

# Healthy Waterways Strategy Renewal Co-Governance Lab - Workshop #3

29th March, 2017

Donkey Wheelhouse, Melbourne

This report provides a visual snapshot of the main outputs from the Workshop. It also briefly describes the group process used by the facilitator.

## Harvest Report



# The Purpose of the Lab & Roles of Participants

The facilitators started by establishing the purpose of Lab and illuminated our two principal tasks:

- 1. Design for reaching waterway priorities and;**
- 2. Strengthen how we work together on priorities.**

And then a reminder of the roles that Lab participants can play throughout the engagement journey and beyond.

## Designer

Contributing to the design, including the scientists and community members - the big job today is around how to put science and local knowledge together in the process of agreeing on priorities and targets



## Communicator

Inviting people into HWS Renewal. In catchments and across government. Who will you bring on board? Which neglected interests will you search out?



## Leader

Taking action on strengthening institutional relationships. supporting staff involvement. What are you going to get moving?



# The Journey so far ... the journey ahead

Daniel Besley (Project Manager, Regional Waterway Strategy) then presented a detailed overview of the work completed and outcomes of the first 2 Labs. He also presented a snapshot of the process going forward including: the current draft Vision; the Evaluation Framework; what we have heard so far from stakeholders involved in the Labs; the overall narrative for the Strategy; the different steps involved in developing a Waterways Strategy.



# The Vision

Geoff Brown (Facilitator) and Rachel Lopes (Engagement Lead - Healthy Waterways Strategy) then facilitated a short discussion to test the draft Waterways Vision that emerged from feedback at Lab #2. Table groups were provided with an opportunity to discuss the draft vision and provide feedback for the next iteration.

## Healthy waterways valued by the community.

Our healthy and valued waterways provide diverse and thriving environments for people, plants and animals to enjoy. They are managed sustainably to balance environmental, cultural, economic and social values.



### Vision Feedback from Lab table groups:

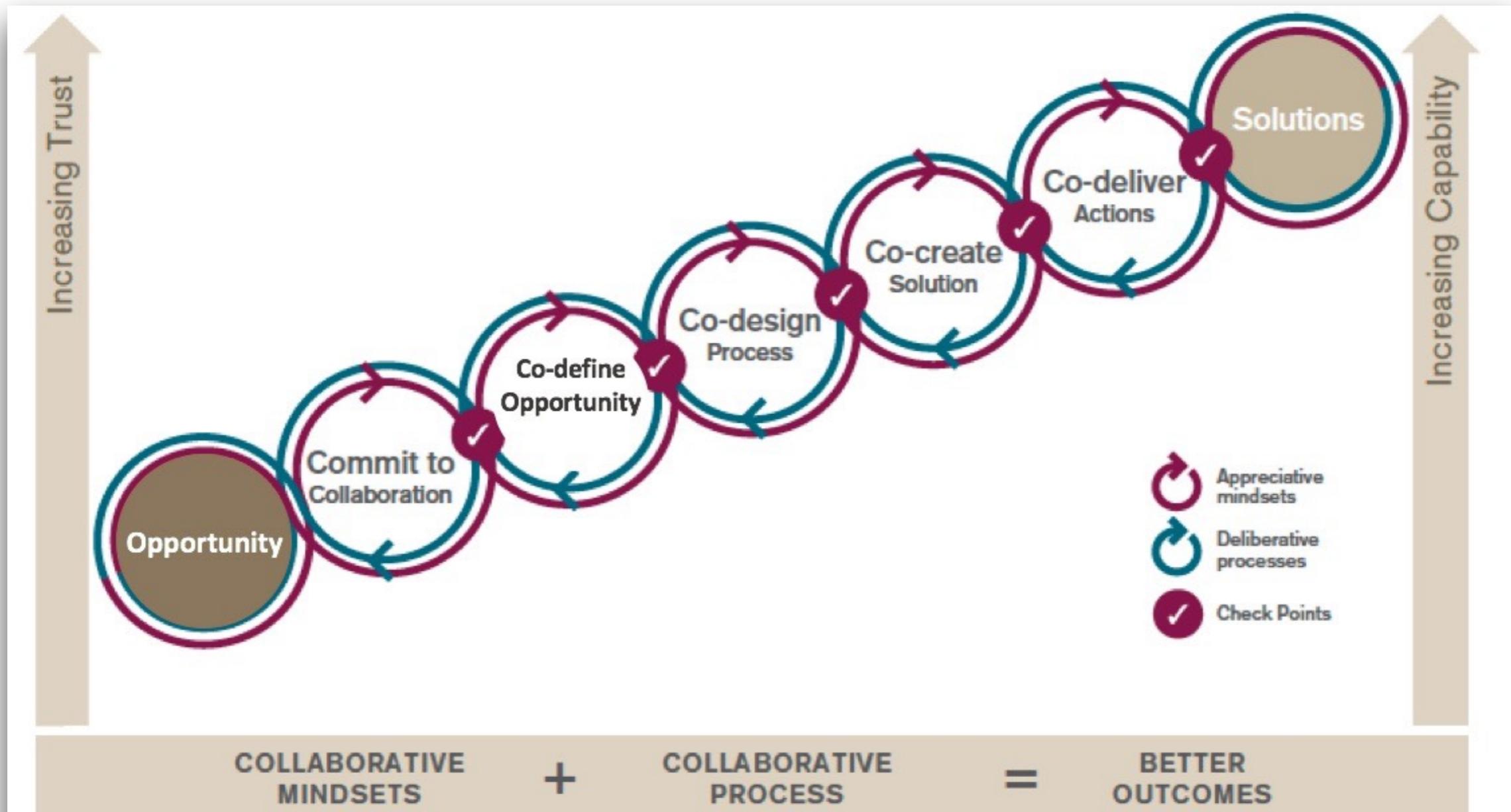
- Not about 'community' more about 'us all'
- No historical context or future state
- Plants and animals don't enjoy but should be 'critical fabric' or 'essential component'
- Whole of catchment + catchment adaptive management
- City of Catchment - Melbourne's H2O, rather than 'Melbourne Water'.
- Our management of waterways protects their ecology so they can adapt to environmental change in ways that maintain their intrinsic, social, cultural and economic values.
- The Maribyrnong is loved by people, plants and animals
- Needs to convey urgency or gap this is a future we're not achieving (especially sentence 1)
- More boldness + guts + conviction (e.g. more language for protect vs manage – we mean this in terms of the spirit/feeling of these words not necessarily wordsmithing)
- Need greater emphasis on cultural connections and social values as principle (water is life)(long 40,000 year history)
- Must call to action / compel in catchment and daily life to convey that caring for waterways is everyone's role and mostly impacted/driven by areas outside waterways.
- End state / describe as dream destination
- Remove mission related detail (second, more detailed part)
- Reflect fundamental importance of waterways as essentials to life.

The feedback received will shape the Vision posted on the YourSay web page.



# Collaborative Governance

Stuart Waters (Twyfords Consulting) then provided Lab participants with a snapshot of the Collaborative Governance model that we are applying to the project. He invited table group to explore their own understanding of Collaboration using a model of Collaborative Governance (see model below)



# Putting together the Science & Local Knowledge

One of the key insights identified by Labs 1 and 2 was the need to “*Set priorities in the light of local and expert knowledge, the science and broader social context and future trends affecting waterways.*” There are three points where the science is critical:

- 1. Identifying high value waterways.** How can we present data on species condition and social values so participants process can test their own understanding of current condition, and identify high value waterways?
- 2. Identifying major threats.** How can we support people to identify the major threats to High Value waterways and the implications of those threats?
- 3. Understanding the Impacts of possible actions.** How can the Conceptual Models of factors influencing values be used to assist participants consider alternative actions?

In working groups for each of these, participants a) were briefed by MW staff on current models and data available to support decision making, b) identified ‘what’ science is needed at each point, and ‘how’ it should be presented at the catchment level workshops, c) as a plenary group, drew conclusions about integrating science and local knowledge.

## **The facilitators then invited participants to explore the three arenas of Science:**

The Process involved splitting the group into 3 ‘world café’ sessions with presentation of data by MW staff. Plenary debrief to gain feedback on both ‘what’ and ‘how’ the science should be presented at the catchment level workshops. Reflect on how well we've done on the principle.

The outputs and feedback of these three session are listed on the following pages.



## 1. Identifying high value waterways. (Sharyn / Michelle - Dan to introduce)

How can we present data on species condition and social values so participants process can test their own understanding of current condition, and identify high value waterways?

Heading/Theme of Feedback	What science is needed	In what form	Comment
filling the gaps	make the stocktake thorough and understand where are the missing gaps	measures of change citizen science reporting	implied homogeneity is desirable not a stable system all in transition e.g. market gardens areas that have been retired Deep creek upper doesn't flow in summer geomorphological and geological significance Saw it as legal significance
		graphics are good of the whole catchment and also good to see against the other catchments	why is it called high value
	citizen science catchment behaviours info	Don't show the social bar graphs Show it as part of the catchment Need to show part of the bigger system to see where you sit	risk of local person seeing their waterways as low value and losing commitment
definition of value	defining this?	different scale zonation was very useful concept, it enables you to think differently and to understand how things could change	what do we mean by high value Is it existing? or does it also include potential ?
social perspectives	additional data to fill gaps for social	need some data that provides evidence that people value waterways without necessarily visiting them	social value is based on visitation but some people value the waterways without visiting
why do we have to id high values?			every local will tell you that their waterway is high value. How do you manage that?
			message for workshop is to be that we don't have all the resources for all the waterways. Need to understand what mix of projects are required and ambitious plans
social	where are the community/ friends of group that are hotspots. Provides leverage		for prioritisation
high value waterways		range of uses of water - many of which may be invisible to people	reframe as 'bits about waterways where people love the most'. Group found the notion of id high value waterways quite limiting.

**2. Identifying major threats.** (Rob Molloy / Leigh Smith)  
 How can we support people to identify the major threats to High Value waterways and the implications of those threats?

Heading/Theme of Feedback	What science is needed	In what form	Comment
Social values	Use the conceptual model for social values, which give 4 scenarios - high amenity-good condition, high amenity-poor condition, low amenity-good condition, high amenity- poor condition	For each scenario in the amenity/condition matrix, provide photos and examples Give a list of social values, photos and examples, and what MW knows about each	
Environmental values	Use the conceptual models for environmental values to identify threats	List of threats, with photos of each threats value, and of key drivers of condition in the catchment Maps that show this	
Social / environmental threats	List of threats for environmental and social values against each cell in the amenity/condition matrix	Visuals and descriptors for each scenarios in amenity/value matrix	Participants at this point might a) identify the threats most significant for each scenario b) the threats for which they want more information
Identifying drivers of threats	Future scenarios affecting the drivers of threats	Planning Schemes, land ownership, Urbanisation maps to see Heat maps - e.g. for pollution responses	
Identifying impacts of threats	amenity/condition matrix	Before / after modelling - e.g. photo representation as provided by ABC	
Identifying threats for which action is needed			How do we focus on opportunities ad not just on poor condition that's difficult to reverse?

### 3. Understanding the Impacts of possible actions. (Rhys Coleman/ Will Steele)

How can the Conceptual Models of factors influencing values be used to assist participants consider alternative actions?

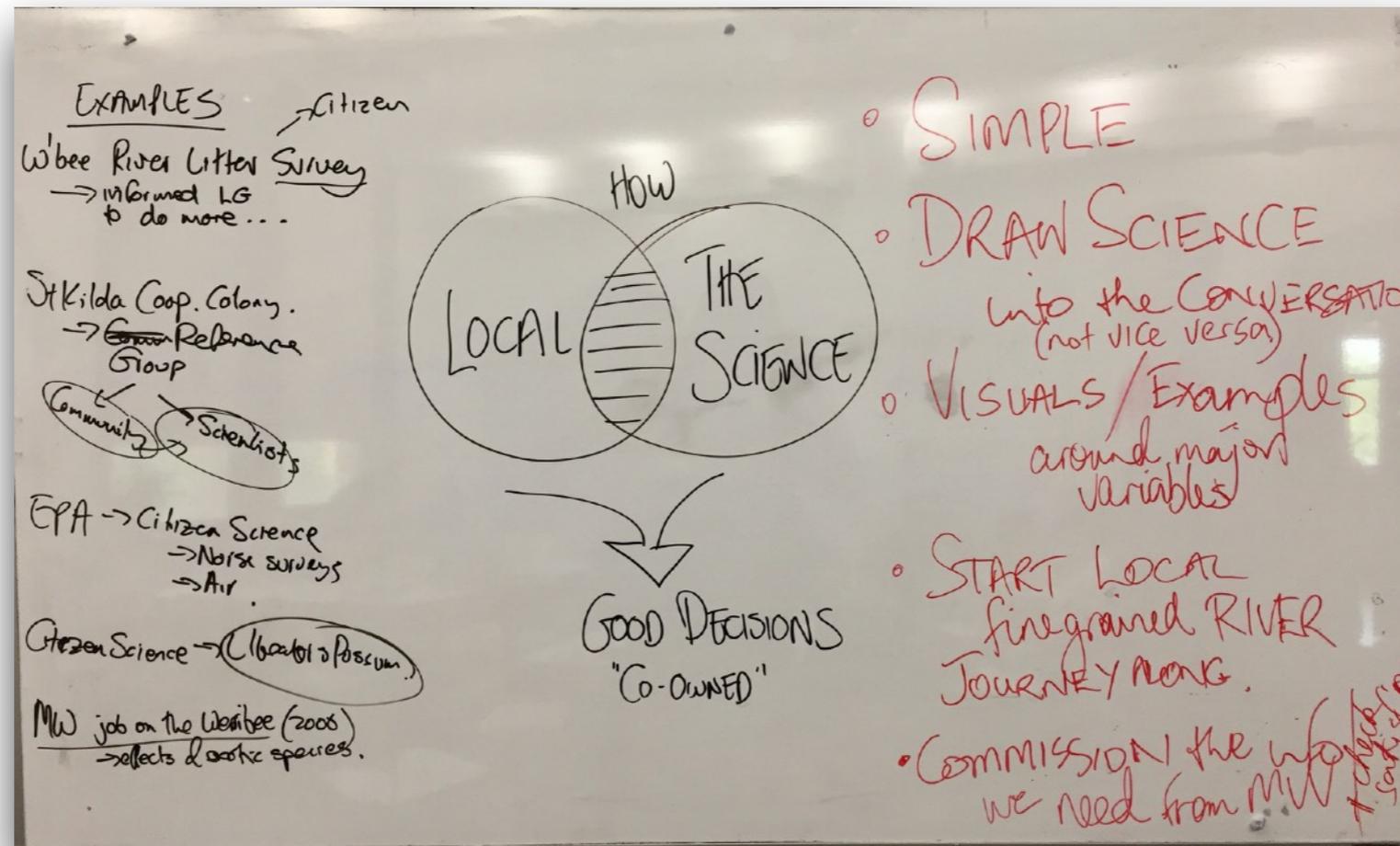
Heading/Theme of feedback	What science is needed	In what form	Comment
structure of information	what are the conditions we need to get to, a neat flow of information	simplify the structure and make it clear	
	science needs to build a sense of place and community. It's not what should be done it's about who should be doing it (Ian M)	Use science in response to questions Examples and case studies bring it to life e.g. Sunbury - pick a place people know Why are platypus doing well there? What existing management actions contributed Narrative and storytelling - why is this place important to you? - scientists listening and can come in with supporting data/supporting the conversation Conversational based and driven by the group - place based tool Education along the river - virtual river - taking a journey down the river	bamboozled by conceptual models Why are the values doing well - data to understand current conditions Understanding what they can influence' Simplify message What's the key objective of presenting the science at these workshops? Can we collaborate on science / incorp other community values understanding what needs to go where and how much of it?
	Tailored science to responses - what do the community want to know rather than what we want to know	Stories - making it personal Liked maps articulating the impacts of plantings (management actions) Remove some of the keys (easier to read) Accessibility of information - how do they access and how do they use it, connect with it Provide it in different levels - technical Vs simple diagrams	Peoples place and proof - case studies Science - build confidence and commitment in what needs to be done
		Journey along the waterway - Provide the combined story of the river	
General	Maps, Narrative, storytelling	Include the assumptions when you present the data Map and models - Remove graduations - 6 to 3 Build confidence and commitment Help build a sense of place and connection to the listening community Connect with on ground people - MW people/ relationships as a start Signs and stories along the waterways Who? Presents - build a sense of complimentary work.	

# Plenary Feedback

## on bringing together science and local knowledge

At the end of the three group discussions, overall reflections and feedback came from the Plenary. The left column below lists examples of where 'science' and 'local knowledge' has been brought together effectively before. The right column (in red) lists overall guidance for how we present/use the science with stakeholders at catchment scale.

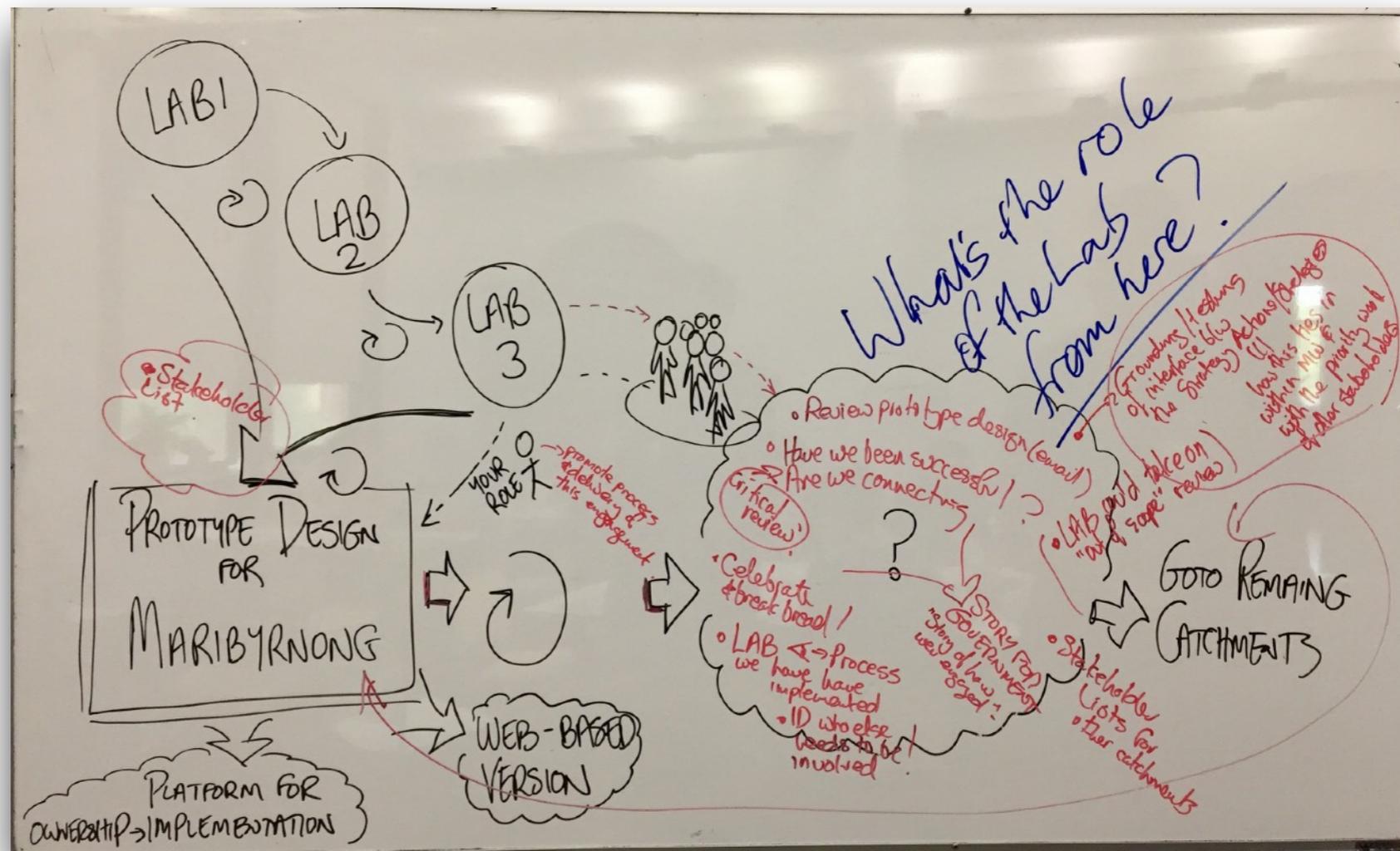
- Werribee River association - litter survey. Wyndham informed and its strategy Local science drove the work by council
- St Kilda penguin colony co-op Penguin scientists / port of Melb / Parks Vic were brought together
- EPA citizen science for noise surveys Air Quality Plan to use to inform decision making
- Leadbeater's possum - citizen science
- MW - gap area expansion. Exotic species on the Werribee



# The Lab - Future Roles and Steps that add Value

The final group discussion focused on the question of “what next” for the Lab? Participants were invited to share ideas on tangible roles/tasks that the Lab could undertake in the next phase of engagement - as we work to determine priorities at Catchment scale.

These were roles and tasks that would inspire participants to come back again and continue to add value to the process.



## What the lab could do in the next phase:

- Review pilot design
- Have we been successful
- Are we connecting
- Story for government
- Celebration
- Ground thrashing actions and recommendations
- Who else needs to be involved
- Ideas that are good but out of scope (left overs...)
- Lab to take them on
- Testing interface - other planning processes e.g. IWMF. Who does this need to get to.
- Grounding and testing place Check in on who we're inviting

# Selected Quotes from the Sensing Feedback ...



ecocentrestkilda



ecocentrestkilda "What comes first in collaboration?" Waterkeepers think commitment to collaborate & co-defining opportunity are intertwined. Two sides of a coin. Photo: Baykeeper Neil and Werribee Riverkeeper John at today's @melbournewater Healthy Waterways Strategy Co-Design Lab. Very constructive discussions and workshop. 💙💧 Great to bring our independent voices for the waterways. #WaterkeepersUnite #portphillipbay #werribeeriver #healthywaterways

19 HOURS AGO

## Immediate value

Level of Participation (attendance Lab 1 and Lab 2)

	Yes	No
Lab 1	8	16
Lab 2	10	14

### What did you enjoy the most about today?

- Discussion of ideas, targets, actions and concepts
- Listening to stakeholders with varied opinions
- Generating and sharing good ideas for the HWS
- Better understanding of the HWS
- Pace, timing and location of the workshop

### What was difficult but useful?

- Presentation and communication of science
- Complexities related to collaboration, finding the balance between providing information and time for discussion, and integrating new participants into the Lab
- Amount of time allocated to presentation instead of discussion

## Potential Value

*What ideas are you taking away from today, to think about or test out?*

- Different values of waterways
- Different ways to inform the community
- Tools and processes related to collaboration

*Do you feel motivated to take action?*

Yes	No	No response
19	4	1

*What actions specifically?*

- Communicating knowledge and information
- Continuing to advocate and support the HWS process
- Having a catchment approach

*Have you met new people today?*

Yes	No	No response
23	1	0

*Have you strengthened old connections?*

Yes	No	No response
17	4	3

*What might you do with these connections?*

- Future collaboration in projects outside renewal of the HWS
- Discussing issues and testing ideas in waterways management
- Keeping track of development of the HWS in the future

## Information about the renewal process

- Do you have enough information about the strategy renewal process?

Yes	No	No response
11	6	7

*What further information do you need?*

- Overview of the process, to date and into the future
- Use different tools to give the overview - presentations, summaries of the Labs, the digital engagement platform and diagrams
- Link HWS renewal with other initiatives by Melbourne Water and other organisations