

Questions  
for

# Regenerative Business

LOCAL LEARNING LAB

Lab Activities

## Purpose

Explore what is meant by “regenerative business.” These questions help to spark ideas for how businesses can contribute to regeneration.

## Goals and Outcomes

- Tangibly define how businesses contribute to regeneration
- Inspire regenerative action

# QUESTIONS FOR REGENERATIVE BUSINESS

## Timing

30 mins

## Format

Small group discussions and individual reflection

## Resources

Handouts  
Paper for individual note-taking  
Pens / Markers

## Link

Follows an activity like Regenerative Business Questions

## Handouts

On the next pages you will find the following handout:

- **What do we mean by 'regenerate'?**  
**Questions for Regenerative Business -**  
This handout unpacks how businesses can contribute to three areas of regeneration (environmental, economic and social).

## Instructions

### Assumptions

This activity assumes that participants are involved in or may wish to be involved in a business, project, initiative, or enterprise.

### Step 1: Instructions [5 min]

Introduce the questions for regenerative business and the three categories. Check for unfamiliar terms or items that require definition (such as circular economy).

### Step 2: Unpack one person's project [15 min]

In groups at tables  
Allow the groups time to read the questions. Ask one person in each group to volunteer to share their own project. Have each group identify relevant questions.

### Step 3: Debrief [10 min]

Ask each group to share a little about their discussion.

## A0 Poster version

For ease of presenting the questions to a large group, in addition to the handouts, consider an A0 poster of the regenerative business questions

## Go Further

- **Individual reflection [15 min]** - Give participants time to review the questions and note questions that relate to their work.
- **Link - Regenerative Business Model Canvas** - Follow the Regenerative Business Questions with the Regenerative Business Model Canvas activity.



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HANDOUTS

# WHAT DO WE MEAN BY 'REGENERATE'?

## Questions for Regenerative Businesses



### Positive Environmental Impact

“If we start to transition towards a human culture that is embedding humans back in their correct role as custodial species then we’re looking at a return, we’re looking at something that’s doable. We are the carers of creation.”  
—Tyson Yunkaporta



### Building Social Resilience

“Regeneration recognises that human and planetary health are deeply interwoven, and actively seeks to enable the flourishing of human and non-human life, on an ongoing basis, forever.” —Regenerative Songlines Australia



### Local Economic Development

“Our current economic system is degenerative and extractive; it steals the future. A regeneratively designed system heals the future.”  
—Damon Gameau, Director, Regen Studios



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# Questions for Regenerative Businesses (summary)



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## 1. Building Social Connection & Resilience

### How might your initiative:

- Enhance team wellbeing? Eg, *living wages, working culture, support for mental health and wellbeing, flexible hours, learning and development opportunities, purpose-led management and governance?*
- Strengthen cooperation, connections, and build resilient, trusting relationships—*with beneficiaries, community, team and partners*
- Be community-led?
- Enable a more inclusive and just community and society?
- Generate value with and for Traditional Custodians?
- Actively develop capability in the society and community for self-determination?



## 2. Positive Environmental Impact

**How might your initiative *reduce* environmental impacts?** Eg Resource consumption, emissions, types of materials used, distances (source, produce, distribute)

**How might your initiative *improve* environmental impacts?**

- E.g. Ecosystems function, biodiversity, cycling of nutrients
- Regenerate living ecosystems and communities?
- Have a positive effect on the life supporting systems of the Earth?

**How might your initiative enable a more circular and sustainable economy?:**

- Construct a supply chain that is more local, ecological, green, and renewable?
- (Re)cycle, re-use, and re-purpose materials?
- Design out waste and pollution
- Design for the “next use”?
- Keep products and materials at their highest value, as long as possible?



## 3. Financial Sustainability & Local Economic Development

### How might your initiative:

- Provide revenue / funding that is sustainable and regenerative for you?
- Use Permaculture principles to help improve your cost structure: e.g. *produce no waste, integrate rather than segregate, apply self regulation, catch and store energy, obtain a yield, etc*
- Contribute to local economic development?
- Utilise local suppliers, including First Nations suppliers?
- Distribute (more) locally?
- Invite shared ownership?
- Invite shared investment, eg in resources or infrastructure?
- Share prosperity with all who have contributed to success?
- Build wealth in and for the community?
- Nourish the ecology and relationships it relies on?
- Give back to First Nations peoples?

# Questions for Regenerative Businesses



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## 1. Building Social Connection & Resilience

### How might your initiative:

- Enhance team wellbeing? Eg, living wages, working culture, support for mental health and wellbeing, flexible hours, learning and development opportunities, purpose-led management and governance?
- Strengthen cooperation, connections, and build resilient, trusting relationships—*with beneficiaries, community, team and partners*
- Be community-led?
- Enable a more inclusive and just community and society?
- Generate value with and for Traditional Custodians?
- Develop partnerships with First Nations suppliers and organisations?
- Actively develop capability in the society and community for self-determination?

Notes

# Questions for Regenerative Businesses



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## 2. Positive Environmental Impact

**Decreasing negative impacts** — How might your initiative reduce environmental impacts? *Eg Resource consumption, carbon emissions, types of materials used, distances (source, produce, distribute)*

**Increasing positive impacts** — How might your initiative improve environmental impacts? eg

- Ecosystems function, biodiversity, cycling of nutrients
- Regenerate living ecosystems and communities?
- Have a positive effect on the life supporting systems of the Earth?

**Contributing to a circular economy** — How might your initiative enable a more circular and sustainable economy?:

- Construct a (more) local, ecological/green, and renewable supply chain?
- (Re)cycle, re-use, and re-purpose materials?
- Design out waste and pollution? Design for the “next use”?
- Keep products and materials at their highest value, as long as possible?

Notes

# Questions for Regenerative Businesses



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## 3. Financial Sustainability & Local Economic Development

### How might your initiative:

- Provide revenue / funding that is sufficient, sustainable, and regenerative for you?
- Use Permaculture principles to help improve the cost structure: obtain a yield, produce no waste, integrate rather than segregate, apply self regulation, catch and store energy, etc
- Contribute to local economic development?
- Utilise local suppliers
- Distribute (more) locally
- Invite shared ownership or investment, eg for mutually beneficial resources or infrastructure?
- Share prosperity with all who have contributed to success?
- Build wealth in and for the community?
- Nourish the ecology and relationships it relies on?
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Notes