

# Rural communities Resilient and resurgent?

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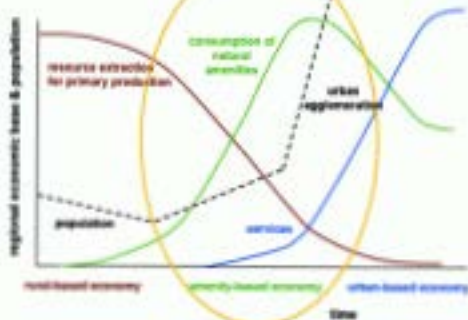
# The Goal: vibrant rural communities

- **Robustness:** the ability to withstand an external shock
- **Resilience:** the ability to recover from the impacts of an external shock
- **Resurgence:** the ability to exploit opportunities and thrive regardless of external shocks e.g.
  - **Better decisions through**
    - Better access to useful knowledge and
    - Sufficient professional services networks
  - **Greater capacity to act creatively and proactively**
    - Communities of innovators
    - Institutional capacity to act.

# The nature of the challenge

- Multiple complex, interacting issues, so solutions must change systems.
- Creativity is essential to solutions, but
- .. implementation trumps creativity
- Implementation relies on resource platforms
- The strengths and weaknesses compound.

Natural amenities and regional economic transition



Socio-economic and natural systems

## “Regional to Global” vision.

- Australian Centre for Agriculture and Law (AgLaw)
  - Centre for Applied Research in Social Science (CARSS)
  - Centre for Higher Education Management and Policy (CHEMP)
  - Centre for Local Government (CLG)
  - Institute for Rural Futures (IRF)
  - The National Centre of Science, Information and Communication Technology, and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia (SiMERR)
  - School of Arts
  - School of Behavioural, Cognitive and Social Sciences
  - School of Business, Economics and Public Policy
  - School of Education
  - School of Environmental and Rural Science
  - School of Health
  - School of Humanities
  - School of Law
  - School of Rural Medicine
  - School of Science and Technology
- Plus Cooperative Research Centres and collaborative partners and internal groups eg WRAIN, Innovation

# One initiative

The graphic features a large, glowing orange and yellow circular background with a textured, flame-like appearance. In the center of this circle is a black square containing the 'une' logo in green, with 'University of New England' written below it in white. To the left of the circle is a vertical strip of small images: the top one is the University of New England crest, followed by a collage of photos showing people in various settings, including a classroom and a group of people.

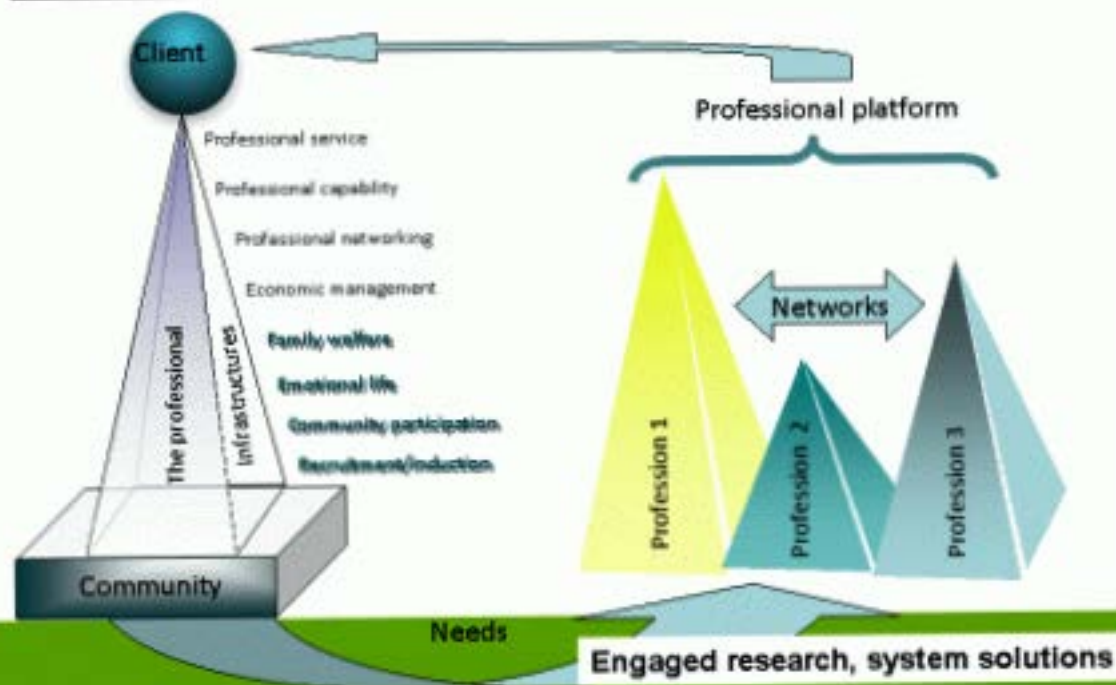
## The rural resurgence initiative

Improving rural health and welfare by greater access to knowledge and professional expertise.

A UNE wide focus on

- Systemic improvement in rural inclusion, through better information access and use
- Closely engaged approach to scholarship, with communities
- Addressing many disciplines, and many issues, at the same time, to mutually reinforce improvement.
- Committed investment
  - UNE strategic funds,
  - Faculty strategic funds (10 projects)
  - CRC Remote Economic Participation
  - CRC Spatial Intelligence (health networks)
- Penn State University LOI.

# e.g. systemic improvement in professional services





# ... creating opportunities to innovate



Intra-profession technical mentoring. Remotely accessible technical support services. Collectively coordinated Fly-in/Fly-out system.

Specialist remote PD system. Intra-profession remote mentoring. Shared services (eg urban representation, or shared para-professionals for remote areas).

Innovative, supported team-service models. Para-professional support teams, shared premises and facilities. Peer-to-peer strategic groups.

Inter-profession business and generic skills PD. Economic and management mentoring. Shared advisory services. Shared facilities. Legal advice.

Inter-professional family counselling/support. Shared family services (eg boarding school, holidays, purchasing "Triage" locum).

Personal counselling/support. Rural practice/rural living mentoring. Ethics support. "Triage" support

Training for communities. Training for new rural professionals. Entry schemes for non-rural professionals in rural communities

Integrated recruitment/induction programs for communities. Integrated incentives and support programs for professionals. Contingency plans.

**Engaged research, system solutions**

## .. Reflecting a focus on strength through innovation

### New innovation initiatives

- Primary health networks - translational research and solutions to exclusion by distance.
- Educational innovation research
- Remote economic participation
- Intentional innovating communities
- Primary Industries Innovation Centre
- Penn State "engaged scholarship" partnership
- WRAIN innovation in water research

### Building on established strengths

- Production CRCs and social research





# Communities: partnering to shape better futures?

- Academic researchers can contribute greatly, but the challenges need to be recognised.
  - Government funding is increasingly targeted to 'pure' academic outputs.
  - Academics operate under constraints - time, career imperatives, organisation priorities.
  - Culture, language and interests may well differ.
  - Universities are large, complex and sometimes frustrating.
- An effective and comfortable partnership is not automatic, it requires 2 way investment.
  - Learning to work together, aligning expectations
  - "Owning" each others' problems and limitations.

# Can we create stronger communities?



For every complex problem,  
there is a solution that is simple,  
neat, and wrong. □ Henry Louis  
Mencken

Yes we can  
.. if we try  
Bob the Builder

