

Leading for the Future

Business and community leaders preparing for the long haul on climate change

This Report covers the Main Ideas, Themes, Initiatives and Collaborative Thinking around Sustainable Responses to Climate Change discussed at this Roundtable

The Roundtable Dialogue focused on:

**Re-Defining Business as Usual: the Leadership Challenge
Facing Climate Change at the Grassroots:
Empowering local leadership**

and addressed 4 questions:

What do we as leaders, need to do differently to meet the challenge of climate change?

What support and resources will we need to be effective in this role?

How can we support networking & learning between local leaders?

What actions can we take to develop leadership capacity in our workplaces, schools and communities?

A summary of these group discussions is presented as conversational system maps

The key presentation was delivered by
Thomas Homer-Dixon (Director, Trudeau Centre for Peace & Conflict Studies Toronto)

and the Panel Discussion Leaders included:

Rod Welford Minister Education, Science Queensland;
Ian Dunlop; John Cole; Janette Hartz-Karp;
Graeme Pearman; Monica Richter; Rod Welford

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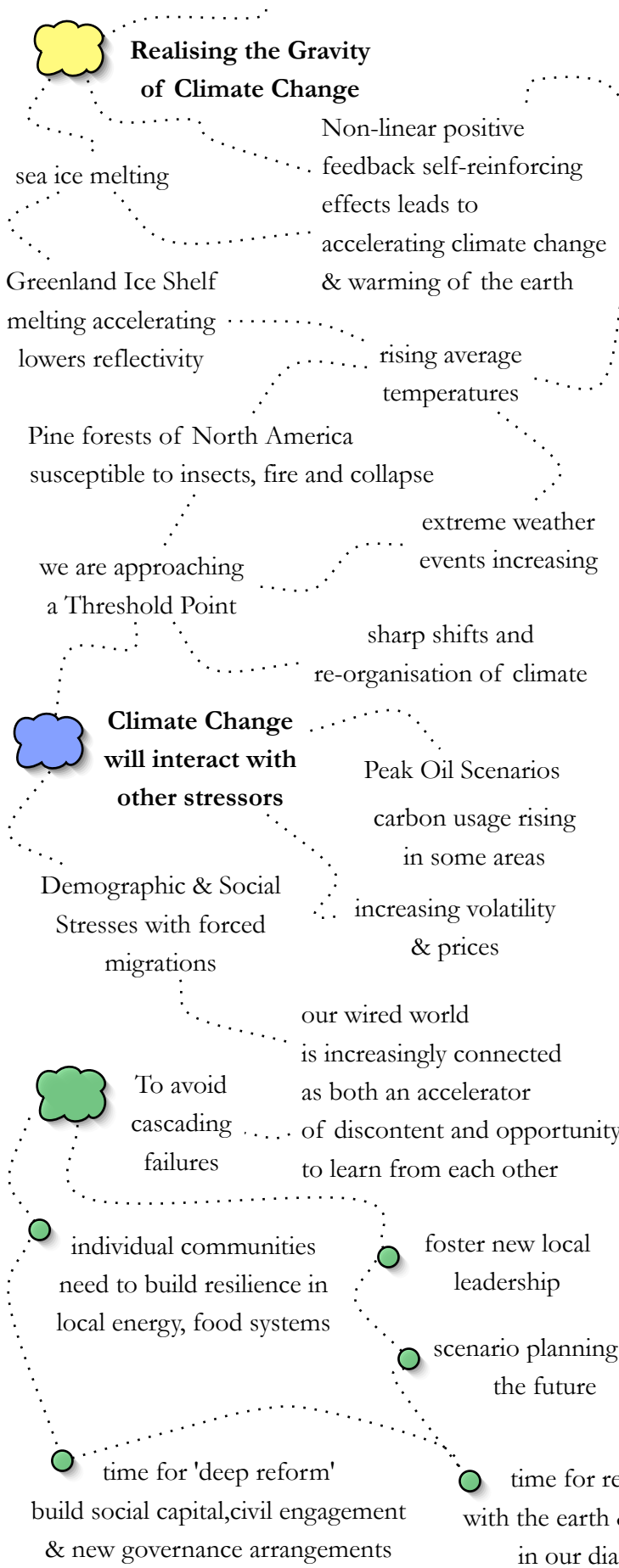


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Breakdown or Breakthrough

- Climate Change, Systemic Crisis and Renewal

Thomas Homer Dixon



The Panel Discussion

THD pointed out the implications of rising CO2 and how climate change effects are expected to accelerate (see opposite). His initial suggested responses to avoid cascading failures included fostering a new local leadership and community initiatives to build more resilient energy & food systems and scenario planning to help adaptive strategies. Panel members discussed the need for more sophisticated thinking to tackle the interconnectivity of the issues; that governments are too slow to adapt to the pace of change and that a new revitalised & deepened representative democracy is needed including increased engagement at a local-regional level (special citizens groups). Other ideas included using open source digital networks to create a new collective democratic problem solving capability

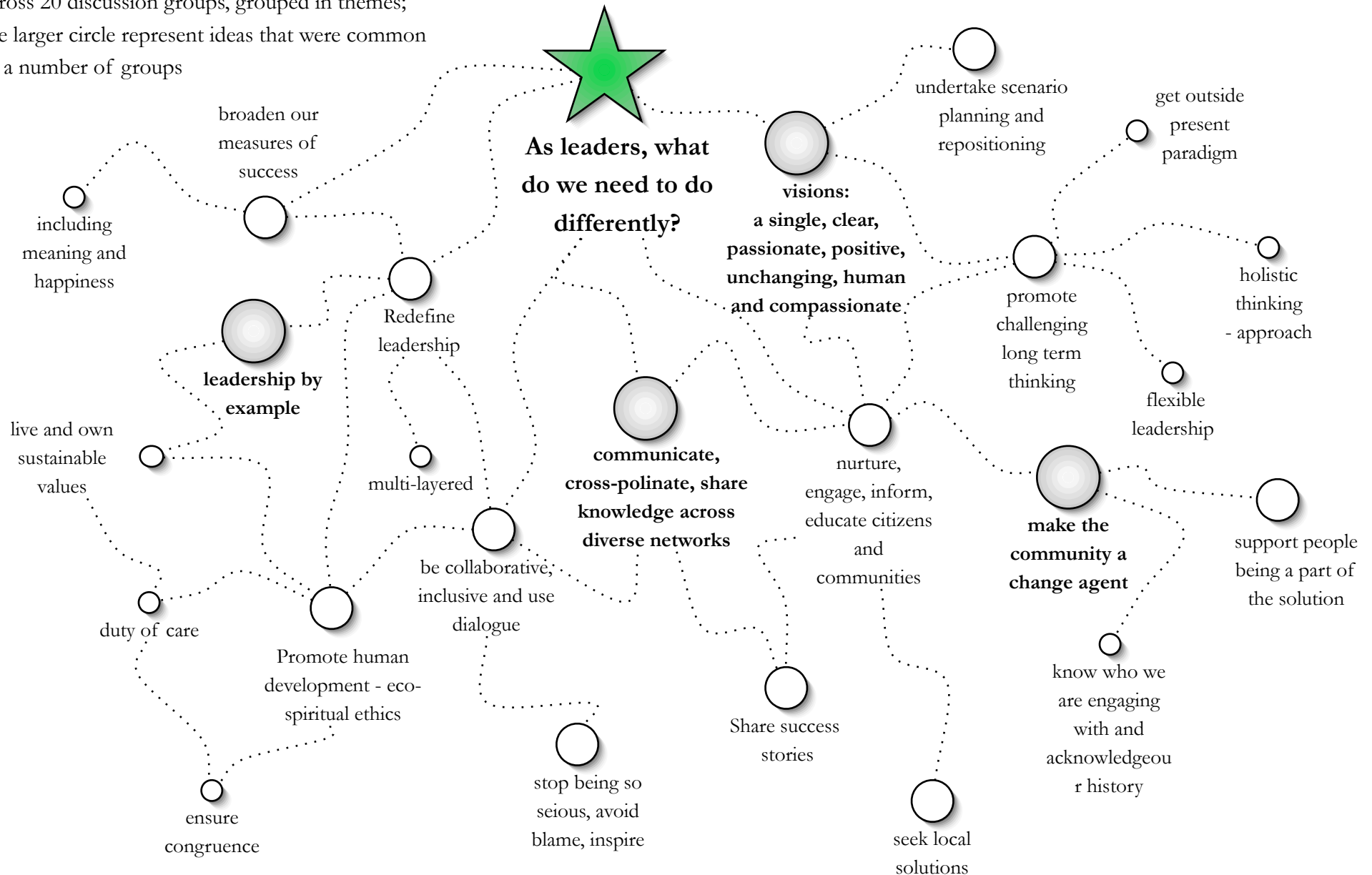
Climate change was seen as an underestimated risk that needs to be managed (IPCC estimates are understated); that we need to accept denial, undertake a new conversation to build new awareness in communities & add their voices to question the old narratives (around growth) and values have helped bring this crisis on. Further, that there are existing technologies that can be used to reduce the carbon emissions and water water inefficiency but that 'the dots need to be joined' to make an effective responses.

'We are the Designers of the Future'

'It is a Time for Deep Reform'

Group Session 1

these maps are a synopsis of the ideas that emerged across 20 discussion groups, grouped in themes; the larger circle represent ideas that were common to a number of groups





How can we support leadership networking and learning?

conduct different levels of discourse on sustainability

connect all the players, integrate community efforts / forums, get beyond the silos

mentor, skill develop and educate

develop an inclusive sustainability strategy for Queensland

build relationships and information e-networks, open source networks, etc.

understand psychology of change, and people's starting position

value difference, our history, know old narratives

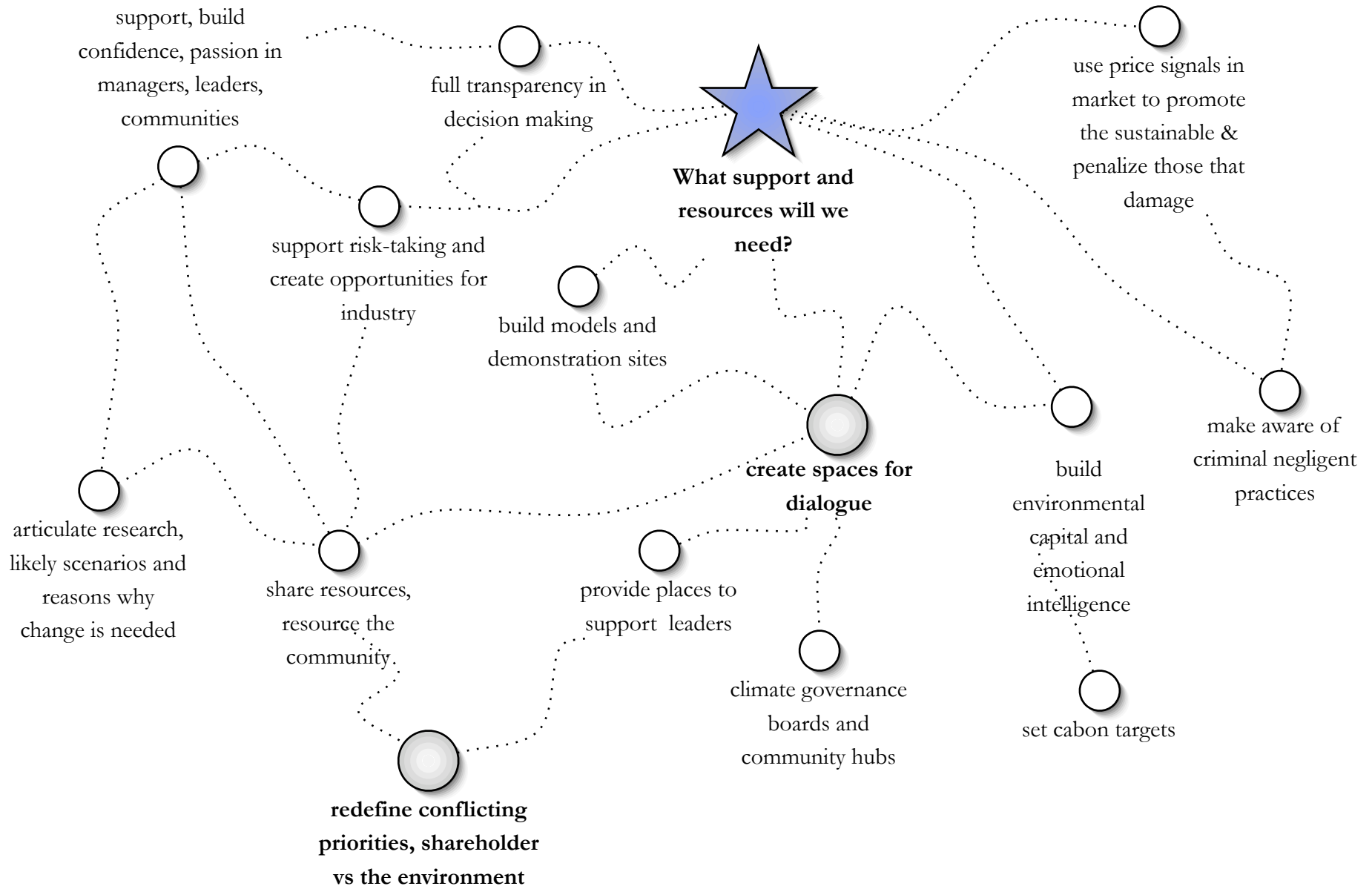
use sustainable design science - ethics that are meaningful

clear a pathway for & empower local leadership

support local leadership, reduce isolation, redefine failure

set targets, celebrate gains, brilliance and shared technologies

"people with visions don't have resources and vice versa..."



Actions: There were 4 key areas of initiatives identified, common to all the groups:

whole of community and partnered approach, a focus on engaging & empowering the youth, community education and supporting - mentoring a new widened & dispersed leadership network

*'everyone becomes a leader'
'plan big, act locally''*



The How: Themes; engagement, empowering, interconnecting, collaborating, partnering, intergenerational, celebrating success, creative initiatives, street level

'enough for everyone, forever'

Concluding Discussions

there is an urgency in developing proactive responses now not in 30 years

climate change is a global commons issue

the task is to build a global cultural phenomenon - a collective human species concerned with looking after their kids and the future of the planet

undertake a slow conversation across our communities that seeks to set clear targets and re-examines our values; to go beyond the anointed leadership

initiating a broad conversation across all sections of the community; including the many voices there; the young, old, with the media

the challenge of making it easier for the young ones to engage in this dialogue as an 'empowering process; how do we revitalize grassroots engagement how in our professional practice can we become more effective change agents?

the threatened breakdown thesis is an opportunity

but we need to talk through the implications of climate change of business as usual

we need to avoid the blame game & stress good news stories / initiatives

ask not if but how renewable energies and practices can be introduced

many of the answers are in nature - biomimicry

a shift in our self-understanding is needed

having a new dialogue around our values; beyond justice, redistribution of wealth to who we are & why are we here; how in the first world are we responsible for the planet & others futures

the need for an on-going, on-line learning dialogue;

building a network of communities engaging with each other

Some Final Reflections:

This report and the conversation maps aim to capture the key ideas, themes and initiatives that emerged throughout the Roundtable discussions. They do not record the other important Roundtable process & aim to build a better connected network with a shared understanding of the challenges we face with Climate Change; nor how people were affected or felt supported in their work. Some participants described the emotionally rich journey through the day from depression to hope on seeing the changes that communities and the planet face. The Roundtable applauded the presence of the youth. Others expressed the importance of listening to our Indigenous voices and wisdom of the Custodial Elders in our future deliberations.