

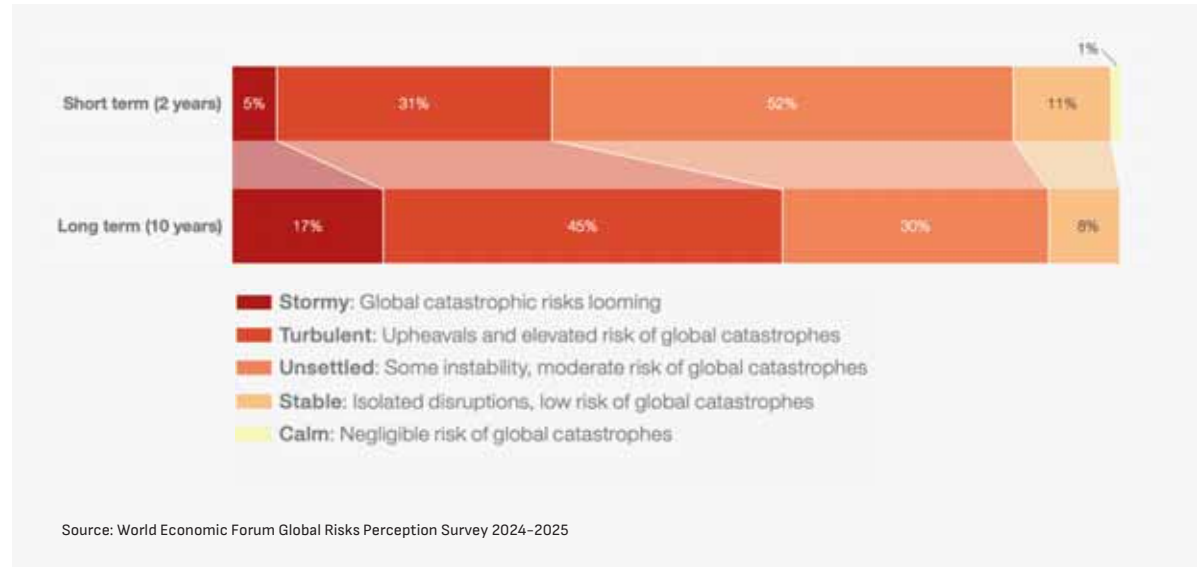


OUR CONTEXT: A STORY IN THREE PARTS



01

88% of risk experts think there is a moderate, elevated or looming risk of global catastrophe.



"We need to lean into the fear that this moment presents in order to find a new form of courage."

INDY JOHAR, DARK MATTER LABS

OUR CONTEXT: A STORY IN THREE PARTS



01

88% of risk experts think there is a moderate, elevated or looming risk of global catastrophe.

02

Our major risks are both social and ecological.



Source: World Economic Forum Global Risks Perception Survey 2024-2025

OUR CONTEXT: A STORY IN THREE PARTS

01

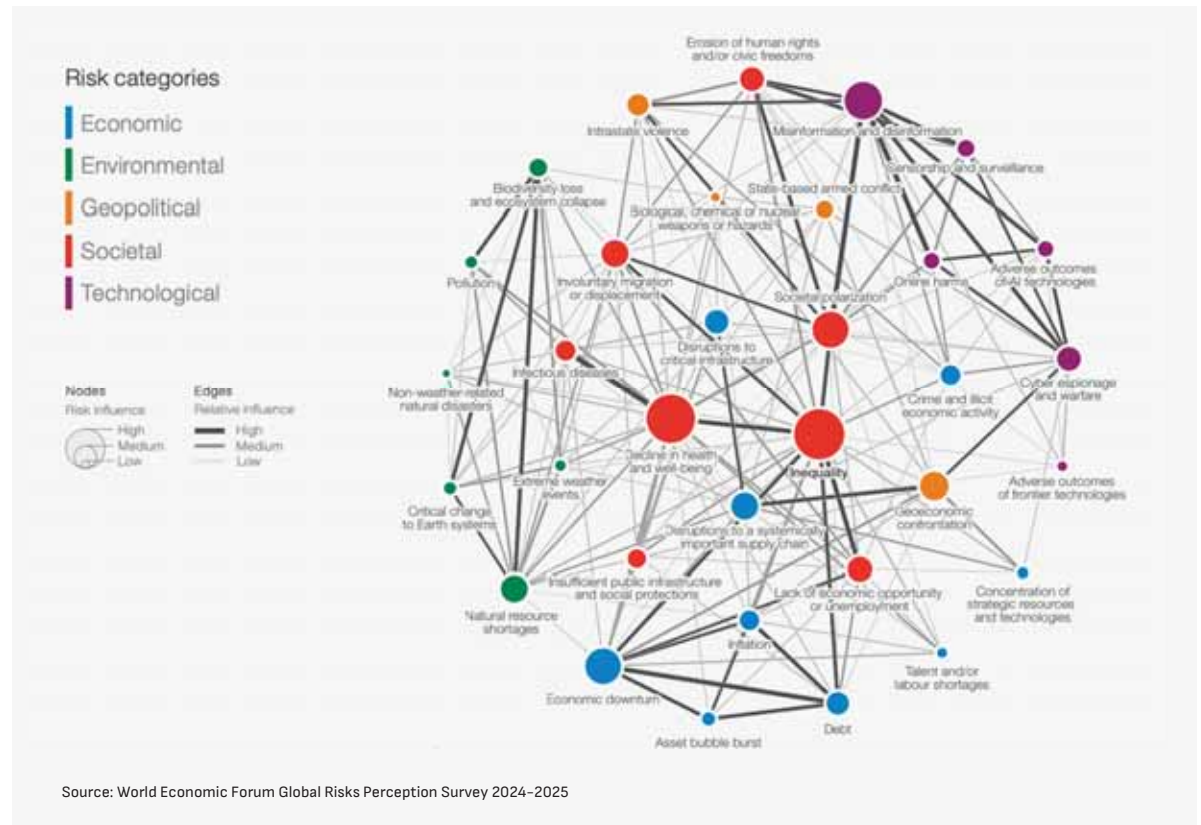
88% of risk experts think there is a moderate, elevated or looming risk of global catastrophe.

02

Our major risks are both social and ecological.

03

Our major risks are embedded in a complex global context, creating magnifying and amplifying effects.



OUR URBAN CONTEXT



Globally **56%** of people live in urban areas
86% of Australians live in urban areas
77% of Victorians live in Greater Melbourne

Cities are responsible for **70%** of global CO₂ emissions
Cities consume **~78%** of global energy
Urban areas drive **60–80%** of global resource use

Cities often implement more ambitious climate policies than national governments (C40 Cities)



"Cities Are Where the Climate Battle Will Largely Be Won or Lost"

ANTÓNIO GUTERRES, UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

THE ORIGINS OF REGEN MELBOURNE





REGEN MELBOURNE

Regen Melbourne (RM) is an engine for collaboration in service to the regeneration of our city.

Formed at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are powered by an alliance of over 200 organisations and aim to drive systems-level collaboration.

We do this through a robust and systemic methodology that enables collaboration across sectors and silos.

A REGENERATIVE VISION

A bold and measurable collective vision

A PORTFOLIO OF EARTHSHOTS

Wildly ambitious projects for our city

THE SYSTEMS LAB

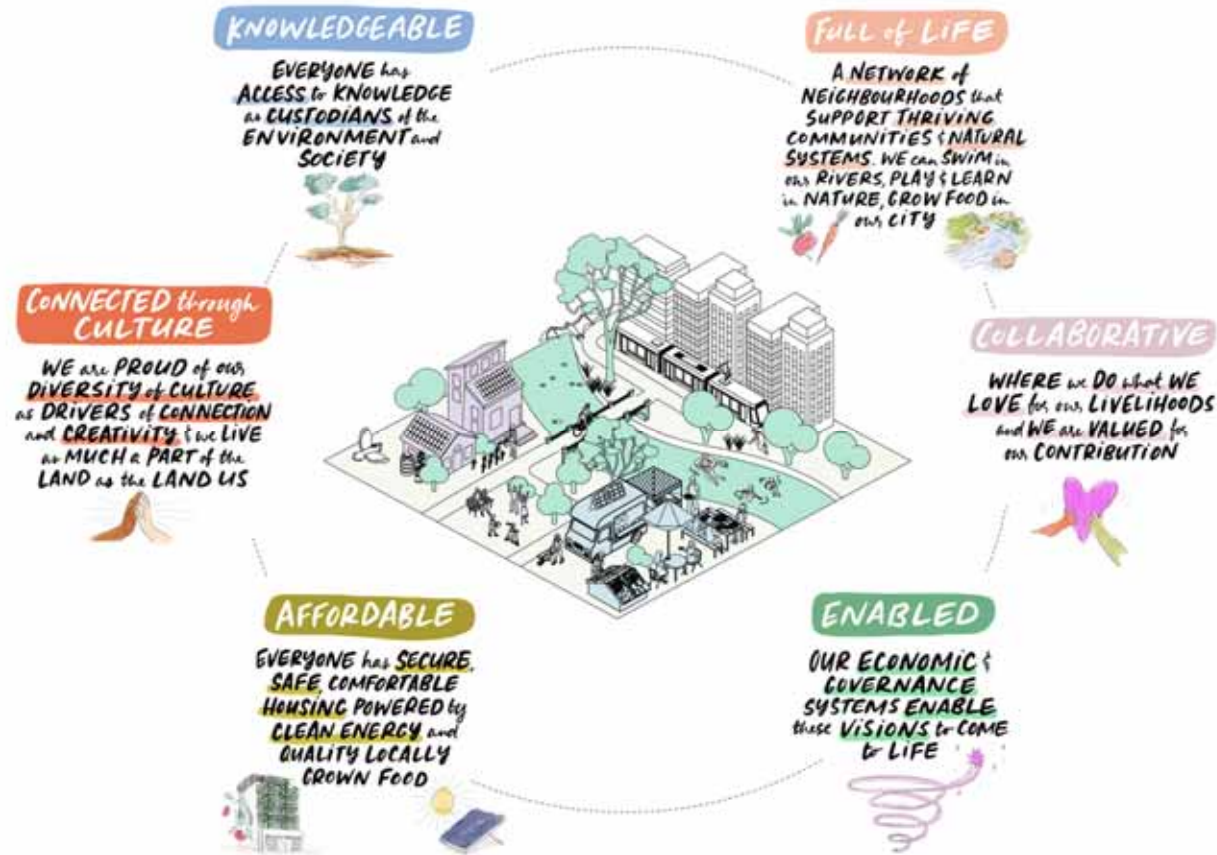
An action-research platform to shift enabling conditions

"When a complex system is far from equilibrium, small islands of coherence in a sea of chaos have the capacity to shift the entire system to a higher order."

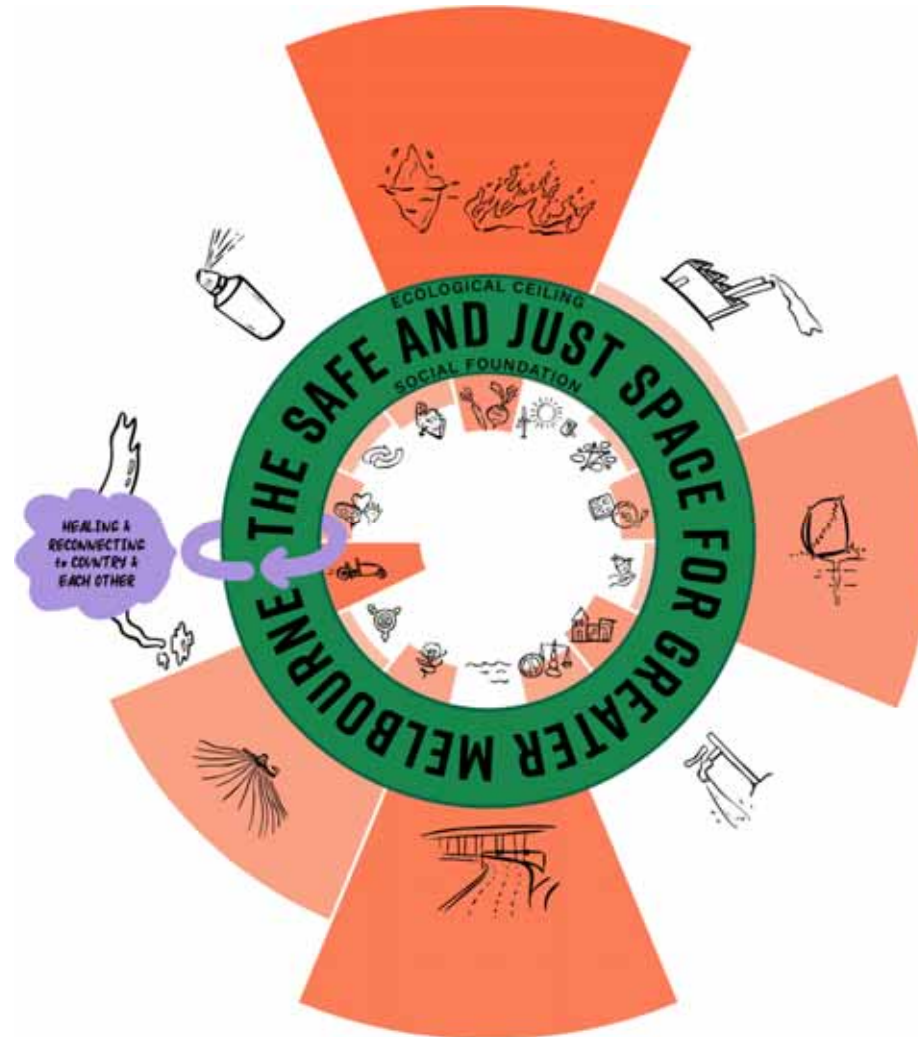
Ilya Prigogine,
NOBEL PRIZE WINNING CHEMIST

VISION

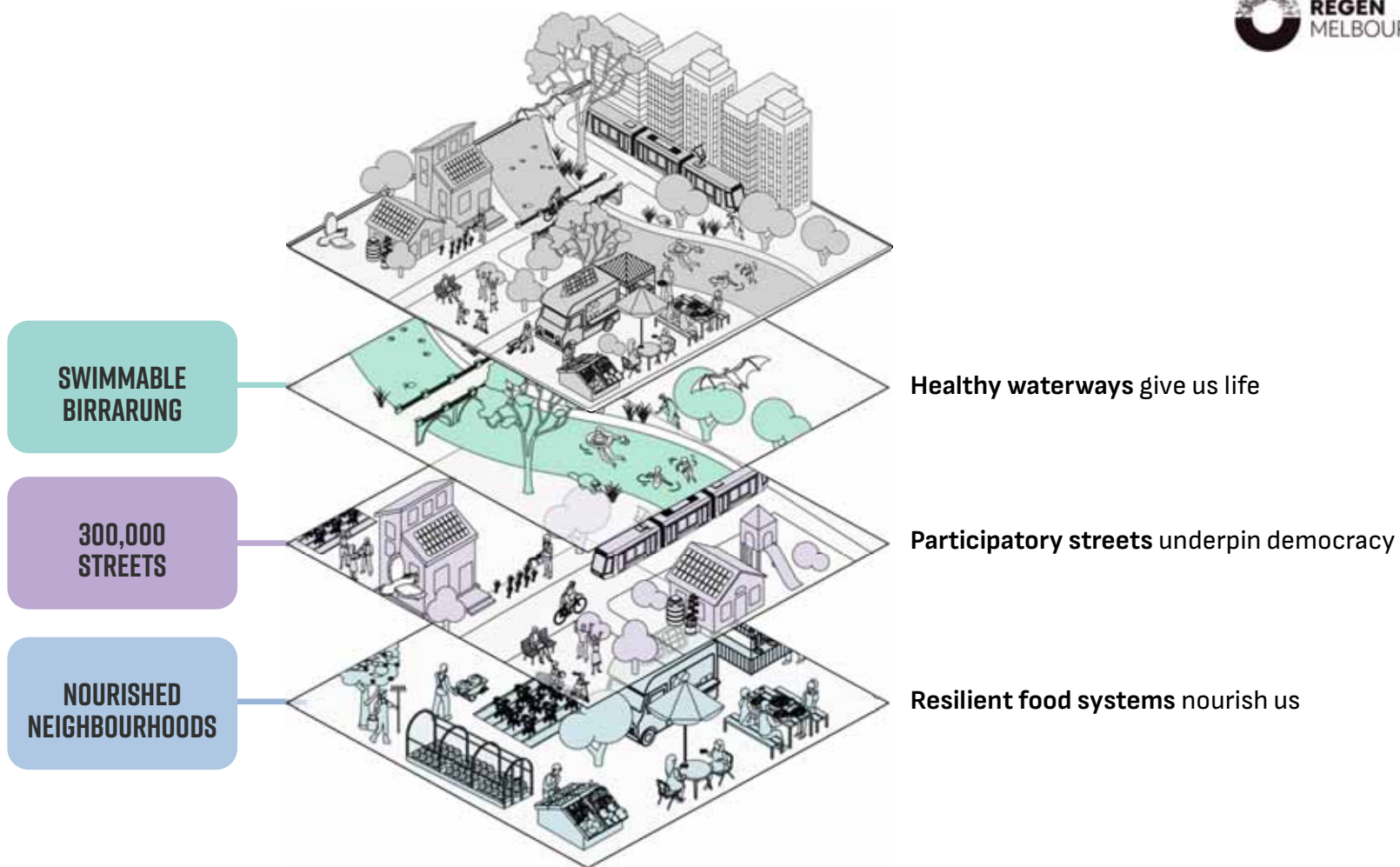
a REGENERATIVE MELBOURNE is:

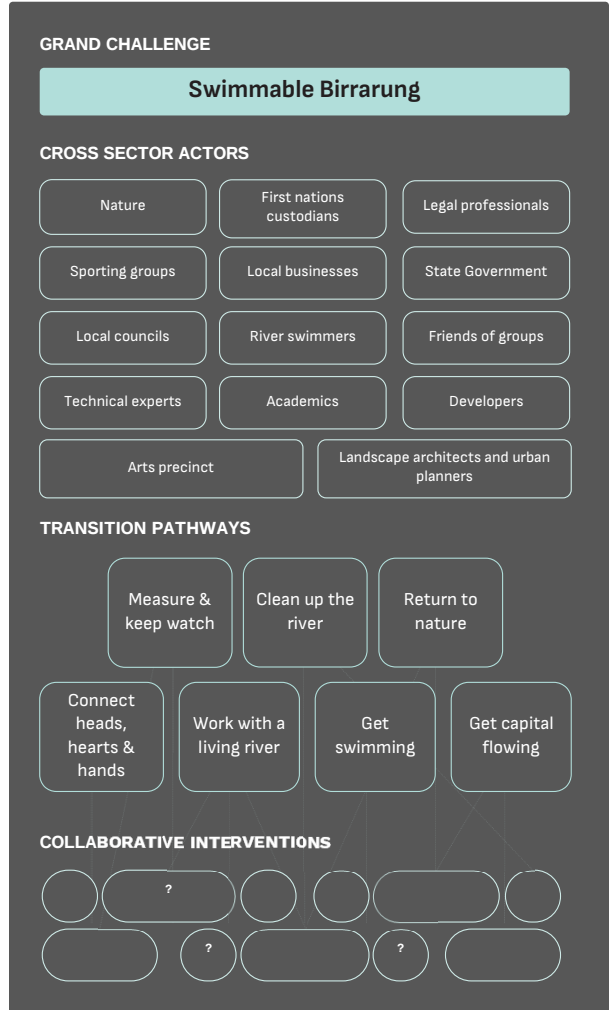


THE CITY PORTRAIT



EARTHSHOTS





EARTHSHOT
NAME

SWIMMABLE BIRRARUNG

INFRASTRUCTURE
LAYER | Water

VISION A thriving and swimmable Birrarung Yarra River, from source to sea

SYSTEMIC CHALLENGE

More than 70% of our drinking water comes from the Birrarung Yarra River. Without a healthy river we are not a healthy city. As the Woi-wurrung language name for the [Yarra Strategic Plan](#) says, Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo: "good for Yarra is good for all".

MEASURABLE GOAL/S

The Birrarung Yarra River is swimmable from source to sea:

- A 10% increase in population of indicator species in the Yarra Catchment by 2030
- 40% reduction in untreated stormwater / urban run-off into the river by 2030
- Number of days the river is swimmable in the lower reaches (p/year) by 2030

EARTHSHOT STEWARD BOARD

Mitra Andersen-Oliver (DEECA Representative)
Janet Bolitho (Yarra River Keepers Association)
Sarah Holland-Clift (Barwon Water)
Phil Krasnostein (D2K Information)
Andrew Mackinnon (The Taboo Group)
Rebecca Olive (RMIT University)

COLLABORATION PARTNERS

Adams Urban, Arup, Arbory Afloat, Birrarung Council, City of Melbourne, ClimateKic, Cummins and Partners, D2k Information, Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action (DEECA), Envirobank, Good and Proper, Green Planet Sport, Hart Biodiversity, Hatch, Hello Atoll, Life Saving Victoria, Manningham City Council, Melbourne Water, Minters Alison, Monash University, NGV, Parramatta River Catchment Group, Patagonia, Ponyfish Island, Regeneration Projects, RISING, RMIT, Stonnington Council, Studio Esem, The Royal Society of Victoria, The Taboo Group, Team Harvey, Tract Design, University of Melbourne, VicHealth, Wowowa, Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Yarra Pools, Yarra Riverkeeper Association, Yarra Valley Water, Yarra Yabbies.



GRAND CHALLENGE

Swimmable Birrarung

CROSS SECTOR ACTORS



TRANSITION PATHWAYS



COLLABORATIVE INTERVENTIONS



CORNERSTONE INDICATORS

The Birrarung Yarra River is swimmable from source to sea:

- A 10% increase in population of indicator species in the Yarra Catchment by 2030
- Number of days the river is swimmable in the lower reaches (p/year) by 2030



LOCAL EFFECT



CITY-WIDE IMPACT



SYSTEMS LAB

Action research for urban transformation

ENABLERS

NEW NARRATIVES
OF PLACE

MEASURING WHAT
MATTERS

NEW URBAN
GOVERNANCE

SYSTEMIC
INVESTMENT

COLLABORATIVE
RESEARCH
PRACTICES

APPROACH

Identify current systems conditions

Experiment and learn from interventions

Translate learning to scale-up interventions

RESEARCH
COUNCIL



PORTFOLIO EXAMPLES



	ANCHOR INITIATIVES	SWIMMABLE BIRRARUNG	300,000 STREETS	NOURISHED NEIGHBOURHOODS
NEW NARRATIVES OF PLACE	New Economic Narratives for Melbourne The RM Story So Far Earthshot Storytelling	Riverfest Rowboat Stories The Great Race River News	Street Library Social Imagination	The Cornucopia Hot Food The Great Food Conversation
MEASURING WHAT MATTERS	Measurement for Investment Evolving Portrait Dynamic Doughnut + Sustainability & Risk City Portrait in Practice	Pebblestone Indicators The Art Of Measurement Optimising for Life	Cobblestone Indicators	The Urban Food Atlas
NEW URBAN GOVERNANCE	Many to Many Agreements Governance for Systems Change What is New Urban Governance? Nature On The Board	Living Entity Status In Practice Leadership on the River	Convenor Network Governing the Streets Street Laws	The Right To Nourishment Collaborative Food Systems in Action
SYSTEMIC INVESTMENT	Cities for Systemic Investment Financial Backbones Systems Change In Practice Weave	Riverbank	Wellbeing Capital Neighbourhood Funds	Systemic Investment for Nourished Neighbourhoods Investing up the Chain Feeding Australia
COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PRACTICES	Climate Change Exchange Indigenous Knowledge for Systems Change Community Networks and Infrastructure Planning Systems Learning Framework	Systemic River Risks and Economics Building River Resilience Capacity Stormwater Sources River Circles	Reimagining Streets Street-level Just Adaption Corridors	Consuming Histories, Eating Futures Business Models For Change In the Market for Change

