

towards 2060

think of the possibilities



A record of Design the Future workshops held on 15, 22, and 29 April, 2010

BOTANY

Design the
future



Compiled by Valerie Proud on behalf of the Mangere community, as a record of Design the Future workshops held on the evenings of 15, 22, and 29 April, 2010.

To access the flipcharts and photos of this and other Design the Future Workshops go to www.towards2060.org.nz/outputs/

Background information used in the design of these workshops can also be found on the Towards 2060 website.

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Introduction to Towards 2060

Towards 2060 is a project for the communities of Manukau, facilitated by Manukau City Council, on behalf of its Tomorrow's Manukau partnership, working with community boards.

Through facilitated community workshops called Design the Future, Towards 2060 aims to inform, stimulate and provoke discussion within a community about the long term future; the community's future. The conversation considers: opportunities for social and economic development which recognise the finite nature of global and local natural resources; how to incorporate changes in demographics and technologies; and how consideration of these issues can be incorporated into the planning of local communities.

Ideally the conversations are part of an on-going discussion which continues to examine significant drivers of change, and their potential effects. It is anticipated that these conversations will trigger individual and collective actions to develop living patterns which are sustainable in the longer term.

Towards 2060 was originally intended to be part of the legislated review of community outcomes. With the impending changes to Auckland governance and potential amendments to the Local Government Act (2002) the original purpose of the project has taken a lower profile. However, given this change of governance, now is a good time for communities to consider their own future so that they can better articulate their collective view to the Auckland Council and Local Boards.

In the meantime, the output of the workshops will be available for the policy development of Community Boards, Council and Tomorrow's Manukau partners, to enable them to support community aspirations. It is stressed however that we can only put that information forward; at this stage there can be no certainty it will be used.

It is commonly stated that we can't predict the future. While that is the case, we can look at future trends, including mega-trends which will impact from global to local scales. We know for example that oil is a finite resource and that even the most optimistic reports consider that demand will outstrip supply within a couple of decades. The majority of reports signal a much shorter timeframe. That one change alone will have a dramatic impact on our

social and economic fabric. The real unknown is not that oil will become less readily available as production declines but how we as individuals, communities and nations will respond.

That's the core purpose of the conversations - to consider the future while recognising that our resource base and climate are changing. This will allow us to be proactive in addressing those challenges, building more flexibility and resilience into our lifestyles and becoming less dependent on many of the commodities and services we now take for granted. Opportunities will emerge through that process, often with a localised flavour, to enhance the community and economy.

These conversations are happening in many parts of the world between people and their governments, using a framework known as *The Natural Step* (TNS) - see Appendix A for details of this framework, and the tools used. The communities of Manukau are now a part of that global network.

The Botany Community

The Botany community sits within the Botany-Clevedon Ward, which was subject to boundary changes in the recent past. It is bounded to the East by Point View Drive and the Redoubt Hills ridge through to Mill Road, and the Highbrook Business Park and Greenmount East Tamaki industrial areas to the west. It includes older urban centres such as Meadowlands, relatively new centres like Botany Town Centre and Botany Junction, and more recently, Flat Bush.

The Botany area was originally occupied by Nga Iwi, Te Wai o Hua, and later Aki Tai and Ngati Kahu. More recently Ngai Tai occupy this area. European settlement began in the 1850s with the farming of mainly oats, hay and wheat. It was not until the late 1970s that residential housing spread into the area. More recently there has been extensive residential development.

Botany is centrally located, close to amenities, shopping, parks, good schools, including primary schools, Junior and Senior Colleges and High Schools, reserves, beaches and the countryside.

This growing community is one predicted to develop and intensify further. Part of Howick Ward up until 2004, the Botany community has experienced extreme growth, with its population more than trebling over the past decade, to 31,263. The majority of Botany residents are European (46%) and Asian

(42%), with the rest of the population consisting of 5% Maori, 4% Pacific Peoples and 3% Middle Eastern/Latin American/African ethnic groups – higher than that of any Ward in Manukau city.

Two thirds of households are families with children and nearly a third of households earn more than \$100,000 making their median household income of \$79,300, the highest in Manukau City. Botany also has a lower than average percentage of rental homes.

While 14% of the labour force had gained no formal qualifications, 19% held degrees or higher qualifications (2006 Census). The industries which employed the most Botany residents are Manufacturing and Wholesale/Retail Trade, with 32% of adults employed in these, and most of the remainder employed over a range of professional, technical and other services. (Source NZ Statistics, 2006 Census).

Community Advocacy Plan

Botany's current community advocacy plan captures information on priorities produced through various planning processes. Due to be updated this year, the Botany advocacy plan will be made available as an input into Local Board Plans of the new Auckland Council.

The Towards 2060 workshop output can be used by the Community Board to set a longer-term vision which the Advocacy Plan can in part address.

Towards 2060 conversations and TNS tools can assist in helping the community consider the long-term future of the area.

Botany Community Map



Figure 1: the Botany Community

Workshop Outline

This report captures the discussions at a series of three evening Design the Future workshops held in Botany in April 2010.

The first evening focused on major factors which will shape the future of Botany for the next fifty years, such as global population trends, resource availability and environmental pressures. Those present also discussed their current 'wish-list' for their community, as a beginning of a visioning process.

Subsequent evenings explored the longer term context further by providing information on future trends, through a combination of presentations, discussion and video. Participants were asked to consider how that information would relate to Botany, and what actions might be required to achieve the sort of vision they had for Botany's future.

Workshop Output

Current Big Issues for Botany

Initially, the group identified the following current issues or concerns:

- Rapid growth, and a diverse population, meaning people don't really know each other
- A desire to maintain a rural feel and open space in Flat Bush
- Widely diverging views in the community, which is leading to separation and divisions among groups
- A concern that community isn't sufficiently involved in key decisions that impact it, and has little ownership as a result
- Crime and safety issues, and socio-economic disparities.



Figure 2 - Botany Workshop Participants

Needs for the Sustainable Future of Botany

The group made an initial list of what it would want for Botany into the future. While there are many ways this 'wish-list' for Botany could be analysed, the elements align reasonably well to nine fundamental human needs identified by the research of Max Neef (see Appendix A), as follows:

Subsistence / Shelter

Mixed housing for age, culture, wealth, life stages, size

Everyone with access to sufficient water - capture own water

More local food production - trees for food

More solar power and wind (renewable energy) and better use of resources - less waste, more recycling

Protection

Crime free and safe community

Efficient public transport network, less reliance on cars - road, sea, rail, air - affordable, accessible, actively encouraged, with safe walking and cycling routes

Participation

Maximise opportunities for community involvement / exchange.

Community-designed communities

Greater community involvement in decision-making, and sense of ownership

Leisure / Recreation / 'Idleness'

Green Belt around Flat Bush [for food and recreation]

Maintain rural feel and open space

Development of the Flat Bush Town Centre facilities as community meeting and recreation spaces (social and cultural)

Affection

Acknowledging and celebrating differences

Understanding

A community that knows each other

Integrated community - 'we are all kiwis together'

Creativity

An Art centre for all people and all arts

Facilities to educate and stretch everyone

An abundance of neutral community facilities

Identity

Diversity, involving all ages and populations

Integrated community - we are all kiwis together

Freedom [assuming an economic interpretation of this need]

Balance, across socio-economic sectors / groups, with more local jobs

Efficient planning / speedy consent processes

Equal access to a wide range of education, employment, social and cultural opportunities

The group were shown some videos of key global challenges for future development such as population growth, diminishing resource availability and climate changes. One in particular demonstrates the high rate of global population growth in the last 100 years, to its current level of 6.5 billion and still climbing. <http://www.towards2060.org.nz/world-population-growth/>.

There was discussion of how we might need to adapt our lifestyles to make lesser demands from our energy resources; participants were then introduced to some of the Natural Step (TNS) tools, such as the Funnel, as a means of arriving at a shared view of what it takes to achieve a sustainable future.

When the Funnel is applied to the issues raised by the group, the following pattern emerges for Botany:

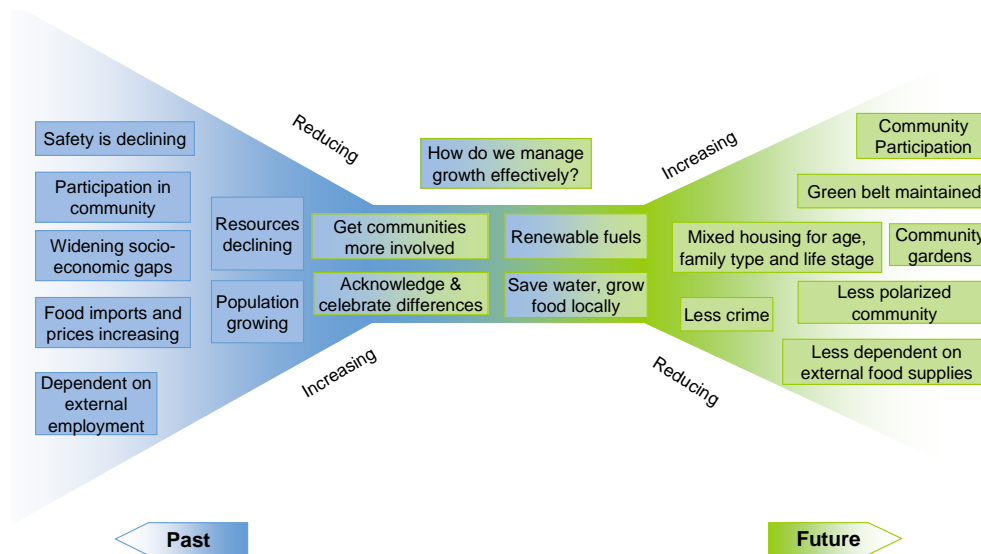


Figure 3 - Applying the Sustainability Funnel to Botany

Key Visionary Statements

The group noted that its ideal vision of Botany's long-term future would need to be shared and inspiring, and would include the following aspects:

An integrated community that knows each other

A crime free and safe community that maximises opportunities for involvement, and celebrates all cultures and ages. 'Community-

designed', with more local jobs, and a better balance across socio-economic sectors and groups.

Facilities

Abundant and 'neutral' facilities to educate and stretch everyone, including an Art Centre for all people, and all arts.

Safe to get around

Safe walking and biking routes, and an affordable, accessible public transport network, less reliance on cars

Mixed housing

Sized and designed to suit mixed ages, cultures, levels of wealth and different life stages.

Sustainable

Green spaces, community gardens, with a green belt around Flatbush to maintain the rural feel and open space. Community gardens with more local food production, including food trees.

More renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind, Better use and recycling of resources, and less waste.

The group were shown some international examples of how other communities have addressed issues of sustainability, including the Transition Towns movement [<http://www.transitiontowns.org.nz/>], and Whistler's energy vision [<http://www.towards2060.org.nz/whistler/>].

The group then applied another TNS tool, the four system conditions, to their previous work, to test for sustainability, taking the Economy, Society and the Environment into consideration. This was further refined into the following four statements:

What Botany would be like in 2060

- 1 We have designed a living environment that makes the least impact on finite resources
- 2 We have homes, businesses and services which no longer contribute toxic substances that degrade our environment

- 3 We have pristine clean waterways that everyone can enjoy, and our air quality is the best in the world
- 4 All Botany residents are highly skilled, educated, healthy and feel valued and part of the wider community. They have a fierce sense of pride in the community.

Backcasting and milestones

Applying the TNS principle of backcasting from a positive vision, the group identified milestones, which if achieved, would indicate that the Botany community was on target to move towards its 2060 aspirations. The group imagined a future news report from the year 2030. A small sample of 'headlines' from this were:

- 'Celebrating the benefits of 15 years of the Botany Community Centre'
- 'Botany takes the International environmental award again for its expanding green spaces'
- '90% voter turnout in local referenda'
- 'Only one bag of rubbish, from all Botany schools'
- '80% of Botany residents prefer to rent, rather than own their own homes'
- 'Botany achieves world-high literacy statistics'
- '60% of residents now work in Botany/East Tamaki'

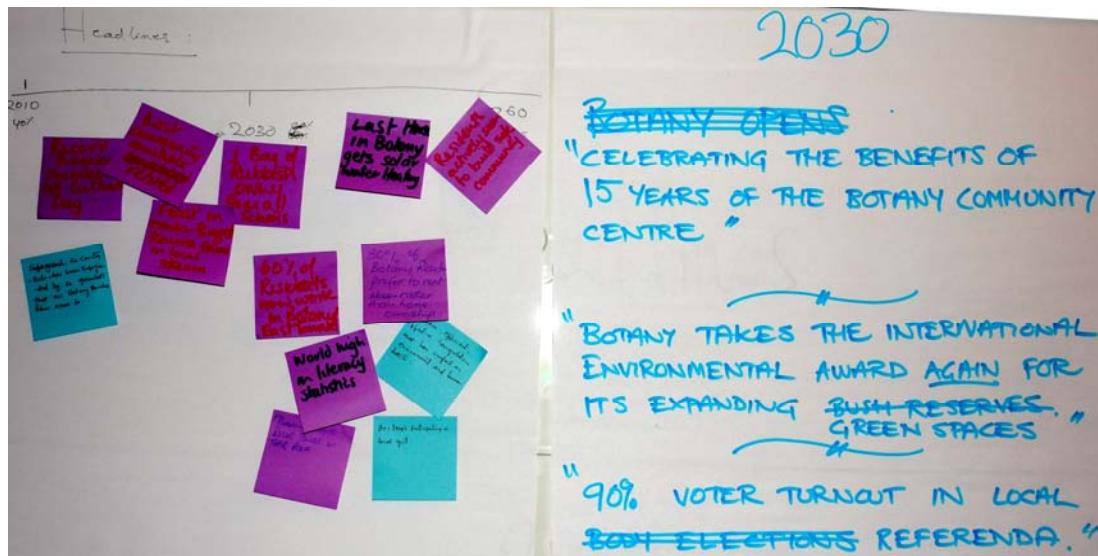


Figure 4 - An exercise in defining milestones towards a vision for Botany

Actions

Again, backcasting from these milestones, the group discussed more immediate actions (to be undertaken in the next 1-3 years), which could include the following:

- Promote vision of expanding green spaces to organisations and individuals
- Find and support champions and captains of the ongoing actions
- Teach civic engagement in schools - experiential, and taught by community representatives
- Foster more events in public spaces, including cultural events and festivals
- Ensure that the immediate development of the Flat Bush Town Centre as a community hub is recognised by council as non negotiable. Support this by encouraging submissions to annual and long-term council plans.
- Botany Community Action Network to invite Towards 2060 Design the Future team to conversations around these next steps
- Community Board also to invite Towards 2060 Design the Future team to conversations around these next steps.

What could be some immediate first steps?

It was agreed the community needed to determine its own priorities. The group acknowledged this workshop as a beginning, and that further discussions will be needed to progress towards a more sustainable future.

First steps could include:

Engaging more widely with the community about what's been discussed already

Forming a group to consider what the priorities might be to advance this work.

Closing Circle



Figure 5: Closing Circle

The workshop closed with a discussion of possible next steps, whether as a community, through organisations or as individual family members.

Participants reflected on the process and the conversations, and here is a sample of comments made:

I've been impressed with what's happened and learned a lot myself.

I've really enjoyed it - we've got a long way to go, but we've got to do it quickly.

The whole 2060 is awesome - I would like to be part of this project for a long time.

It's been a good experience looking into the future; I really hope our children and grandchildren have a happy and safe future.

You could change the world by looking at yourself and thinking about how you can do that in your own life.

I was impressed by the way [the facilitators] listened well - fairly unusual in any organisation.

I have an ongoing concern about how effective this group can be, and I'm interested in where to from now - I guess time will tell.

We have to invent the future, and not simply react to something within present constraints.

Implications for Families, Community and Organisations

Creating a sense of Community

Botany is relatively new; relationships are still developing, and it takes time to build a sense of community. Nevertheless, there was a clear sense from participants that the people of Botany want a greater sense of civic engagement. They want a greater role in defining and making decisions that impact the community, and want to participate in general activities which support the building of their community.

There were frequent comments about Botany's diversity, and the need for mechanisms to include all cultures and groups within the community. They were keen to take part in two-way sharing of information with agencies and other organisations that serve them. This includes but extends beyond simple engagement in the processes of local government, and would require the active support of council and other organisations.

Provision of open neutral spaces where people can come together, regardless of their cultural, ethnic or spiritual backgrounds and beliefs would also foster the development of a more cohesive community.

Housing

There was comment on the need for a greater range and better design of housing to accommodate the varying needs of diverse households. Most

existing houses are large and multi-storey, on small sections. A wider range would cater to the needs of different ages, life-cycle stage and life-styles, including some smaller houses, and more space for community gardens and the like.

Education and training that works for the *whole* community

There was emphasis on the need for education to improve access for all members, so that future citizens are highly educated and skilled - Botany cannot afford to leave any body out.

Transport and the economy

There was a call for more access to public transport, particularly in the face of diminishing fuel supplies, but also, a recognition that more local employment would diminish the need for commuting beyond the local area. Participants are eager to explore how the local economy could be boosted to support this.

Sustainability

There was a call for local government to incentivise better building design and service delivery to encourage sustainable practice, whether through energy saving measures or for local food production. Retention and creation of open space for food and renewable-energy production needs to be supported, through mechanisms such as a green belt, to prevent further loss of open space. The participants felt that reduction of waste and better use of resources are vital for the future of Botany.

These few examples simply highlight the potential for other organisations to respond to the needs of Botany residents; further planning exercises will be required in the future to clarify Botany communities' priorities for action.

Facilitators' Perspective

Numbers at the Botany workshops were relatively low, and timing may have contributed to this. As many Botany residents work outside the Botany area, the 5.30 pm start may have been too early for those who had to battle against traffic to get there. Nevertheless, although this Botany group was small, they were enthusiastic participants in the Toward 2060 process, and most are keen to continue these conversations into the future, involving the wider community and with a focus on action.

The process was re-shaped to suit the needs of the participating community members, which meant that the initial elements of a vision were created without first having agreed a common understanding of sustainability. Some individuals already had a keen awareness of some of the future challenges and what actions may be needed; others understood the need for sustainable responses, but had less grounding in the nature of those challenges. However, over the course of the three evenings, the group did arrive at a shared appreciation of both the challenges and conditions that define sustainability.

Participants were keen to understand how this Towards 2060 process would influence the planning of all organisations, whose work impacts their community. Indeed, a number of the group have expressed an interest in continuing this work further, and would appreciate ongoing support to do so.

Summing up in the words of one participant,

“We need to commit ourselves to make a strong foundation for a sustainable future”.

Appendix A: The Natural Step

Towards 2060 chose *The Natural Step* (TNS) as a framework for considering and achieving a shared understanding of what sustainable development means. While elements of TNS are common to other strategic planning frameworks, TNS deals specifically with sustainable development. It is used extensively by communities and businesses in many countries. Founded in Sweden 20 years ago, it has stood the test of time and formed an international network of accredited practitioners, a small group of whom are based in New Zealand, and are part of Towards 2060.

The TNS framework is based on thinking about the “whole system” or “big picture” before focusing down on a strategy or plan of action. It progresses through a series of five levels to help prioritise actions and ways of assessing their success. A system can be anything from an individual’s lifestyle to a nation’s long-term strategy.

Games like *Zoom* help us visualise a system and the importance of understanding inter-relationships of components within the system. The emphasis is on ensuring the broader context of a problem is fully understood so that in solving one problem, there isn’t an unintended negative impact elsewhere in the system. Considering the whole also helps us put some of the tools for sustainability into perspective. In seeking a solution to a problem, we avoid using tools that are less than optimal for the whole system.

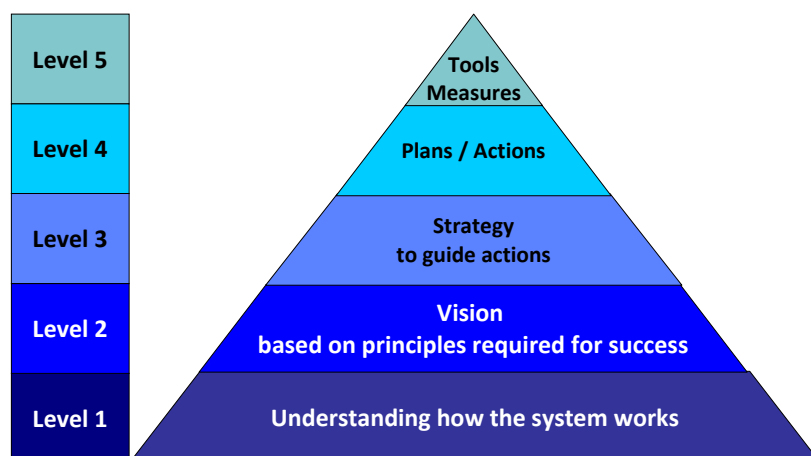


Figure 6 - Five level framework, developing from big picture to measuring success

TNS has also developed *system conditions*, “objectives”, which, if followed, will ensure that the direction of development is sustainable. System

conditions particularly fit in level 2 above but can then be applied to guide strategies and actions. The conditions define what is required to achieve a “sustainable world”. They provide a checklist for development and can be used in any planning context to help analyse and prioritise choices. With current technologies and options available to us, the way forward may not fully satisfy all the conditions but still be the best choice at the present time.

Conditions for Sustainability

WHAT WE TAKE

Continually reduce and eliminate our dependence on mined metals, minerals and fossil fuels - *extract less, reuse, recycle, use renewable resources*

WHAT WE MAKE

Continually reduce and eliminate our use of manufactured non-degradable chemicals and substances - *use natural alternatives and recyclable materials*

WHAT WE DESTROY

Continually reduce and eliminate our dependence on activities that cause physical encroachment upon the natural environment - *draw resources from sustainably managed eco-systems, restore nature, protect biodiversity*

HOW WE SHARE

Ensure that people everywhere are treated fairly and with respect to enable them to meet their needs efficiently – *look after people, share resources fairly*

Figure 7 - Sustainability conditions to assist in planning processes

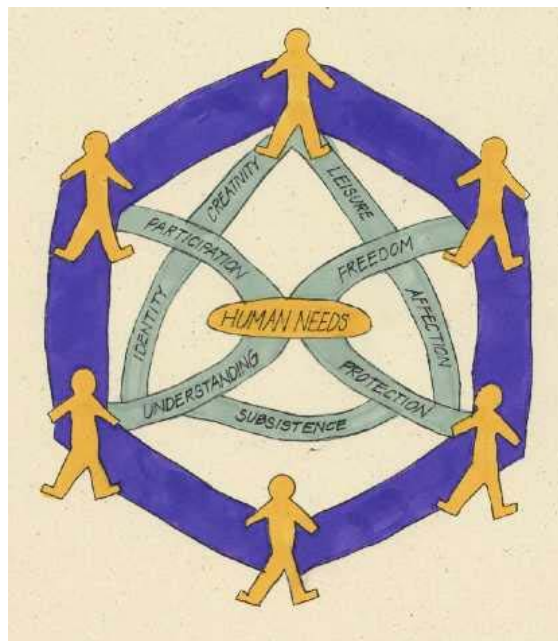


Figure 8 - Fundamental human needs as identified by the research of Max Neef

The conversation around the system conditions can be expanded by considering what contributes to the fourth system condition “How we Share”, and understanding basic needs. Based on research by Chilean economist

Max Neef, nine inter-connected satisfiers of human needs have been identified. The emphasis becomes how to satisfy those needs in a community, while working towards the first three objectives.

TNS also uses a *tree* as a metaphor. The four conditions, like the roots of a tree, underpin a wide range of services - the 'branches and leaves' - within any system, be it an organisation, community or country. They provide a commonality of purpose, ensuring the many parts of the system have a collective definition of success.

The Sustainability Funnel

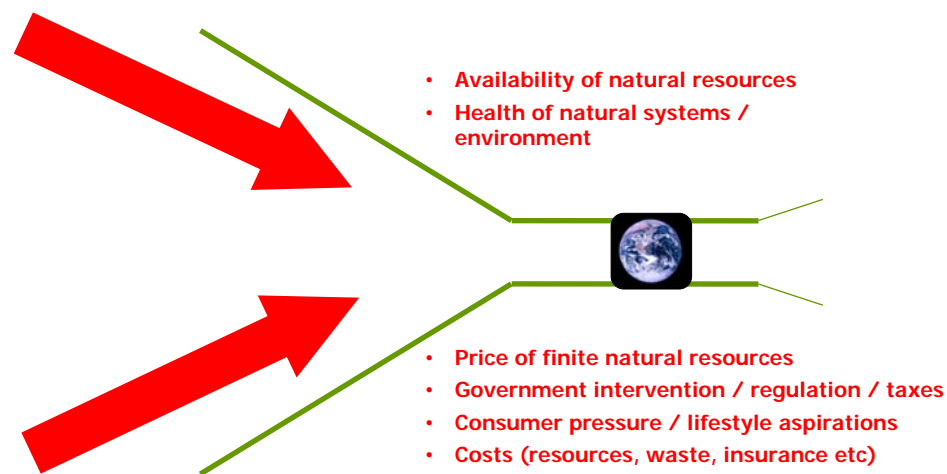


Figure 9 - The funnel which can be applied to a wide range of current contexts

TNS uses another metaphor which helps to focus on key issues for a system, the *funnel*. This describes how pressures are increasing as resources are decreasing. It can be applied to a wide range of situations. The end-game is to stop the sides of the funnel colliding; pass through the apex of the funnel and start to open it out on the other side. Discussion occurs around the question: what actions are required to make that happen?

The ABCD Model

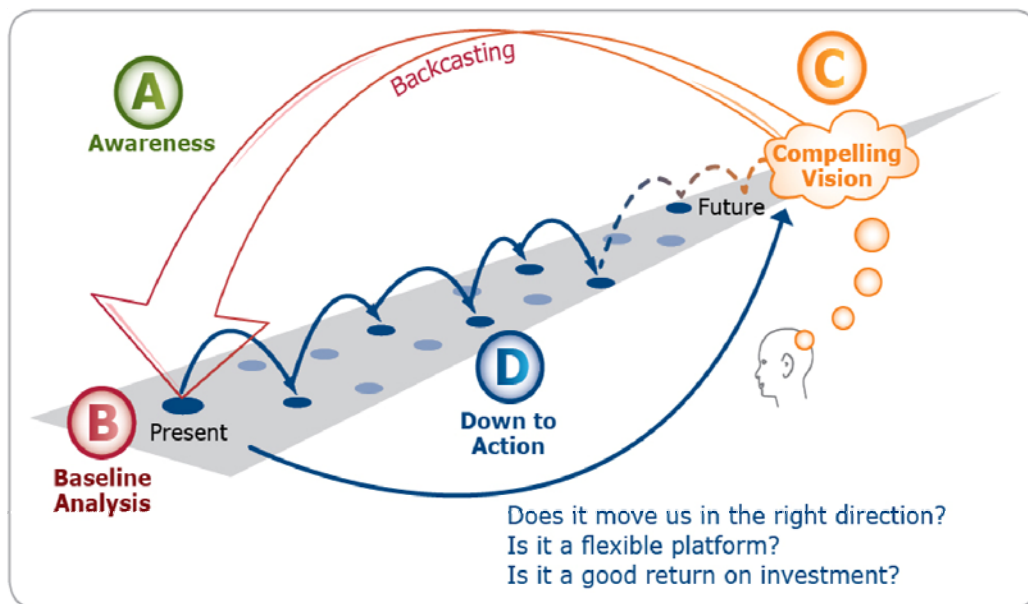


Figure 10 - A planning framework

Yet another TNS tool is used to start to develop priorities for action with the community. It's known as the *ABCD model*, where A is awareness of the system under discussion and the future challenges or forces that will impact on it; B is the baseline, where the system is now, is it working well, is it resilient in the face of future changes?; C is the vision of the future. In *Towards 2060* we use the year 2060 as a point in time to focus on but it could be any other date sufficiently far in the future to take participants out of the current state and think about what is down that future road.

The preferred future that is envisioned must also be plausible, based on what we believe will be the challenges and opportunities of the future and it must be possible, that is, achievable. It's a practical exercise which needs to consider financial benefits and constraints and ensure there can be flexibility in achieving the vision.

Following the creation of that vision there is a process known as *backcasting* which returns from the vision to the present day and considers what incremental steps and actions (D) are required to create the vision.

The ABCD framework is a simple process but each step is necessary to get the best outcome.

Appendix B: Workshop Participants

Note that this is a combined list - not all people attended all three sessions.

Yulia Solovyev

Boris Solovyev

Ivan Martinovich

Des Cowie

Farida Baria

Viraf Baria

Neelam Choudary

Maggie Burrill

Trevor Armstrong

Roy Bootle

Pat Tunstall

Sjimmy Fransen

Jenni Wild

Facilitators were:

James Samuel

Simon Harvey