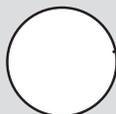


# ***Conversations around Catalyzing a Sustainable Northern Rivers Region***

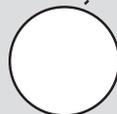
*This report records the themes and key principles and initiatives that have emerged from a set of on-going stakeholder roundtable conversations conducted across the Northern Rivers region.*

## ***Round 2***



Developing a Regional Sustainability Index through a process of Community Engagement.  
*Clunes, Friday 4th November 2005*

## ***Round 1***



How Can Fostering Creative Industries Help Catalyze a Sustainable Northern Rivers Region  
*Yamba Friday 19th August 2005*

These roundtable conversations have been convened by:

**CLIC Network**

**Northern Rivers Regional Development Board**

**Southern Cross University.**

an **evolveris project team** of michael o'loughlin & manuela taboada has contributed these conversations maps.

**evolveris:** helping catalyze sustainable healthy habitats-places



**EVOLVERIS**

# **Conversations around Catalyzing a Sustainable Northern Rivers Region**

## **Round 2: Developing a Regional Sustainability Index through a process of Community Engagement**

**Clunes**    Friday 4th November 2005

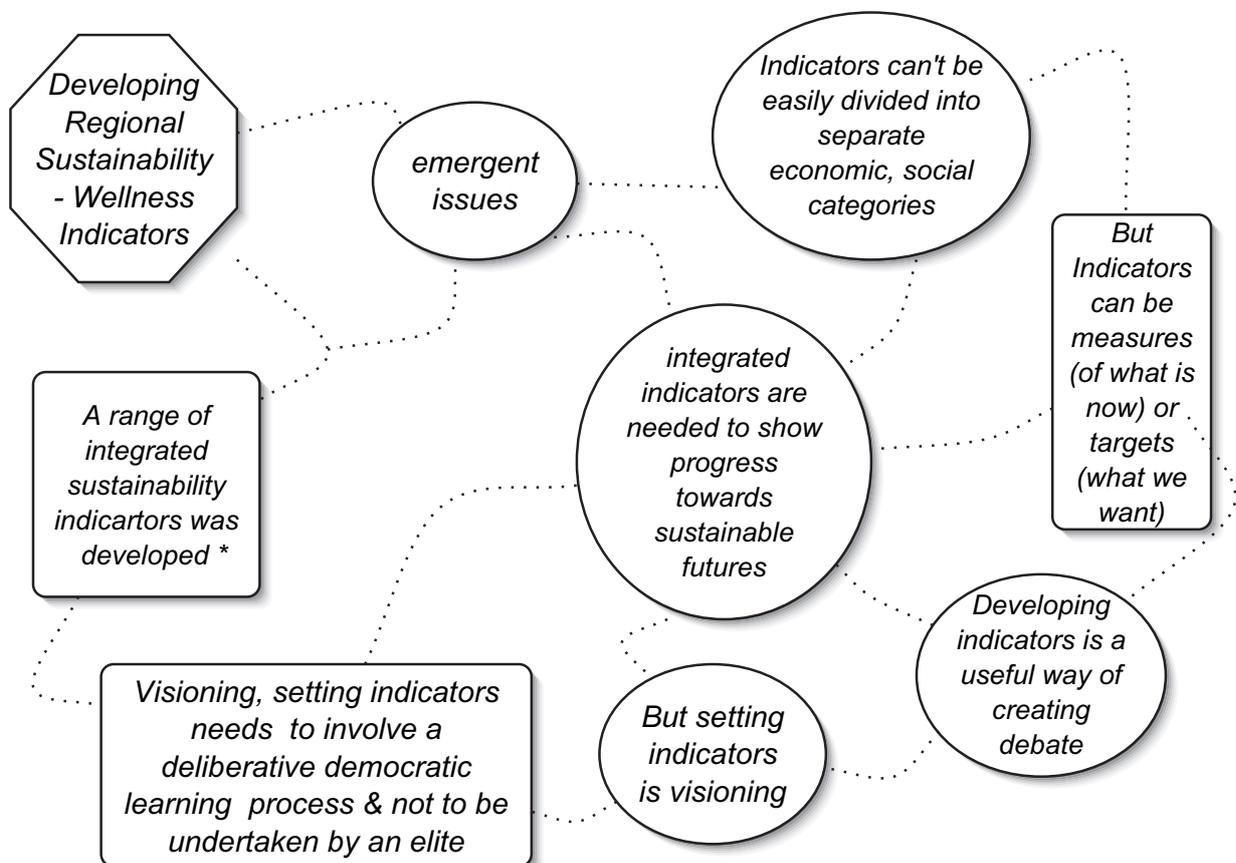
*This Regional Roundtable Conversation was of 2 parts*

*Part 1 was a structured process where participants considered developing a suite of regional sustainability/well-being indicators that would provide effective feedback about the region's move towards sustainability eg:*

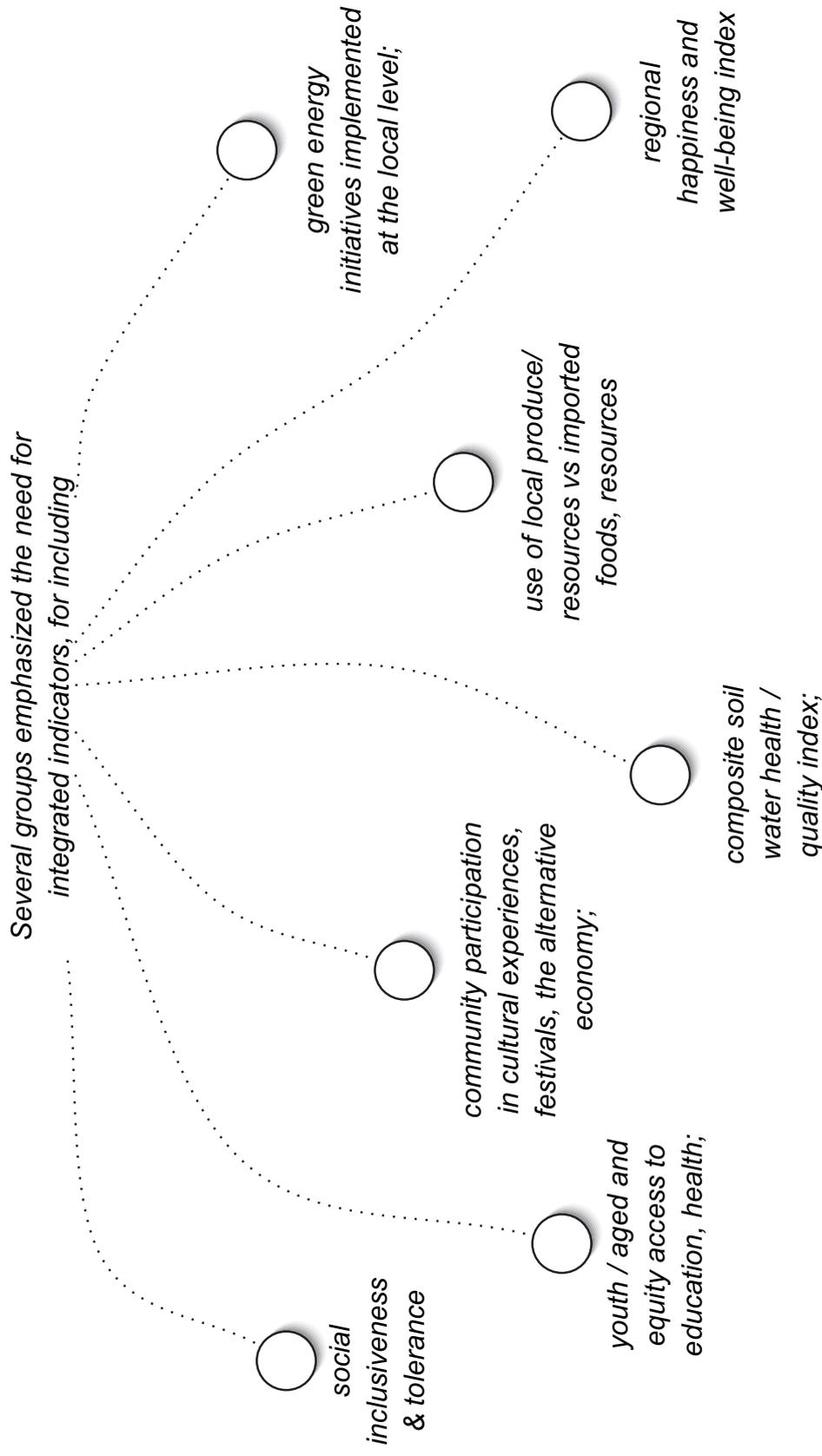
- \* environmental (ecological integrity, health)*
- \* social (community resilience / caring)*
- \* economic (prosperity, balance, equity)*
- \* global commons (impact, give and take)*
- \* cultural/ spiritual (values, diversity, enrichment)*

*Part 2 concerned the community engagement process to best enable the construction of these indicators*

### **Clunes Conversation Part 1 Sustainability Indicators**



## ***Recurring themes in the discussions about sustainability indicators***



This discussion initially focused on what type of community engagement model could be adopted to initially determine regional sustainability indicators and in turn, lead to a wider regional conversation and learning process about how and whether the region is moving towards sustainability.

Much emphasis was placed on the importance of adopting a deliberative democratic community engagement process to achieve these aims.

What type of community engagement - process, design issues

Criteria



- representativeness (including those with other views, the disengaged in a representative grouping that goes beyond a forum of reps of different vested interest / stakeholder groups)
- deliberative (where a small group reflects on the issue over time, deliberates, prioritizes and seeks common ground and a proposal for the regional communities to discuss)
- becoming a part of and influencing the decision-making process and elites (the outcomes of this community engagement is used as the basis for regional communities in setting policy / adopting targets).

Choosing a representative community group

How can this be a learning-storytelling process

Who would be engaged

Who sets the agenda

How can this connect, influence decision making

What exploratory question would this group address ##

○ Further discussion emphasized the importance of referring the proposals of any randomly selected representative community group to a technical working party to advise on the viability and unforeseen consequences of any proposals / identified indicators-target measures.

⇒ These criteria were advanced by Carson & White as to what would characterize such a process.

## Recurring Themes/Questions Asked



Where are we headed?



Is our situation about to get worse? Are we about to face a social tsunami?



How else can we motivate people besides using fear?



How can we go beyond the business as usual and incremental changes approach?

What exploratory question would this group address

**Possible Next Steps to help catalyze a move towards a sustainable North Coast region**

**An example of opening, exploratory questions for a community group deliberating on a set of sustainability indicators:**

*What are the things needed to keep this place special? How would you know you were heading towards this? What examples or stories best show this?*

- expanding the LEP planning process to include conversations about sustainability indicators
- broadcasting the stories of sustainability initiatives on a regional web portal
- forming a working party to advance the regional conversations on developing a community engagement process to develop sustainability indicators