

Moving forward - the importance of joint responsibility and collaboration

Managing Sediment Loss During Urban Development

Friday, 8 November 2019

WALGA Boardroom, 170 Railway Parade, West Leederville

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Why should we manage sediment?

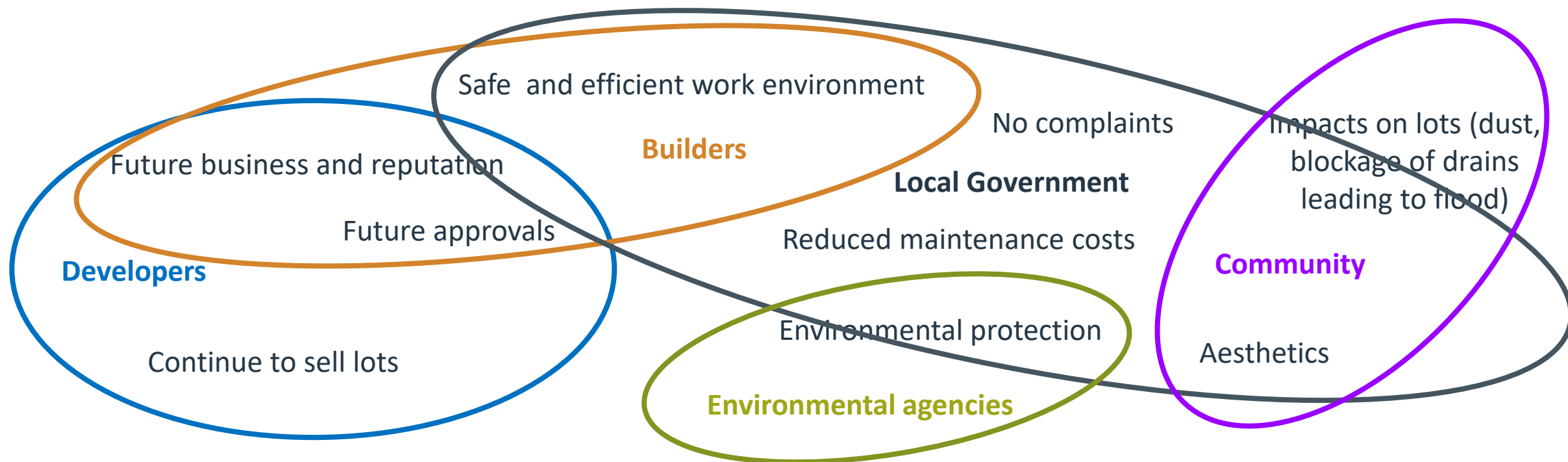


Images: Merryn Delaney, SAMR



Why should we manage sediment?

- Do we all agree on the reasons and impact? What are our drivers?



Need a shared understanding or at least all stakeholders understanding where each other is coming from



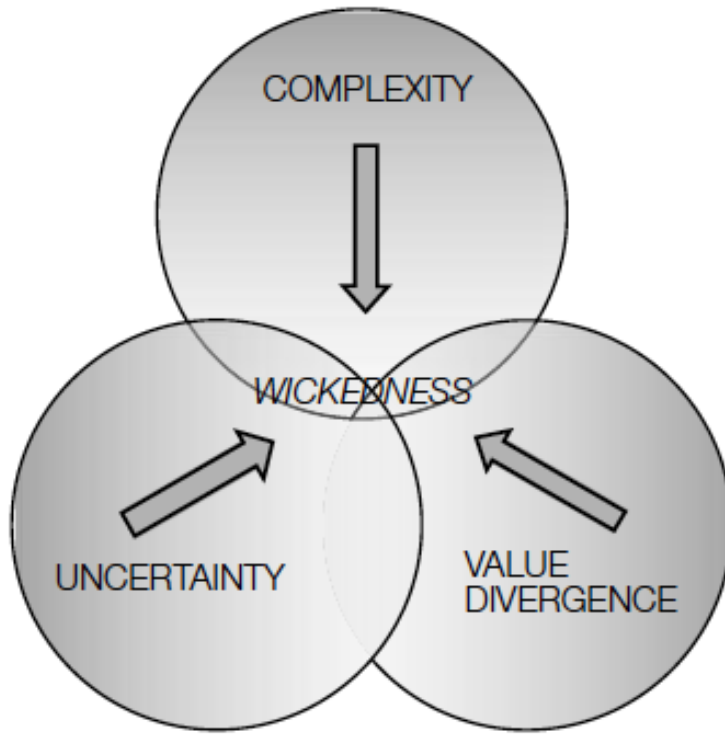
Do we all agree on what should be done?

- What actions, when? Do we have the tools?

- Subdivision and development conditions
- Temporary surface water management
- Water carts
- Suppressive material
- Perimeter fencing
- Stabilised and controlled vehicle access
- Seeding
- Verge cover
- Geotextile socks
- Street sweeping
- Education
- Enforcement of Local Laws - infringements

So why doesn't it always happen?





“**Wicked problems** involve complex interconnected systems linked by social processes, with little certainty as to where problems begin and end, leading to difficulty in knowing where and how constructive interventions should be made and where the problem boundaries lie.”

(Rittel and Webber, 1973)



Where are the problem boundaries? Where does sediment come from? Who's responsibility is it?

All the different stages of the subdivision and development process

- Bulk earthworks as part of subdivision
- Subsequent to bulk earthworks and arising from construction and installation of infrastructure (road, drainage and sewer construction)
- Subsequent to subdivision and prior to building construction (vacant lots, waiting to be sold or vacant lots, waiting to be built on)
- Site preparation for building (e.g. pad is required to be laid in clay areas)
- Building of the dwelling
- After construction of the house and prior to landscaping; or
- From the existing drainage network from already developed areas or small scale redevelopment.

Which contributes most? Who pays/who benefits?



Solving wicked problems

Optimising social, environmental and economic benefits amidst increasingly complex social and environmental pressures and rapidly changing technologies can no longer be achieved by a single profession or organisation (CRCWSC, 2019)

we cannot

command-and-control

(too many uncertainties and surprises)

we can

steer the direction and pace of change

(find leverage points)

Projects don't lead to transition – processes do



Reasons for collaboration

- help to define important complex problems that have eluded past attempts
- focus energy on the top priorities and set agendas
- create momentum by bringing together all stakeholders
- draw on wide expertise and diverse sources of knowledge
- value the practical experience of those working in the field
- learn from and further refine effective practice models
- mobilise potential champions, sponsors, donors and funders
- help with information-sharing and mentoring
- share scarce resources – better “bang for buck”



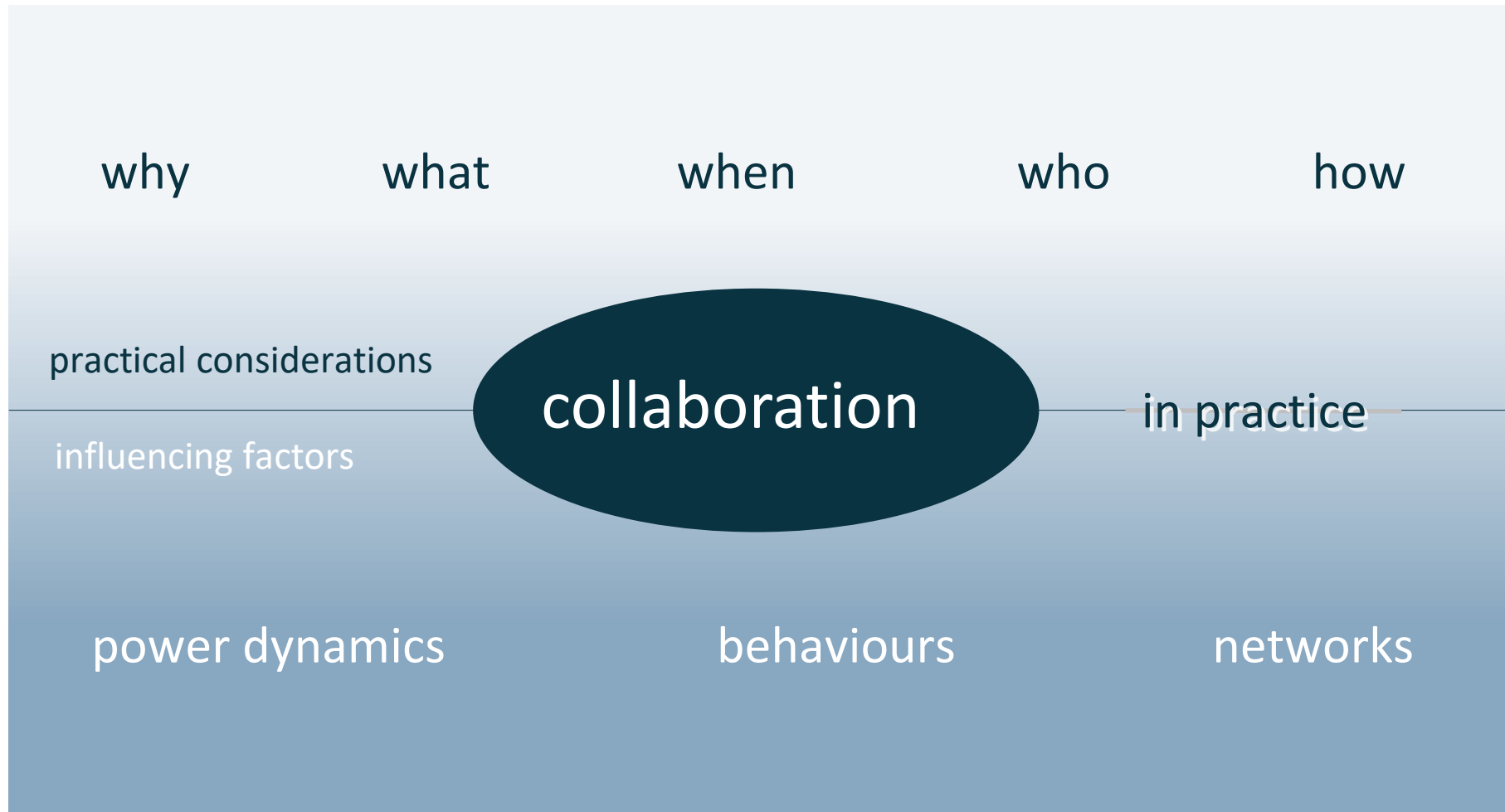


What enables collaboration?

- supportive leadership
- policy champions and intrapreneurs
- a shared outcome-focussed vision
- clear, shared accountability tied to outcomes
- extensive networks within and across organisations



Adapted from 'Working together' (SA Gov, 2016)



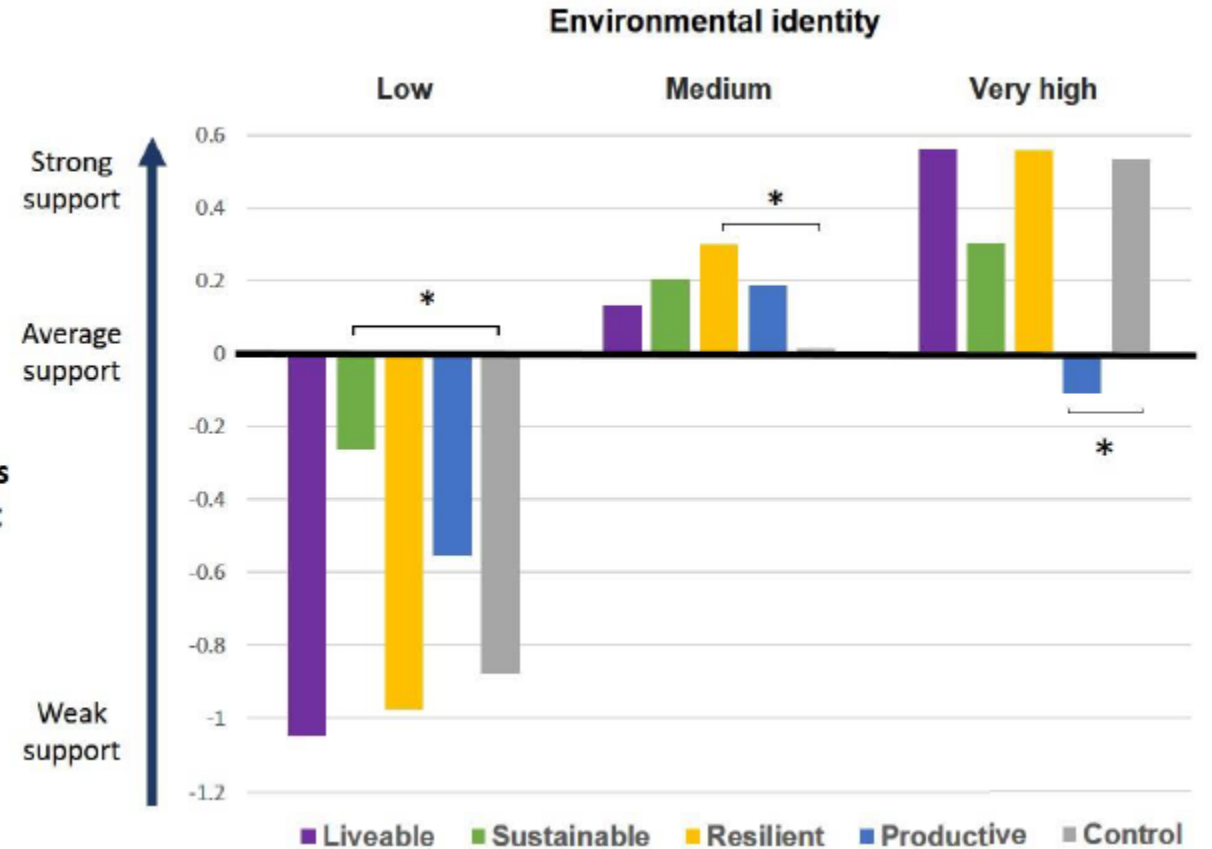


How do we convey the message? Using frames



Using a **sustainability** message frame can increase support for water sensitive cities among the 'disengaged' while using a **productivity** message can reduce it

Willingness to support water sensitive cities (z score)





Using images

Images can be an effective mechanism for engaging people, particularly for communicating unfamiliar or complex concepts

- Choose images that have flowers or vibrant colours
- Use local images as much as possible
- Images of people connect people with the topic
- Avoid the use of images that elicit disgust





Ten Commandments of influencing decision makers – Prof John Thwaites

1. Know what you want to achieve
2. Know what the relevant organisation wants to achieve
3. Identify the decision maker
4. Solutions not problems
5. Collaborate
6. Be prepared and persistent
7. Timing – Be an opportunist
8. Prioritise and compromise
9. Communicate: understand the power of values and emotions
10. Communicate: think about the message and the messenger





But collaboration needs trust and shared objectives

- Do we all have the same problem? Understanding different perspectives is critical
- The importance of research – where is the sediment coming from?
- Need to frame things in a way that resonates – understand drivers of each party
- Potential solution: Sediment taskforce working collaboratively





The role of the Sediment Taskforce moving forward....

- Ask our panel members what they think
 - Then let us know what you think.....
 - Strategic planning session next year.....
-
- But really, it is up to all of us!



Thanks for listening!
Now over to the panel

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