Enabling social innovation for local climate adaptability

Project Symposium
7th December 2017

Timetable

11.00-11.15	Welcome, Housekeeping, Schedule for today
11.15-12.15	Introduction to project and our analysis 'findings': • Context, research questions and aims, method – Jean • LGA mapping re overview - Diana • LGA analysis - Jason • NGO analysis - Wendy • FG analysis - Donna • Questions and discussion
12.15-13.00	• Lunch
13.00-16.00 13.00-13.05 13.05-14.00 14.00-14.50 14.50-15.10 (coffee) 15.10-16.00	Panels: • Introduction – Jean • How do we talk about local climate adaptation? Understanding challenges/shaping frameworks - Donna • Implementation: what are we doing and could these ideas/practices be scaled up or implemented elsewhere? Wendy • Enabling innovation. Overcoming barriers and dissolving boundaries. Jason
16.00-16.30	Outputs: • Not Another Handbook! A Conversation Starter on ideas for reshaping thinking and action – Diana • Discussion
Between 16.30 & 17.00	Close

Enabling social innovation for local climate adaptability:

Context, aims, research questions, methods

- The research is concerned with responses to climate change and variability at the local scale.

- The project investigates the framings and practices of local governments and community groups as they seek to create local adaptation strategies.

- The task of adapting to climate variability and change (CVC) is acutely felt at the local scale. Yet local government, often tasked with leading local adaptation, is presently caught in what might be called an 'implementation trap'. *This research seeks to understand why.*

- We ask whether socially innovative alternative practices might exist outside the remit of local government and if they do, whether they could generate potentially effective adaptation responses at the local scale.

- We regard social innovation as 'extraordinary measures taken by ordinary people' (Baker and Mehmood, 2015: 321). In particular, it means addressing needs and problems through novel practices which create better social relationships between people, organisations, institutions and/or governance systems.

- Critical interrogation of tensions and potentialities of local governance and bottom-up innovations by local groups and NGOs and whether there might be any potential for adaptive co-management.

Aims:

The project *aims* to:

a) direct policy attention to building social innovation and capacity-building practices at the local scale; and

b) develop conceptual and theoretical explanations for how various actors operationalize their response to climate variability at the local scale to develop (mal)/adaptive responses;

c) develop a capacity-building resource for socially innovative adaptive practice.

Research questions:

1. How do citizens, political decision-makers, policy-makers, planning officers, and service and advocacy groups frame climate adaptation at the local scale, and do different framings lead to conflict and/or cooperation?

2. What institutional and cultural forces shape local actors' understandings, framings and practices and how do local actors respond to these forces, especially across scales?

3. What factors determine whether the different framings and practices they engender translate into policy decisions and on-the-ground actions for CVC adaptation?

4. How do local actors 'go round the back' of local institutions' mainstream approaches in search of socially innovative responses that better meet their needs?

Methods:

Reference Group.

Four Phases:

1. a) National audit of local government CVC adaptation strategies. Selection of 2 x LGA cases from each State for interview survey.

b) Audit of community-based websites to identify socially innovative CVC adaptation initiatives. Selection of 2 x NGO/community initiative cases from each State for interview survey.

2. a) Interviews and analyses of 8 x LGA and 8 x NGO/community initiatives.

b) Focus groups in each State: public sector government officers; activists working in advocacy and socially enterprising organisations; local businesses.

3. Analyses and syntheses.

4. Development of a capacity-building resource.

Intended impacts:

- To direct policy attention towards reducing vulnerability to CVC; funding socially inclusive, economically effective and culturally appropriate adaptation initiatives; and improving community participation by promoting involvement in decision-making;

- To allow groups outside 'normal governance' practice to build capacity, participate in knowledge creation, policy-making and decision-making;

- To add to the stock of existing knowledge about CVC adaptation practices in order to support local institutions in Australia enabling them to better respond to situated adaptation issues;

- We hope that anything we have learned from the research will be applicable to the rest of Australia and internationally.

Panels: Introduction

- How do we talk about local climate adaptation? Understanding challenges/shaping frameworks;

- Implementation: what are we doing and could these ideas/practices be scaled up or implemented elsewhere?

- Enabling innovation. Overcoming barriers and dissolving boundaries.

Enabling social innovation for local
climate adaptability

Phase 1: Mapping LGA adaptation strategies

April 2015 – April 2016
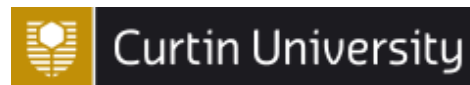
What we did

- Audit of published LGA adaptation strategies across all metropolitan capital regions:

  - Melbourne
  - Sydney
  - Perth
  - SEQ

  - Adelaide
  - Hobart
  - ACT
  - NT

- e-survey of LGAs in 4 metropolitan regions

  - What issues are they acting on; what do they think is working?

- Detailed document analysis of 2 published strategies in 4 metropolitan regions – how they talk about:

  - Climate change and adaptation
  - Localness
  - Who does what
  - Vulnerability and difference
  - Process of writing the strategy

Melbourne Metro Local Government Areas Map

Legend:
- Climate Adaptation Strategies & Plans (yellow)
- Corporate Action Plans (orange)
- Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action
- Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action Climate Change Adaptation Strategy: 2013-2020
- South East Councils Climate Change Alliance
- Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action
- Metropolitan Region boundary
- Non-Metropolitan Region boundary
- Local Government boundaries

1 City of Melbourne
2 City of Yarra
3 City of Stonnington
4 City of Port Phillip
5 City of Maribyrnong
6 City of Moonee Valley
7 City of Glen Eira
8 City of Bayside

Map labels:
- City of Whittlesea
- City of Hume
- Shire of Nillumbik
- City of Melton
- City of Moreland
- City of Darebin
- City of Banyule
- City of Manningham
- Yarra Ranges Council
- City of Brimbank
- City of Boroondara
- City of Maroondah
- City of Whitehorse
- City of Knox
- City of Hobsons Bay
- City of Monash
- City of Wyndham
- Port Phillip Bay
- City of Kingston
- City of Greater Dandenong
- City of Casey
- Shire of Cardinia
- City of Frankston
- Shire of Mornington Peninsula

Sydney Metro Local Government Areas Map

Shire of Hornsby

The Hills Shire

Pittwater Council

Warringah Council

Ku-Ring-Gai Council

City of Penrith

City of Blacktown

City of Parramatta

City of Holroyd

City of Ryde

Auburn City

City of Fairfield

City of Sydney

City of Bankstown

City of Liverpool

City of Canterbury

Marrickville Council

City of Botany Bay

City of Rockdale

City of Hurstville

City of Kogarah

Camden Council

Sutherland Shire

City of Campbelltown

Climate Adaptation Strategies & Plans

Corporate Action Plans

Metropolitan Region boundary

Local Government boundaries

1 Municipality of Woollahra
2 Waverley Council
3 City of Randwick
4 Municipality of Leichhardt
5 Municipality of Ashfield
6 Burwood Council
7 Municipality of Strathfield
8 City of Canada Bay
9 Municipality of Hunter's Hill
10 Municipality of Lane Cove
11 North Sydney Council
12 Municipality of Mosman
13 City of Willoughby
14 Manly Council
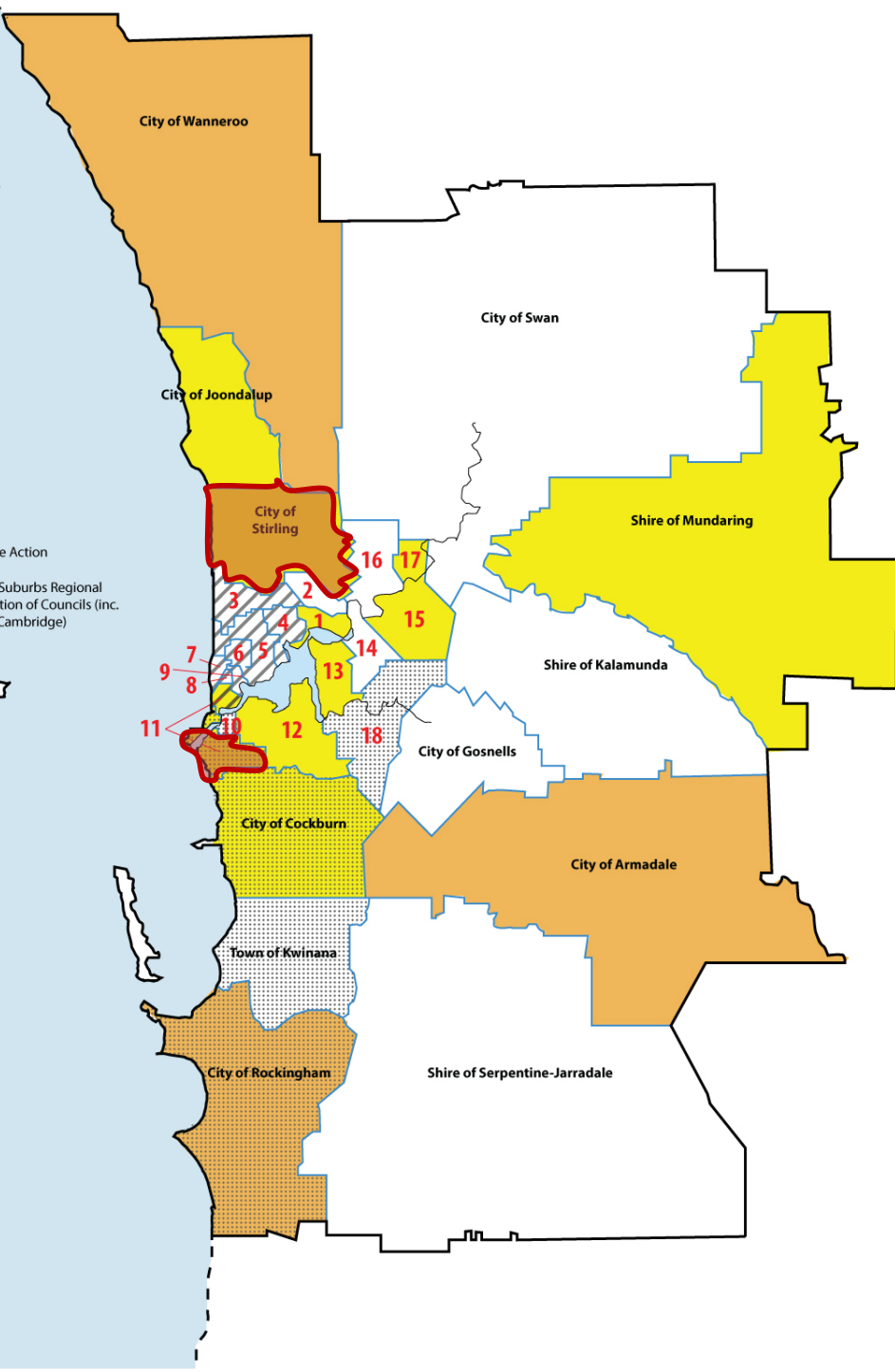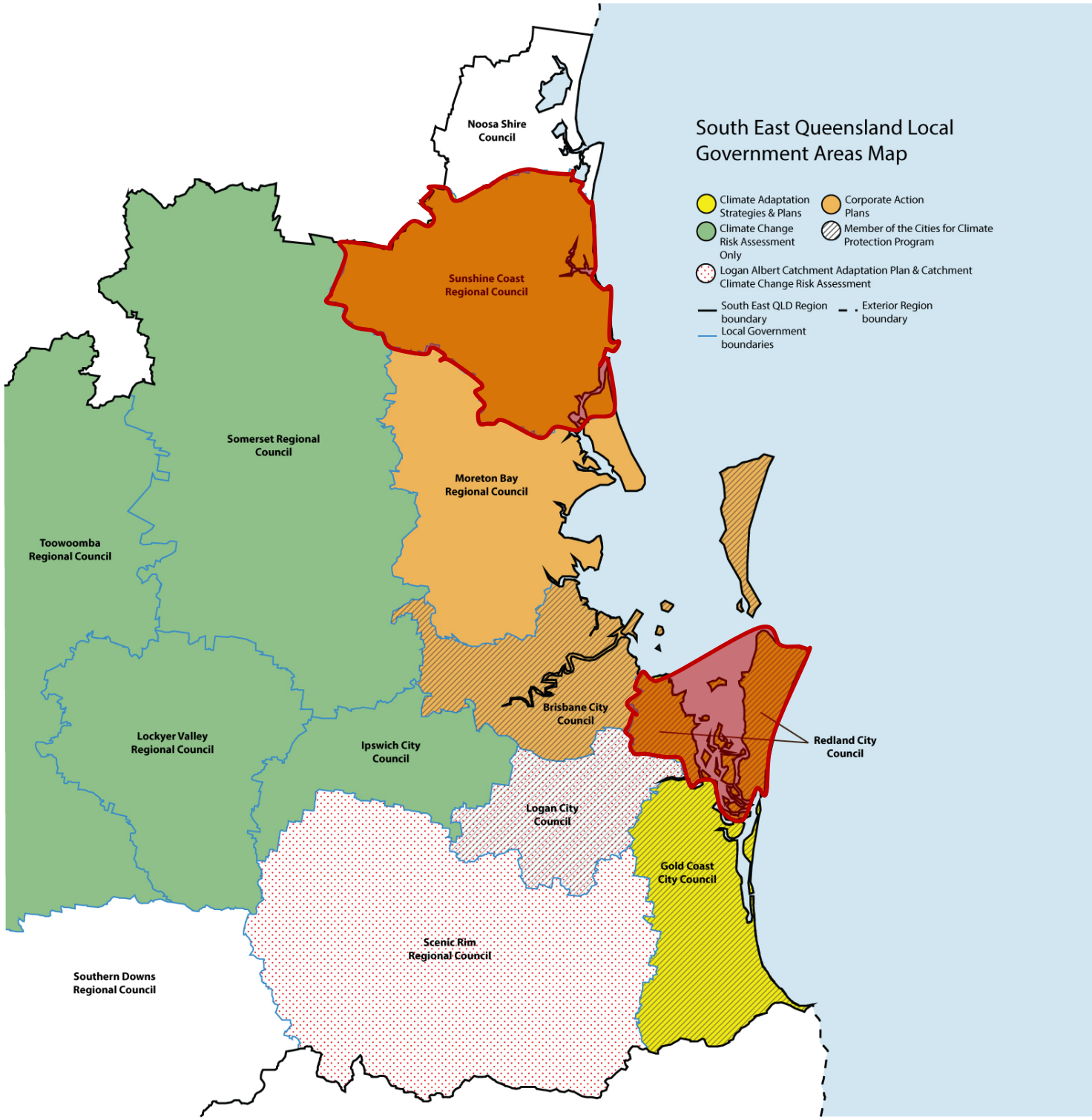
Perth Metro Local Government Areas Map

1 City of Perth
2 City of Vincent
3 Town of Cambridge
4 City of Subiaco
5 City of Nedlands
6 Town of Claremont
7 Town of Cottesloe
8 Shire of Peppermint Grove
9 Town of Mosman Park
10 Town of East Fremantle
11 City of Fremantle
12 City of Melville
13 City of South Perth
14 Town of Victoria Park
15 City of Belmont
16 City of Bayswater
17 Town of Bassendean
18 City of Canning

- Climate Adaptation Strategies & Plans
- Corporate Action Plans
- South Metropolitan Region Councils (excl. City of Melville)
- Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils (inc. Town of Cambridge)
- Metropolitan Region boundary
- Local Government boundaries
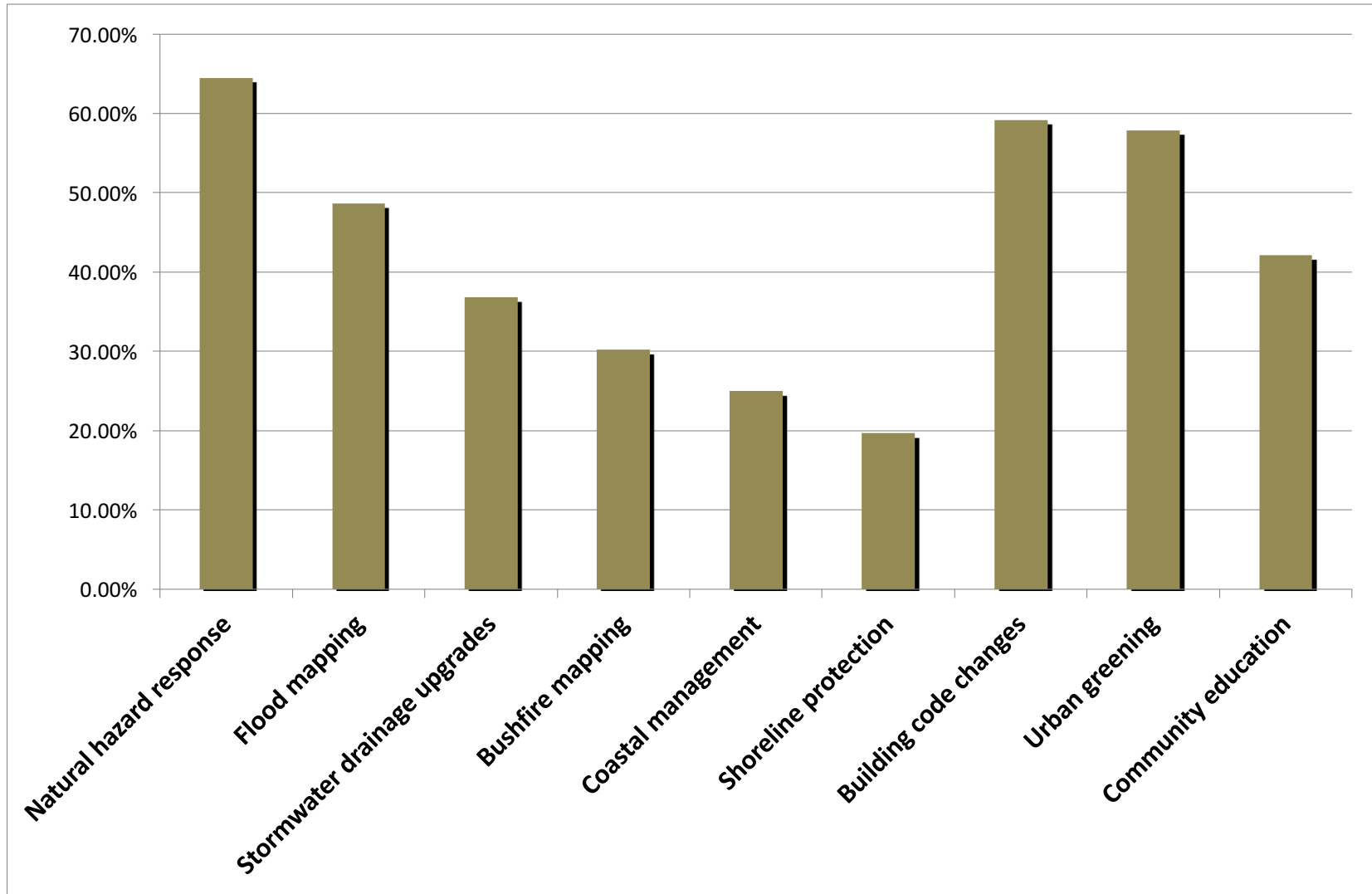- Non-Metropolitan Region boundary

City of Wanneroo

City of Joondalup

City of Swan

City of Stirling

Shire of Mundaring

Shire of Kalamunda

City of Gosnells

City of Cockburn

City of Armadale

Town of Kwinana

Shire of Serpentine-Jarradale

City of Rockingham

South East Queensland Local Government Areas Map

Legend:

- ● Climate Adaptation Strategies & Plans
- ● Climate Change Risk Assessment Only
- ○ Logan Albert Catchment Adaptation Plan & Catchment Climate Change Risk Assessment
- ● Corporate Action Plans
- ⊘ Member of the Cities for Climate Protection Program
- —— South East QLD Region boundary
- —— Local Government boundaries
- —·— Exterior Region boundary

Map labels:

- Noosa Shire Council
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council
- Somerset Regional Council
- Moreton Bay Regional Council
- Toowoomba Regional Council
- Lockyer Valley Regional Council
- Ipswich City Council
- Brisbane City Council
- Redland City Council
- Logan City Council
- Gold Coast City Council
- Scenic Rim Regional Council
- Southern Downs Regional Council

E-survey

N = 76

Adaptation response by state

Legend:
- NSW (n = 29)
- Vic (n = 17)
- WA (n = 19)
- QLD (n= 11)

Categories: Hazard response, Flood mapping, Stormwater upgrade, Bushfire mapping, Coastal management, Shoreline protection, Building code upgrades, Urban greening, Community education
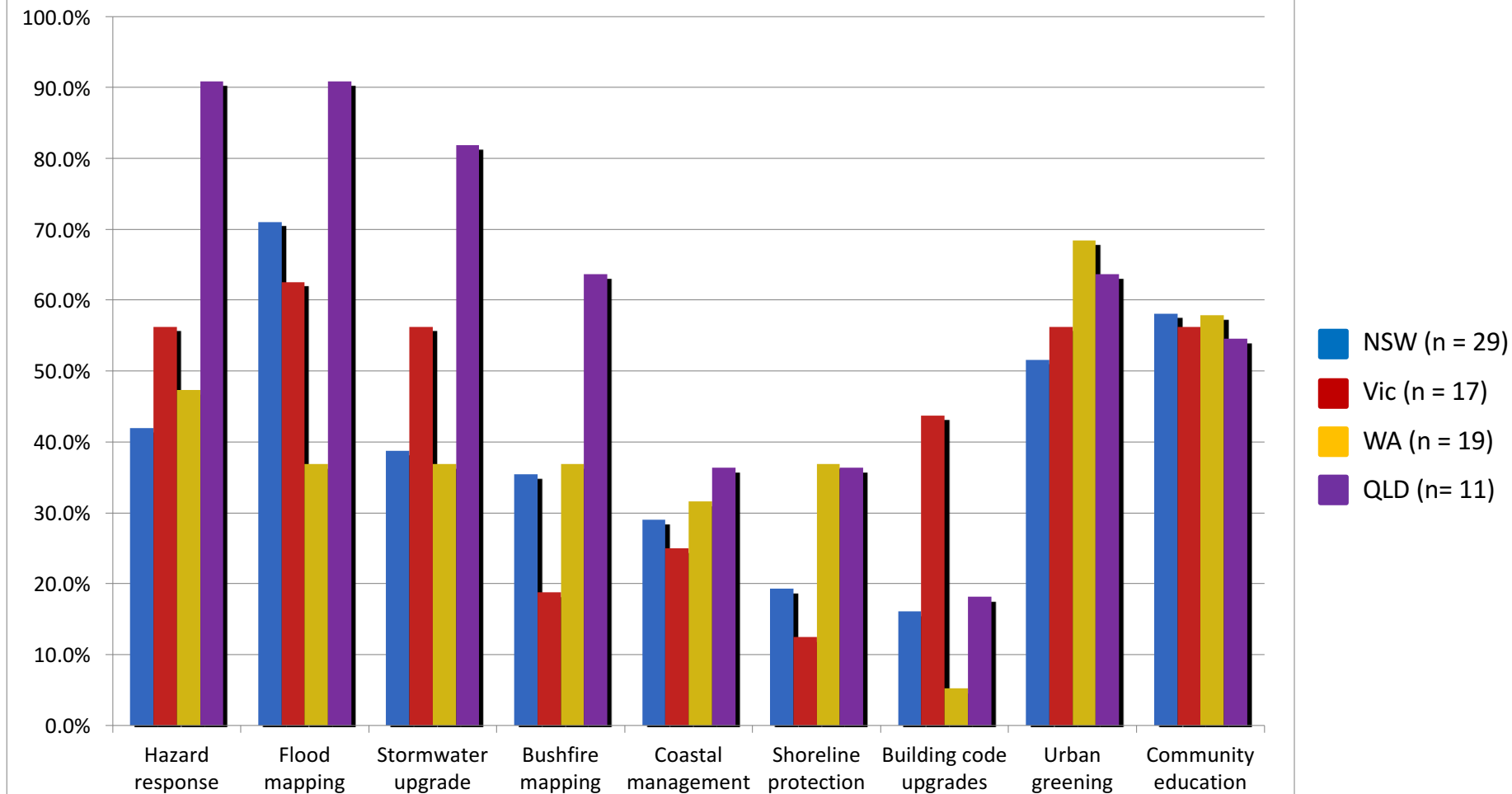
Strategy texts:
What was the same?

Climate Change	Adaptation	Local	Agency	Vulnerabilities	Process
Scientific fact Future impacts – extreme weather, goods and services, health Timeframes in decades Environmental problem with largely environmental and economic impacts RISK is key framing device for impacts Both threats and opportunities (economic) Unpredictable, but rendered manageable	Response to risk assessment (except Fremantle) Needed now regardless of timeframe for CC itself Timeframes in years Explicitly or implicitly Contrasted with mitigation BUT energy a key issue for adaptation Dominated by "prepare" and "defend" strategies; "retreat" very rare	Locus of felt impacts Embedded in larger scales of governance Positively construed as an appropriate scale of action Particular resources (natural, built, and/or social) identified as valuable	LG has a key role and strong agency LG needs to show leadership Responsibility across several departments, including planning Funding, coordination, education and research Community - needing education on issues and preparedness Civil society barely mentioned, if at all	Age-related (children and elderly) Services to community Assets and infrastructure Heatwaves Greening public spaces	No evidence of public involvement in developing the strategy, beyond standard call for comment – largely confirmed by interviews

What was different?
NSW and Victoria

LGA	Climate Change	Adaptation	Local agency	Vulnerabilities
Marrickville		Risk management An objective	LG – placed within national context Non-specific partnerships	Locational Specified local ecosystems No other immediate actions
Blacktown		Building resilience Actions	Need to work with local business / food producers / support networks Community – non-differentiated, relevant values as information	No other immediate actions
Darebin	Documented evidence in present Conditions of existence Uncertainty and complexity in relation to effects	Building capacity to act/adjust Opportunity to transition to low energy future Some actions conflate adapt/mitigate	Source of knowledge and expertise Community – differentiated and active but needing assistance, particularly the poor.	Health, disability, isolation, socioeconomic, marginalisation, fringe Energy reliance - present actions
Whitehorse	Unavoidable	Building system resilience Technology	LG – limited by resources and responsibilities Community – to be encouraged	Health, isolation, homelessness Food

What was different?
Qld and WA

LGA	Climate Change	Adaptation	Local agency	Vulnerabilities
Redland	Present and real – extreme weather and natural disasters Potential to be worse than expected	Response to the failure of mitigation action An objective	Global and National citizenship	Generalised local ecologies Locational Research
Sunshine Coast	Future problem Global problem with local impacts Cost impacts Institutional opportunity	Beyond technological – behaviour change.	'Hotspot' of risks Community – undifferentiated, largely passive	Locational, homelessness No other immediate actions
Fremantle	Backgrounded Political opportunity	No risk assessment Need for innovation New	Coastal location ALL actors other than LG only passive.	Heritage buildings No other immediate actions
Stirling	Some present manifestations at larger scales Certainty decreases as timeframe increases Institutional opportunity	Actions *Explicit* choice of risk management approach *Explicit* blurring of boundaries with mitigation	In regional context Relatively low risk/urgency Partnerships mostly w other government agencies Others active only in relation to 'adapting' Community – differentiated in description but not in response	Socio-economic, NESB, isolation, housing tenure, outdoor workers Specified threatened species of fauna Actions limited to low hanging fruit

ARC Project: DP150100299

Analysis of local government interviews

Our findings from text analysis:

- Dominated by risk framing
- Climate change is 'rendered manageable' (e.g., mapping/modelling)
- Little evidence of public involvement
- Community as a naïve public requiring educating
- Many adaptation plans are now 5 years old or older
- Energy a key issue
- Heatwaves a common concern

Research questions:

- How is climate adaptation framed at the local scale and do different framings lead to conflict and/or cooperation?

- What institutional and cultural forces shape how do local actors respond, especially across scales?

- What factors determine whether the different framings translate into on-the-ground actions?

- How do local actors 'go round the back' (Hillier 2000) in search of socially innovative responses that better meet their needs?

Case Studies (LGA)

- 2 LGAs from NSW, Vic, Qld and WA
  - » All metropolitan
  - » Contrasting localities
  - » All internally or jointly written
  - » Selected as 'promising'
    - Reputation, funding, diversity, inter-departmental cooperation, reported programs/partnerships

- Semi-structured questions about:
  - » Climate change awareness, concern & action
  - » Adaptation responses – drivers and barriers
  - » Local agency – capacity to act
  - » Vulnerabilities – approaches to social exclusion & disadvantage

NSW
- Marrickville
- Blacktown

VIC
- Darebin
- Whitehorse

QLD
- Redland
- Sunshine Coast

WA
- Fremantle
- Stirling

Population of LGA
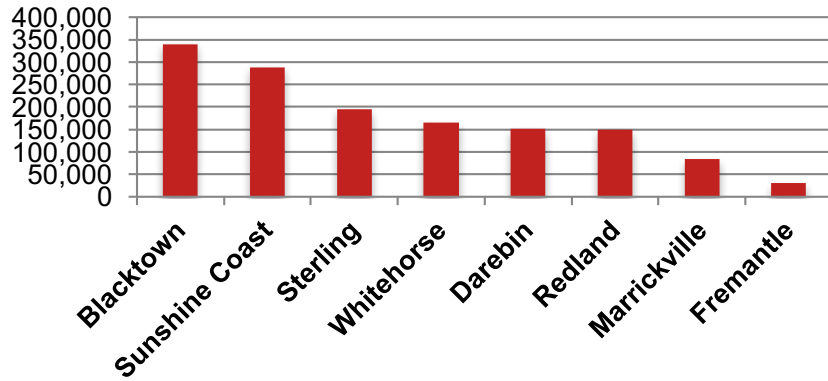
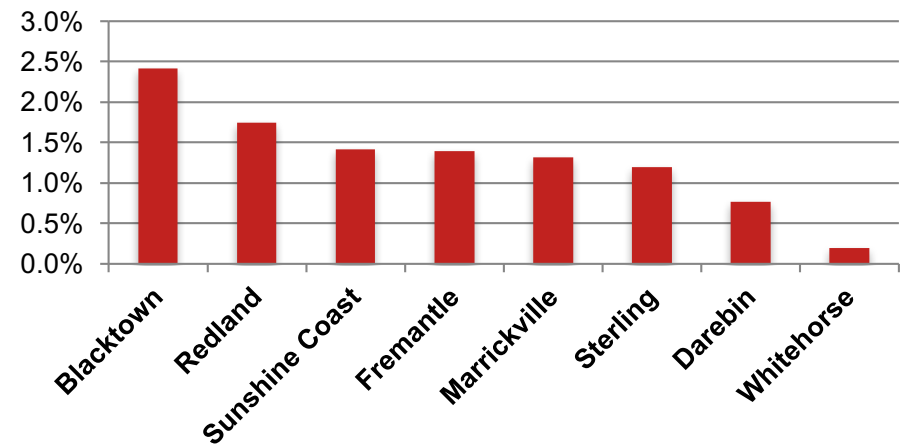## % in social housing LGA
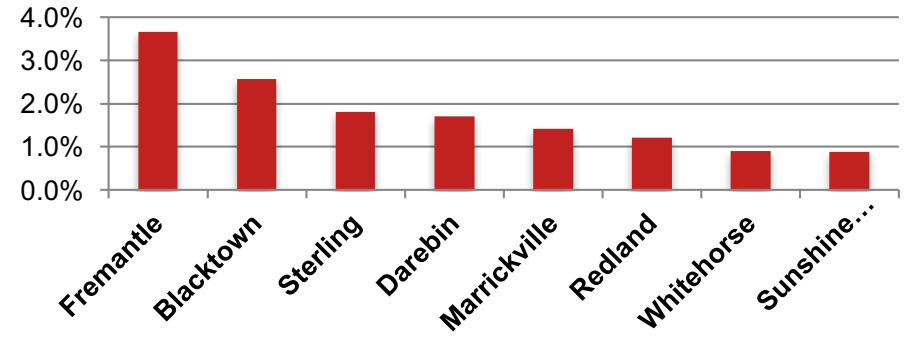
Low income households (quartile)
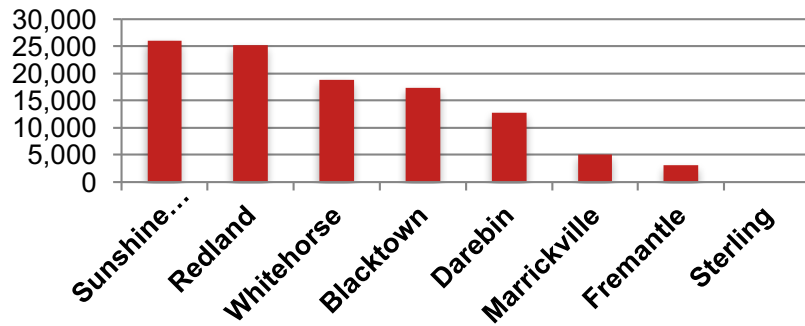
% overseas born in LGA
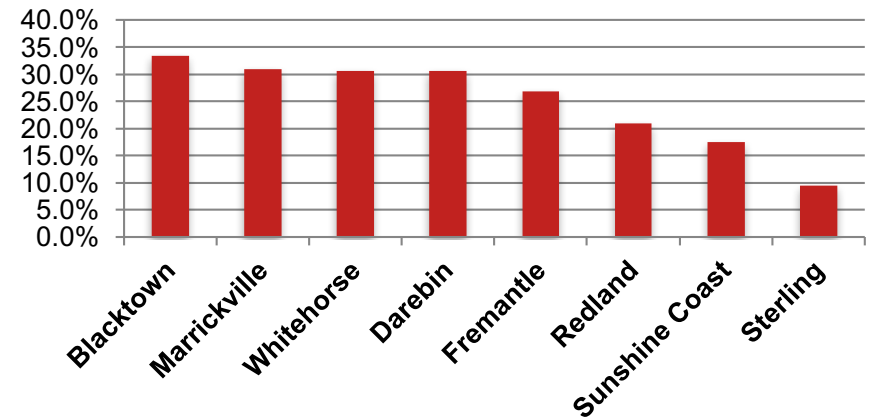
% English proficiency in LGA
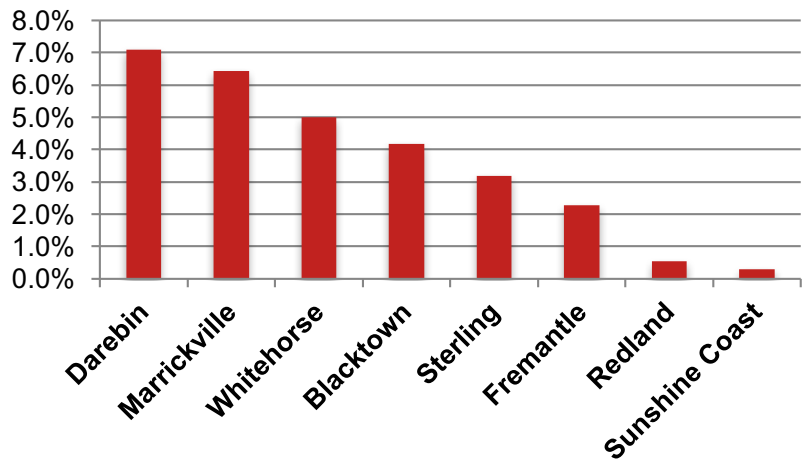
% Indigenous in LGA
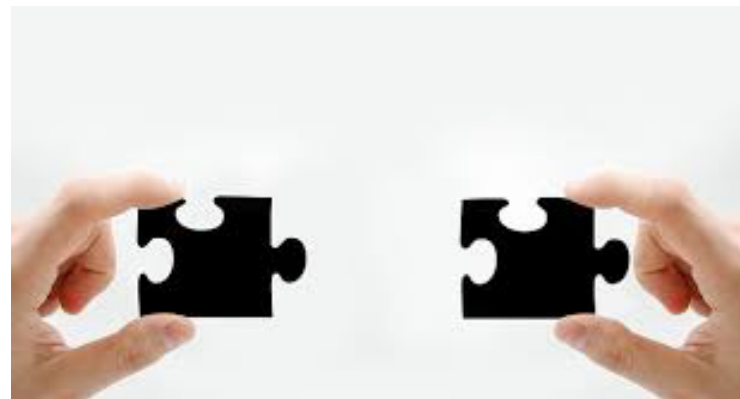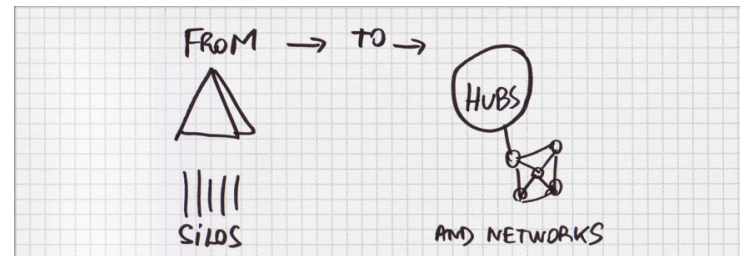
Enablement defined…

- 'an outcome that reflects [the] ability to understand, manage and cope' with a situation (Frost et al., 2017)
- Enabling 'creates opportunities for education and supports knowledge transfer…and promotes self efficacy' (Frost et al., 2017)
- Enabling builds on strengths, builds relationships, fosters a deeper understanding
- Helps people develop competencies & experience
- Requires training & skills development
- May redistribute power, albeit informally
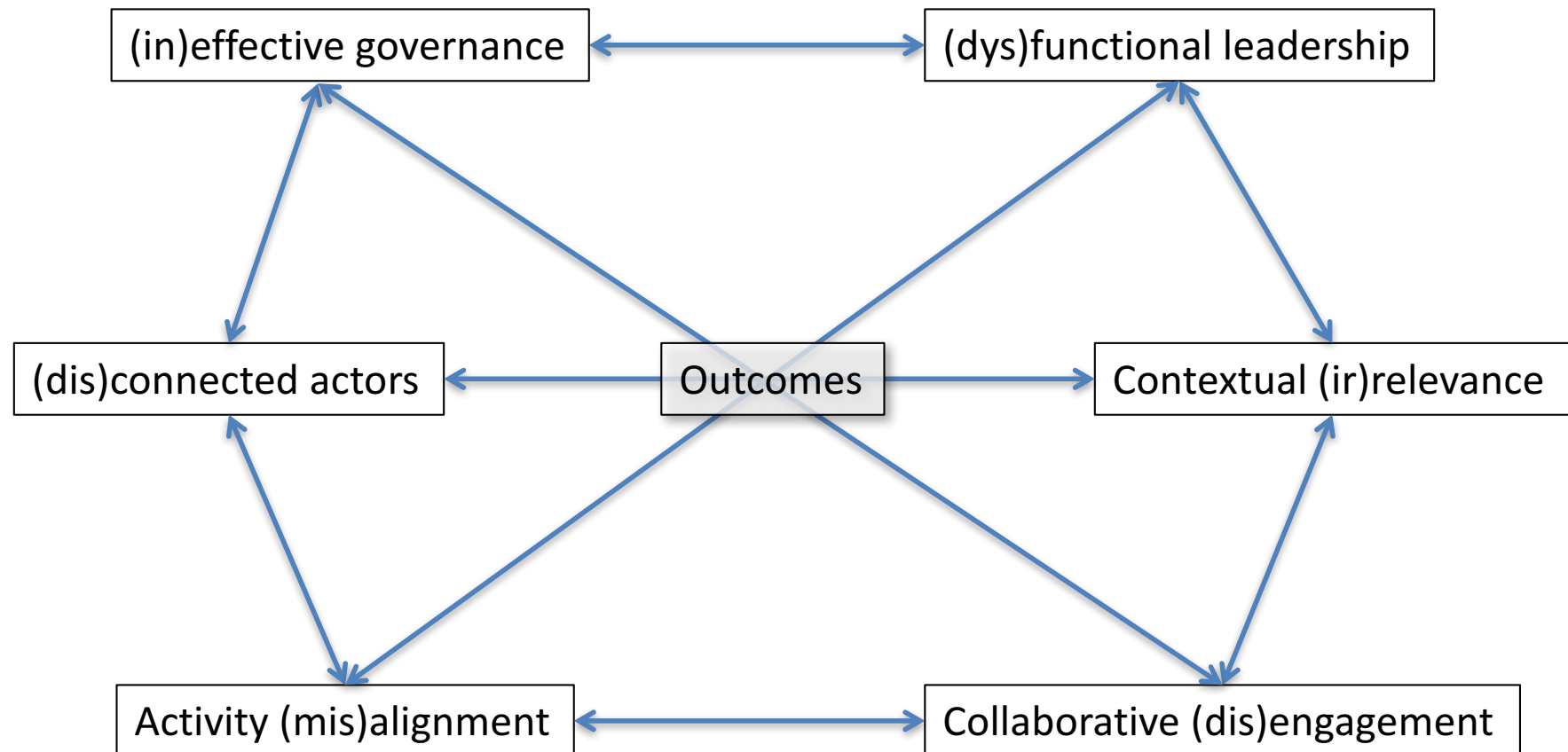- Seeks to remove barriers

Characteristics of enabling environments

- Trust & Openness
- Acceptance
- Connection
- Concern
- Respect
- Empathy
- Communication
- Reciprocity

(Dis/En)abling social innovation

Theme	Hits	
change	933	
work	633	
community	411	
people	311	
risk	259	
government	217	
need	187	
start	124	
process	122	
year	85	
place	78	
able	48	

"…things that they tried to do were often hamstrung and stopped and blocked and slowed down and made difficult by a *Council* that would just never agree to anything. …so there was a lot of resentment and a lack of motivation, …people were there to do something but were not able to get on and do …were just doing things by the book…"

"…if you explain it all in a risk context, even if you like the lesser believers at both the political and community level well and truly understand that and most local government is risk averse so using that as a basis helps overcome a number of barriers and makes common sense."

"We didn't emphasise a lot that it was about climate change adaptation, we explained that it was about planning for changes in the climate but also about recognising that heat is something that people have to cope with on a day-to-day basis in the summer."

"and we're like, "oohh, we're going to have to go and do it…." So they just started doing it, …so as a *Council* we need to make sure they're doing it safely and we need to make sure there are certain guidelines that they can follow so that trees aren't growing out onto kerbs, and traffic can still move around and people can still move around…"

"That's collapsed as it has for a lot of other organisations – we did not meet our target – our emissions almost doubled in that time frame I think ... There has been action in the past to nail us down with actions and positions on climate change but at the moment its that mention in the adaptation plan as the position that we have, and the way it's couched, difficult to explain I suppose, it's written down in plans like that how it's couched but it's not integrated across council necessarily."

"We get people in to inspire them with stories, examples, case studies."

There is a resolution of **Council** to move forward on our own solar generation to reduce electricity costs. And with that, if it is located at the depot, then the depot could be a place where an electric vehicle is trialed, with a charge station.

I'd say there's been a shift in some staff around the food growing on public land – staff who are key decision makers. When I started in 2013, it was the 'too hard to have' discussion about fruit trees on public land.

"However, there are other areas where it is fair to say that it is seen as an add on – "here is my normal duty, oh you want me to also do that?" That is extra and hard and why we try to get it embedded in to the day to day practices…"

"our priority area for improving as an organisation, in terms of our internal workings, is kind of getting rid of those or at least minimising those internal barriers so people, whatever piece of the organisation they work in, recognise the need to work more collaboratively and support other people and bits of the organisation in terms of what we are doing to deliver some of these corporate strategies."

"We have an internal **Climate Change Policy**, our **Corporate Policy**, so that sort of gives it head of power. *Probably* for me the most important thing recently it is just having a line of sight, from our **Corporate Plan**, our **Community Plan** which is a 2030 document and in the **Community Plan** there is an outcome there called 'green living' and those same headings of the **Community Plan** are reflected in the **Corporate Plan** which is a five year document, and that says 'green living'."

"Yes, so we are applying behaviour change in the organisation from the environmental education unit. This is completely out of scope, but information and awareness does not necessarily get you a behaviour change."

"And it's about those experiences and those personal interactions that sort of really are experiential level that really influences how you go about your job and how you go about problem solving."

"*Feedback* has been really good. *People* tend to be quite interested in certain things – the gardening stuff, the permaculture stuff, the tours – people are most interested in those things, the feedback is always really positive, but we know people want to do these types of things more."

"I'd say that most of the change is being pushed by those regional networks."

"So the idea of that is that we get [people] together in a room and they network with each other, they share resources, they share ideas, they do a round table, they swap notes on what they're doing."
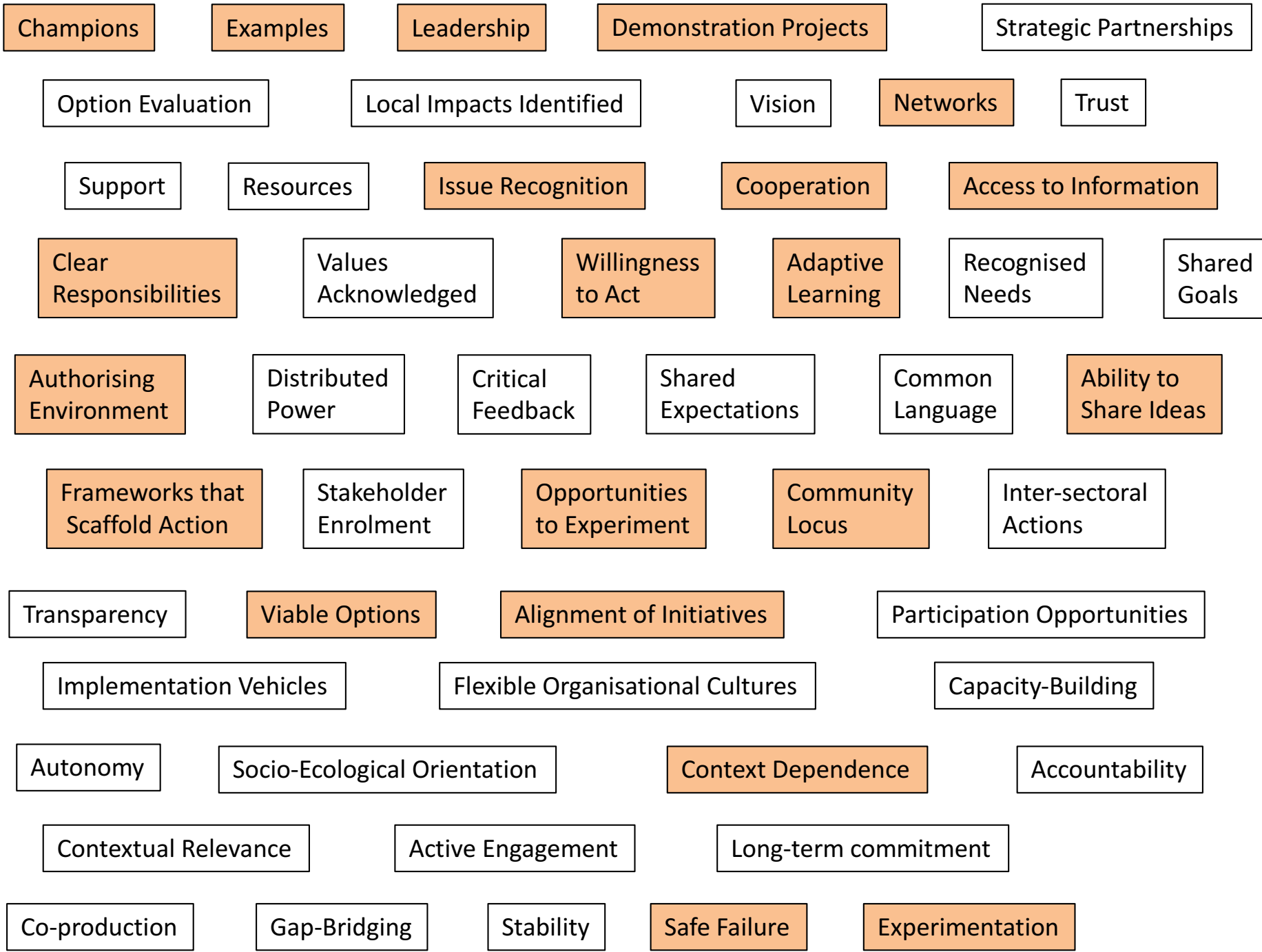
"No local government is ever going to have that level of resourcing. So we do have to prioritise, identify the things that are most important or will have the greatest impact."

"We are going to do a proof of concept projects first, but we are interested in possibly working with community and with business precincts..."

All of these things are important, but we can't tackle everything individually. You need to have a more structured and coordinated approach, but one that takes a holistic view and recognises the inter-dependencies and relationships between issues that often get badged as 'it's an adaptation issue', 'it's just that sort of issue', which doesn't necessarily recognise connections between things.

Enabling factors (after Pasquini et al., 2015)

- Organisational champions
- Experience of impacts / costs
- Political leadership
- Knowledge
- Resources
- Political (in)stability
- Time/timing
- Context
- Social networks
- Governance structures
- Market and/or policy failure
- Changing attitudes/mindsets

- Relationship building
- Capacity to act
- Tax base / economic base
- Proximity (down corridor)
- Political stability
- Training
- Legislation

Champions | Examples | Leadership | Demonstration Projects | Strategic Partnerships

Option Evaluation | Local Impacts Identified | Vision | Networks | Trust

Support | Resources | Issue Recognition | Cooperation | Access to Information

Clear Responsibilities | Values Acknowledged | Willingness to Act | Adaptive Learning | Recognised Needs | Shared Goals

Authorising Environment | Distributed Power | Critical Feedback | Shared Expectations | Common Language | Ability to Share Ideas

Frameworks that Scaffold Action | Stakeholder Enrolment | Opportunities to Experiment | Community Locus | Inter-sectoral Actions

Transparency | Viable Options | Alignment of Initiatives | Participation Opportunities

Implementation Vehicles | Flexible Organisational Cultures | Capacity-Building

Autonomy | Socio-Ecological Orientation | Context Dependence | Accountability

Contextual Relevance | Active Engagement | Long-term commitment

Co-production | Gap-Bridging | Stability | Safe Failure | Experimentation

References

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Neumeier, S. 2017, Social innovation in rural development: identifying the key factors of success, *The Geographical Journal*, 183(1), 33-46.

Pasquiani, L., Ziervogel, G., Cowling, R.M. and Shearing, C., 2015, What enables local governments to mainstream climate change adaptation? Lessons learned from two municipal case studies in the Western Cape, South Africa, *Climate and Development*, vol. 7(1), 60-70.

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Enabling social innovation for local
climate adaptability

Analysis of NGO interviews
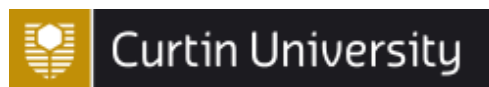
Selection of Community/NGO's

- In the first quarter of 2016, the Project Team completed a desk survey of NGO climate change strategies and initiatives in the four metropolitan areas of Perth, Melbourne, Sydney and South East Queensland.

- Two NGOs from each project State were selected for further in-depth study and were selected against the following criteria:

✓ Responsiveness to local conditions;

✓ Meets genuine needs;

✓ Empowerment of communities;

✓ Potential transformation of social relations;

✓ Community engagement in preparation and delivery of strategy and initiatives;

✓ Inclusion of the vulnerable and non-human.

Case study selection – Victoria

EFLAG (Elwood Floods Action Group)

EFLAG formed after Elwood experienced an extreme weather event in February 2011. As an advocacy and action group, EFLAG works to inform local residents about: how the area experiences flooding; what they can do to prepare for and respond to future floods; and what residents can expect from various government agencies and associated bodies in times of severe weather.

Transition Towns Maroondah Inc

Transition Towns Maroondah Inc is a community group based in Melbourne's east and part of the international Transition Towns movement. The group regard 'localisation of the economy and our way of life, and re-skilling as keys to resilience and sustainability'.

Key initiatives include: sustainable transport; community engagement; waste management; reskilling; living simply; food; localised economy; and energy.

Case study selection – Western Australia

Environment House

According to their 2015 Annual Report community programs include – Bayswater $WAP Program 2015 was proposed and developed by Environment House in conjunction with the City of Bayswater. Grass roots initiative to encourage residents to reduce household energy and water use. Over $11,000 of eco-hardware was given away to local residents, expertise provided to ensure correct appliances were chosen and advice regarding installation delivered. Six workshops were also held on energy and water efficiency.

Ecoburbia

Ecoburbia addresses vulnerability across issues (CVC, Peak Oil, economic change etc) by educating, role modelling and experimenting in sustainable and self-sufficient living. Ecoburbia is set up as a small business, not an NFP, to give the proprietors more flexibility regarding new ideas. The Beaconsfield community is explicitly governed as a benign dictatorship.

Case study selection – NSW

Nature Conservation Trust NSW

The Nature Conservation Trust key mission is to facilitate the conservation of natural heritage on private land in which biodiversity can thrive.   It achieves this by facilitating voluntary covenant agreements with private landholders committing to in-perpetuity conservation reserves; by maintaining a revolving fund to acquire lands of high biodiversity value, establishing covenants on those lands and returning them to the private market; and communicating to the broader community the importance of natural heritage on private lands in NSW. It partners with other natural resource management agencies and conservation initiatives to develop its broader strategic approaches

CANWin

CANWin – Climate Action Now! Wingecarribee – is a non-partisan community group based in the Southern Highlands of NSW. It works to foster community-based initiatives that respond to the impacts of climate change and develop community resilience in the face of peak oil. A central driver is the recognition that none of us can do this alone, but that together we "must be the change we want to see in the world" (Mahatma Ghandi). CANWin runs regular public events, such as speaker nights, film nights, and the recent Clean Energy Future workshop. It researches and prepares information sheets for members and the public on scientific and technical matters that affect the sustainability of life on the Highlands.

Case study selection – South East Queensland

GECKO (Gold Coast & Hinterland Environment Council)

Gecko is the Gold Coast's peak non-government not-for-profit environment group that networks with a wide range of volunteers and organisations who work together to protect and enhance the natural and environmental assets of our region.Gecko's goal is to ensure the Gold Coast and surrounds become sustainable by way of anticipating and assessing impacts prior to projects being approved to ensure development is undertaken without risks to biodiversity, the ecological system and the livability of the region Gecko is committed to action on climate change at a local level. The Campaigns Sub-Committee meets each fortnight to discuss the issue and ways that the organisation can make a difference.

Green Cross Australia

Green Cross Australia is not an advocacy group – rather it works with respected business, research, community and government partners to deliver 'world-class' digital projects that foster a global values shift towards a secure and sustainable future.The mantra, Think + Act + Share = Change, is key to the organisation's projects. The organisation believes the power of its projects is empowering Australians to take practical, informed action. It encourages people to take action, and then gives them the tools via social and digital media to share their actions with their friends. It uses mapping technologies to visualise participation in its projects and to measure engagement.

Motivation for Action

- desire for change

- response to key issues

- concern for the environment

- wanting to drive leadership in adaptation

- frustrated by a lack of leadership from government

- ways to take action on mitigation and adaptation

- find avenues to act hopefully, and in connection to others, in the face of impending environmental and economic crisis

Types of activities

- Local community activities – "Well we go to fetes and we have stalls and we've had film nights and we had a forum on solar and we've had food swaps and clothes swaps and we had a gardening group"

- Skills audit – "We're asking people – if this is your passion, what you're really interested in would you be willing to work on it?"

- Education - "education in this area is so important I feel and we do, Transition Towns does. This community is not aware of what's going on"

- Good relationship with council – "We had an input that was certainly highly regarded by the Council and it was out into the structure plans and we work well with"

- Lobby group role – "charter is to lobby local, state and federal governments and all instrumentalities" /" We monitor Council meetings for the and go along and make submissions to the budget for increased spending on programs. If an issue comes up and it's not on their agenda we go and ask questions just to put them on the record with Council Officers and Councillors"

- Social innovations based on '*agility*', media and defined projects linked to specific outcomes.

- An innovative model based on partnering with business and government and using digital communications to enhance and build social networks to enable climate action.

- E.g. business action network enables business leaders from organisations such as Australia Post, ANZ, Optus, Suncorp etc. to exchange ideas about adaptation and innovation.

- They specifically stated that they were not about 'lobbying or advocacy'.

- NGO ability to adapt and respond to opportunities as a major asset – this meant they saw themselves not so much as innovative in themselves, but as <u>enabling</u> (their own word)

- NGO integration of social justice, ecological and environmental aims meant that their energy was put into actions that helped poor and/or marginalised communities to adapt (reduce costs, grow food, share resources, build social capital, understand nature … …

- E.g an experiment with an alternative form of 'subdivision' to build a resilient, eco-friendly community and focusing their efforts on their particular scale of influence (starting with their own land, extending to their neighbours and associates …), as well as its choices to remain independent rely on private resources.

How might we re-imagine our experience of, and responses to, the climate-changed city?

- Insurgence , Informality, Interstitial

- Quiet activism, everyday activism, wilful hope

- Social innovation and bottom-linked practices

- Beyond bread and circuses

Focus Groups

A BRIEF SNAPSHOT

ARC Stakeholder Symposium December 7 2017

Why did we do focus groups?

- Understand context outside of the case studies
- Each state conducted 3 focus groups with representatives from government; NGOs and community groups; private business and industry
- Focus groups were undertaken in the first half of 2017, the snapshot presented here is based on first cut analysis of the transcribed data
- Quick note on limitations of focus group methodology

What did the focus groups help us to understand?

- How different sectors (government, NGO, business) interact within their sectors and with each other

- How different sectors intersect with and perceive knowledge and actions of their own sector and other sectors

- Sharing ideas through discussion

Who is doing and saying what?

Focus groups highlighted themes of:

- **Perceptions** – role of different sectors, work that is being done, how each sector perceives themselves and other sectors
- **Interactions** – barriers and opportunities for action within and between sectors
- **Politics** – how governance structures influence local climate adaptation in different sectors (and also influence perceptions)
- **Innovations** – different sectors have different views of innovation, how does this enable / disenable local climate adaptability

The following slides highlight themes around perceptions and innovations. I have colour coded responses:

Black – represents government focus groups

Green – represents NGOs and community focus groups

Purple – represents private business and industry focus groups

Perceptions - Government

– This is where ordinary people look to for information on climate change, key role in educating communities, lead by example, work with regulations (risk management)
– Reactive, shifting responsibility for climate adaptation back to local, lack of resources, conduct own research on base-line data
– Responsibility towards economically disadvantaged and vulnerable communities
– Local government could do more if their hands weren't tied
– Work with government or to pressure government into making changes
– Reliance on local government for funding, putting on workshops
– Councils can provide incentives that affect climate change in a positive way
– Intractability with outdated building codes and sustainability issues
– Drivers that work against adaptation, governments need to incentivise markets – 6 star rating system used as a compliance tool
– Governments can interfere, private sector should be left to do things

Perceptions - NGOs

- Specific community actions to effect climate adaptation; different more conscious models of social being; contesting development – battling industry and government; provide legal advice
- Have a vested interest in keeping things clean and green, increasing biodiversity; there are a lot of good NGOs keeping governments on their toes; mobilising community capacity through workshops, NGOs can be more flexible and can avoid politics that can sometimes bog down local government

Perceptions – Private Business and Industry

- State government incentives can be empowering; corporate social responsibility and generational change – new business adapting faster
- Champions in business to drive reform; private sector is about relationships with the consumer; early adopters driven by fiduciary responsibility
- Local and state governments need to work collaboratively with the market to develop adaptation and mitigation measures that are financially viable; working with infrastructure managers so they have the benefits of getting them to think
- Pressure from land and development industry to accept building types that are not climate responsive; governments allow businesses to self-regulate
- There is a need for insurance companies – come to the table and join this effort

Innovations - Government

- 'Mainstreaming' climate adaptation into all areas of government; implementation by stealth; building relationships with community
- Sharing knowledge, effective communication, more transparency

Innovations - NGOs

- Innovation need not be for the wealthy, low tech solutions are important too; framing climate change through intrinsic values rather than economic ones

- Finding new ways through obstacles and barriers; sharing between groups, catalysing events.

Innovations – Private Business

- Pushing a different agenda to government and NGOs, integrate sustainability as a top priority; industry champions to drive change, through projects and demonstrations;

- Educating markets and professions; recognising the cost-benefits of more sustainable practice; innovation in materials and technologies

- Innovation and affordability and not being afraid to test new things'

- If innovation adds value, it is not a risk

Making changes

- 'it's not done in a strategic way, and I think that's where it needs to be done. It needs an overall strategy where you target the champions of industry. The people who can make change. The people in local government who have shown a commitment to it. The people in industry, whether it has been in the planning industry, certain planning groups as well as the developers themselves' (WA, Private Industry FG)

- I think the other glimmer of sunshine thing – I don't think about this often but when I do I think it's the underlying motivation - it's sort of the bureaucratic term for it - but there are lots of co-benefits for adaptation and so the idea that you can make the whole world a better place, that you can make society better off and improve the lives of the community through adaptation, there's real opportunity for transformation, which means you can look at the issue as making really positive change as opposed to just managing and reducing a problem (Vic, Government FG)

QUESTIONS.....?

Lunch Break

Resume at 1pm

Panels: Introduction

- How do we talk about local climate adaptation? Understanding challenges/shaping frameworks;

- Implementation: what are we doing and could these ideas/practices be scaled up or implemented elsewhere?

- Enabling innovation. Overcoming barriers and dissolving boundaries.

PANEL 1: FRAMING

DISCUSSION:

How do we talk about local climate adaptation?

Understanding challenges/shaping frameworks
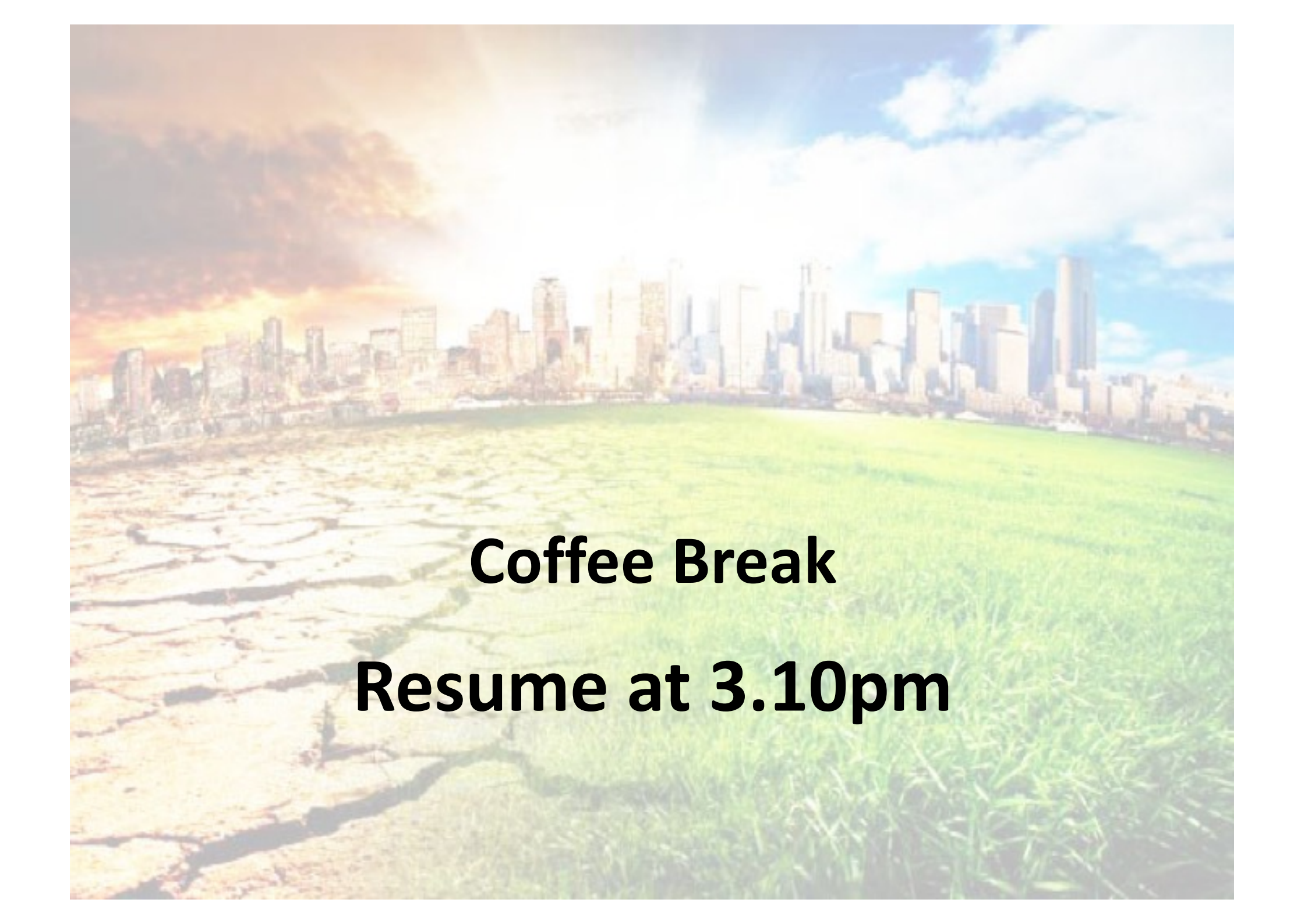
PANEL 2: PRACTICE

DISCUSSION

Implementation: What are we doing and could these ideas/practices be scaled up or implemented elsewhere?

Coffee Break

Resume at 3.10pm

PANEL 3: BARRIERS / ENABLERS

DISCUSSION:

Enabling innovation: overcoming barriers and

dissolving boundaries

Not Another Handbook!

A conversation starter on ideas for reshaping thinking and action

Questions

- How can this be most useful?

- What stories should we tell?

  – Your story?

  – Other stories?

- What constraints exist to what we present?

  – e.g. what don't you want published about your organisations/actions?

- What are we missing?
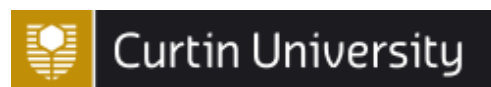
- Images – can you help us?

Bearing in mind (sigh) …

- Limited $$

- No ongoing maintenance

 → once-off publication for now

Some examples …

- NCCARF [policy briefs](#) and [briefing notes](#)

- [How to build an urban forest](#)

- [Tactical urbanism](#) ([Australian issue](#))

- [Planner's guide to tactical urbanism](#)

- Urban Design Protocol

- [Participatory City](#)

- [TRANSIT practice briefs](#) ([website](#))

- [Naturvation briefing papers](#)

- [Open Book of Social Innovation](#)

Key elements

- For local government, NGOs, businesses, activists, citizens

- What is the added value?

- Focus on enabling action

- Presentation of positive case studies

- The importance of local context is important

- Creating space for experimentation

Organisation

- Enable 'fast failure' and rapid learning

- Use risk management to your advantage

- Vague targets can be your friend

- Going round the back

- Don't try to do everything

Communication

- How we talk about climate change matters

- Link to experience

- Face to face exchanges work

- Build community around issues that resonate

- Hard to reach is still hard to reach

Resources

- Trojan horses

- Build institutional alliances

- Solutions can be little things – begin with here and now

- Crowd-funding and crowdsourcing

Questions

- How can this be most useful?

- What stories should we tell?
    - Your story?
    - Other stories?

- What constraints exist to what we present?
    - e.g. what don't you want published about your organisations/actions?

- What are we missing?

- Images – can you help us?