

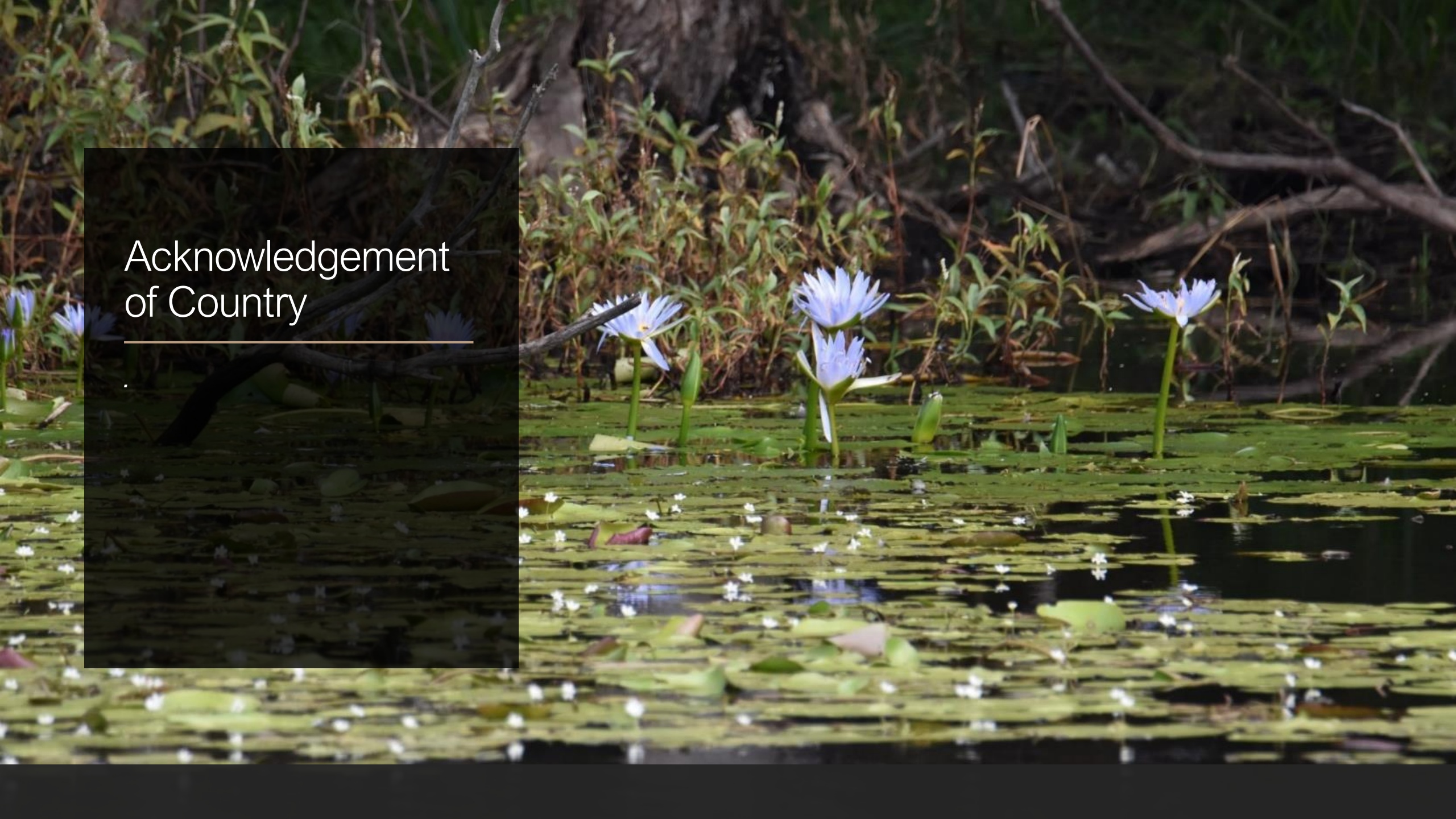
There is no
'wellbeing' on a
dead planet
- why Earth-centred
governance is
critical

Dr Michelle Maloney
Australian Earth Laws Alliance

www.earthlaws.org.au



Acknowledgement of Country





An Earth centred perspective

- ❖ **What we face**
- ❖ **What we must do now**
- ❖ **How do we do it?**

What we face

Our changing world

Climate Change

Biodiversity loss

Degraded ecosystems

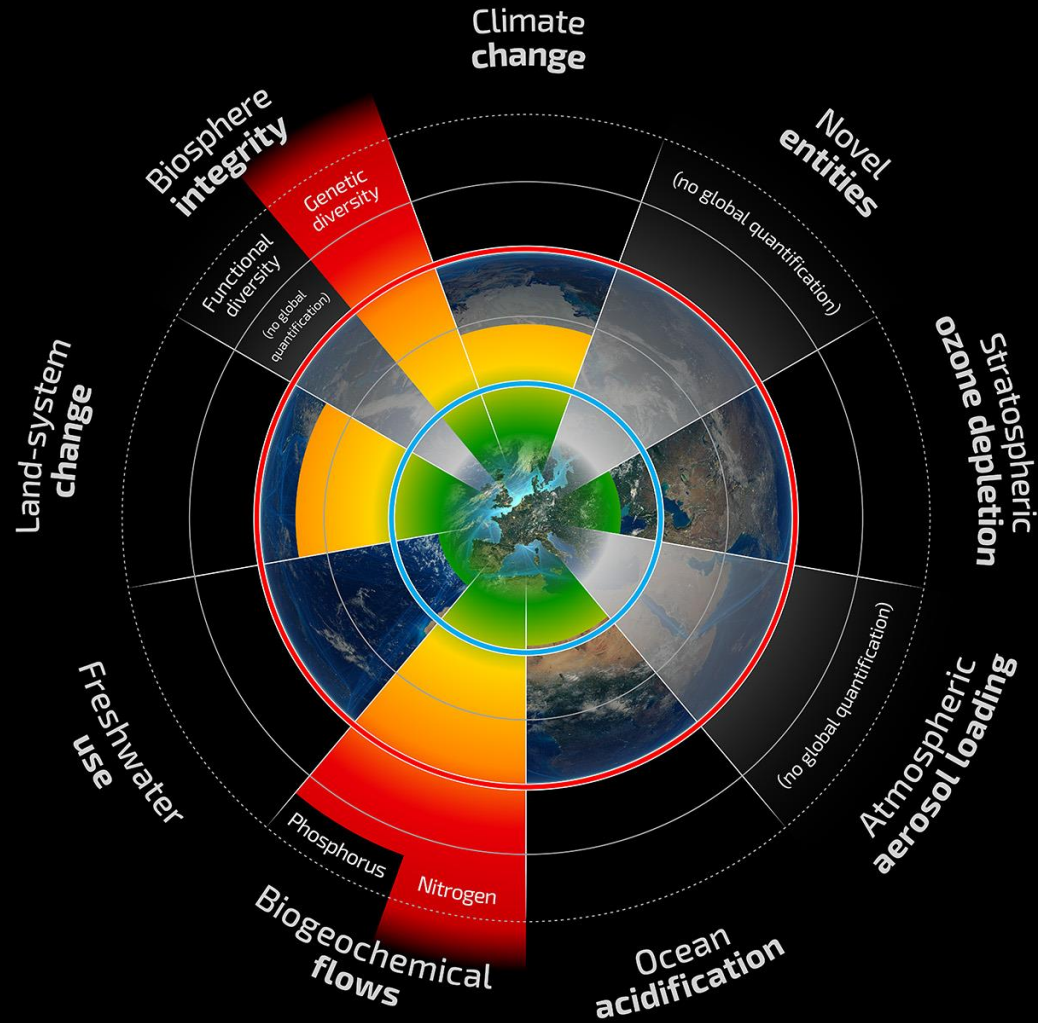
Loss of 'the wild'

Shortage of important stuff
people need: food, water



Planetary Boundaries

A safe operating space for humanity



■ Beyond zone of uncertainty (high risk)

■ In zone of uncertainty (increasing risk)

Planetary Boundaries



Beneath these
symptoms –
the cause?

OUR FAILURE TO MANAGE
OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH
THE LIVING WORLD



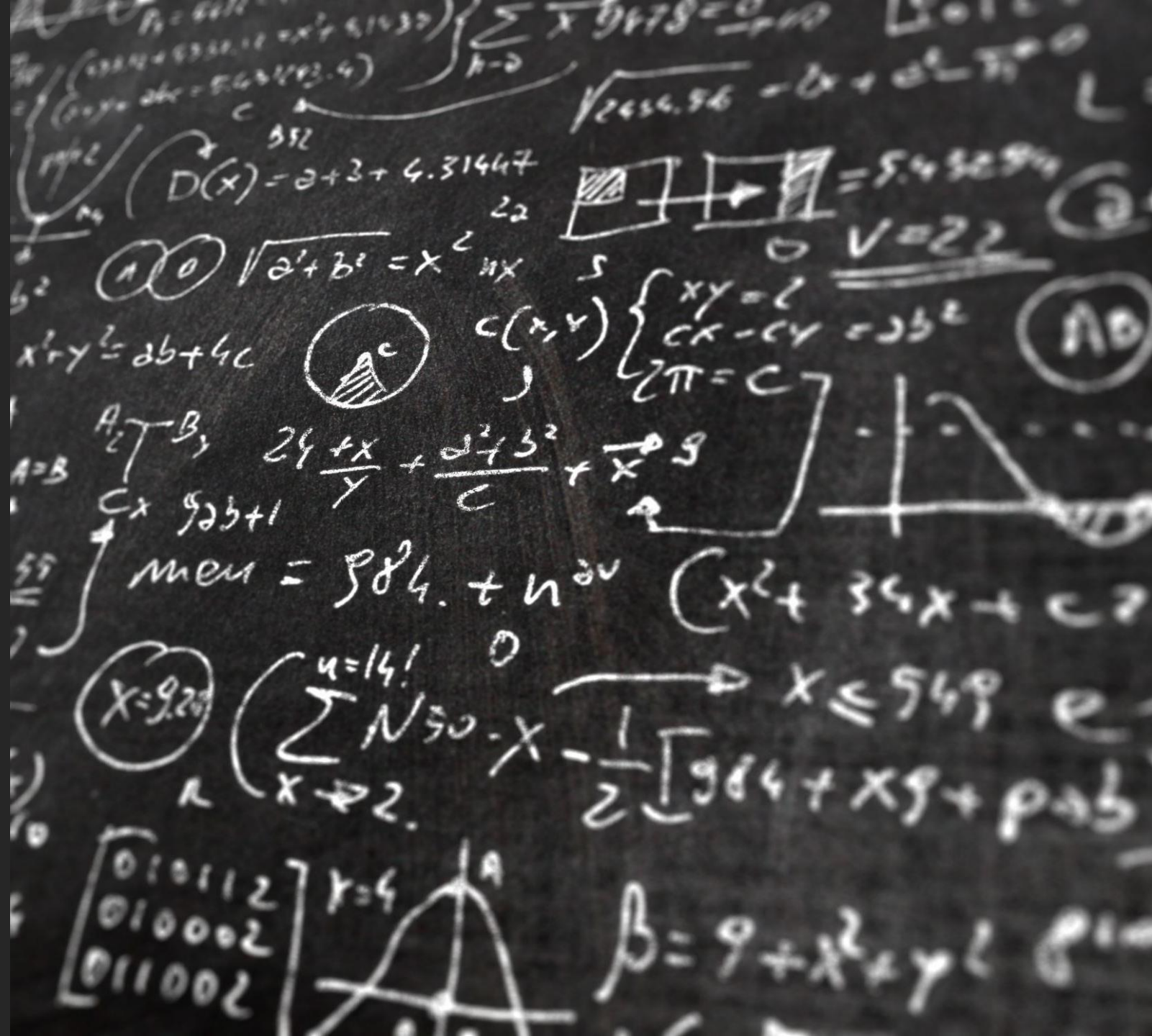
Beneath these
symptoms –
the cause?

GROWTH CULTURE

OUR FAILURE TO MANAGE OUR
RELATIONSHIP WITH THE
LIVING WORLD

What we must
do now

“We can not solve our problems with the same level of thinking that created them.” – Albert Einstein



What we must do now

Challenge our mindset, to inform our actions

Challenge modern industrialised societies' culture

- ❖ Earth-centred NOT Human-centred
- ❖ Regenerative NOT Extractivist & material growth oriented
- ❖ Steady state – NOT Expansionist – “if we run out, we can get more”



Challenge human-centredness

Understand our place
in the wider Earth
community

DEEP TIME – HOLD YOUR
BREATH

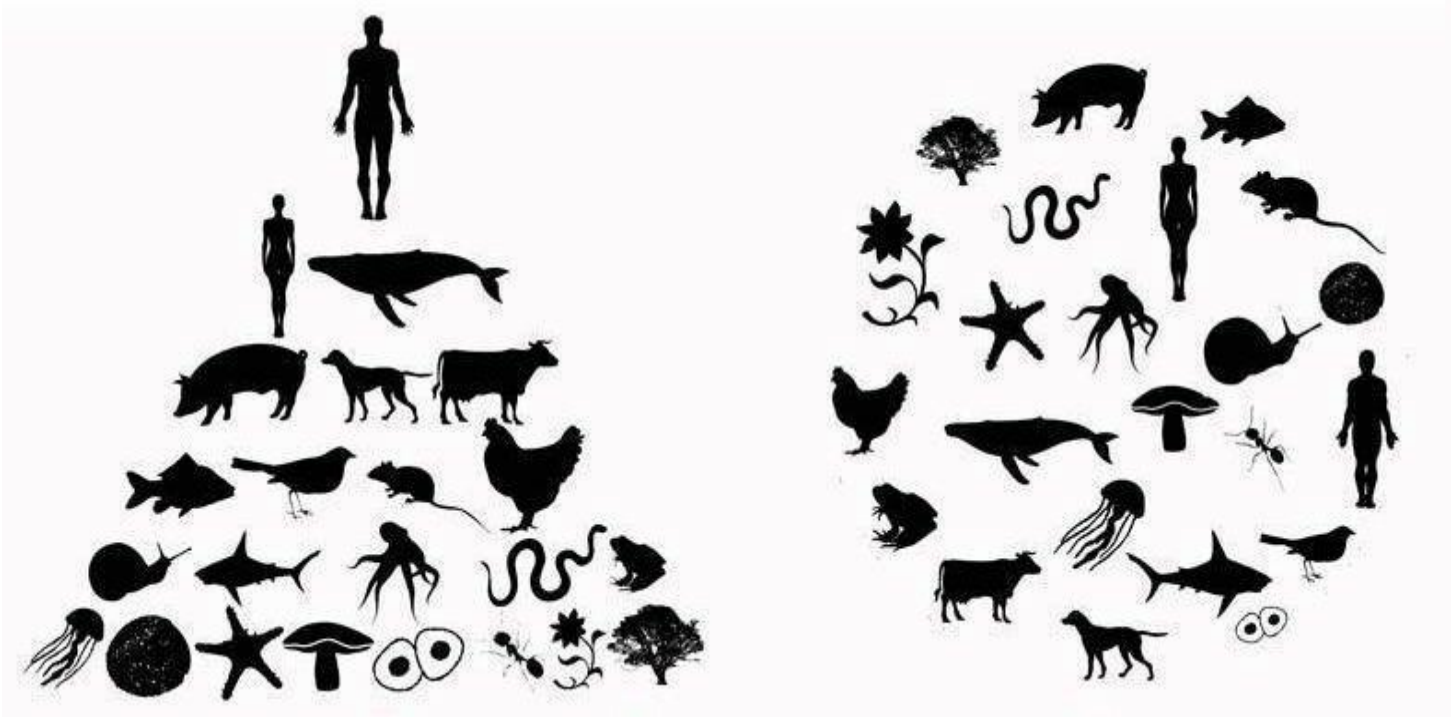
WE ARE JUST ONE PART OF
THE EARTH COMMUNITY

CONNECTEDNESS

LIFE IS PRIMARY



Earth jurisprudence calls for us to shift all our **governance systems** to be ecocentric, and to nurture the Earth community – Earth centred systems change.



Human centred

Earth centred

Challenge extractivism

BUILD A REGENERATIVE
WAY OF UNDERSTANDING,
THINKING, FEELING,
DOING



Challenge expansionism



BRITISH EMPIRE

Challenge universalism?

Some things are 'universal' – human rights

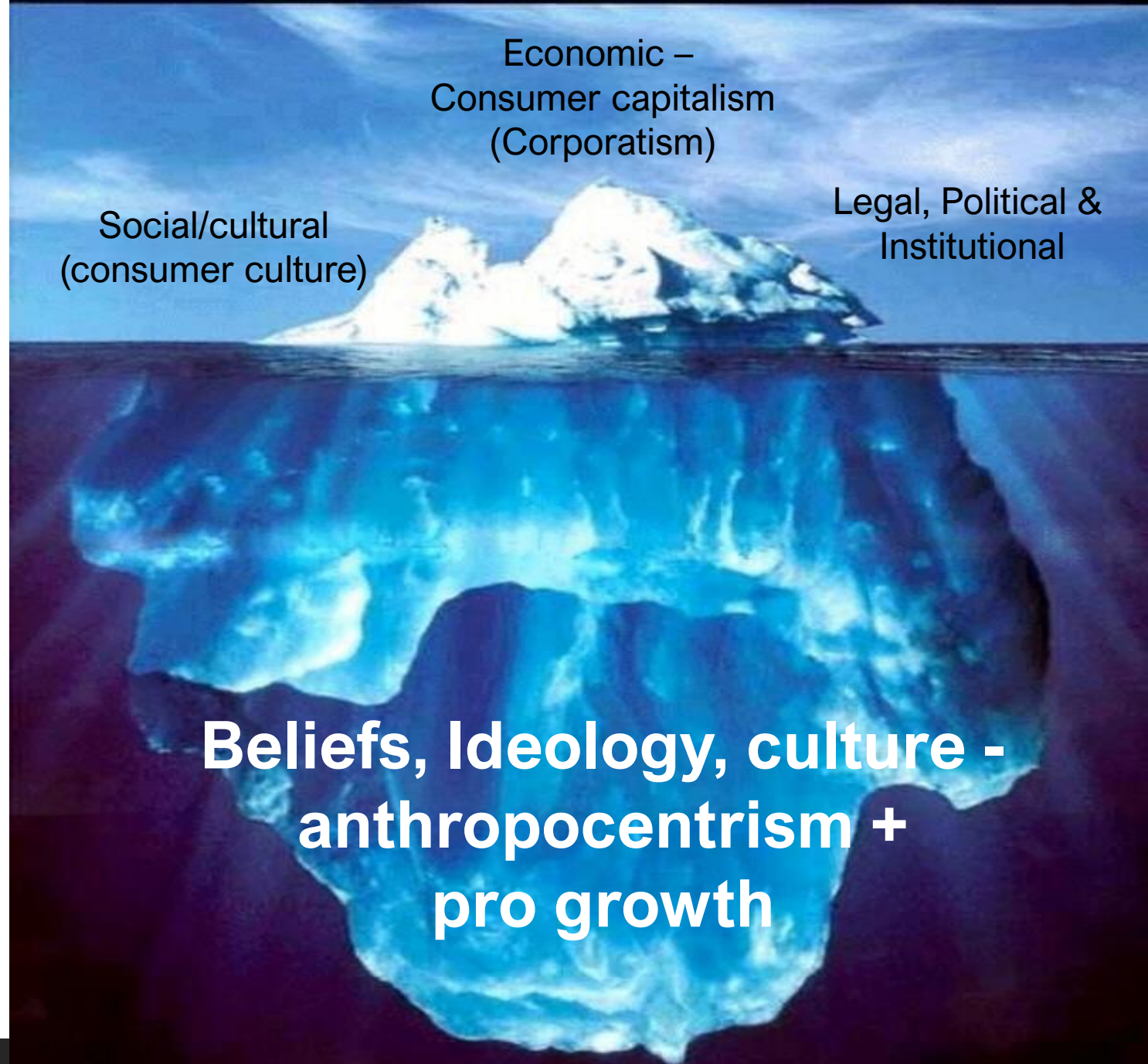
But what if we suggested some things are NOT?

Caring for Country, looking after the place – this is place based, place specific, not universal

As we work to transition by design, to a better system ... be careful which system you're designing

How do we do it?

Earth
jurisprudence
helps us
challenge the
ideas that lie
beneath the
destructive
capacity of
industrial
societies



“The Great Work” – Thomas Berry

Critiqued the 4 underpinning structures of industrialised societies:

Law and Government

- Legal system is supporting exploitation rather than protecting the natural world from destruction

Economics - neoliberal growth economics

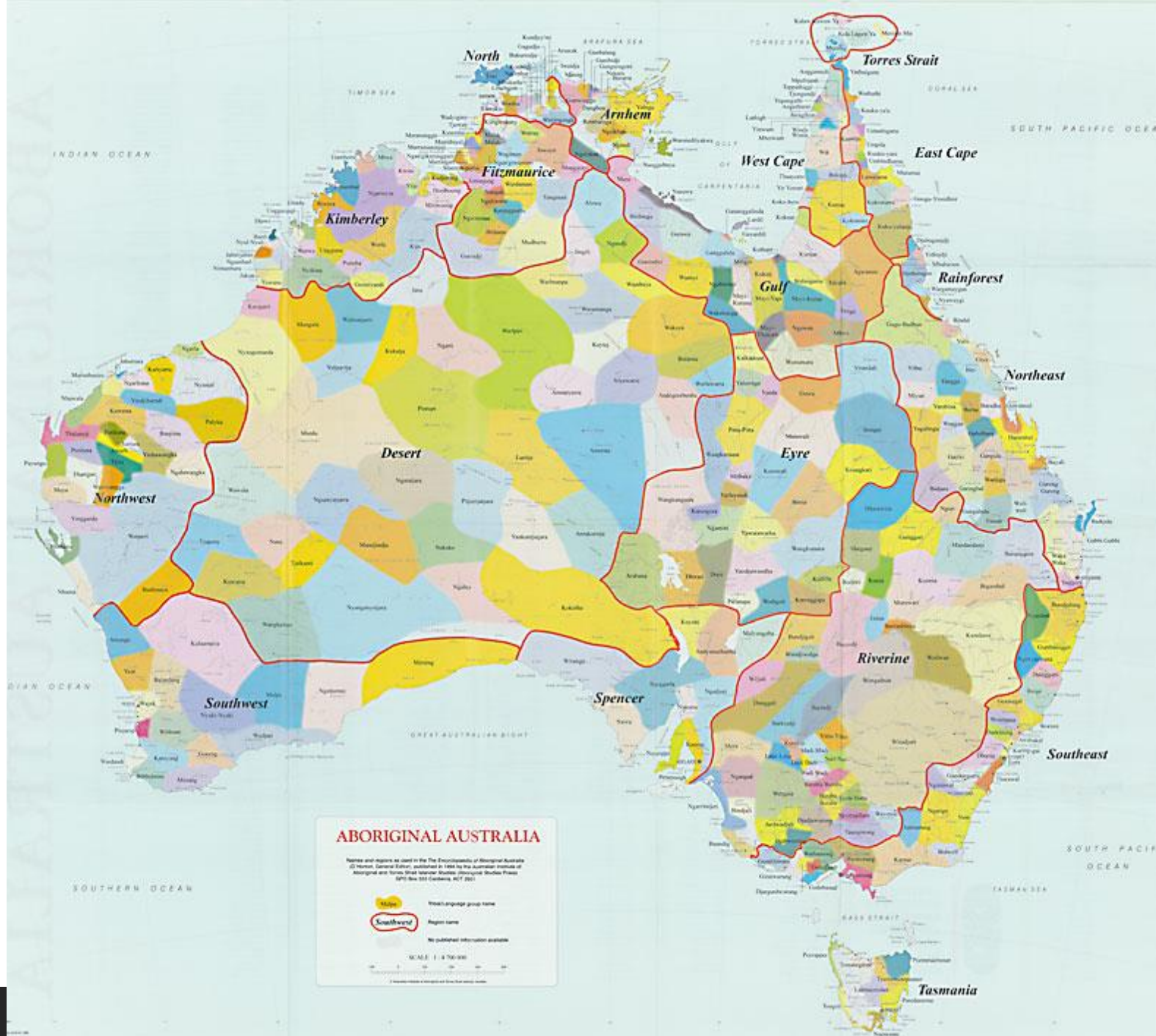
Universities/education – perpetuate current system, lack of critical thinking

Religion

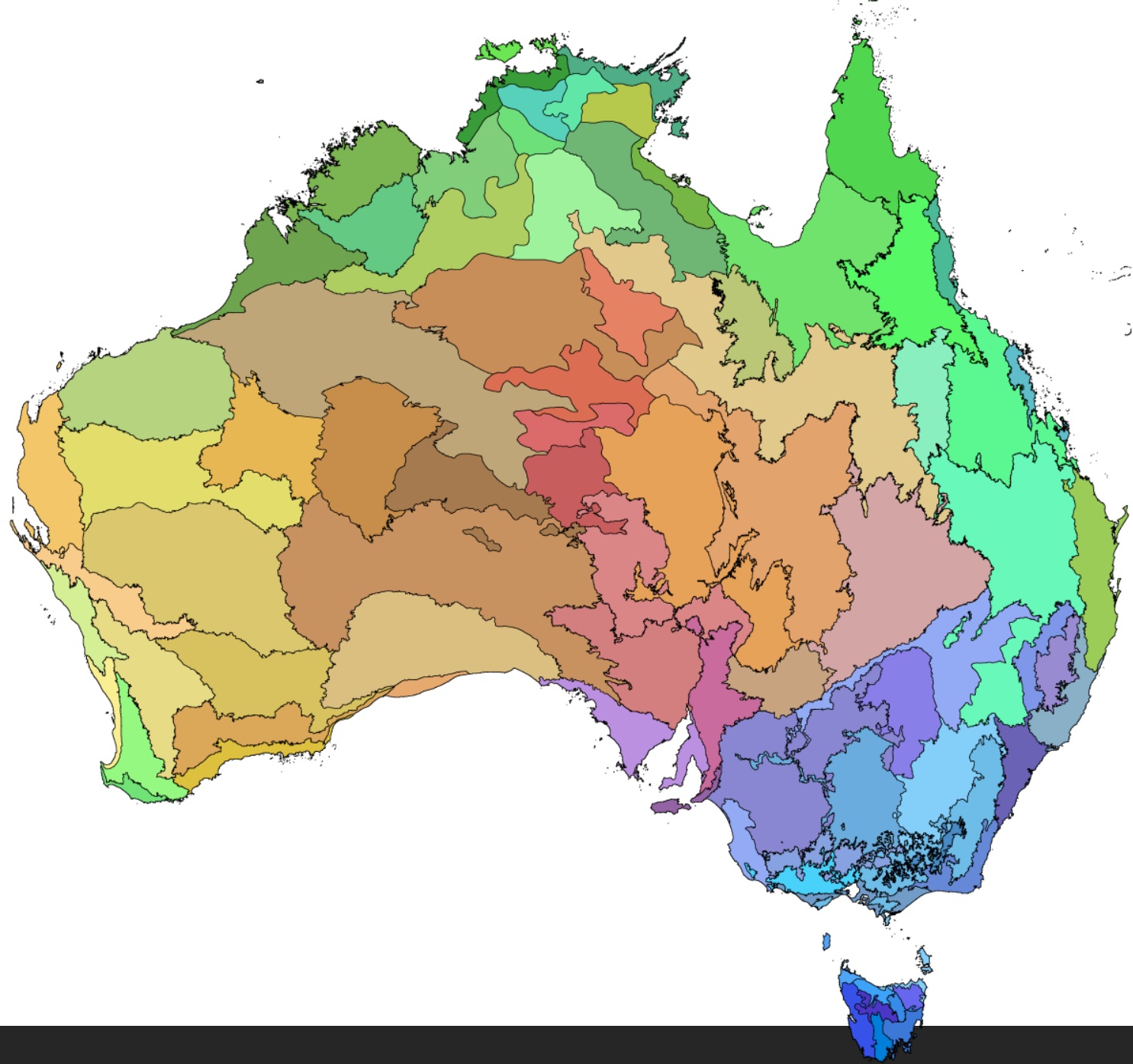
World's most successful governance model

Bioregional
Heterarchical
Steady-state
Society

Guided by
Law of Obligation
Land is the law
Place based law







The shape of
a wellbeing
economy?

Wellbeing economy



**WELLBEING
ECONOMY**
ALLIANCE

- An economy designed to deliver quality of life and flourishing for all people, **in harmony with our environment.**
- A Wellbeing Economy delivers social justice on a healthy planet
- **Is an economy in service of life**

Wellbeing economy

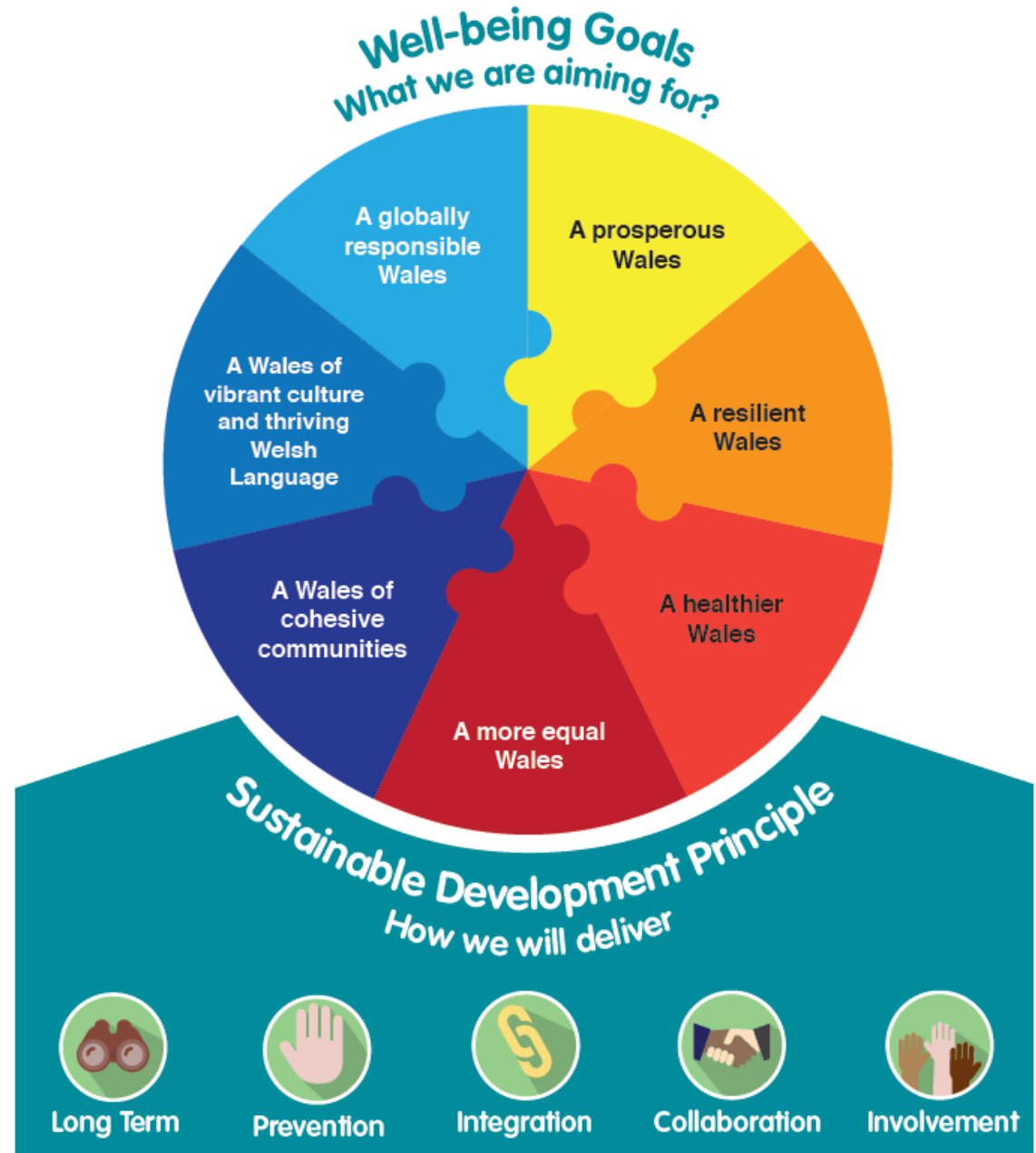


**WELLBEING
ECONOMY**
ALLIANCE

WEAll Need	Tests
Dignity Everyone has enough to live in comfort, safety, and happiness	Does the economy provide everyone with what is needed to live a life of dignity and purpose?
Nature A restored and safe natural world for all life	Does the economy restore, protect, and cherish the natural environment and is the economy guided by the principles of interconnection and indivisibility of human, animal, plant, and environmental health?
Purpose Institutions that serve the common good and provide real value	Does the economy value activities and behaviours by their contribution to social and ecological wellbeing?
Fairness Justice at the heart of the economy	Is the economy designed to ensure a just distribution of income, wealth, power, and time?
Participation Citizens participate in decision making and are engaged with their communities	Is the shape and form of the economy locally rooted and determined by people's active voices?

Wales: Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015

- Aim to improve the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing
- It requires public bodies to collaborate with each other, people and communities
- Seven wellbeing goals
- 46 national indicators
- Sustainable Development Principle
- Future Generations Commissioner

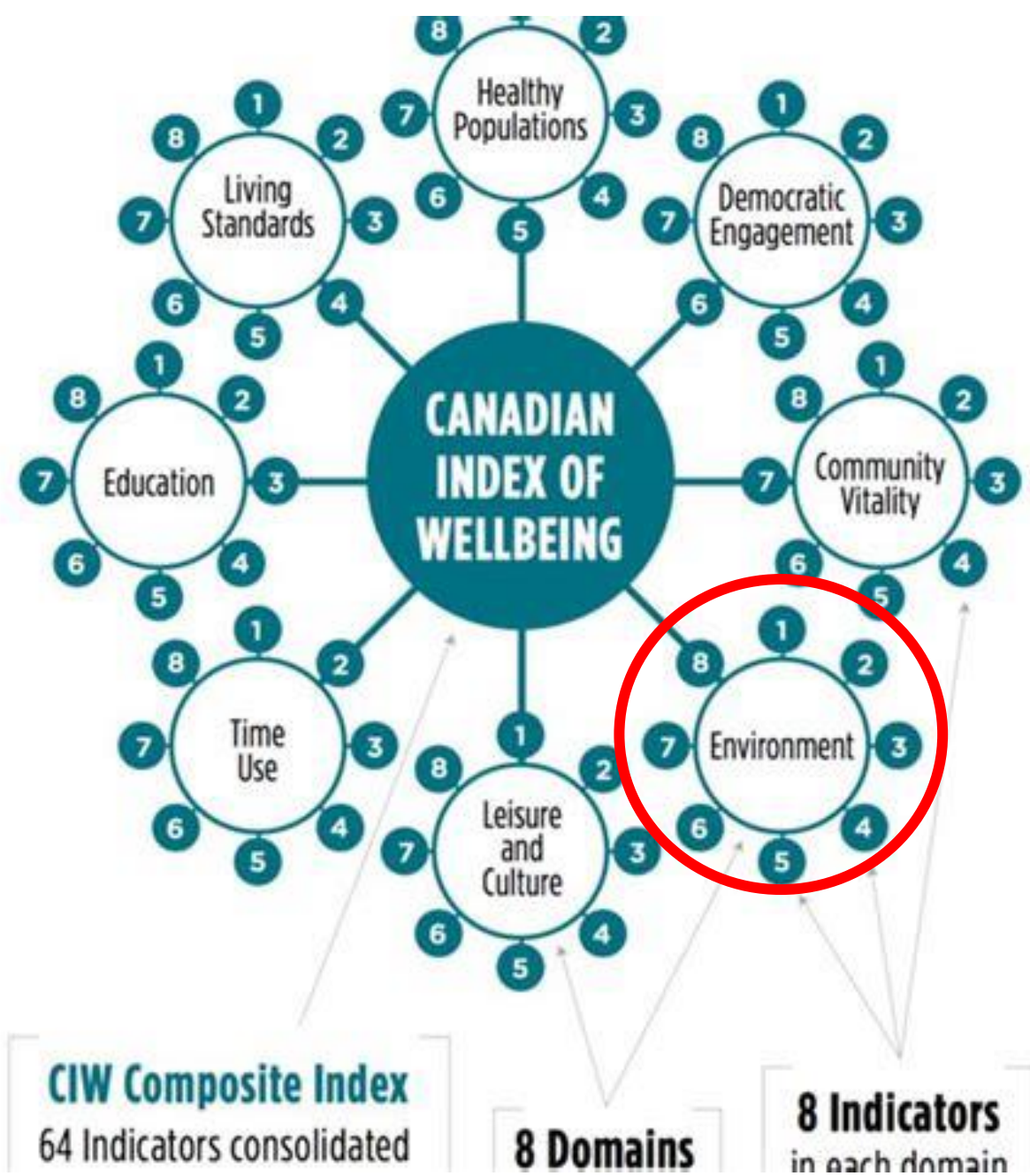


Scotland: National Performance Framework

- Introduced by the Scottish Government in 2007, put in law in 2015, and last reviewed in 2018
- Vision: “To focus on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increased wellbeing and **sustainable and inclusive economic growth**”
- It reflects the government’s commitment to a wellbeing approach and a shift away from the narrow focus on GDP
- 11 National Outcomes and 81 National Indicators
- Wellbeing Report



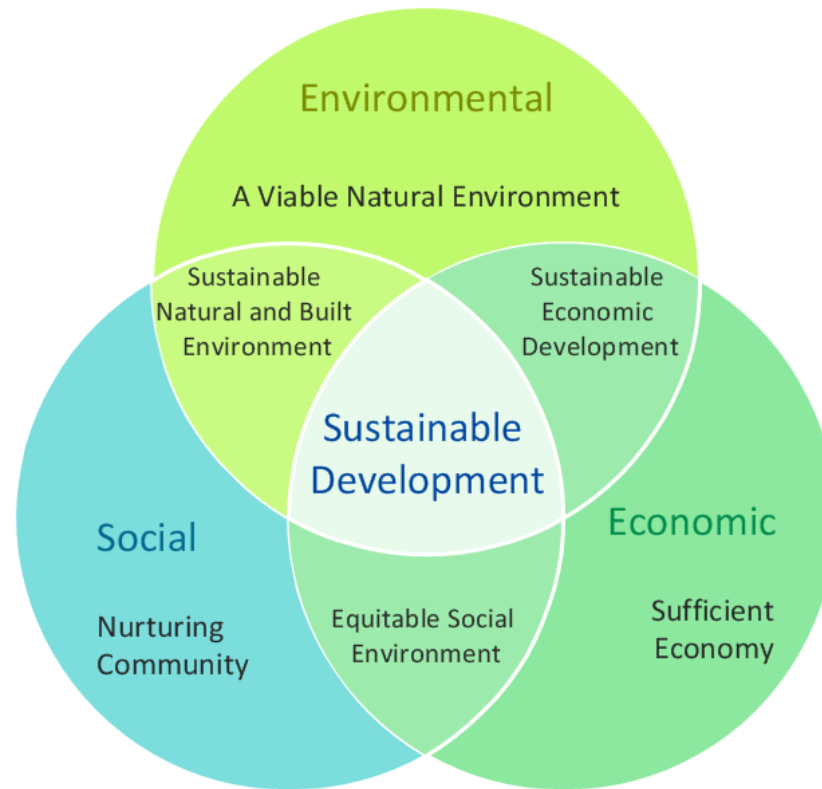
Canadian Index Of Wellbeing



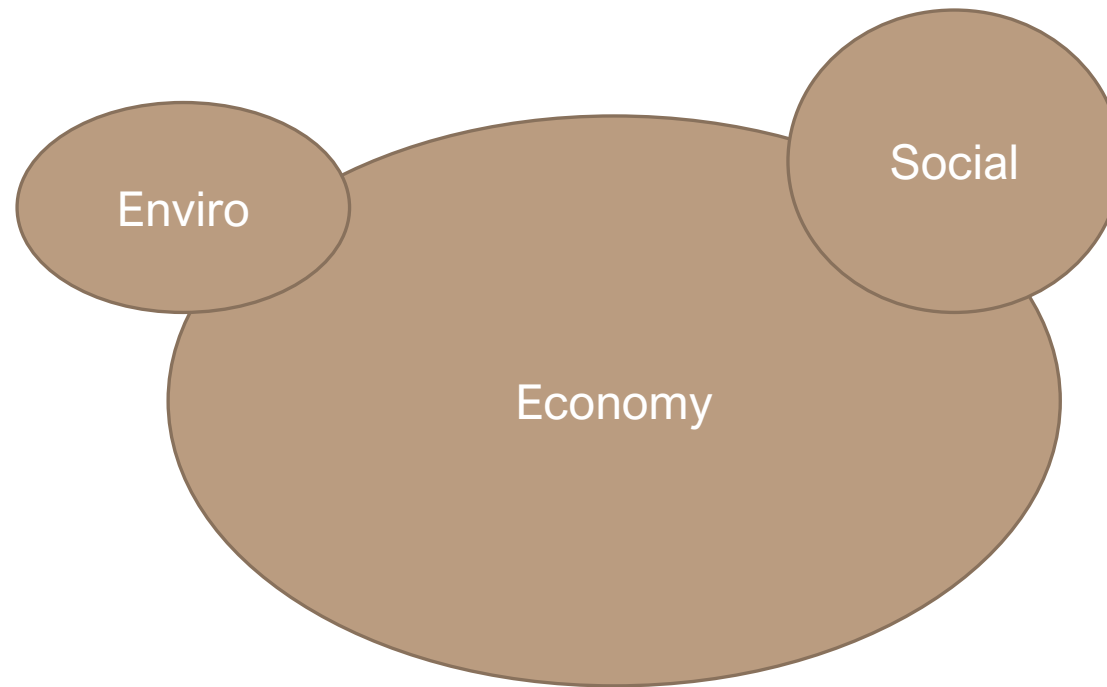
Australian National Development Index



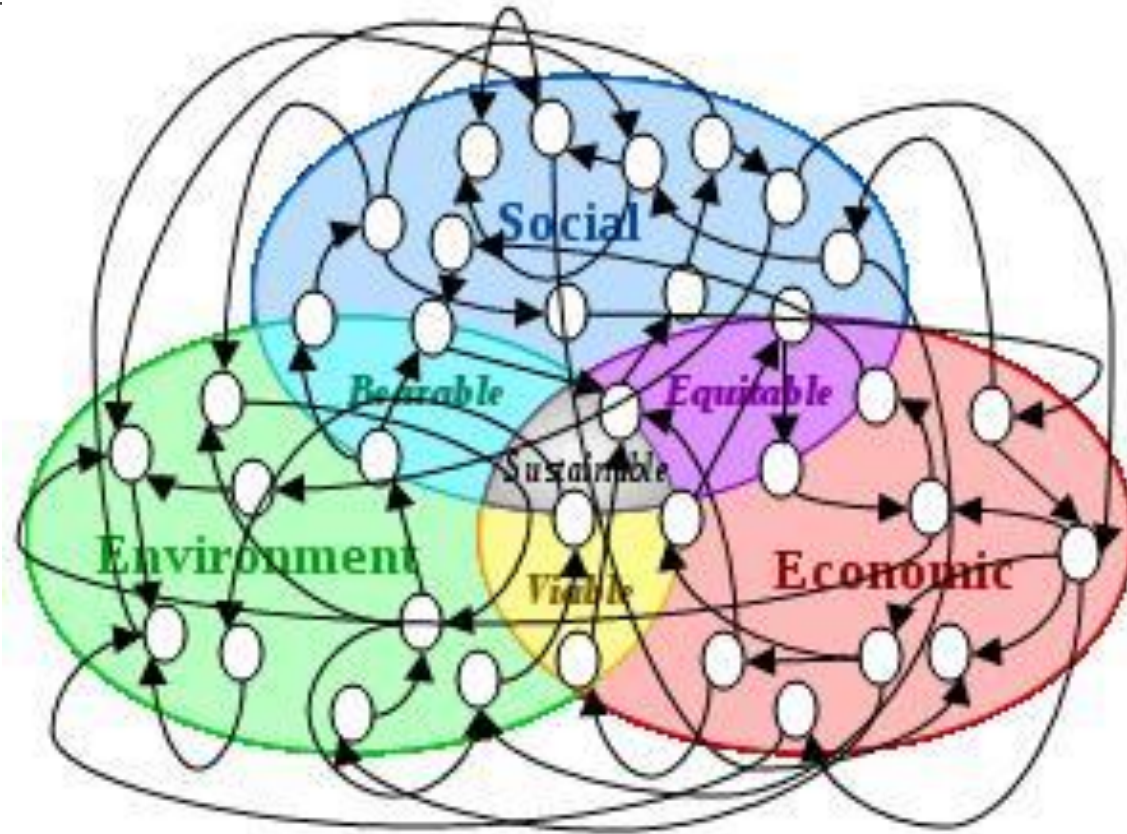
‘Sustainable Development’ = balancing different *human* values



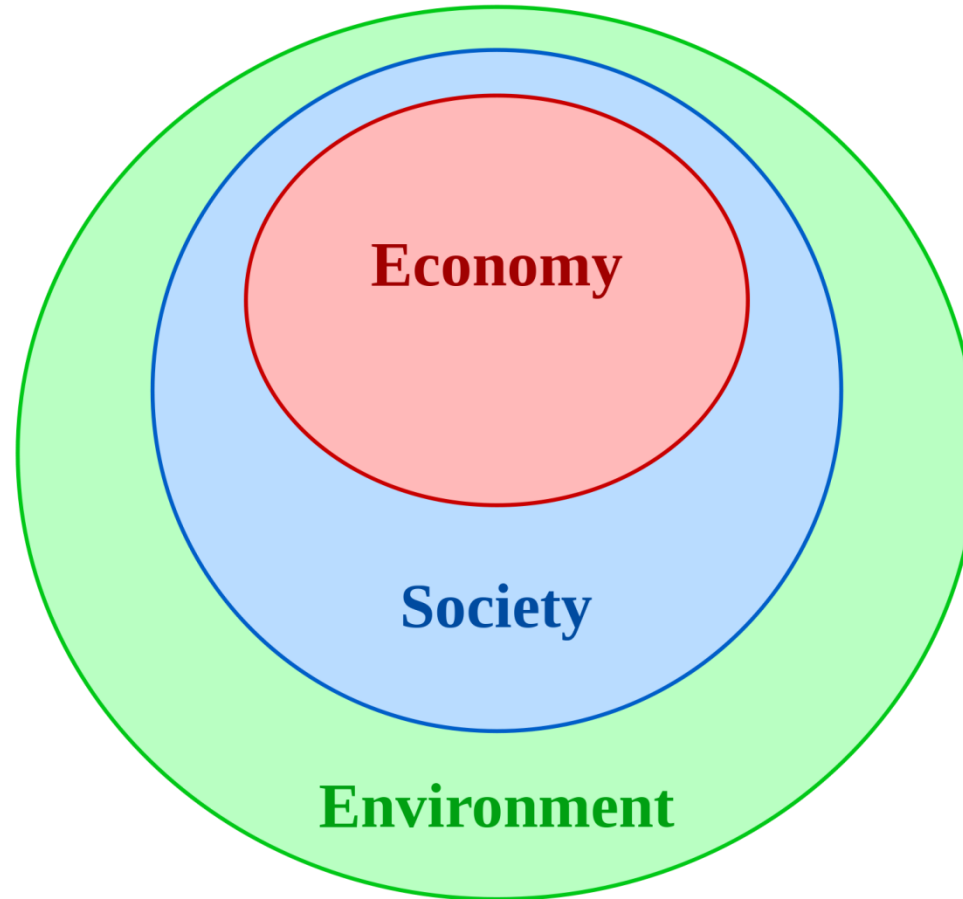
This produced 'Mickey Mouse' sustainability



And it hasn't stopped the destruction of the natural world

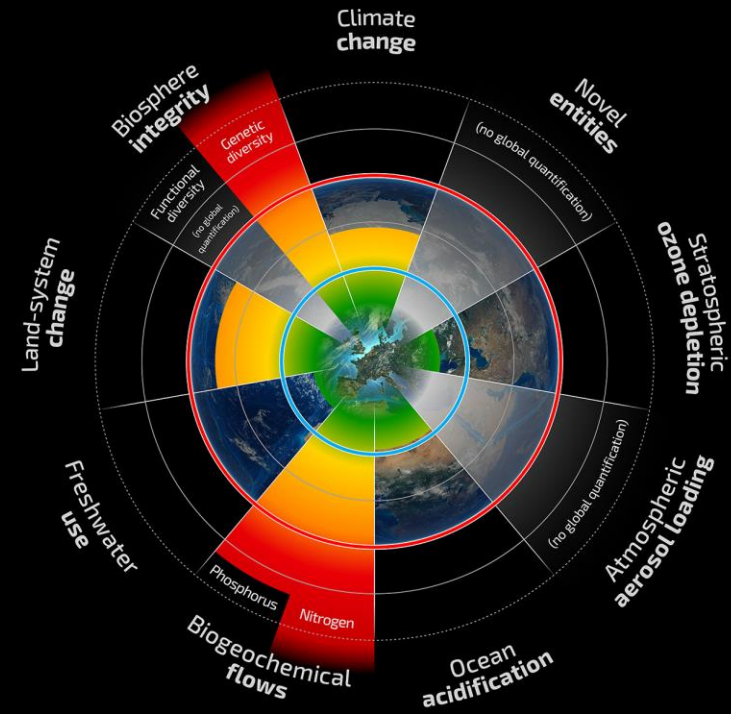


The solution – nested
and today “regenerative”



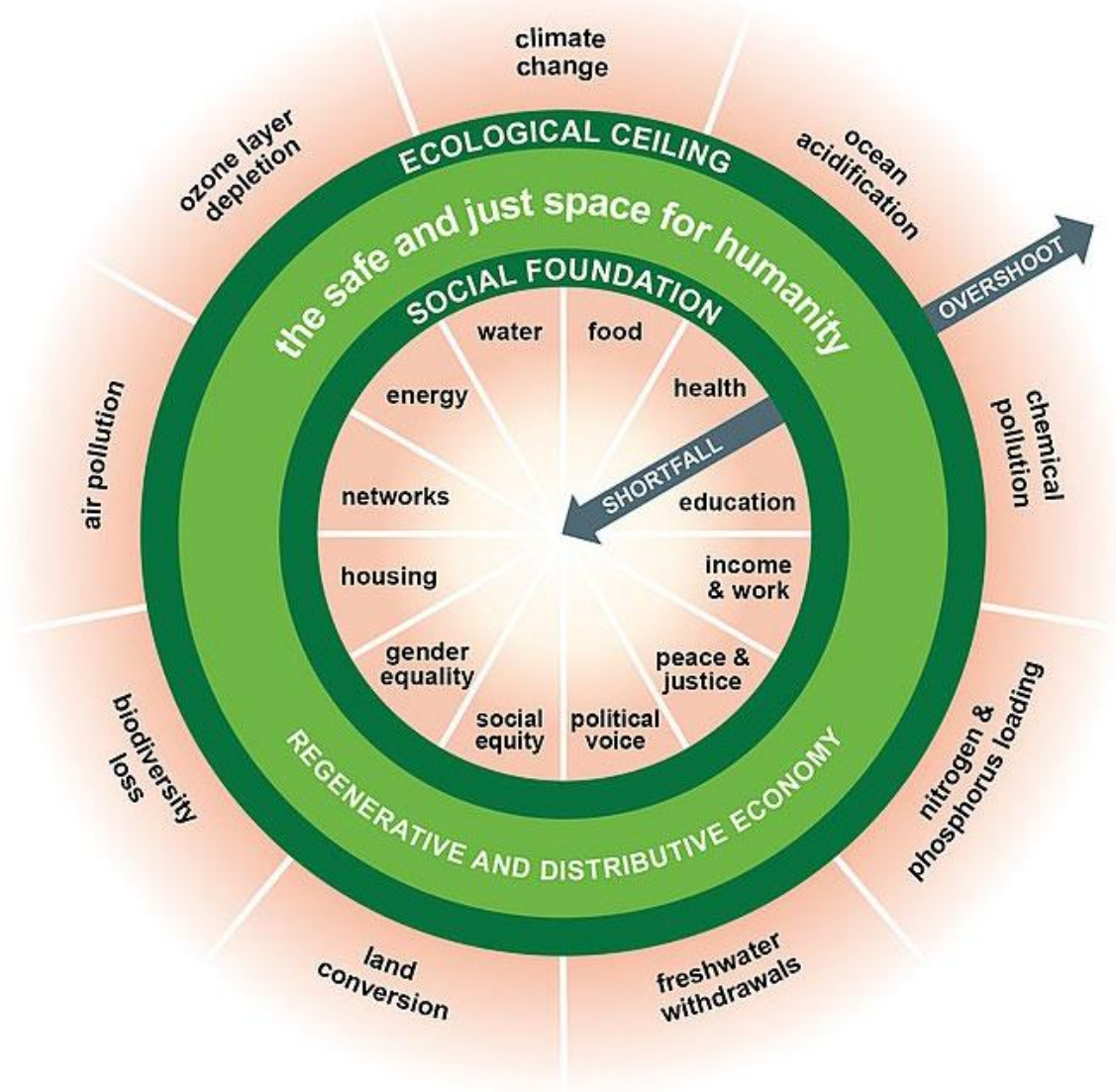
Planetary Boundaries

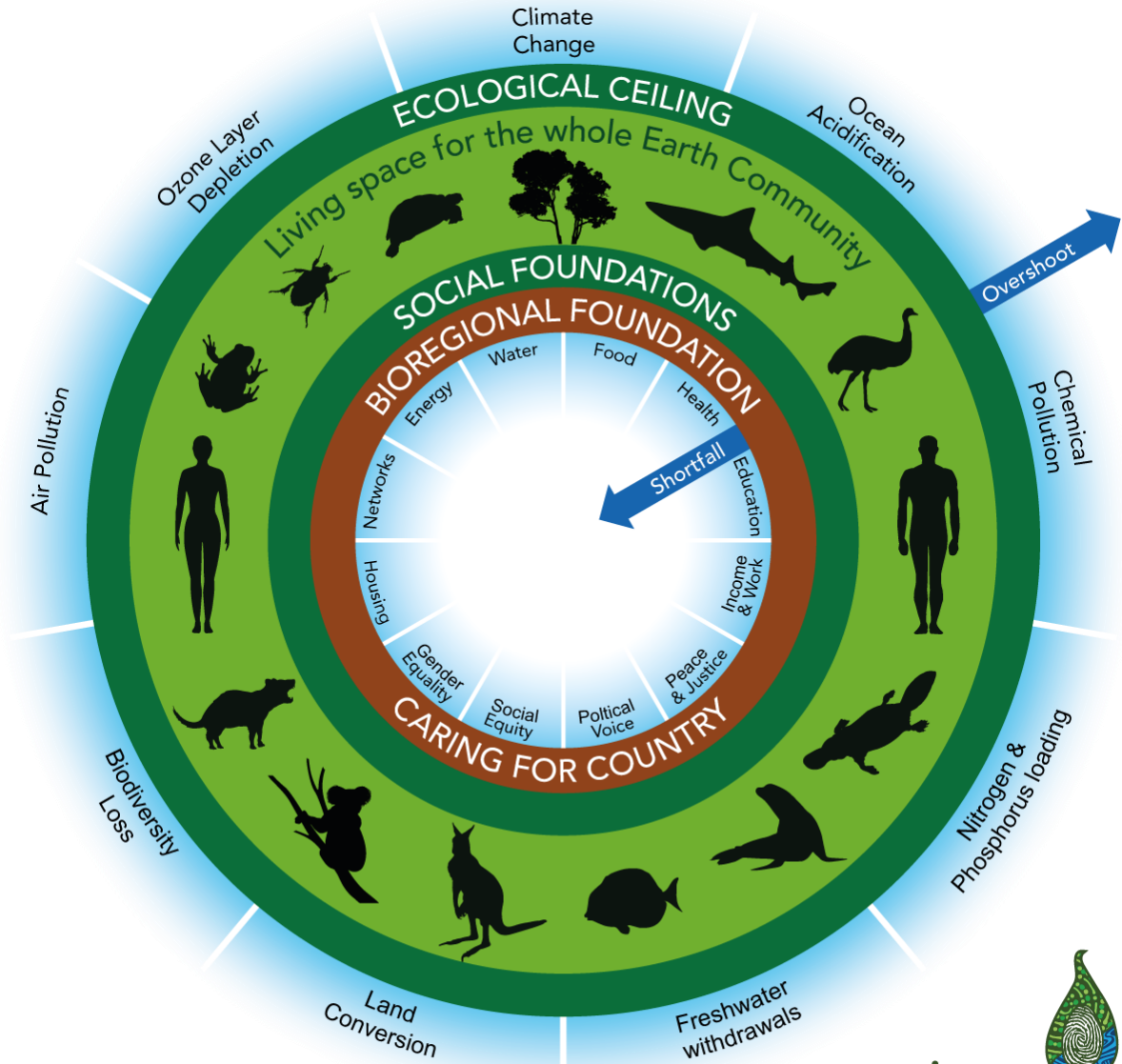
A safe operating space for humanity



- Beyond zone of uncertainty (high risk)
- In zone of uncertainty (increasing risk)
- Below boundary (safe)
- Boundary not yet quantified

Source: Steffen et al. Planetary Boundaries: Guiding human development on a changing planet. *Science*, 16 January 2015.
Design: Globata

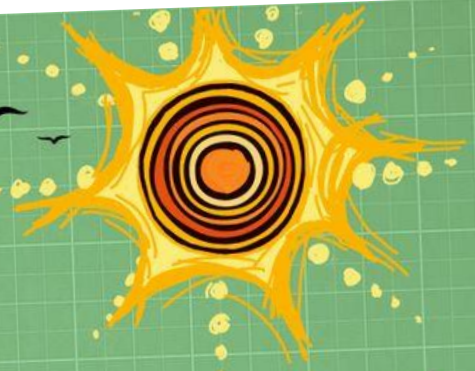




Can we create
Earth-centred
'bioregional
wellbeing' in
Australia?



greenprints.org.au





greenprints

*Creating regenerative societies that can
live within ecological limits*

www.greenprints.org.au/events/



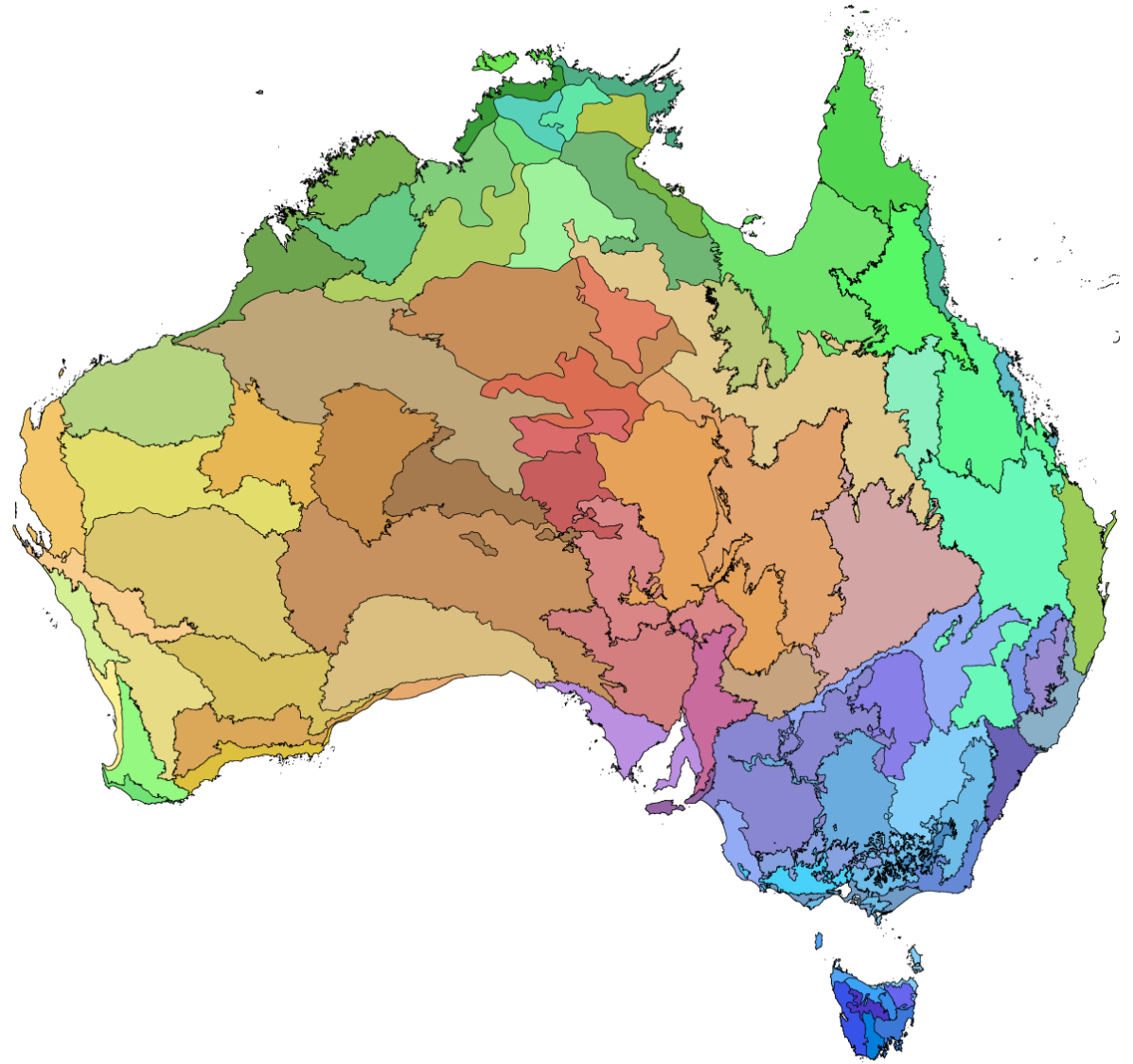
greenprints

www.greenprints.org.au

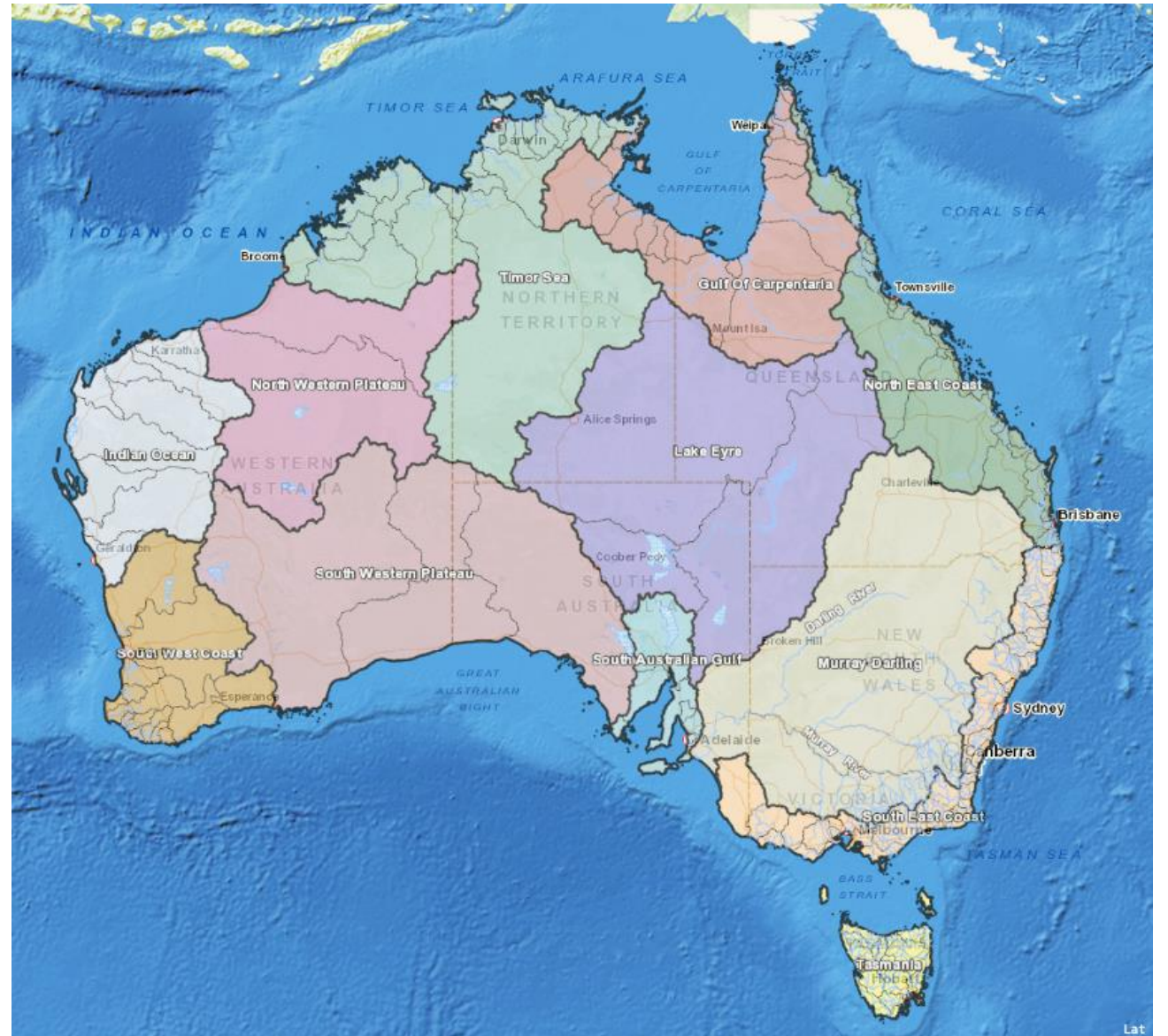
An initiative of the Australian Earth Laws Alliance



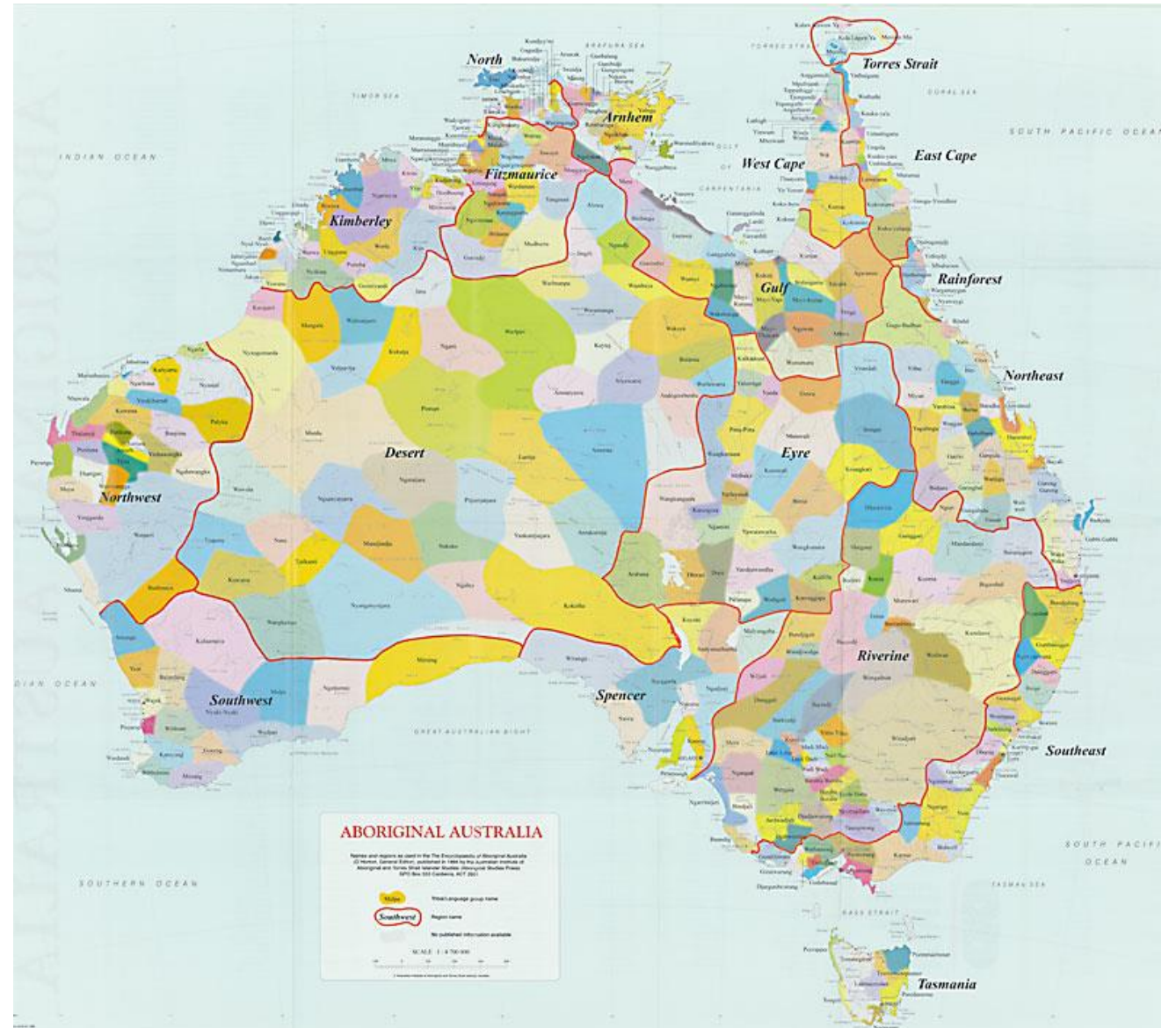
Vision – healthy
bioregions,
catchments,
people and
biodiversity



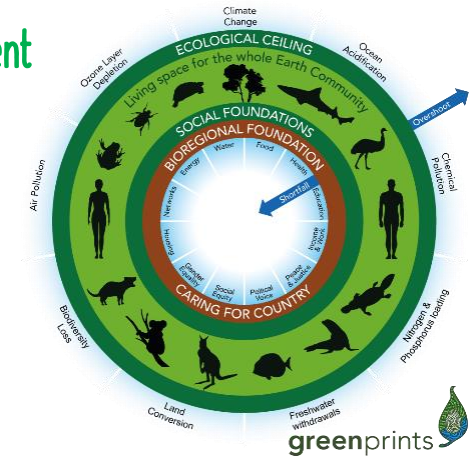
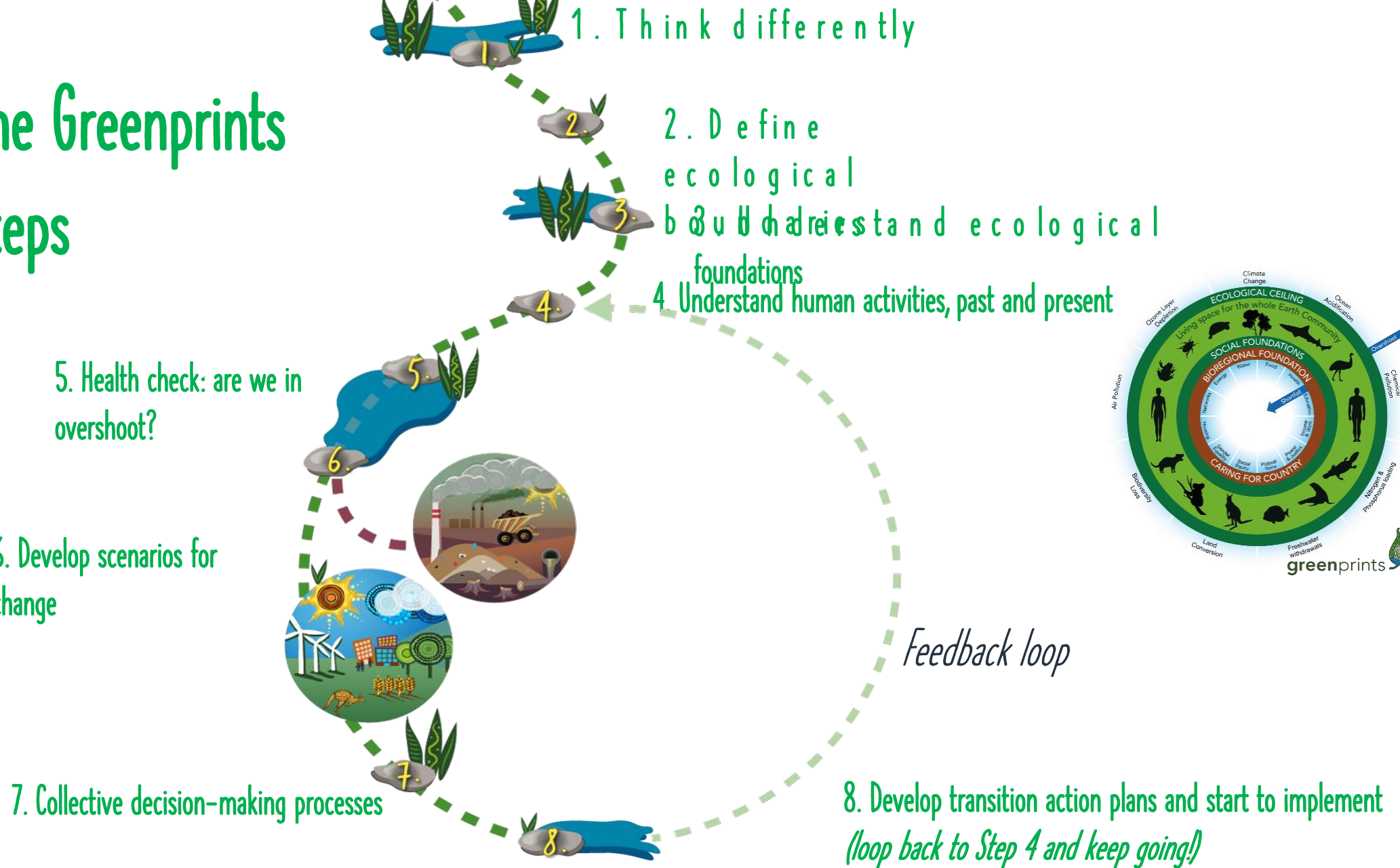
Healthy catchments, waterways



Vision – healthy Country and healthy communities



The Greenprints Steps



2023 GREENPRINTS ADVENTURE



INFORMATION SESSIONS

Tuesday 22 November @ 12pm-1pm AEST

Tuesday 8 December @ 12pm-1pm AEST

<https://events.humanitix.com/tours/gpa-2023>

Join us to learn about the 2023 Greenprints program and find out how your community might get involved!

greenprints

www.greenprints.org.au

An initiative of the Australian Earth Laws Alliance



Thank you!

aela@earthlaws.org.au

www.earthlaws.org.au

www.greenprints.org.au



Mark Berkery