IMPROVING FUTURE DECISION-MAKING IN AUSTRALIA: STRATEGIES FOR CHANGE

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AUSTRALIAN FUTURES PROJECT

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It all started with an idea…….

Our objective is to build Australia's ***capacity*** to make decisions for a flourishing shared future in the 2020s and '30s.

We want to make ***long-termism*** easier in Australia.

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THE WORLD IS FULL OF SYSTEMS

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Different Systems

- Simple
- Complicated
- Chaotic
- Complex

VS

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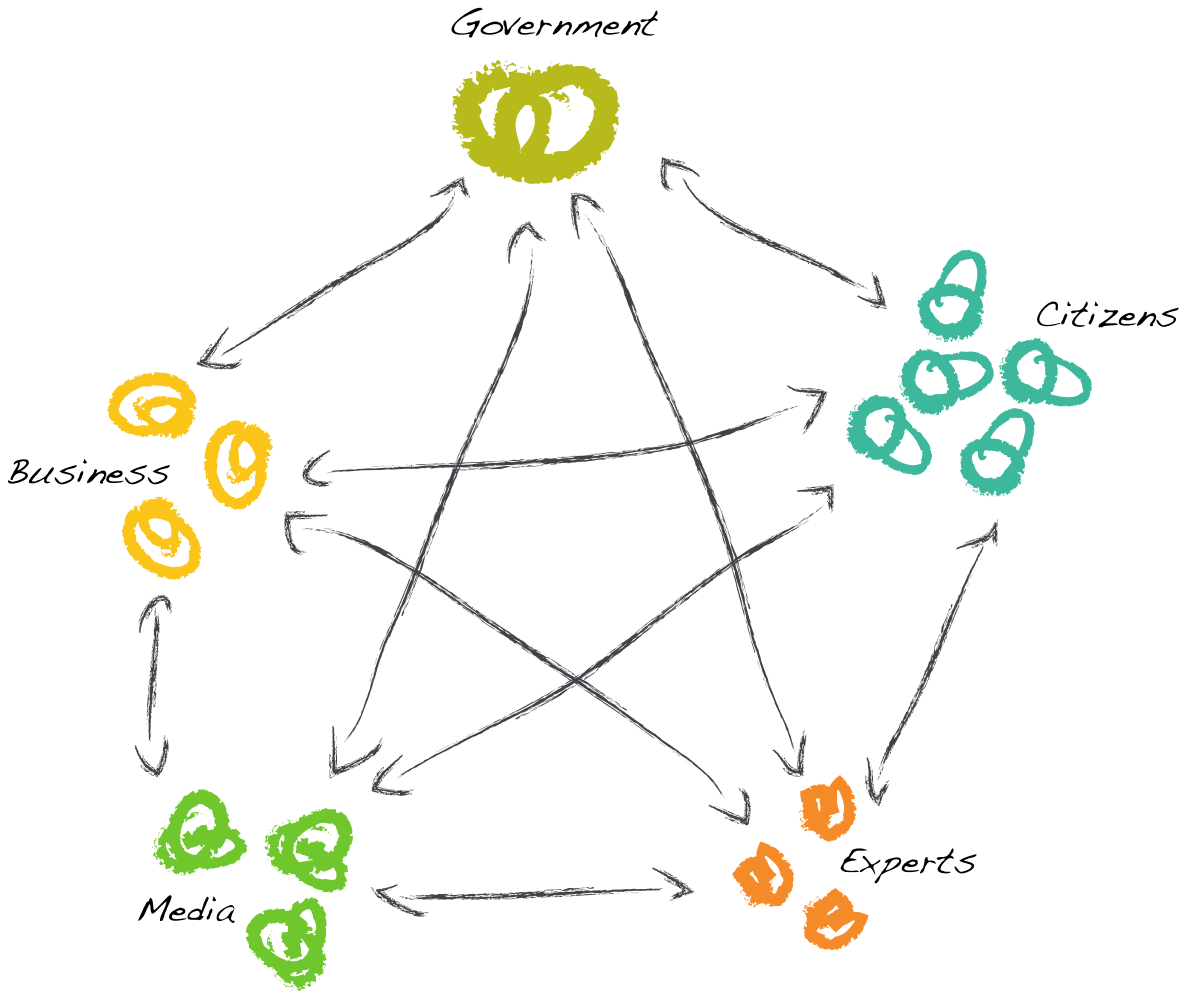
Australia's Decision-Making System



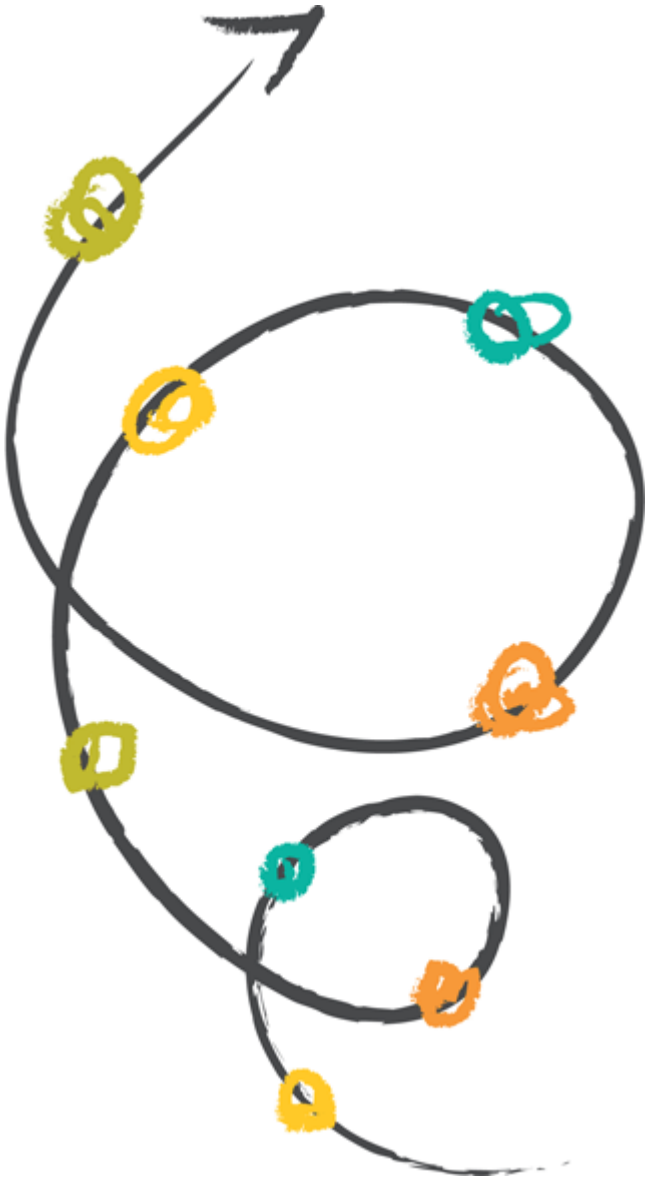
Actors (formal and informal)

Relationships (e.g. reflected in networks, values, trust, engagement, power, leadership)

Structures (e.g. laws, regulations, institutional rules, social norms and mores)

Processes (e.g. agenda-setting, decision-making, policies, implementation)

Resources (e.g. skills, data, knowledge, money, technology, time)



Our strategy – a loop

An ever evolving iterative loop allows us to adjust to the things we and our partners learn at each stage:

Design: With partners, design the details of the next three stages
Explain: Explain the context, the need for action and the plan
Act and Learn: Uncover actions by: Learning from the Past (analysis), Learning from Collective Wisdom (convening), and Learning from Rapid Prototyping (testing)
Articulate: Synthesise insights and articulate concrete pathways for action (then return to step 1)

Systems leadership

- “Leader as Host” *(versus hero)*
- Self-organising structures *(versus hierarchy)*
- Continuous evaluation and re-calibration *(versus having ‘the answer’)*
- Facilitates and empowers participatory action *(versus command and control)*