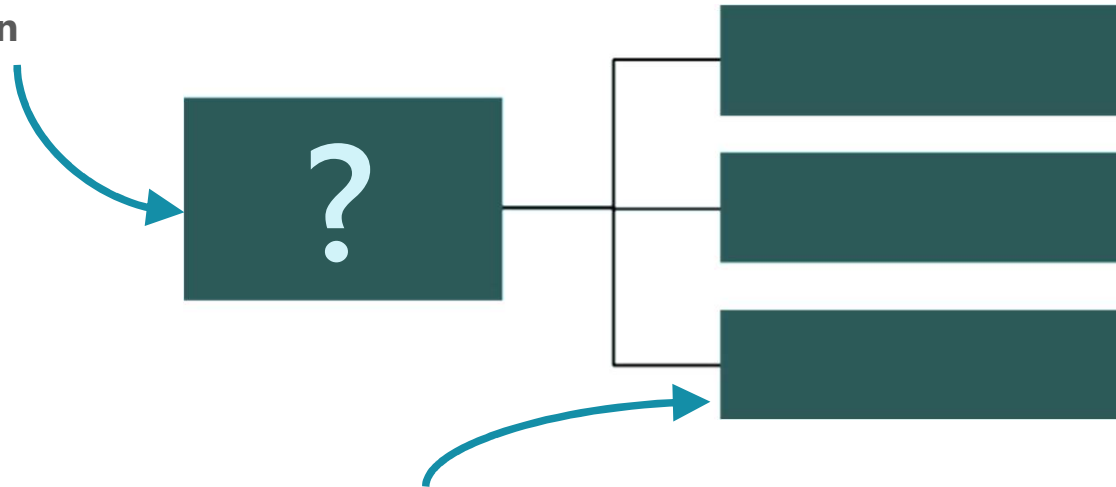


Issues tree guide

A structured way to break problems down and plan work

Issues trees are one way to break a problem down

Start with your overall problem question

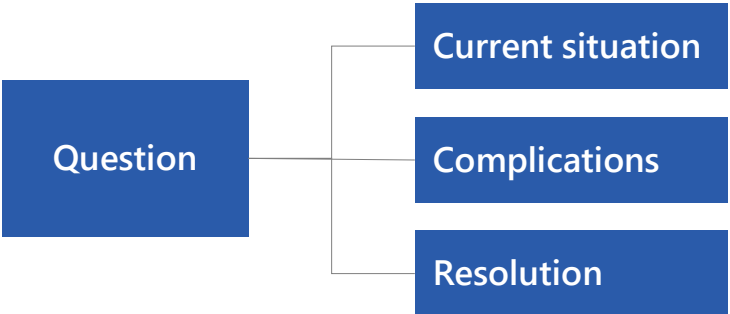



Develop sub-questions by asking, 'What do we need to know to be able to answer the larger question?'

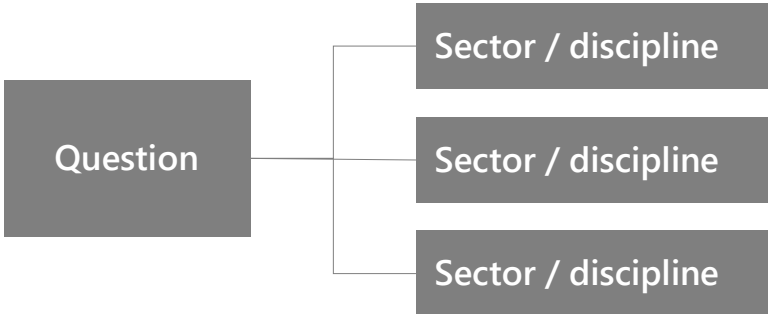
Questions should:

- have 'no gaps, no overlaps' at each level
- be MECE – Mutually Exclusive, Completely Exhaustive, both vertically and horizontally

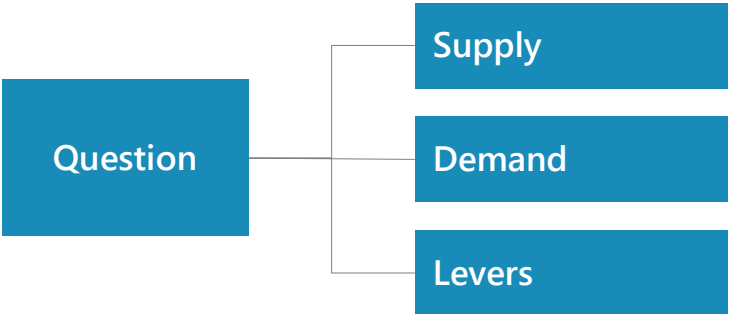
There are different ways to structure issues trees




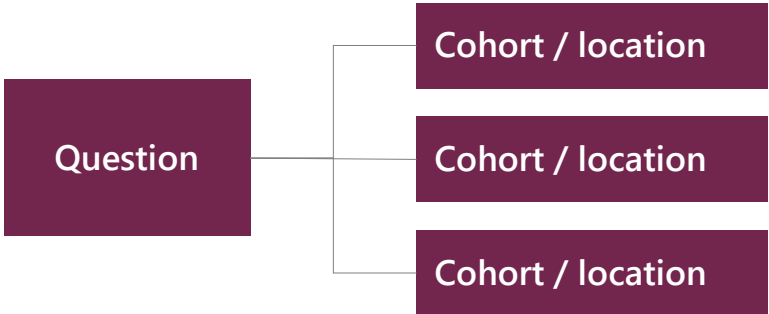
 A narrative structure is useful for logically breaking down the problem and guiding future products.




 This approach can be useful for breaking down a problem that affects sectors in different ways.




 Taking an economic lens can help by breaking problems into supply, demand and levers.



 Structuring based on cohorts or location can reveal the full scale of a problem's impacts.

An example from the Ice Taskforce

 This issues tree uses the Situation, Complication, Resolution structure.

How can governments reduce the use of ice and its impact on individuals and communities?

SITUATION

How is ice produced, distributed and consumed in Australia?

How is ice impacting individuals and the community in Australia?

What is currently being done to reduce ice and its impacts?

COMPLICATION

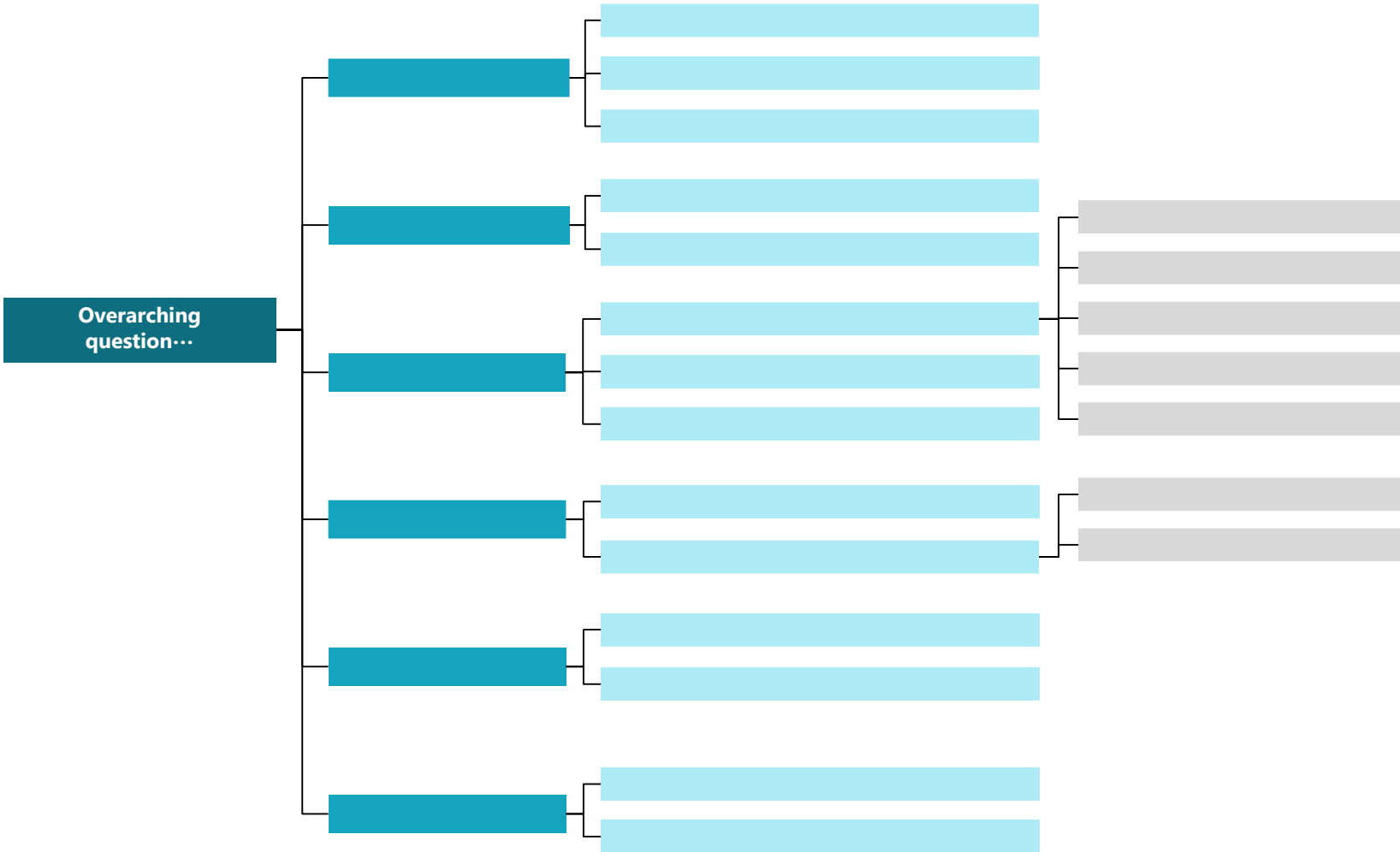
How appropriate, effective and efficient are our existing efforts, and how can they be improved?

RESOLUTION

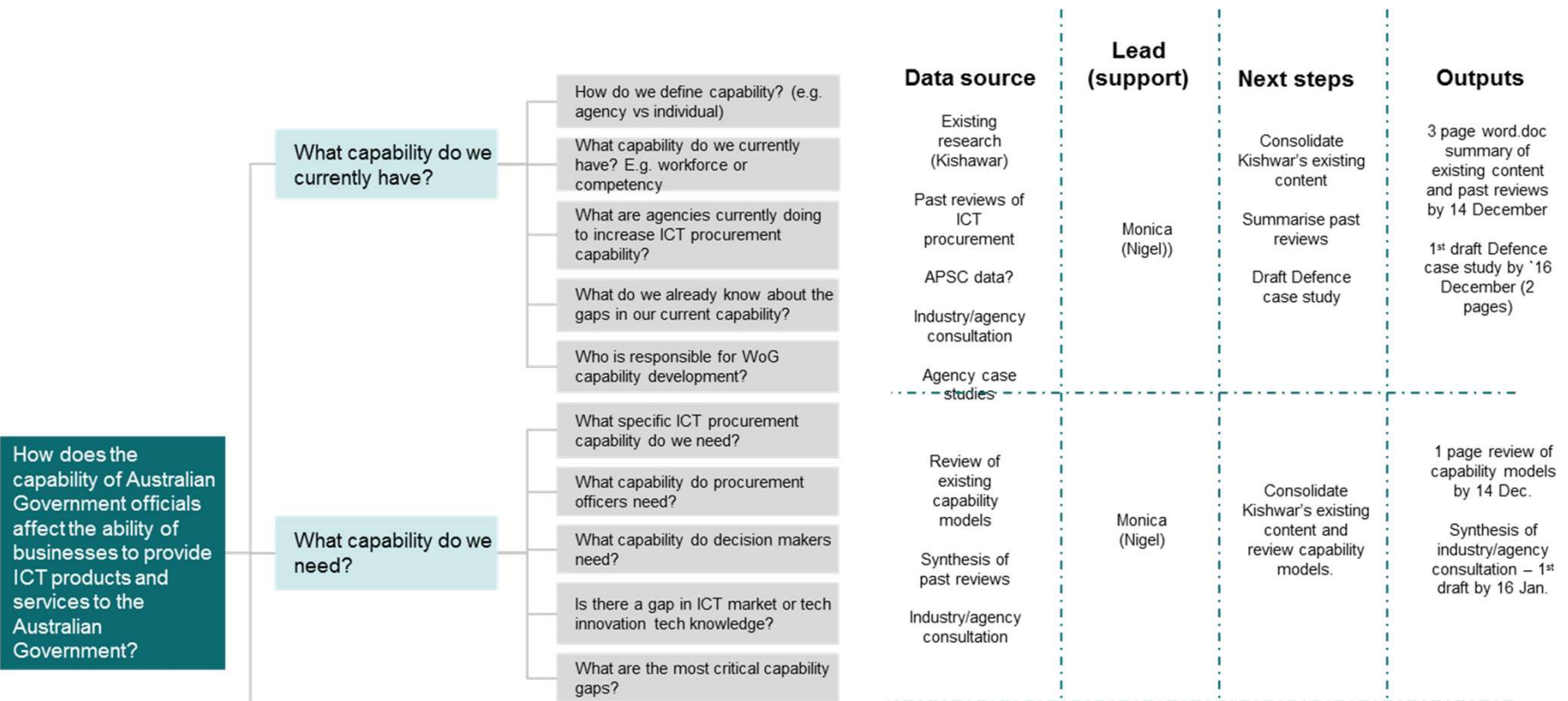
What new approaches and strategies could reduce ice and its impacts?

- How is ice imported in to Australia, and how much?
- How is ice produced in Australia, and how much?
- How is ice distributed throughout Australia?
- Who consumes ice in Australia, and how much?
- Where are the gaps in our knowledge?
- How is ice usage changing?
- How is ice impacting individuals?
- How is ice impacting communities?
- How is ice impacting other groups e.g. first responders?
- What are community and expert views on ice?
- What other evidence and research on ice is there?
- What is the Commonwealth doing?
- What are the States and Territories doing?
- What are local and non-government actors doing?
- What are other countries doing?
- How do we measure the success of an effort?
- What efforts are working?
- What efforts can be more efficient and/or effective?
- What efforts overlap and/or be better coordinated?
- What efforts should be retargeted/reformed?
- Are major changes required to existing approaches?
- Are there any new initiatives or efforts required?

Issues tree – template



Use your issues tree to plan your research and stakeholder engagement



How does the capability of Australian Government officials affect the ability of businesses to provide ICT products and services to the Australian Government?

What capability do we currently have?

What capability do we need?

For each branch of the issues tree, identify the data you need to answer each question – this may include policy papers, academic journals, white papers, end users and experts. This can be used to plan who you need to consult with and when.

Each branch should also lead to a tangible output for the taskforce's work – such as research summaries, case studies, report chapters or policy proposals.

Your issues tree can also guide your key deliverables

