

Fenner Conference on the Environment



Urban Sustainability and Conservation

Wednesday 4 – Friday 6 April 2018
Jaeger Room, The Shine Dome, Canberra ACT

Poll Everywhere Responses

The *Fenner Conference on the Environment: Urban Sustainability and Conservation* was held on 4-6 April at the Shine Dome, Canberra ACT. The conference brought together participants with a range of perspectives, skills, experience, knowledge and backgrounds to discuss how we can improve the way we create and manage Australia's urban landscapes. Throughout the conference, we held a series of roundtable discussions to identify how we might harness more inclusive conversations involving multiple perspectives to better address the challenges facing cities.

The Fenner Conference on the Environment: Urban Sustainability and Conservation was the start of a conversation. To help facilitate future conversations we have compiled many of the collective insights gained during the conference into a collection of resources that are available on our website: www.fennerconference2018urban.com.au/

One of these resources is this synthesis of the responses we collected from the conference participants during the roundtable discussions via the online polling tool- Poll Everywhere. While some of the material collected through Poll Everywhere was incorporated into the Conference Statement, there was still a wealth of ideas that didn't get captured, but which may be useful for participants to consider in the future. Therefore, we have synthesised the responses to the questions in this document.

We ask that if you do use this material, please do so in the generous and collaborative spirit in which it was provided and attribute the source as the participants at the Fenner Conference on the Environment: Urban Sustainability and Conservation.

The Fenner Conferences on the Environment are a series of annual conferences on the environment and conservation issues in Australia and its environs sponsored by the Australian Academy of Sciences through the generous support of the late Professor Frank Fenner FAA FRS and the late Mrs Bobbie Fenner. The purpose of these conferences is to bring together those with relevant scientific, administrative and policy expertise to consider current environmental and conservation problems in Australia, thereby contributing to the formation of policies that can alleviate some of these problems. You can read more about the Fenner Conference on the Environment: Urban Sustainability and Conservation at: www.fennerconference2018urban.com.au/

The Fenner Conference on the Environment: Urban Sustainability and Conservation was sponsored by:



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What are the opportunities to link across sectors?

Institute and industry-based collaborations

Collaboration and communication between research institutes and industry to enable practical applications of research outcomes

More conversations between researchers and local government

More research and policy dialogue - roundtables

invite other sectors to your meetings! make the space for many viewpoints in your day to day processes.

Cross-sector, interdisciplinary urban projects

Collaboration with Biodiversity planners network

Small-scale trials on innovative ideas which involve collaboration between researchers,

Linkage grants

Collaborative research, with or without shared grant applications/funding

Collaborative research projects targeted to meet managers/policy-makers' specific knowledge gaps

Create incentives to link - perverse incentives in academia limit capacity of people with something to offer to do it

Publications

Publishing in journals outside our own sector

Publications that present research findings and management rec's grounded by discussion with practitioners

Publications - topical edited collections or special journal issues.

Research/grants

Partnership-based research funding that encourages co-production (and collaboration, and all the other options for sharing as best fits the situation)

Including practitioners/industry in research

Conferences/workshops/presentations

Conferences- attending multi sector conferences; attending conferences from other sectors; inviting other sectors to cocreate sessions at my sector conferences

symposia that target researchers and practitioners

Multisector Roundtables

socialising time built in to conference agendas (not just formal 'drinks')

Conferences like this one

More policy-research conferences like these!

Attending each others' events + being more creative about the events we organise (e.g. exhibition + symposium + trade forum)

Present at Local government events don't expect them to come to us.

Joint conferences between researchers and industry (particularly local government)

Promote conferences/research through Local government association such as Municipal association of Victoria

Media (social and mainstream)

Social media conferences journal articles workshops

More collaborations on social media- we all use it

Use the mainstream media

Challenge yourself to write an op-ed for the daily telegraph whenever you write an academic paper to put yourself in the shoes and values of a person in the 'real world'

Popular science writing

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What are the barriers to linking across sectors?

Physical

Departments UNOs industry working in solid eg city deals program could have had hard env indicators/targets
Different agendas or priorities
Reward systems don't encourage it
Market competition, including competition between private and public sector R&D in Australia.
Different agendas between disciplines
Lack of clear funding pathways for collaborative work
Knowing where to look or who to ask to find a door into a new sector space. Working out how to stay connected without it seeming like marketing exercise
Knowing what other sectors do
Research not always practical for policy
specificity of identified outcomes can mean we don't engage beyond the bare necessities
Resources to so - perverse incentives to not link across sectors
Binary attitude to information, knowledge, values: right/wrong, true/false.
Non-disclosure agreements
Bureaucracy and archaic policy!!!
Financial ie no money to employ experts to do research or surveys
Commercial in confidence
Difficult political environment

Temporal

Time for interpersonal dialogue/exchange at government departments not encouraged...culture is to get tasks at hand completed. Most info disseminated passively (i.e. through newsletters), not always best way to absorb info or generate ideas.
Funding and time required to attend additional conferences/events outside of my own sector
Different timeframes of operation- eg Slowness of peer review process in science; financial years and government cycles
Short term employment - hard to build relationships across sectors with high turnover
Time, skills and resources
Time. It's hard enough trying to keep up with everything in my sector alone
Complexity and scale of challenges - how do we find out who are the key people across such diverse spaces in a timely manner
Uncertainty makes it hard to initiate relationships that require long-term commitment
resources - especially time

Values/outcomes differ

Poor understanding of shared value
Broader but more shallow outcomes
Different aims/outcomes
Different methods

Emotional

Regarding those from other disciplines as 'others'
Personalities
Fear of the unknown, of being rejected or being wrong

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Ego

Lack of inclusion in big approaches trying to link

Lack of trust without a shared history

Language

Jargon, knowledge, open mindedness (lack there of), networks, different ways of thinking and looking at problems (also benefit)

Overcoming differences in the language & culture of various disciplines

Unexplained jargon, acronyms and abbreviations.

Speaking different languages, having different priorities/values

Different language

Language (international to jargon)

Disciplinary differences

Lack of Network/knowledge

Lack of social connections

Not knowing who to talk to in the different sector

knowledge of which sectors to engage

How might this new understanding alter the way you approach your work?

Taking on challenging co-design processes

Better inclusive

Value reciprocity

keep trying to think of a way to connect with and learn from indigenous people

Exploring co-creation

Adopt a more open mindset

Slow burn relationship

be inventive in advancing outcomes for biodiversity sustainability

more rigour in seeking research before doing more...

More interdisciplinary

Consider emotions as well as outcomes

Depression among ecologists was new. Not sure how to approach this.

Get outside more!

Think long term, challenge milestones and timelines that are contrary to relationships

Round table & chocolate

Start conversation with intended audience first

Being more aware of country

bring aesthetics into consideration more often

Slow, inclusive, deep trust

Being a part of the environment in which i work

Work closely with others from the start

Co-designing looks like being a part of the future... better start now

More time to reflect

Allow each to tell their story, so there is a shared understanding where each person comes from

Prioritise time for reflection

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Thinking more laterally about who and when to include
Think more about unintended consequences of environmental management.
building long-term relationships
Thinking about how other species experience our cities
Build relationships
Research for whom?
Incorporate Aboriginal values and perspectives.
Maintain positive attitude through communicating successful case studies
More reflections alone
Spend more time listening & asking for others perspectives
Real relationships
Language used in communication
Bridging conversation/knowledge gaps
5 hour days 😊
value time spent with others and creating relationships
Yes please
Paying attention to time
enjoy the journey
Learning about co-design processes
Get outside even more!
I will bring a more personal perspective to my work
Comfortable within complexity.

How do we move forward?

Building networks of people with similar interests/objectives
forums, funding and capacity-building for co-design
Environmental education raising awareness of issues
Commit to change one thing you do
Horizon scan on new projects to look for possible unintended consequences and also any "conversation gaps" where there is knowledge that hasn't been tapped in to
Try a variety of avenues
More knowledge exchange specialists embedded in research, policy and on-ground organisations
Encourage interdisciplinary collaboration in tenders/applications for grants, to ensure projects are evidence-based and utilise all available knowledge
enhanced collaboration as standard practice
Keep on asking other disciplines to collaborate
Be inspired to step outside our comfort zone
Keep in touch with 2 new people I met at this conference- start with an email and work out how we might share info that we come across which could be of interest
Identifying these efforts and networks in our performance metrics
Identifying co-funding opportunities
Fund someone from this conference outside your current area/network and build a potential project with them
No more apps. Way too many resources being allocated to wheel reinventions
In little bits
Get on the phone and arrange a chat over coffee
More beer

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Have liaison people, especially those good at crossing divides (e.g. research-policy, community-government, state-Commonwealth) in paid positions whose role is knowledge exchange and fostering collaboration.

actively seek out collaboration from different sectors and just keep trying

The Fenner conference has demonstrated that a few individuals have the skills to effect positive environmental change in urban environments. We do need leadership in this space in the future.

be innovative

Build a network based on shared value of trust & topic... With no agenda

Ensure, to max extent possible, that all students have direct experience of their environment at least once per month and that ecology is taught from early primary on.

Keep on making what you say/write/Presentation accessible to other disciplines

Act with courage

Slowly but surely

Jump in and worry about uncertainty later - small collaborations and weird outcomes is the way for these things to become big

Keep going

Reciprocity

Develop long-term strategies

Setup a dedicated interest group with paid membership and it own research and instruments

Share

Setup a mailing list that can serve a forum for pitching ideas, etc

Communication

Getting policymakers onboard

Find people you want to work with

Step out of your comfort zone

Try to share in forums other than your own

Retain a sense of humour in our comedic world

Something like 'Green Drinks' for professionals, to foster linkages

Embracing city- specific solutions rather than ambit claims about what we know about "urbanisation"

I don't know.

Pick a 'recommendation' or 'barrier' identified in your recent work, google someone who could make practical progress with it and call them for a cup of tea or coffee

Ensure that our voting system changes to multimember electorates, if possible using Robson's rotation, thus ensuring we get away from two party system.

Engage with upcoming City Deals

Environmental activism

Much deeper capacity-building for connecting and codesigning with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

share; and especially with those who don't share back

Time to connect, converse and collaborate

Get active and network, network, network

Trust collaborators

Fearlessly

Leadership

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How can we collectively harness these new perspectives to change the way we build and manage cities?

create opportunities for ecologists to work with landscape designers and architects

Work local to build relationships, allowing time for listening and co-design and fostering ownership of projects by local communities

Collaboration between members of the public, researchers and policy makers

Empathetic to different agendas

Support scientists to collaborate

Getting science into the hands of urban managers and decision makers

The drinks are here

create schemes where scientists can easily step into engagement opportunities

Less hubris about science, more modesty

Accept that we are always working on Aboriginal country

Work with willing before tackling the trolls

Build time into

Insert ecology into everything cities do

Co-design - questions, process, solutions, aims, outcomes

embed aesthetics into planning

Recognise that humans are an interfraktionellen, but disruptive part of nature.

Start a conversation

Build relationships based on common need, then projects based on common solutions

Practice story telling

Urban living labs based on co-design

Building a better community understanding of these issues

Acknowledge not just the value but the necessity of including multiple voices & perspectives in the design & construction of our cities

Get outside of our personal bubbles, communicate and collaborate more broadly.

Talk to people outside of our usual collaboration box

More funding :)

Learn to work together better, stop holding onto your patch, it's ok to share

A conservation section in every relevant govt dept

Start an encyclopedia of ecosystems including novel along with tools and guidelines

Co-creation

Empowering communities marginalised and disadvantaged by environmental change

Focus on health for people and other species with whom we share our cities

encourage a trickle down effect so that knowledge is shared e.g. after a conference to Undergraduates

Support of forums for multidisciplinary interaction

start from novel spaces including new communities

Take legal personhood for natural entities seriously to give them a chance for self-determination

Leave baggage at the door, be open to new ways of doing things

Incentives for sharing work outside conventional forums

Collaboration across sectors

Has to be through democratic process - the will of the people. It is the basis of our law, policies and Our 'civil' society that we hope desires to do better.

Take the decision making out of the hands of politicians

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Incorporate into guiding principles for urban design and management

Actively listen

Nudge it in small bits

More semi curated gatherings with colleagues to build relationships

creative engagement to build new communities

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