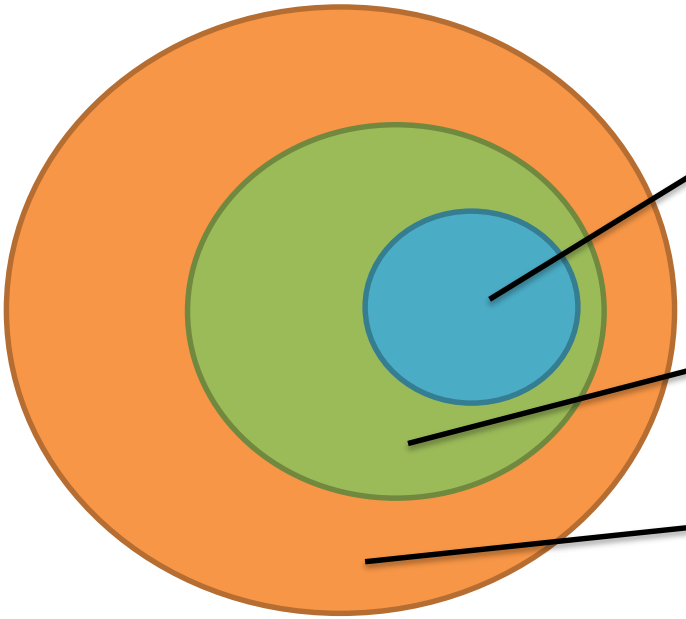
Regulating in the public interest

Sharon Darcy

Sustainability first

LSE - 15.2.17

What is the public interest?



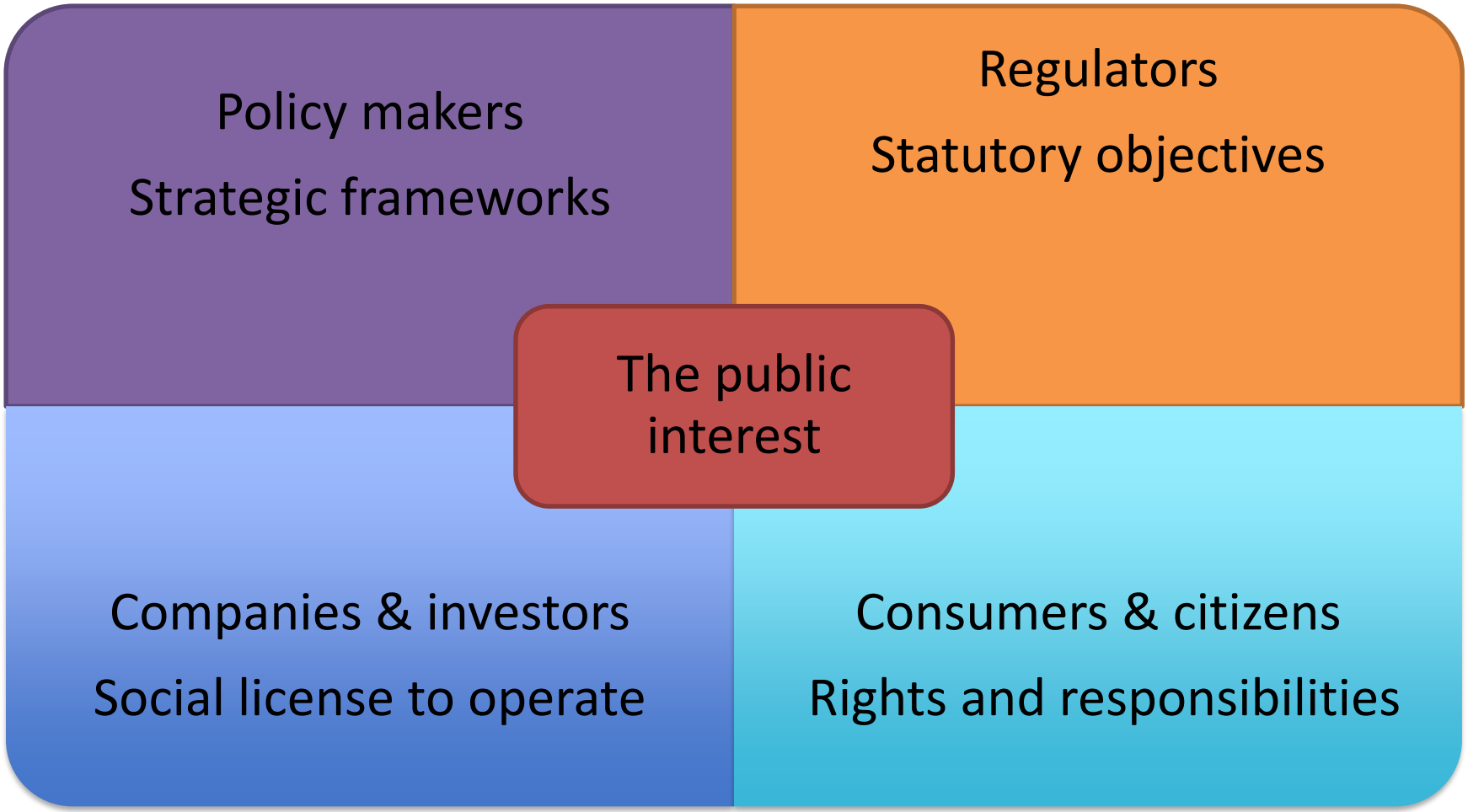
Consumer interests
Eg Current and future

Citizen interests
Eg Social, economic, environmental

Enabling interests
Eg Rule of law, integrity of financial system

The public interest = the collective expression of these different interests

Who does what?



Three challenges for regulators



How do you ‘frame’ the issue / draw the boundaries? Locally, nationally, globally?



What’s an appropriate time-frame for change? My revolution is your evolution?



What’s fair / who pays for what? Within and between generations?

Long-term public interest outcomes
'Hard' tools



Regulatory approaches
‘Soft’ tools

Governance



Engagement



Sustainability first

The New Energy and Water Public Interest Network (New-Pin)



- Network of stakeholders with an interest in energy and water
- Consumer, citizen, environmental, government, regulatory & company representatives
- Aims
  - To develop clearer alignment and better understanding of what the **long-term** public interest looks like in energy & water
  - To develop capacity and expertise amongst public interest groups working in the sectors
  - To improve understanding amongst regulatory and company boards of the long-term public interest and the value of public engagement in energy and water