



MICROSIMULATION TRAINING

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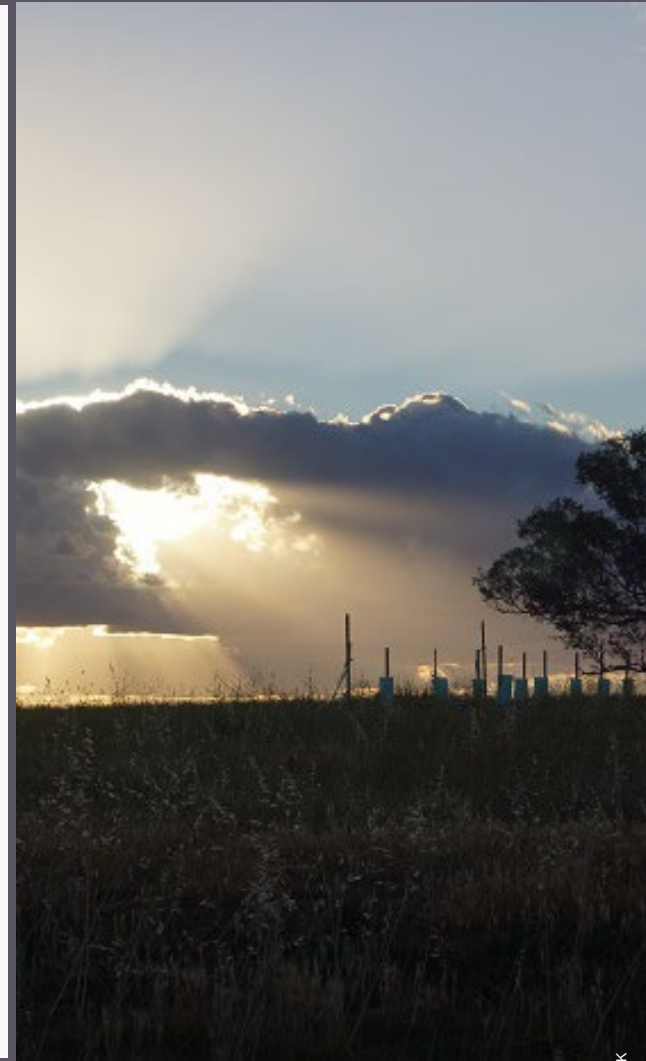
Outline

Problem

How NATSEM handled it

Positives and negatives with how NATSEM handled it

Conclusions and comments



Disclaimer

These views represent my views, not the views of the University of Canberra.

I no longer work for NATSEM or the University of Canberra.

NATSEM was closed by the University in 2023, and I have left the University and started my own company conducting and promoting microsimulation to Federal, State and Local Government.

Problem

Can't find people with experience in microsimulation

- Microsimulation can be complex
- Not really something that can be picked up in a book

How NATSEM handled it

Bring people with IT skills in and trained them

- On the job training

High risk

- Once people have skills, they are in demand and leave
- A lot of people who trained at NATSEM now work in the Public Service; and other Universities

Positives of how NATSEM handled it

Passes techniques to broader group

- Group at Macquarie University led by Deborah Schofield who started at NATSEM

Collaborators at other Universities and in the APS

Negatives with how NATSEM handled it

Started to lose competitive edge

**Treasury doing own microsimulation models
and didn't need NATSEM**

Is there a better way?

No

- Teach people to fish rather than give them food
- Better off teaching people how to do microsimulation properly rather than saying “its too complicated and we will do it for you and keep the techniques to ourselves”

Conclusion

Stick by how NATSEM trained and sent staff out

- Need to be owned by an organization which has a long term view of the benefits of microsimulation to society rather than a short term view of the costs of training staff
- Not sure if for-profit private companies (including Universities) would have this longer term view
- Government?

Disclaimer

Short-termism wasn't the only reason

NATSEM was shut down

- Other things going on at the University, COVID, international students, etc
- But short term costs and reduced funding from the University which reduced staffing

Questions?

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