

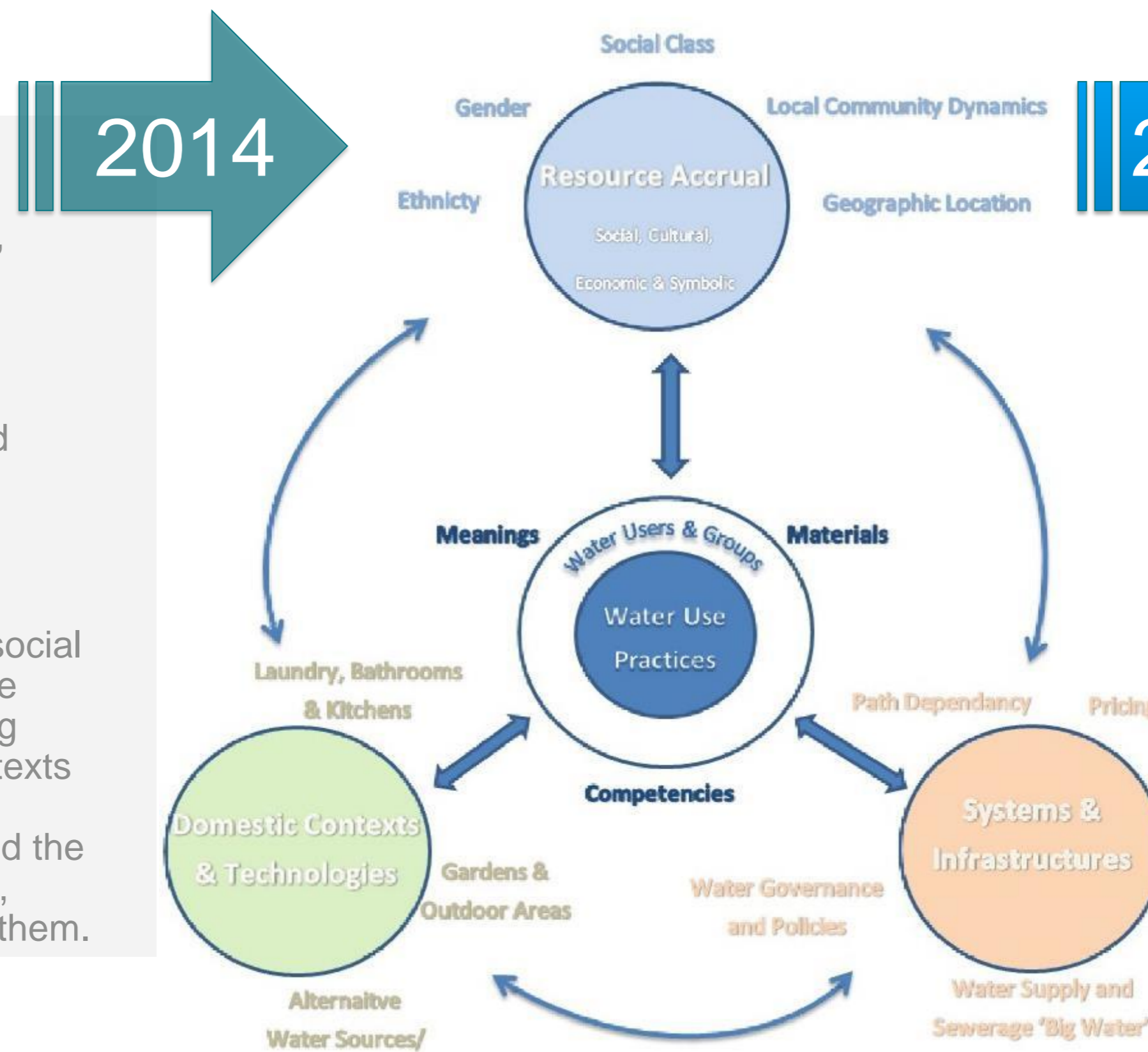


Social Inequality & Water Sensitive Cities

Progress!

The transition towards more sustainable, water sensitive cities, requires a greater understanding of existing socio-cultural drivers (eg. class, gender, ethnicity, community dynamics), their influence on water use practices, and the barriers and opportunities they present for building engagement and capacity for water sustainability.

To investigate the relationship between social inequality and water use practices, I have developed a model depicting the evolving dynamic between the Socio-cultural contexts (that shape user and management perspectives, values and behaviours) and the existing domestic contexts, technologies, systems and infrastructures that embed them.



2015

I Need You!

Attention Industry partners, water resource managers and stakeholders alike!

I have obtained perspectives from residents of communities varying in social advantage and disadvantage in the cities of **Greater Melbourne**, and **Greater Perth**.

I am now seeking input and perspective from practitioners on the domestic contexts, technologies, systems and infrastructures that exist in these broader communities.

Participation is a 30 minute informal discussion. If you can assist or for further information please contact Paul Satur at paul.satur@monash.edu.

See Things From Their Shoes

Social Advantage



"Gardening was very important to me... perhaps it's my inheritance but I couldn't justify using mains water if there were alternate ways of reusing water... During the drought we installed five water tanks in our backyard... We also installed the recycled water unit which processes wastewater to A1 drinking water. The council does not understand or have much support for people that have these kinds of units and technology, it's just ridiculous"



"I can't remember how many years ago the drought broke. But my garden really struggled to survive. I was doing things like throwing the water from the dishwashing onto the garden and scooping out water from the shower... I looked into grey water reuse systems a while ago, but just couldn't afford it".



"If you closed your eyes and didn't know where you were in some of these streets you would think you are in a third or second world country... The water doesn't taste too good. Like every time we drink it we feel like we want to vomit it up.... It needs to be changed, especially (in the) Melbourne area, so people can drink it."

"For dishes, I have learnt a lot about it, which I have been doing good with. Before I used to leave the tap running but I don't do that anymore. So I just wash the dishes first and then rinse... because I think (previously) it was too much on the water bill."

Early Findings

Suggest strong links between the different resources (social, cultural, economic & material) people have in shaping their realities, lived experiences and forms of water literacy. It is these that then influences the materials, competencies and meanings of peoples water use and capacities for sustainability in daily life. In some instances, "one size fits all" management approaches that are limited in the consideration of this diversity appear to create inequalities in their accessibility and impact, thus varying in effectiveness.

2016 & Beyond

My Vision

"Resilient, Liveable, Productive and Sustainable Water Sensitive Cities. For Everyone."

HOW?

2016 & Beyond

1. Understanding the role and nature of social inequality in shaping water use practices in Australian cities
2. Identify the barriers and opportunities social inequality presents for achieving water sensitive cities
3. Develop solutions for socially equitable and sustainable water use practices that ensure an effective transition to water sensitive cities

Social Disadvantage