



Wellbeing indicators for the Northern Territory

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NORTHERN
INSTITUTE
People. Policy. Place.

PhD topic

A model of social and cultural impact assessment that delivers socially, culturally, economically and ecologically sustainable development of Northern Australia.



Wellbeing

“The capability of people to lead lives they have reason to value” (Sen)









Indicators

How we measure the dimensions of wellbeing

Measuring wellbeing

Multidimensional and interdisciplinary



Examples	Objective indicators	Subjective indicators
Method	Quantitative: count	Qualitative: listen – data from people
Population	Where do you come from? 	Where do you call home? 
Houses	How many houses here? 	Quality, suitability, affordability of houses 
Jobs	How many jobs? 	Job satisfaction, inclusiveness, stability 
Economic	GDP 	How are economic benefits and costs distributed? What livelihoods are valued? 

City of Sydney 2030

How Sydney is faring as a society is just as important as economic metrics (an urban example).

Community wellbeing	Measures
Healthy, safe and inclusive communities	Eg standard of living, life expectancy and self-reported health, personal relationships, feeling safe
Culturally rich and vibrant communities	Participation in arts and creative industries
Democratic and engaged communities	Opportunity to have a say, be involved in decisions, satisfaction with democracy
Dynamic and resilient local economies	Economic prosperity and diversity, employment, workforce skills and productivity
Sustainable environments	Air quality, transport, noise, waste

Cultural perspectives

(Ruby Creek, BC Canada)



‘Valued components’ for environmental impact study: from two perspectives:

Impact assessment study team	First Nations did their own study
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• community structure and dynamics• employment and economy• education and training• mixed economy• infrastructure• transportation• tourism• heritage resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• wellbeing (less time for land-based activities, increased reliance on commercial foods)• culture (eg break down of sharing values, unable to exercise stewardship, pass on knowledge)• stable and healthy community (conflict with new arrivals, disparity of incomes)• community infrastructure (capacity)• capacity to realise project-related positive impacts (lack of education, inability to adapt to structured schedules of workplaces)



New Zealand

- NZ General Social Survey, every two years
- Living Standards Framework: “Our People, Our Country, Our Future” (New Zealand Treasury 2018)
- To assess the impact of government policies on the wellbeing of New Zealanders
- Recognises a diversity of beliefs, assumptions, values and ideas that shape New Zealanders’ view of the world.
- Draws on UN Human Development Index (since 1990); OECD How’s Life (quality of life focus)

NZ - Current wellbeing

Civic engagement and governance

Cultural identity

Environment – natural and physical

Health (mental and physical)

Housing (quality, suitability and affordability)

Income and consumption (disposable income and material possessions)

Jobs and earnings (satisfaction, quality, stability, inclusiveness)

Knowledge and skills

Safety and security

Social connections (social support network)

Subjective wellbeing (overall life satisfaction)

Time use (quality and quantity of leisure time)



NZ - Future wellbeing

Natural capital

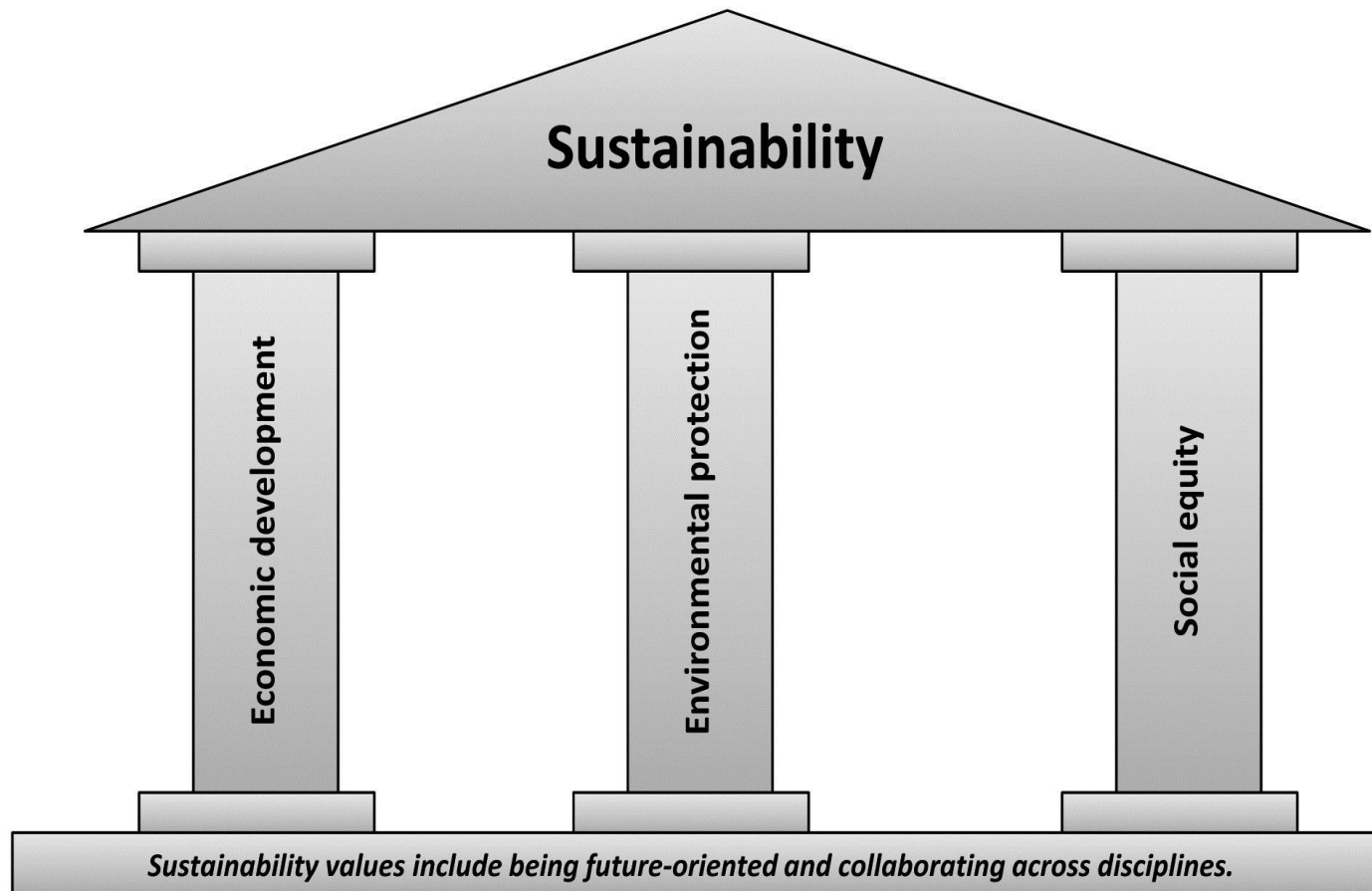
Social capital

Human capital

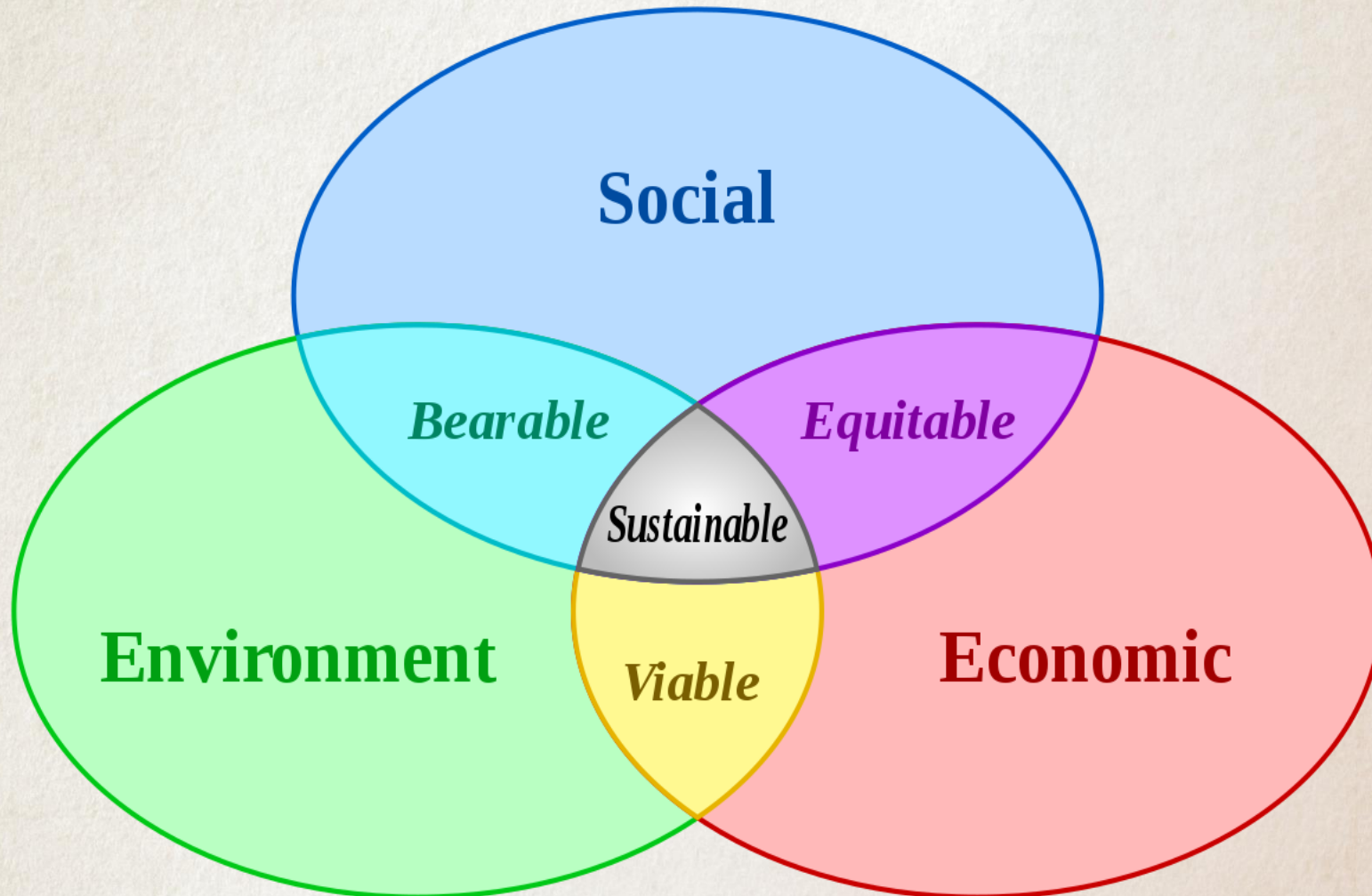
Financial and physical

<https://treasury.govt.nz/information-and-services/nz-economy/higher-living-standards/our-living-standards-framework>

Sustainability – three pillars



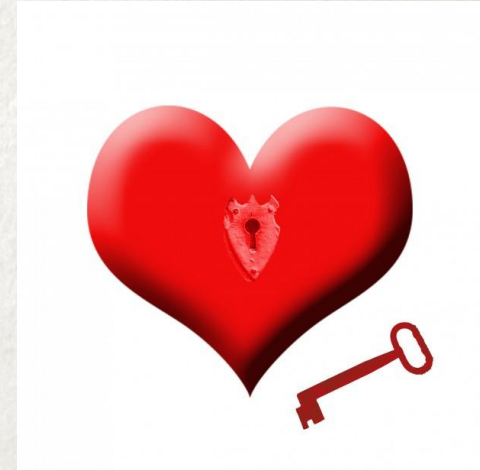
Sustainability - integrated



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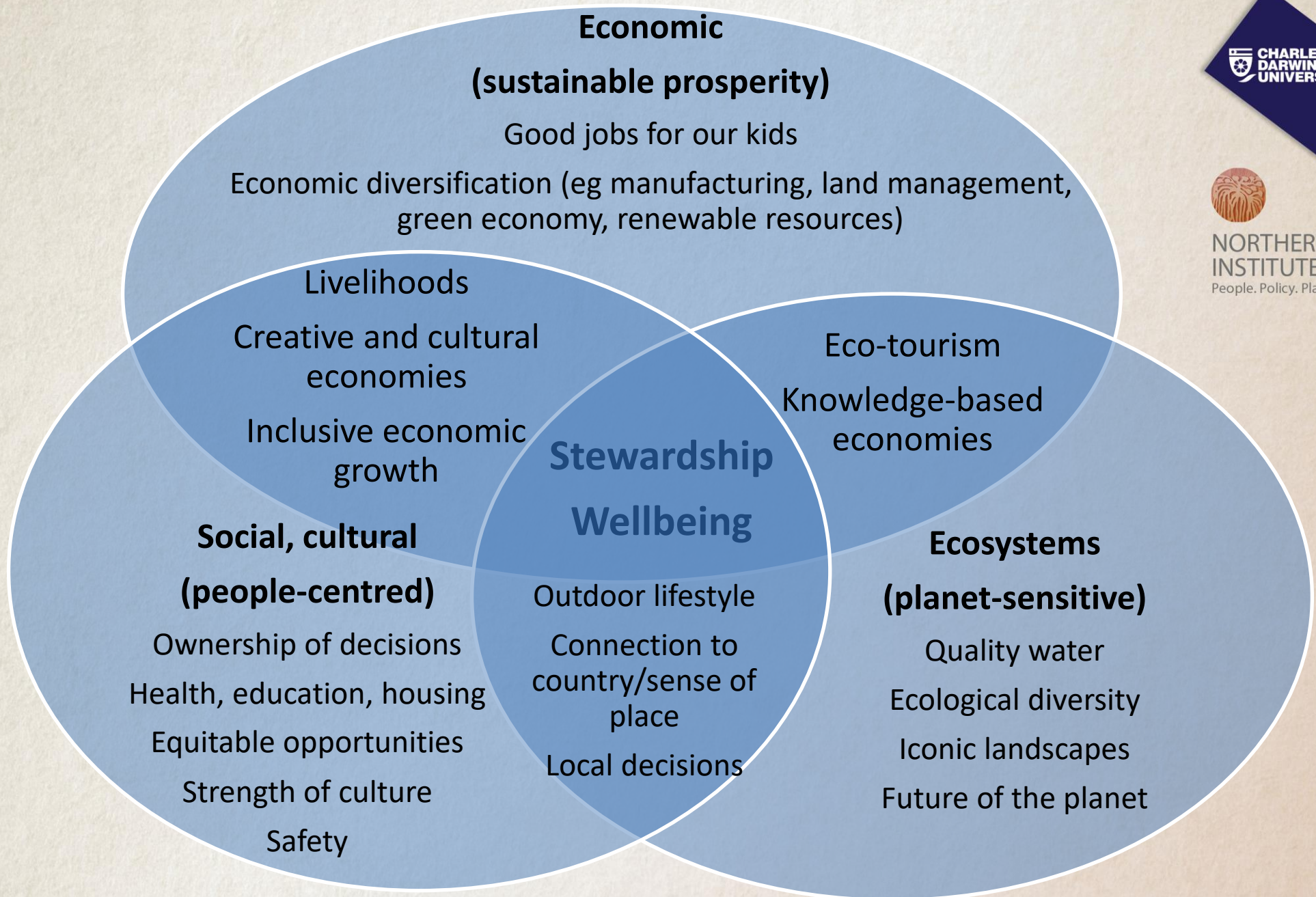
Values

- Psychological, internal
- attitudes and beliefs
- underlie our positions
- determine what we will fight to defend

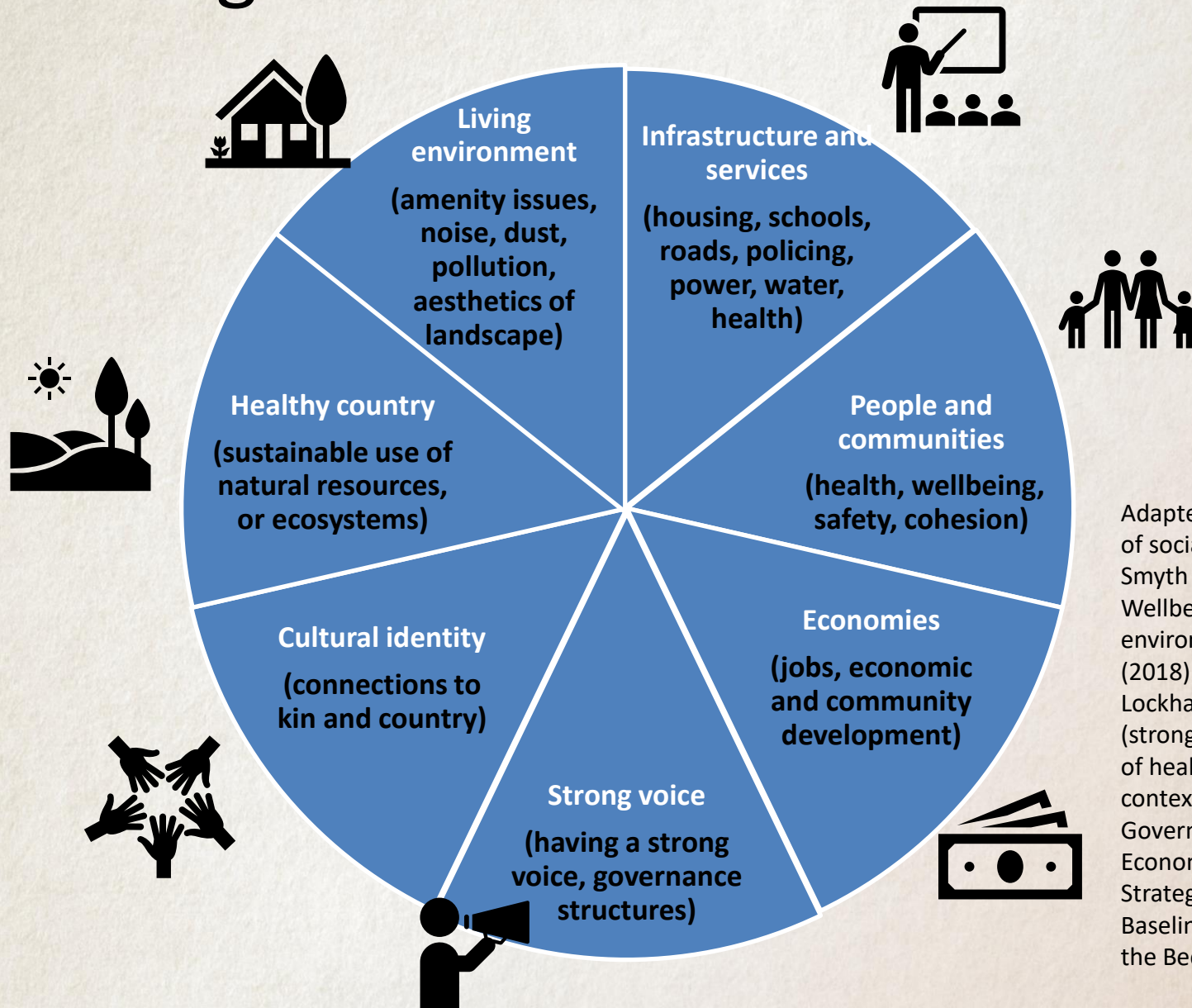


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An integrated framework



Adapted from Vanclay's dimensions of social impacts (2003). Draws on Smyth & Vanclay's (2017) Social Wellbeing Framework for living environment; NZ Living Standards (2018) for cultural identity; Blishen-Lockhart 1979 for political efficacy (strong voice); and general concept of healthy country to suit NT context. Developed 2019 for NT Government's Social, Cultural and Economic Guidance Note for Strategic Regional Environment and Baseline Assessment (SREBA) for the Beetaloo Basin.

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