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Preventing corruption: what are the frameworks?

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How do we strengthen Australia's National Integrity System?

- Promote integrity, accountability and proper management
 - Strengthening individual and systemic accountability/good governance
 - Educative, often values-based focus
 - Potential outcomes – reduced susceptibility/ acceptance of corruption
- Combat corruption more efficiently and effectively
 - Investigative, retributive, restitutive actions after corruption occurs
 - Legal, procedural focus on detection, prosecution and punishment
 - Potential outcomes – restores public confidence, sanctions deterrent
- Prevent corruption from occurring?

Standard assumptions about corruption prevention

1. Embedding integrity/values will reduce dishonesty

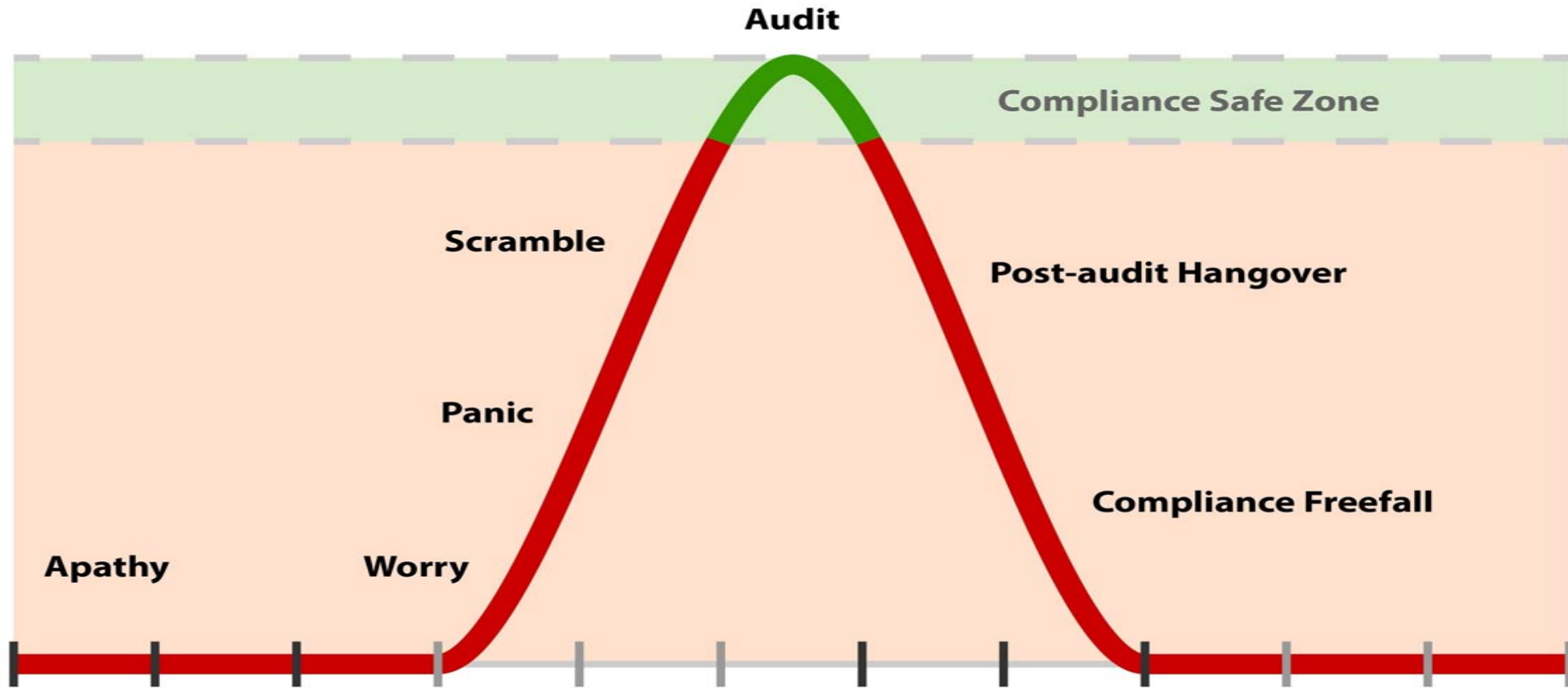
- But, this is a slow, complex process
- Unlikely to ever completely eliminate corruption

2. Detection, investigation and prosecution will deter future offending

- But, there is limited evidence of deterrent effects, especially in organisational contexts
- And a focus on investigations is resource intensive for agencies

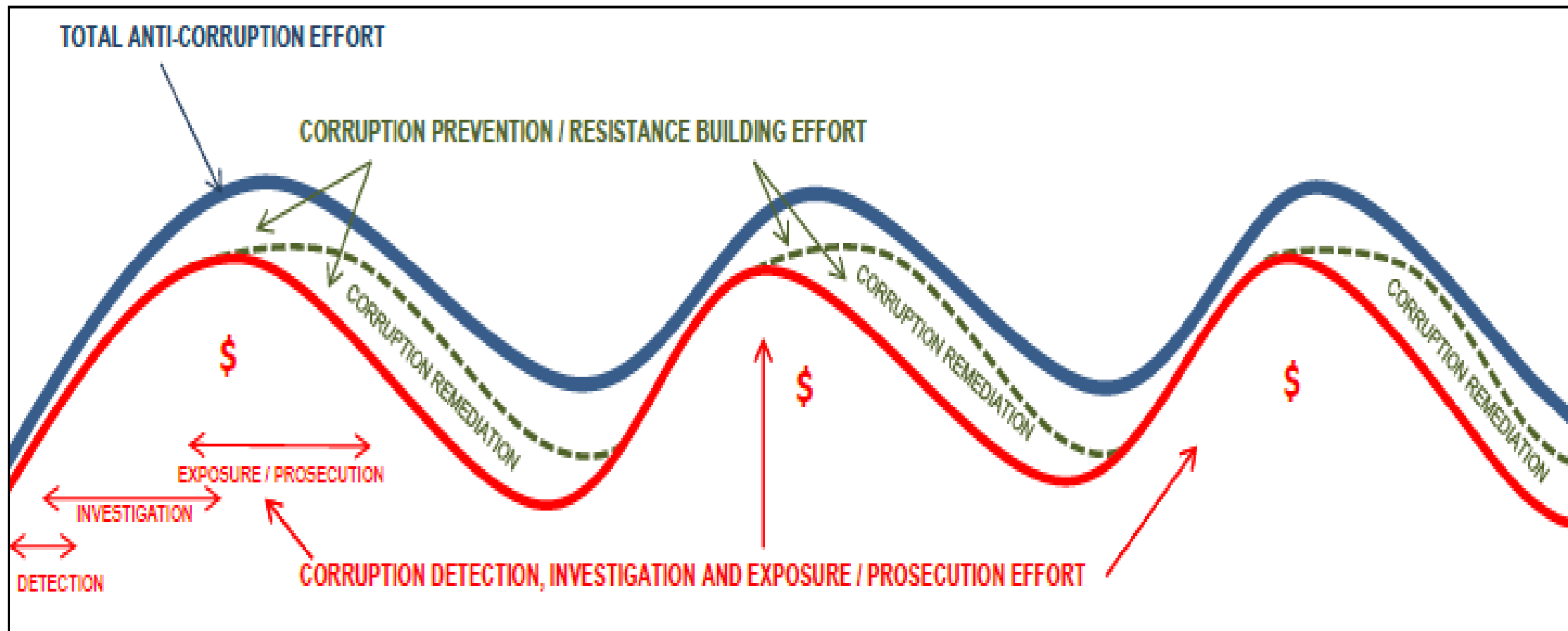
The impact of investigations on individuals

Compliance Curve



Impact of investigative focus on agencies

Figure 1. Typical anti-corruption cycle

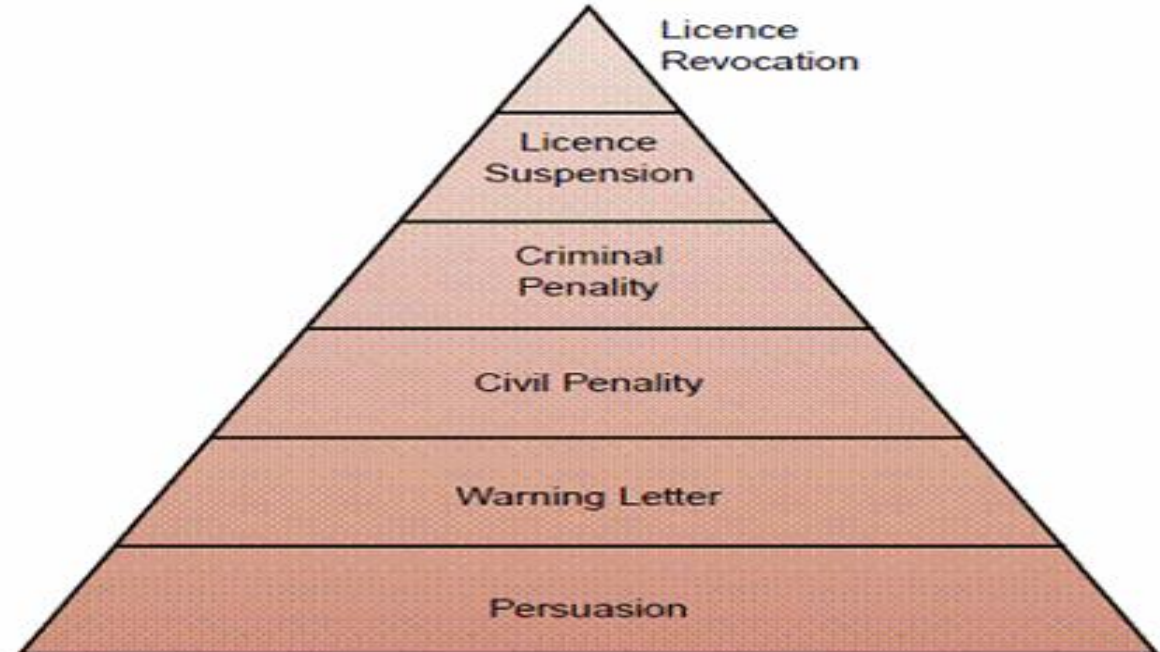


Can offending be deterred?

- Deterrence depends on sanctions that are –
 - Certain
 - Swift
 - Severe (not really)
- Certainty of detection is hard to achieve with ‘hidden’ offences
- Swiftiness of response is complicated where complex procedural rules apply
- There is little empirical evidence showing severity deters, and none in organisational and corporate contexts

Other frameworks for prevention?

- Graduated response models, drawing on regulatory theory
 - Aims to increase certainty and swiftness and tailor the severity of the sanction to the circumstances
 - Benign
Big Guns



Source: Ayres and Braithwaite (1992).

Other approaches – situational prevention

- Reducing offending opportunities
 - Much offending is opportunistic and limiting available opportunities will reduce offending
 - Opportunities depend on motivated offenders, suitable targets and lack of capable guardians

The Classic Rat Crime Act Triangle



Applying other frameworks to corruption prevention?

- SCP mechanisms
 - Increase effort required to offend
 - Increase the risks
 - Reduce the rewards
 - Reduce provocations
 - Remove excuses
- Responsive regulation mechanisms
 - Graduate response according to circumstances of breach and offender
 - Reserve 'big gun' sanctions for appropriate cases, but publicise them

Figure 1. Typical anti-corruption cycle

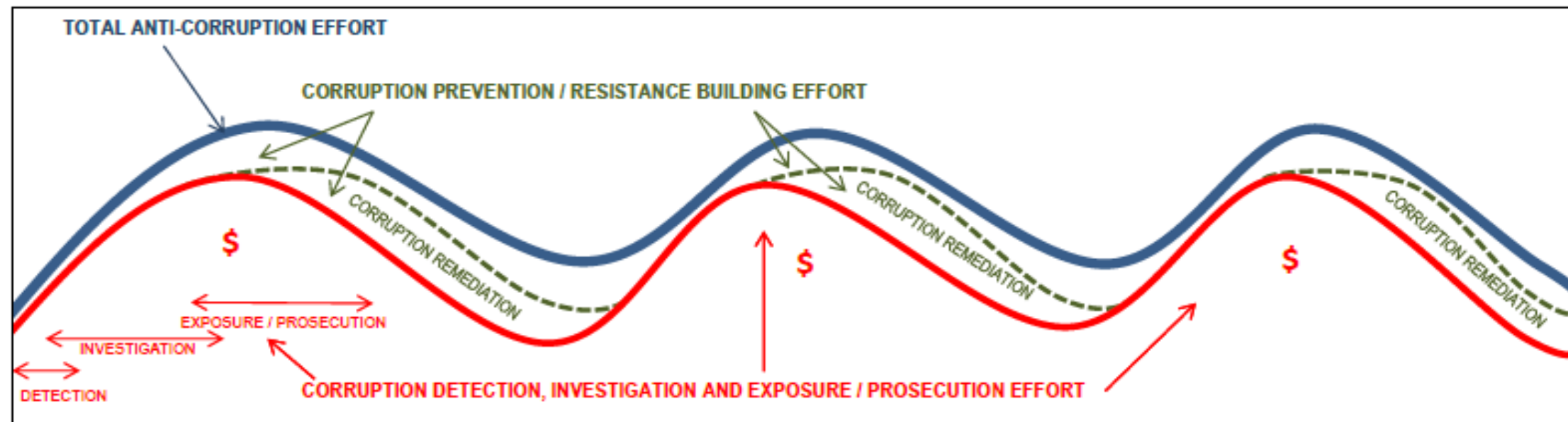
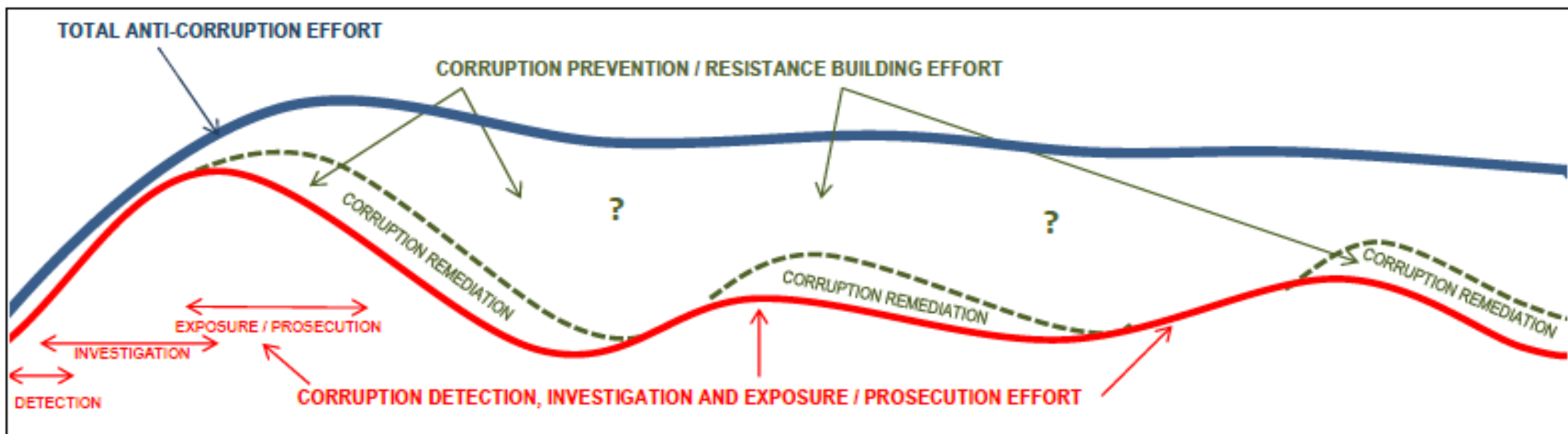


Figure 2. Preferred anti-corruption cycle?



Where to from here?

- Some key questions
 - To what extent is corruption prevention already occurring in Australian jurisdictions?
 - Is there a balance between investigative and preventive strategies?
 - How can agencies show the effectiveness of preventive efforts?
 - Can prevention be made more effective?
- The *Strengthening Australia's National Integrity System* project prevention theme
- Workshop on *Strategic approaches to corruption prevention*, from 3.30pm