

Waterways management: incorporating social and cultural values

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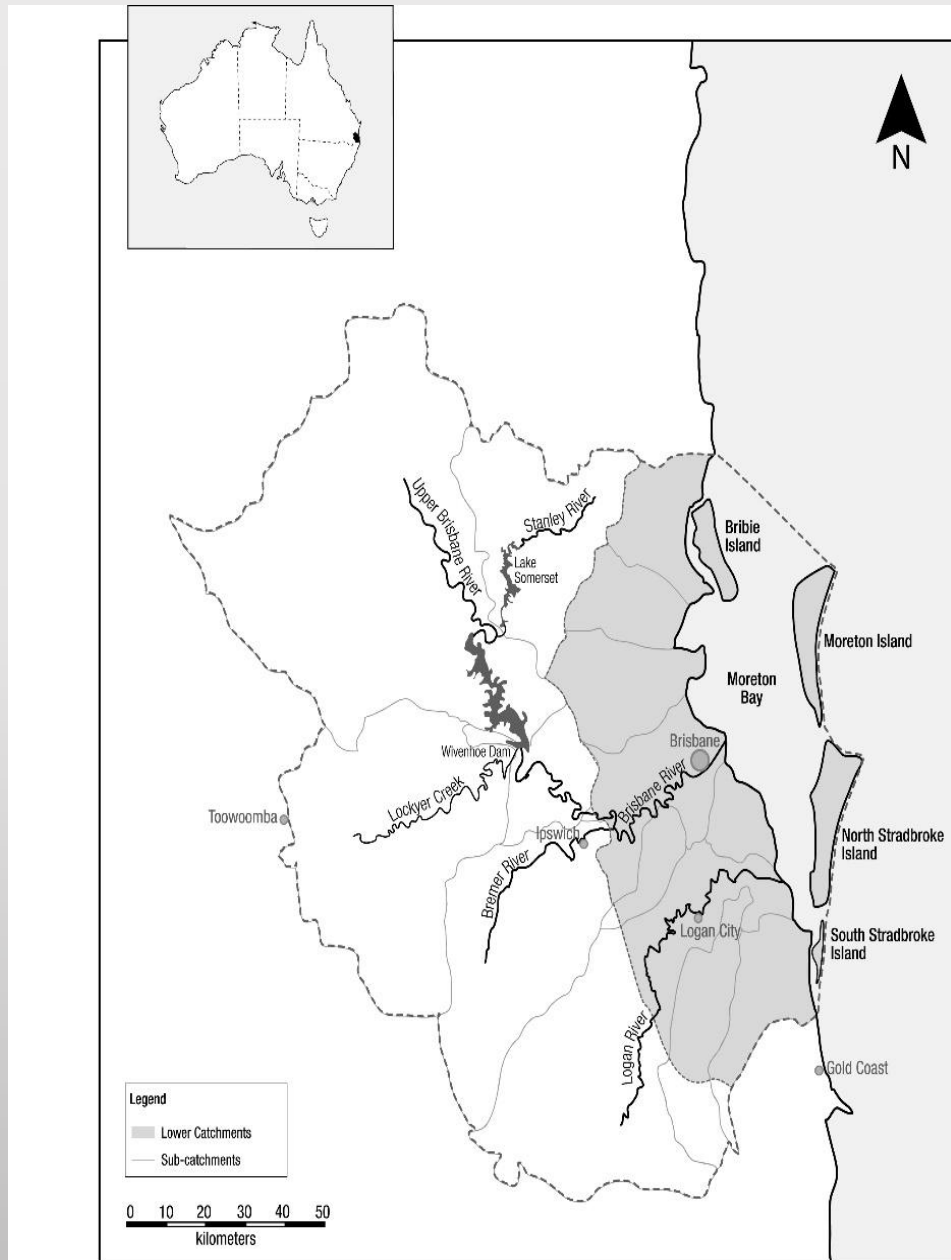
HEALTHY WATERWAYS



Rationale

- We seldom study people's values towards environments
- Values are more fundamental than attitudes, etc
- Management implications:
 - Understand what people think is important (and diversity in this)
 - Deduce which policies, actions people will support, and why
 - Conflict resolution
 - Basis for communications
 - Better understanding of people's behaviour

Held, assigned, and relational values

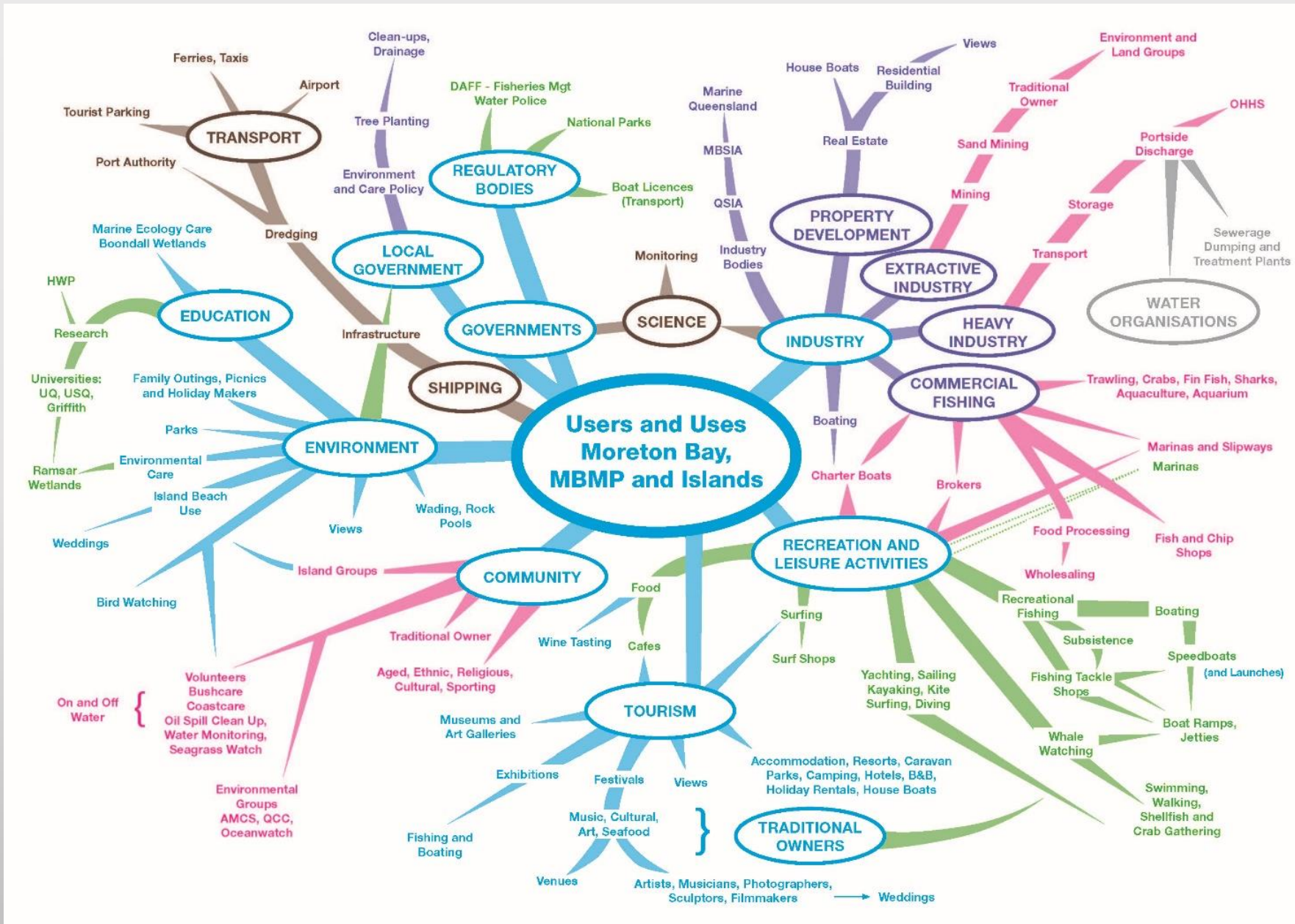


Interviews

Upper catchments (30)

Lower catchments and Moreton Bay (30)

Traditional Custodians (20: 12 individual, 8 in focus groups)



Sampling

Purposive by role re waterways (uses, stewardship)

Custodians by cultural group, through elders

Kellert (1996, 2012) values framework

Aesthetic

- Physical appeal and beauty of nature

Dominionistic

- Mastery, physical control, dominance of nature

Humanistic

- Emotional attachment and 'love' for aspects of nature

Moralistic

- Ethical concern for nature

Naturalistic

- Direct experience of nature

Negativistic

- Fear, aversion, alienation from nature

Ecologistic-scientific

- Systematic study of structure, function, and relationships in nature

Spiritual

- Feelings of transcendence; reverence for nature

Symbolic

- Use of nature for language and thought

Utilitarian

- Practical use and material exploitation of nature

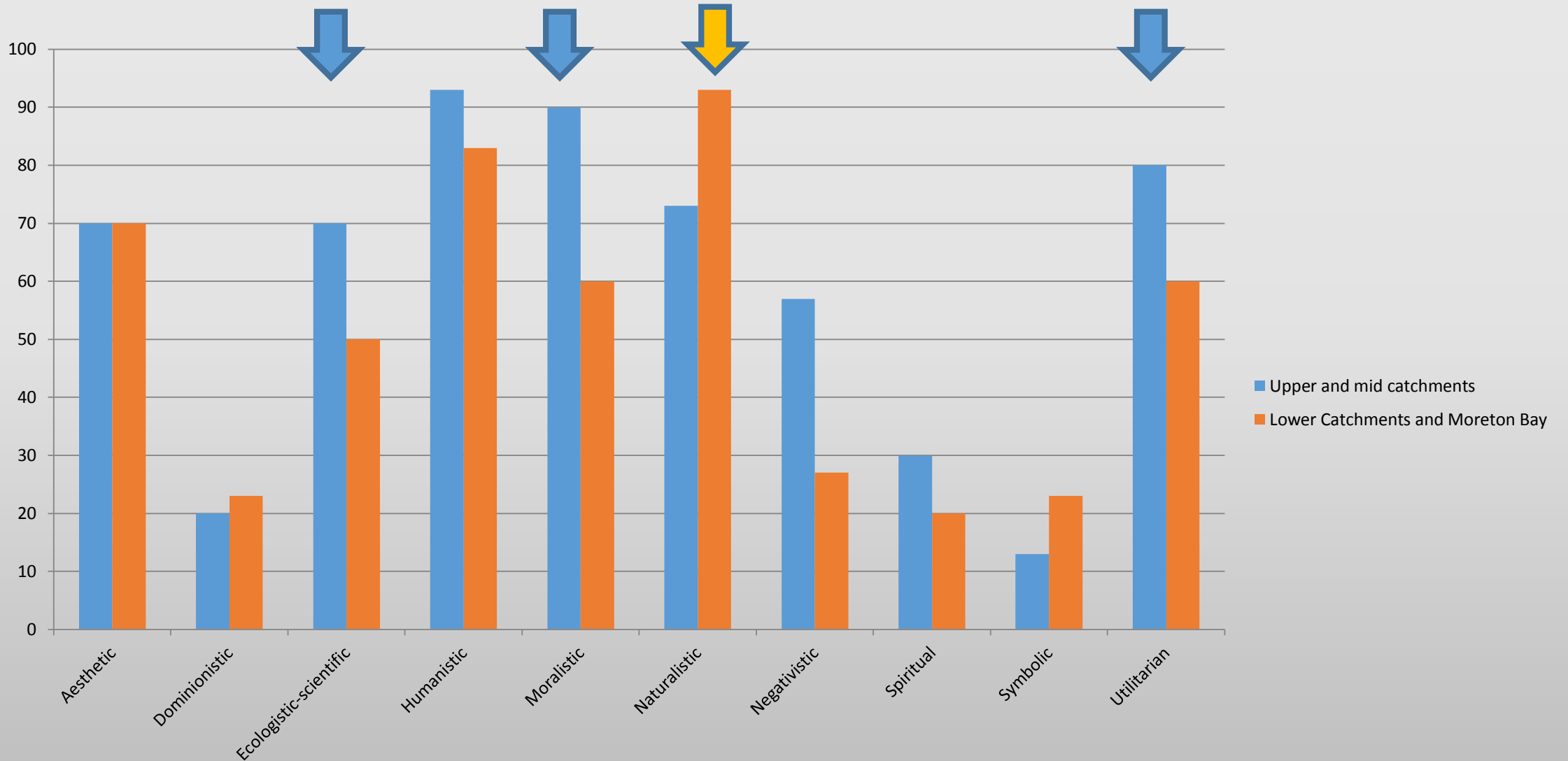
Findings (non-Indigenous)

Moreton
Bay

Rivers

Aesthetic	• 71%	△	△
Dominionistic	• 22%		★
Humanistic	• 88%	△	△
Moralistic	• 75%	△	△
Naturalistic	• 83%	△	△
Negativistic	• 42%	△	△
Ecologistic-scientific	• 61%	★	★
Spiritual	• 25%		
Symbolic	• 19%		
Utilitarian	• 68%	★	★

Upper- lower catchment differences



Similarities and differences

Time orientation:

- Non-Indigenous: current lifetime/personal experience
- Traditional Custodians: own and previous generations



Associations between values:

- Non-Indigenous: Aesthetic, naturalistic, humanistic together
- Traditional Custodians: Aesthetic with Ecologicistic, despondent about loss of past beauty

Management implications

- Shift focus
 - from competition between resource use and conservation to shared values
 - All voices, more than lobby groups
- Use and recognize levels of passion
 - move from 'control of threats' to incorporate positive dimensions of caring, stewardship
- Recognise and involve Traditional Custodians more
- Extend collaborations, support for stewardship groups
- Communications - extend from what people care about
- Monitoring and evaluation - extend to social benefits and contributions



Healthy Waterways Report Card launch 2012

References

Kellert, SR 1996, 'Values.' In *The value of life: biological diversity and human existence*, Island Press, Washington DC.

Kellert, S. 2012, *Birthright: people and nature in the modern world*, Yale University Press, New Haven

