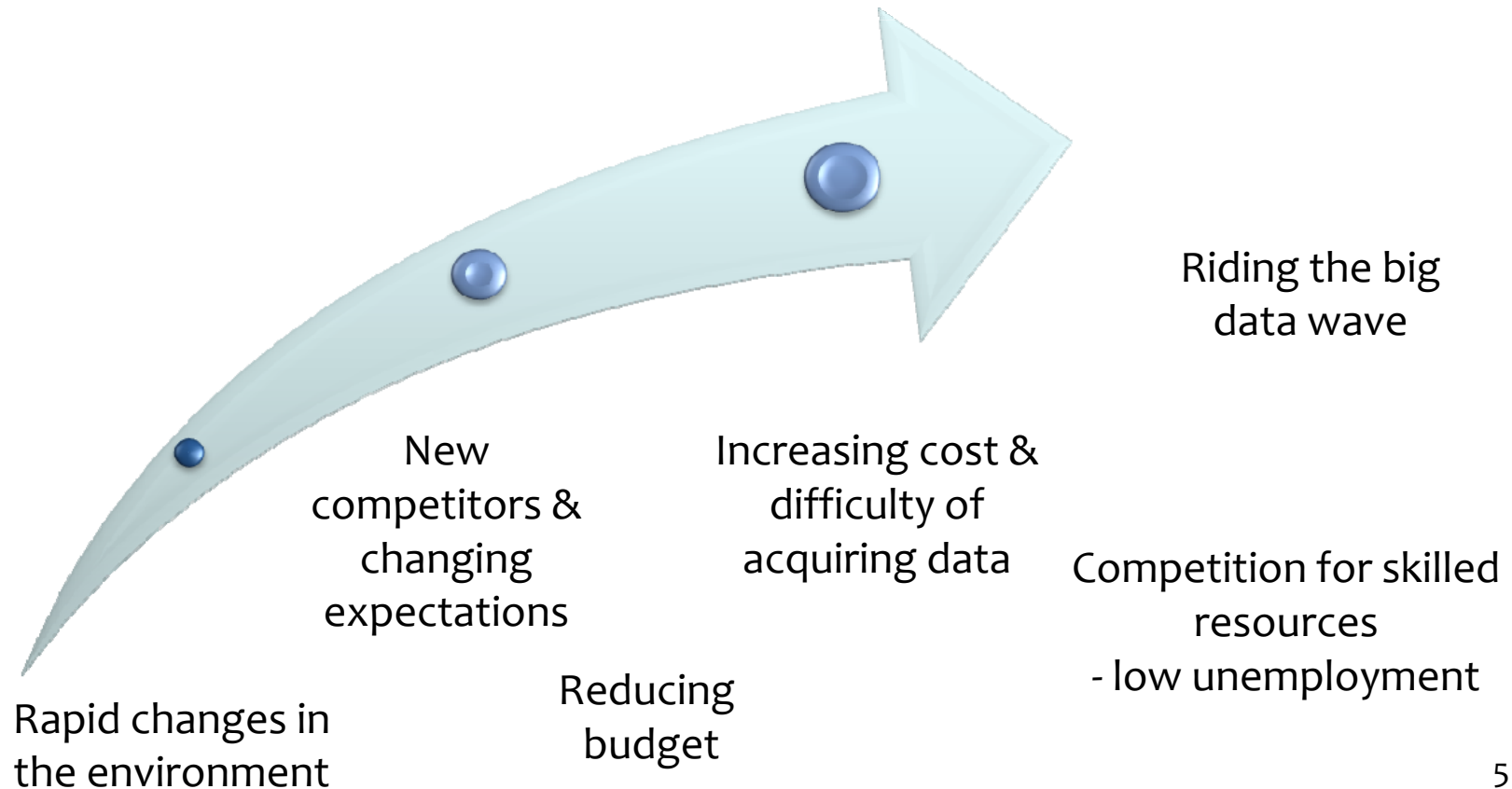
The ABS has the foundations to transform

- History of successful large scale change
- ABS brand is widely recognised
- Strong knowledge of managing statistical information
- Technically skilled and capable staff

Goals for the Change Program

1. Reduce the cost and time of doing business
 2. Grow the business through new statistical products and services
 3. Deliver the first large scale digital Census (2016) on time, to budget and quality
- while continuing to deliver high quality statistics for our users.

The Challenges



Information challenges

- Complex problems
- Information explosion
- Multiple stakeholders
- Changing expectations
 - Users
 - Providers
- Contestability and scrutiny
- Resource constraints
- The pressure of the ‘now’

Centralising Change within ABS

Will enable the organisation to:

- Centralise and integrate a wide range of cross cutting improvement projects for the future
- Review of the whole business and identify where we want to be (Enterprise Architecture)
- Effectively engage across the whole business
- Take a more disciplined approach to program and project management
- Strategically approach corporate investments

The ABS 2017 Strategy

Through large scale Innovation across the whole ABS

We will:

- radically transform the way we acquire, collate, use, reuse and disseminate statistical information

By:

- industrialising, modernising and reengineering our business processes
- reengineering our statistical infrastructure and the way we manage information
- developing capability needed to meet future needs
- collaborating with other international NSIs

Implementing change: Census 2016

- Maintain and make targeted improvements to the coverage of the population overall
- Maximise the value of Census through improving data quality
- Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of operations through streamlining the end to end process
- Establish a sustainable foundation for continuing development and innovation

Why change the Census?

- Changing workforce
- Accessibility to technology
- Increasing cost of conducting a successful Census
- Users with more sophisticated needs

Census 2016 Key Directions

- Review and improve quality of content
- Improved useability and data quality of the online form
- Streamline data processing and analysis
- Mail out as primary delivery mechanism
- Use near real time digital management information
- Optimise online interaction and engagement with the public
- Deliver an ABS Address Register

Census 2016 – How it will look...

- Public receive mail asking them to respond online. Paper forms only available via a phone call request.
- Paper forms returned only by mail (not via Collector)
- After a couple of weeks, non-respondents receive reminder mail.
- A couple of weeks later, field staff are sent out to remaining homes to provide reminder and paper form option.

Census 2016 Challenges

- Social change driving increasing challenge for every Census
- Less than four years to prepare
- Funding constraints and uncertainty
- Scale of change
- Increased reliance on technology

The Corporate Benefits

- Robust address register
- Acquisition of new technology
- Acquisition of knowledge
- Financial return

Implementing Change: the potential of data integration



What is statistical data integration?

- Statistical data integration involves integrating unit record data from different administrative sources and/or survey data sources to provide new data sets for statistical and research purposes
 - Not concerned with data integration for other purposes
 - e.g. service delivery, regulation, compliance

The benefits of statistical data integration

Leverages information by combining different data sets

- May obviate the need for costly additional collections
- Maximises governments' investments in information assets
- Improved research, policy making, program management and service delivery
- Enables new official statistics (including longitudinal data) to be developed to inform society

Challenges in statistical data integration

- Community acceptance
- Cost
- Infrastructure and data management
- Capability and skills
- Access to data from custodians
 - Legal and privacy issues
 - Political sensitivities
- Linkage methodologies
- Providing access to integrated data
 - Confidentiality
 - Other access issues

The Commonwealth's Australian Government Statistical Data Integration initiative

- Arose from concerns that Commonwealth data was not always being linked in a safe and effective way
- Committee was formed to create an Australian Government approach
 - Comprised of key administrative data holder, producers and users of statistics
- Only concerned with statistical integration projects involving Commonwealth data sets that have the potential to impact public trust in the collection and use of data by government

Key features

- High-level principles (e.g. treat data as a strategic resource, data integration should only occur where it provides significant benefit to the public)
- High-level Cross-Portfolio Data Integration Oversight Board to oversee environment
- An accreditation process for Integrating Authorities to ensure these agencies have the necessary skills and infrastructure
- Web-based register of data integration projects and public feedback mechanism

ABS challenges

- Community acceptance of data integration
- Dissemination, particularly for researchers
 - Maximising the availability of information while maintaining legislative confidentiality obligations
- Need to be responsive and timely
- Need to offer value for money

Thank you