

Supplementary Materials

1. The Scenarios

Table S1. Scenarios.

Hobart's Scenario	2015	2025	2035	2045
H1	Focus on growth continues. Resources dwindle. Reliant on foreign investment.	Resource shortages. Serious climate change & environmental degradation. Inequity & intolerance grows.	Reduced options for change. Few government services. Growing conflict & violence	Foreign control of resources. Commissioned production only. Feudal slave state. Violent protests & civil unrest threatening.
H2	Adaptation & Sustainability the new focus. Local preferred over global.	Sustainable energy sources established. Focus on recycling. High quality foods available to all (local & exports).	Services (e.g., health & education) on a sustainable & accessible footing. Engaged populace using collective wisdom.	Society provides a healthy & safe environment for all. Government is free of vested interests. Population & resource use is sustainable (includes monitoring).
H3	Move to collaborative consumption. Small business preferred over large	Ubiquitous quality education. Legislation Encouraging renewable energy. Private sector governance role	Space-based resources accessed. Explore new mutualistic technologies (rather than exploitation of nature)	Local focus (individual & community relationships & leadership). Individual responsibility for minimizing footprint (high levels of self-sufficiency). Healthier aging.
H4	Education in crisis, with low literacy. Vested interests control media. Social unrest	Separation of private sector interests & governance. Focus on accessible, flexible education	Improved health, education, employment. Participatory democracy. Peaceful, respectful, conflict resolution.	Diversity of aging options. Increased security. Immediacy of information, increased understanding & communication
H5	Media dominates opinion making. Push for growth.	Vested interests dictate views. Social control. Inequity & declining standards of living. Aged warehoused in institutions.	Civil war or revolution as social & environmental tipping points reached.	Push for transparency. Improved education, awareness & equity. Moving to less reliance on consumption & greater human capital focus.

Table S1. Cont.

Melbourne's Scenario	2015	2025	2035	2045
M1	Increasing resource use, cost of living & inequity. Social awareness & community integration increases	Sustained socioeconomic problems & increasing corporate power. Digital revolution	Technological breakthroughs in all areas for those who can pay. Space resources exploited	Severe climate change & environmental degradation. Displacement & war. Large wealth gap & violent class conflict. Corporate & dictatorships. Pandemics. Societal collapse.
M2	Alternative sources of energy come online. More people work from home	Increased use of genomics & information technology. Collaborative consumption. Pilot new government model featuring resource sharing, social participation & preventative not reactive planning (e.g., health)		High use of social media for interdependent community. Act & own locally. Improved education & well-being. Novel technologies (e.g., houses as resource base, harness extreme events)
M3	Multinational Power increases. Diversity declines & inequality rises	Multinationals as decision makers, economic interests control infrastructure & government. Environmental degradation, pervasive genetic engineering. Food & health crises. National parks have Disneyesque reputation. Inequity marginalisation		Major overcrowding, roster living (sleeping, driving <i>etc</i>). Megacities. Enforced conformity. Australia drops to “developing nation” status
M4	New political structure sees a switch to long-term decision making. Increased resource sharing & social empathy	Public consultation to achieve collaborative strategies. Improved environmental & economic outcomes. High diversity. Preventative actions. Reduced isolation, increased efficiency & productivity.		Shared successful sustainable solutions. Natural assets woven into global economy. New initiatives improve health, biodiversity & supply of needs
M5	Invest in technologies, infrastructure & education to improve sustainability, support social change. Think of & pursue solutions.	Cleaner, cheaper energy. New industries & technologies. Internet supports Improved learning.	Crowd-sourced democracy. Transport & infrastructure support liveable cities & community. Virtual tourism	Political stability. Collaborative communities & equity. Good health & services. Diversity supported

Table S1. Cont.

Canberra's Scenarios	2015	2025	2035	2045
C1	Increasing regulation & congestion, declining quality of life. Catastrophic events	Reactionary culture. Life moves online. Racial tension, diminishing resources, loss of Great Barrier Reef drives emergence of new political parties & social conscience.	Changed cultural mix. Consumption constrained. Corporations achieve nation status. Cyber technologies & space colonisation	Bio- & nanotech based online economy. Personal barcodes. Asian superpower. Climate driven sea-change desire.
C2	Housing pressure, Tightening immigration. Computerised censorship & surveillance. Pandemics	Universal IDS. Denialism discredited by eco-collapses. Debt driven loss of social safety net	Social & political fragmentation (outer suburbs vs cybersphere vs elites). Recycling & austerity mandatory. Elimination of states	Extensive geoengineering & desalination. Online economy & on-demand manufacturing dominates. Widespread escape via Augmented reality
C3	Tension between energy, government & community. Social isolation & asymmetry. Catastrophic even starts community transformation	Shortages hasten changing economy but doesn't short cut collapse. Depression & rights crisis. Class warfare, control maintained via microchip ID to access services.	Climate change & shortages drive radical shift in identity & consumption (urban production)	Climate refugees. Race for extraterrestrial resources
C4	Resource intrusive lifestyles. Paradigm clashes between haves & have-nots. Agriculture failing	Lifestyle & attitude gaps grow. Environmental refugees. Extreme ground water pollution. Increased xenophobia	More disease. Vulnerable crippled by of climate change. Resource scarcity encourages simpler living	Extreme inequality (biodomes vs wastelands). Population crash begins. Rich attain revolutionary techno-innovation
C5	Recognition of climate issues, Australia leads global economic revolution. Increased telecommuting. Regionalisation Move to polycentric families	Community gardens & sustainable revolution in production, city planning, transport. Holistic management.	Equality for all. Wellbeing drives decision making. Marine industries & small/local production drive renewed economy.	Multigeneration households. New attitudes & technologies support green economy.

Table S1. Cont.

Exmouth's Scenarios	2015	2025	2035	2045
E1	Urban rules & monopolies undermine sustainability. Aging causes loss of capability	Fixation on growth continues, at the cost of lifestyle. Regulation strangles free enterprise.	Lack of foresight sees society fail to cope with change. Population pressure Overwhelms resources	Widespread environmental degradation. Social cohesion & access to services lost. Pollution & consumption cripples ecosystems.
E2	Larger population, widespread development & industry footprint. Economy dropping	Growing industry infrastructure covers environment. Loss of welfare, law & order. Tourism decreasing	Deregulation of industry. Increased fly-in/fly-out & local reliance on welfare. Tourism lost	Large ports, oil spills & warfare over resources. Loss of flora & fauna, local jobs, & lifestyle. Service industries lost. Crime widespread.
E3	Regulation & social attitude lead to recovery of environmental components	Only sustainable Developments approved. Shift to preventative health, universally high levels of education, technology supports increased awareness & efficiency. Increased support for law and order.	Continually improving environment. Good economy based on balanced & well integrated mix of industries	Focus now on gross national happiness
E4	Education in support of sustainability. Solid leadership & community cohesion	Consumption & Preservatives reduced. Local production & sustainable ecosystems supported. Accountable government & corporations.	Population pressure solved by technology, as are energy, pollution and consumption problems. Poverty redefined, wealth doesn't define status	Equality of access & informed Decision making. New social interactions & technology opportunities

2. Cognitive Signatures Analysis

Table S1. Comparison of cognitive signatures. For each construct and questions (left column) we show the mean and standard deviation for the Representative sample of the Australian population and the Focus group attendees. The right most column shows the result of the chi-square test or Kolmogorov Smirnov test for binned or continuous data, respectively. Bold values indicate statistical significance ($p < 0.05$).

Construct	Representative Sample of the Australian Population		Focus Groups Attendees		<i>p</i>
	mean	std	mean	std	
Closure	2.80	0.51	3.21	0.50	1.1×10^{-2} *
Cognition	2.59	0.47	2.49	0.79	7.9×10^{-2}
Risk	2.69	0.55	2.92	0.62	2.2×10^{-1}
Uncertainty	2.10	0.49	2.28	1.14	2.8×10^{-1}
Myths of Nature-Elastic	3.49	0.75	4.03	1.14	2.0×10^{-5} *
Myths of Nature-Ductile	2.43	0.69	2.41	0.97	6.1×10^{-1}
Social Dominance Orientation	3.81	0.66	3.67	0.91	9.2×10^{-1}
Right-Wing Authoritarianism	2.32	0.78	3.14	0.83	7.7×10^{-4} *
Political Orientation	2.69	0.97	2.54	1.02	7.9×10^{-1}
Time Perspective	2.50	0.65	2.27	1.04	9.3×10^{-4} *
Climate Beliefs	3.28	0.81	3.71	0.55	4.0×10^{-2} *
Attitude towards Science	2.33	0.61	2.35	1.07	8.6×10^{-2}
Australia Safe	2.31	0.94	2.58	1.25	2.1×10^{-3} *
Australia Honest	2.41	0.83	2.92	1.10	4.6×10^{-4} *
Australia Friendly	2.43	0.86	2.58	1.10	9.2×10^{-2}
Australia Skilled	2.79	1.12	2.83	1.01	6.7×10^{-1}
Australia Wealthy	2.53	1.05	2.58	1.14	7.9×10^{-1}
Environment Commitment	2.26	1.06	2.88	1.73	1.9×10^{-3} *
Environmentalism	2.42	0.56	2.66	1.11	3.0×10^{-1}
Trust in Scientists	2.12	0.81	1.67	0.87	1.9×10^{-3} *
Trust in Environmental Organisation	2.79	1.05	2.21	1.22	2.8×10^{-5} *

Table S2. *Cont.*

	Representative Sample of the Australian Population		Focus Groups Attendees		
Trust in Federal Government	3.39	1.03	3.42	0.83	4.5×10^{-1}
Trust in Local Government	3.32	0.99	3.50	1.14	2.3×10^{-1}
Trust in Friends & Family	2.58	0.94	2.75	0.85	1.6×10^{-1}
Trust in Community	2.86	0.77	3.00	0.78	8.4×10^{-1}
Trust in News	3.34	0.95	3.42	1.25	3.9×10^{-1}
Strength of Anthropogenic impact on Climate	51.38	29.39	73.13	27.5 0	$4.4 \times 10^{-3} *$
Age	2.82	1.10	3.21	0.93	$2.3 \times 10^{-2} *$
Gender	1.52	0.50	2.04	1.23	5.5×10^{-1}

3. Focus Group Attendees

Table S2. Focus groups attendance at different locations.

Location	Females	Males	Total
Hobart	23	16	39
Melbourne	20	22	42
Canberra	14	20	34
Exmouth	6	3	9
	63	61	124