

Estimating Stormwater Program Costs & Benefits



Compliance cost:
\$2 Billion



Regulator

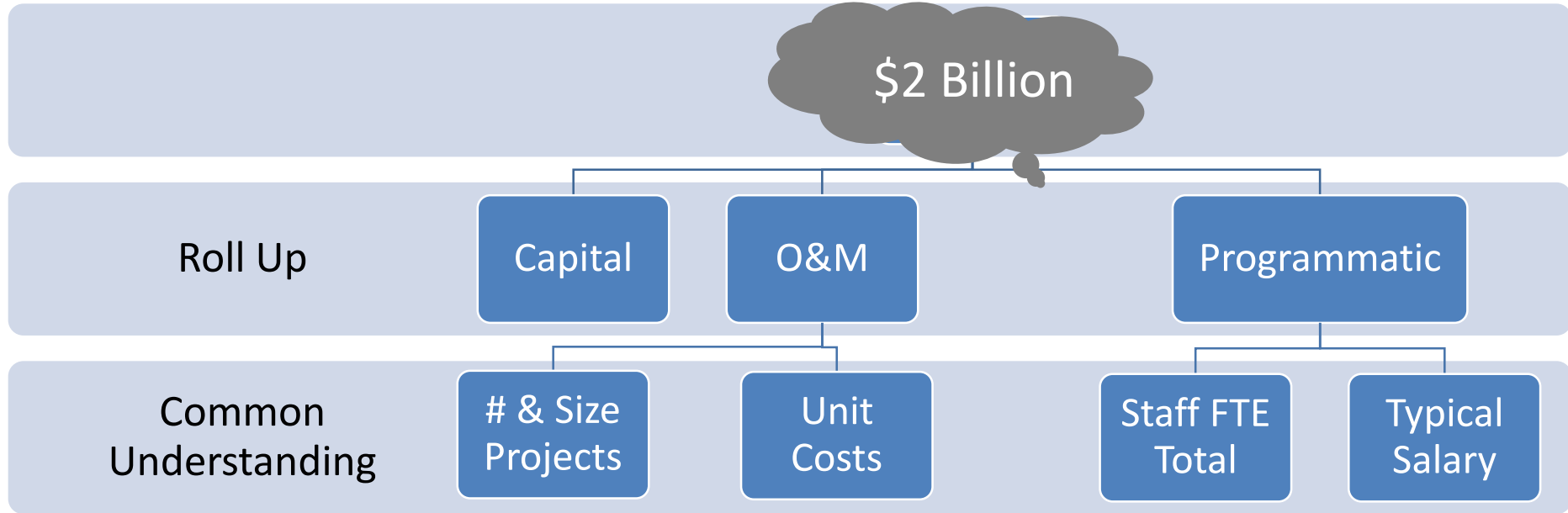


Budget Office

The Program Manager's Challenge

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\$2 Billion



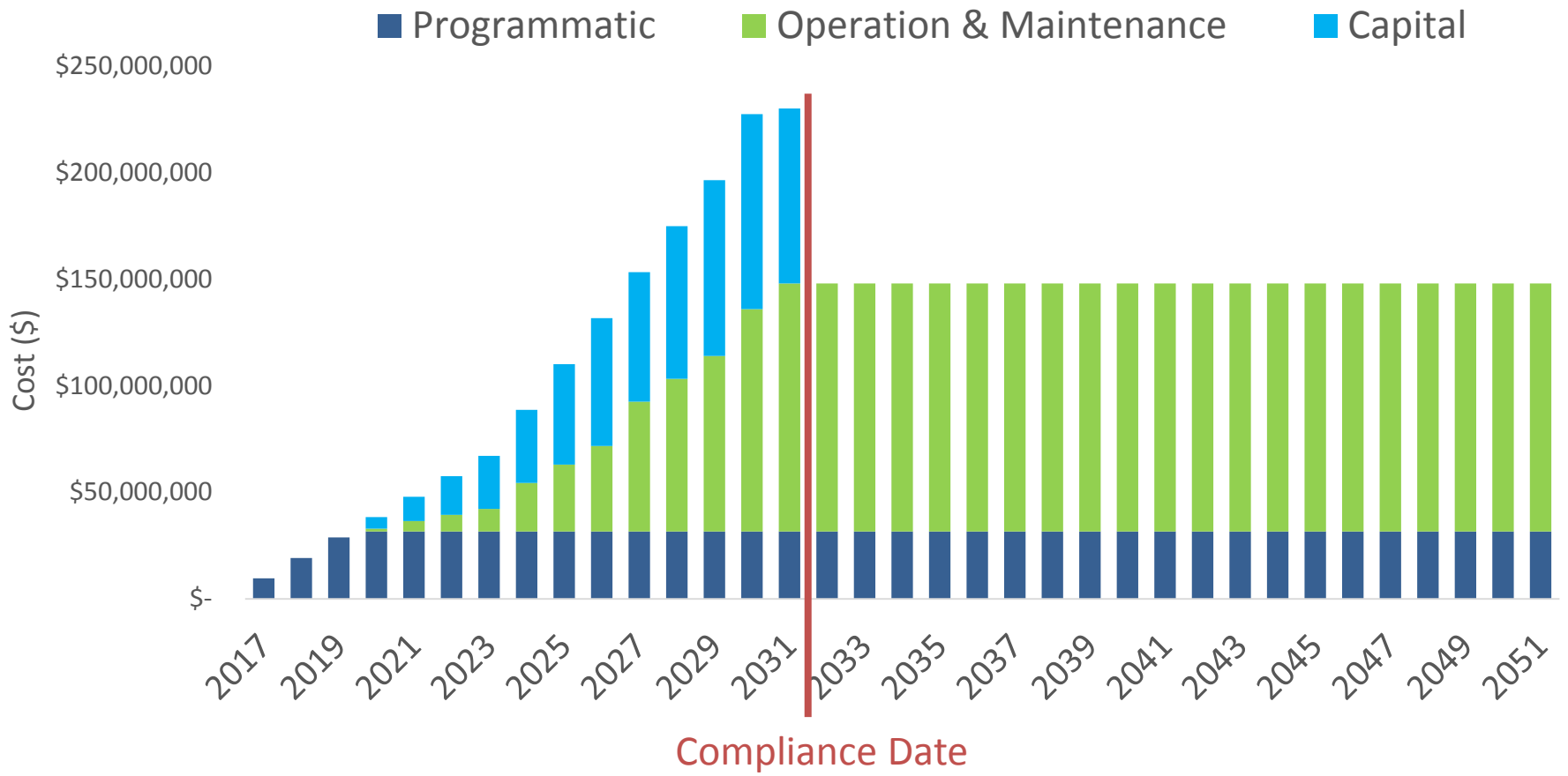


- Disaggregate to points of common understanding
- Roll up – particularly if very detailed or proprietary
- Describe sensitive assumptions



- Be clear what costs are included or not
 - Land costs – often not included, BUT...
- Separate existing costs from new costs

Best Practice: Separation

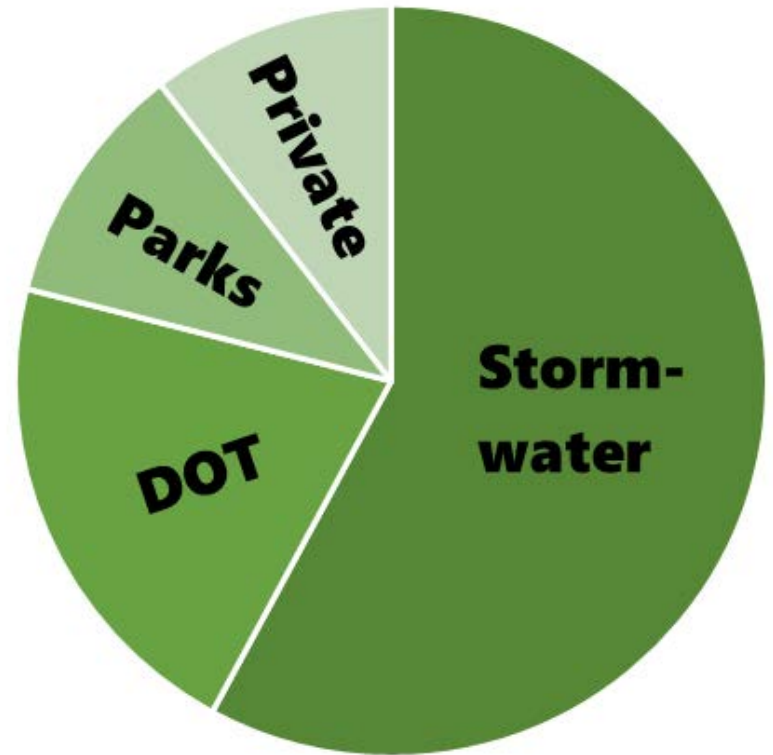


- Define one-time vs. ongoing costs
- Annualize costs

Best Practice: Timing & Commitment



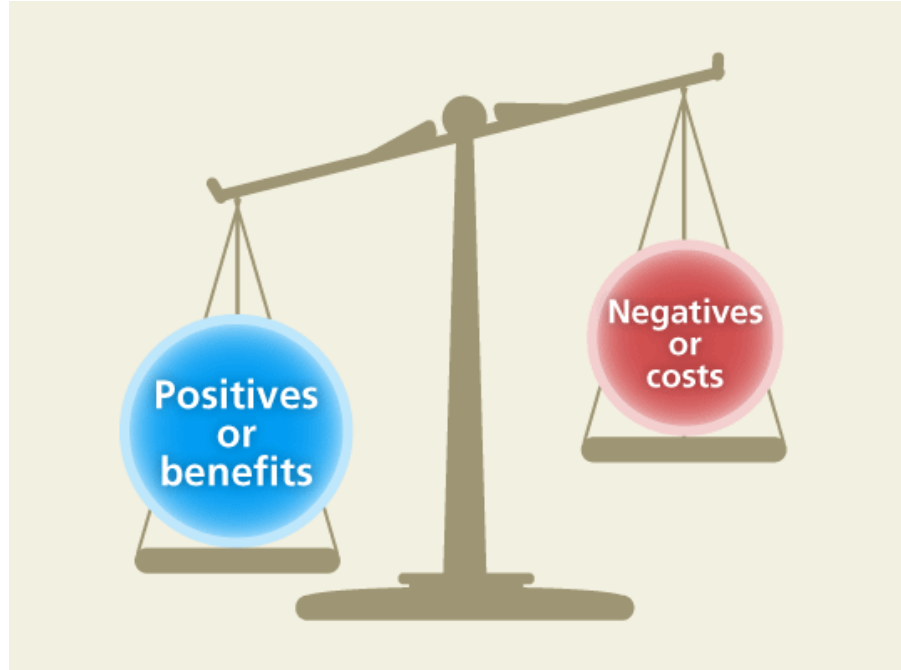
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- The stormwater responsibility can shrink
- Benefits quantification justifies allocations



- What: defining metrics to demonstrate broad worth
- Who: Program managers – know the stormwater field
- When: Cost-effectiveness improvements are needed
 - To engage funding partners
- Advice: Select just a few metrics



- What: Comparison of total costs and benefits to inform a decision
- Who: Economists can value benefits – but not provide WQ inputs
- When: Selecting among strategy options
 - Talking to budget office
 - NOT when requesting compliance relief
- Advice: Be ready for costs to be greater than benefits

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