

# Office of Sports NSW

SSO Risk Management: Simple ways  
to kick-start your SSO risk  
management planning

31 May 2023

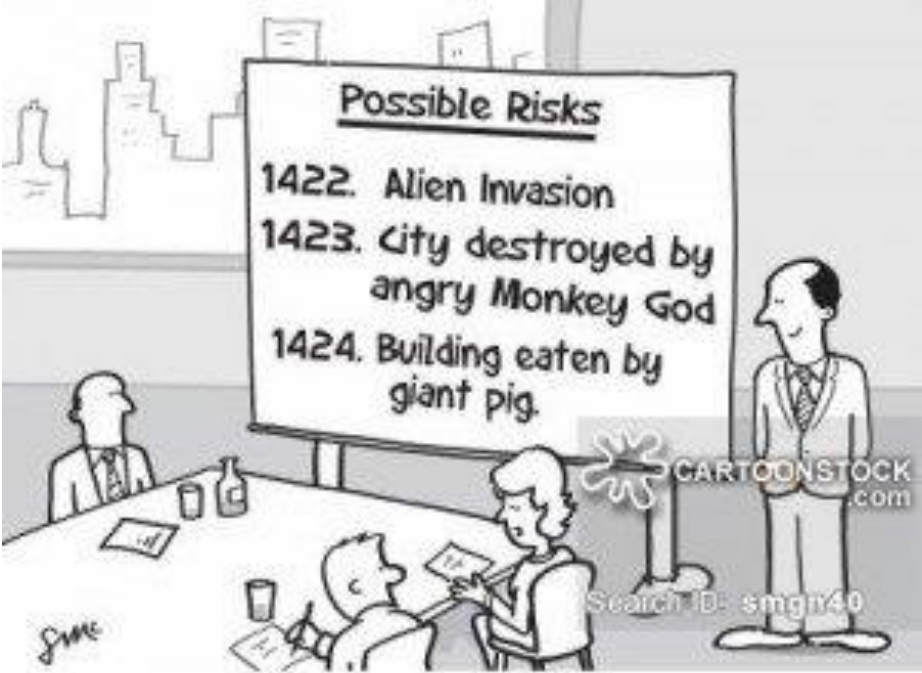
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Board  
Matters

# Risk – from one extreme...



"Well he certainly does a very thorough risk analysis."



Sport: A risk(y) business?



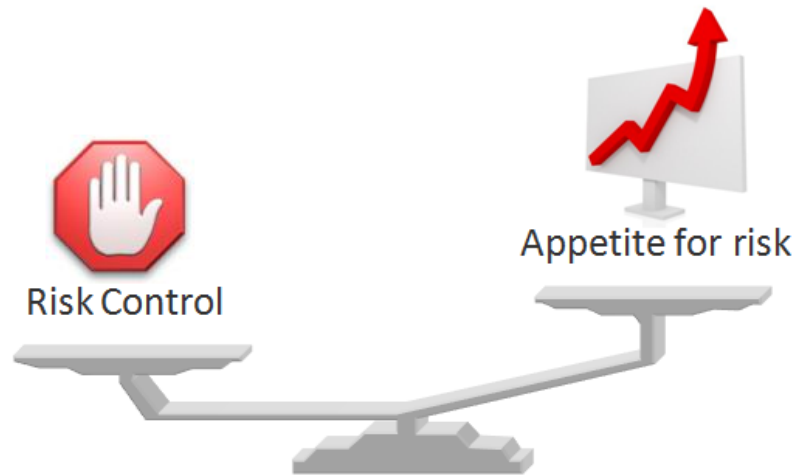
# Risk management – benefits?

- Better sporting or recreational outcomes
- Improved safety for participants, officials, spectators and volunteers
- Lower costs and increased budget certainty
- More effective management of assets, events, programs and activities
- Improved compliance with the law, regulations and other formal requirements
- Enhanced image and reputation

Source: <https://www.sport.nsw.gov.au/running-your-club/club-governance/risk-management>

# Let's talk about risk!

- The helpful and the unhelpful practices!



# Risk Management

## The unknown unknowns



*“There are known knowns;  
these are things we know we know.*

*We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say, we  
know there are some things we do not know.*

*But there are also unknown unknowns -  
the ones we don't know we don't know.”*

# Defining “risk”

- “the chance of something happening that will have an impact on objectives”

AS4360:2004

- “effect of uncertainty on objectives”

AS/ISO 31000:2009

- “risk is a measure of the possibility that the future may be surprisingly different from what we expect”

Ready...or Not - a risk management  
guide for nonprofit executives

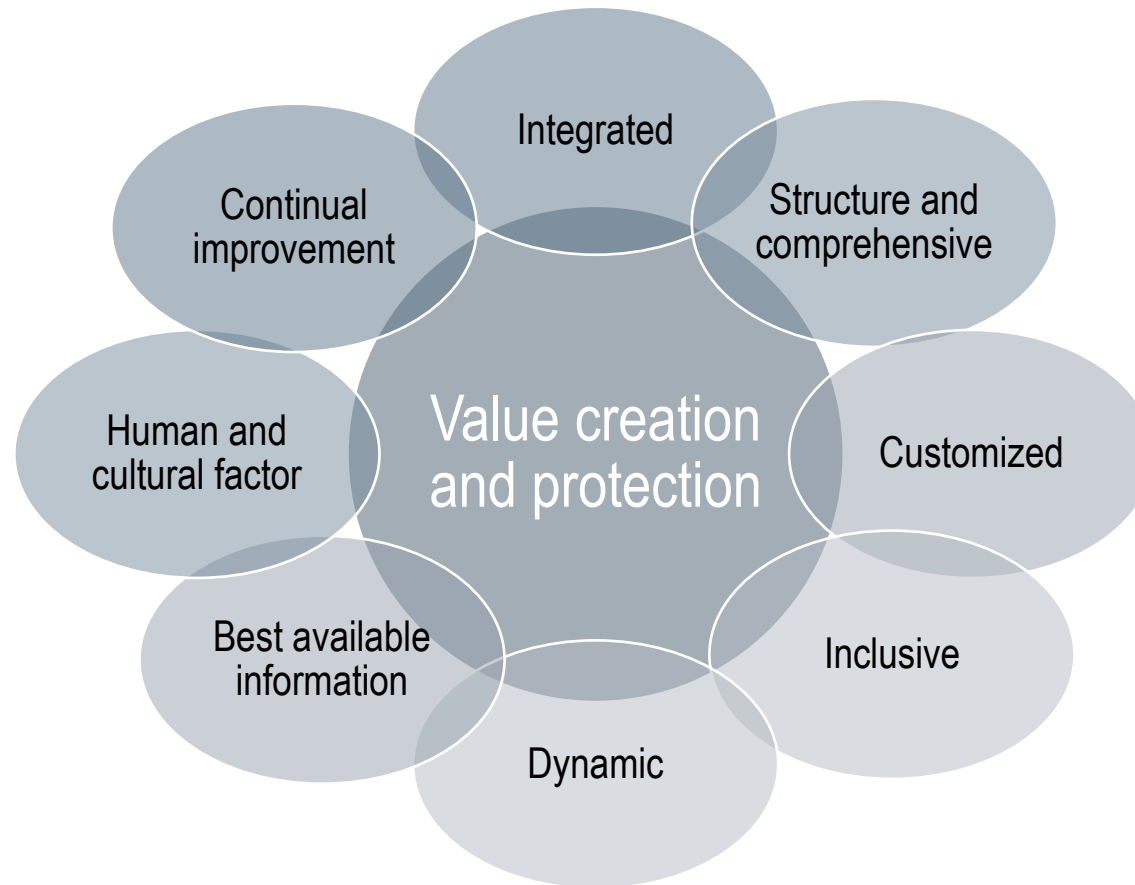


# Risk management - context

- ‘Risk Management’ is not new!
- As an SSO grows, so do:
  - its opportunities & risks
  - the number of people making risk assessments to their own standards
  - the number of perspectives on what is the ‘right’ thing to do
- The point? Giving a basis for decisions that are taken across the company



# Principles of risk management



# Interface between Risk and Compliance

- Invariably one aspect identified in *risk management* review is risk of *legal compliance* failures
- Interface between Risk Management Standard (AS/NZS ISO 31000:2018) and Compliance Standard (AS/ISO 19600:2015) and
- Legal Compliance as a legal and ethical obligation is a function of a proper risk management framework

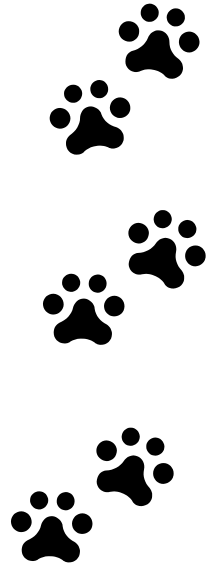


Risk – it's all  
about context

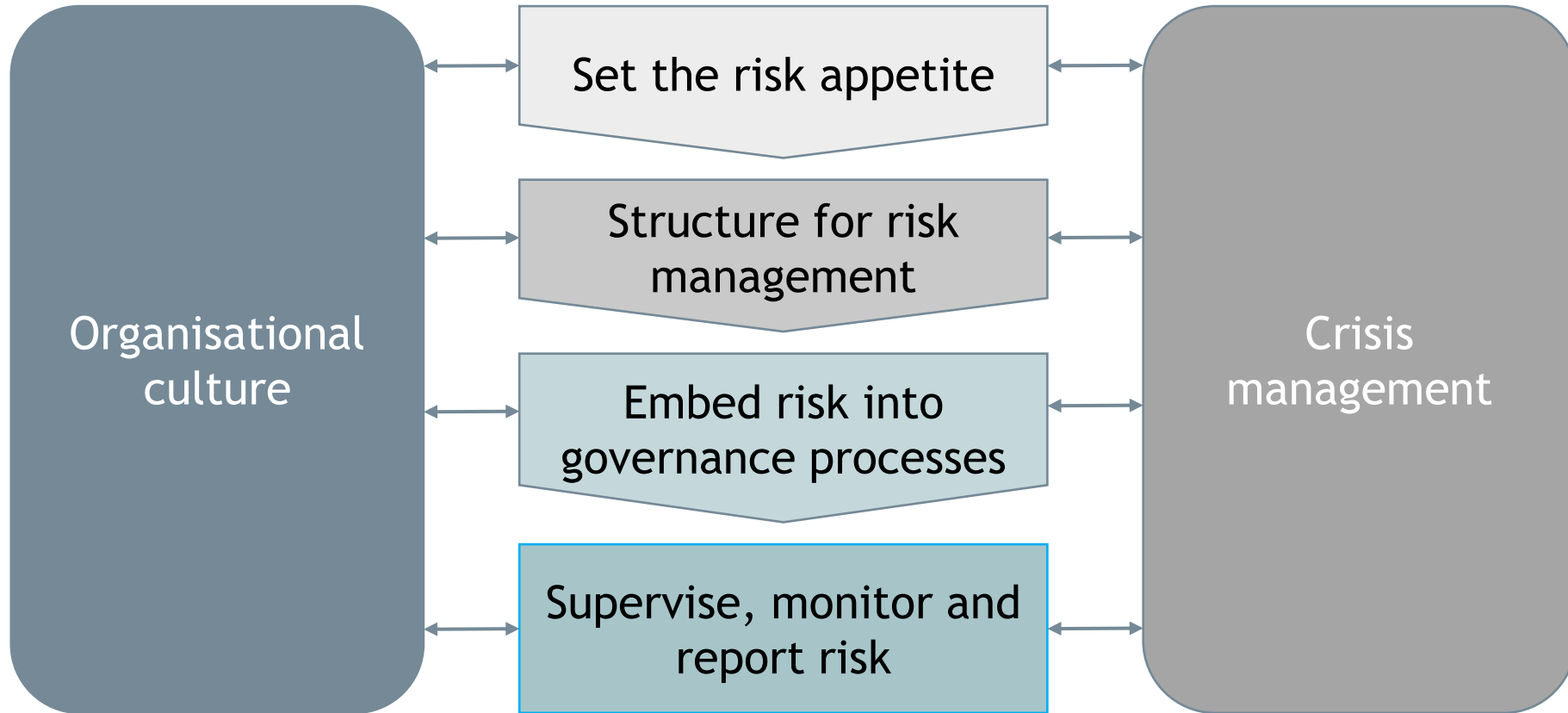


# Your board context...

- ***Risk Management*** as a legal obligation is a function of Board's ***fiduciary*** and ***statutory*** duties (i.e. care, skill and diligence)
- ***Risk Management*** also as part of our ethical responsibility as Directors and Managers for the assets & resources under our stewardship
- ***Legal Compliance*** as a legal and ethical obligation is a function of a proper risk management framework



# Key risk role of Board



# Board and Management's Role: Managing Risk

## Board's responsibility:

- Develop and approve risk management framework
- Set risk appetite and policy
- Monitor:
  - strategic risks
  - inherent “red” risks
  - any other risks identified by Board
- Governance risk register
- Review annually

## Management Team's responsibility:

- Report to Board on risks as required
- Monitor and manage risk for the organisation
- Develop risk registers and review regularly

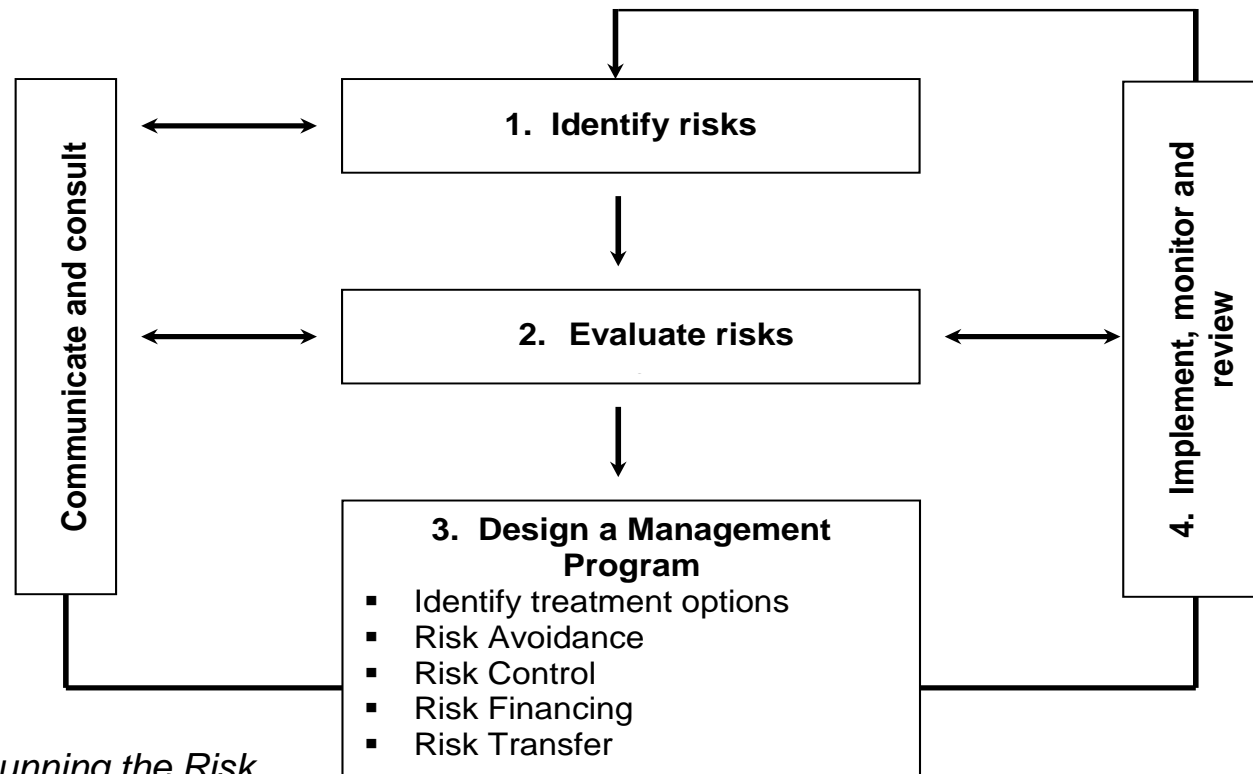


# What are the tools to convert risk mayhem into risk management?

- Risk standards:
  - ISO AS/NZS 31000: 2018
- Compliance standard:
  - AS/ISO 19600:2015
- On-line:
  - Office of Sports NSW  
<https://www.sport.nsw.gov.au/running-your-club/club-governance/risk-management>

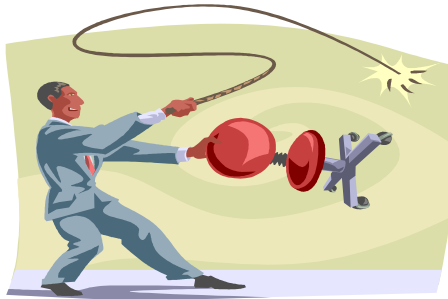


# Framework of risk management



Volunteering Australia, *Running the Risk*,  
[www.volunteeringaustralia.org](http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org) based on AS4360

# Evaluating risk - example



			CONSEQUENCE				
			1	2	3	4	5
			Trivial	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
L I K E L I H O O D	A	(almost certain)	L	M	H	E	E
	B	(probable)	L	M	H	E	E
	C	(possible)	L	M	H	H	E
	D	(unlikely)	L	L	M	H	H
	E	(rare)	L	L	L	M	H

# Evaluating risk - example

Risk Rating		Action Required
L	Low Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No further action is needed at present, but monitoring will be necessary to ensure that controls are maintained.</li><li>• Manage by Routine Procedures</li></ul>
M	Medium Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Efforts must be made to reduce the risk, but the costs of doing so need to be carefully considered.</li><li>• Approval required from relevant Executive, notification to CEO</li></ul>
H	High Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The activity should be halted until the risk has been reduced or sufficient control measures are in place.</li><li>• Approval required from CEO, notified to Board (at CEO, discretion on immediacy of notifying the Board).</li></ul>
E	Extreme Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The activity that gives rise to the risk should be prohibited.</li><li>• Approval required from Board to proceed with it.</li></ul>

# Taming the risk beasts

- What are your risk **drivers**?
- Risk and compliance *policies*?
- *Culture* of risk and compliance awareness
- Starts with capturing *staff* knowledge and commitment:
  - Staff are aware and share our commitment to compliance?
  - Staff understand their obligations and are accountable?
  - Staff have adequate resources and support?
  - Staff have a link to the Board re: risk/compliance?

# Managing the mayhem...

- ***Risk and compliance*** as a standing item to the Board agenda
- ***Identify*** and ***list*** risks and compliance obligations
- ***Annual calendar*** include risk and compliance reporting
- Find multiple sources of ***information***
- ***Training***, training, training
- ***Communication***, communication etc...
- ***Monitor*** and ***review*** (and remember the 2 are different)



# Record keeping

- What risk occurred?
- When the risk occurred?
- Who identified the risk?
- Were the organisation's policies and procedures followed?
- What were the steps taken by the organisation?
- Were any stakeholders informed?
- Was the insurance company notified?
- Did there organisation make a public statement?



# Boards and their risk oversight role

The 'tone from the top'

Boards need  
to be *aware*  
of it

The 'tone in  
the *middle*'

Management  
need to  
*monitor* it

# The 4 O's of risk

4

## *The optimisers*

Board (and Committees)

- Risk governance
- Risk strategy and appetite



## *The operations*

1

Work

- System and processes
- Priorities and focus areas

Risk monitoring

## *The operators*

2

Staff & Executives

- Risk identification
- Management controls
- Management assurance

Conformance monitoring

## *The overseers*

3

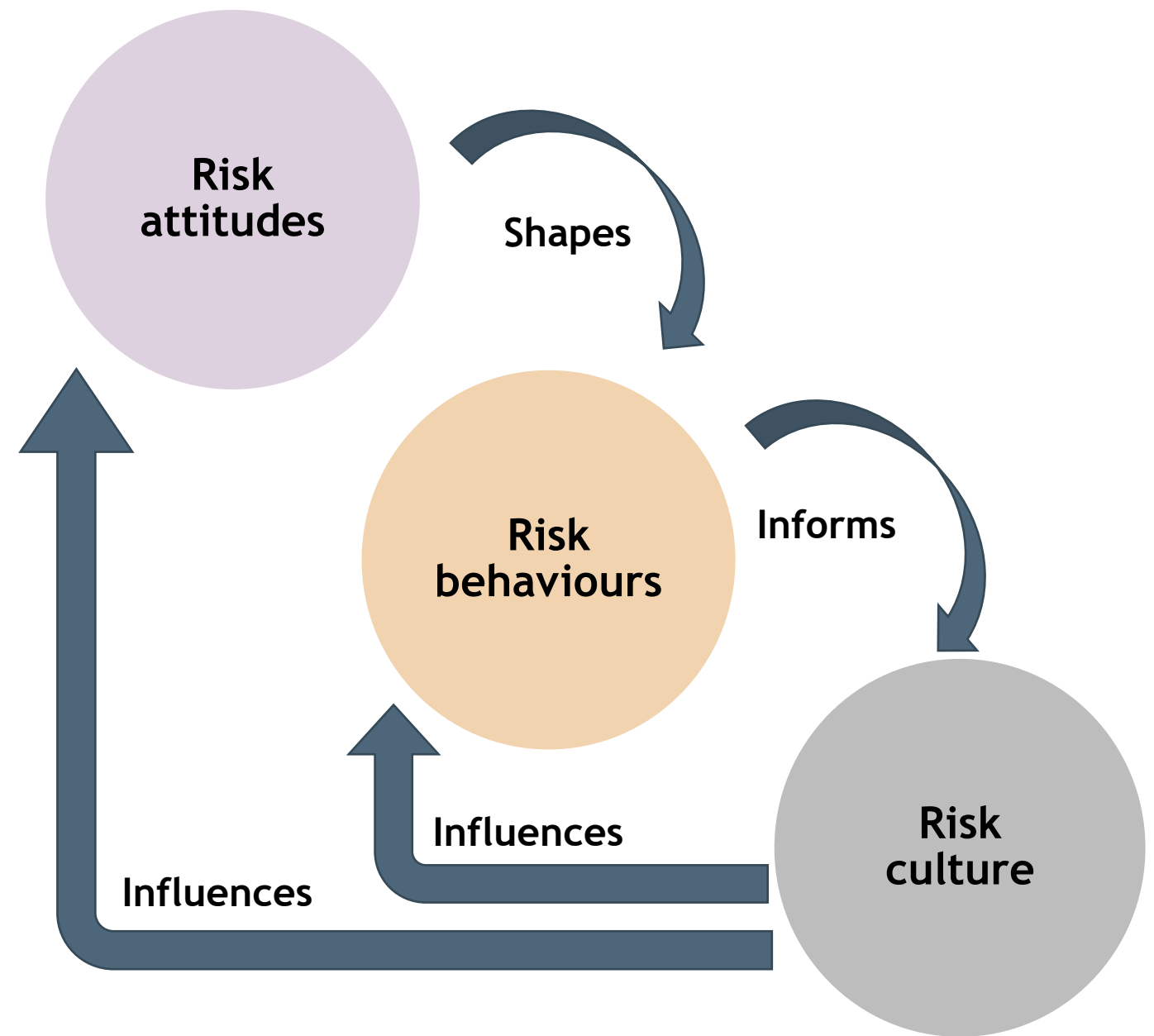
Audit

- Assurance
- Advice
- Anticipation

Performance monitoring



# Understanding risk culture



# And finally, a few 'takeaways'...

- AS/NZS ISO 31000:2018 is not law - not 'compulsory'
- AS/NZS ISO 31000:2018 is a 'standard' and ought to be interpreted in context
- You can have a low or high risk appetite
- Risk and compliance ARE NOT the same
- Art not a science
- Treat it as part of your stewardship role
- Reality test your risk management - does it deal with the things that keep you up at night?

...sleeping well at  
night knowing the  
wild things are tamed!



# Questions?



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Celebrating 20 years of  
governance advisory excellence

# Thank You!



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