

Sketching a Sydney Doughnut

Executive Summary





Sketching a Sydney Doughnut

This report presents the first sketch of a Sydney Doughnut - a compass for regeneration in Greater Sydney. We detail the findings from a series of community workshops and stakeholder roundtables held in late 2022, which form the foundation for this Sydney Doughnut sketch. Finally, this publication outlines opportunity areas for transformative action and presents Regen Sydney's strategy and upcoming streams of engagement.

We thank the UNSW Allens Hub and WWF Australia for providing us with funding that helped us to undertake this body of work.

For all our relations.

WHO IS REGEN SYDNEY?

Regen Sydney is a rising coalition of over 600 individuals and organisations who are actively collaborating across sectors to envision a healthy, equitable, thriving Greater Sydney, now, and into the future. We are beginning by experimenting with Doughnut Economics.

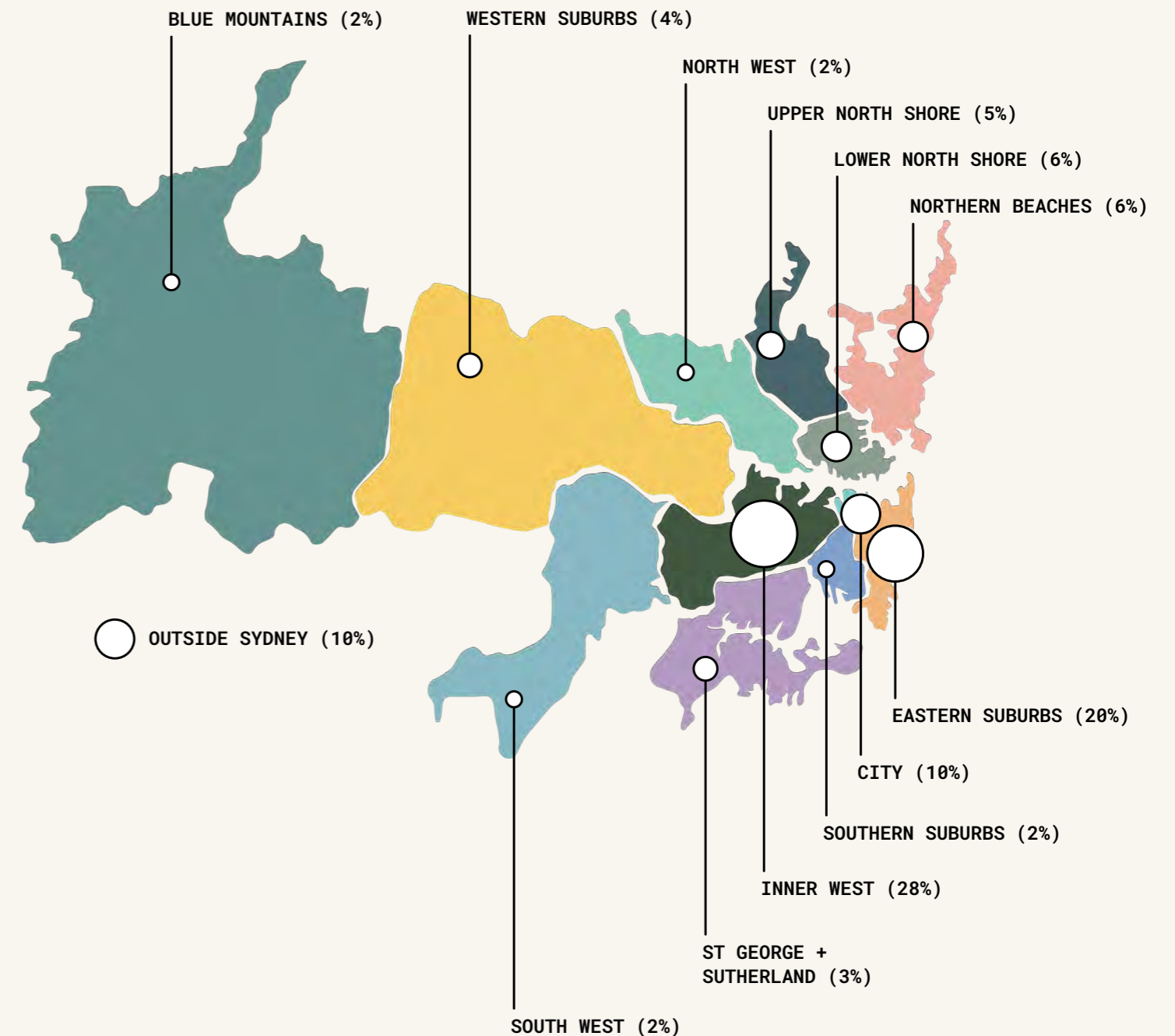
We are part of a fast-growing network of cities, regions and places across the globe who are experimenting with localising and implementing more holistic measures of progress.

Our community has more than doubled, from 250 to 600 people, since we released the 'Growing the Movement' report a little over twelve months ago. This reflects a groundswell of interest in regenerative design and practice, localised economies and participatory citizenship, as well as community connectedness, resilience and disaster preparedness and response in light of repeated bushfires, flooding, drought and the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHO IS ENGAGING?

Regen Sydney's community members come from a huge array of professional fields. These include: *Social Work, Innovation, Sustainability, Health, Architecture & Design, Engineering, Conservation, Climate Policy, Social Enterprise, Law, Education, NGO, Manufacturing, Fashion, Arts and Academia.*

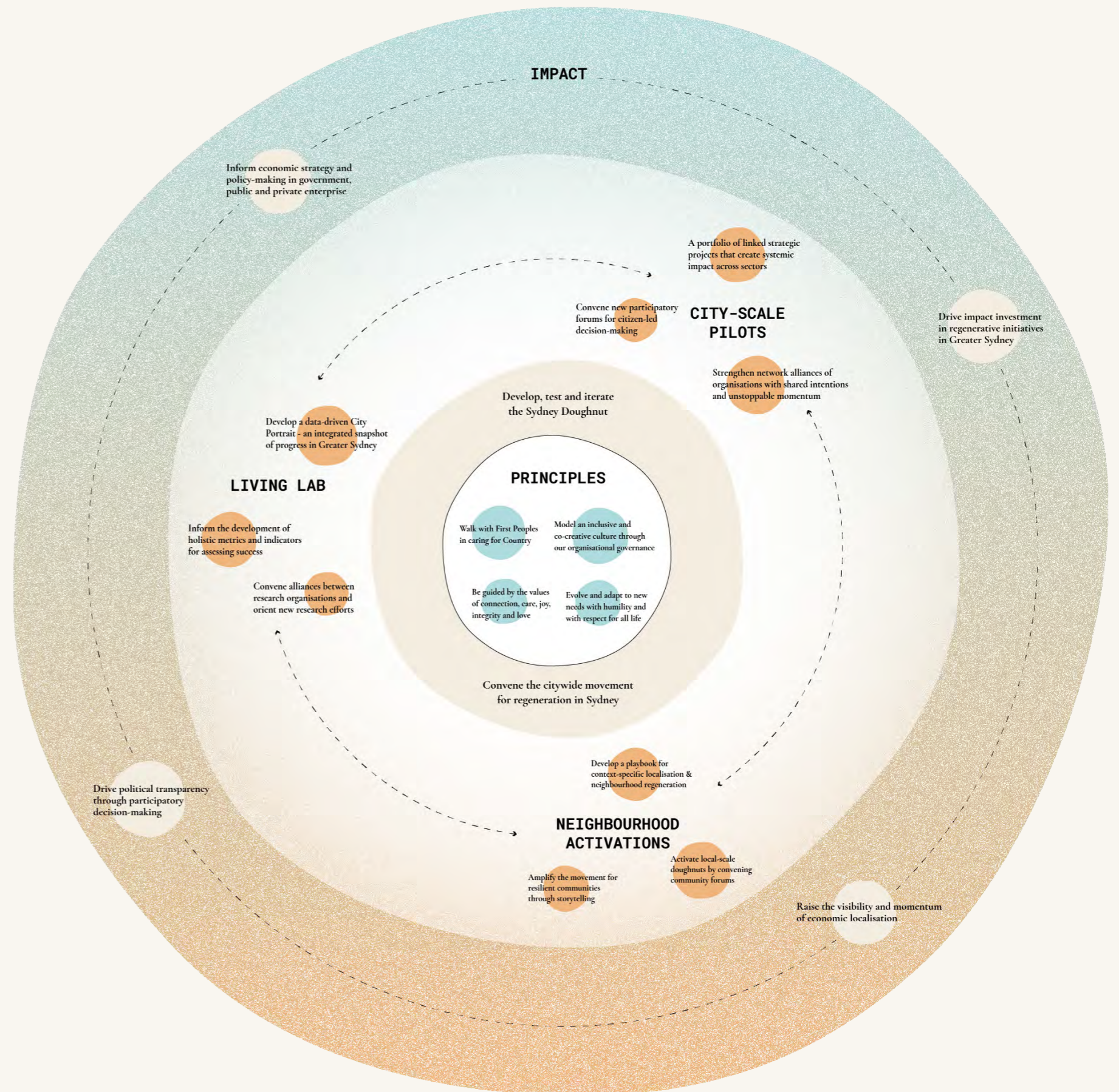
The breadth of professions represented in our community demonstrates both the broad appeal of the 'Doughnut' in connecting residents to tackle entrenched issues, as well as a strong desire for citizens and professionals across our city to play an active role in determining the collective future of the place we call home. It is a way to merge professional and grassroots expertise, with love of place, as concerned and engaged citizens. This community creates a bridge between the lived experience of people's work and home lives.



OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

Regen Sydney has a big vision for regeneration on a citywide scale, to ensure that no one is left behind and our living world can thrive. We are collectively guided by the question "how can we live on this land with joy?" to rewire our livelihoods, our values and our systems.

ACTIONS [WHAT WE DO]	If we develop, test and iterate a Sydney Doughnut as a collective vision for regeneration;
ACTIVITIES [HOW WE DO IT]	By creating a portfolio of ambitious, linked, cross-sector, City-Scale Pilots, defining place-based and holistic measures of thriving, and piloting hyper-local Neighbourhood Activations;
OUTPUTS [TANGIBLE RESULTS]	It will demonstrate what localised, thriving economies look and feel like, catalyse novel public-private partnerships and alliances, and amplify Sydney's role in the movement for resilient, responsible cities;
OUTCOMES [SYSTEM SHIFTING PATHWAYS]	And consequently, raise the collective ambition of Sydney, inform economic strategy and policy-making in government, public and private enterprise, as well as raise the visibility and momentum of economic localisation and participatory decision-making;
IMPACT [LONG TERM]	In order to move Greater Sydney and all its diverse regions into the safe and just space for all life, where social foundations and ecological responsibilities are both met.



THREE PILLARS OF OUR VISION

1. Transition to an economy that heals and activates rather than destroys life, and in demonstrating that this is not only possible, it's already under way in Sydney.

2. Connect and grow the movement of individuals and organisations actively working towards making Sydney a resilient and regenerative city.

3. Get Sydney inside the 'doughnut' - the safe space for all life - within a generation.



TEMPERATURE REGULATION

OCEAN HEALTH

THE SAFE & JUST SPACE FOR ALL LIFE

FRESHWATER HEALTH

BIODIVERSITY INTEGRITY

AIR QUALITY

PEACE & JUSTICE

FOOD

WATER

HEALTH

HOUSING

COMMUNITY

CARING FOR COUNTRY

ARTS & CULTURE

MOBILITY

DIGITAL EQUALITY

EDUCATION

ENERGY

WORK

INCOME

ACCESS TO NATURE

SOCIAL EQUITY

EQUALITY IN DIVERSITY

POLITICAL VOICE

CHEMICAL WASTE

SOIL HEALTH

EMBEDDED EMISSIONS

LAND CONVERSION

SYDNEY DOGS JUNGH

A SYDNEY DOUGHNUT

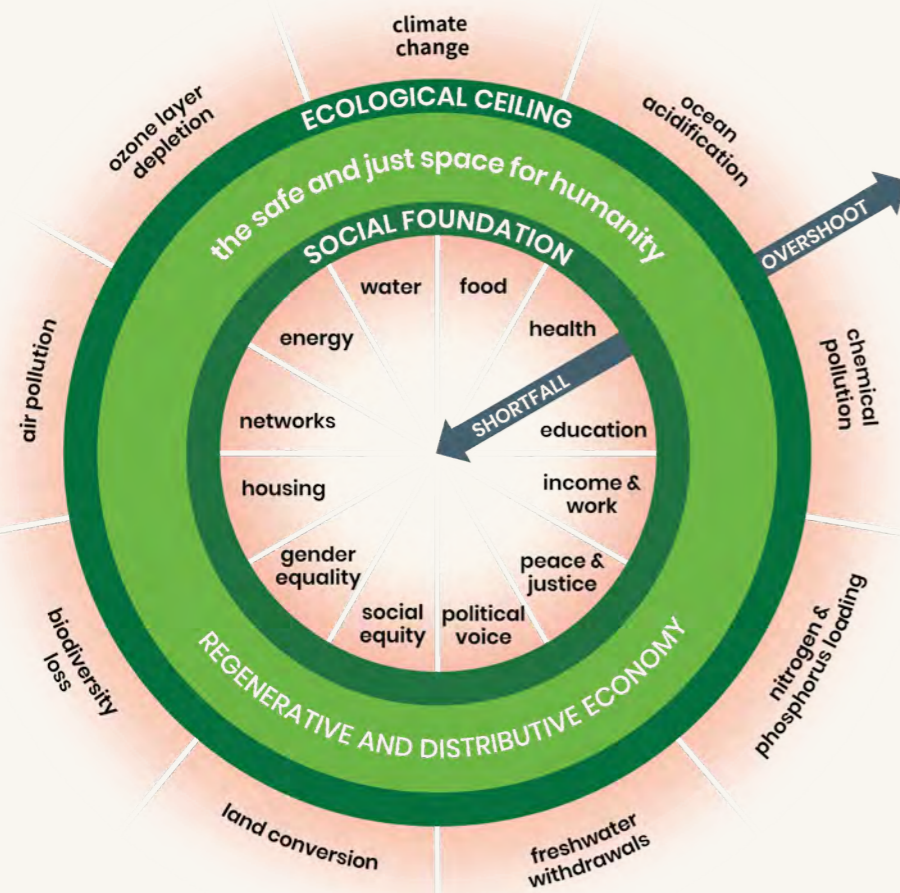
What do you see? The value of a sketch is that it is not a finished work, but an invitation: a way of evolving ideas and making decisions to keep rolling forward.

As part of our research, community workshops and stakeholder roundtables held through this body of work, we explored the ways that the Doughnut model might be localised in Greater Sydney.

This 'first sketch' has evolved from the findings from the community workshops and stakeholder roundtables. It augments Kate Raworth's original doughnut framework with additional dimensions that reflect the most pertinent social (inner ring) and ecological (outer ring) dynamics at play in our city. These additional dimensions are 'Access to Nature', 'Arts & Culture' and 'Digital Equity'.

REFRAMING THE ECOLOGICAL DIMENSIONS

The original Doughnut framework contains dimensions that relate to Earth system processes that sustain life. These planetary boundaries cannot be effectively downscaled to local or city scales¹. With that in mind, this Sydney Doughnut contains ecological dimensions relevant to the realisation of thriving local ecosystems.



¹ Will Steffen et al. (2015) - [Planetary boundaries: Guiding human development on a changing planet](#)

ROLLING THE DOUGHNUT AT MULTIPLE SCALES

CITY (REGIONAL) SCALE

Convening the movement at the city-scale centres on mapping regenerative endeavours, fostering strategic collaborations, actively seeking out contribution from underrepresented communities, building relationships with First Nations Elders and community leaders and delivering positive outcomes through alliances, events and projects that enable the complex city ecosystem to dream of a new story for itself.

The region of Greater Sydney as a city itself is a vast area made of diverse potential across various localities. Downscaling the Doughnut model to the city-scale aims to catalyse greater visibility and momentum for regenerative initiatives across other scales². In doing so, deeper and broader alliances can surface to strengthen neighbourhood activations as well as to respond to Sydney's global responsibilities.

NEIGHBOURHOOD (LOCAL) SCALE

“It could be that the neighbourhood, not the individual, is the essential unit of social change. If you're trying to improve lives, maybe you have to think about changing many elements of a single neighbourhood, in a systematic way, at a steady pace.”

David Brooks, quoted by Civic Square

Coming together in our local communities allows us to share stories of struggle and hope with our neighbours and enjoy the deep sense of connection and camaraderie that happens at the street level of our lives.

“The idea of what the neighbourhood means to us - our homes, streets and wider place - is where we both have most agency and most viscerally feel the results of global system collapse, therefore making it an incredibly important unit of change through which people can be at the forefront of their own safe and just climate transitions.”

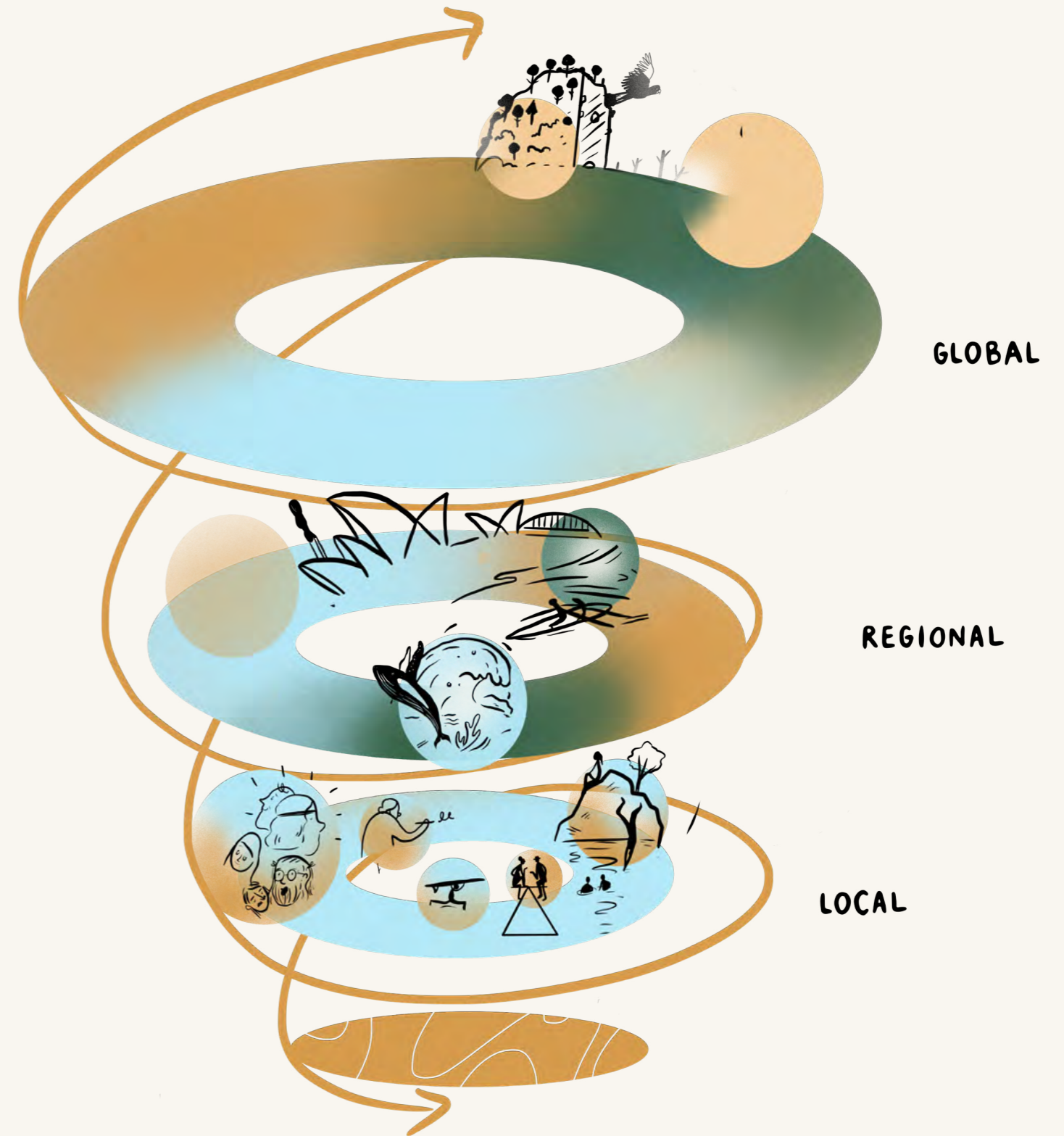
Civic Square, Birmingham UK

GLOBAL SCALE

As a global city, with global responsibilities, the Doughnut can help us to understand the impacts of Sydney's economy, consumption footprint and supply chains on people and places in other parts of our shared planet.

The indicators and alliances Regen Sydney will develop to strengthen our social fabric and ecological systems can be used to drive better policy making and regulation, while stepping up our global responsibilities.

Rolling our Sydney Doughnut, we can take our place among other Doughnut-friendly cities worldwide. Exciting new possibilities and adventures are made possible through the intersecting and interconnecting of the many feedback loops and currents of the global movement.



WALKING WITH FIRST NATIONS

2 Rachel A. Turner & Jane Wills (2022) - [Downscaling doughnut economics for sustainability governance](#)

A VISION FOR A REGENERATIVE SYDNEY

Working collaboratively and across silos, the participants created a rich picture of what a regenerative Sydney could look and feel like.

By analysing and clustering the discussion points, we pulled out recurrent themes from participants' vision statements. There were many such themes that were relevant across the two workshops, as well as across the various social and ecological dimensions of the Doughnut.

A synthesis of these themes helps to form the community's vision for a regenerative Sydney.

A REGENERATIVE SYDNEY:



Means no one is left behind.

In this city of great diversity, many geographies, histories and cultures, no one should be left behind. Participants acknowledged that many parts of our society are falling through the cracks when it comes to food and housing. There was a lot of support for building networks of care and support as well as for bridging our huge disparities. Civic infrastructure and services play an increased role in supporting increased accessibility and equity.



Walks with First Peoples.

A truly regenerative Sydney centres First Nations wisdom and an understanding of Natural Law. There is an emphatically strong desire to walk with First Nations people in this work, and a regenerative economy is impossible to create in Sydney without doing so. In doing this work, we can learn from First Nations wisdom and First Laws; whilst addressing urgent calls to end black deaths in custody and progress the development of a long overdue Treaty.



Actively collaborates together.

Sydney values living cultures, living democracy and participation; fostering accessibility, whilst putting sovereignty and care into practice. Flipping a culture of passive consumerism on its head, there is a call for citizen and community empowerment. By harnessing the collective in community-led governance, residents of Sydney can find greater agency and decision-making power. Neighbourhood scale initiatives and economic localisation help to create greater resilience.

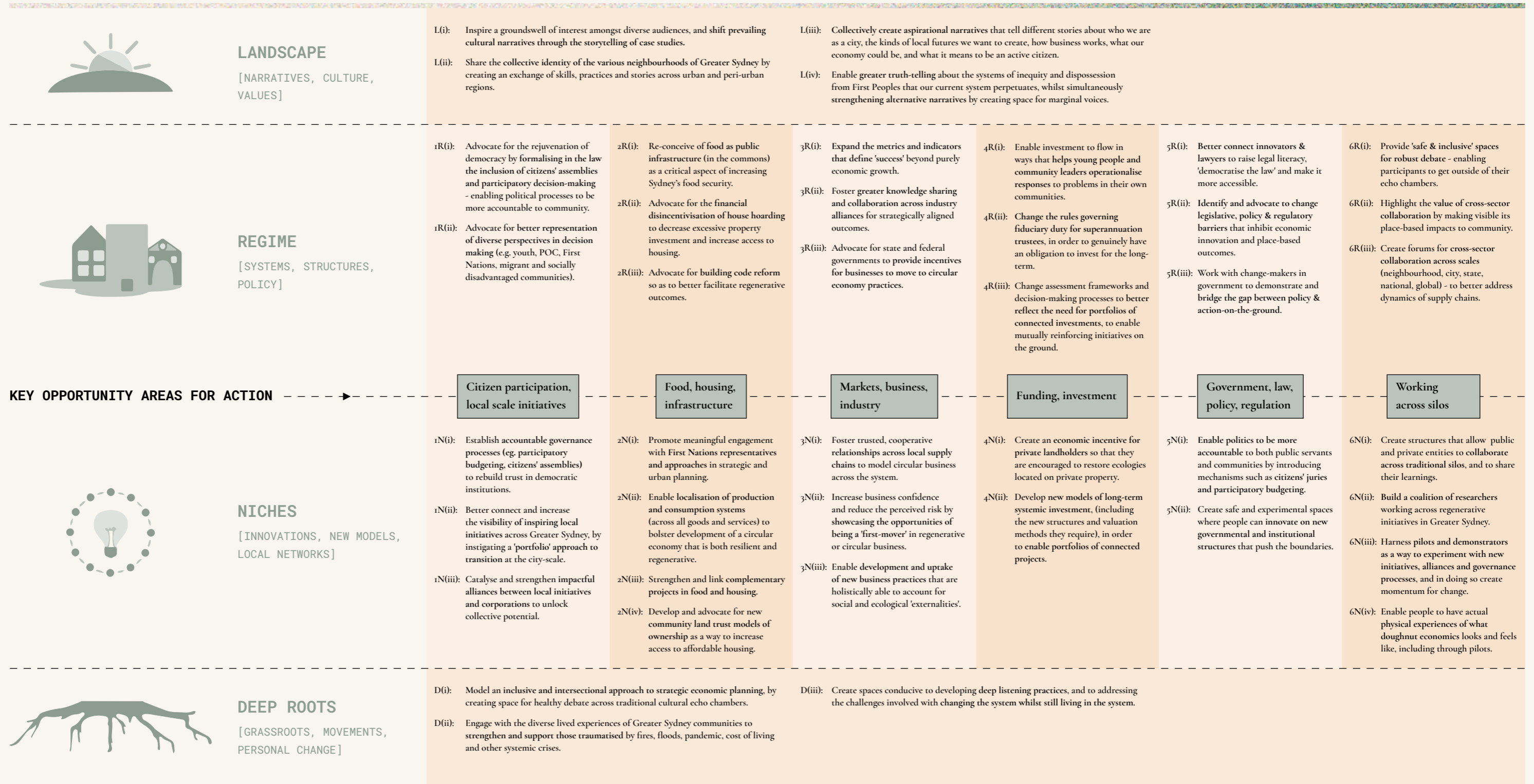


Is connected with our ecosystems.

The ecological & social spheres are deeply intertwined, and cannot be considered separately from each other. Our city needs to be ecologically integrated, for example through green corridors, community gardens and water sensitive urban design. Meaningful connection to nearby wild green spaces, bush, beaches and rivers is of utmost importance for its role in supporting the wellbeing of humans and non-humans alike.

MAPPING THE SYSTEM TRANSITION: OPPORTUNITY AREAS

Shown on this page are the key **opportunities areas** that have emerged through the series of stakeholder roundtables and the subsequent synthesis.



PHASE SHIFT

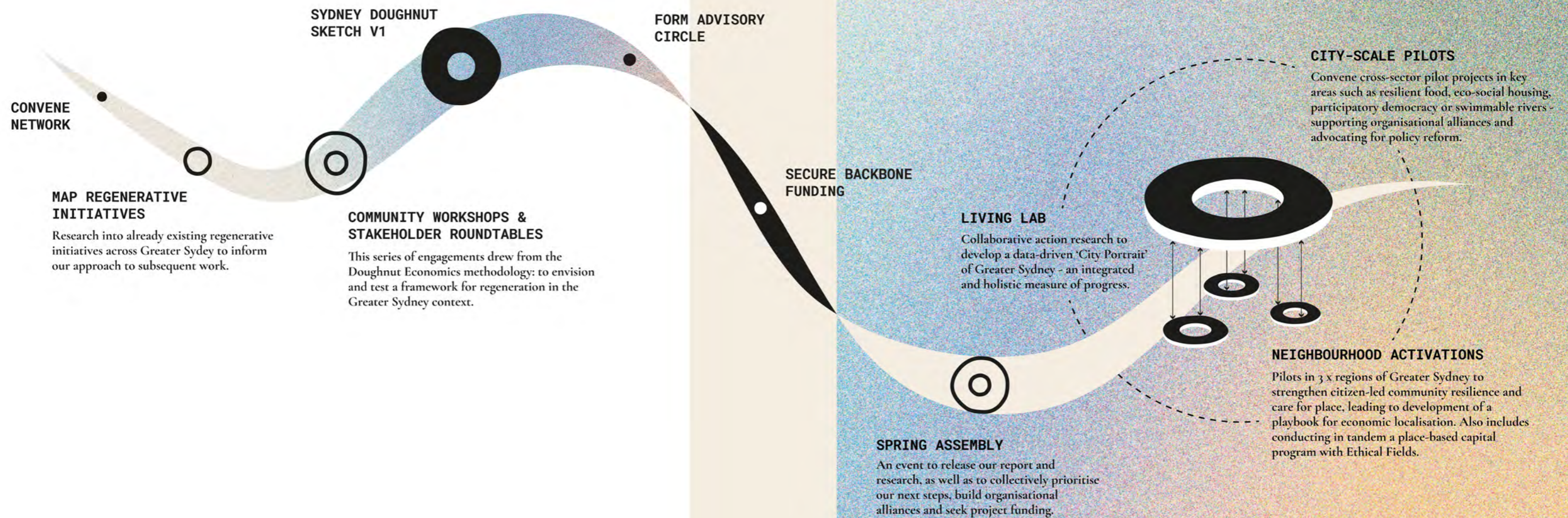
A pivot from theory to action:

From building the movement and exploring theoretical foundations → to creating place-based and cross-sector action

2021-2022

NOW

2023-2025



OUR MISSION

	NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTIVATIONS	CITY-SCALE PILOTS	LIVING LAB
POTENTIAL	Thriving neighbourhoods with active citizens and localised economies working together to generate community wealth and restore ecological health.	Connected, well-funded clusters of ambitious, cross-sector pilot initiatives that tangibly shift the city's perception of what's possible.	Integrated, comprehensive, place-centred indicators that can be used to assess progress to guide policy-making in resilient city planning.
SYSTEM LEVEL	NICHES, ROOTS	LANDSCAPE, REGIME, NICHES	LANDSCAPE, REGIME
ACTIVITIES	<p>Recruit at least 3 councils to champion the activation of community wealth and ecological health within municipalities across Sydney.</p> <p>Activate 2-5 neighbourhoods across Sydney to adapt the Sydney Doughnut in their neighbourhoods, drawing from DEAL's methodology and toolsets, and supported by Regen Sydney.</p> <p>Develop and trial place-based funding frameworks to finance community leadership in economic localisation.</p> <p>Foster the development of creative and participatory community forums. Nurture capacity for residents, business and council to collaborate on shared vision and action.</p> <p>Develop a playbook for localisation to inspire and support other areas of Greater Sydney - and beyond - to trial their own.</p> <p>Share learnings. Build the capacity of neighbourhoods to tell and share their stories of regeneration, to create a groundswell of local ambition.</p>	<p>Collectively define and prioritise challenge areas with the greatest potential to get Sydney inside the 'safe & just space'.</p> <p>Define an initial 'demonstrator' initiative that makes the promise of a Sydney Doughnut tangible through key prioritised areas of action, e.g. food, participation, housing, waterways.</p> <p>Foster the collaborative courage of Sydney. Nurture bold alliances (public-private) & enhance the collaborative capacity and aspiration of the city's changemakers.</p> <p>Develop and trial collaborative funding frameworks to finance portfolios of initiatives with a shared mission (systemic funding). Work together to create traction and raise ambition for other initiatives.</p> <p>Share learnings. Build the capacity of the city to tell and share stories of regeneration to shift the narrative of what's possible for Sydney.</p>	<p>Form a 'Living Lab' research space to conduct data-oriented collaborative research.</p> <p>Foster the development of holistic indicators to measure progress at the city-scale - helping to form a 'Doughnut Dashboard'. Test and iterate through Neighbourhood Activations and City-Scale Pilots.</p> <p>Develop a detailed City Portrait of Greater Sydney. Use holistic indicators to create a snapshot of Sydney's progress and identify areas of action.</p> <p>Grow an alliance of organisations who are engaged in collaborating through the Regen Sydney network.</p> <p>Share learnings. Build the capacity of the researchers to tell and share stories of regeneration to catalyse holistic policy-making responses.</p>
OUTCOMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More resilient and sustainable communities across Greater Sydney • Local cultures of active citizenship • Localised 'Doughnuts' grounded in place • Shareable 'playbook' for localisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Novel cross-sector alliances and partnerships working together to improve community wellbeing, resilience and ecological health • Tangible showcases of initiatives that bring to life what regenerative and distributive economies look & feel like. • Establishment of systemic funding frameworks • Testable prototypes across Greater Sydney 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holistic indicators to inform a 'Doughnut Dashboard' • Data-oriented 'City Portrait' reflecting Sydney's current status • Active network of researchers • Guidance and advocacy for policy-making
TIMELINE	0-12 MONTHS	6-24 MONTHS	0-24 MONTHS
ACTORS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community leaders & changemakers • Local businesses • Local governments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporates, NGOs, start-ups & social enterprises • Local and state governments • Subject matter experts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological economics researchers • Policy-makers and subject matter experts • Neighbourhood Activation and City-Scale Pilot participants
EXAMPLES	Civic Square: Birmingham Neighbourhood Doughnut; Village Zero	Regen Melbourne: Swimmable Birrarung, Participatory Melbourne	City of Amsterdam: City Portrait; Regen Melbourne: Measuring What Matters

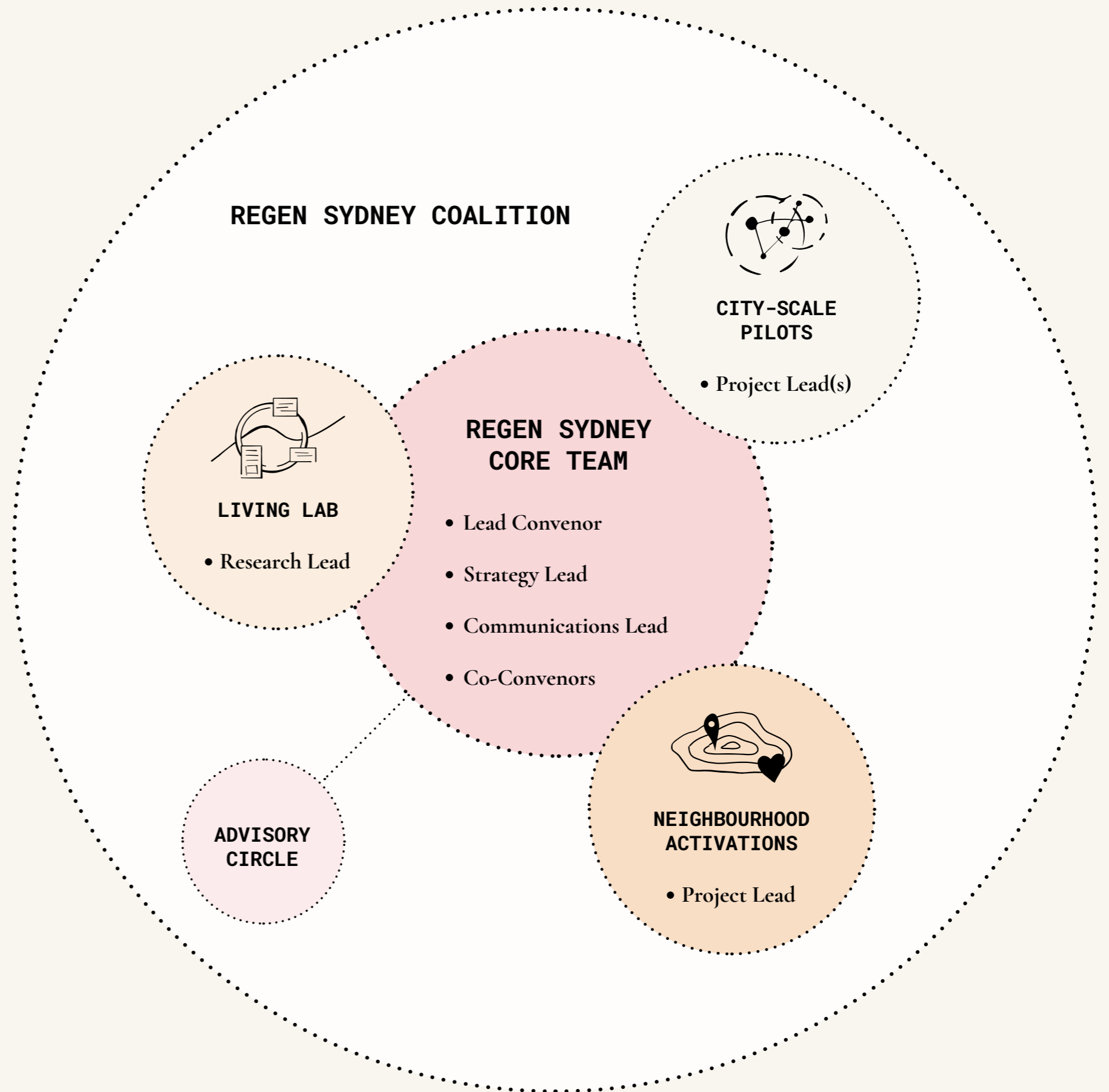
A COALITION TO MOBILISE ACTION

Delivering these three streams of activities, requires a dedicated and highly coordinated team.

Learning from allies who are a step ahead of us in this work (e.g. Regen Melbourne & Civic Square), we are seeking backbone funding to resource our core team of 4 (2 x FTE + 2 x 0.6 FTE), with additional Project Leads attached to each work stream.

Together, these bodies of work will continue to amplify the network of individuals and organisations that make up the Regen Sydney network. Guided by the compass of our Sydney Doughnut, this portfolio will catalyse real action towards activating a safe and just city on the ground.

Regen Sydney is in the process of setting up our organisational model and becoming an incorporated association.



CORE TEAM FUNCTIONS

The core team roles identified on the previous page would together cover the following backbone functions:

Convening & Alliance Building

- Develop and communicate Regen Sydney's vision & strategy;
- Uphold values and integrity of the vision of Regen Sydney;
- Convene an Advisory Circle to guide the strategy;
- Work with strategic partners & funders to resource backbone function;
- Build a coalition of partners and allies to activate the demonstrator initiatives;
- Broker connections across government partners and strategic allies to advocate for policy reform;

Systemic Design

- Develop and communicate Theory of Change (situating it in systemic context);
- Foster and convene unusual alliances across sectors and scales to catalyse City-Scale Pilots and Neighbourhood Activations;
- Design and facilitate collaborative forums for creative, collective action, ensuring diverse and representational participation;
- Conduct synthesis and visual-sensemaking of action research;
- Portray the 'bigger picture' - evaluate how and where change is happening.

Collaborative Research

- Develop and manage a Regen Sydney Living Lab to conduct action research, build industry and research partnerships and deliver knowledge translation;
- Grow and manage an alliance of research institutions & universities;
- Lead the development of a City Portrait, utilising and connecting data from the City-Scale Pilots and Neighbourhood Activations;
- Test and build the City Portrait to measure progress in Greater Sydney.

Community Weaving

- Nurture the Regen Sydney network to spark unusual and impactful alliances among members and related organisations;
- Amplify the regenerative activities that are already happening across our city; build storytelling capacity of members, curate and share inspiring stories from across the network;
- Event organising to support the design and production of Regen Sydney's forums and gatherings, large and small, virtual and in the real world;
- Establish and manage social platforms to harness community contribution and drive member engagement.



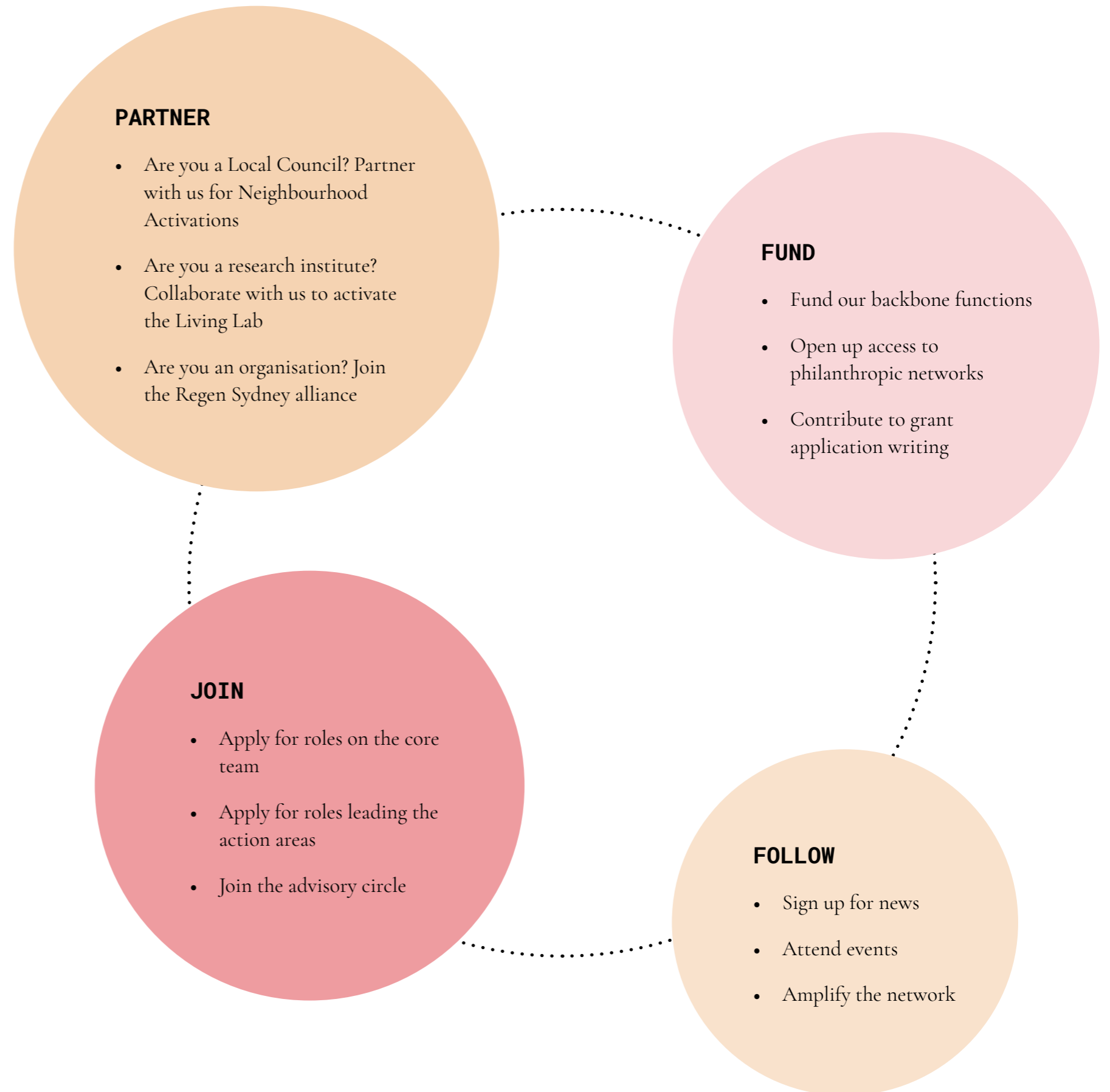
THE ASK

We're seeking funding from a select group of anchor partners to help us deliver this vision. Could this be you?

Backbone funding requirement:
\$400,000 per year (2023-25)









This will resource the convening function, research capability, project development, alliance building, participatory engagement and network communications.

Join the Regen Sydney journey.



ABOUT

REGEN SYDNEY CONVENORS

-  **Alice Howard-Vyse**
HUMANISE THIS
-  **Bronwen Morgan**
UNSW, NENA
-  **Christie Wilson**
PSYCHOLOGY FOR A SAFE CLIMATE
-  **Kiran Kashyap**
COALITION OF EVERYONE
-  **Madeleine Hill**
CLIMATE CATALYST
-  **Mel Rumble**
MUSEUM OF FUTURES
-  **Mylene Turban**
PANGOLIN ASSOCIATES
-  **Peter Dowson**
DIGITAL STORYTELLERS

ILLUSTRATIONS

-  **Josephine Ford**
DIGITAL STORYTELLERS

CONTACT

For more information please visit our website:
<https://regen.sydney/>

June 2023

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Regen Sydney respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians and the living cultures of the lands and waters that make up the place we now call Greater Sydney. We pay respect to Elders past and present, and generations yet to come. We offer deep gratitude to Aboriginal peoples who continue to care for Country after countless generations, and acknowledge that their sovereignty was never ceded.

We stand in solidarity with those who share the journey of reparation to address the ongoing injustices and devastation of colonialism in communities across Greater Sydney and beyond.

We are proud to celebrate the continuing contributions that Aboriginal people make to the life of this city. There can be no regenerative Sydney without regenerating Culture.

