

# **SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

## **THE POWER OF PURCHASING**

**ICIBE 2021 and ICCPM 2021 (27-29/09/2021)**

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**Sustainable  
Built Environment**  
National Research Centre  
AUSTRALIA



Leadership & Partnership

Governance

Resilience

Circular Economy

Supply Chain Collaboration

Modern Slavery

Original Participants

Sustainable Products

Marginalised Group



**How we buy matters**

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



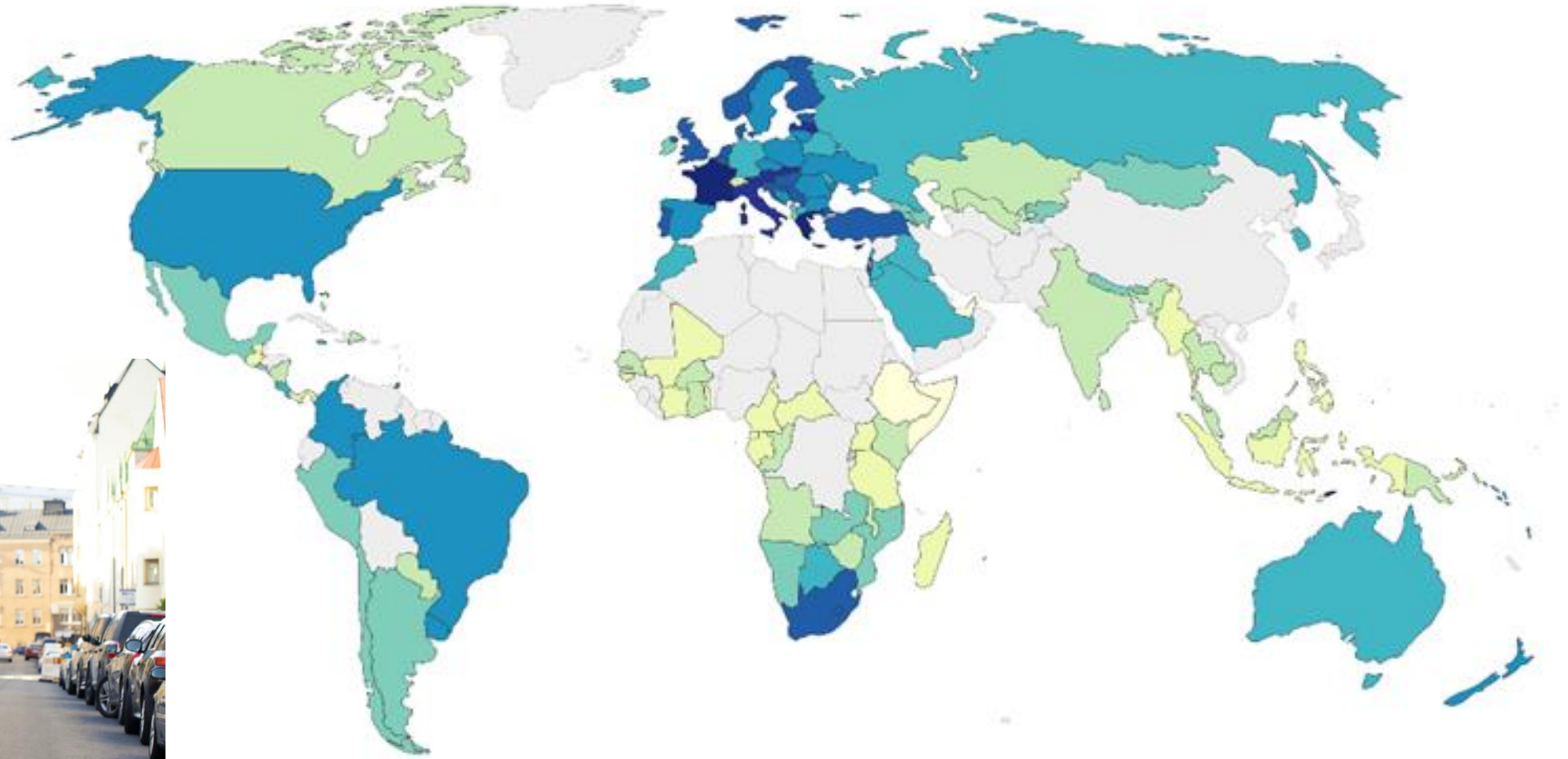
**aurecon**





## City of Helsinki

- low-carbon IT equipment
- Electricity: - 288,000€
- CO2 emissions: -27,4%





Sustainable  
Procurement  
&  
17 United Nations  
Sustainable  
Development Goals





# Sustainable Procurement Indicators



1. Prevention of pollution
2. Sustainable resource use
3. Climate change mitigation and adaptation
4. Protection of the environment, biodiversity and restoration of natural habitats
5. Human rights and Labour issues
6. Inclusion of persons with disabilities
7. Gender issues
8. Social health and well-being
9. Whole life cycle cost
10. Local communities and SMEs
11. Promoting sustainability throughout the supply chain
12. Generic additional indicators

Source: <https://www.ungm.org>

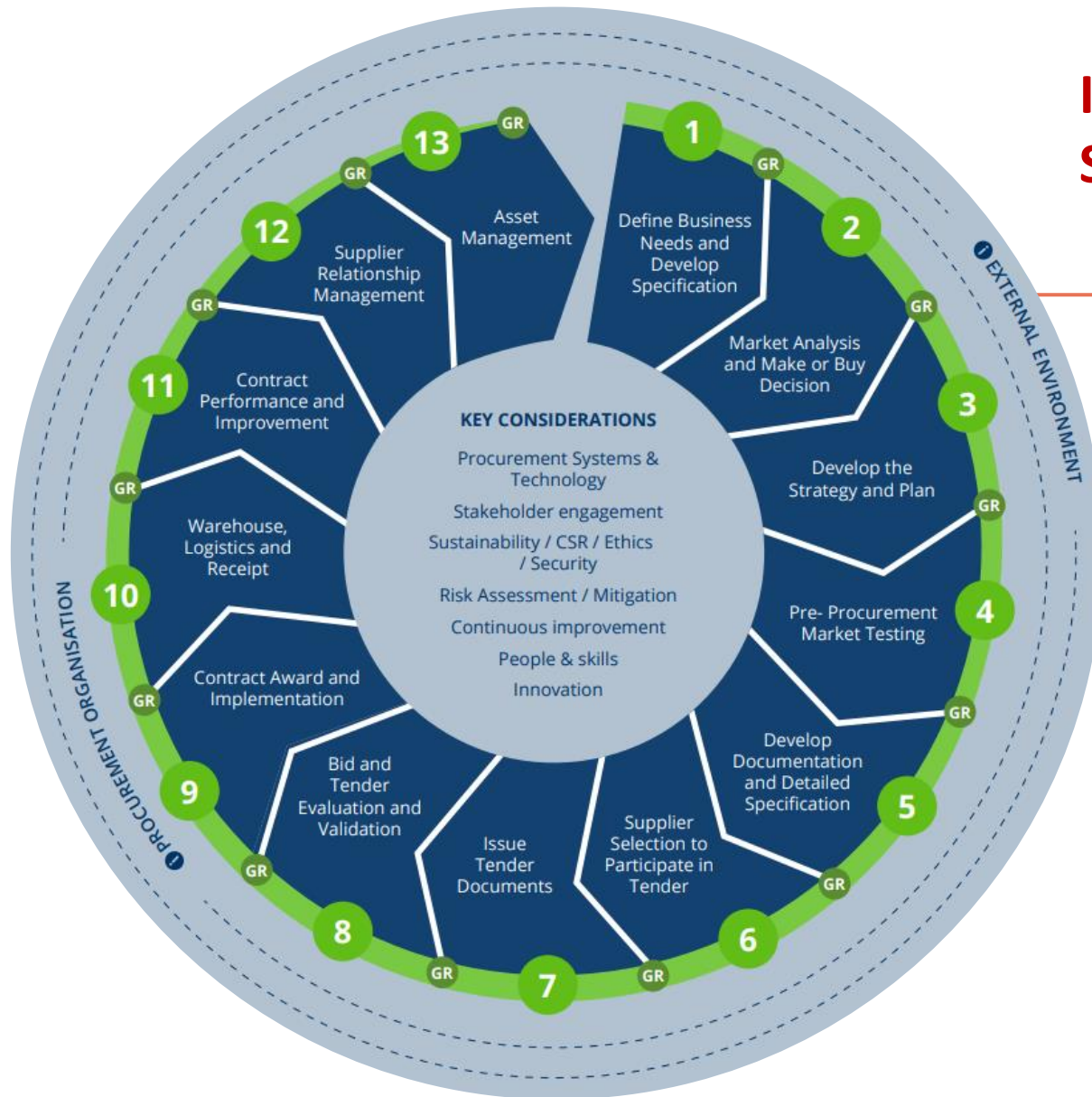


UNITED NATIONS  
GLOBAL MARKETPLACE

# ISO 20400:2017

## Sustainable Procurement Guidance Standard

### ➤ Principles of Sustainable Procurement

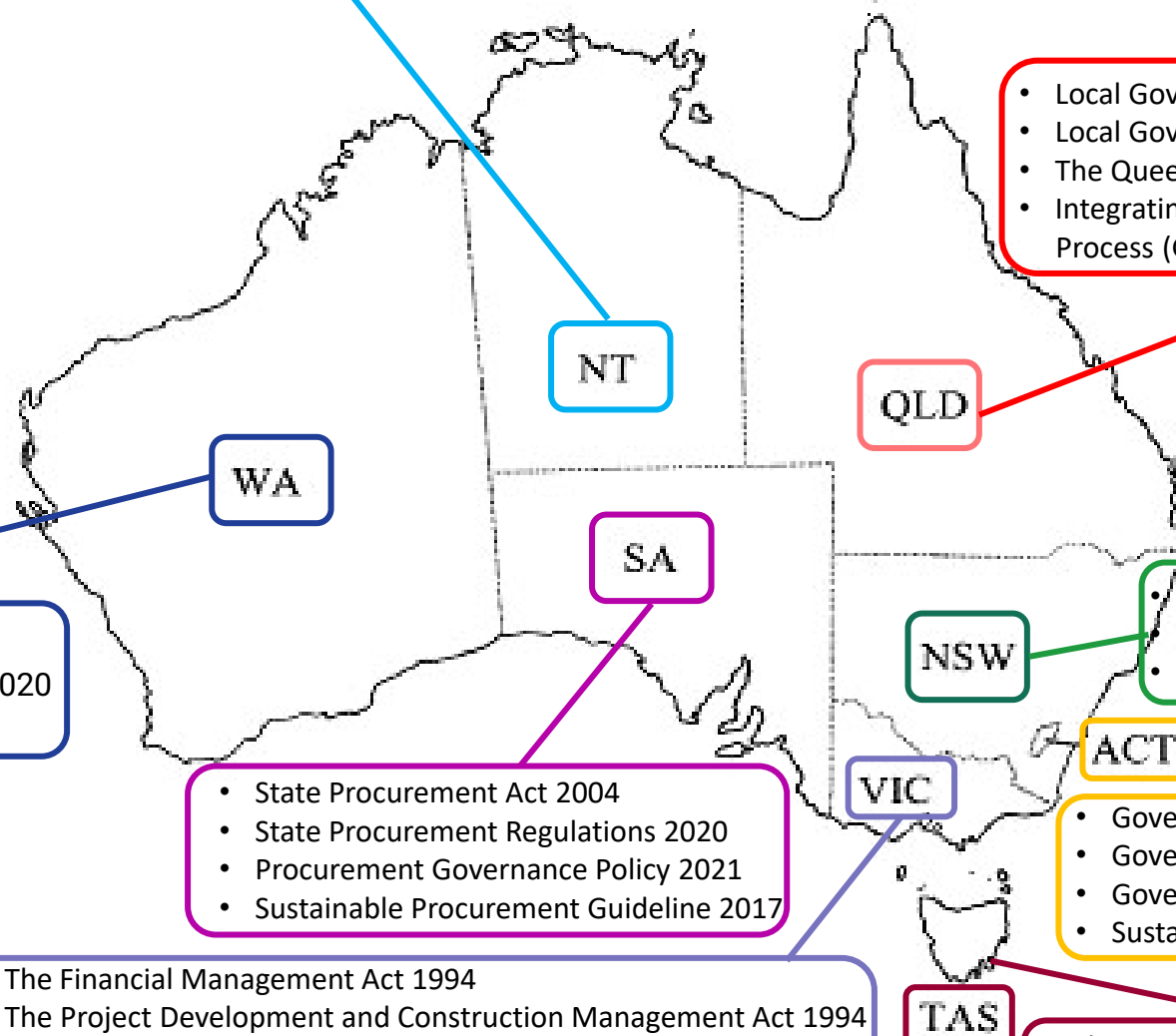


- **Accountability** of procurement impacts
- **Transparency** of the supply chain
- **Ethical** behavior throughout the supply chain
- **Full and fair** opportunity for SMEs businesses
- **Respect** for stakeholder interests
- **Respect** for the rule of law and international norms of behavior
- **Respect** for human and labor rights
- **Innovative** solutions to address sustainability objectives
- **Focus** on needs - buy only what is needed
- **Integration** of sustainability practices to maximize sustainable outcomes
- **life cycle costs & benefits** for society; environment; economy (**value for money**)
- **Continual improvement** of sustainability practices and outcomes

# Legislative Framework on Procurement in Australian States & Territories

- Procurement Act 1995
- Procurement Governance Policy 2019
- (PRINCIPLE 4: capability, capacity and sustainability of the industry)
- Procurement Rules 2019

- Local Government Act 2009
- Local Government Regulation 2012
- The Queensland Procurement Policy 2021
- Integrating Sustainability into the Procurement Process (Guide) 2018



- Procurement Act 2020
- The WA Social Procurement Framework 2020
- Sustainable Procurement Guideline 2020

- State Procurement Act 2004
- State Procurement Regulations 2020
- Procurement Governance Policy 2021
- Sustainable Procurement Guideline 2017

- Procurement Amendment Act 2018
- Procurement Policy Framework 2021
- Sustainable Procurement Guide 2017

- Government Procurement Act 2001
- Government Procurement Regulation 2007
- Government Procurement Direction 2020
- Sustainable Procurement Policy 2015

- The Financial Management Act 1994
- The Project Development and Construction Management Act 1994
- Local Government Act 2020
- Victoria's Government Procurement Policy 2020
- Victoria's Social Procurement Framework 2018 (Ch 3)

- The Local Government Act 1993
- Local Government (General) Regulations 2015
- Procurement Better Practice Guidelines 2021



# Project Development Process





Lack of information and assessment regimes of sustainability  
Advice to clients on sustainable procurement  
---- Will Hackney

Need to see greater consideration of Whole of Life Costings in driving better sustainable procurement outcomes  
---- Lionel Pero

How do you see through your supply chain to understand how you might have an impact?  
---- Louis Bettini

Better delivery on what gov. is asking for in terms of environmental sustainability  
---- Ashley Newcomb

Setting specific targets to assess sustainability  
---- Fiona Hogg

How our provider treat the waste management (where they go) and contamination  
---- Marissa Saunders

How to be sustainable re local resources?  
How we can provide guidance on modern slavery and how we can leverage on current environment post COVID-19?  
---- Alisha Larkin

Upfront clear guidance on sustainability in procurement in projects.  
What is the cost?  
Clear guidance needed from clients  
---- Amy Elkington

Social outcomes are not always addressed.  
How to use the projects to achieve social outcomes  
---- Karen Greaves

Transparency and tools;  
Consistency and simplification across various levels of gov. and private sector  
---- Carl Barrett

Strongly suggest ISO 20400 Sustainable Procurement Guidance standard is referenced in this research in terms of a 'definition' and best practice process and implementation  
---- Michael Whitehead



A guideline or tool box for sustainable procurement to define best practice and offer tools (data capture or analysis etc) or cases studies to assist in implementing the processes recommended.

----- Louis Bettini

Post COVID19 impacts for achieving sustainable procurement and how these impacts may be ameliorated.

Effective contract management and supply chain monitoring processes.

Consider industry rating tools.

----- Michael Whitehead

Need for sustainability incentives by client organisations.

Need for procurement commercial decision making.

Important to examine the role of stakeholders in transforming practices.

----- Lionel Pero

Link the targets to existing organisational procurement policies, tender evaluation, supplier/contractor selection.

Whether assessment of value is only limited to meeting organisational targets.

----- Sherif Mohamed

I'd like to see this project simplify sustainable procurement – KISS principle.

Extends beyond basic human rights into broader social advancement.

Consistency and simplification in processes

----- Carl Barrett







## Industry Challenges

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- Vast investment in housing, building and infrastructure
- Environmental and social impact
- Supply chain collaboration and engagement
- Justify procurement decisions
- Changing practices





# Industry Needs

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- What actually constitutes sustainability in terms of the procurement application?
- What is expected from procurement for sustainability?
- How to identify the products or services that genuinely support sustainable procurement goals, achieve the targeted outcomes and concurrently represent value-for-money in achieving those goals.



# Industry Needs

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- Social sustainability
- Local industry sustainability issues
- Whole-of-life waste management and circular economy
- better mechanisms that encourage recycled or sustainable products.
- Opportunity for growing social enterprises
- Sustainable issues across the procurement life cycle (i.e., planning, sourcing, and contract management)



# Industry Needs

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- verify the sustainability claims made by suppliers of products or services
- set specific targets to assess the sustainability components and performance of suppliers
- data on the size and value of the opportunity in addressing sustainable procurement.
- procurement commercial decision making to consider whole of life benefit and reduced environmental and social impact.







# Industry Needs

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- monitor suppliers practices, evaluate their sustainability performance, and identify the risks
- tracking imports to achieve social sustainability outcomes and improving visibility on the sustainability of imported products
- sustainable procurement in a post COVID19 setting




# Industry Needs

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- Consistency and simplification across various levels of government and private sector
- clear guidelines, framework, processes and tool boxes for sustainable procurement
- Business as Usual
- sustainability incentives by client
- respond to changing practices including digitisation



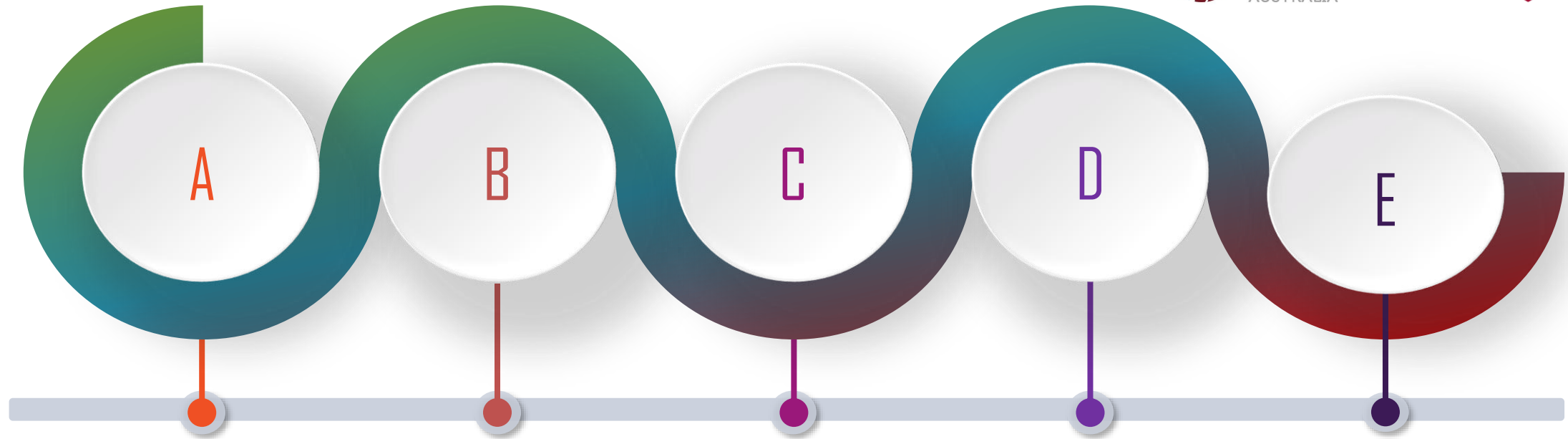
The background of the slide is a light blue, hazy photograph of a city skyline. In the center, a cable car is suspended from a wire, moving across the frame. The buildings in the background are various heights and styles, typical of a modern urban environment.

**This industry-driven research project will respond to identified industry challenges by examining key issues across system, organisation and procurement process and focusing on finding practical ways to improve environmental, social, and economic sustainability outcomes in the housing, building and infrastructure sectors in Australia**

**Research Aim**



# Research Strategy



## Research Design

- Articulate well-defined research questions
- Consult with existing literature
- Initially Consult with industry experts

## Data Collection

- Develop Focus Group Discussion protocol
- Recruit participants
- Conduct Focus Group Discussions
- Give extraordinary voice to informants
- Adjust protocol based on informant responses

## Data Analysis

- Perform initial data coding
- Develop a comprehensive compendium of 1<sup>st</sup> order concepts (participant-driven)
- Organise 1<sup>st</sup> order codes into 2<sup>nd</sup> order themes (theory-driven)
- Distil 2<sup>nd</sup> order themes into overarching theoretical dimensions

## Development of Framework

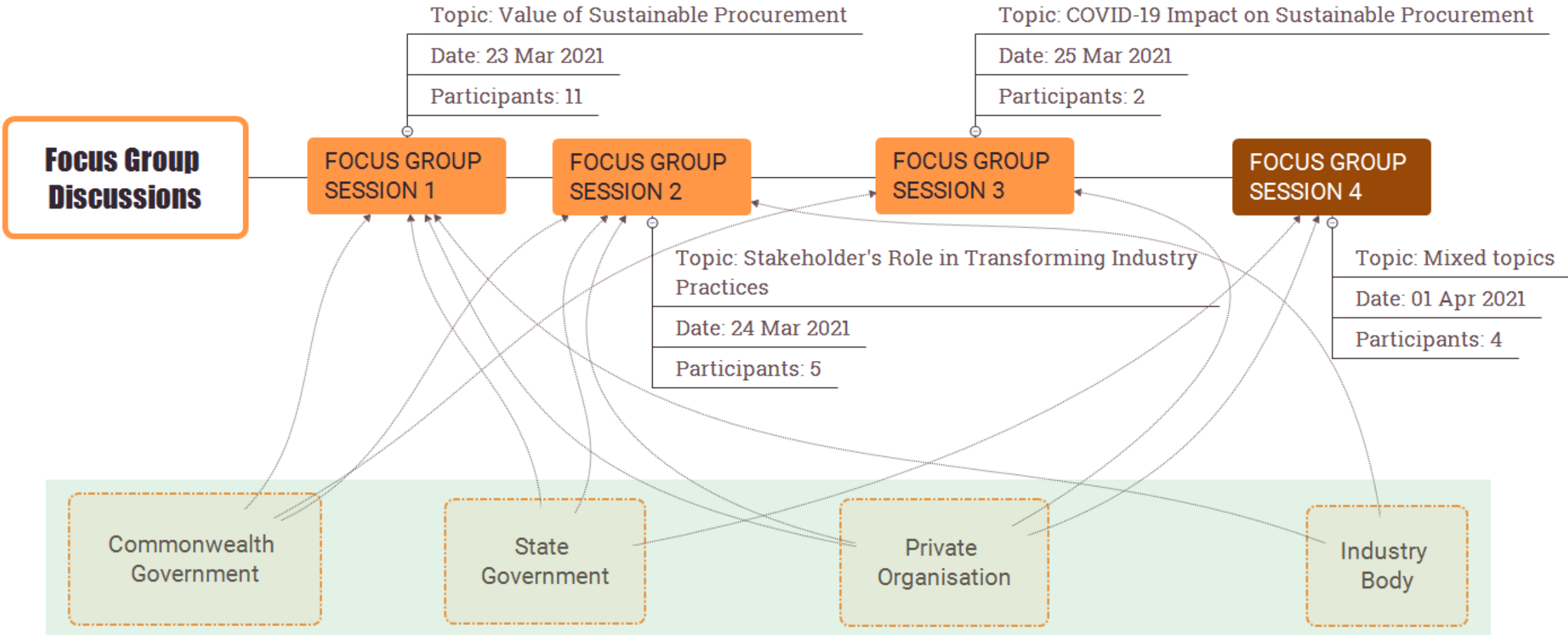
- Formulate dynamic relationships among the 2<sup>nd</sup> order concepts
- Conduct additional consultations with the literature to refine the concepts and relationships
- Transform concepts and relationships into framework

## Case Studies

- Test and refine the framework
- Develop Guide
- Develop Tools



# Focus Group Discussions - Overview





## Environment

- Maximising the use of locally available recycled materials
- Reserving natural resources through reuse and recycling
- Reducing water consumption, energy use and land use
- Reducing waste generation and waste packaging
- Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by diverting materials from landfills
- Promoting environmentally sustainable solutions
- Enhancing environmental protection and improving public health
- Establishing high environmental performance standards for products and services

## Social

- Improving brand value and reputation of the organisation
- Meeting corporate social responsibility (CSR)
- Increasing local community's confidence and trust
- Supporting disadvantaged, marginalised and minority groups
- Raising awareness for sustainability issues
- Improving working conditions, labour standards, health and safety
- Growing local businesses and enhancing local economy resilience
- Providing job, education and training opportunities for local communities
- Promoting social justice and improving the quality of life

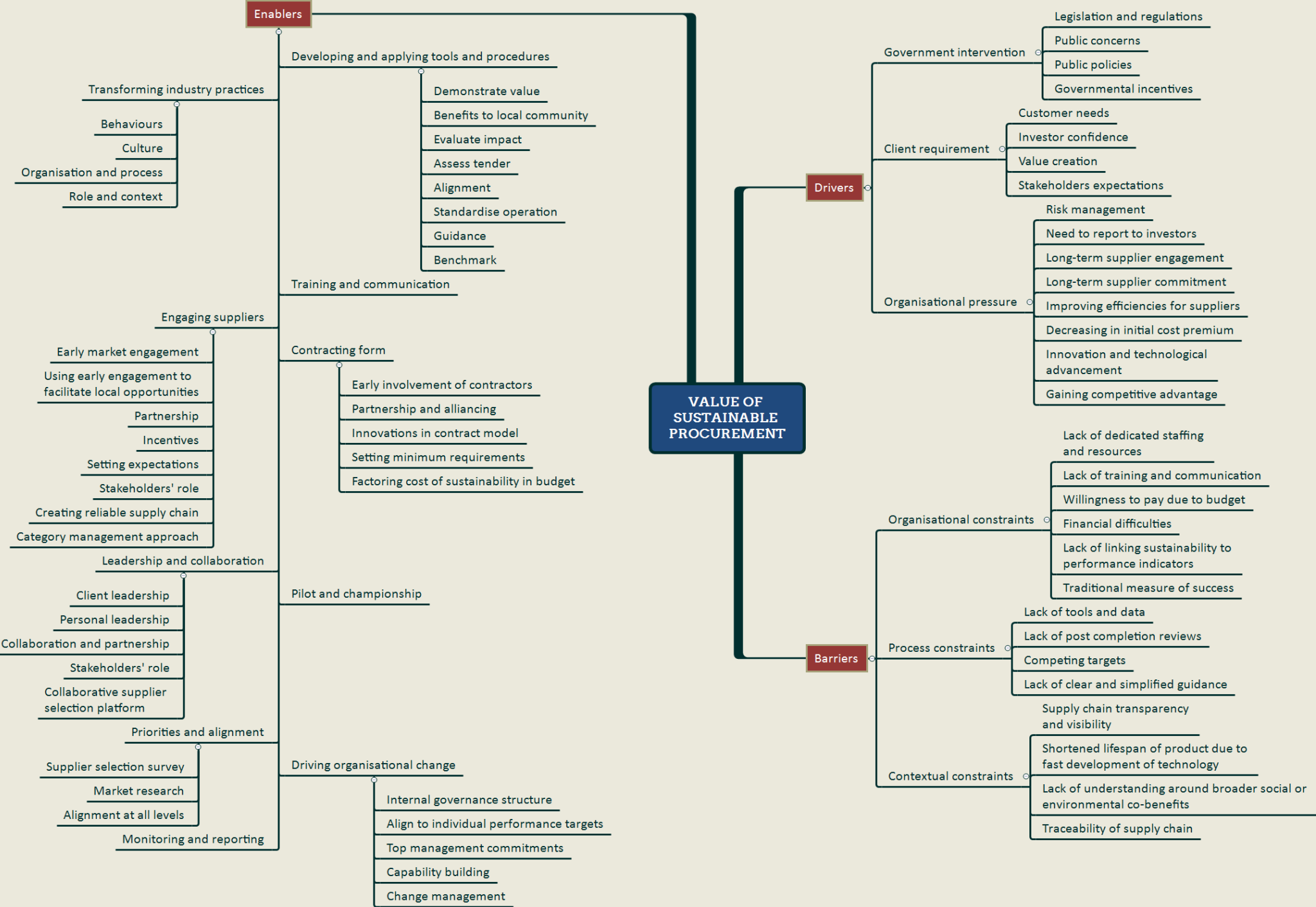
## Value and impact

## Economic

- Increasing the speed of revenue growth
- Maximising the return of investment
- Acquiring competitive advantage
- Increasing sales with ethical consumers
- Reducing exposure to financial risks
- Stimulating competition, thus reducing prices for environmental technologies
- Gaining market share and delivering better service
- Life Cycle Cost Savings

## Governance

- Ensuring transparency during the tendering
- Reducing exposure to ethical risks
- Complying with the legislation and other regulations (i.e., Modern Slavery Act)
- Avoiding supply chain's disruptions
- Anticipating legal obligations
- Setting an example to private consumers and to the industry (Champion)
- Building organisational capability
- Changing organisational culture



77 First order themes (participants-driven)

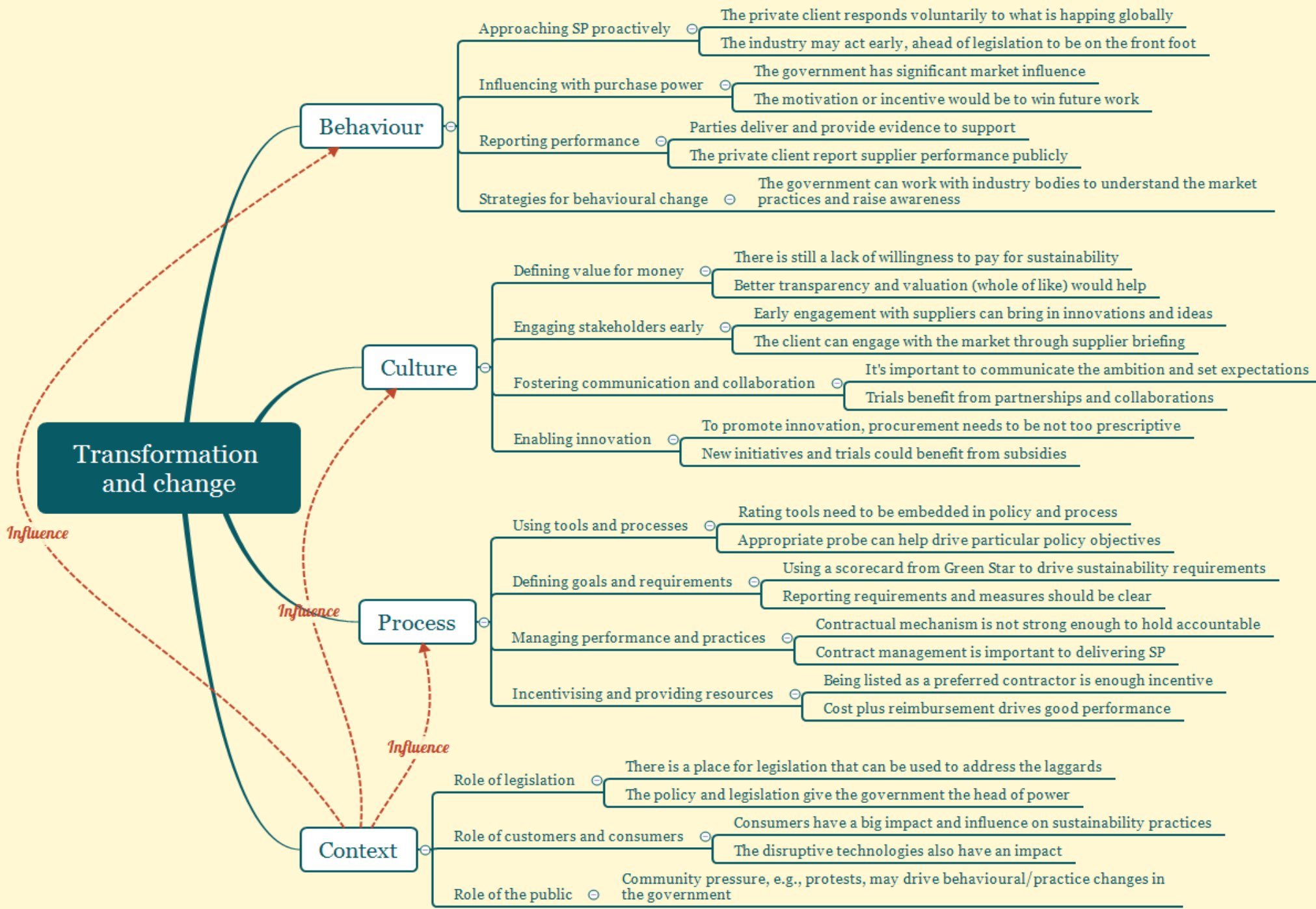


16 Second order themes (researcher-driven)



3 Aggregated categories





136 First order themes (participants-driven)

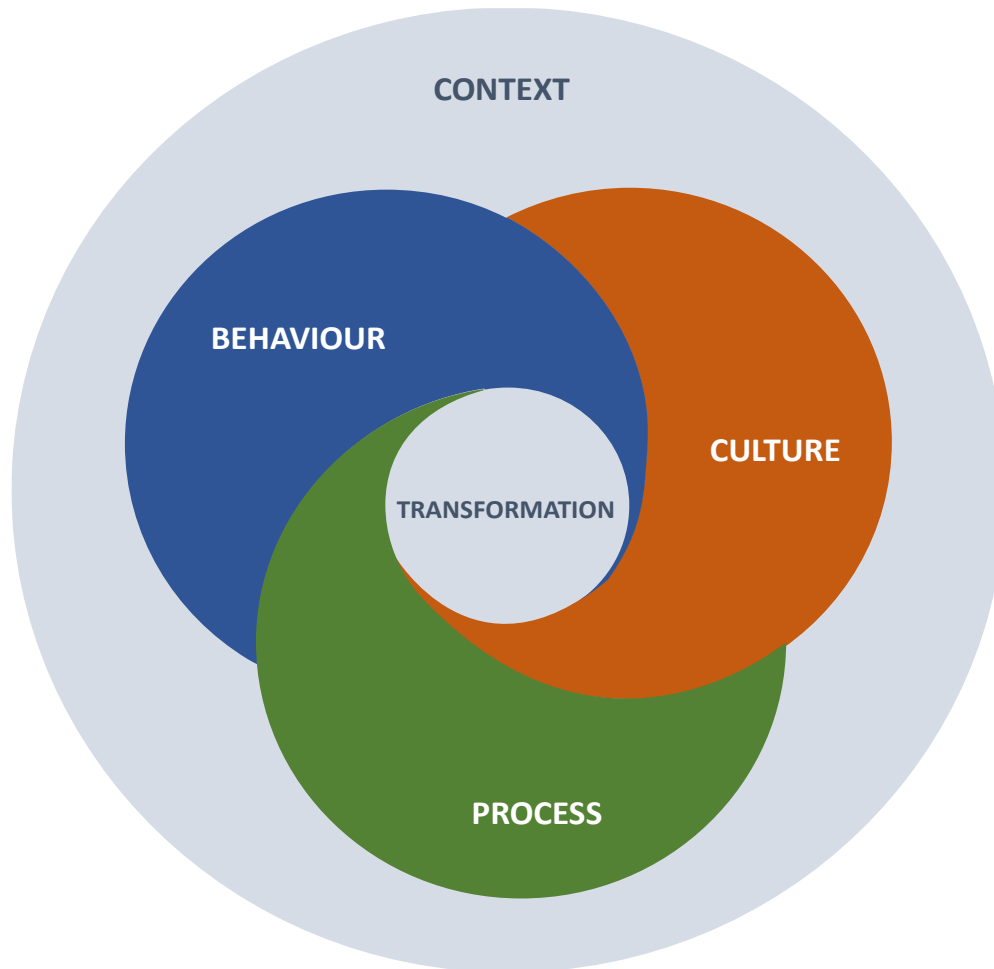


15 Second order themes (researcher-driven)



4 Aggregated categories

# Industry Practice Transformation



## ENABLE

- Commit leadership
- Clarify ownership
- Set clear policy priorities
- Develop capabilities
- Ensure budget
- Provide resources

## ENCOURAGE

- Use incentive systems
- Create internal rewards
- Recognise good practice

## ENGAGE

- Engage organization
- Support innovation
- Integrate sustainability into procurement
- Build long-term supplier relations

## ENFORCE

- Monitor performance
- Sanctions for not meeting standards and targets



# COVID-19 Impact on Sustainable Procurement

## Effects of Covid-19 on sustainable procurement

- Supply chain disruptions
  - Increasing pressure on the supply
  - Changes to the supply chain timeframes and overbuying as a preparatory measure
- Sudden spike in demand
  - Difficulties in sourcing essential products (e.g: hand sanitizers)
  - Scarcity of materials and products for ongoing building and infrastructure developments
- Triggered cultural and structural changes
  - Positive cultural changes such as virtual work engagements
  - Prompt action and rapid forecasting to manage supply chain as well contractors
  - Clear communication of expectations related to sustainable procurements

## Rapid development of reactive procurement responses

- Immediate safety and sourcing measures
  - Continuous efforts to put safety measures in place through the cleaning, increase resources or people, resources to deliver and thereby reduce the impact
  - Stockpiling popular products as a measure to address disruptions.
  - Rapid transition to single use plastics as a covid-19 safety measure
- Fair and progressive operational approaches
  - Adopted a fair approach to progressively tackles job retention challenges
  - Proactive actions from contractors with specific initiatives and scope
- Selective on-site and digital engagement
  - Prioritised and conducted on-site engagement as needed and where electronic alternatives were not viable
  - Adoption of digital approaches and introduction of a new system to electronically process information

## Lever for post Covid-19 sustainable procurement

- Reliable, transparent and local supply chain
  - Critical need for reliable supply chains
  - Explore future opportunities of advancing local manufacturing and associated costs
  - Clear and transparent auditing processes and reporting
- Leverage innovative tools and digital engineering approaches
  - Rethink innovative approaches to address the Covid-19 impacts
  - Leveraging available tools such as Informed 365 through a mediating industry body
  - Introduction of a new system to electronically process information
- Coalition between government and industry
  - Possible coalition between government and industry and government's role in leading and facilitating industry/regulators
  - Private organisations publicly claiming the efforts directed towards sustainable procurement
- Purposeful integration of modern slavery act and procurement guidelines
  - Embedding Modern Slavery requirements to the contract
  - Chain of evidence for materials
  - Indigenous engagement
- Multi-level risk assessment
  - Understanding benefits and risks of global supply chains as an opportunity to broaden horizons
  - Managing risk through shifting the organisation's programmes to allow for the limited resources
  - Engage with contractors who complies to set of defined specifications

83 First order themes (participants-driven)

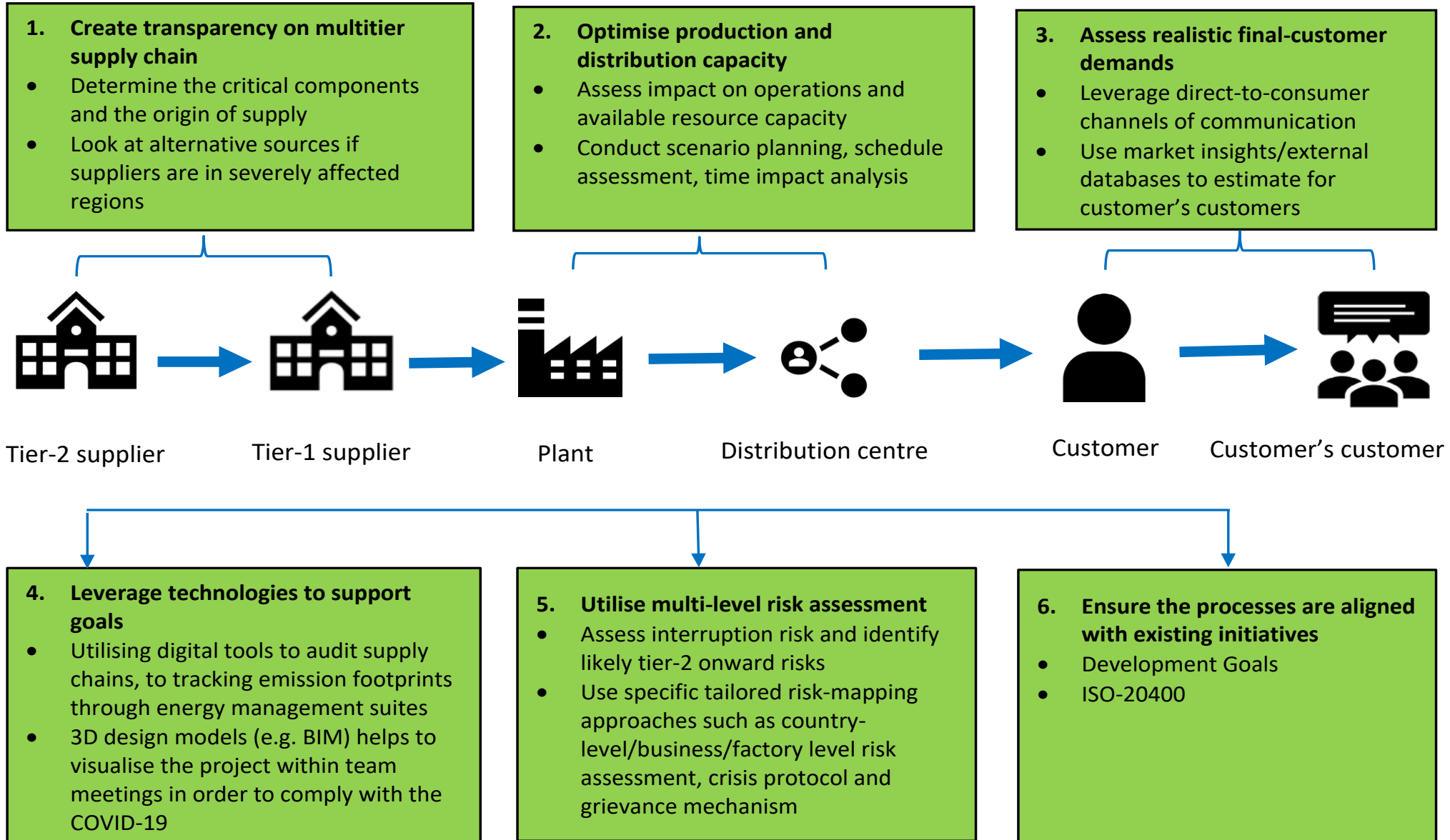


11 Second order themes (researcher-driven)



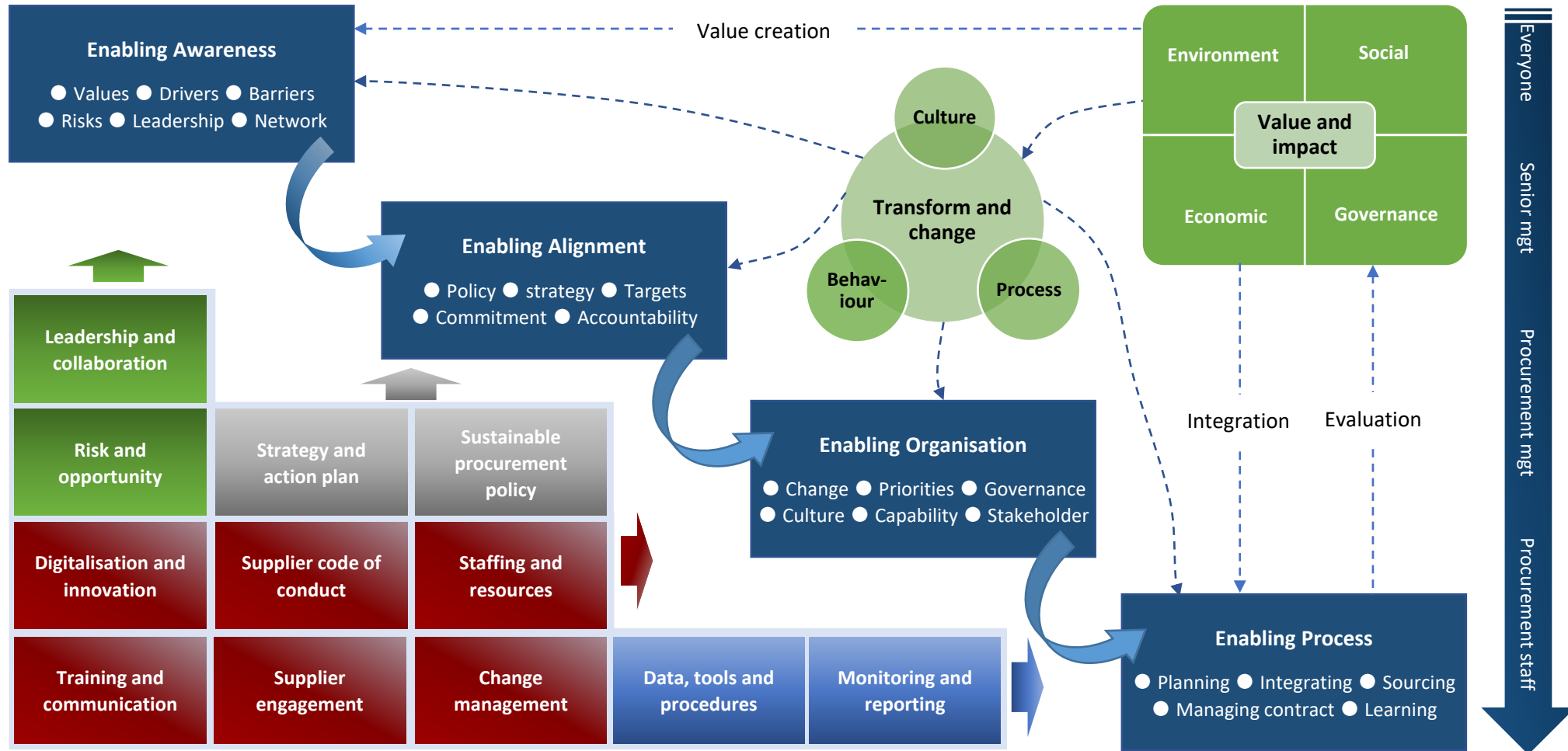
3 Aggregated categories

# Actions in response to COVID-19





# Framework for enabling sustainable procurement



# Guide and Tools

## GUIDE TO ENABLING SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

DESCRIPTION OF  
FRAMEWORK,  
COMPONENTS, KEY  
CONSIDERATIONS AND  
ACTIONS

Informed by focus groups and  
literature

BEST PRACTICES MAPPING  
TOOL

Informed by focus groups and  
literature

STAKEHOLDERS' INTERESTS  
AND INFLUENCE MAPPING  
TOOL AND MATRIX

Informed by focus groups and  
literature

AUSTRALIAN CASE STUDIES

Informed by Case Studies



# Case studies

- Green concrete
- Recycled contents
- Modern slavery
- Regional participants
- Marginalised groups



# Case Study 1: Green Concrete

**BGC**

- ✓ Reduce water consumption
- ✓ Save energy
- ✓ Minimise waste
- ✓ Support Circular Economy
- ✓ Avoid landfilling of GGBF slag
- ✓ Mitigate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- ✓ Preserve natural resources (aggregates)
- ✓ Accurate mixing with separate silos



Recycled aggregate and reclaimed or recycled water



Dedicated silos with granulated blast-furnace slag





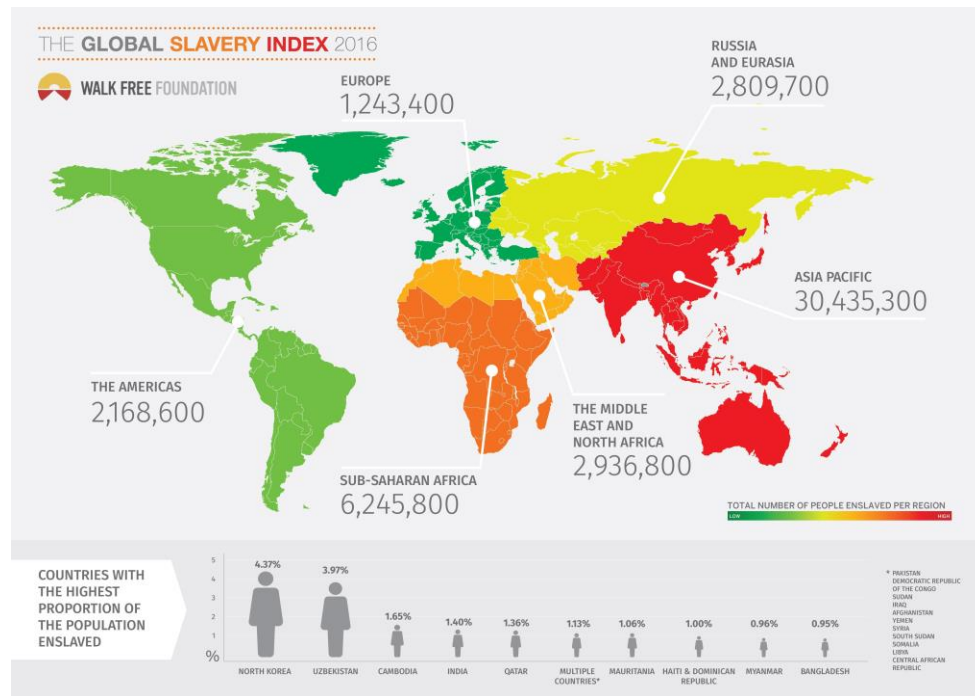
Use of CRC in a roadwork during mixture and compaction (left) and after trimming and sweeping (right)

- ✓ Avoid landfilling of C&D waste
- ✓ Reduce the burden in landfills
- ✓ Support Circular Economy
- ✓ Mitigate life cycle CO2 emissions
- ✓ Preserve natural resources (aggregates)



## Case Study 2: Recycled Content

# Case Study 3: Modern Slavery Act



## Willowdale Retirement Village - Stage 8 Project



Material	Brickwork	Tiles	Joinery	Carpet	Soffit Lining and Cladding	Skirting	Window architrave
<b>Supplier / Tier / Outcome</b>	Brick Manufacturer (Tier: 2) 🟡 Engagement Ongoing	Tiling Subcontractor (Tier: 2) ✅ Satisfactory Response	Joinery Subcontractor (Tier: 2) ✅ Satisfactory Response	Carpet Manufacturer (Tier: 3) 🟡 Engagement Ongoing	Cladding Manufacturer (Tier: 3) 🟡 Engagement Ongoing	Skirting Manufacturer (Tier: 3) ✅ Satisfactory Response	Architrave Supplier (Tier: 2) ✅ Satisfactory Response
		Tile Manufacturer (Tier: 5) ✅ Satisfactory Response	Stone Manufacturer (Tier: 3) 🟡 Engagement Ongoing				Architrave Manufacturer (Tier: 3) ✅ Satisfactory Response



# Case Study 4: People with marginalised background



Queensland  
Government



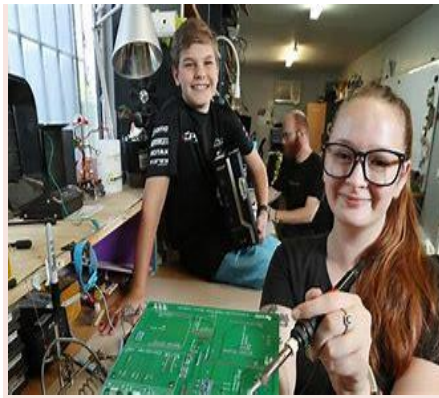
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- 14 full-time employees with **diverse cultural** and **linguistic background** in Toowoomba (Social Partner: Ability Enterprises)
- 21 **young** people long-term unemployed (Social Partner: YourTown Enterprises)
- Graphic design training and job opportunities for **prisoners** at the Borallon Training and Correctional Centre (Social Partner: Fox Studio)
- Support **refugees** in South QLD by creating videos in 35 languages about the COVID-19 pandemic (Social Partner: Access Community Services)
- Secure job vacancies for 350 people with **disabilities** by developing an innovative online ordering system for 'TransLink' (Social Partner: HELP Enterprises)

# Case Study 5: Regional Participants



- **Disadvantaged job seekers** in Toowoomba (Social Partner: Ability Enterprises)
- assist **families** living in regional areas with their study needs and work commitments by reselling second-hand laptops for AUD\$100 (Social Partner: Substation 33)
- Reduce GHG emissions from **Indigenous farming** projects (Partner: Aboriginal Carbon Foundation)



# Supply chains: A missing link for sustainability

## - Next Challenges

Sustainability

Resilience

Capabilities

SMEs

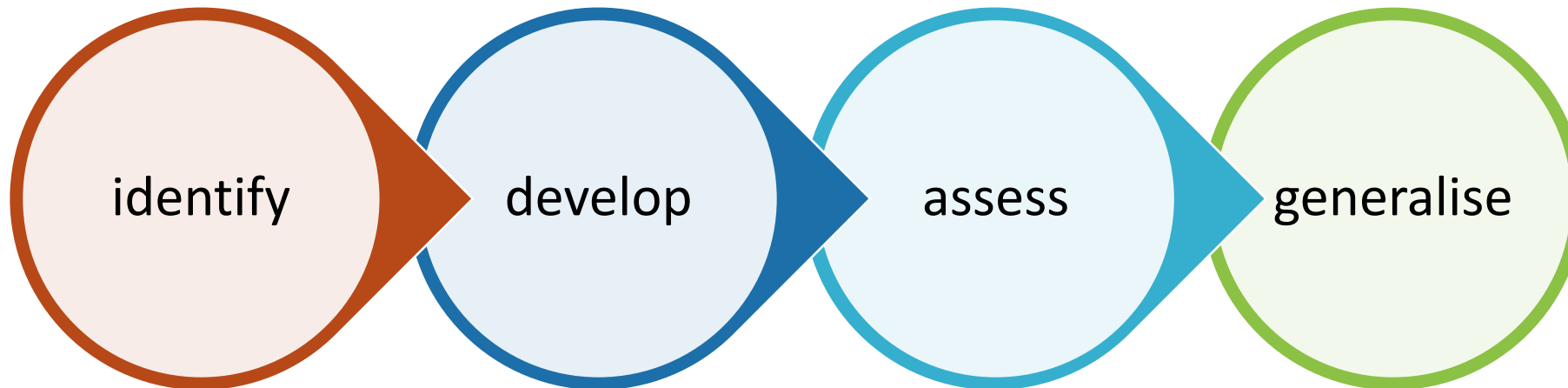


# Next project:

## **Building Supply Chain for Sustainability and Resilience**

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**Goal** Building supply chain sustainability and resilience through procurement and collaborative practices





## Sustainable Built Environment National Research Centre (SBEnc), Australia



### Sustainable Built Environment National Research Centre

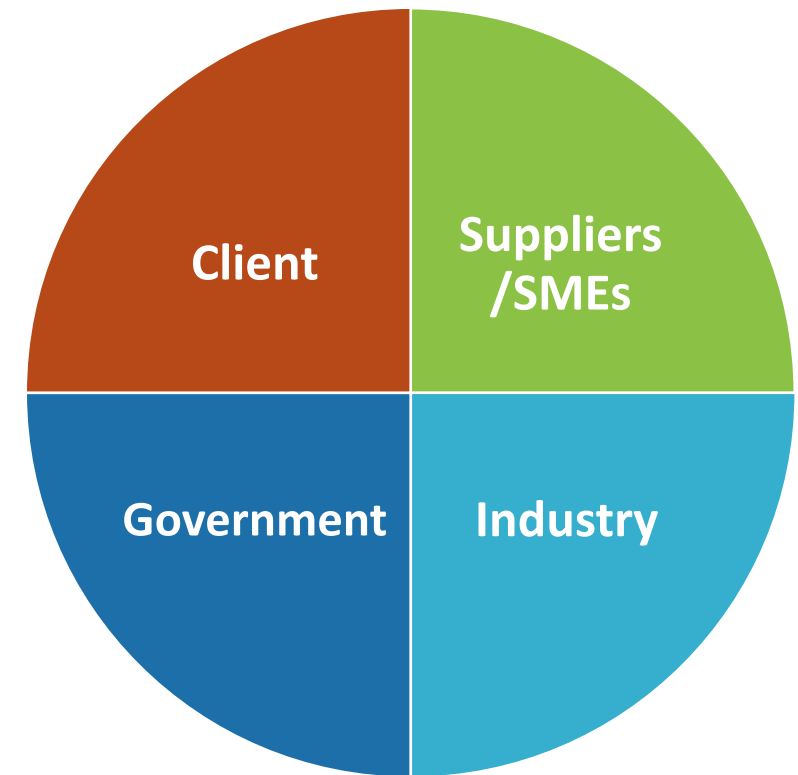
The Sustainable Built Environment National Research Centre (SBEnc) offers a unique industry-government-research collaboration to improve Australia's built environment industry.

The SBEnc has the broadest built environment research alliance in the country, with Core Members including BGC, the Western Australian and Queensland Governments, Curtin University, RMIT University and Griffith University; all of which are represented on the Centre's Governing Board.

[Read more](#)



## Benefits



# Acknowledgements



**Project Leader:** Yingbin Feng, Western Sydney University

**Researchers:**

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