

GreenPrints: bioregional approach to living within our ecological limits



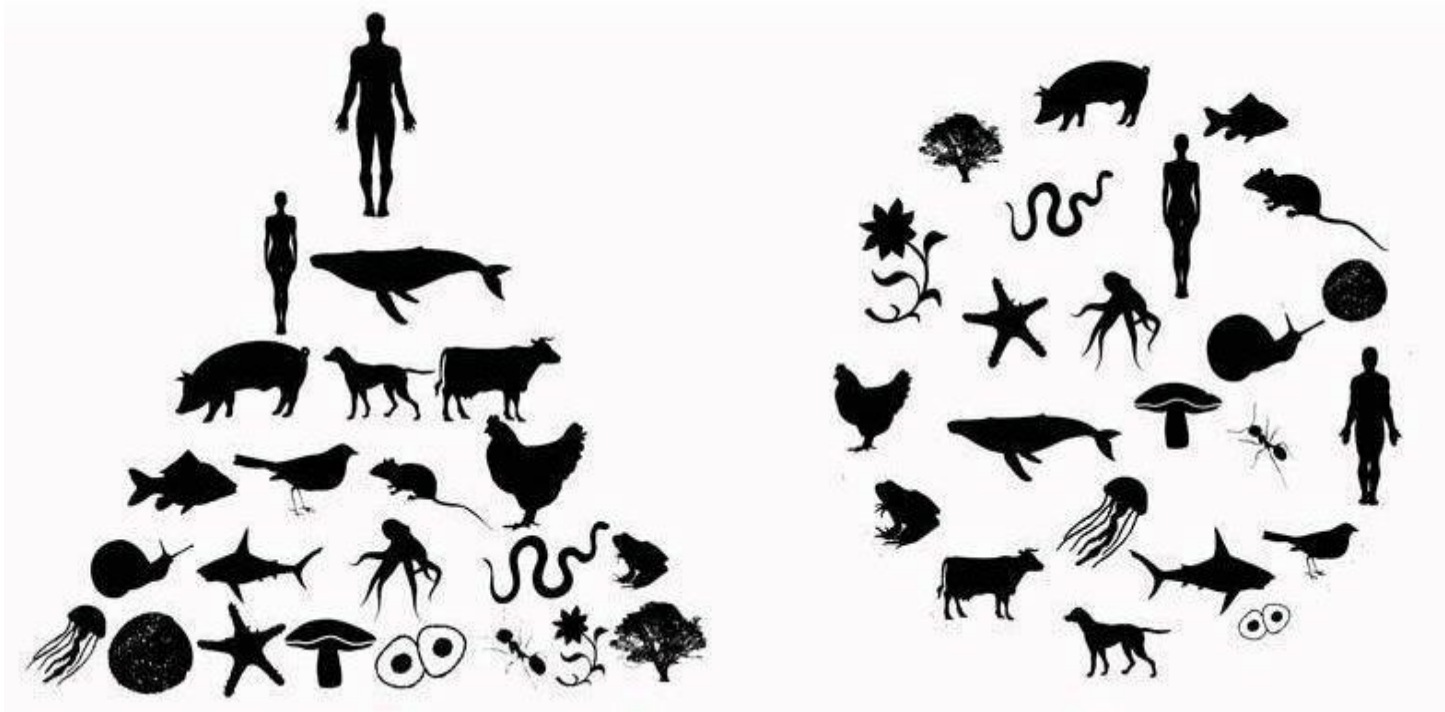
Dr Michelle Maloney
Australian Earth Laws Alliance
www.earthlaws.org.au

About AELA

- ▶ Created in 2012
- ▶ Mission: to increase the **understanding and practical implementation of Earth centred governance** – law, economics, education, ethics and the arts
- ▶ “Earth jurisprudence”
- ▶ AELA is focussed on creating *systems* change
- ▶ multi/trans disciplinary



Earth jurisprudence calls for us to examine the root causes of the current crisis and shift all our **governance systems** from human centred to Earth centred



Human centred

Earth centred

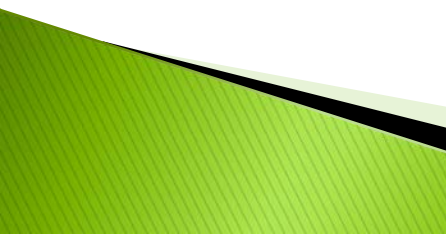
Social/cultural
(consumer culture)

Economic -
Consumer capitalism
(Corporatism)

Legal, Political &
Institutional

“the ideas that
lie beneath”

Beliefs, Ideology, culture -
anthropocentrism +
pro growth



GreenPrints – a pathway

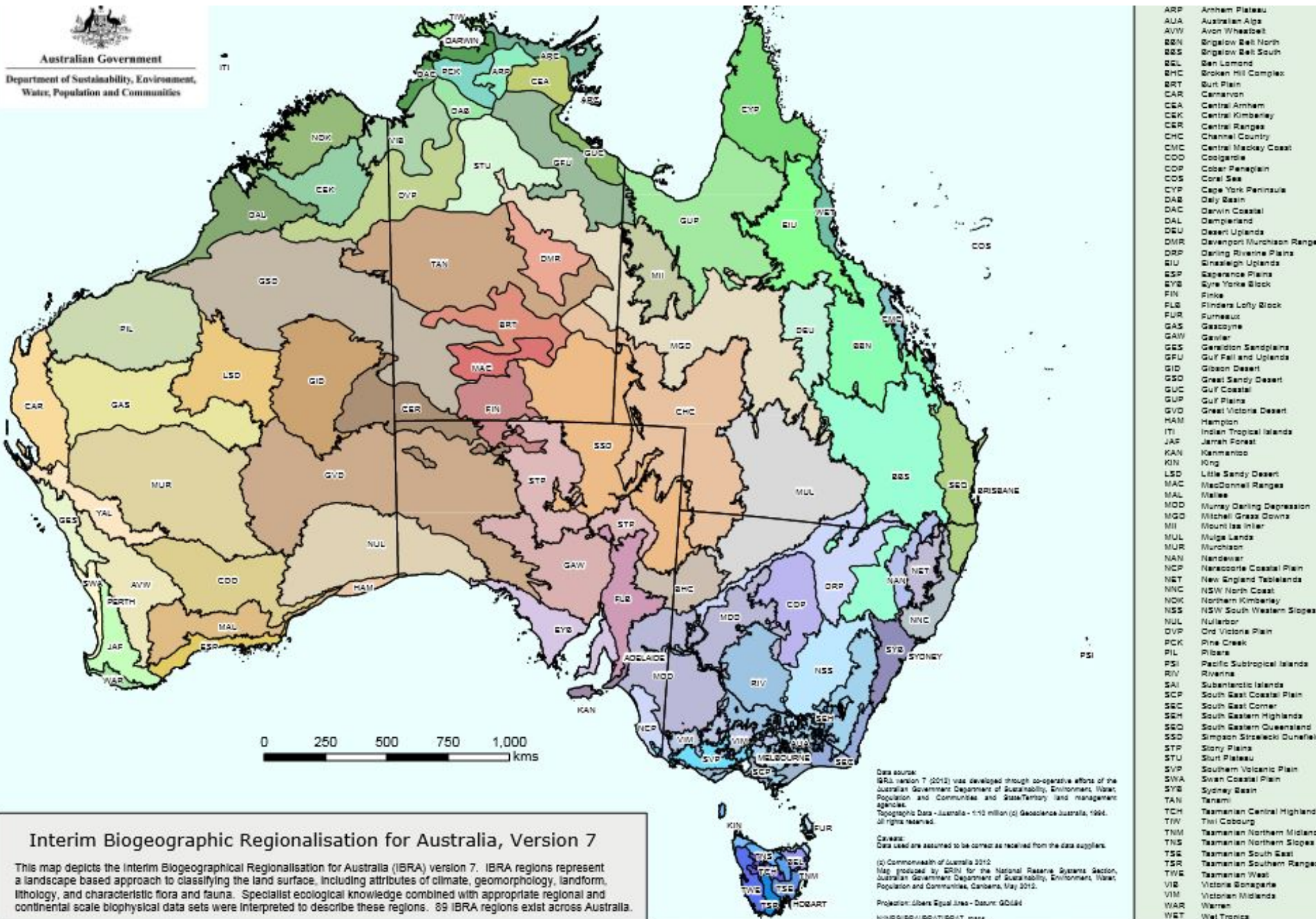
- ▶ GreenPrints focuses on a critical question: how can we create governance systems that help us live within our ecological limits and support the rest of the living world?
- ▶ While we have ‘blueprints’ to document the design of building and engineering projects, we don’t yet have effective ‘greenprints’ for helping us construct the governance systems we need, to build Earth centred societies that can be sustained in a climate changed world and nurture the Earth community.

Starting point – ecological health

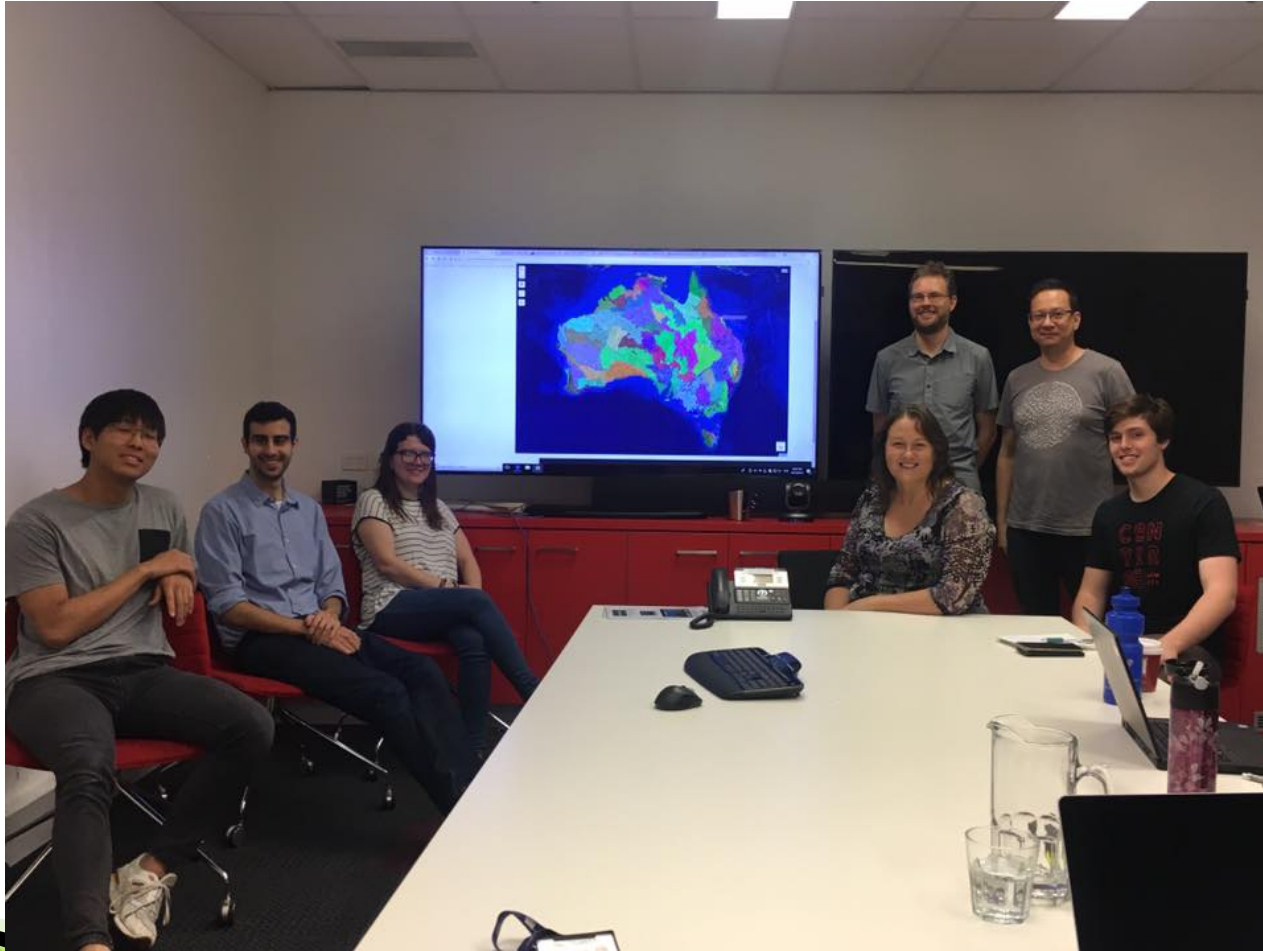


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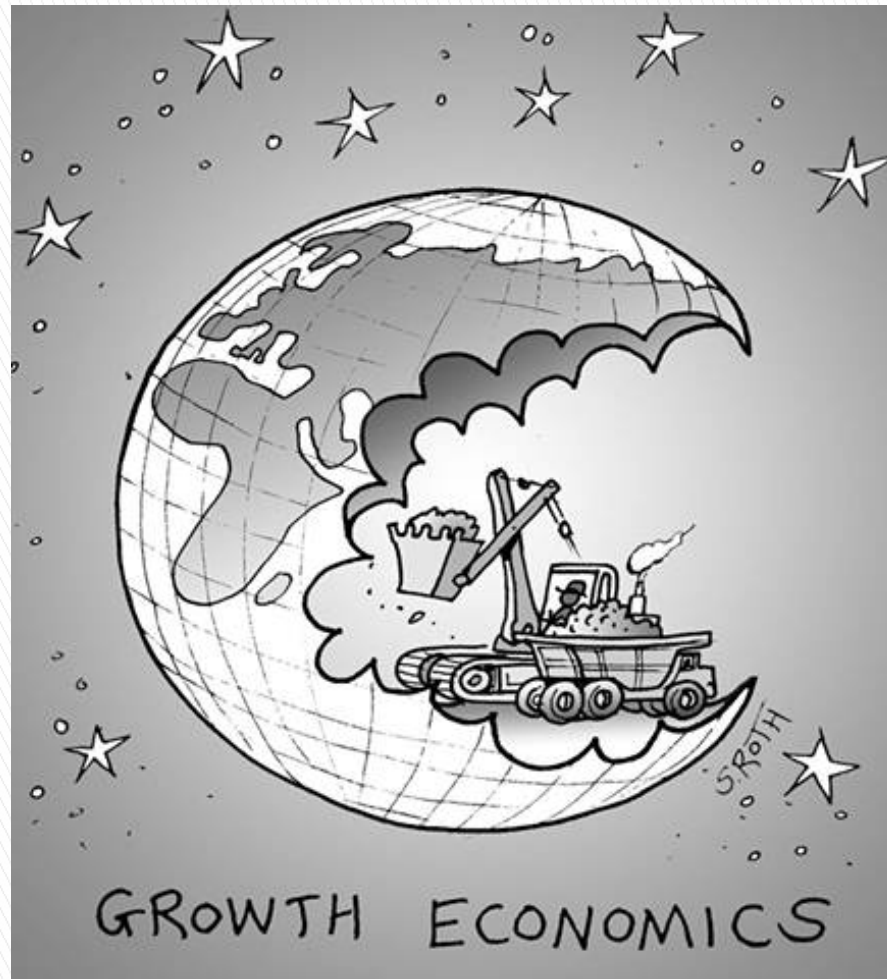
“citizen governance” – easy to use mapping tool to help



**Three 'big' problems
GreenPrints is addressing**

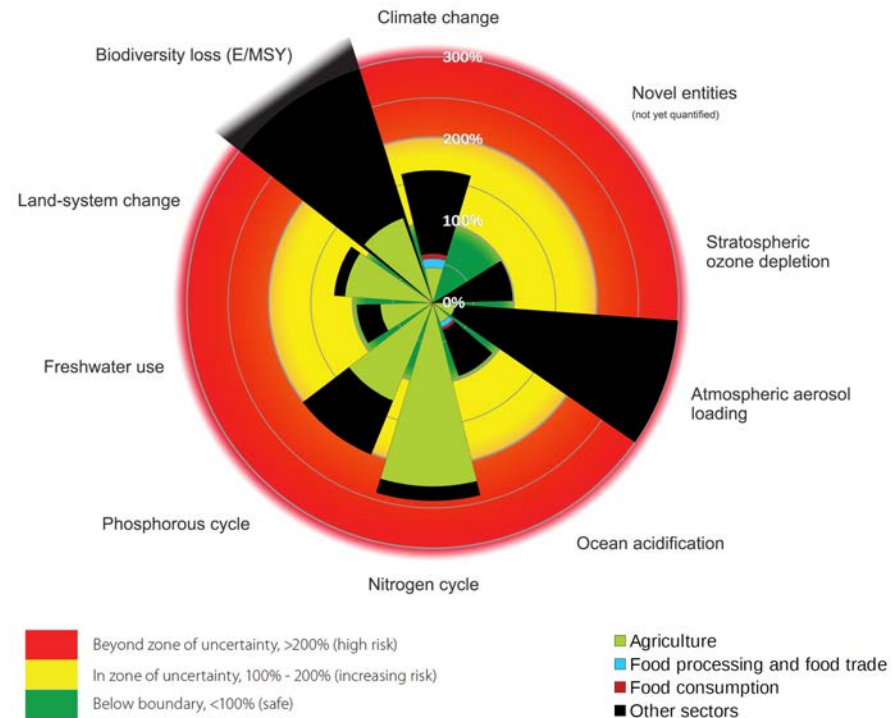


(1) Problem – pro-growth culture and governance

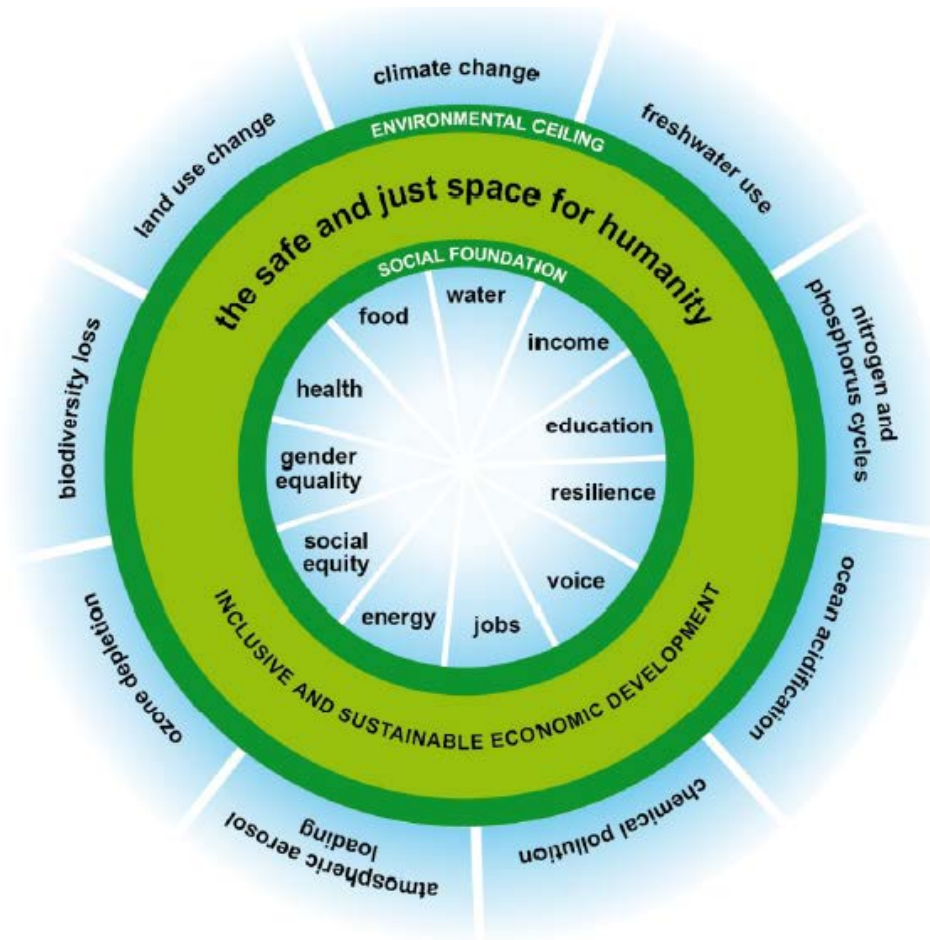


2015 – 4 out of 9 “Planetary Boundaries” now crossed

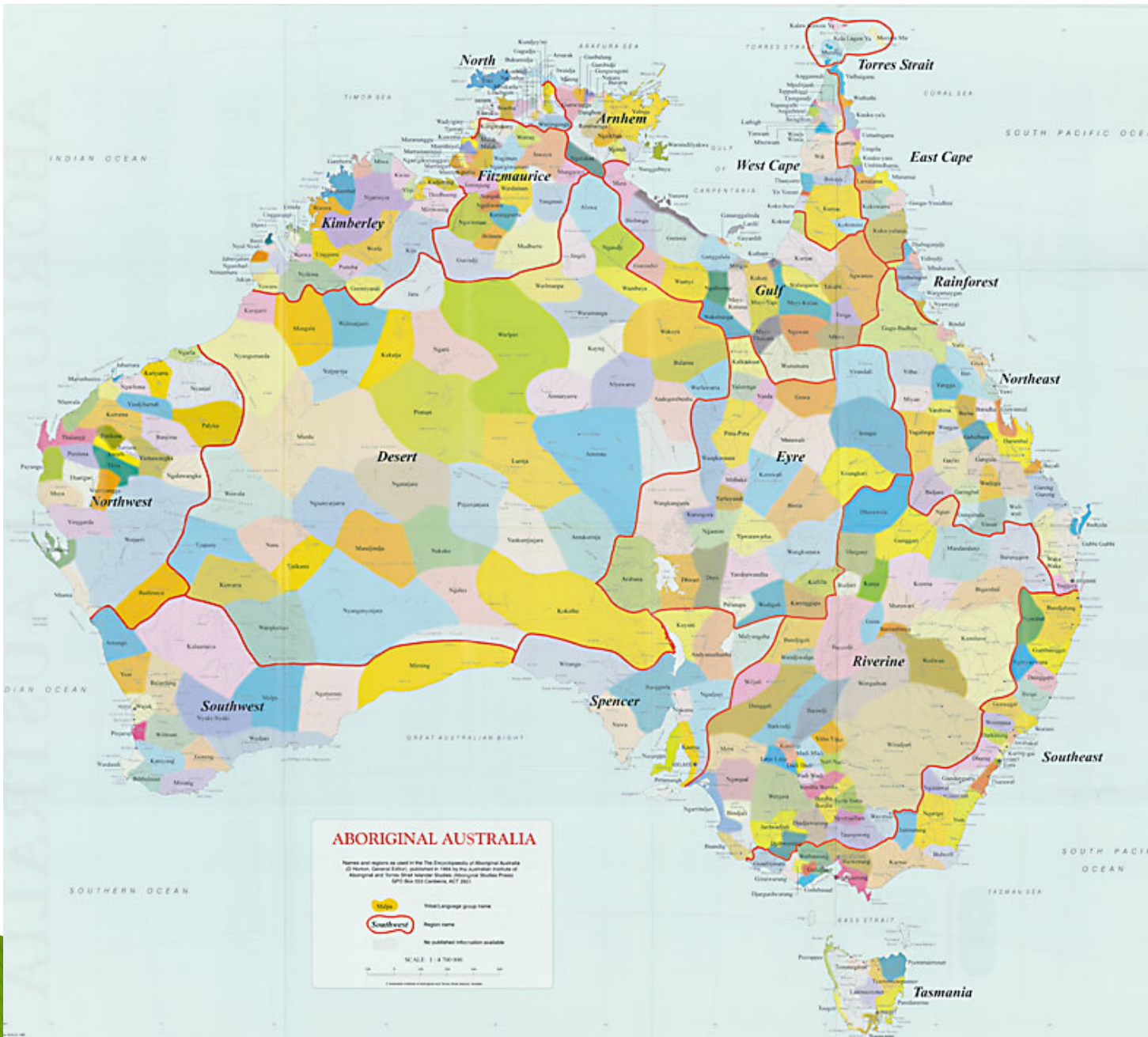
- Climate change
- Biosphere integrity
- Nitrogen and Phosphorous biogeochemical cycles
- Change in land use
- Ocean acidification
- Ozone depletion
- Global freshwater use
- Atmospheric aerosol loading
- Chemical pollution



Doughnut economics



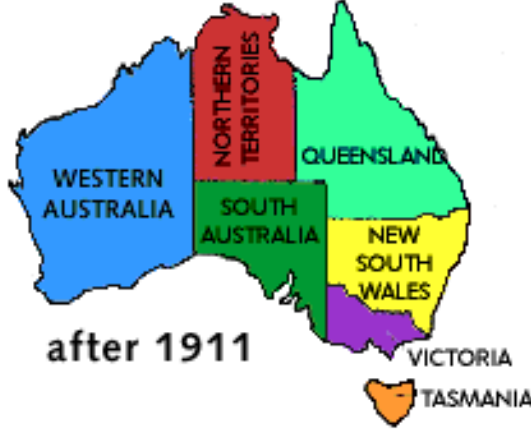
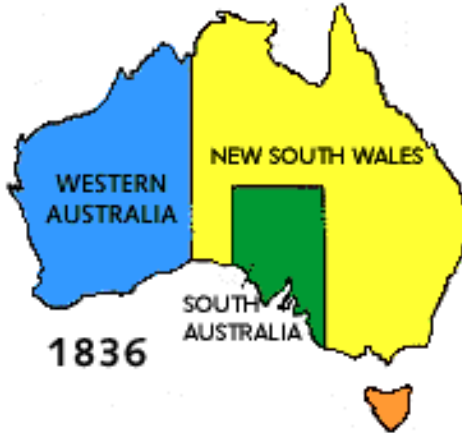
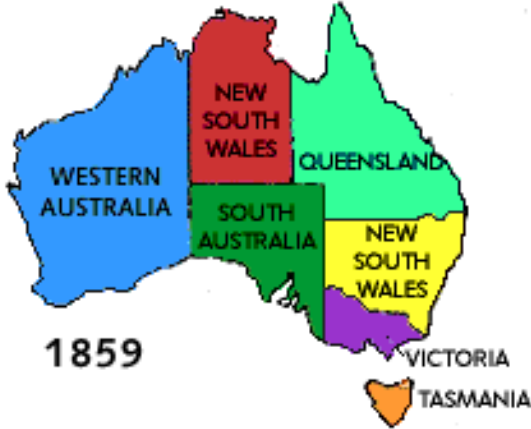
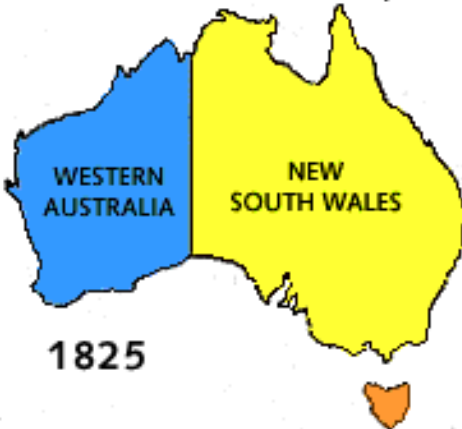
(2) Problem – *political jurisdictions and governance* disconnected from ecological reality (ie human centred, pro-growth)



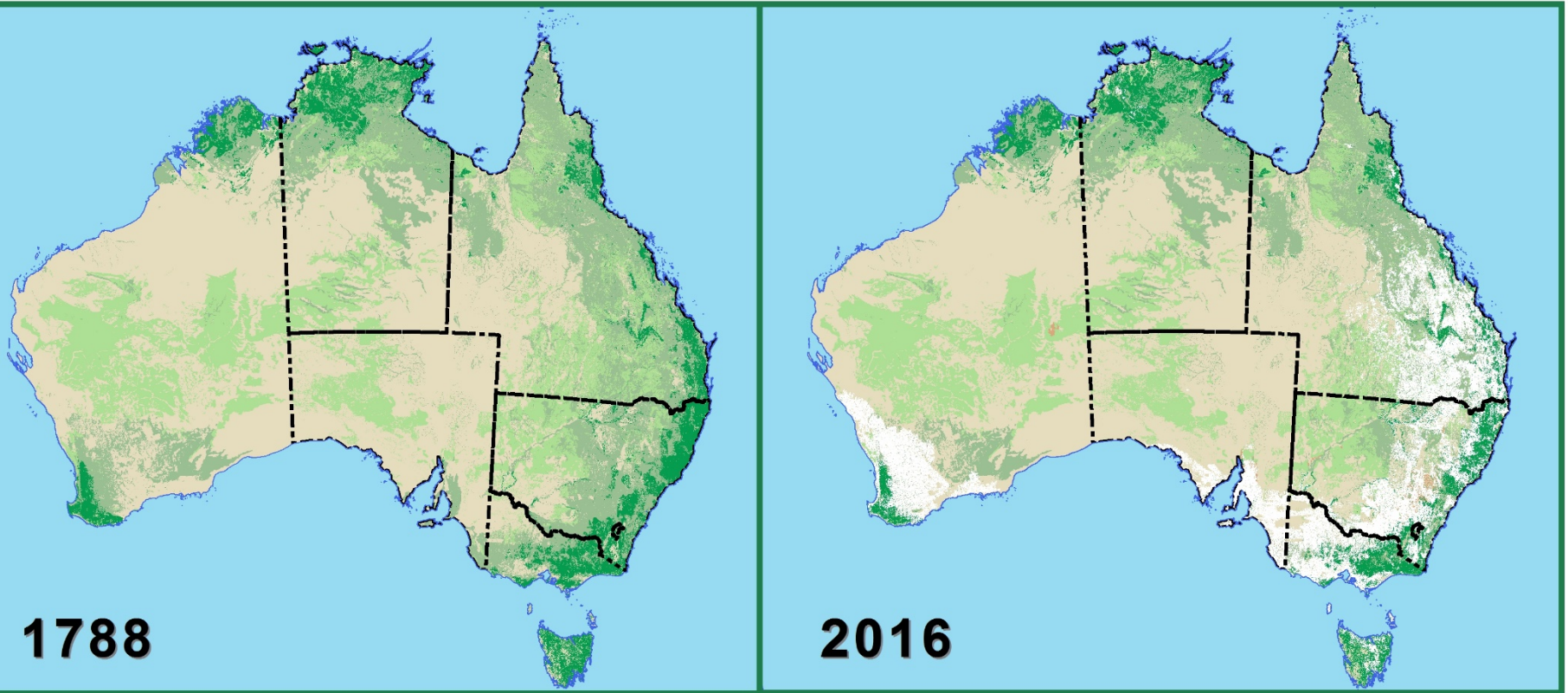
In 1788
this continent
experienced
a dramatic
shift in
governance

From
60,000+
years of
effective,
local,
Earth-centred,
Steady-state
governance ...

To 230 years of environmentally disconnected governance, based on human centred, pro-growth culture and medieval English laws






One simple, but stark example of the impacts of the governance shift



Vegetation Loss in Australia 1788-2016



	Eucalypt Forests and Rainforest	20.1%
	Eucalypt Woodlands	27.8%
	Other Forests or Woodlands	10.5%
	Other vegetation (no trees)	6.0%
	Cleared since 1788	13.0%



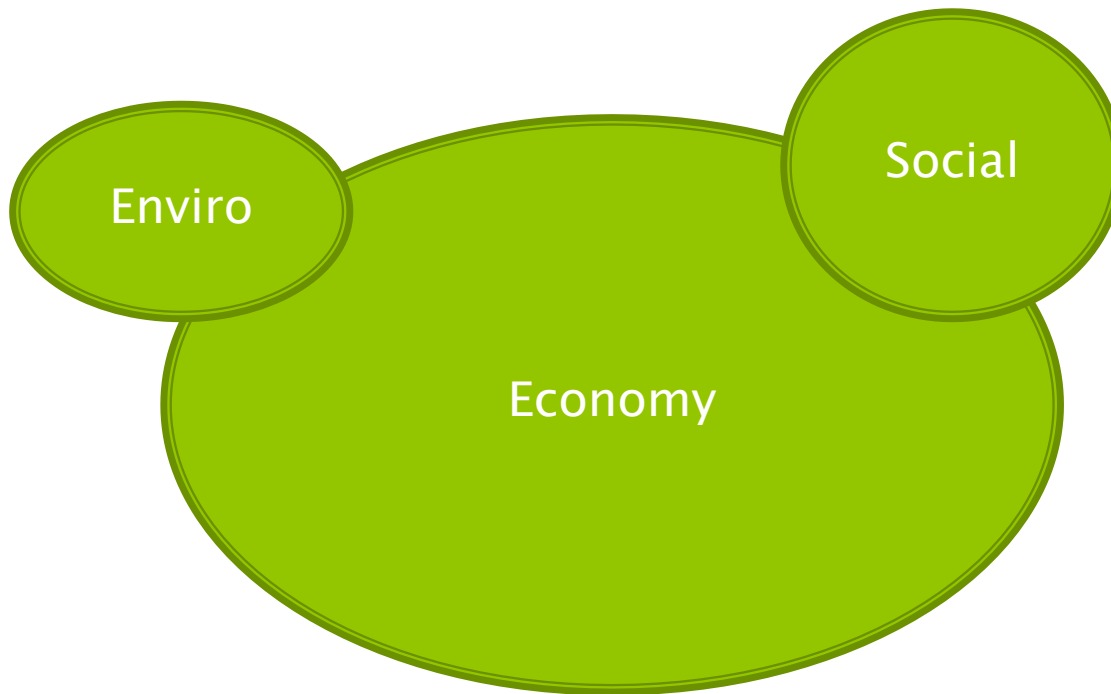
(3) Problem – ineffective models of sustainability

Mickey Mouse Sustainability vs Nested Sustainability

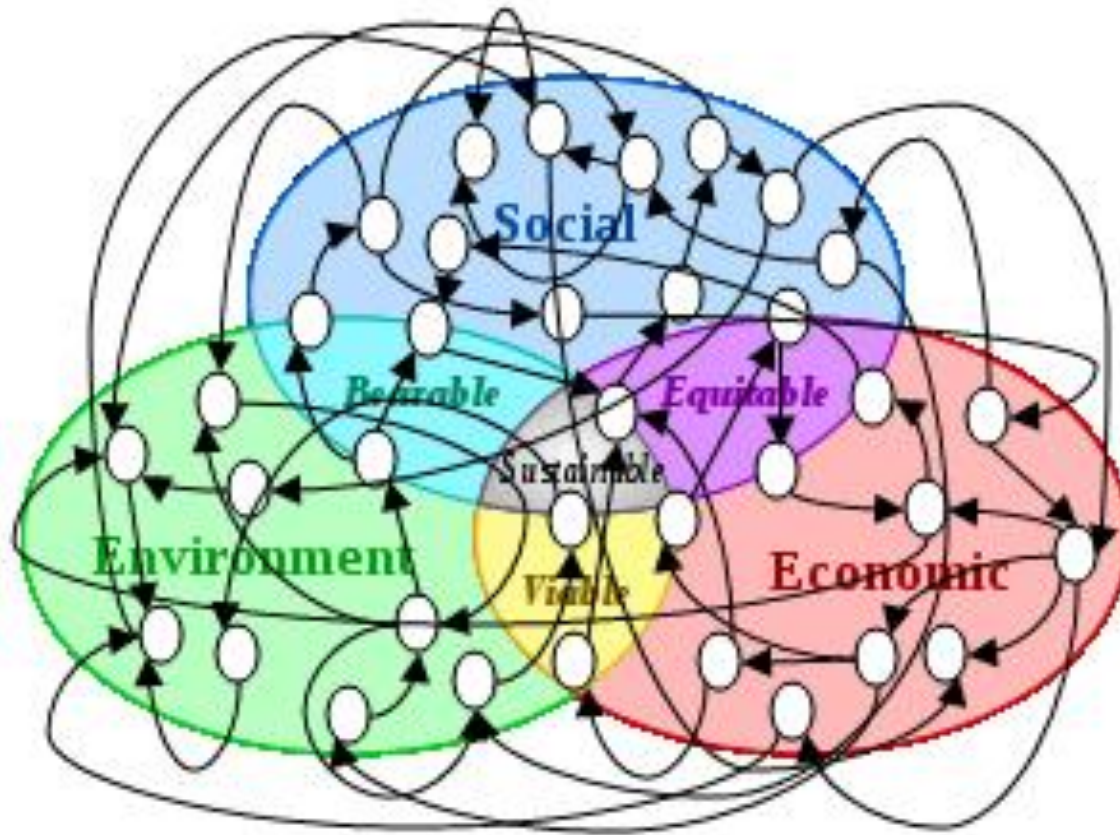
'Sustainable Development' = balancing different *human* values



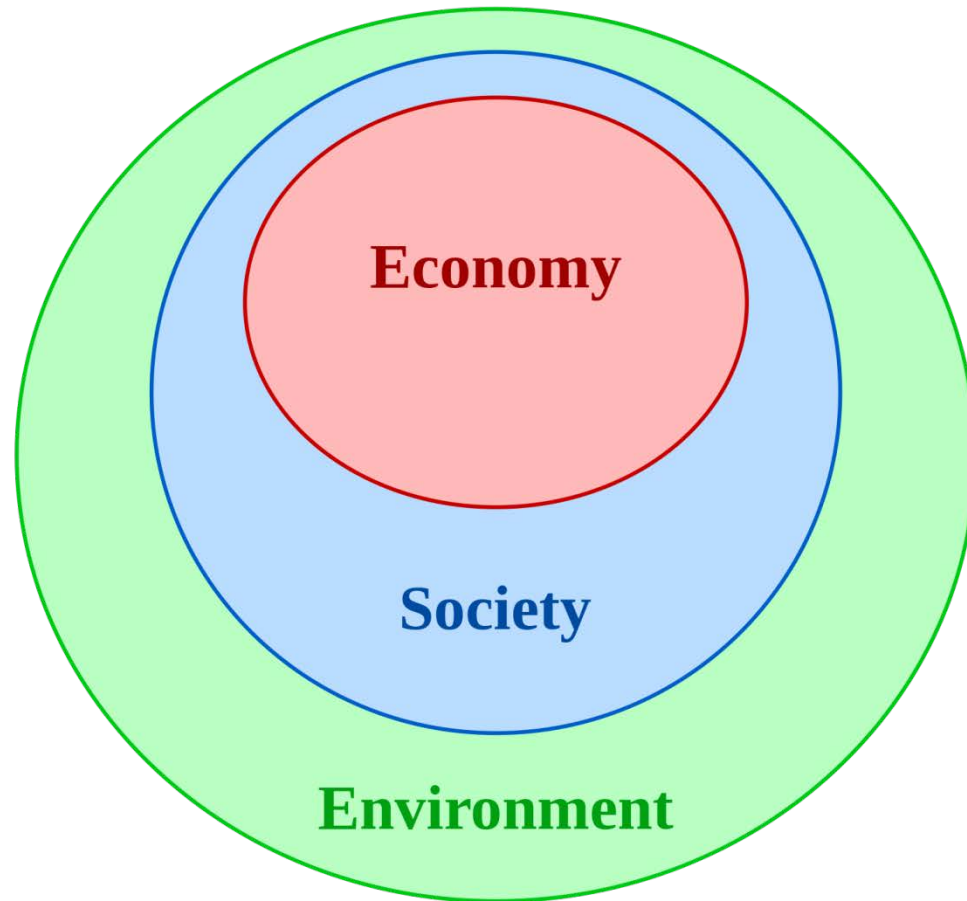
This produced 'Mickey Mouse' sustainability



And it hasn't stopped the destruction of the natural world



The solution – nested



Simple overview of GreenPrints

“All models are wrong, some models are useful”
(attributed to George Box)

The starting point

- ▶ Returning to our question: how can we create governance and legal systems that help us live within our ecological limits and support (not degrade) the living world
- ▶ A critical question then, is how (and where) do we set these limits? What scale?
- ▶ A useful starting point: bioregional ecological health, to set 'parameters' around human activities

What is a bioregion?

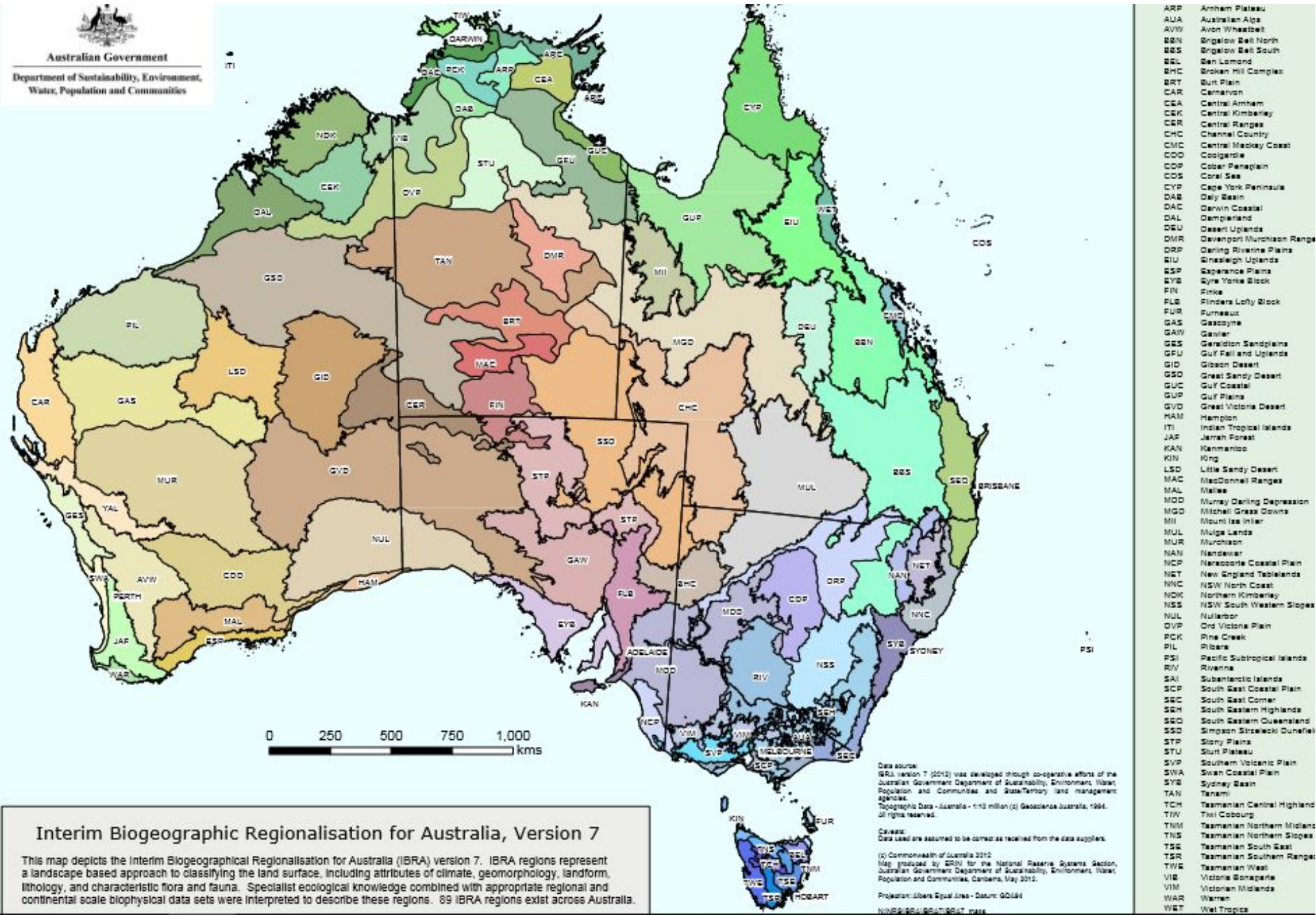
- ▶ a region defined by characteristics of the natural environment rather than by man-made divisions
- ▶ relatively large land areas characterised by broad, landscape-scale natural features and environmental processes that influence the functions of entire ecosystems.
 - These patterns in the landscape are linked to fauna and flora assemblages and processes at the ecosystem scale, thus providing a useful means for simplifying and reporting on more complex patterns of biodiversity.
 - (NSW Office of Environment and Heritage)

Australia has 89 bioregions



Australian Government

Department of Sustainability, Environment,
Water, Population and Communities



ARP	Annhem Plateau
AUA	Australian Alps
AVW	Avon Wheatbelt
BBN	Bingalow Belt North
BSB	Bingalow Belt South
BEL	Ben Lomond
BHC	Broken Hill Complex
BRT	Burt Plain
CAR	Carriacou
CEA	Central Arnhem
CEK	Central Kimberley
CER	Central Ranges
CHC	Channel Country
CNC	Central Mackay Coast
COO	Coolgardie
COP	Cobar Plateau
COS	Coral Sea
CYP	Cape York Peninsula
DAB	Daly Basin
DAC	Darwin Coastal
DAL	Dampierland
DEU	Desert Uplands
DMR	Devonport Murchison Ranges
DRP	Darling Riverina Plains
EUU	Essaigh Uplands
ESP	Esperance Plains
EYS	Eyre Yorke Block
FIN	Finkel
FLB	Flanders Lofy Block
FUR	Furneaux
GAS	Gascoyne
GAW	Gawler
GES	Gascoyne Sandplains
GFU	Gulf Fall and Uplands
GID	Gibson Desert
GSD	Great Sandy Desert
GUC	Gulf Plains
GUP	Gulf Coastal
GVD	Great Victoria Desert
HAM	Hampton
ITI	Indian Tropical Islands
JAP	Jarrah Forest
KAN	Kanmantoo
KIN	King
LSD	Little Sandy Desert
MAC	MacDonnell Ranges
MAL	Malles
MDD	Murray Darling Depression
MGO	Michell Grass Downs
MH	Mount Isa Inlier
MUL	Mulle Lunds
MUR	Murchison
NAN	Naracoorte
NCP	Naracoorte Coastal Plain
NET	New England Tablelands
NIN	NSW North Coast
NDK	Northern Kimberley
NSS	NSW South Western Slopes
NUL	Nullarbor
OVP	Ord Victoria Plain
PCK	Pine Creek
PIL	Ribiera
PSI	Pacific Subtropical Islands
RIV	Riverina
SAI	Subantarctic Islands
SCP	South East Coastal Plain
SEC	South East Corner
SEH	South Eastern Highlands
SSD	South Eastern Queensland
SSO	Simpson Strzelecki Dunefields
STP	Stony Plains
STU	Sturt Plateau
SVP	Southern Victoria Plain
SWA	Swain Coastal Plain
SYB	Sydney Basin
TAN	Tamam
TCH	Tasmanian Central Highlands
TIC	Timor
TNM	Tasmanian Northern Midlands
TNS	Tasmanian Northern Slopes
TSE	Tasmanian South East
TSR	Tasmanian Southern Ranges
TWE	Tasmanian West
VIE	Victoria Bonaparte
VIM	Victorian Midlands
WAR	Warren
WET	Wet Tropics

Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia, Version 7

This map depicts the Interim Biogeographical Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) version 7. IBRA regions represent a landscape based approach to classifying the land surface, including attributes of climate, geomorphology, landform, lithology, and characteristic flora and fauna. Specialist ecological knowledge combined with appropriate regional and continental scale biophysical data sets were interpreted to describe these regions. 89 IBRA regions exist across Australia.

Data source:
IBRA version 7 (2012) was developed through co-operative efforts of the
Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water,
Population and Communities and State/Territory land management
agencies.
Topographic Data - Australia - 1:10 million (© Geoscience Australia, 1998,
all rights reserved).

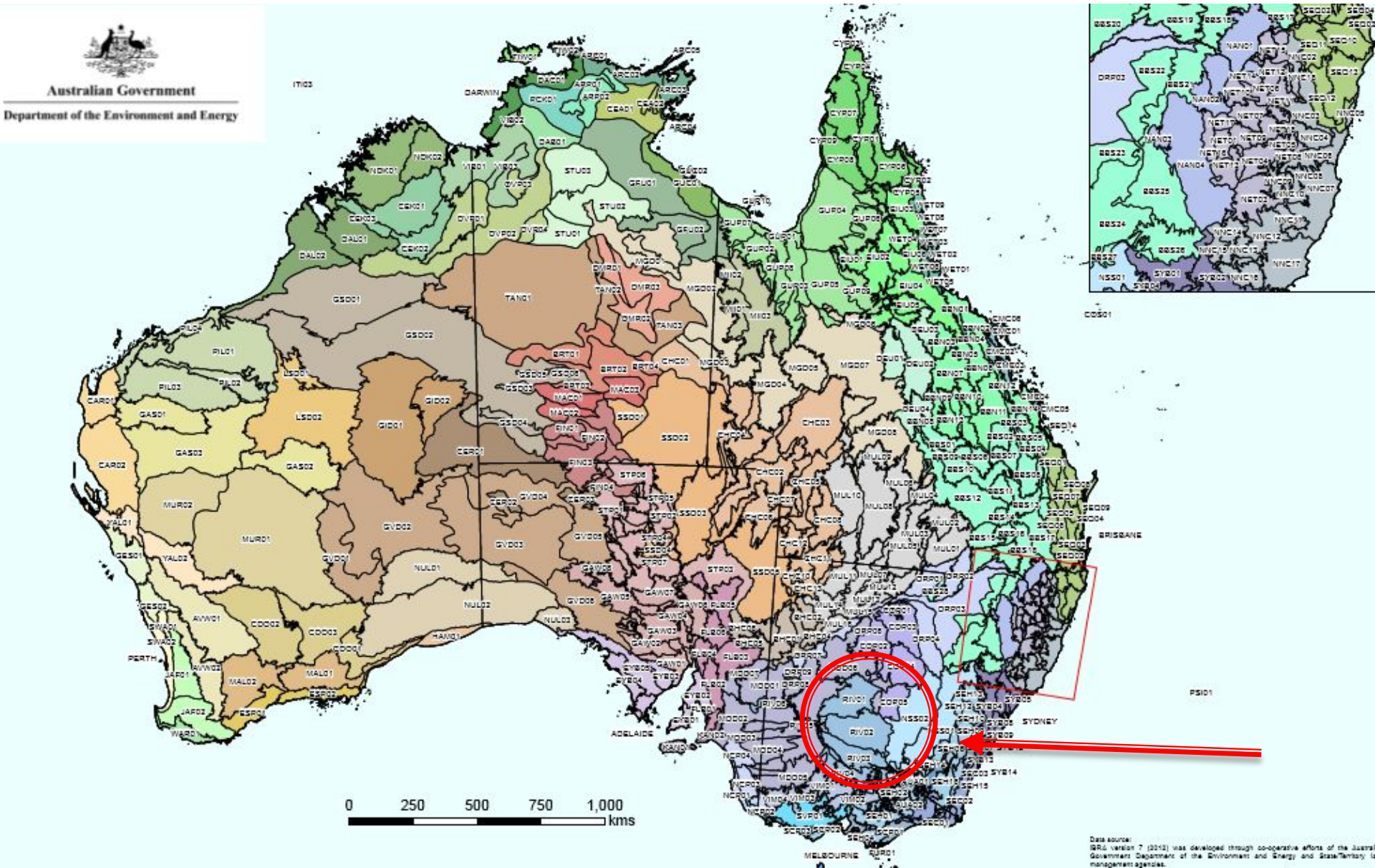
Caution:
Data used are assumed to be correct as notified from the data suppliers.

© Commonwealth of Australia 2012
Map produced by IBRA for the National Reserve Systems Section,
Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water,
Population and Communities, Canberra, May 2012.

Projection: UTM, Equal Area - Datum: GDA94

IBRA/ES/04/001/001/001/001

419 sub-regions



Example of GreenPrints method: getting to know your own bioregion (eg: Riverina)



1. Practicing
**ecocentric
thinking**

2. Connecting with
place/country

Starting with what we love

Home, place, country

Walking country

Maps, Arts, Creativity

Local knowledge

Connectedness

3. First Nations Peoples'
law, culture, history
contemporary work

What does bioregional ecological health look like *in this place*?



4. What does a healthy bioregion look like?

Need to engage with different knowledge systems

Indigenous knowledge
History
Natural sciences

Core issues

Waterways
Vegetation
Soils
Biodiversity

Scenarios for bioregional health



What does ecological health look like in this bioregion?

- Optimal
- Okay
- Unhealthy

Drawing in scenario planning experts, maps, artists

Nesting human society within a healthy bioregion

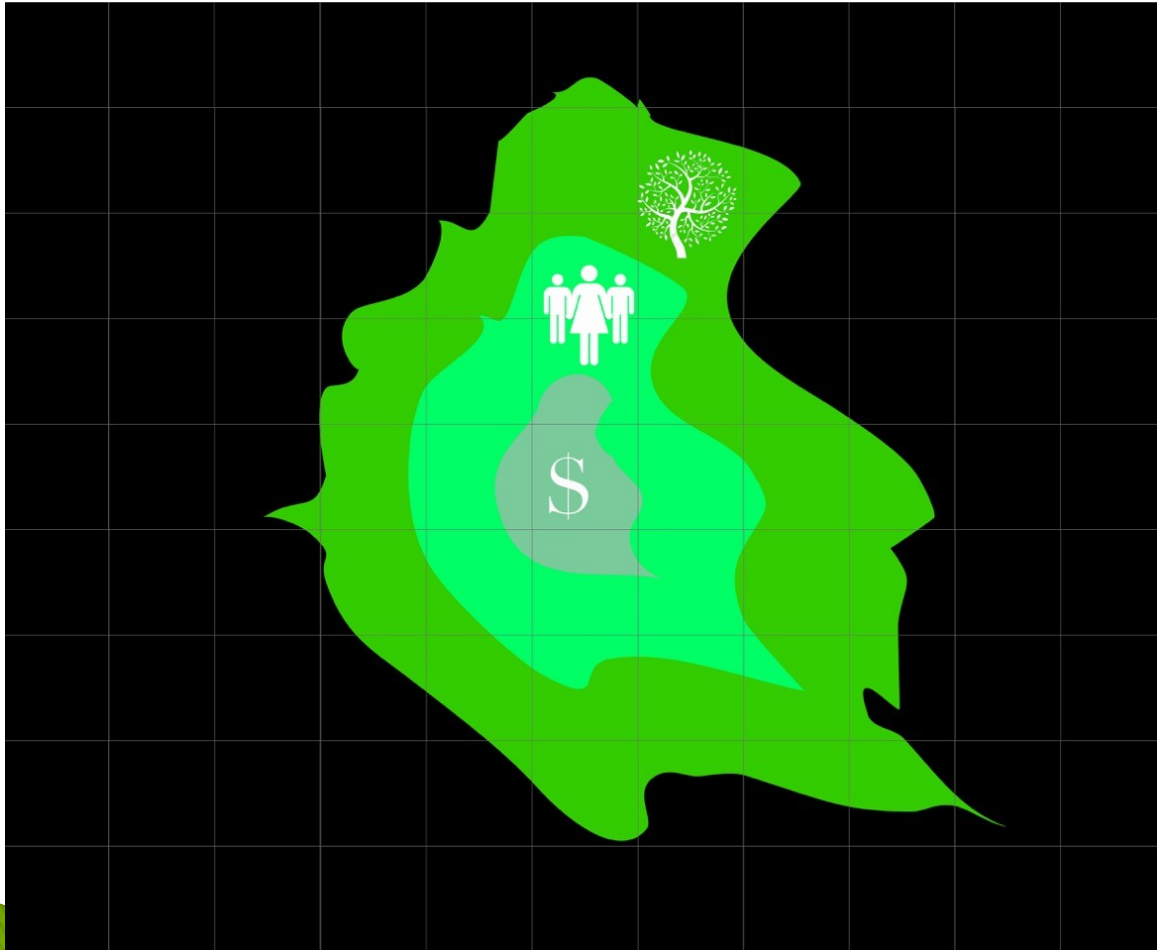


5. How much space is left for human activity in our different scenarios?

Questions about our values; our choices

Population
Consumption
Space
Lifestyle
Culture
Education
Human health
Redefining the good life

Create human economies that fit within social goals and eco-health



6. Economic activity

Steady State
Ecological economics
Regenerative economy

Questions

What does our
healthy bioregion
enable us to:
*grow, water, eat
cut down, import,
farm, hunt*

*And how do we
distribute it?*

Social justice

Bio-regional governance



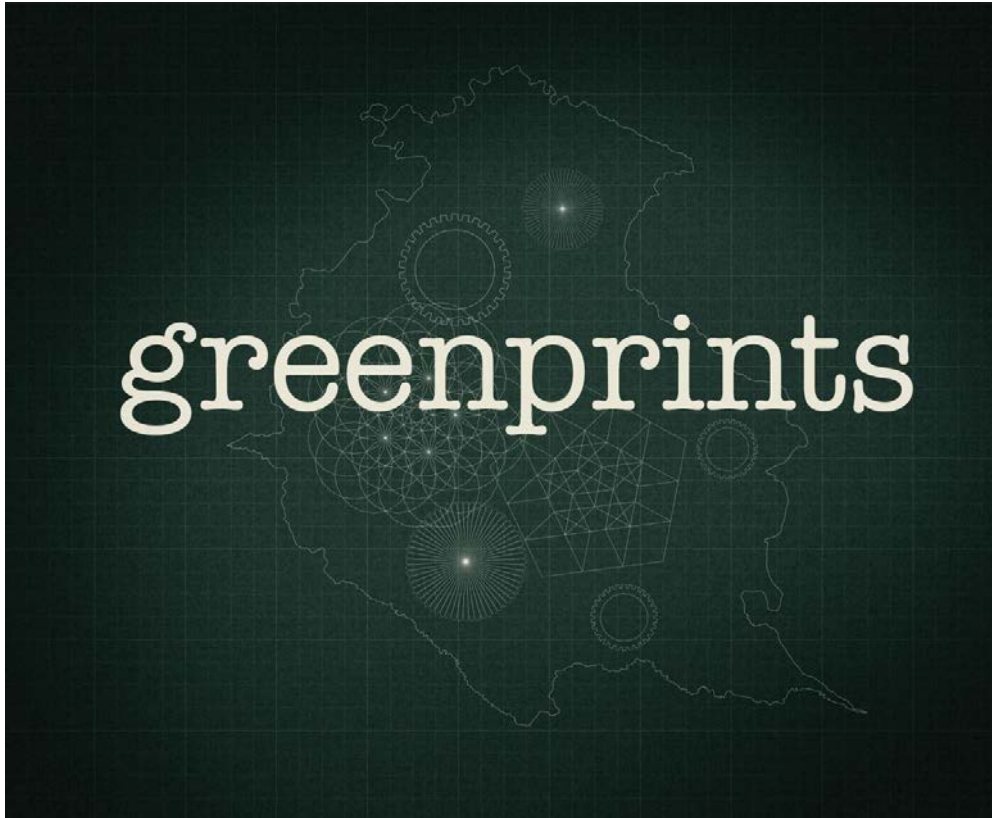
7. **‘Retrofitting’**
appropriate governance
→ laws, rules, ethics,
institutions

Questions

How do we enshrine
rules for healthy
bio-regions into new
governance?

How can we work within
existing local/state
jurisdictions but focus
on bioregional health

How do we connect bioregion
health with N.Parks,
protected area management
and so on



8 How do we make it all happen?

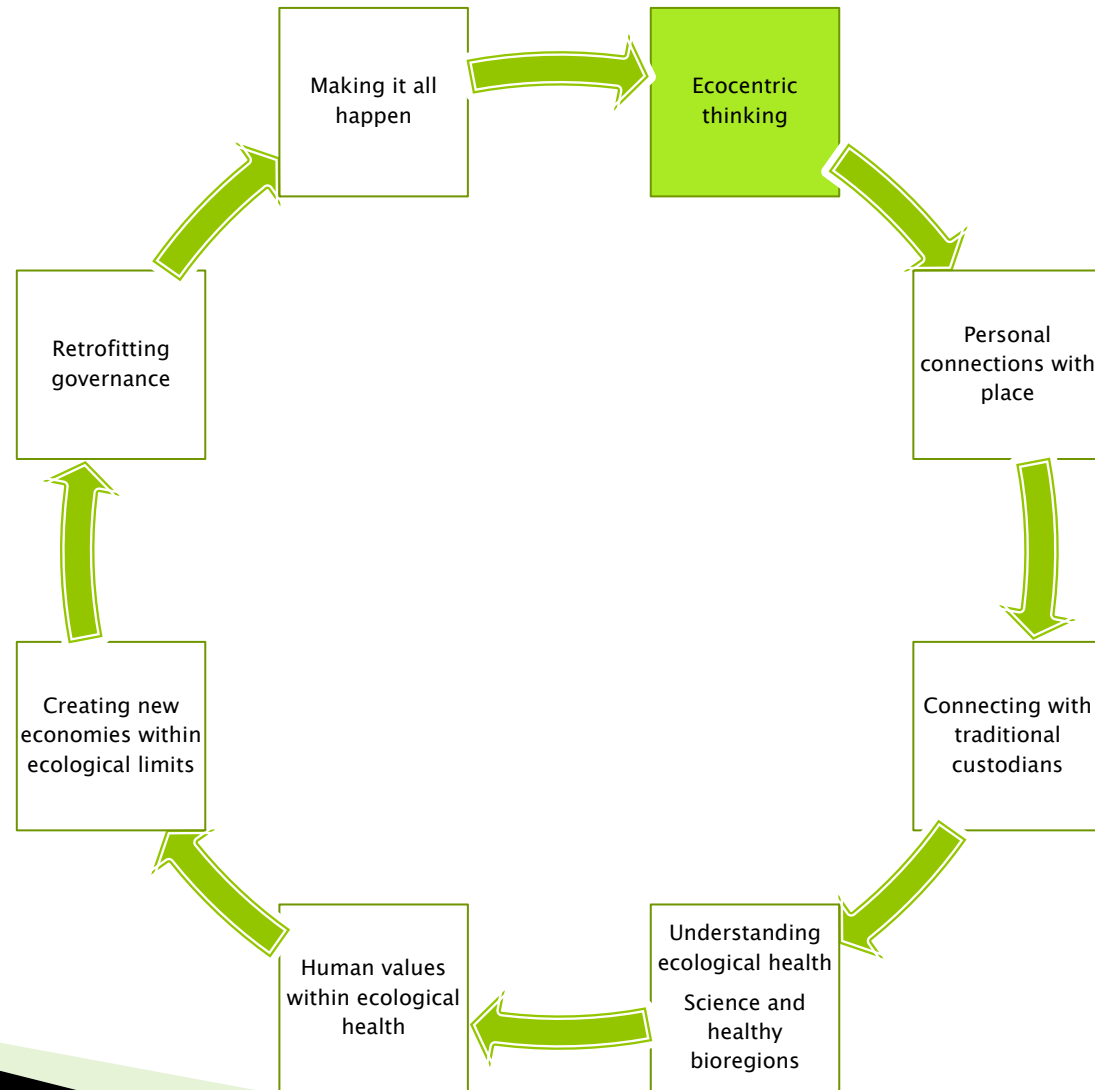
Need to start somewhere

People start from different places,
all flows together

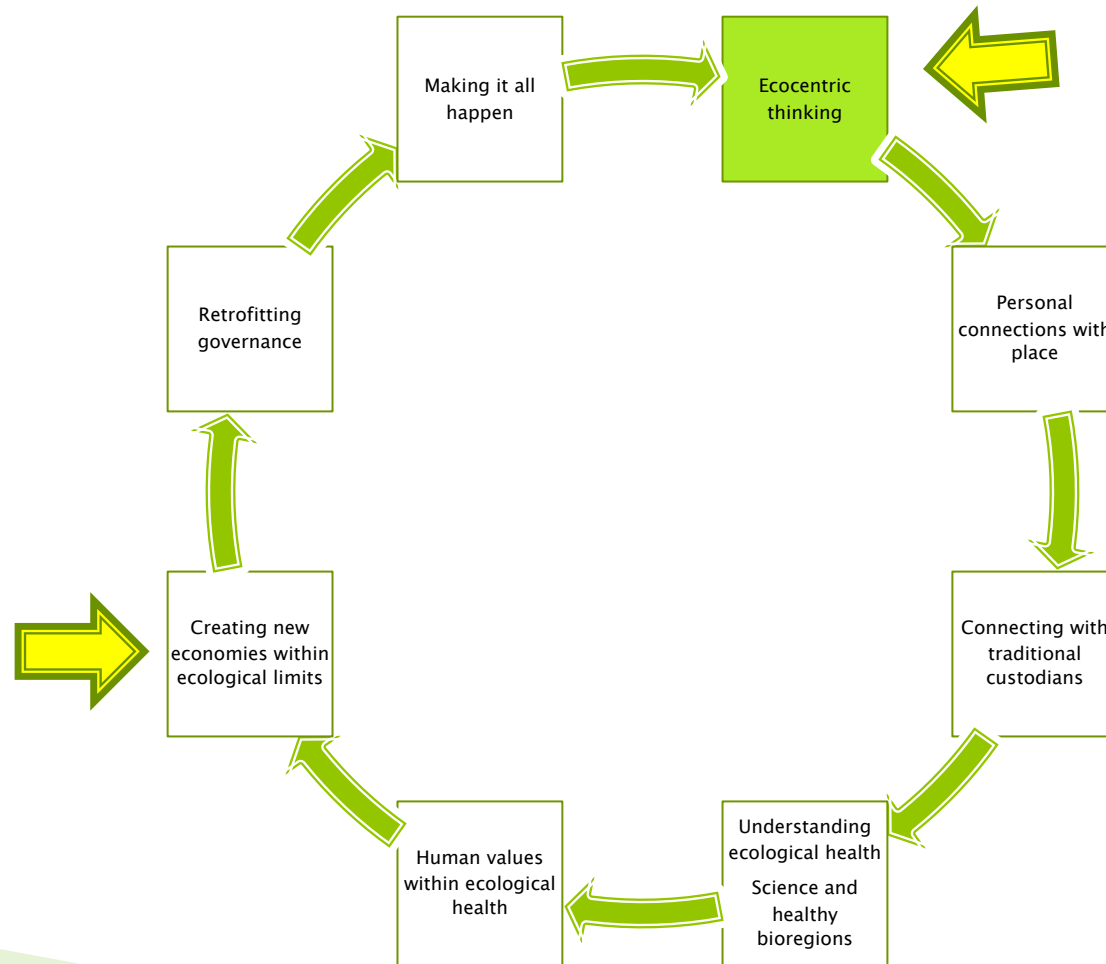
We can offer workshops/sessions/
mentoring:

- About ecocentrism
- Bioregional knowledge
- Connect with other initiatives
- Connect with existing NRM plans
- Map the scenarios
- Map the economic options
Identify the 'tweakables'
- Identify the governance, systems
and specific changes
- Identify advocacy and campaign
work

GreenPrints as a pathway



Can engage and begin



Invitation to get involved in GreenPrints

- ▶ Critique
- ▶ Comment
- ▶ Suggest
- ▶ Join up
- ▶ Tell others
- ▶ (give money 😊)

- ▶ convenor@earthlaws.org.au
- ▶ Thank you!

Thank you for your time 😊

- ▶ Dr Michelle Maloney
- ▶ convenor@earthlaws.org.au

- ▶ AELA
- ▶ www.earthlaws.org.au
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