

# Managing uncertainty

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## Understand what you don't know!









Clear enough future

Alternative futures

**3** Ranges of futures

**4** True uncertainty

"Opportunity is often delivered in the fog of uncertainty" - Kahlil Gibran



## Defining uncertainty

#### Understanding uncertainty is important

A situation where the current state of knowledge is such that:

1

The order or nature of things is **unknown** 

2

The consequences, or magnitude of circumstances, conditions, or events is **unpredictable** 

3

Credible probabilities to outcomes cannot be assigned.

"Uncertainty is an uncomfortable position. But certainty is an absurd one." — Voltaire



## Defining uncertainty

### Understanding uncertainty is important

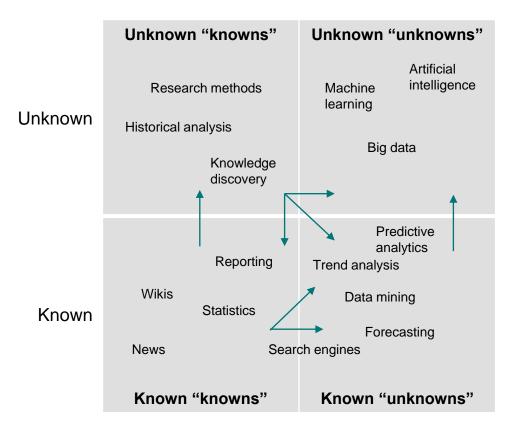
Ticket to play	Head in the sand
Known "knowns" Identify what you know or is clearly evident through trends, mega trends or other credible data sources.	Unknown "knowns" Things we may understand but are not aware of
Known "unknowns" Identify what you could know if you spent time to analyse, research and seek to know	Unknown "unknowns" Future circumstances, events, or outcomes that are impossible to predict, plan for

After figuring out what you know, and what you ought to know... the residual is true uncertainty...



## Known "unknowns"

#### Analytical and research methods and tools



These tools and this type of analysis help you to:

- Understand more about what you know
- What you don't yet know
- Seek to reduce the level of uncertainty



#### Level 1: a clear enough future



# What can be known

Little residual uncertainty that would impact on the outcomes

A narrow range of possible outcomes that the uncertainty doesn't impact on strategic decisions

Able to forecast the likely within a narrow range

# Analysis and tools

#### **Standard strategic analysis:**

Market research, competitor analysis, Porter six forces framework

Standard discounted cash flow modelling, and budgeting

# **Examples of environment**

Market not prone to external shocks or internal upheaval

Regulatory environment stable

New competitor but no disruption

Slow technological change



#### Level 2: alternative futures



# What can be known

There is some residual uncertainty

A few discrete outcomes that define the future

Unable to identify which outcome is likely to occur

Forecasts assessed around likelihood of outcomes

Important key is to identify possible trigger points

# Analysis and tools

#### **Standard strategic analysis:**

Decision analysis frameworks – i.e. Decision Trees

Game theory

Comparative budgets and financial analysis; what if

# **Examples of environment**

Change in the:

Procuring approach of Government

Regulation regarding buses

Disruptive technology



#### Level 3: a range of futures



# What can be known

There is significant residual uncertainty

Unable to identify which outcome is likely to occur

A range of possible outcomes

No natural probability of an outcome occurring

# Analysis and tools

#### Standard strategic analysis:

Scenario planning

Monte-carlo analysis, real options

Complex financial models - scenario analysis; best case, mid point, worst case

# **Examples of environment**

Two options regarding economic environment

Various regulatory impact options

Significant political investment considerations into competing modes of transport

Multiple emerging technologies

Cheaper car technologies



#### Level 4: true ambiguity



# What can be known

There is true uncertainty around possible future options

No real basis to forecast the future

# Analysis and tools

#### **Standard strategic analysis:**

Decision driven scenario modelling

Artificial intelligence and machine learning

Non-linear dynamic modelling

# **Examples of environment**

Despite analysis, unable to ascertain where the industry is going

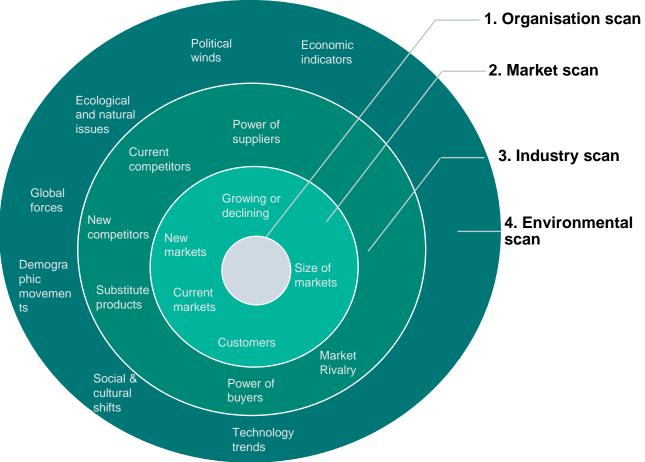
Unable to assess market conditions or political environment

Market demand is extremely uncertain



## Scanning your environment

Assess levels of uncertainty



## Defining your environment

#### Based on your environment scan assessing uncertainty

Considerations	Level of uncertainty
Demand for services	Low to Moderate uncertainty
Type of or mix of services	Moderate to high uncertainty
Impact of technology	Moderate uncertainty
Impact of socio-economic	Moderate uncertainty
Market dynamics	Low uncertainty
Impact from regulation	High uncertainty

Level 2 or level 3 depending on ability to identify likely outcomes





#### Strategic intent in the face of uncertainty



#### Strategic intent and posture



Reserve your right to play Invest to stay in the game but avoid premature bets.



Be ready to adopt a direction when the future when clear

Organisational speed, agility, flexibility and adaptability to capture opportunities.



Help shape the industry and your market

Setting standards; creating demand



#### Have a portfolio of actions that you can take



#### Based on level of investment and return

#### No-regrets decisions

Positive impact regardless of scenario.

#### **Options analysis**

Options that are likely to result in a positive impact in scenarios and a small negative impact in other.

#### Big bets

Focused strategies with big pay-offs in one or more scenario but negative effects in others.



#### Intent and action...



#### Strategic objectives

- Seek to set industry standards to govern unregulated technology based market entrants.
- Capture new on-demand market, end-of-trip.

# Posture: shape the industry and reserve the right to play

#### Portfolio of actions

- Lobby for regulatory intervention government
- Seek to set standards across the industry
- Invest in technology for on-demand services
- Enter different geographic markets

Actions: a combination of both no-regrets and options.



### Business model canvas

#### Apply the business case to different scenarios that you identify

KEY PARTNERS	KEY ACTIVITIES	Value pro	position	CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIPS	CUSTOMER SEGMENTS
Who are the organisations key partners and suppliers	What are the key activities required to support our goods and services	What value do you deliver to the customer  Which customers problem are we solving  Which customers needs are we satisfying		What is the relationship between the customer(s) and the organisation	Who are you creating value for?  Who are the most important customers?
Which key resources are we acquiring  Which key activities do our partners perform	KEY RESOURCES  What are the key activities required to support our goods and services			CHANNELS  How do the customer segments want to be reached?  How are channels integrated?	
COST STRUCTURE What are costs associated with the business model and what		REVENUE STREAMS What are the customers willing to pay; what do they currently			

#### - Alex Osterwalder



pay; how are they paying and how would they prefer too

pay?

key resources and key activities are most expensive

### Business model canvas

### Increased focus on regulation and investing in on-demand

KEY PARTNERS	KEY ACTIVITIES	Value proposition		CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIPS	CUSTOMER SEGMENTS
Lobbyists  Transport	Demand driven flexible scheduling	Certainty over availability  Vehicle options that		Public consumer but segmented	School services Route services
Associations Regulators	Limited transaction friction	meet all y	our needs st than an	Aged care/ Schools	Charter services
Community Action Groups	Easy communication	Uber  A part of the local community		Local councils/Local community	On-demand services
Technology partners	KEY RESOURCES On-demand			CHANNELS  Direct channels  Social media	
000	technology specialists			Aged Care Providers	AMC
COST STRUCTURE  The cost of technology, specialist IT support, licencing, lobbyists, increased management		REVENUE STREAMS Standard rate, rate per kilometre, subscription model			



## Key takeaways

#### Managing uncertainty for your business

# Understand the uncertainty landscape

Spend time to capture knowledge

What you know, and probably should know

Undertake systematic environmental scanning

# Identify the level of uncertainty

Assess the level of uncertainty that you are operating in and consider those tools that make sense for your environment

Remember most likely to be operating in level two or three

# Consider your strategic intent and various options

Consider what your strategic intent is

And then consider those options that will add value given various outcomes and reduce the likelihood of costly outcomes





# Thank you







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