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ARCHITECTURES OF STABILITY (The Challenges of National Risk Assessment)

Managing 'risk' is a complex endeavour that is critically important to how uncertainty is dealt with in an ever changing and complex world. Conceptually and practically it is applied, albeitly with variation, across a range of professional disciplines: the modalities of engineering being one of these. It also has a core role in actuarial science, epidemiology/toxicology and economics and is central to corporate governance in both the public and private sectors.

Arguably a core purpose of the management of risk is to support organisational stability and enhance the quality of information available to senior managers and, as a result, enable better decision making and avoidance of black swan events and those associated with the more problematic grey swan.

An interesting question however is how to approach the management of risk at a whole-of-nation level? This presentation examines ideas about and challenges to applying risk management in support of policy development and decisionmaking in the 'national' interest.

Keywords: *National Risk Assessment, Uncertainty, Institutional Stability*