The Hinge of History

...how this decade will determine our future

Rod.Oram@NZ2050.nz / +64 21 444 839 Blog - NZ2050.nz / Newsroom.co.nz Twitter @RodOramNZ Rod Oram's presentation to the NZ Planning Institute Nelson, March 26th , 2021

...a consequential time

- "We live during the hinge of history.
 - Given the scientific and technological discoveries of the last two centuries, the world has never changed as fast.
 - We shall soon have even greater powers to transform, not only our surroundings, but ourselves and our successors."
- Derek Parfit, On What Matters; 2011
- British philosopher 1942-2017
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derek Parfit





Could right now be the most influential time ever? Richard Fisher looks at the case for and against – and why it matters.



hat is the best word to describe our present moment? You might be tempted to reach for "unprecedented", or perhaps "extraordinary".

But here's another adjective for our times that you may not have heard before: "hingey".

It may not be a particularly elegant term, but it describes a potentially profound idea: that we may be living through the most influential period of time ever. And it's about far more than the Covid-19 pandemic and politics of 2020. Leading philosophers and researchers are debating whether the events that occur in our century could shape the fate of our species over the next thousands if not millions of years. The "hinge of history" hypothesis proposes that we are, right now, at a turning point. Is this really plausible?

<u>https://www.bbc</u>
 <u>.com/future/arti</u>
 <u>cle/20200923-</u>
 <u>the-hinge-of-</u>
 <u>history-long-</u>
 <u>termism-and-</u>
 existential-risk

Our to do list...(just the big ones)...

- ... by priority... because they are inter-dependent, and deliver co-benefits
- Solve the climate crisis
- Achieve economic transformation
- Reach deep sustainability
 - ...in all senses of the word...ecological, social, cultural and economic
- Drastically reduce inequalities
 - ...economic, education, health and justice
- Make housing affordable
- Grow into 21st century nationhood

...to do so, we need...

- Wisdom
- Open-ness
- Creativity
- Collective action
- Care for the common good
- ...and to all make our own particular contributions
 - ...each of us can only do our infinitesimally small bit
 - ...but together we make constructive progress

The course we set this decade will determine our long-term future

Agenda

- Earth
- Democracy
- Society

"Humanity is waging war on nature. This is suicidal."

"We are facing a devastating pandemic, new heights of global heating, new lows of ecological degradation and new setbacks in our work towards global goals for more equitable, inclusive and sustainable development.

To put it simply, the state of the planet is broken.

Dear friends, humanity is waging war on nature. This is suicidal."

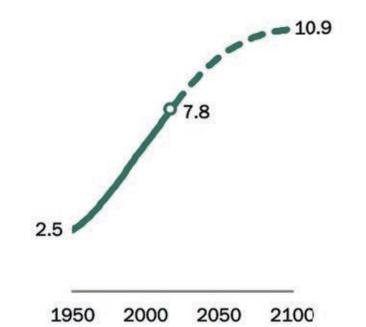


UN Secretary General António Guterres' State of the Planet report, Dec 2020

<u>https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2020-12-02/secretary-generals-address-columbia-university-the-state-of-the-planet-scroll-down-for-language-versions</u>

World population growth is projected to flatten in coming decades

World population, in billions

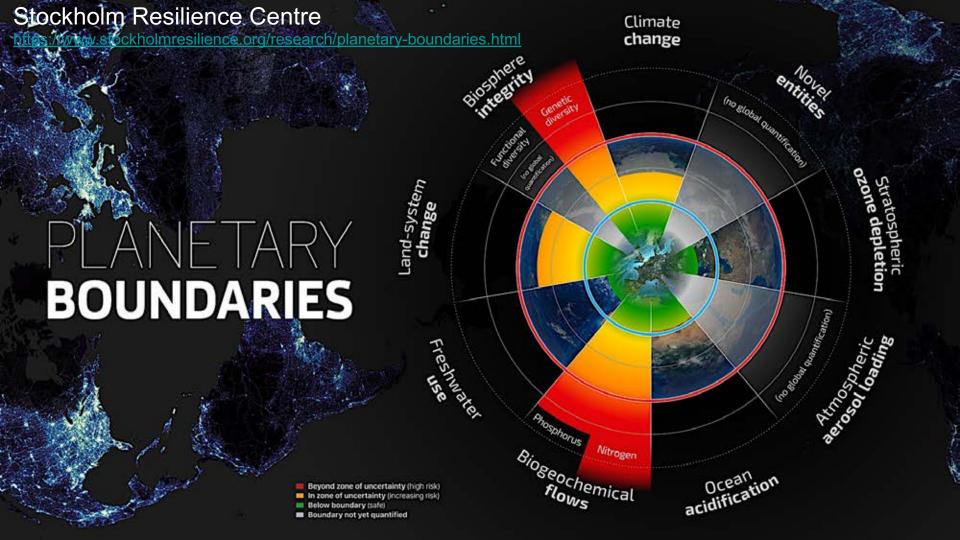


Stockholm Resilience Centre

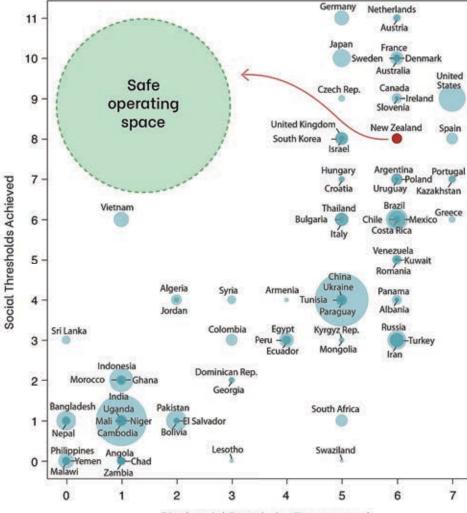
THE GREAT ACCELERATION



REFERENCE: Steffen, W., W. Broadgate, L. Deutsch, O. Galfney and C. Ludwig, The Trajectory of the Anthropocene: the Great Acceleration, The Anthropocene Review, 16 January 2015

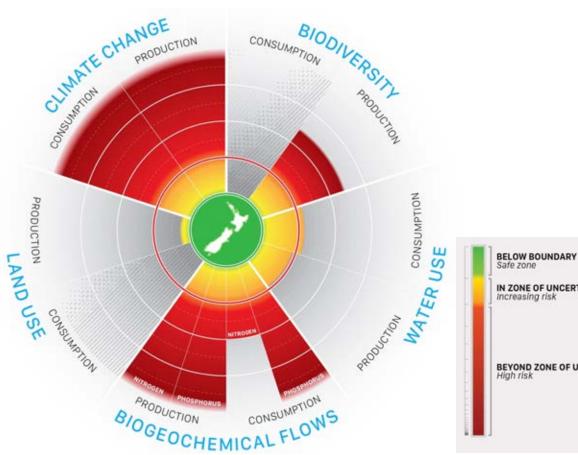


Our long journey ahead



Biophyscial Boundaries Transgressed

New Zealand's boundary breaches



A safe operating space for New Zealand/Aotearoa

Translating the planetary boundaries framework

Dec 2020

IN ZONE OF UNCERTAINTY Increasing risk

BEYOND ZONE OF UNCERTAINTY

https://www.mfe.govt.nz/sites/default/files/medi a/Climate%20Change/A%20Safe%20Operating %20Space%20for%20NZ%20Aotearoa%20-%20Translating%20the%20planetary%20bound aries%20framework.pdf

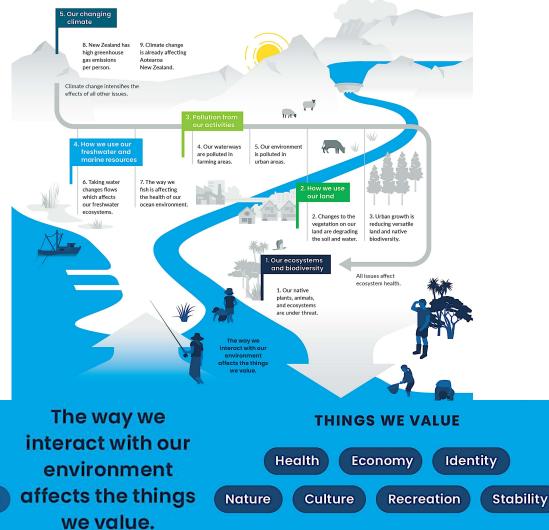
Stockholm Realience Centre

Our greatest challenge... ...is our greatest opportunity

- Environment Aotearoa 2019
- The first comprehensive analysis of the ways we're damaging our biosphere

http://www.mfe.govt.nz/node/24964/





Little Celeste... big Franz Josef glacier - 1998/Big Celeste... little Franz Josef - 2019

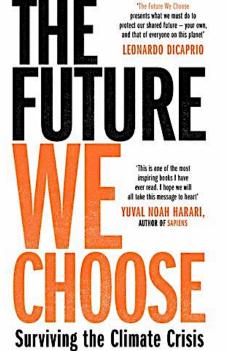


Hope in Hell by Jonathon Porritt

- "This is literally the last decade in which authentic, grounded hope will be available to anchor everything we can do to serve our families, friends and future generations.
- "We have no alternative but to commit to more radical political action. To get as many people as possible involved in campaigning activities just as often as possible.
- "To bring such pressure to bear on our political systems, while we still have time, to shift from today's wholly inadequate incrementalism to fill-on emergency response.
- "The case for civil disobedience is now overwhelming."
- http://www.jonathonporritt.com/hope-in-hell/

Jonathon Porritt HOPE IN HEL A decade to confront the climate emergency

Christiana Figueres Tom Rivett-Carnac



CHRISTIANAFIGUERES

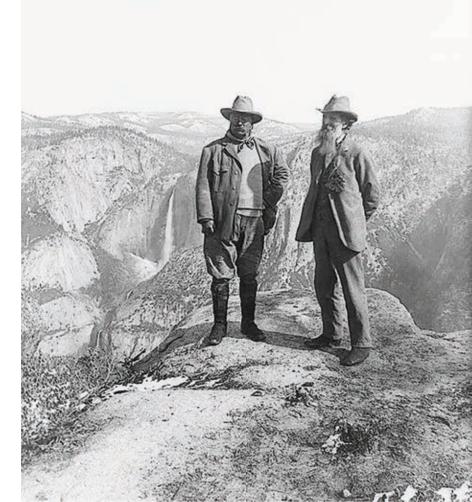
https://www.ted.com/talks/christiana_figueres_the_case_for_stubborn_optimism_on_climate?language=en

Inter-connection

• "When we tug at a single thing in nature, we find it attached to the rest of the world."

John Muir, My First Summer in the Sierra, 1911

Muir was the Scottish-born environmentalist who sowed the idea of national parks in the mind of President Teddy Roosevelt on a camping trip. This photo was taken of them at Overhang Rock at Yosemite on that trip.



Agenda

- Earth
- Democracy
- Society

Democracy

 "Democracy was dealt a major blow in 2020. Almost 70% of countries...a decline in their overall score, as country after country locked down to protect lives from a novel coronavirus. The global average score fell to its lowest level since the index began in 2006."



Democracy Index 2020 In sickness and in health?

A report by The Economist Intelligence Unit

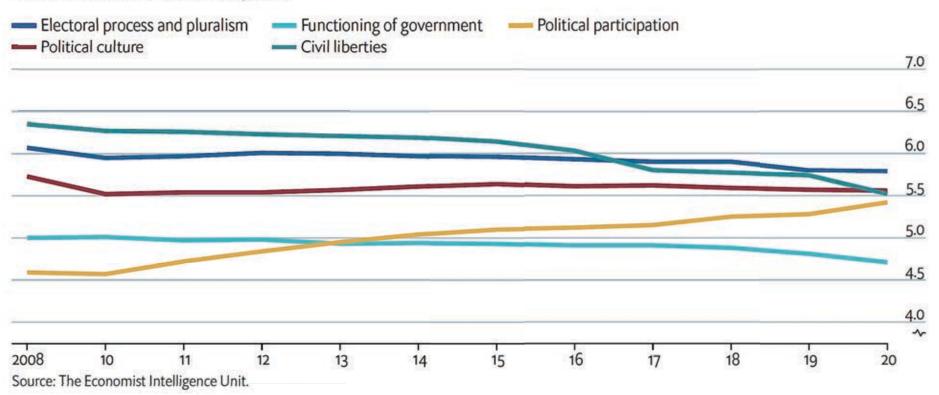


Democracy



Chart 4. Evolution of democracy by category, 2008-20

(Index score out of 10, 10 being best)



Democracy...downgraded

Chart 2. Downgrades to Q57: "Extent to which citizens enjoy personal freedoms"

(% of total by regime type)

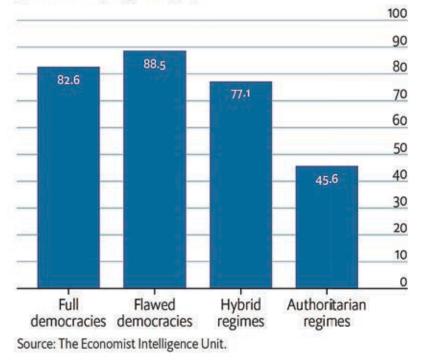
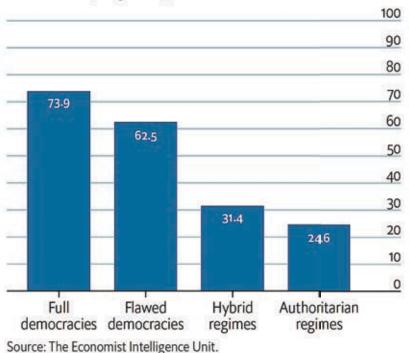


Chart 3. Downgrades to Q24: "Perceptions of the extent to which citizens have free choice and control over their lives"

(% of total by regime type)



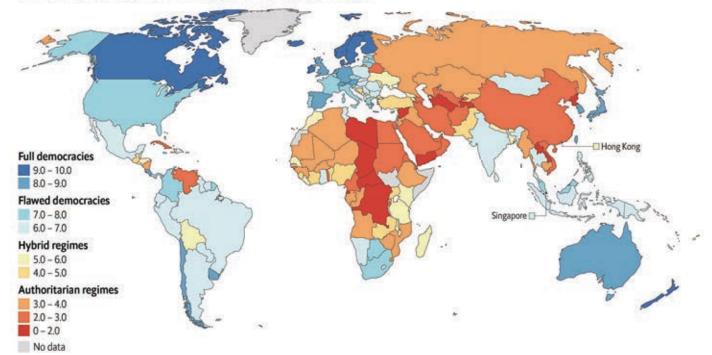


Chart 1. Democracy Index 2020, global map by regime type

Democracy Index 2020, by regime type

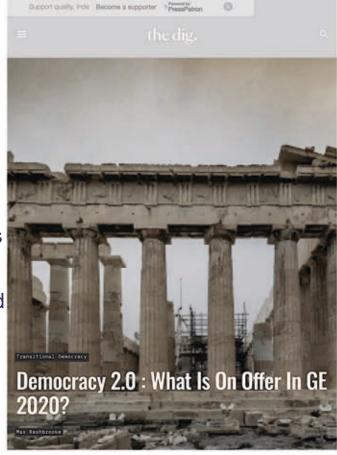
	No. of countries	% of countries	% of world population
Full democracies	23	13.8	8.4
Flawed democracies	52	31.1	41.0
Hybrid regimes	35	21.0	15.0
Authoritarian regimes	57	34.1	35.6

Full democracies – top 7 of 23 countries

	Overall score	Rank	I Electoral process and pluralism	II Functioning of government	III Political participation	IV Political culture	V Civil liberties		
Full democracy									
Norway	9.81	1	10.00	9.64	10.00	10.00	9.41		
Iceland	9.37	2	10.00	8.57	8.89	10.00	9.41		
Sweden	9.26	3	9.58	9.29	8.33	10.00	9.12		
New Zealand	9.25	4	10.00	8.93	8.89	8.75	9.71		
Canada	9.24	5	9.58	8.93	8.89	9.38	9.41		
Finland	9.20	6	10.00	8.93	8.89	8.75	9.41		
Denmark	9.15	7	10.00	8.93	8.33	9.38	9.12		
Flawed democracies – top 6 of 52									
France	7.99	24	9.58	7.50	7.78	6.88	8.24		
United States of America	7.92	25	9.17	6.79	8.89	6.25	8.53		
Portugal	7.90	26	9.58	7.50	6.11	7.50	8.82		
Estonia	7.84	27=	9.58	7.86	6.67	6.88	8.24		
Israel	7.84	27=	9.17	7.50	9.44	7.50	5.59		
Italy	7.74	29	9.58	6.43	7.22	7.50	7.94		

The state of Democracy

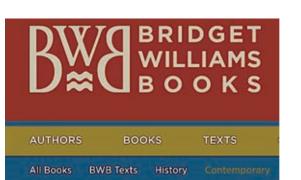
- "Imagine a twenty-first century piece of software trying to run on a twentieth-century computer, and you have a fair picture of the New Zealand democratic system"
 - Max Rashbrooke
- We live in a world of greatly expanded human potential, and expectation. People are so much more literate, and have access to so much more information, than they did a century ago. Younger generations in particular are much less deferential to authority; they have much greater expectations of being involved in decisions that affect them. Most of us receive from private companies an unprecedented level of personalised service online, just in time, targeted, responsive.
- Yet our democratic systems have not caught up. They are not deeply responsive to our voice as citizens in the same way that markets (often) are to our choices as consumers. They rely too heavily on elected representatives to take decisions on our behalf, https://thedig.nz/transitionalwhen we are clearly capable of taking more of them directly ourselves, or at least being more deeply engaged in the process.



democracy/democracy-2-0-what-is-onoffer-in-ge-2020/

"The surprising science of large-scale collective action"

- By Max Rashbrooke
- <u>https://www.bwb.co.nz/books/go</u> vernment-public-good



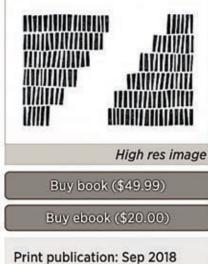
Government for the Public Good

The Surprising Science of Large-Scale Collective Action

Max Rashbrooke

Government for the Public Good Max Rashbrooke

The Surprising Science of Largo-Scale Collective Action



The market is often not the solution to our problems. Markets have often been the problem. Max Rashbrooke makes the convincing case for models of government that work better, as well as those to be more wary of. Greater democracy can bring with it greater equality - but, Rashbrooke warns, democracy itself is imperilled by our current levels of inequality. Fast paced, globally informed and wittily written.

- Professor Danny Dorling, Oxford University

This book provides a wide range of excellent evidence-based arguments that help counter the oft-dominant small-government ideology of our times. Its defence of democracy, government and voter competence is a story that needs to be told more.

- Laura O'Connell Rapira, Director of ActionStation

Citizen assemblies ...and policy juries

- Recent overseas examples:
 - UK on climate change
 - Ireland on constitution
 - https://www.sortitionfoundation.org/



Sortition is...

Sortition /so:'tɪʃ(ə)n/ noun DEMOCRACY OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE



Future

- New Yorker's year-long exploration of democracy
- <u>https://www.newyorker.</u> <u>com/news/the-future-of-</u> <u>democracy?verso=true</u>



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The Future of Democracy

A special series from The New Yorker.

"Open Demonstry.... is based on the simple idea that, if government by the people is a goal, the people ought to do the governing." - Narhan Heller, The New Yorker

Open Democracy

Reinventing Popular Rule for the Twenty-First Century



Hélène Landemore



ent are produced, in a

Here...

 Action Station



Here...Generation Zero

- 2016: Launched a campaign for a Zero Carbon Act
 - ...a handful of people showed up...but they persevered
- 2017: Labour adopted in as a campaign promise
- 2019: ZCA became law...fundamental framework for our climate crisis response



Climate strike...Auckland, September 20th, 2019

- In NZ, 170,000 people marched
 Our 2nd largest public protest
 = 3.7% of NZ's population
- 3.5% is threshold at which protests successfully trigger big social and political changes which transform societies
- ...study by Professor Erica Chenoweth of Harvard
- ...based on her analysis of 323 mass actions in countries around the world 1900 – 2006
- <u>https://www.ericachenoweth.com/research/wcrw</u>
- TEDx: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJSehRIU34w



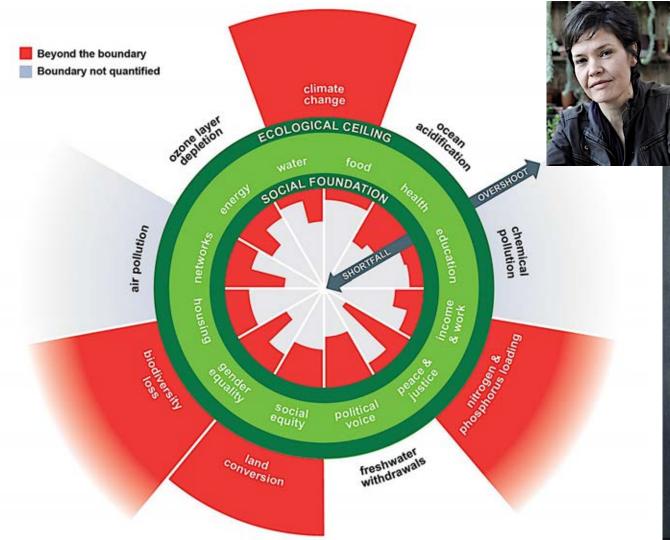
Agenda

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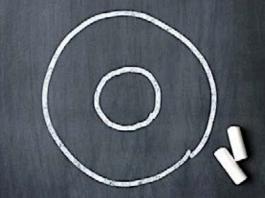
"Covid has exposed society's dysfunctions"

- "We are living in an era of multiple crises: Covid-19; a crisis of economic disappointment; a crisis of democratic legitimacy; a crisis of the global commons; a crisis of international relations; and a crisis of global governance.
- "We do not know how to deal with all of these. This is partly because it is hard to develop the needed ideas for reform. Yet it is far more because politics cannot deliver the necessary changes."
 - Martin Wolf, chief economics columnist, the *Financial Times*, July 15, 2020





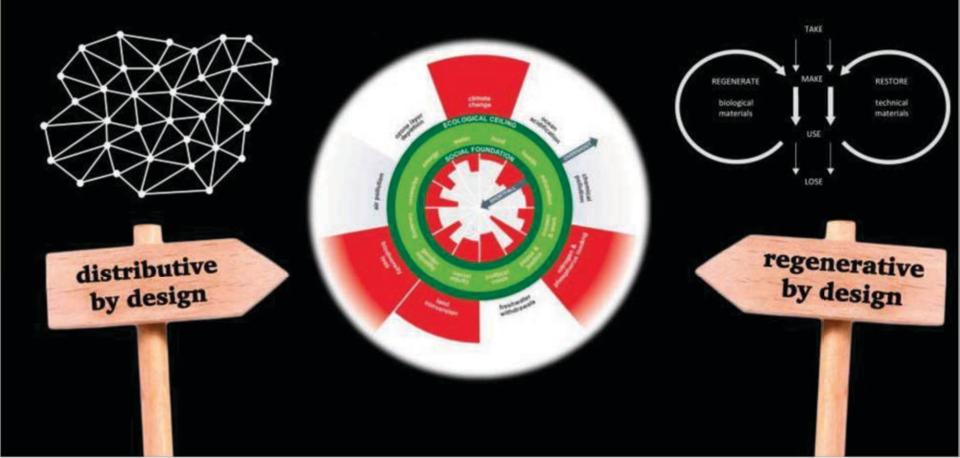
DOUGHNUT ECONOMICS Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st-Century Economist

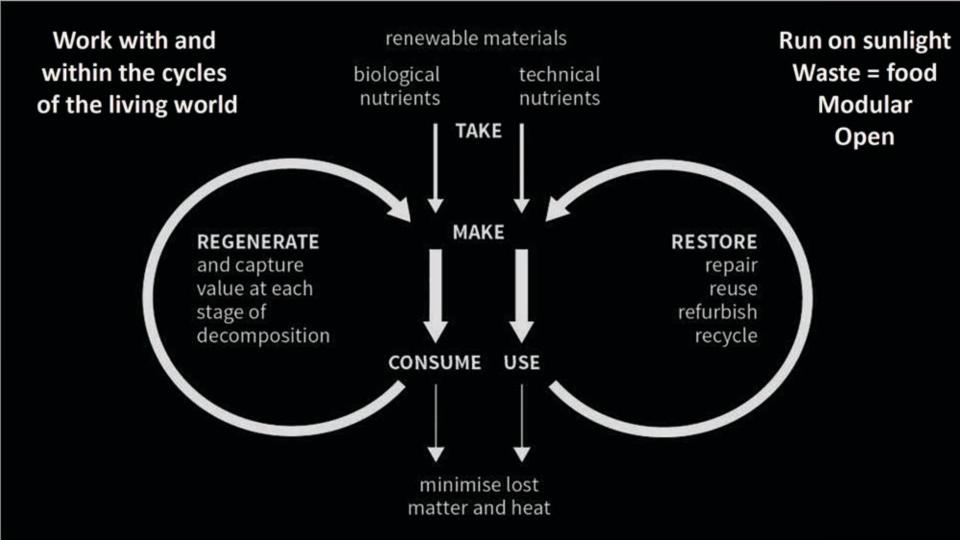


KATE RAWORTH

¹ read this book with the excitement that the people of his day must have read John Maynard Keynes's General Theory. It is brilliant, thritling and revolutionary' George Monbiot

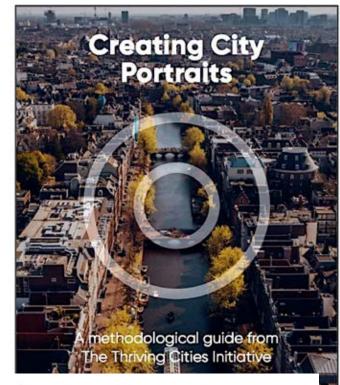
How can humanity get into the Doughnut?





So you want to downscale the Doughnut?

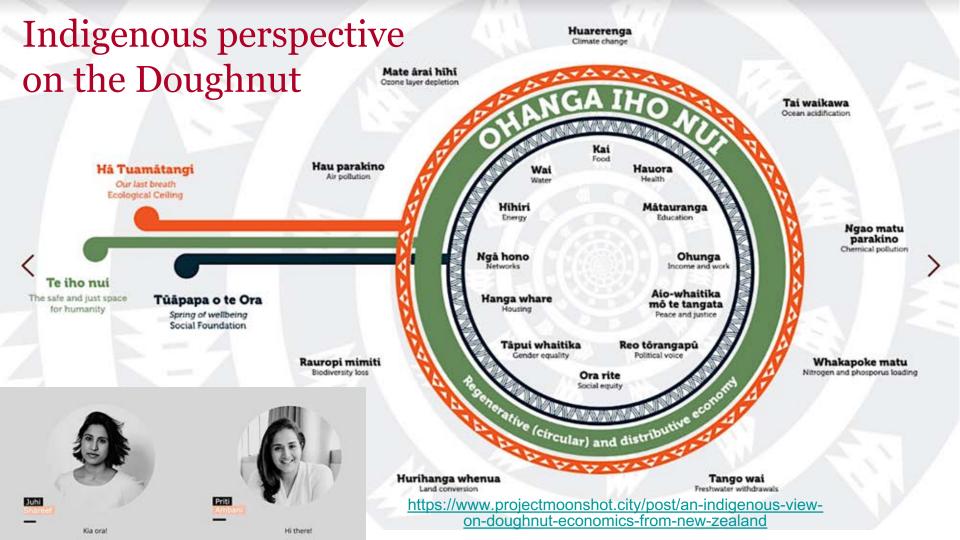
- Here's how:
- <u>https://www.kateraw</u> orth.com/2020/07/16
 <u>/so-you-want-to-</u> <u>create-a-city-</u> doughnut/#



How can our city be a home to thriving people, in a thriving place, whilst respecting the wellbeing of all people, and the health of the whole planet?

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Kate Raworth in Aotearoa

- Auckland Writers' Festival, May 2019 <u>http://www.writersfestival.co.nz/look-and-</u> <u>listen/videos/Page1/doughnut-economics-kate-raworth-</u> <u>2019/</u>
- New Plymouth, Just Transition Summit, May 2019
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJBPtWitZ3k



DOUGHNUT ECONOMICS: KATE RAWORTH (2019)

At a time when economic disparity continues to widen and the health of the planet is under severe threat, many question the tenet that growth is the appropriate measure of economic sustainability and success. British economist **Kate Raworth** is one such inquisitor. In her book *Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st Century Economist* – longlisted for the 2017 Financial Times McKinsey Business Book of the Year Award—Raworth issues a clarion call to act creatively and to reframe the economy, by "meeting the needs of all within the means of the planet". She presents her thesis in conversation with Rod Oram.

... one of Raworth's presentations in NZ, May 2019

<u>https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/5722-doughnut-economics-kate-raworth</u>

DOUGHNUT ECONOMICS

Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st-Century Economist KATE RAWORTH

@KateRaworth





gical Social ng foundation

Events

About us



 <u>https://doughnute</u> conomicsnz.com/

ABOUT US

Humanity's 21st century challenge is to meet the needs of all in a fair, equitable and sustainable way. 20th century economic theories were grounded in the idea of economic growth, but endless growth is no longer sustainable. Simply put, more people in more countries wanting more resources will lead to economic and ecological collapse. Evidence of this has been brought to light recently, and many enterprises are rethinking how they promote and distribute products to be more ethical. Similarly, many people in government are rethinking how they can manage the transition to a sustainable future. This means rethinking the 20th century mindset that still drives the direction of economic policies in the 21st century. Doughnut economics offers a new and sustainable way forward.

Ko wai mātau Ā mātau mahi Climate Change **Commission He Pou a Rangi**

Who We Are

Climate Change Commission

Our Work

Get Involved

Whakauru

mai

We drive climate action in Aotearoa.

Our independence means we can provide impartial advice, challenge and hold the Government to account on climate action.

He Pou a Rangi Climate Change Commission

News Ngã pitopito kõrero

Contact Us Whakapā mai

How We Work

Everyone has a stake in how our country responds to climate change.

Consultation

Find out who we are talking to and how you can have a say.

Our Work

We provide advice on how Aotearoa can address and adapt to climate change.

https://www.climate commission.govt.nz/

Climate Change Commission – 2021 is *the* big year

- Timetable for 3 x 5-year carbon budgets & emission reduction pathways to 2035:
- February 1 Commission published draft carbon budgets and pathways
- Feb 1 March 28 Public consultation
- May Commission submits its proposals to government
- November Government submits increased climate commitment to the UN
- December 31 Deadline for government's response

COP 26 - Glasgow

- UN's next all-nations climate negotiations
 - Hosted by the UK & Italy, Glasgow, Nov 1-12, 2021
- Big requirement on nations:
 - To increase their pledges to cut emissions...
 - ...so they are consistent with no more than a 1.5C rise in temperature
 - (NZ's current = 3C)



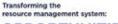
"...the shift...will be profound and widespread"

- "...the shift from the old economy to a new, low-emissions economy will be profound and widespread, transforming land use, the energy system, production methods and technology, regulatory frameworks and institutions, and business and political culture."
- New Zealand Productivity Commission Low carbon economy, August 2017



Our 2nd term Labour-led government is...

- ...likely to, on climate and the environment:
- Adopt stringent carbon budgets and emission reduction pathways
- Replace the RMA with a Natural and Built Environments Act and a Strategic Planning Act (as proposed by the Randerson Report)
 - ...and possibly a climate retreat act
 - ...and seek some local government amalgamation?
- Enact freshwater reforms
- Accelerate transformation to a low carbon economy
- Support the Primary Sector Council's regeneration strategy
- Progress on government's biodiversity strategy



OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHANGE

Essential Freshwater

Healthy Water, Fairly Allocated

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION

WHO WE ARE ~

WHAT WE DO ~

NEWS & INSIGHTS

WELCOME TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION.

FIT FOR A BETTER WORLD AGTEAROA NEW ZEALAND





Agriculture, Food & Fibres Sector Vision and Strategic Direction

Towards 2030









Primary sector strategy

FIT FOR A BETTER WORLD AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Agriculture, Food & Fibres Sector Vision and Strategic Direction Towards 2030























TAIAO ORA TANGATA ORA

TE TAIAO

NZ Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre

- Research... applied to farming techniques and systems
- <u>https://www.agmatters.nz/</u>



Primary production in a changing environment

Practical information, backed by science, to help farmers and growers get to grips with climate change.

Know your number

Work out your greenhouse gas emissions

Reduce emissions

How to reduce your methane and nitrous oxide emissions

Maintain soil carbon

How soil carbon works on your farm





Creating Health for Farm, Family & Planet

HOME SERVICES LEAR

Meet the Ata Regenerative team

Dr Hugh Jellie – Founder and Chief Executive

My name is Dr Hugh Jellie. I'm the Founder and Chief Executive of Ata. Llove working in the rural sector and I'm passionate about agriculture and the environment. During my long career I have become saddened by the impact industrialised farming has had on the environment and the communities reliant on having a healthy ecological system to protect and support them. The quest for more and more production has compromised New Zealand's clean, grees status. Ata is my way of doing something about this problem. It's my way of giving back.

<u>https://ata.land/</u>

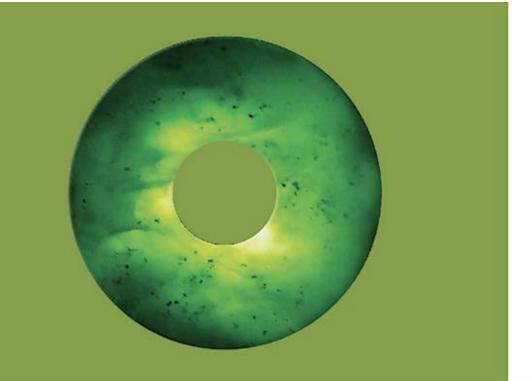
SERVICES LEARN PEOPLE SAVORY INSTITUTE PROJECTS SHOP BLOG CONTACT

INTRODUCING ĀTA REGENERATIVE

REGENERATIVE What is it?

Regenerative is about a way of being or behavior. There is no starting or end point but a process of constant change which delivers measurable improvement in the Through our partnerships with Savory Institute and nRhythm we are able to deliver practical solutions, implementation, training and education for a wide

Aotearoa Circle - Fenwick Forum



 <u>https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5bb6cb19c2ff61422a0d7b17/t/5ef16ab4eade2b25c</u> <u>enwick+Forum+Report+June+2020.pdf</u>

3 219 85% 63% 76% the state of the s The Aotearoa Circle Mii ta Kaltiskitanga ke te Téruitanga 04 - Future Voices enwick epor The Future Voices Forum The Future Voices Forum' participants provided some real insights into what was important from their perspective. was asked what they believe and demonstrated a mature view of what constitutes a is important and what is sustainable system, and were realistic about the challenges we face in transforming what we have to achieve their vision. holding them back from being What also became clear was the need to invest further more materially involved in in formal learning on systems thinking and models for systems level change. As the Future Voices Forum the transformation of the key participants wrestled with the topics it became clear to systems identified. them that there was significant complexity sitting behind each of the challenges we set.

Given the intergenerational impact of the investment.

Crient the intergenerational impact of the involution decisions being model through the double double the perspective of future leaders and wanted to been their voices. The approach with this Forum was to take without voices. The approach with this Forum was to take unconstrained voice on the future. The periodipate were provided with a challinge to device a vision for the food, transport and energy systems that was meaningful to them.

Fenwick Forum

05 - Areas of Focus

Six focus areas were initially identified for discussion of which three areas were then chosen: food system, transport system and energy system.

The other areas were:

- A sustainable and inclusive financial system is critical. However given the ongoing work of the Sustainable Finance Forum, we chose not to include this in the Ferwick Forum.
- · A productive, inclusive and sustainable tourism system has a significant impact on our natural capital. However given the impact of Covid-19 on tourism and the work underway across the sector, we opted not to focus on this area.
- · A productive, inclusive and sustainable urban system while important, this was also left out of the Ferwick Forum as we felt that many significant actions would be captured through considering the transport and energy systems.





BUILDING BACK BETTER: POST-COVID-19 RECOVERY PLANNING

> A Report for the Aotearoa Circle by Sir Jonathon Porritt (Forum for the Future)



June 2020



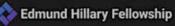


A productive, sustainable and inclusive energy system

OUR REGENERATIVE FUTURE

https://pureadvantage.org/ourregenerativefuturecampaign/

PureAdvantage





٨.

newsroom.



Rod Oram

Rod Oram investigates the political, economic, and business spheres in New Zealand.

COMMENT

What we can learn from Te Ao Māori

We have much to learn from Te Ao Māori, the Māori world view - not least learning to live as one with nature rather than believing we can control ecosystems, writes Rod Oram

Over recent years, Te Ao Māori, the Māori world view, has been turning up in more and more traditionally Pākeha places such as the Reserve Bank, the 11 National Science Challenges and most recently in the Primary Sector Council's vision and strategy document.

Even more importantly, these and other institutions are taking a great interest in Te Ao Māori not just to help Māori strengthen their culture and communities. They are starting to assimilate it to improve themselves. They see wisdom in the Māori understanding that we humans are inherently a dependent part of all living systems. We are not the dominant force with free rein to exploit without limits the natural world.



<u>https://www.newsroom.co.nz/a-different-world-view</u>

"Casting our nets"

- Back in 1900, Āpirana Ngata, the Ngāti Porou leader and scholar, wrote of mātauranga Māori & mātauranga Pākeha…
- ...and the great benefit of "casting our nets between them," rather than fishing in one or the other







...what this means to us today

- This insight is retold in a seminal <u>lecture</u> on mātauranga Māori given by Te Ahukaramū Charles Royal, an academic researcher and music composer, at the University of Canterbury in 2009.
- He noted in the lecture that: "Mātauranga Māori today exists in a fragmentary and disorganised state; a good deal of existing mātauranga Māori concerns a world that only exists in the past and so a great deal of work needs to be done to bring about relevance and utility within this body of knowledge in our contemporary circumstances. Much has also been lost, and much mātauranga Māori has been superseded by other kinds of knowledge. So it is important not to make claims for mātauranga Māori that cannot be substantiated."
- He knew, though, there was still plenty of indigenous Māori knowledge extant, recoverable and yet to be learnt which could contribute powerfully to our contemporary and future progress
- He identified three themes searching for better relationships with the natural world, cross-boundary styles of thought and knowledge and the revitalisation of traditional indigenous knowledge – which, when woven together, "are the key ideas within international indigenous knowledge today."

Community

- Issues are increasingly global...solutions are increasingly local
- ...to achieve an unprecedented speed, scale and complexity of change
- Solutions require very strong, learning communities...some attributes:
 - Common sense
 - Common purpose
 - Common wealth
- Places where individuals are valued, helped, encouraged...
- ... in return, we all participate, change
- We each can only do our infinitesimally small part...
- ...but if an infinitely largely number of do so, we can change the world
- ... beginning in our own backyards

2040...AOTEAROA'S BICENTENNARY



... AND TĀMAKI MAKAURAU'S



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THE NEW ZEALAND FESTIVAL

TISTED LITHOGRAPH MADE BY DAY & RAGEE (LITHOGRAPHERS TO QUEEN VICTORIA) - BASED ON THE 1844 WATERCOLOUR BY JOSEPH JEANER MERKETT (1816-54) - IMAGE COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

"The human race is challenged more than ever before to demonstrate our mastery, not over nature but of ourselves"

Rachel Carson