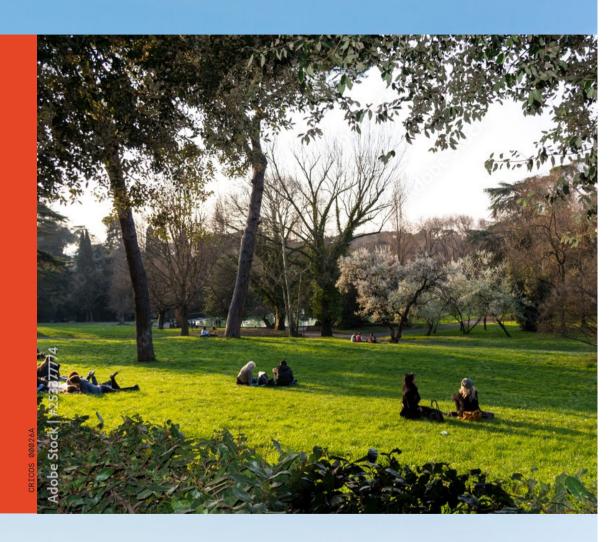
From Social Infrastructure to Social-Ecological Infrastructure: A Mapping Strategy and Tool

David Schlosberg, Michele Barnes, Petre Matous, Nader Naderpajouh Sydney Environment Institute





#### Overview

- The 'social' of social infrastructure and the need for social-ecological infrastructure
- . Mapping social infrastructure
- · Conceptualising social-ecological infrastructure: 3 key gaps
- Designing a measurement tool for social infrastructure
- Enabling social-ecological measurement
- . Risks and enablement

# Designing a Mapping Process

- Led by AECOM for NSW RA
- Co-production process with Murawin and SEI along with AECOM and RA
- Local Social Asset Assessment Tool (LSAAT)
- Designed to use an engaged and inclusive public process to elevate local knowledges
- Uses social infrastructure to identify and measure social infrastructure
- Assists in both measurement and democratic legitimacy

#### Three Key Gaps

- 1) **Conceptual gap:** What counts as 'infrastructure'. Acknowledge the social, including knowledge networks and social connections/relations
  - 2) **Instrument gap:** How to assess, value, and invest in relational assets.
  - 3) **Ecological gap:** The 'assets', places and relations between human and more-than-human communities that support resilience.

### The Tool: Four Steps

- Step 1: Establish the assessment plan and working groups
- Step 2: Source asset data and pre-populate from existing datasets
- Step 3: Conduct collaborative evaluation of assets
  - This part is key it's a public-engaged process rather than a government employee filling out boxes
- . Step 4: Prioritise investment opportunities

# The Tool: 3 Social Asset Categories, 3 of Each Type

- Social Groups and Institutions
  - Local social services
  - Local resilience organisations and networks
  - Local community organisations
- Traditional Social and Cultural Infrastructure
  - Physical community spaces
  - Places of worship
  - Parks and open spaces
- Social Processes
  - Local First Nations representation on adaptation
  - Key community information and engagement
  - Regular community festivals or events

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# From Social to Social-Ecological

Add a fourth 'asset category' for collective measurement of the socialecological and relational:

- Knowledge of more-than-human impacts who/what is vulnerable
- Knowledges of ecological behavior and relations related to environmental risk including Indigenous knowledge
- Green infrastructure for resilience, existing and proposed

### Conclusions: Risks and Enablements

- . Potential colonization of the tool by technocratic systems
  - De-emphasizing public engagement and collective knowledges
- · Lack of funding or willingness to implement
  - Potential impact on democratic legitimacy of formal institutions
- Low emphasis or priority on social-ecological infrastructure
- . BUT, the positives:
  - Resilience building beyond the physical
  - Adaptation planning that is democratic/inclusive of knowledges
  - Acknowledging the ecological and relational resilience
  - Relational tools that shift government logic to distributed resilience building

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