

Co-designing Infrastructure for the ARDC HASS and Indigenous RDC – Lessons Learned

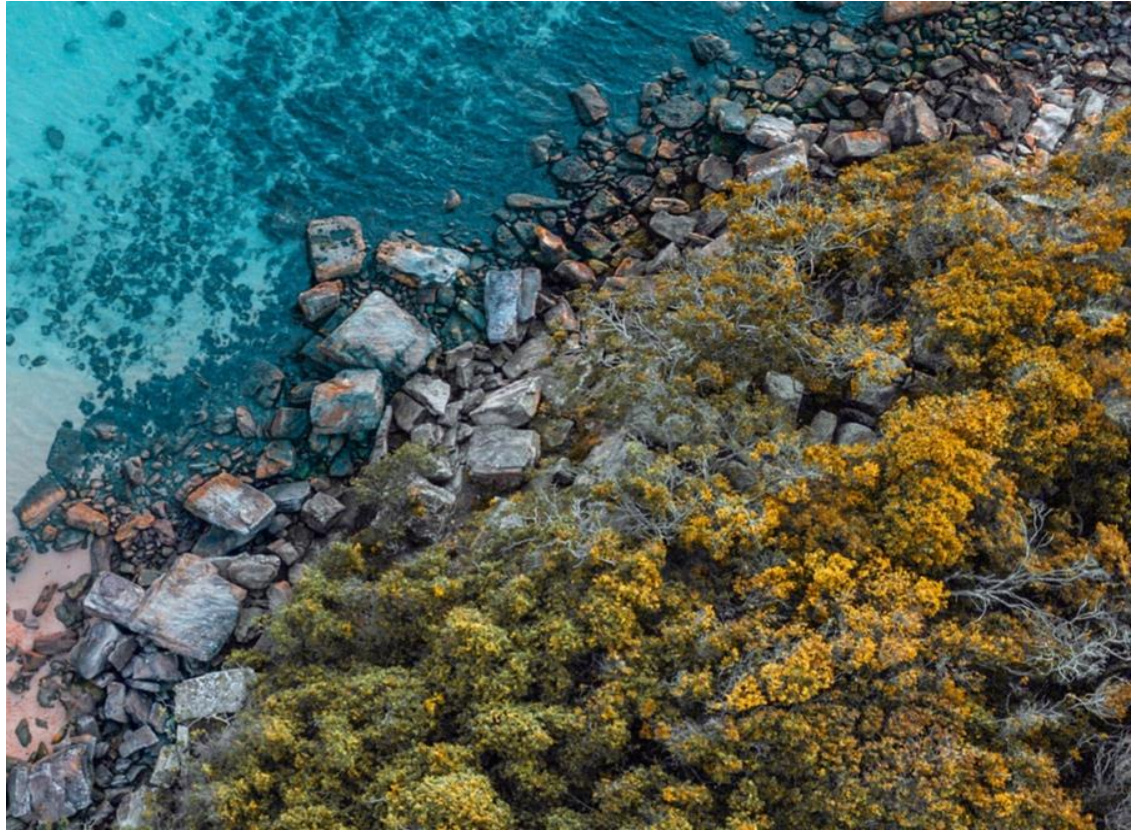
29 October 2024

PRESENTED BY

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge and celebrate the First Australians on whose traditional lands we meet, and we pay our respect to their elders past, present and emerging.





Australian Research Data Commons

Purpose

To provide Australian researchers with competitive advantage through data.

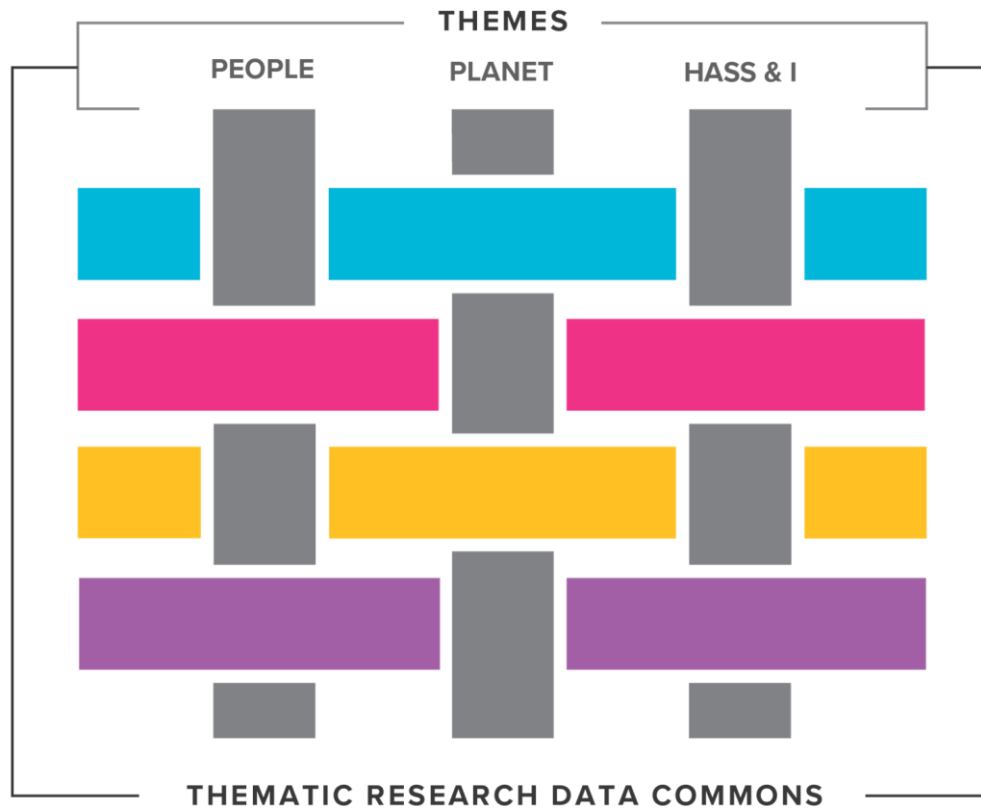
Mission


To accelerate research and innovation by driving excellence in the creation, analysis and retention of high-quality data assets.



Australian Research Data Commons

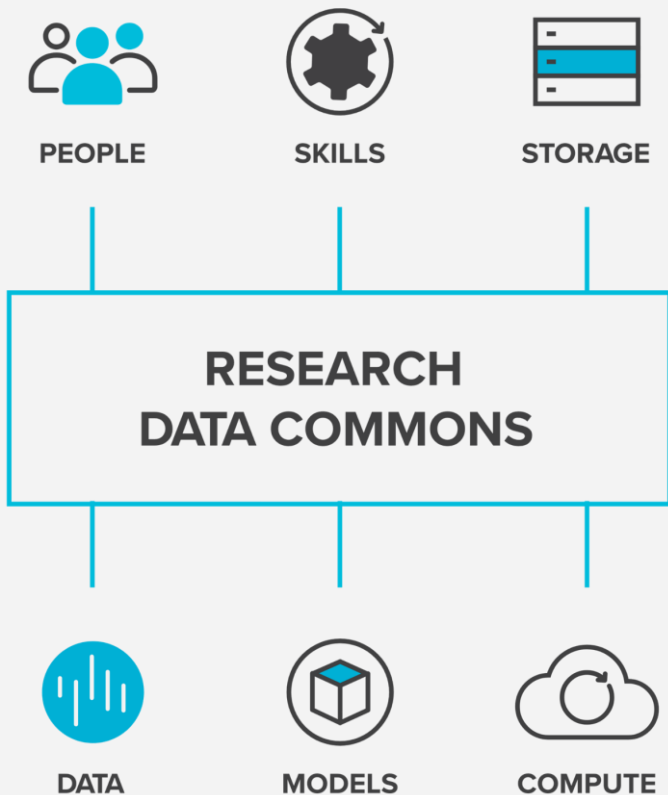




The background of the slide features a warm, golden sunset over a beach. In the foreground, the silhouettes of several people are visible, standing and talking. Their reflections are clearly visible on the wet sand. The overall mood is serene and communal.

HUMANITIES, ARTS, SOCIAL SCIENCES (HASS) AND INDIGENOUS RESEARCH DATA COMMONS

National-scale data infrastructure for HASS and Indigenous research and decision making



WHAT IS A RESEARCH DATA COMMONS?

A research data commons brings together people, skills, data, and related resources such as storage, compute, software, and models to enable researchers to conduct world class data-intensive research.

HUMANITIES, ARTS, SOCIAL SCIENCES (HASS) AND INDIGENOUS RESEARCH DATA COMMONS



Improving Indigenous
Research Capabilities



CDL



Language Data
Commons of Australia

HUMANITIES, ARTS, SOCIAL SCIENCES (HASS) AND INDIGENOUS RESEARCH DATA COMMONS



Improving Indigenous
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Language Data
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Australian Creative
Histories and Futures



Australian Internet
Observatory

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Social Science Research
Infrastructure Network



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HUMANITIES, ARTS, SOCIAL SCIENCES (HASS) AND INDIGENOUS RESEARCH DATA COMMONS



Improving Indigenous
Research Capabilities



Connections



Language Data
Commons of Australia



Australian Creative
Histories and Futures



Social Science Research
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HUMANITIES, ARTS, SOCIAL SCIENCES (HASS) AND INDIGENOUS RESEARCH DATA COMMONS



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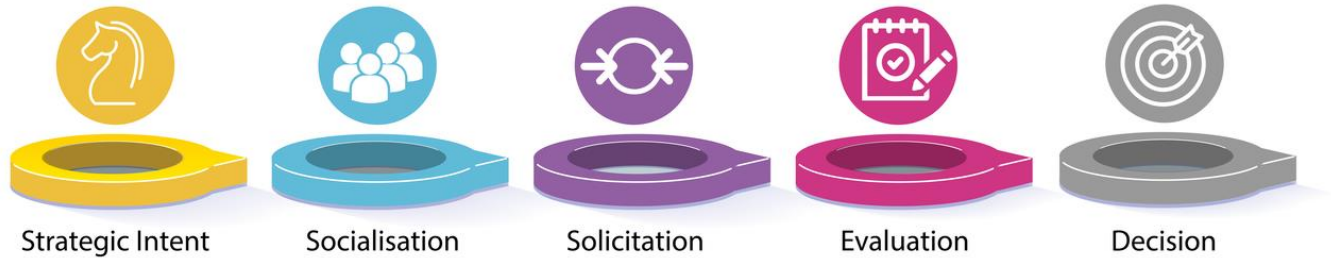


Social Science Research
Infrastructure Network



Australian Internet
Observatory

Previous model: The Investment Decision-Making Framework

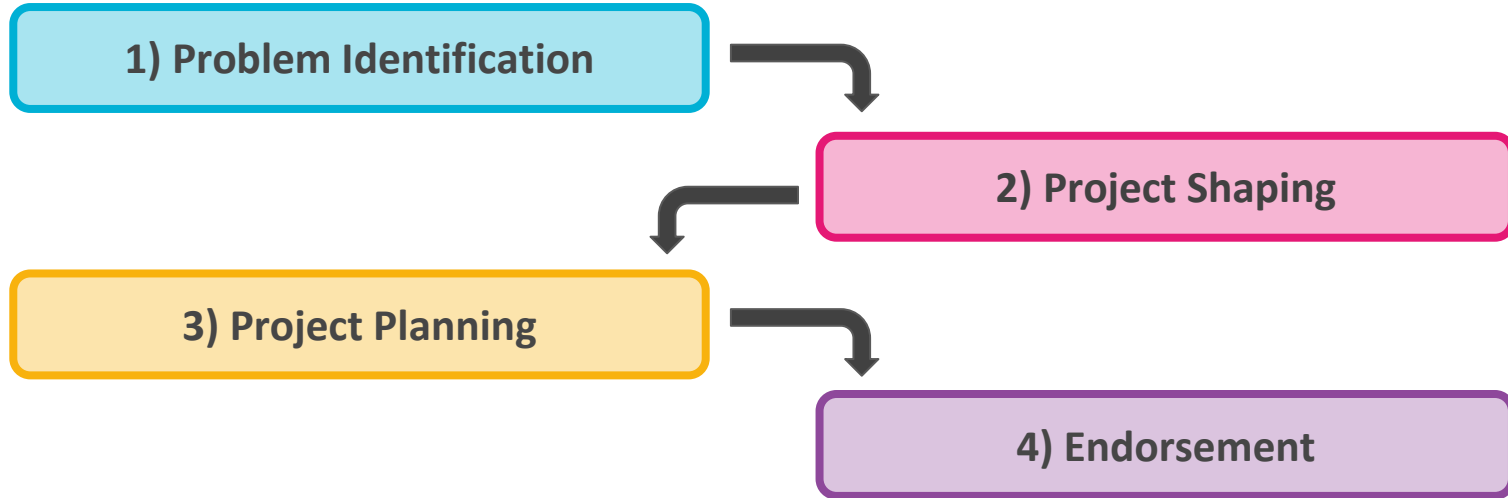


**EXPERT-
LED**

**COMMUNITY-
LED**



The HASS and Indigenous RDC Co-Design Framework



The HASS and Indigenous RDC Co-Design Framework

1) Problem Identification

- Broad needs to address
- Stakeholders to engage
- Potential delivery partners

The HASS and Indigenous RDC Co-Design Framework

2) Project Shaping

- Understand current state and opportunities for improvement
- Identify, select and shape potential solutions
- Finalise delivery partners

The HASS and Indigenous RDC Co-Design Framework

3) Project Planning

- Develop plan: timeline, deliverables, co-investment, and resourcing
- Collect stakeholder feedback

The HASS and Indigenous RDC Co-Design Framework

4) Endorsement

- Confirm ARDC investment in the project



IMPLEMENTING THE FRAMEWORK

- Establish first four focus areas to commence by end of June 2024
- Internal ARDC approval processes required project plans to be completed by mid-March 2024
- Preparing late 2023 to begin in earnest early 2024
- Small team
- (!!!)



1) Problem Identification

- Scoping studies that led to 2020 RIIP investment
- Consultation during establishment and delivery of initial activities
- Identified opportunities, potential partners and created problem statements

**Problem statement clearer for some focus areas than others
(especially already established projects vs. new)**

**Indigenous data governance emerged early as cross-cutting
theme**

2) Project Shaping

- Open workshops led by ARDC and potential project partners
 - **Do we understand the problem and who it impacts?**
 - **What are the desired outcomes?**
 - **Considerations and requirements for solutions?**
- Call for additional project partners

Pros and cons to online workshop format - participation, access

Benefit to sampling across universities - combat engagement fatigue around infrastructure builds

3) Project Planning

- Developed plans with partners
- Released plans alongside workshop reports for public feedback
- Finalised plans considering feedback

Tight timeline limited feedback period - recommend at least a month where possible

4) Endorsement

- Reviewed and endorsed by HASS & I Advisory Panel
- Approved by HASS & I RDC Director
- Investment endorsed by ARDC Board
- Finalised plans published with responses to feedback

Period with little public communication - could have better communicated to stakeholders that there would be a quiet period before the final plans were released

WHAT DID WE LEARN OVERALL?

Participant perspectives

- Combining researchers, infrastructure providers and other stakeholders in one discussion makes it hard to communicate with everyone
 - Frustration from researchers - should centre our users
 - Some people wear more than one hat - which perspective are they representing?
- Some perspectives carried across the workshops, increasing cohesion, but not all (more carry-over of infrastructure providers than researchers)

WHAT DID WE LEARN OVERALL?

How participatory can you be?

- Balancing stakeholder participation with ARDC requirements for feasibility and risk management, objective-setting, governance
- Engagement and stakeholder participation takes time and effort: constraints on time and resources will limit participant decision-making
- Co-design does not sit easily with requirement for co-investment

WHAT DID WE LEARN OVERALL?

Set clear expectations

- Where on the participatory spectrum will the process sit? How will decisions be made? What decisions have already been made?
- Different stakeholders will have different expectations of benefit - balancing that in communications is difficult.

WHAT'S NEXT





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