



LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN SA:

Opportunities and challenges related to water governance

Adri Venter
EON Consulting

A tale of two cities...



Dismal City



Paramount City

The Lisbon Principles

Role of local government:

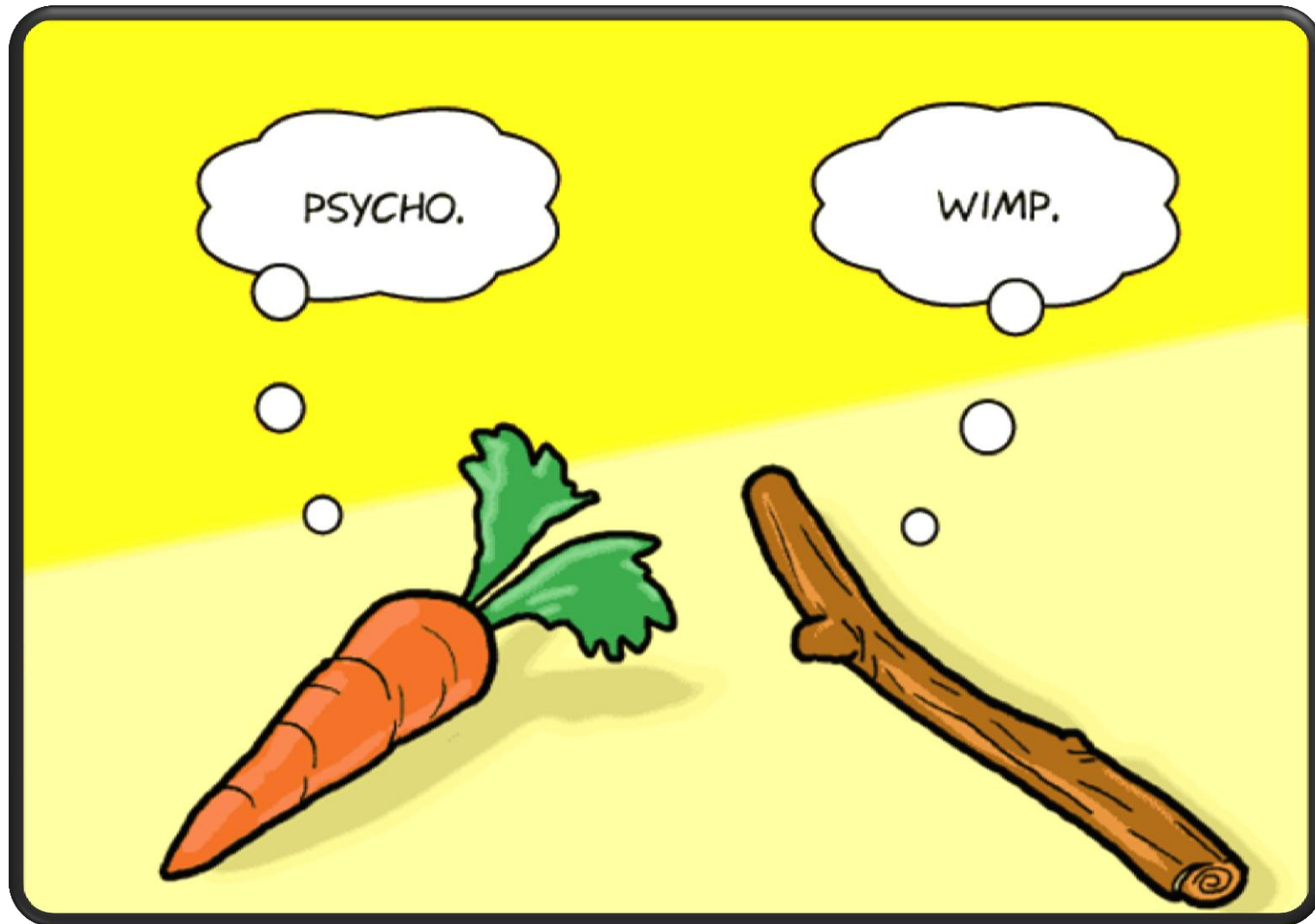
- Access to clean and affordable drinking water is a fundamental right
- As such, governments have an obligation to ensure water and sanitation services for all
- Water must be governed as a common good
- Water must be protected as the ecological foundation of life
- Water must be managed as a finite economic resource
- Water must be preserved as a shared cultural asset

Constitutional Obligation

In respect of environmental and related issues the objectives of local government are to:

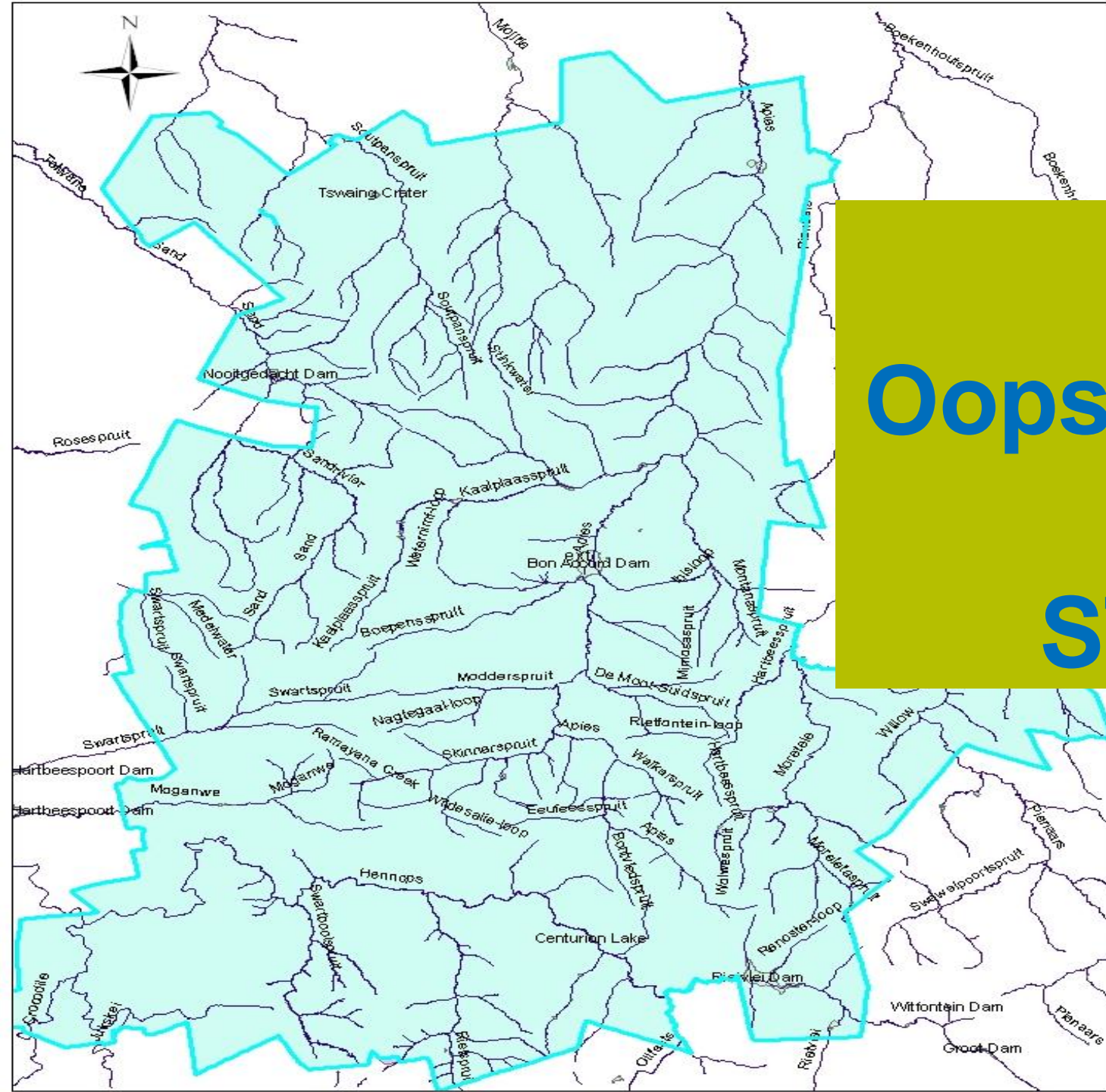
- **provide democratic & accountable government for local community**
- **ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner**
- **promote social & economic development**
- **promote a safe & healthy environment**
- **encourage involvement of communities in matters of local government**

Governance?



creativity





**Oops, where
do you
START?!**

SA Legislation (1)

ACT / BYLAW	Water	Waste	Air	Health	Biodiversity	Other
Constitution						
Municipal Structures						
Municipal Systems						
National Environmental Management (NEMA)						
The National Water (NWA)						
Water Services						
Water by-laws						
NEMA: Air Quality						
Air Quality bylaws						
NEMA: Waste Management						
Waste By-laws						
National Health						

SA Legislation (2)

ACT / BYLAW	Water	Waste	Air	Health	Biodiversity	Other
Occupational Health and Safety						
Hazardous Substances						
Conservation of Agricultural Resources (CARA)						
NEMA: Protected Areas						
NEMBA						
National Road Traffic						
Mineral & Petroleum Resources Development						
Protection of wild animals & birds						
Public Open Spaces by-laws						
Street trading by-laws						
Development Facilitation						

The EMI's



- Duty to enforce & monitor compliance with NEMA & SEMA's
- NEMA makes provision for the Minister, MEC or delegated authority to designate EMIs at national, provincial or local spheres of government
- In order to utilize the provisions of NEMA & SEMAs, municipal officials will first need to be trained and designated as EMIs.

A tale of two cities...



Dismal City



Paramount City

Challenges faced by Paramount & Dismal Cities

- Clearing the services backlog
- Dealing with urbanisation
- The extensive array of typical urban service delivery challenges
- Skills shortages
- Financial constraints
- Organisational structure of local government



Abysmal City

- Saw water governance as a separate issue & not really their business
- Took a short term view on development & aimed for quick wins
- Failed to recognise the integrated nature of fresh water conservation & governance & planning
- “P-ed in their own pool”
- Suffer from silo-cites
- Has a reactive approach to challenges & problems
- Manage in the dark without data & information
- Does not understand the value of ecosystem services

Status Quo at Abysmal City

- Massive storm water problems & increasing levels of flooding + erosion
- Water has become so polluted that the water purification works cannot cope with the increasing loads
- Surface impoundment upstream erosion + industrial effluents
- Communities are unable to afford the resources for their infrastructure + poverty + unemployment + crime
- Storm water runoff into sewer systems causes overflows + wash-out of the sewer works
- High infant mortality rates due to gastrointestinal diseases

**NO INVESTMENT &
NO GROWTH**



The biggest lie in Dismal City

**It's not
MY job!**

Paramount City

- **Integration of water governance into all aspects of City Governance**
- **Community Empowerment**
- **Carrot/Stick AND created the social & economic playing field**
- **Acknowledged their roles as player & referee**
- **Understood that ecosystem services are vital for a sustainable city**

Status Quo at Paramount City

- Bio-mimicry in storm water management
- Communities are able to sustain themselves



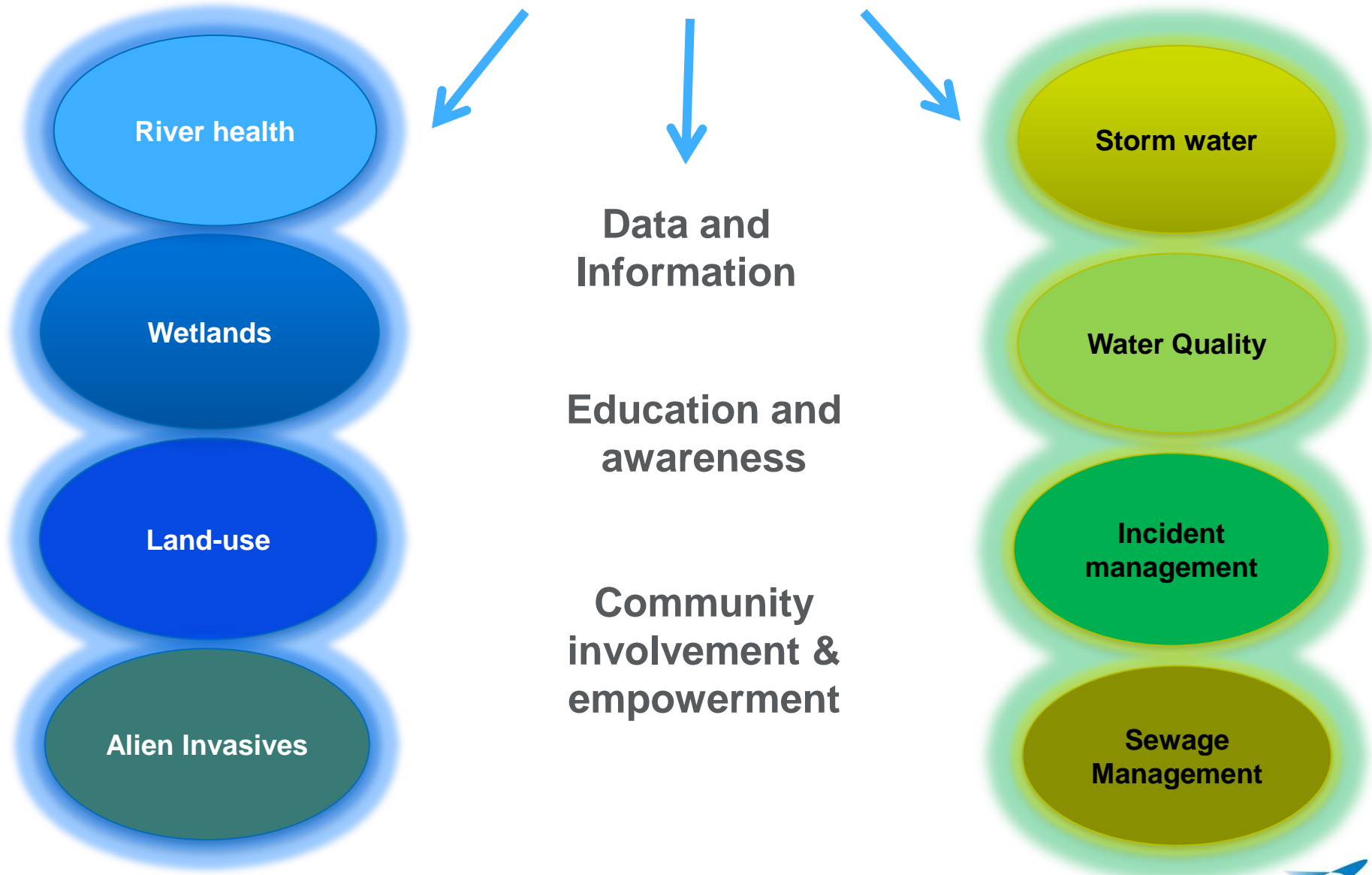
...because they are not
trying to play
catch-up the whole time

attractiveness of the city and many opportunities
to interact with the rich biodiversity

- Healthy citizens with a low infant mortality rate



Aspects of the Paramount City governance program



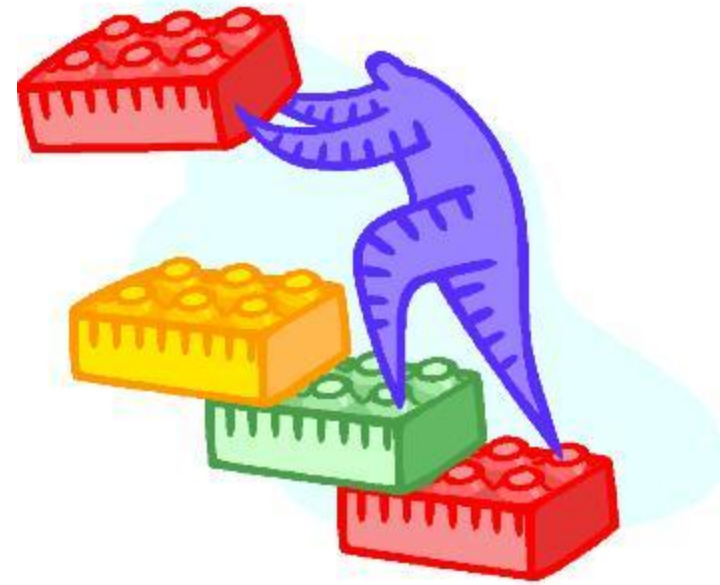
We all live down-stream

MOVE!!!!



How to get Cities MOVING

- Education, education, education
- Stop sparing the rod
- Greater scrutiny of IDP's & master plans
- Reward good behaviour
- Provide local context to data and information (Province & National)
- Share case studies
- Not another toolkit, please! Provide PRACTICAL assistance
- Start with large urban centres
- Intervene purposefully in Dismal City
- Train and designate EMI's





ENABLING
BUSINESS
TO SUCCEED

Thank you!