

RMIA Risk Conference: Does risk management add value?


Dr Dale F Cooper
Director, Broadleaf Capital International

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About this document

Some of these slides were presented to the Risk Management Institute of Australasia (RMIA) Conference in Adelaide Tarntanya on 10 May 2023

This document contains additional slides, plus detailed references

Earlier related material is provided on the Broadleaf web site [here](#) 

- This document updates some of that earlier material, and extends it to address the value of risk management in projects

Risk management is fantastic !!

ISO 31000 (2018)

- The purpose of risk management is the creation and protection of value. **It improves performance**, encourages innovation and supports the achievement of objectives.

COSO ERM (2016)

- Integrating enterprise risk management throughout an organization **improves decision-making** in governance, strategy, objective-setting, and day-to-day operations. **It helps to enhance performance** by more closely linking strategy and business objectives to both risk and opportunity. The diligence required to integrate enterprise risk management provides an entity with a clear path to creating, preserving, and realizing value.

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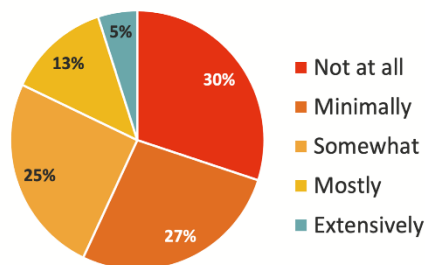
But how do we know these claims are true ?

Many executives are not convinced

To what extent do you believe the organization's risk management process is a proprietary strategic tool that provides unique competitive advantage?

Beasley et al (2019): online survey of 445 executives

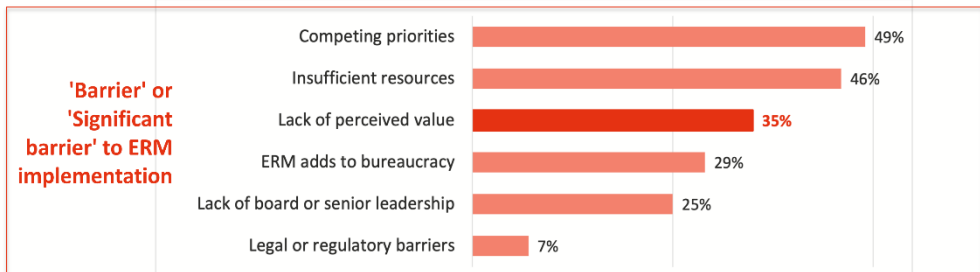
Competitive
advantage?



'Only 26% of the organizations report that their board substantively review top risk exposures in a formal manner when they discuss the organization's strategic plan.'

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Lack of perceived value is a barrier for ERM implementation



‘Respondents of organizations that have not yet implemented an enterprise-wide risk management process indicate that one impediment is the belief that the benefits of risk management do not exceed the costs or there are too many pressing needs.’

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Beasley et al (2019): online survey of 445 executives

What does the evidence show?

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Good risk management protects value

We can be confident that risk management protects value

We have well-established tools for addressing hazards and reducing the chance of things going wrong

- Their focus is on reducing adverse impacts on people, assets and the environment
- They work in a wide range of sectors

There are many examples of significant losses associated with poor risk management

- Financial assets, physical assets, people, environment
- This is one reason why risk management is a focus for regulators

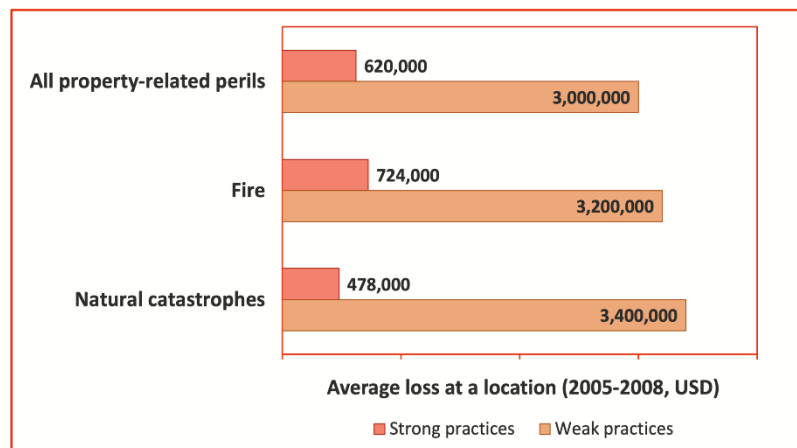
Protecting value is an important focus for many regulators

A few examples:

Financial assets	Regulatory capital Liquidity
Physical assets	Hazardous industries Transport
People	Workplace health and safety Food standards Products Medical devices Privacy
Environment	Habitat Biodiversity

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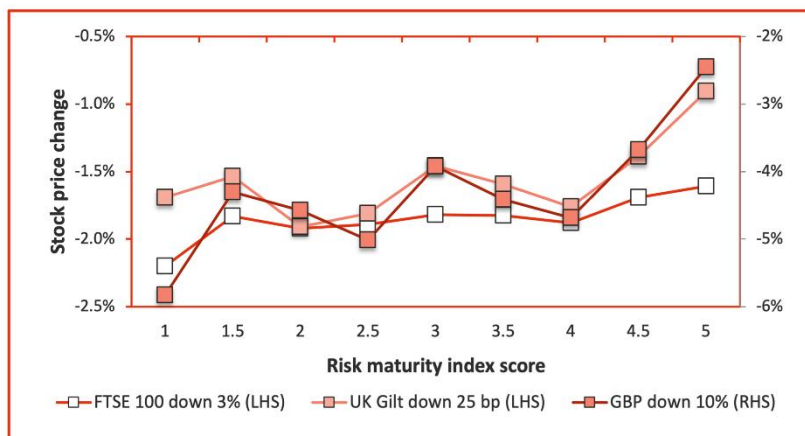
Good risk management is linked to reduced property losses



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FM Global and Oxford Metrica (2010): property losses suffered by companies with strong physical risk management processes were far fewer and much less severe

Higher risk maturity is linked to improved resilience to market shocks



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Aon (2017): resilience expressed in terms of smaller share price reductions in the immediate aftermath of a simulated market event

But can risk management create value?

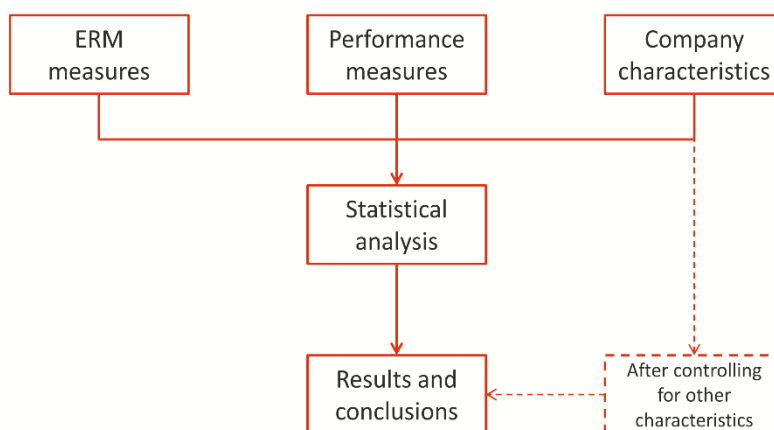
Background

Many have examined the relationship between ERM and company performance in the past 15 years

- Focus primarily on listed companies (where performance information is readily available)
- Wide range of companies, sectors, locations, economies and ownership structures

Many company characteristics are linked closely to performance, particularly company size, so the analyses are not always straightforward

General approach



Caveat: correlation is not causation!



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Measures of business performance

Past performance

- Accounting measures: revenue, profit, EBITDA, return on assets

Projected future value

- Market indicators: Tobin's Q = total market value / total asset value, share price, P/E ratio, cost of capital

Best in class

- Performance over a range of financial and operating metrics, specific to the sector

Growth and volatility in a performance or value indicator

Survey data

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Indicators of ERM adoption

Has the company implemented ERM?

1. Search financial media and financial reports for ERM-related phrases, mentions of risk management, CRO appointment, risk committees, Board discussions
2. Manually review 'hits' to confirm relevance
3. Identify earliest evidence to set an indicator variable

Measures based on ERM adoption can indicate causation by comparing performance before and after a change

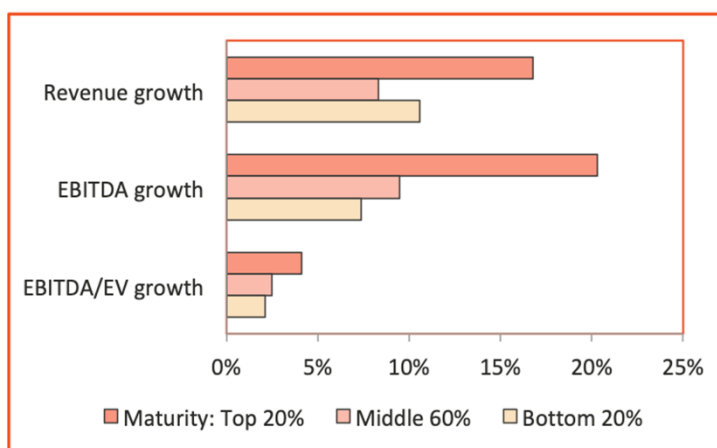
Measures of ERM maturity

Various maturity models have been used

- Risk and Insurance Managers Society (RIMS)
- Standard and Poor's
- Aon
- Federation of European Risk Management Associations (FERMA)
- Ernst and Young

Strong ERM is linked to strong performance

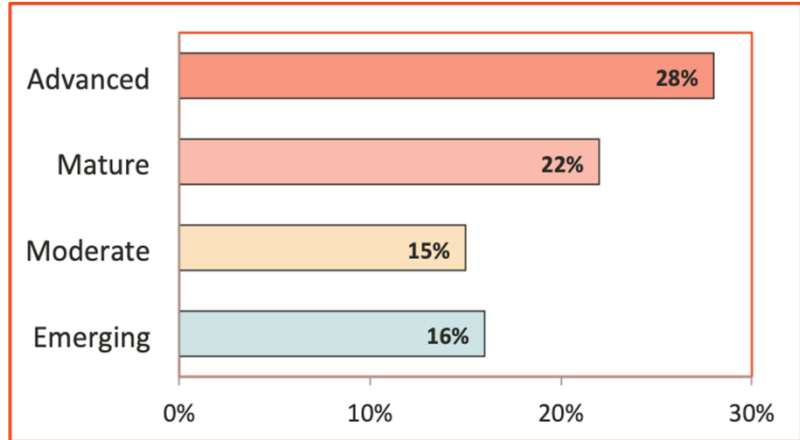
Companies with strong ERM outperform their peers



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Ernst & Young (2012): 576 interviews, 2,750 analyst and company reports

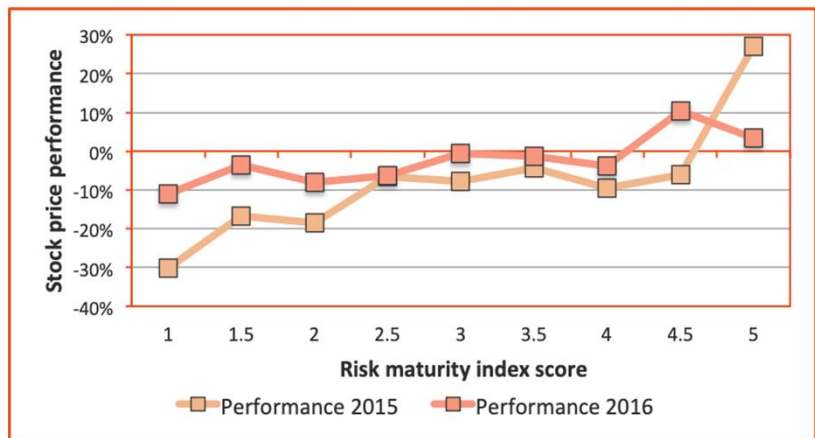
Companies with strong ERM outperform their peers



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FERMA (2012): 809 survey responses

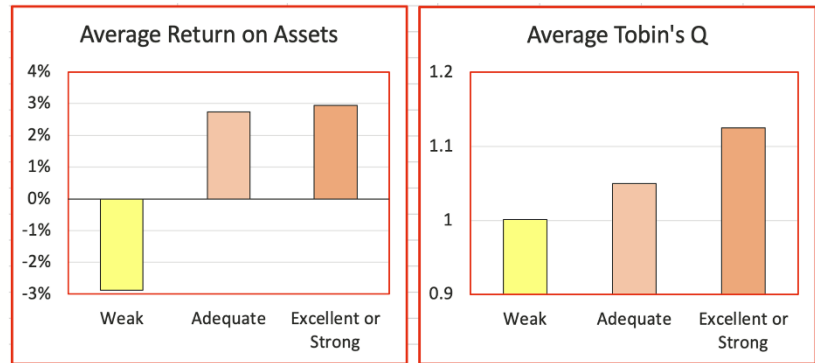
Companies with strong ERM outperform their peers



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Aon (2017): 81 insurance broker clients

Companies with strong ERM outperform their peers



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Ai et al (2016): 51 public and 25 private large property and casualty (P&C) insurers with S&P ERM quality ratings; 340 public and 127 private company observations; 28 firms and 159 observations used for Tobin's Q analysis

Higher levels of maturity are important

Farrell and Gallagher (2015)

- Companies in the top tiers of ERM maturity (levels 3-5) are associated with an increase in value of about 25% compared to those in the lower tiers (levels 1-2)

Farrell and Gallagher (2018)

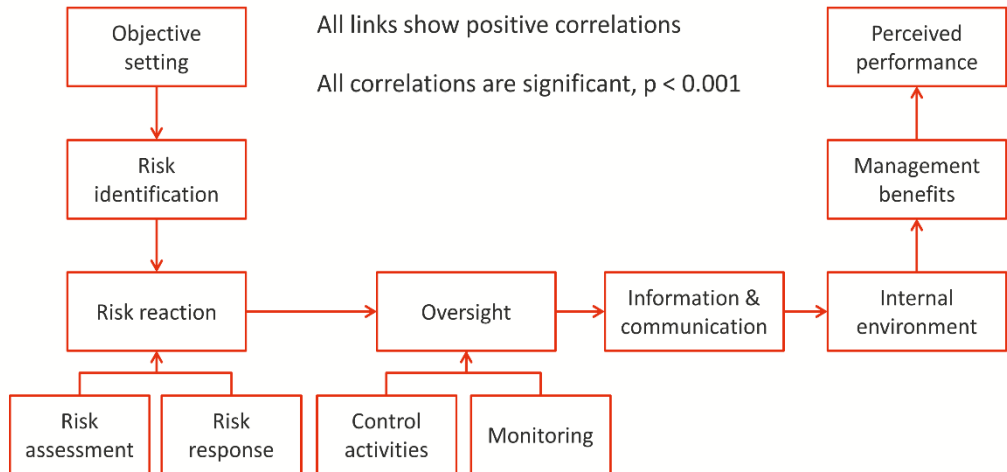
- Increased maturity is associated with increased firm value (up to 35%) and increased return on assets (2.44%), compared to lower-maturity firms

Farrell and Gallagher (2015): 225 publicly listed companies, in a range of countries and sectors; RIMS RMM; value expressed in terms of Tobin's Q

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Farrell and Gallagher (2018): 230 publicly listed companies

ERM components are closely linked

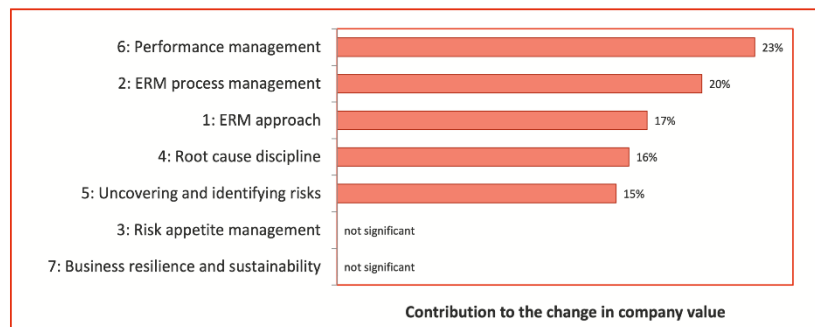


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Gates et al (2012): survey, n = 150 executives

Some ERM components may be more influential than others

Five attributes of the RIMS maturity model seem particularly important, but they are all closely correlated

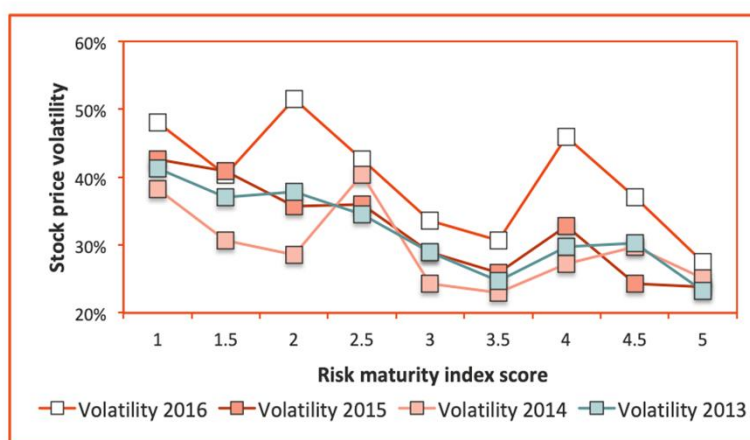


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Farrell and Gallagher (2015): survey of 225 publicly listed companies, in a range of countries and sectors; value in terms of Tobin's Q

Strong ERM is linked to more consistent outcomes

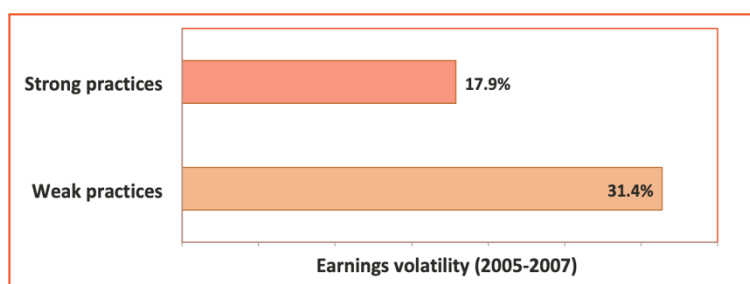
Companies with strong ERM show lower price volatility



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Aon (2017): 81 insurance broker clients

Companies with strong physical risk management show lower earnings volatility



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FM Global and Oxford Metrica (2010): companies with strong physical risk management processes had far lower earnings volatility

'Best in class' companies show good performance

Companies are grouped by performance

Operational performance metrics that are specific to the sector

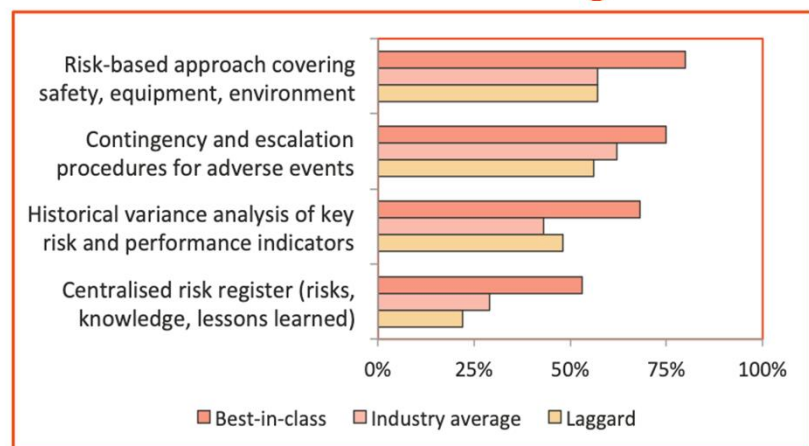
- Unscheduled asset downtime
- Overall equipment effectiveness
- Operating margin compared to the corporate plan
- Ability to meet product launch target dates
- Ability to deliver projects on budget and on time
- Financial metrics

Companies are grouped into classes

- Triage: best-in-class, industry average and laggards
- Leaders (typically the best-performing 35%) and followers (the rest)

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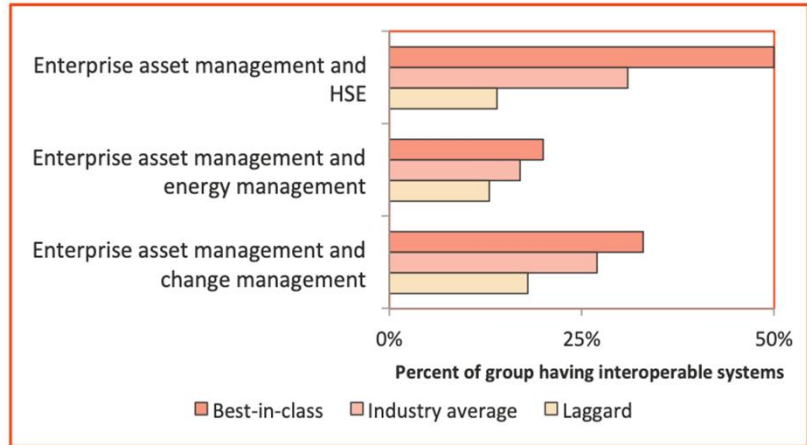
Leading manufacturing companies demonstrate better risk management



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Aberdeen (2013, Table 2): 119 executives, manufacturing companies

Leading companies have better system interoperability



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Aberdeen (2013, Table 5): 119 executives, manufacturing companies

Leading energy companies demonstrate better risk management

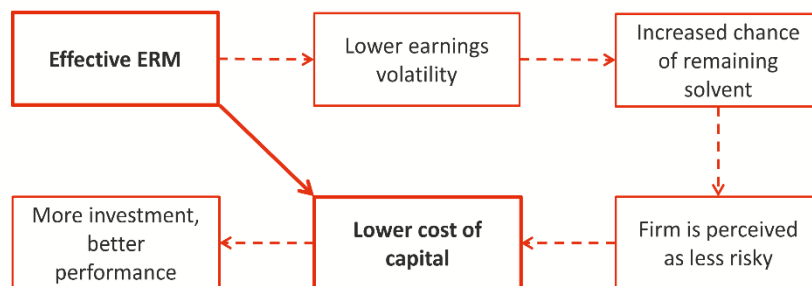


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Aberdeen (2015): 187 energy companies

ERM seems to be a *driver* of good performance

ERM adoption leads to a lower cost of capital



ERM adoption leads to a lower cost of capital, by 43 to 60 bp after 1 year

Firms with an ERM program have a 1-3% lower cost of capital than firms without

ERM adoption leads to improved value for non-financial firms

ERM adoption has a significant and positive effect on firm value

- ERM adoption increases firm value by 4%, for 1,506 Chinese listed non-financial firms
- ERM adoption increases firm value by 6%, for 254 Chinese non-financial State Owned Enterprises

Ai et al (2014): 6,782 observations for listed non-financial firms, 1,317 observations for non-financial SOEs

Causation may change in the medium term

‘The level of ERM sophistication is not influenced by operating profitability in the short term ...

‘However, there is some evidence that in the medium term different levels of accounting performance make available more or less resources to be invested ... in designing and performing the ERM system ...

‘A persistently higher operating performance facilitates the implementation of more advanced ERM practices.’

Florio and Leoni (2017): around 80% of Italian non-financial companies listed on the Milan Stock Exchange, 2011-2013; 462 firm-year observations

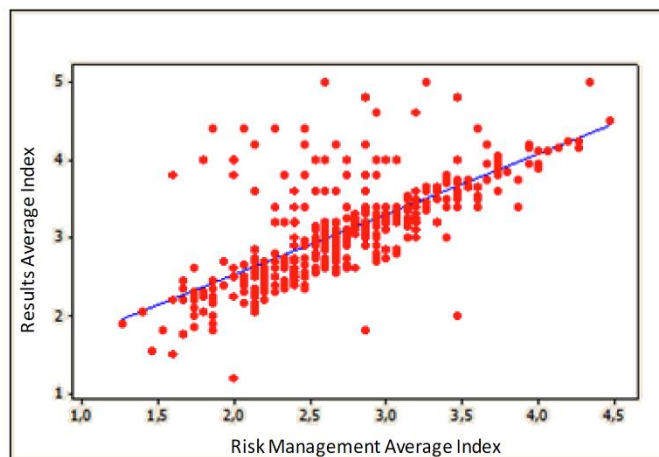
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Sound project risk management is associated with better project outcomes

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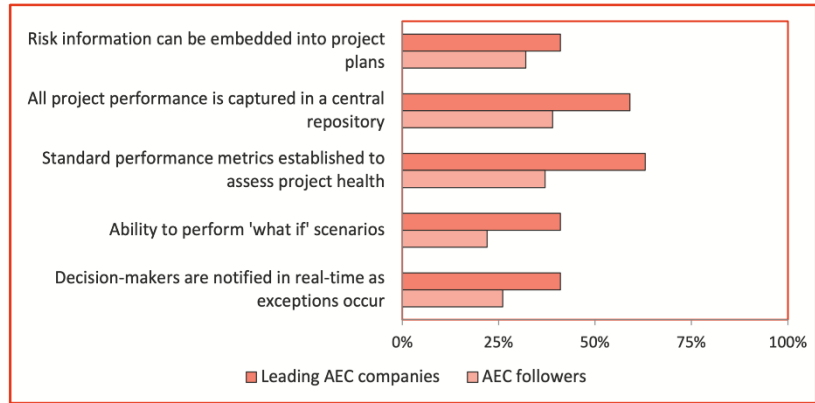
PRM capability may be an indicator of project success



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Rabechini Junior and de Carvalho (2013): survey of 415 project executives, Brazil; the risk management index is based on adoption of specific processes

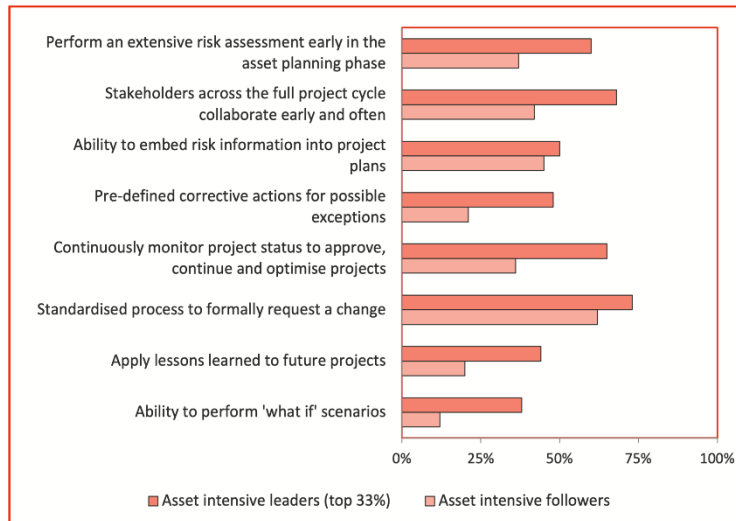
Leading companies are better at some aspects of project risk management



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Aberdeen group (2014a): survey of 73 architecture, engineering and construction (AEC) companies; leaders are the top 35% based on project performance

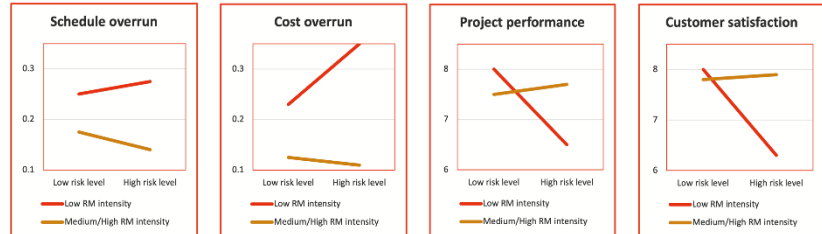
Leaders are better at risk management in asset decommissioning projects



Aberdeen group (2014b): survey of 600 executives in asset intensive industries (oil and gas, energy and utilities)

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Risk management planning enhances the success of high-risk projects



- When risk management planning intensity is Low, project success declines as risk increases
- But when risk management planning intensity is Medium or High, project performance outcomes improve

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Zwikael and Ahn (2011): 701 projects, 3 countries, 7 industries

Summary

The evidence shows:

1. Risk management protects value
2. Strong ERM is linked to strong performance
3. Strong ERM is linked to consistent performance
4. 'Best in class' companies demonstrate better risk management performance
5. Strong ERM drives good performance (cause and effect)
6. Sound project risk management is associated with better project outcomes

Good risk management is linked strongly to good outcomes

There are strong correlations between good risk management practices and

- Company performance
- Project performance

There is good evidence that there is a causal link

- Good risk management is a driver of good company and project outcomes

Conclusion

Having some ERM is useful

The real benefits come when you're really good at it

And there may be a virtuous circle in the medium term

- Effective risk management improves organisational performance
- High performing organisations are better able to execute effective risk management



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So we'll all have a job tomorrow !!

Contact

Dr Dale F Cooper

Director

Cooper@Broadleaf.com.au

+61 419 433 184

If you would like further information about this topic please contact us. We will endeavour to reply promptly.

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