

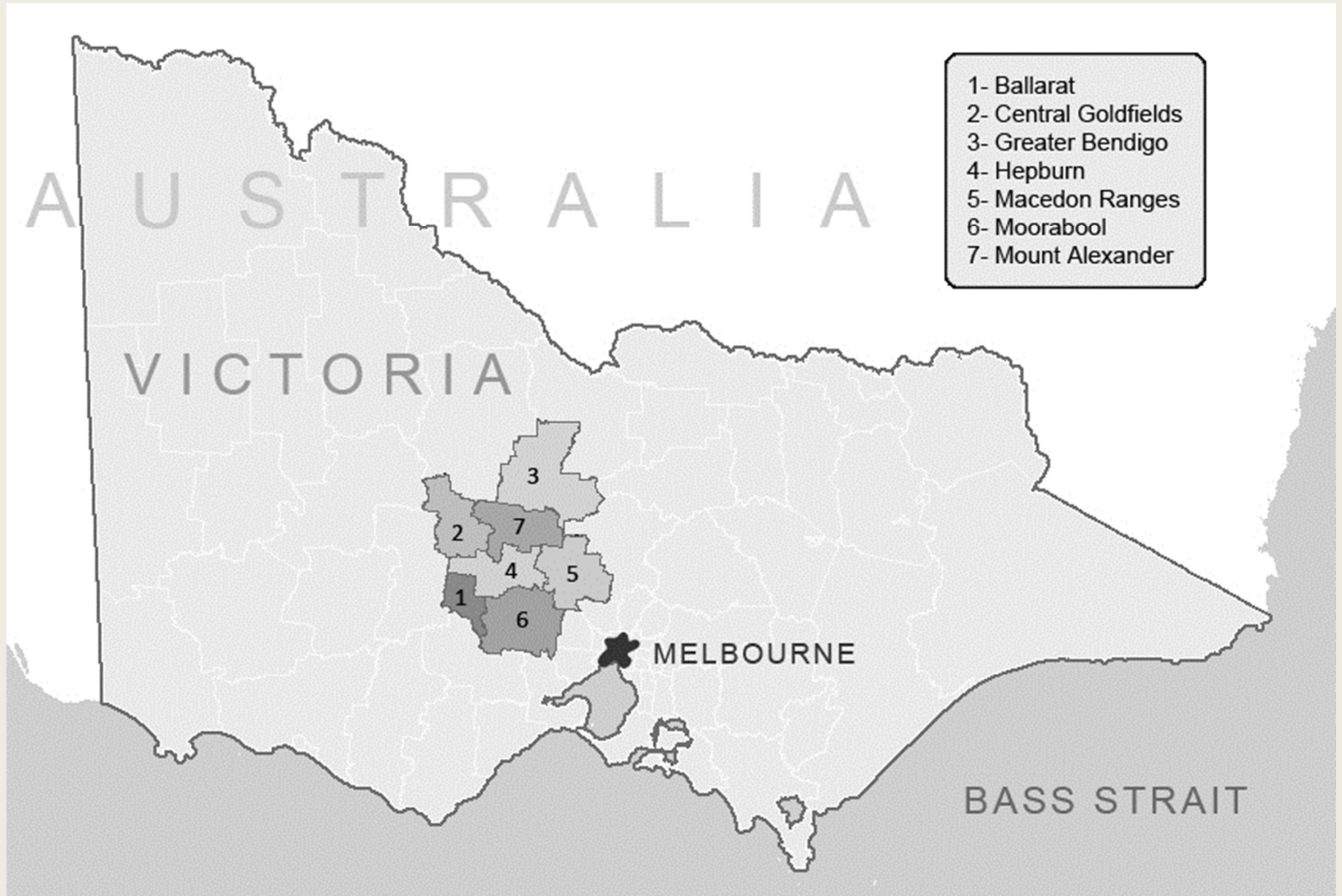
Contrasting residents' priorities and planners' visions in peri-urban Australia:
can SEA enhance deliberative regional planning?

Albert Llausàs
Ruth Beilin
Michael Buxton

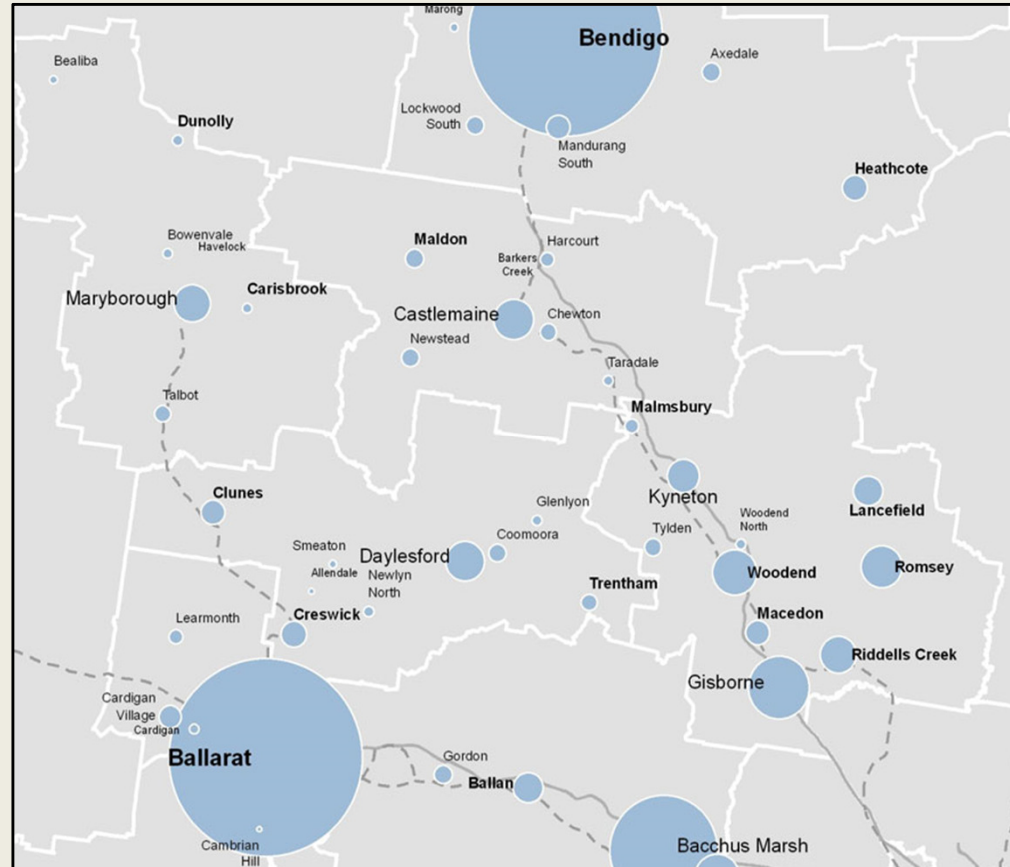


Viña del Mar, Chile
8-11 April 2014

Background



Background



Background

Area of high natural amenity value + proximity to Melbourne (pop: 4M.)



Amenity migration or “tree-change”

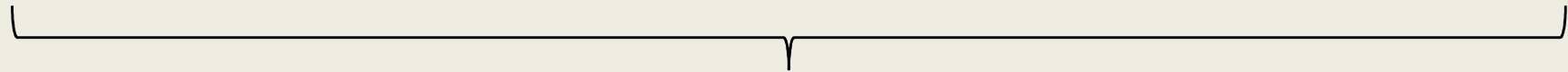


Development pressure



Protect natural resources

Plan for appropriate access



SEA

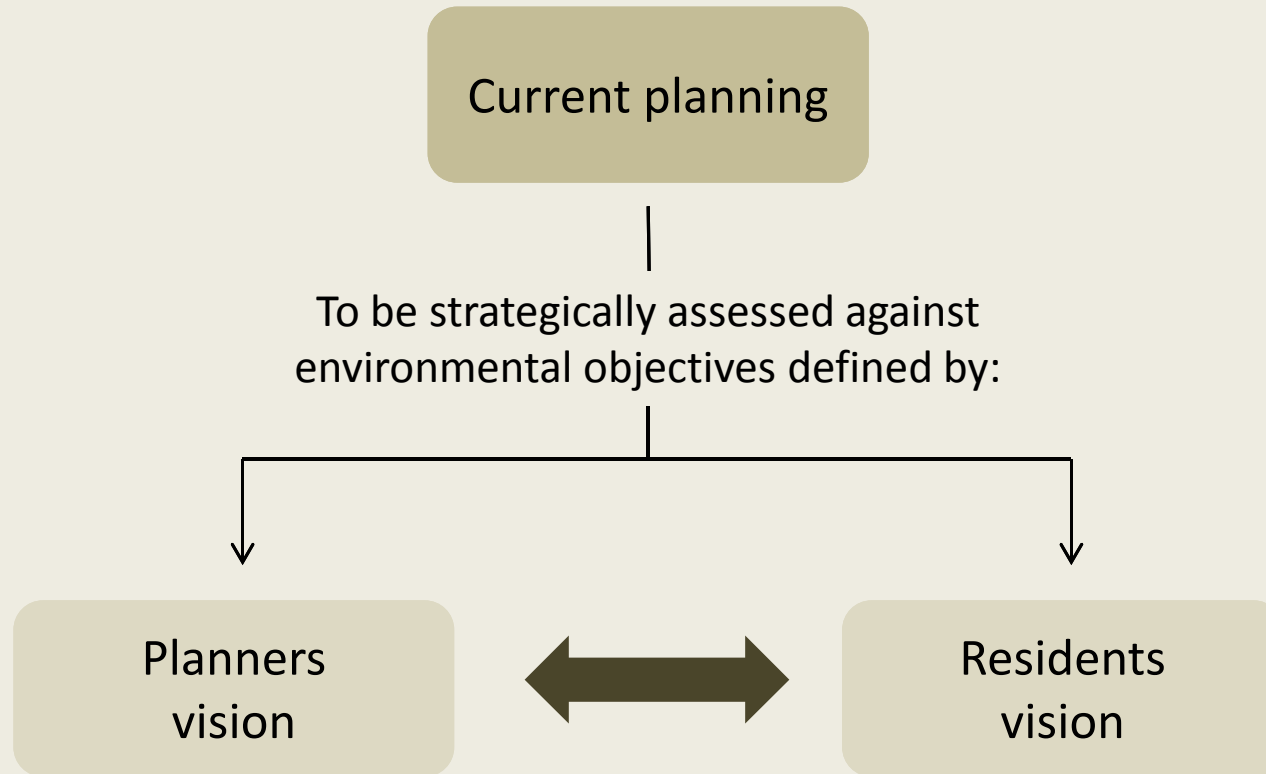


Ad hoc

Future oriented

Objective-led

Aim



Methods

Planners
vision



Buxton et al. (2011). Vision statement resulting from a workshop with spatial planners of the Periurban Group of Rural Councils (Victoria, Australia)

Residents
vision



Community consultation:
- Online survey
- Face to face interviews

Methods

Online survey

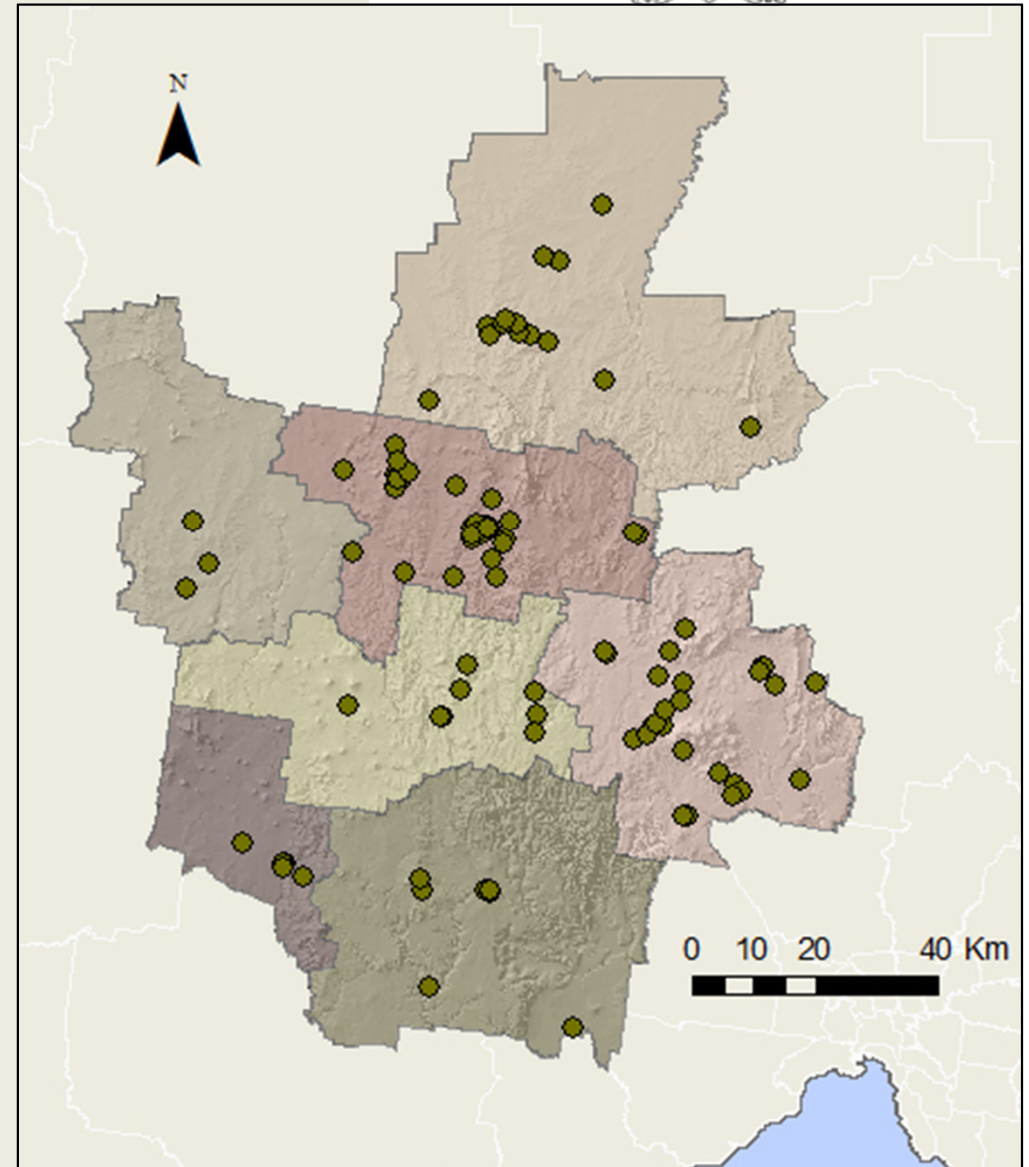
Future expectations

Alignment with institutional vision



138 responses

Statistics (Descriptive + PCA)



Methods

Interviews

40 face-to-face (0.5–2 hours) semistructured interviews:

23 residents

9 Landcare groups

4 Local councils

2 Farming organizations

2 Environmental organizations

Discourse analysis:

Transcription

Coding

Software-assisted
Qualitative Data
Analysis

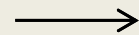
Methods

Planners
vision





Buxton et al. (2011). Vision statement resulting from a workshop with spatial planners of the Periurban Group of Rural Councils (Victoria, Australia)

Residents
vision



Community consultation:
- Online survey
- Face to face interviews

Three topics of interest:

 Biodiversity conservation 

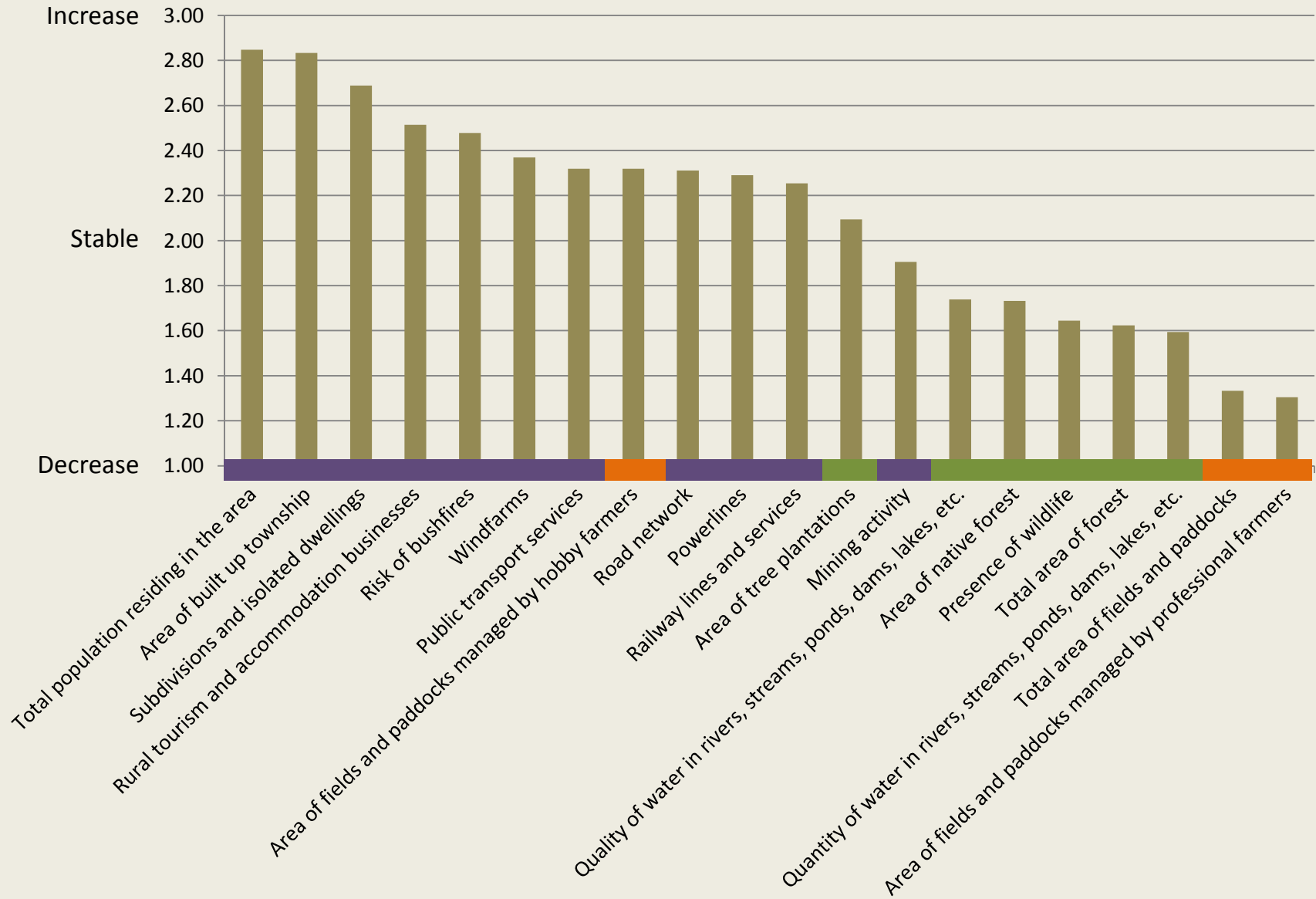
 Sustainable agriculture 

 Landscape character 

Results

Online survey

Future expectations



Results

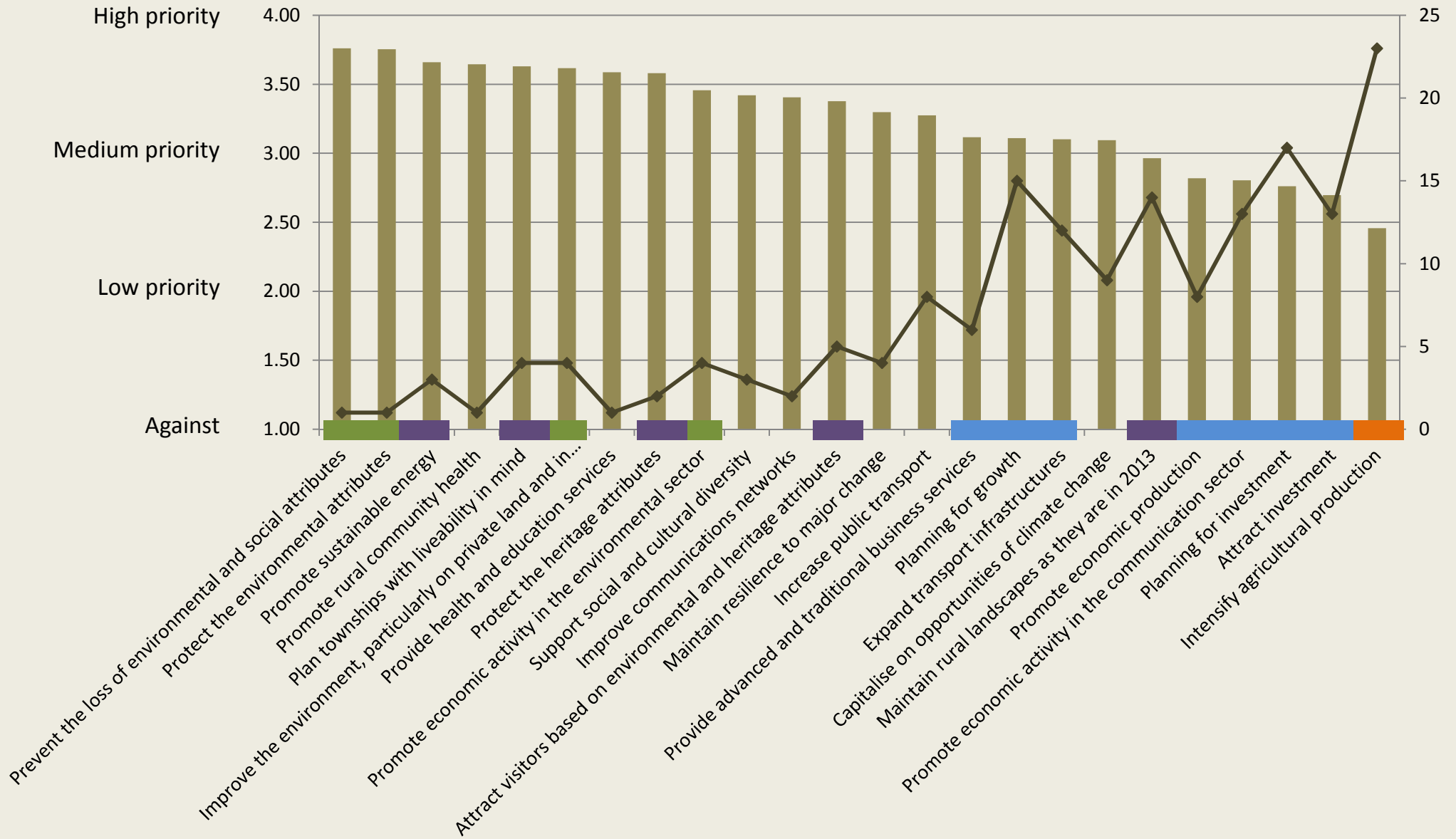
Institutional vision

By 2040, the communities of the peri-urban region are healthy, sustainable, vibrant, socially diverse, culturally active and economically productive. The peri-urban region is linked both locally and more widely through efficient and accessible transport options. The region is also linked nationally and internationally through efficient and accessible communication networks and technology. Designated centres will provide accessible and affordable education and health services. Townships both small and large will be well planned liveable places. The region is an economically productive one supported by sustainable and accessible energy. Productivity is based fundamentally on protecting the region's environmental and heritage attributes. These attributes attract visitors and enhance the liveability of the area for permanent residents. The peri-urban region will be attracting investment and providing a wide range of advanced and traditional business services, including new economic activities in the environmental and communication sectors. Agricultural production has increased in value and importance. The condition of the physical environment is substantially improved, particularly on private land and in streams. Planning for growth and investment has achieved this vision and prevented the loss of environmental and social attributes essential for the region's economic development and liveability. Rural landscapes will be maintained. The region will also capitalise on opportunities of climate change and maintain resilience to major change.

Results

Online survey

Alignment with institutional vision



Results

Interviews

Planners vision

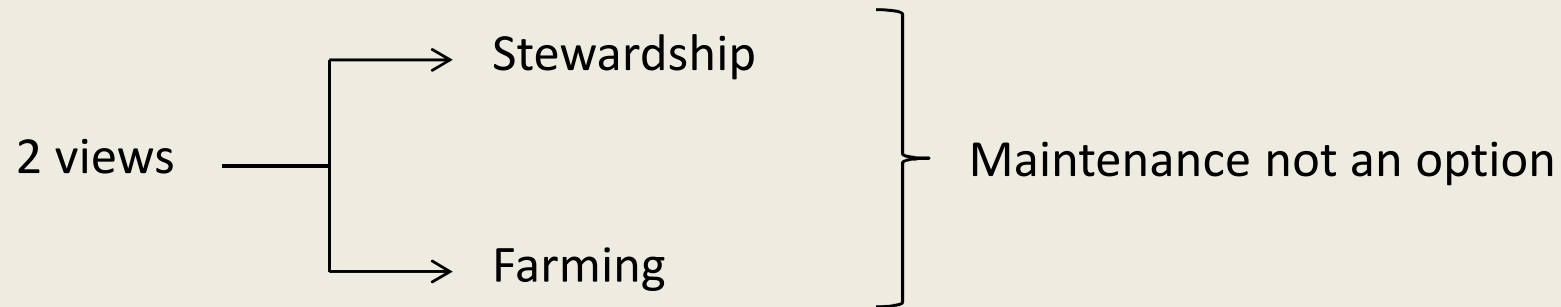
“too waffly” *“motherhoody”* *“a bit open-ended”*
“a lot of rot” *“a fluffy sort
of thing”*
*“words that are always
used, cut and paste”*

Status quo, focused on validating the current trajectory

Results

Interviews

Landscape character



Support for multifunctionality and diversity of uses

Need to decouple rural landscape planning from production

All groups reject status quo (incremental development on rural zones)

Results

Interviews

Biodiversity conservation

Vision goal to “substantially improve the condition of the physical environment” overwhelmingly supported

→ Doubts on feasibility under current scheme

Chase of moral amenity offers opportunities for environmental improvement

Stewardship useful and needed to involve farmers in conservation

Results

Interviews

Sustainable agriculture

Agreement on “agricultural production to increase in value and importance”



Not through increased production

Transition:

Large enterprises + food growing cheaply



Biodiversity and ecosystem services + niche, local, organic, etc.

- Agency:
- New residents as innovators and restorers
 - Traditional farmers need to be engaged

Conclusions

“planning ... stories function as sanction and justification for the current order, but also as launching pads for counter versions”

(Sandercock, 2003:22)

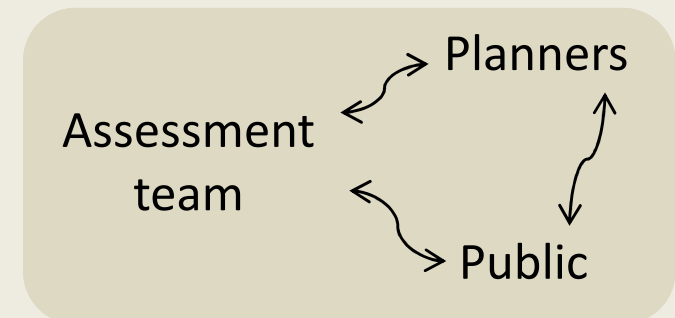
Public participation in SEA is a suitable platform to generate alternative narratives

In the case study: the planners’ vision validates the status quo
 the residents’ objectives are closer to transformational action

An objective-led SEA can benefit from incorporating different sets of environmental objectives...
 ... and coupled with a participative process it can facilitate discussion and decision making

Other benefits observed:

- Awareness raising
- Knowledge exchanges



Impact Assessment for Social and Economic Development

Public participation in action: a real tool for rising effectiveness in SEA

References

Buxton, M., Alvarez, A., Butt, A., Farrell, S., Densley, L., Pelikan, M., O'Neill, D., 2011. Scenario planning for Melbourne's Peri-urban region. RMIT University, Melbourne. Accessed 19 March 2014, <<http://www.rmit.edu.au/socialhumanities/periurban>>.

Sandercock, L., 2003. Out of the closet: The importance of stories and storytelling in planning practice. *Planning Theory & Practice* 4(1), 11-28.

Thank you

Albert Llausàs
(albert.llausas@unimelb.edu.au)

Landscape Sociology Group
Department of Resource Management and Geography
Melbourne School of Land and Environment
The University of Melbourne, Building 379, Room 1.57
221 Bouverie Street, Carlton 3053 (VIC, Australia)



Viña del Mar, Chile
8-11 April 2014