

An aerial photograph of a volcanic eruption. A large, billowing plume of white smoke or ash rises from the center of the volcano, partially obscuring the surrounding landscape. To the left and in the foreground, there are bright orange and red lava flows. The terrain is rugged and appears to be covered in ash and volcanic debris. The overall scene is dramatic and captures the power of the natural world.

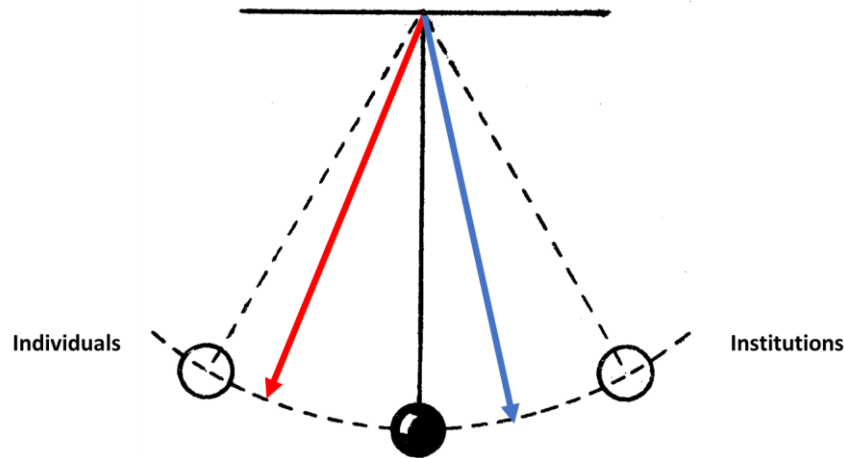
# **Resilience, Risk Reduction and Vulnerability: A Conversation and a Case Study**

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# Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements

“Unprecedented is not a reason to be unprepared. We need to be prepared for the future” (p.7)

“Implementing our recommendations calls for a cohesive and unified national effort. National natural disaster arrangements are a shared responsibility. Failure by governments to act on our recommendations will shift risk to others” (p.33)



# How We Need to View Disasters



HEART



HEAD



TRANSFORMATIONAL



NOT NATURAL





# Key messages from Government

- Governments could do no more
- Citizen safety could not be guaranteed
- Losses would inevitably occur
- Communities should prepare for catastrophic impacts
- Inevitability of deaths
- Follow instructions and abandon localities

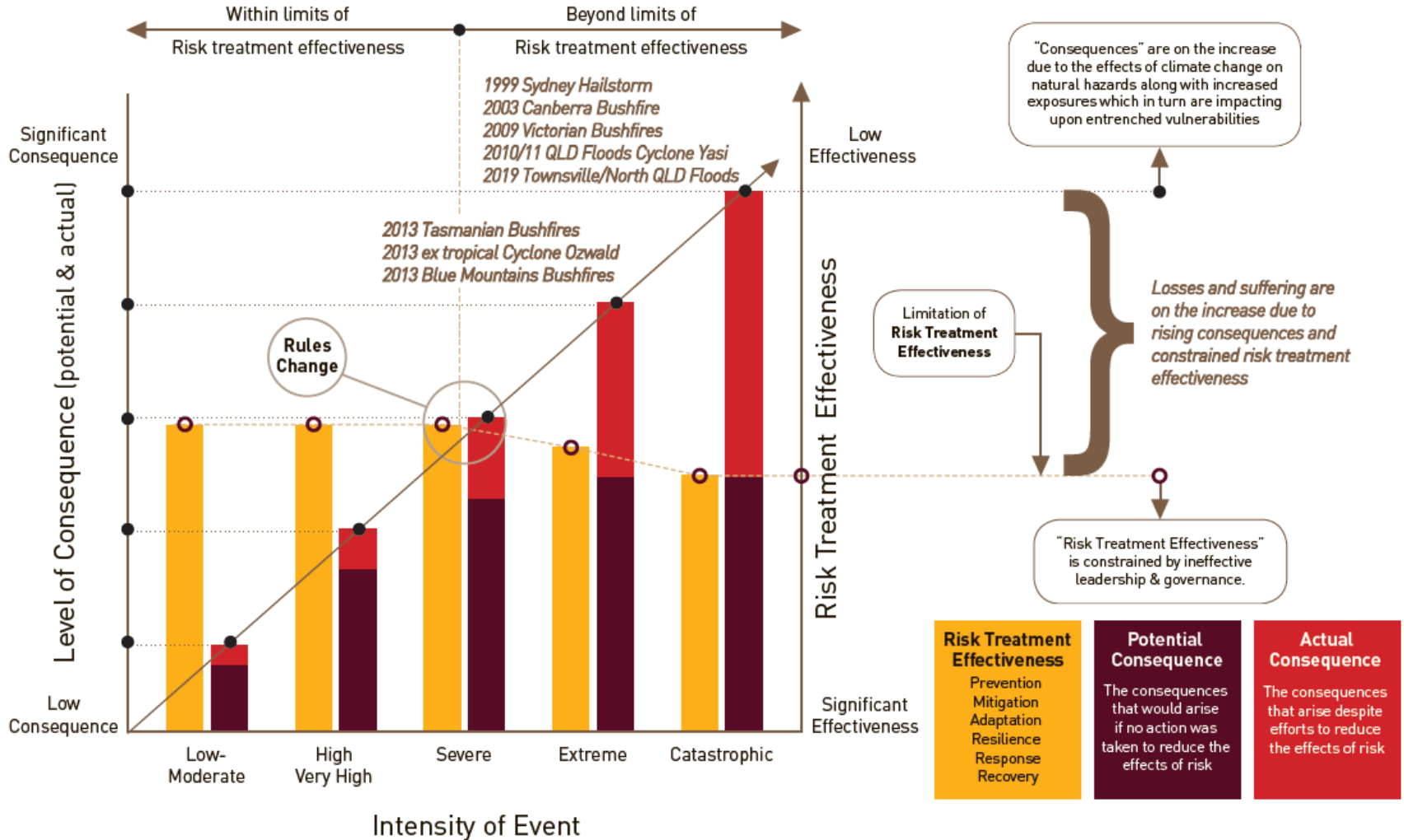


# Vulnerability – Two Equally Valid Perspectives

- Vulnerability can be defined as both the susceptibility to harm along with the inability to cope and adapt (IPCC, 2014) AND as the basis of relatedness and relationships (Gilson, 2014, McLeod, 2012)
- Failing to recognise the vulnerability in and of oneself necessarily results in failing to see the vulnerability in and of others (Gilson, 2014)



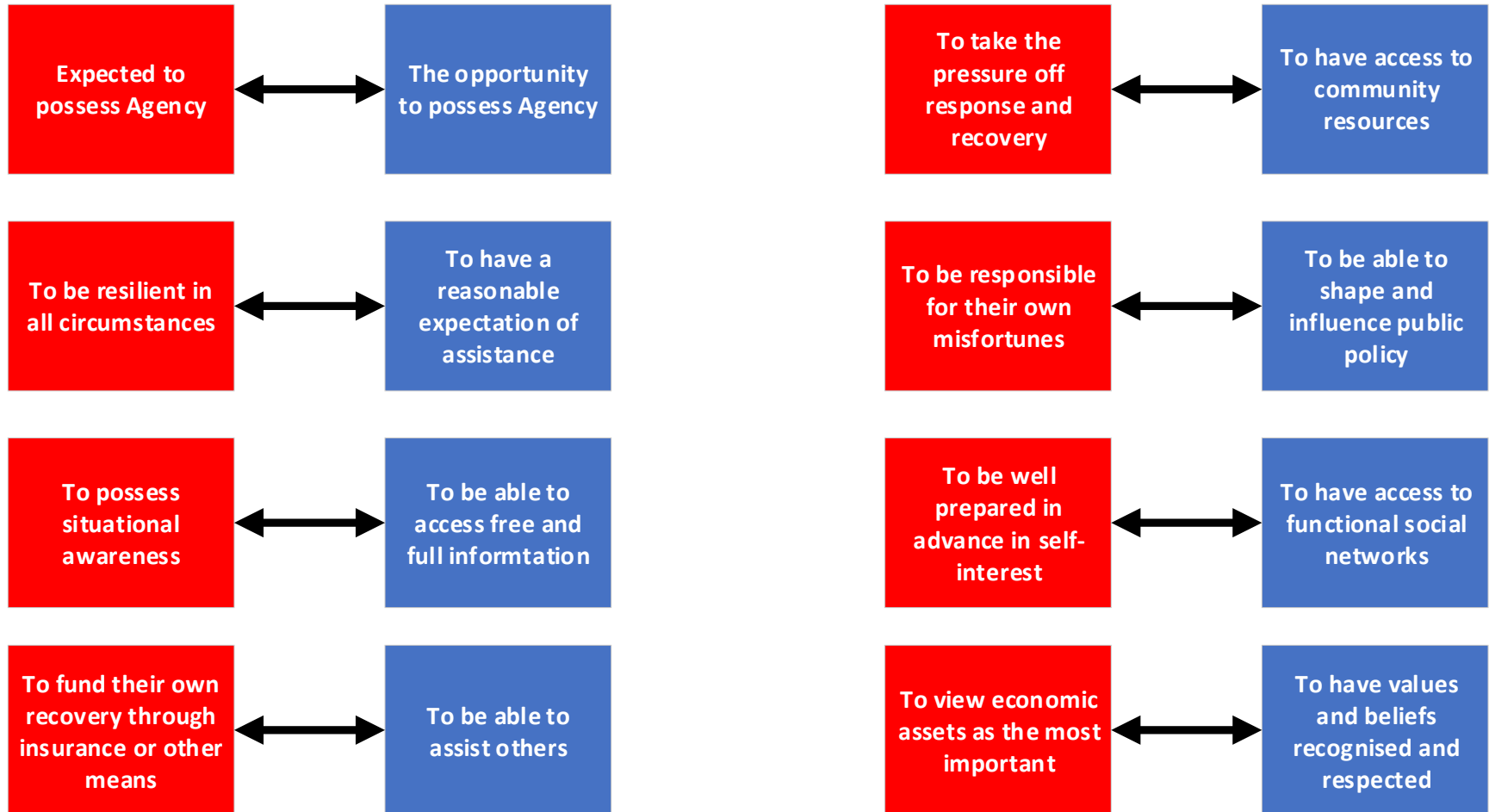
# Understanding our “Point of Limitation” – Shared Vulnerability



(Crosweller & Tschakert, 2019)



# Resilience Policy Challenges – Individualistic vs Communitarian



(Crosweller & Tschakert, 2020)





# Risk Reduction Policy Challenges



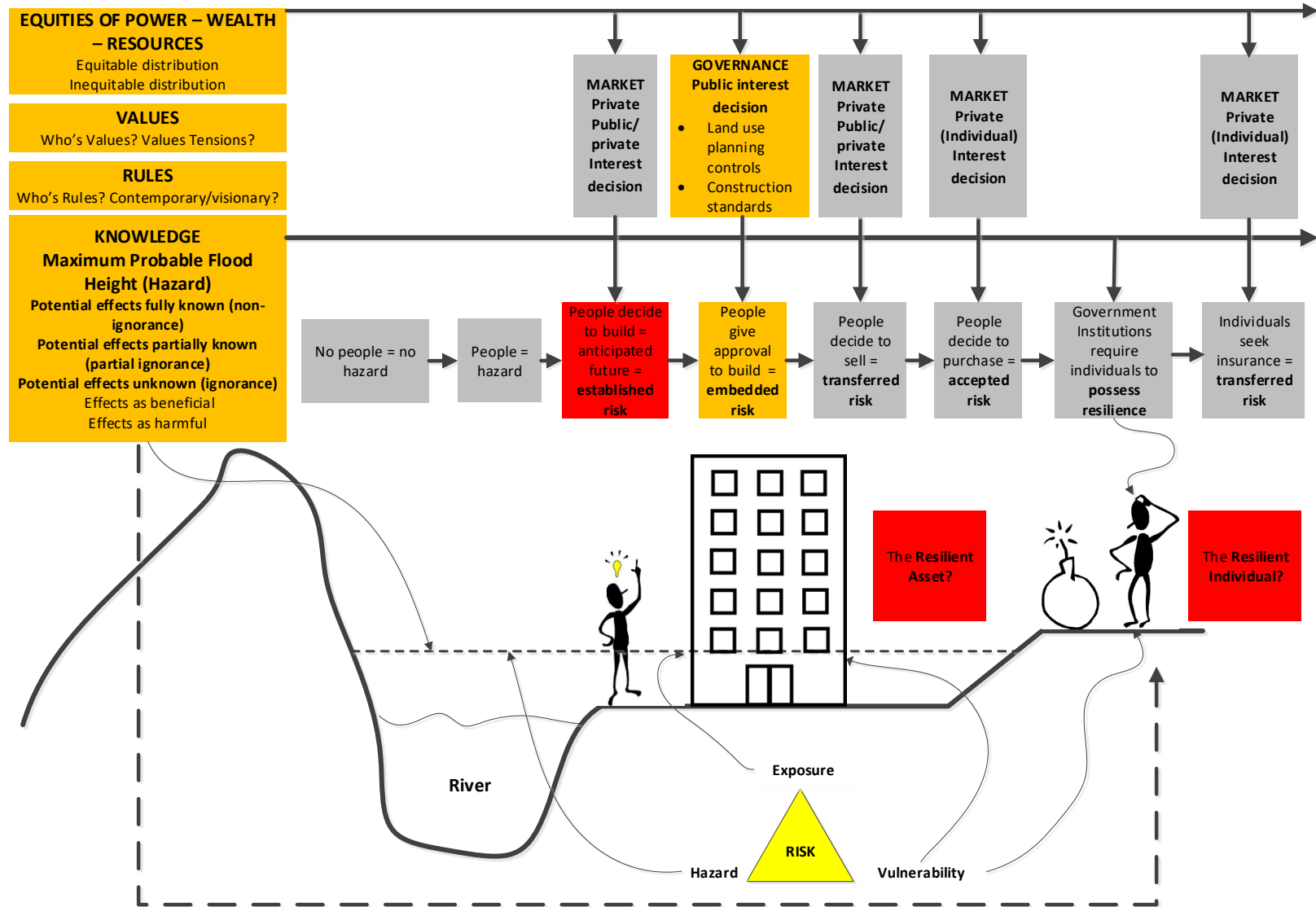


# Three Examples of “Not Natural” Disasters

- Wagga Wagga mayor [...] has publicly down-played the need for increased flood protection for North Wagga saying; “People of North Wagga live on a flood plain, when they bought those properties, they realised it was on a flood plain and they had limited protection over there” (2020)
- A Gold Coast developer will have to provide two lifeboats, a helipad, a three-day food supply and a tractor at a residential estate it plans to build due to concerns over its placement on a flood plain (2013)
- Residents in Hervey Bay angry over inaction over possible seawall collapse (2019)



# “The Bright Idea” – New Risks



# One final word - The Revelation Will be in the Implementation

“The national natural disaster arrangements Australians deserve require unity, not just of commitment or purpose, but of action. Only then can Australians have confidence that the arrangements are the best they can be. The time to act to improve arrangements is now” (p.7)

“Inconsistency across jurisdictions is one notable obstacle that many individuals face.... We have recommended national consistency..... [however]..... past efforts to this end have been disappointingly slow” (p.31)

