

Using resilience to offset cumulative impacts

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The challenge:

- how to proceed when there's already stress beyond reason?



Our lesson from a recent case study

- Focus on understanding the drivers of stress; this will help open up pathways for responsible development





LEGEND



JAY PROJECT



EXISTING MINE OR PROJECT



TERRITORIAL CAPITAL

NORTHERN PORTION OF TIBBITT
TO CONTWOYTOW WINTER ROAD



TERRITORIAL/PROVINCIAL
BOUNDARY

150

0

150

SCALE 1:5,000,000

KILOMETRES



Jay Project – expansion of Ekati mine

- Expansion of area affected by diamond mining and increased duration of effects by 10 years



Review Board decision

- (placeholder background pdf of Reasons for Decision document)
- Several valued components already significantly adversely affected:
 - Habitat and health of boreal caribou
 - Health and well-being of affected communities
 - Well-being and traditional way of life of affected indigenous groups





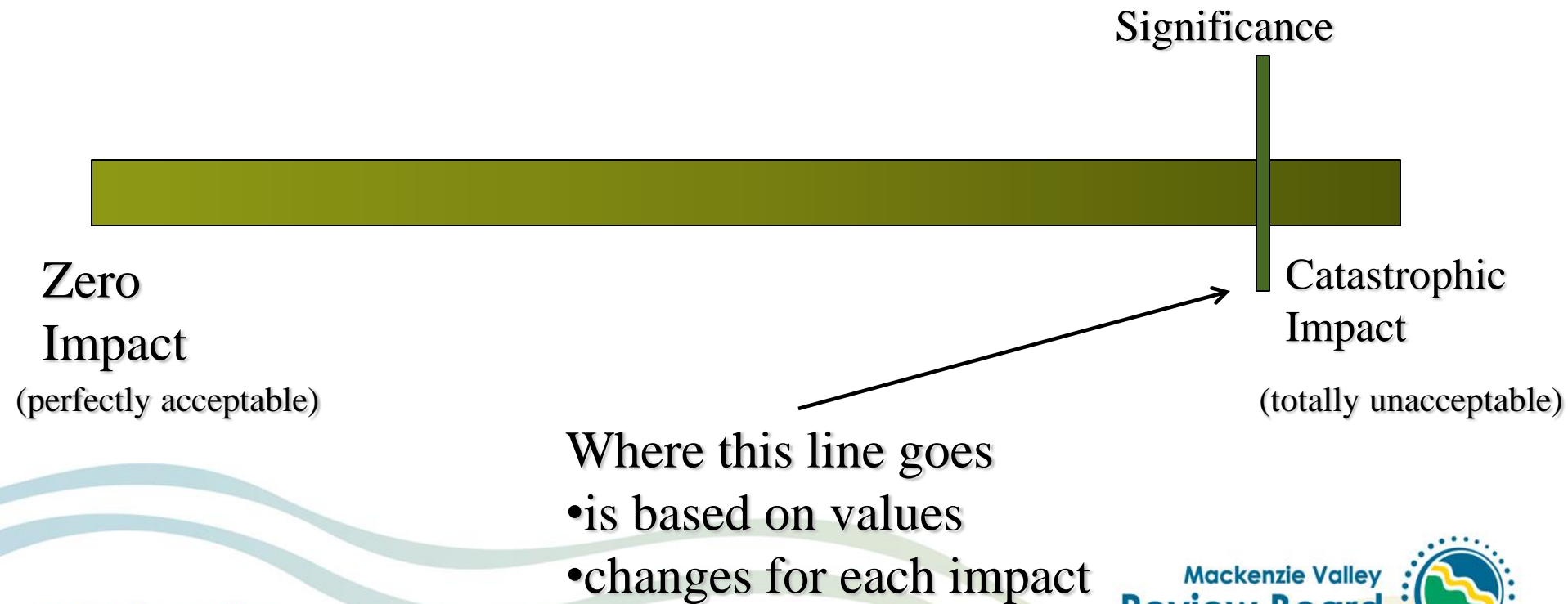
Caribou hair collected on the shores of the Narrows



- (Placeholder for community picture for brief spiel on community well-being – consider Lutsel K'e)



The Significance Spectrum

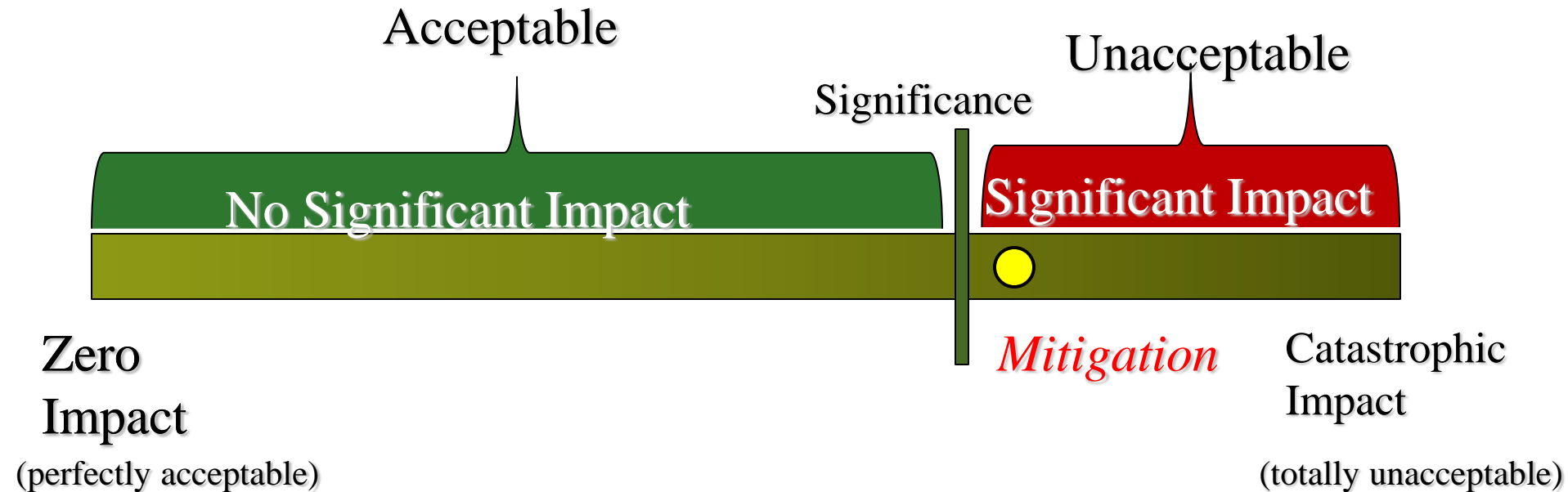


Significance determination

- Cumulative impacts have led to a baseline condition that cannot tolerate additional stress



Cumulative impacts are significant



Challenge:

Can the Project go ahead without
worsening the cumulative impacts?



...challenge assessment

- What mitigations are in place?
- Are they effective?
- What has already happened?
- In the nearly 20 years of diamond mining, how has this developed and what is the link?



Findings

- Much uncertainty around **link** and **magnitude** of impacts
- Past efforts questionable
- Feedback mechanisms to improve situation not there



Resolution: build resilience!

- Cumulative impacts dealt with by using the following resilience strategies:
 - addressing uncertainty
 - Strengthening (offsetting) external system components
 - Promoting adaptive management



1. Addressing uncertainty

- Incorporating Traditional Knowledge into project design
- Developing a TK management framework for consistency and confidence of TK use in decision-making
- Early identification of cultural impacts to inform management actions and mitigations



2. Strengthening system components by offsetting

- Enhance mitigation measures off-site
- Creation of a culture camp to actively bring land users back to area and maintain connection with and knowledge of the land
- Reduce vulnerabilities in communities by promoting opportunities for women



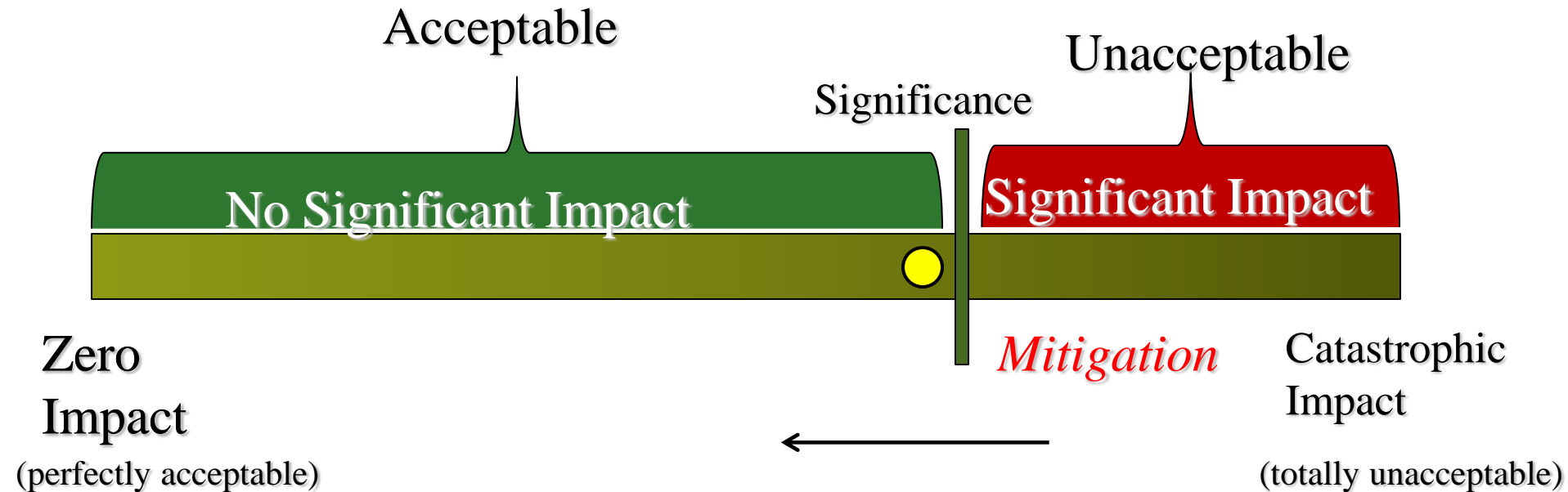
3. Improving on adaptive management

- Impose timelines on Government to develop caribou management plans
- Impose requirement on Government to investigate linkages between diamond mining and well-being and engage with communities and public on initiatives and problem-solving
- Establish objectives for monitoring and adaptive management
- Annual reporting by Government and Proponent on implementation of mitigation measures



End result

Taking a resilience perspective enabled a reduction in overall significance & an acceptable Project



Conclusion

- Opportunities exist to manage significant baseline cumulative impacts
- Promoting an understanding the drivers of stress creates pathways to build resiliency into the stressed system and buffer against undesirable change



Mahsi cho!