

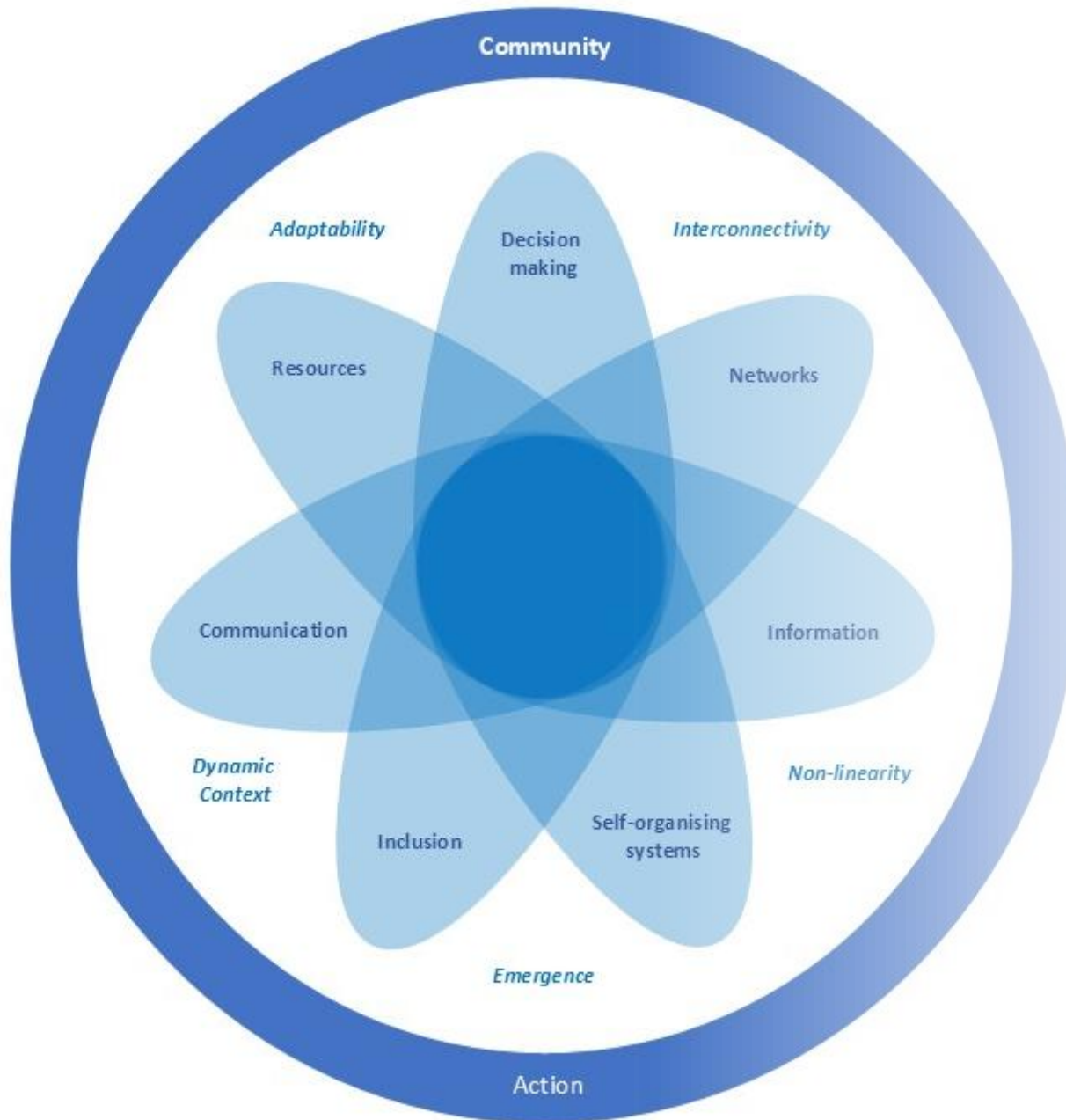
**Water Futures:  
Action research to support  
community adaptation.**



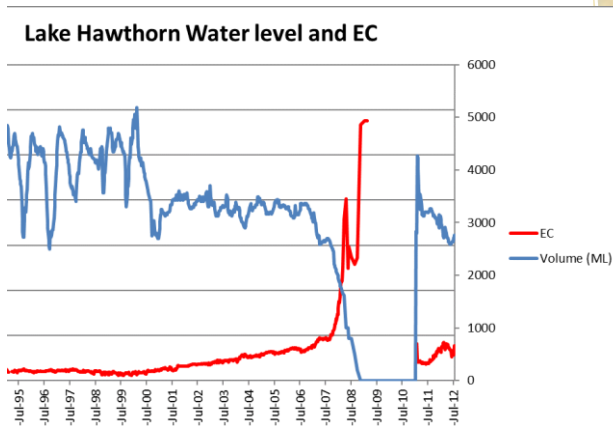
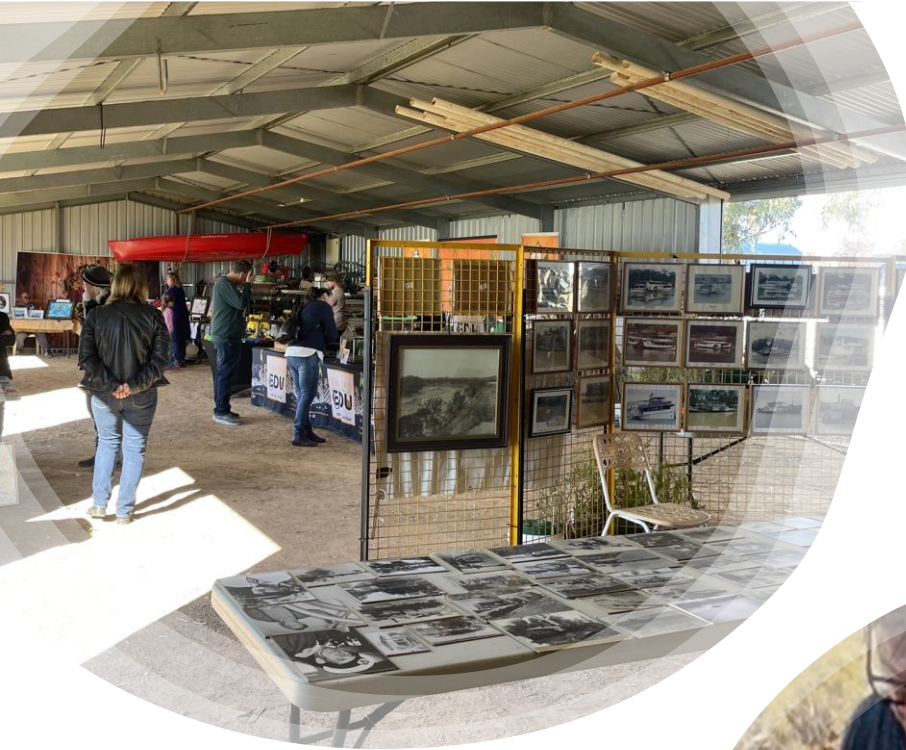


- Action research seeks transformative change through the simultaneous process of taking action and doing research which enables shared learning and knowledge building.
- Our work is shaped by a decade of work with communities impacted by climate-related disasters – we are keen to walk alongside communities on the Murray Darling Basin facing a variable water future. It is clear communities care deeply about place and the future. Community-led solutions are inherently more sustainable.
- Water Futures works directly with community members and groups to plan, act and reflect on the water issues (identified by community members not researchers)
- Our plan is to work with communities over 18-24 months providing resources (staff and money); facilitating access to technical expertise; documenting the process; and offering research support as required.
- Our work is informed by complexity thinking and community development theories.





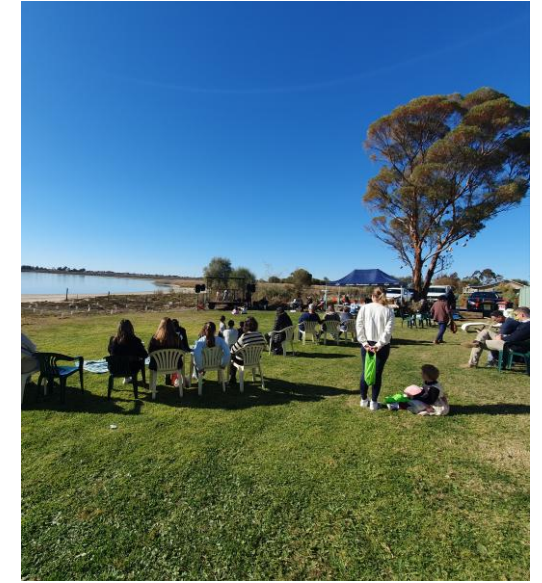
- Drawing on complexity thinking, we understand each community will have its own unique and dynamic context; that we need to allow time & space for emergent ideas; that feedback loops can be both positive and negative; that community life is interconnected and non-linear. Small changes can have large (sometimes unexpected) impacts (and the reverse).
- Drawing on community development theory, we seek to support processes and structures that enable collective action; key steps include listening, loitering and learning ('initial scan'); facilitating conversations and asking questions; building or consolidating structures that can undertake action; testing ideas; and reflecting (to inform the 'next step'). In our community development practice, we pay attention to seven dimensions that enable community action.



# The change

- Increase water literacy – build knowledge about water governance as well as the health of the environment (water and beyond)
- New relationships between individuals and groups that leads to action (laying deep roots that strengthen community capacities to respond to future challenges)
- Building connections between individuals, institutions, and communities (places)
- Enhancing localised policy advocacy and the opportunities for local input into policy development
- Working with communities to articulate community values in relation to waterways
- Testing the strategic use of money and people to support community action, without adding out of proportion burdens





## Cabarita Community Inc. & caring for Lake Hawthorn

How communities organise for places they care about in contexts of complex water governance arrangements.





## Wilcannia Central School & Custodianship for Healthy Waterways

How communities foster custodianship of  
waterways through empowerment of the younger  
generation.





## Revive and Thrive Collective & Social Enterprise Creation

How communities organise around ideas that serve social and environmental goods.