



# 11<sup>th</sup> ESP WORLD CONFERENCE

23-27 JUNE 2025  
Darwin Australia

From global to local  
ecosystem services:  
Pathways to nature-based  
solutions inspired from  
Down Under

# Pushing Back the 'Hydrocracy'

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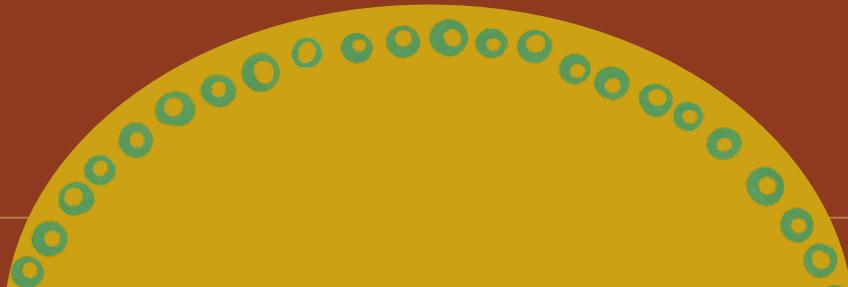
[quentin.grafton@anu.edu.au](mailto:quentin.grafton@anu.edu.au)

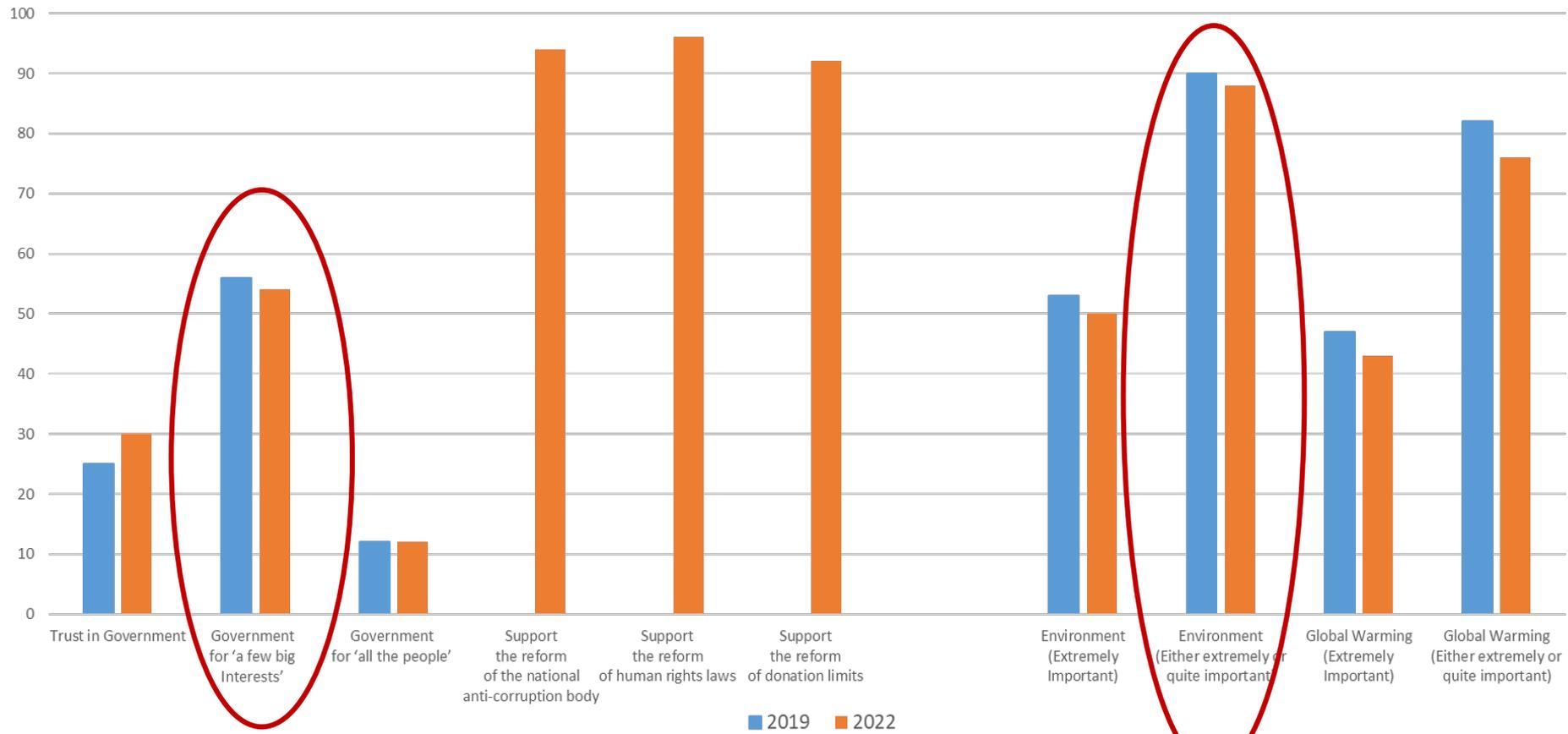


# Outline

- I. The 'Power Triangle' and the 'Democracy Deficit'
- II. 'Robbing Peter to Pay Paul': Australia's Water Story
- III. Towards Justice

# I. The Power Triangle & the Democracy Deficit





- Push back on emissions mitigation
- (Oreskes & Conway 2010; Stoddard et al. 2021; Flannery 2020; Wilkinson 2020)
  - No (or few) net gains with carbon offsets
- (Macintosh et al. 2024a; Macintosh et al. 2024b; West et al. 2023)
- Net Zero by 2050 Illusion (Dyke et al. 2021; Hemming et al. 2022; Kompas et al. 2024)

## Climatocracy

### Power Triangle

## Hydrocracy

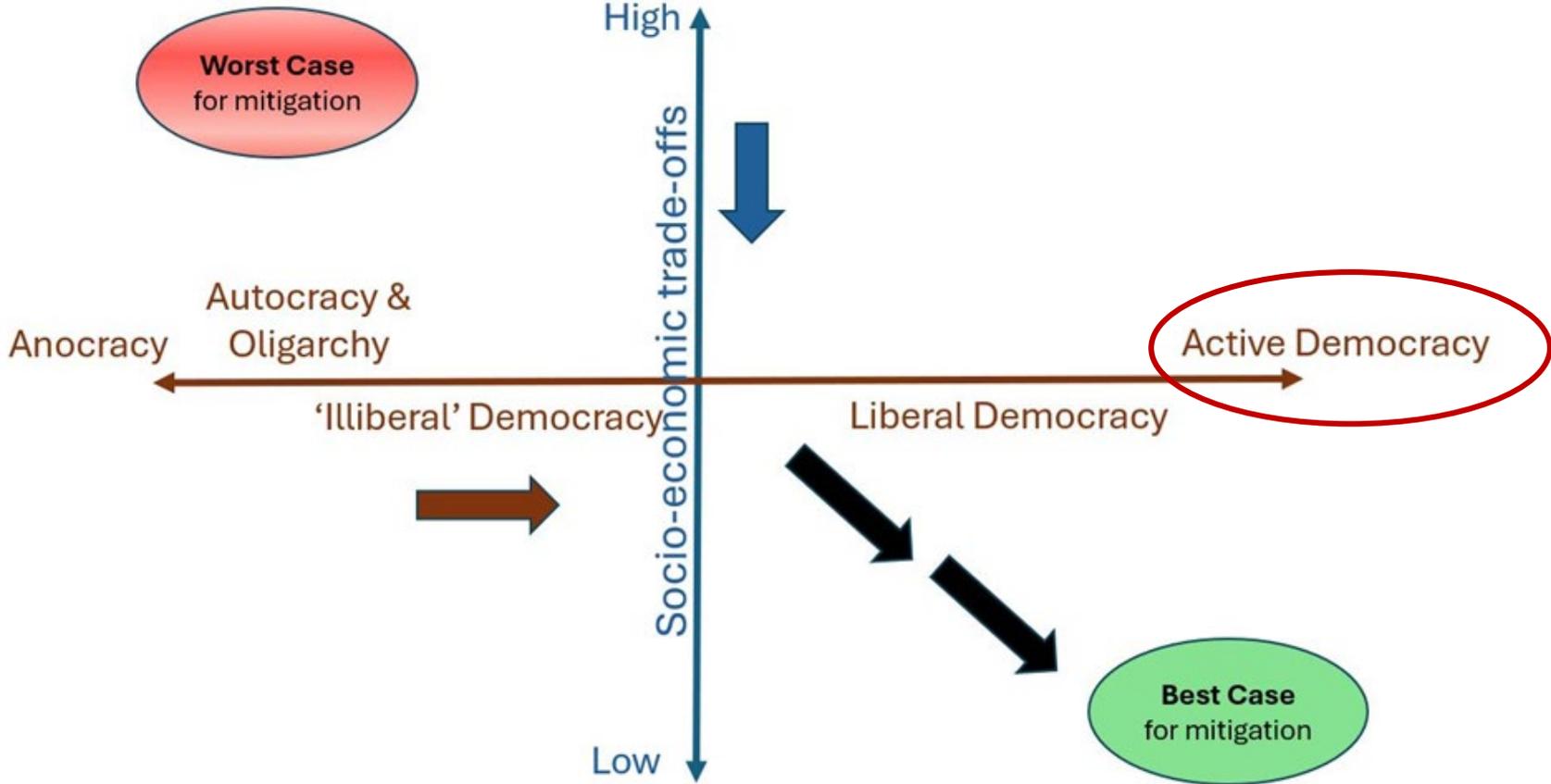
- Impeding or stopping water reform
- (Grafton 2019, 2024; Grafton & Williams 2019; Wheeler 2024)
- Ongoing degradation of Australian rivers (Colloff et al. 2024; Sheldon et al. 2024)

## Biodiversocracy

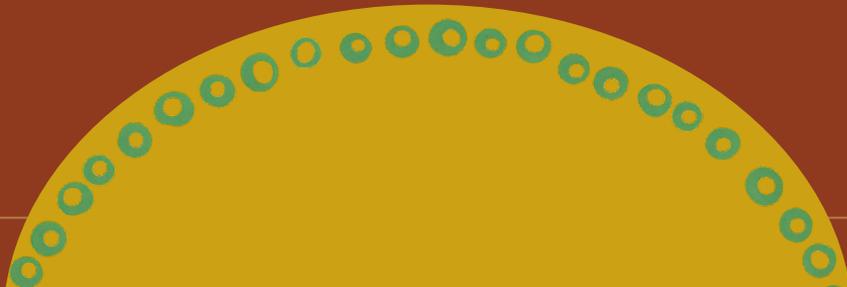
- Push back on land clearing (Heagney et al. 2021; Slezak 2024a)
- Nature Positive by 2030 Illusion (Ermgassen et al. 2023; DCCEE 2022, 2021 State of the Environment)

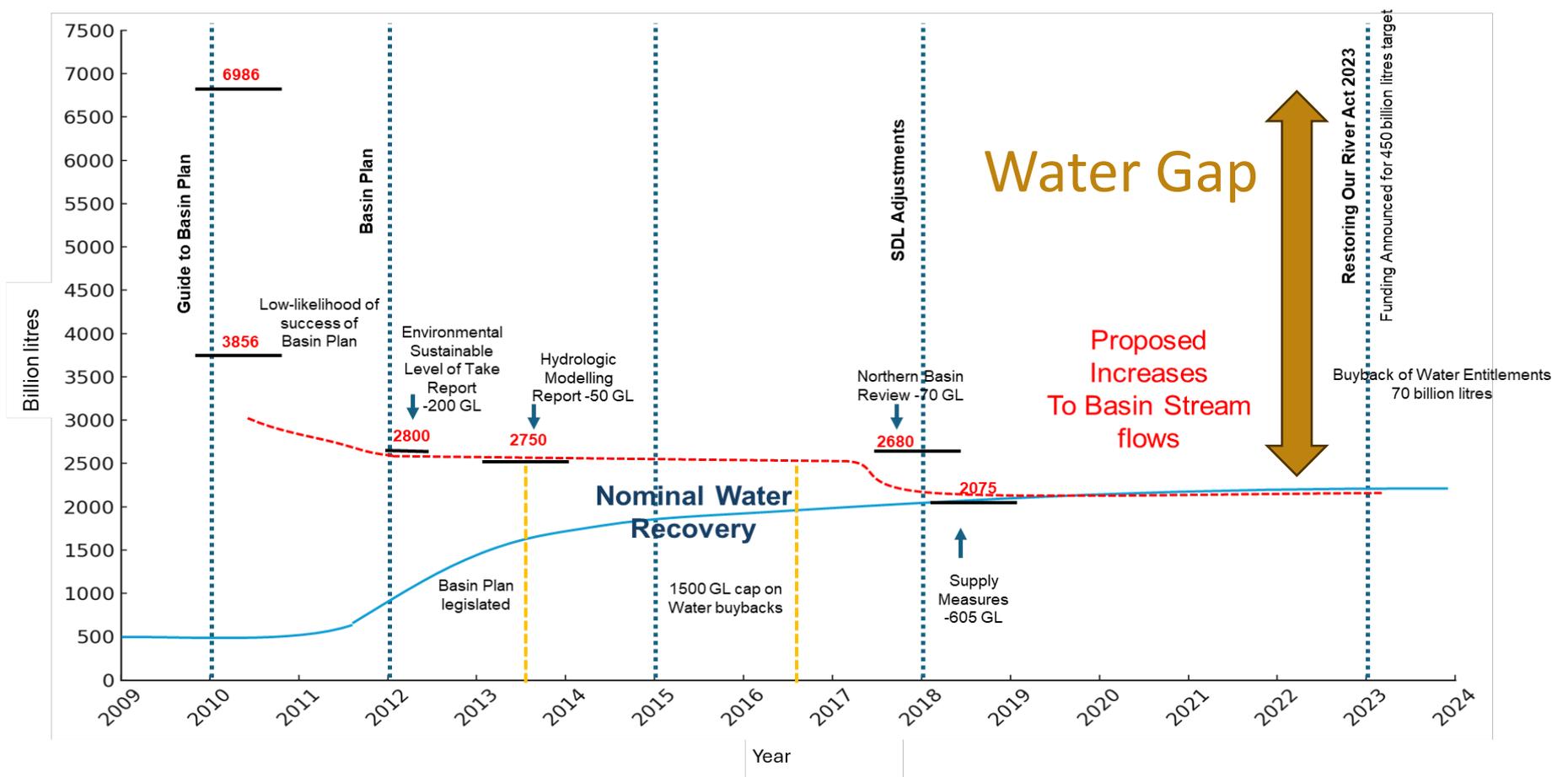


# The 'Democracy Deficit' and Long-term Environmental Threats



## II. 'Robbing Peter to Pay Paul': Australia's Water Story





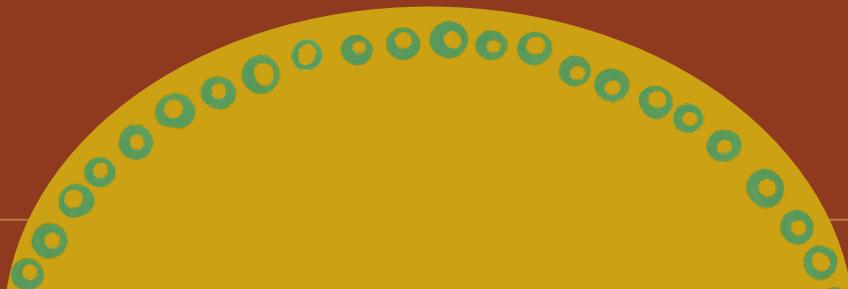
Adapted from Grafton et al. (2020) and source from the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists (2017, Figure 8).



# Fish Kills at Baaka, New South Wales

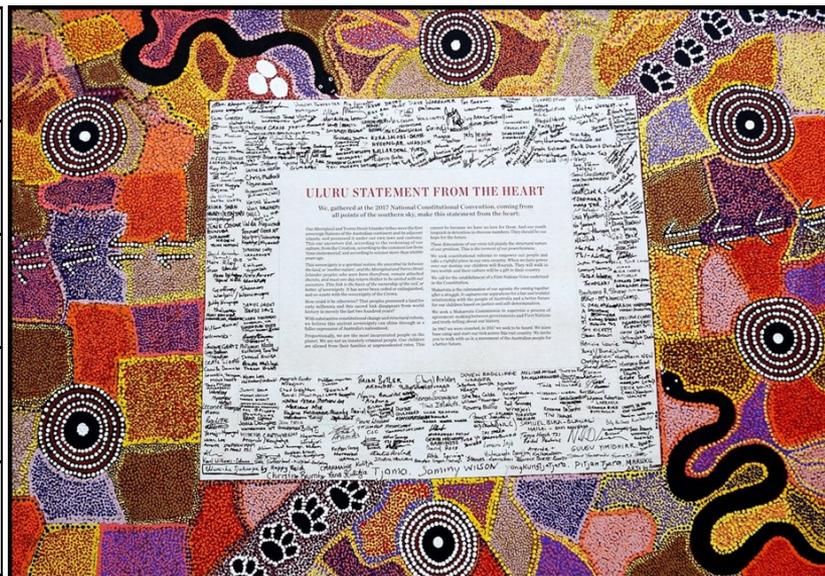


# III. Towards Justice

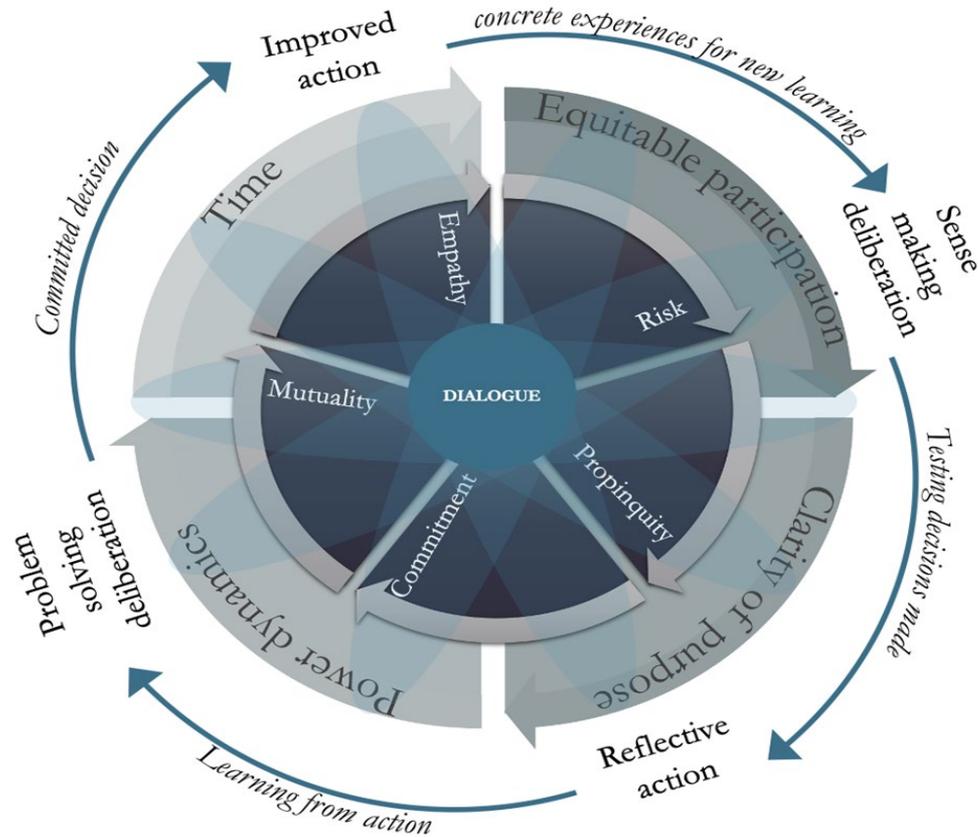


# Voice, Treaty, Truth & Makarratta

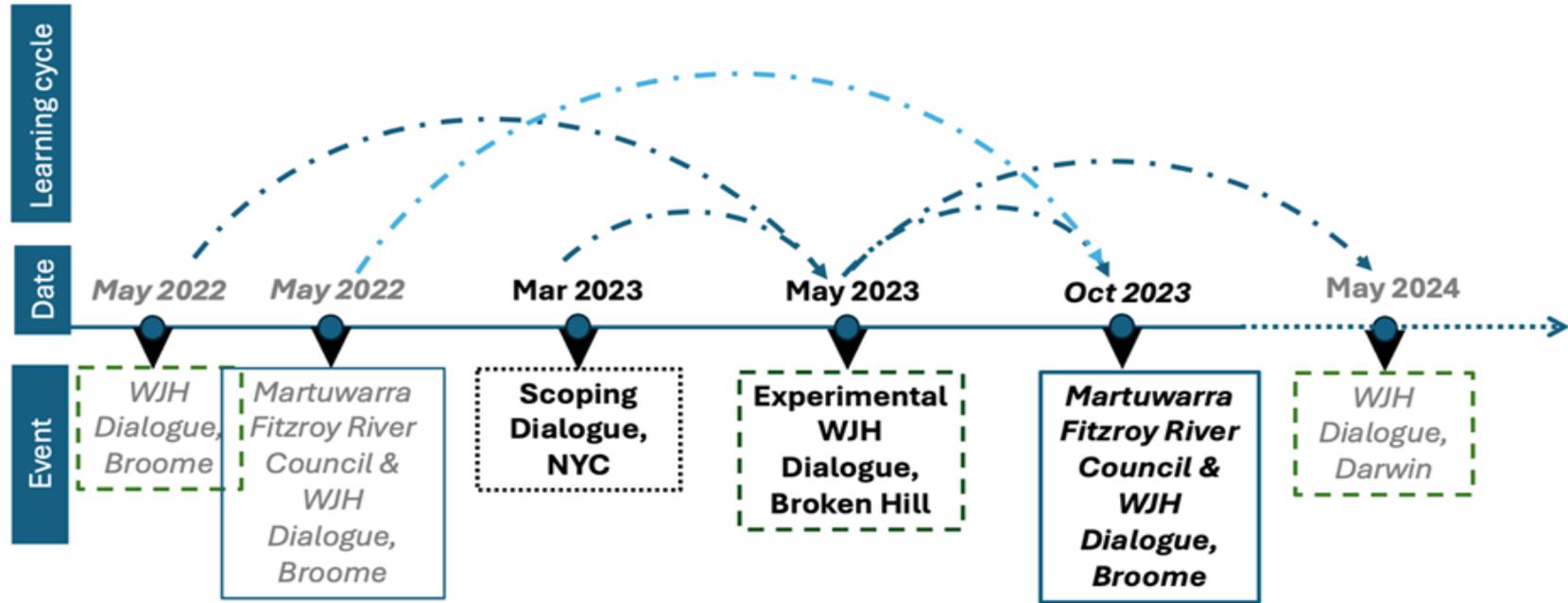
Statement from the Heart Actions to Outcomes	Linked Justice Dimension
Voice	Recognition justice
Treaty	Distributive justice
Truth	Epistemic justice
Makarrata	Restorative justice



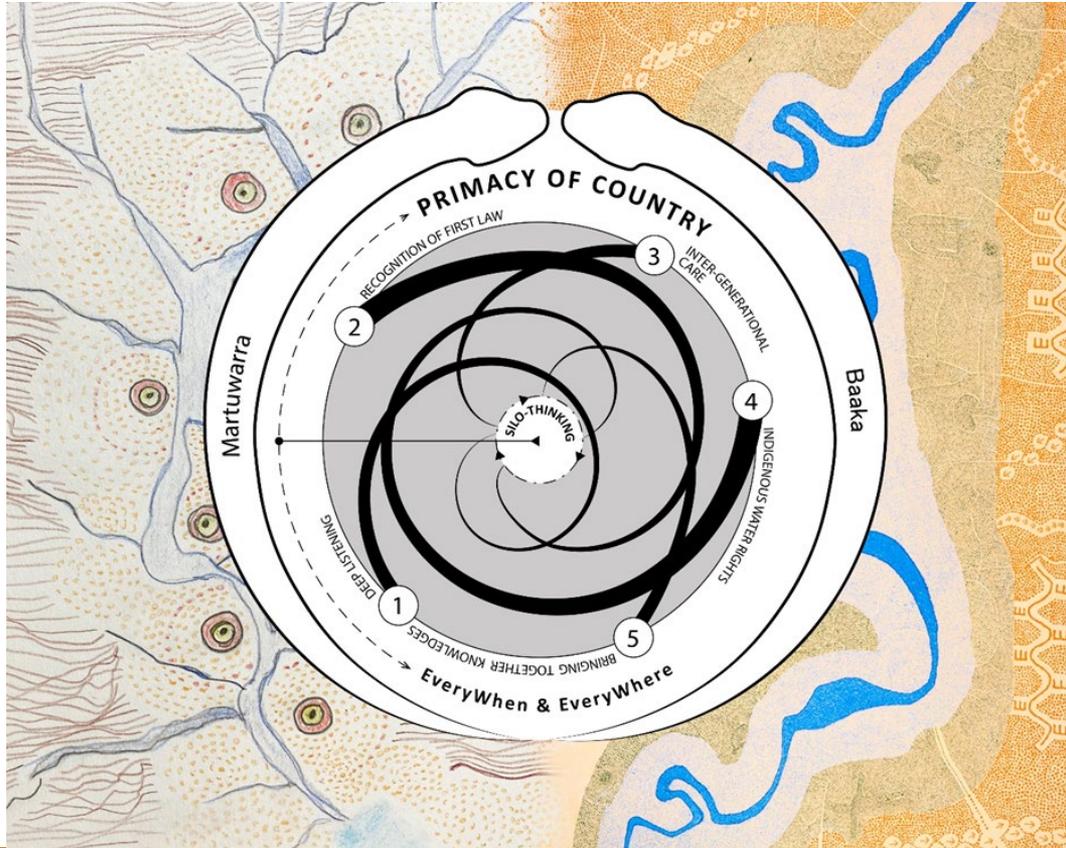
# Doing Dialogues



# Doing Dialogue: Water Justice Hub and Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council



# Flows of Water Justice



# Earthrise



Photograph taken 24 December 1968 by William Anders, Apollo 8 Astronaut



# Cited Sources

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# To or Not To Dialogue?

