

Talking Circles

Allows for deep listening, reframing assumptions, and connecting with others.

You could foster an inclusive and respectful dialogue environment that emphasises deep listening and self-reflection, enabling participants to share their stories and emotions and build trust. In Australia Aboriginal people have been practising this for thousands of years.



Futures Storytelling

Allows for taking on diverse values and perspectives – including those of the non-human world and future generations, fostering hopeful visions for the future.

You could ask participants to create narratives about a landscape's evolution by 2070 as a collaborative role-playing exercise, adopting crafted personas along the way.



Relational Big Mapping

Allows people to see systems more holistically and embrace the interconnections between places and ideas.

You could create a relational mapping exercise around a Big Map of a landscape, where participants explore and share insights on the landscape's interconnected patterns, using cards and string. Doing it in this embodied way reminds people they're humans enmeshed in a negotiation of ideas, rather than their bodies and minds seen as separate.



Systems+Futures Mapping

Allows people to engage deeply with complexity and long-term thinking, without becoming overwhelmed.

You could facilitate deep relational thinking across various temporal and spatial perspectives on decided-upon themes, such as water, agriculture, biodiversity, fire, social life, and settlements. Weaving in multi-level perspectives, causal layered analysis and pasts, presents and futures helps uncover the underlying structures influencing events and behaviours.



Being Embodied in Place

Allows people to more fully access their wisdom, knowledge, and care for a landscape.

You, or a senior knowledge holder and custodian of a place, could lead a walk or slow movement through a landscape while encouraging people to be reflective and attuned to their senses, to explore their past and present memories of a place, and to speculate futures of a place.



Evidence+Imagination

Combining evidence with imagination allows for a linking of different areas of the brain, widening the range of possibilities.

Using good visual communication and accessible language, you could ask people to envision diverse futures and innovative climate solutions in response to seeing and hearing information about how the climate will change.



Please, keep in touch!

We bring curiosity and a unique set of skills and perspectives as designers, systems and futures practitioners, with deep expertise in climate adaptation and the curation of powerful stakeholder engagement processes.

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CONSULTING

Hope Road Consulting is a strategic advisory firm established by Nicole Baker, specialising in climate-resilient, low-carbon and nature-positive development across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific. Our areas of expertise include strategic advisory services, policy development, stakeholder engagement and facilitation, and program design. Our work focuses on enabling transformative climate strategy through systems thinking, futures thinking, and collaborative engagement with governments, multilateral institutions, NGOs, and private sector clients. We combine deep technical knowledge with cultural understanding to deliver sustainable development pathways that are both resilient and equitable.



Relative Creative is one of Australia's leading critical strategic design practices. We design communication strategies, services, places, experiences and events that help people think, talk and mobilise sustainable futures. Our interdisciplinary team connects design, research and strategy through collaboration with communities, social enterprises, scientists, policymakers, planners, and industry partners. Our expertise spans visual, strategy, service, product and experience design, participatory and policy design, facilitation, exhibitions, and placemaking, grounded in strategic futures, decolonial and systemic thinking.

ARUP

Arup is one of the world's leading engineering and environmental consultancy practices. We aim to provide a consistently excellent multidisciplinary service that brings together our capabilities in planning, design and engineering, with our expertise in project management, stakeholder engagement and advisory services. In doing so, we are committed to fulfilling our mission 'to shape a better world' through our concern for the environment, and the well-being of the communities we work in – a vision which we have strengthened through our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Luke is a sustainability and climate change specialist with over 16 years experience in consulting, government and the United Nations, thriving in complex spaces, where ideas, people and possibilities intersect. With a background in psychology, he connects deeply with people, understanding their motivations, decisions, and barriers to change. He bridges the gap between technical expertise and human experience, making sustainability accessible through shared visions and storytelling rather than data or strategy alone.

We crossed paths at the Adaptation Futures Conference 2025. Our contributions were:

Paper: Enabling transformational adaptation through designed transformative practices. Presentation no: 369.

Workshop: Building capacities for transformational climate adaptation: a hands-on workshop. Presentation no: 379.