

Potential of Place

Purpose

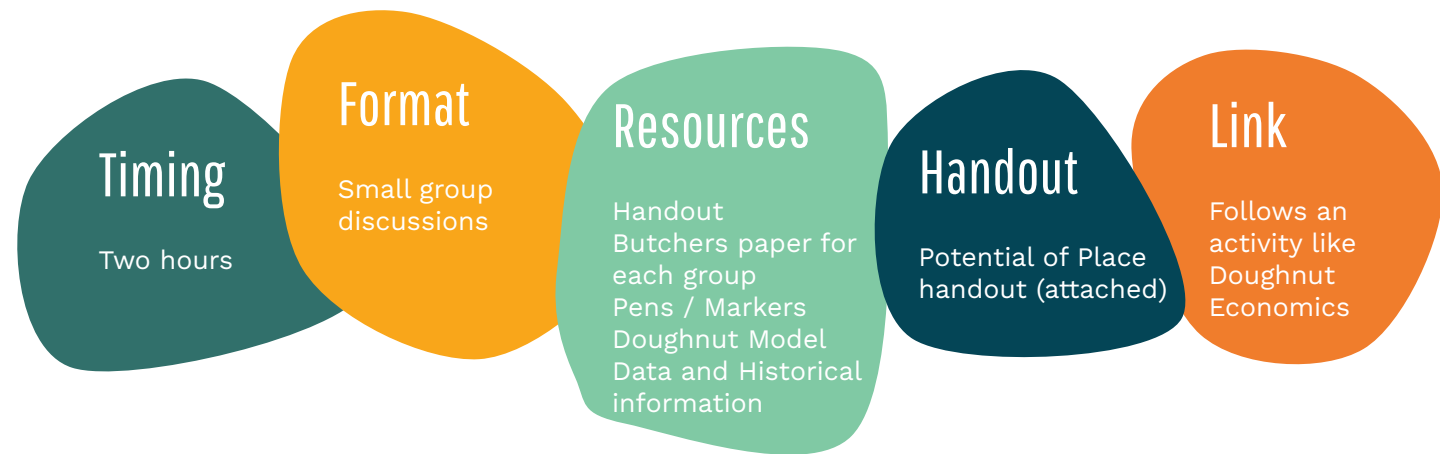
Perception of hope is connected to the potential we see. Without simplifying the dynamics of complex ecosystems, social change, and all that is required for regeneration, we can still find hope in the inherent potential in a place and in people. This activity seeks to bring people together around big ideas, hopes, and dreams connected to place.

Goals and Outcomes

- Discuss the issues, challenges, and complexities of local regeneration—and the opportunities as well
- Identify priority opportunities for regeneration in a community or region
- Test appetite for collective regeneration efforts



POTENTIAL OF PLACE



Instructions

Assumptions

This activity follows a Doughnut Economics activity for context and reference, or begins with pre-selected themes, e.g. themes that have been obtained from relevant local research or discussions. If beginning with pre-selected themes (around challenges, issues and opportunities for regeneration), introduce the themes and how they were identified, and start at Step 4.

Step 1: Immersion [20 min] (if information provided)

NOTE: This activity is enriched by providing local environmental and social data, as well as historical information. Share and contextualise any data/info provided. Give people time to familiarise themselves with the material. OPTION: Immersion individually, in pairs, or as groups.

Referring back to the Doughnut (as well as and data/info provided), ask small groups to consider the following:

- Reflect on the doughnut model (and data/information)
- Identify elements in the inner and outer circles of the doughnut that are urgent or significant regeneration needs for your region
- Name three key interrelated regeneration challenges or opportunities you see for your region

Step 2: Debrief Immersion [20 min]

Back in the large group, hear from each of the individual groups. On the doughnut model or butcher's paper, scribe the key points and topics discussed. The points captured should reflect the challenges, dynamics, and opportunities of regeneration in the region. Look for patterns of topics across the group discussions. Topics are areas where regeneration projects could happen. Example: 'mining and forestry transition'.

Step 3: Theming Topics [20 min]

As patterns emerge, ask the group to validate individual topic themes. Note the agreed topics on a separate butchers paper. As the topics begin to settle, ask the group to validate the total set of topics.

Begin to identify groups interested in discussing a specific theme. 6-8 themes is ideal. Depending on the number of themes, some may need to be combined. Ask for individuals willing to host a discussion on each topic. Themes without host names attached will not be discussed. Group may require some assurance that choosing to host or participate in a topic does not mean they will be excluded from discussions on that topic later.

Step 4: Unpacking a topic [20 min]

Using the 'Law of Two Feet', individuals gather at a topic that interests them. Using the worksheet (see Handouts in this document) and a sheet of butchers paper, groups unpack the topic they have chosen.

Step 5: Debriefing topics [20 min]

Ask groups to share their discussion of the topics. On butchers paper or a whiteboard, note any ideas for projects that have emerged.

Step 6: Crystallising and prioritising ideas [20 min]

Ask the group to reflect on the set of ideas that have emerged. Are any missing, or need to be amended? Is there energy for projects? If so, which ones? If needed, use dot voting to draw out priorities.



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POTENTIAL OF PLACE

Tips

Data and History

This activity is enriched by providing **local environmental and social data**.

Include data that tells positive and negative stories. Include the data that reveals complexity.

Also provide historical information about the area, any history of colonisation, genocide, and conflict, as well as development and population changes. **Maps can be useful.**

To theme or pre-theme topics

Depending on the event, it may be important for groups to arrive at their own topic themes. Allow sufficient time and provide enough information for robust discussion of topics.

Other groups may appreciate a pre-identified set of themes. Pre-identified themes can always be validated and changed by groups. Example of pre-set themes:

- Mining & forestry transition
- Disaster recovery and resilience (e.g. bushfires, floods, and drought)
- Farming and biodiversity
- Urban development and construction
- Youth
- Aboriginal history, Culture, and self-determination
- Arts & culture
- Food & eco-tourism
- Local councils & community organising/development

Commitment

Commitment to fresh ideas takes time. Communities who have faced disasters may have participation fatigue, and there may be a shortage of people with capacity to lead. Occasionally someone at an event comes hoping to launch an idea, or embraces an idea immediately. But generally commitment takes time.

In this activity, participants may want reassurance that they are not yet committed to anything.

Handouts

On the next page you will find the following handout:

- **Potential of Place** - This handout provides prompts to help groups unpack a 'Potential of Place' topic. Provide butchers paper, markers, etc, for each group.

Go Further

- **Earth Shot** - Use the Earth Shot prize as inspiration for BIG, BOLD, ambitious hopes and goals. If you've got something great, apply! <https://earthshotprize.org/>
- **Action Circles** - Use the Action Circles activity to help groups flesh out any ideas for projects that might emerge and identify next steps.



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THE
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SOCIAL
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HANDOUTS

Potential of Place

Topic Discussion

HANDOUT

Say hello!

Get to know each other a little
Name a facilitator and a scribe

Topic

What was your topic again? ;)
Write it up big and bold!

Situation

What's the situation?
Has any regeneration work been done so far?
Challenges, barriers, and complications

Potential

What do you see as the unique potential and significance of place? What aspirations and hopes do you hold for this place and the situation?
So what? Why does it matter?

Doughnut

Where does this topic connect with regional challenges and opportunities?
How does this topic relate to the inner and outer circle of the Doughnut?

Ideas

What is something regenerative that could be happening?
Does it spark ideas for regional projects?
Does it spark ideas for your own work?

POTENTIAL OF PLACE

Exploring the Doughnut and regional challenges and opportunities

In Gippsland Local Learning Lab, a range of topics emerged based on discussions around the Doughnut. Groups then formed around some of the topics. Examples included:

- Community-Led & Owned Regen!
- Transition - Energy, Economic etc
- Youth Aspirations (12-24) Engagement
- Gippsland Lakes & Water Regeneration
- Regenerative Food & Fibre Systems
- Wellbeing at heart - Cultural teaching - taught by Elders



Image credit: Sean Jackson



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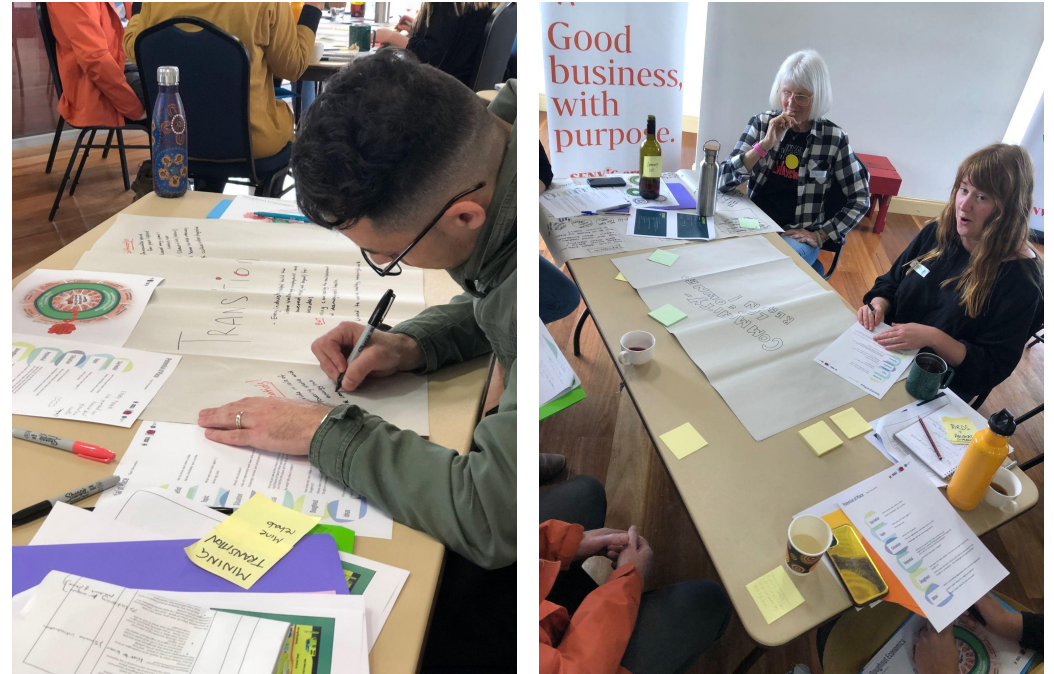


Image credit: Dimity Podger



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GIPPSLAND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE COLLECTIVE

