

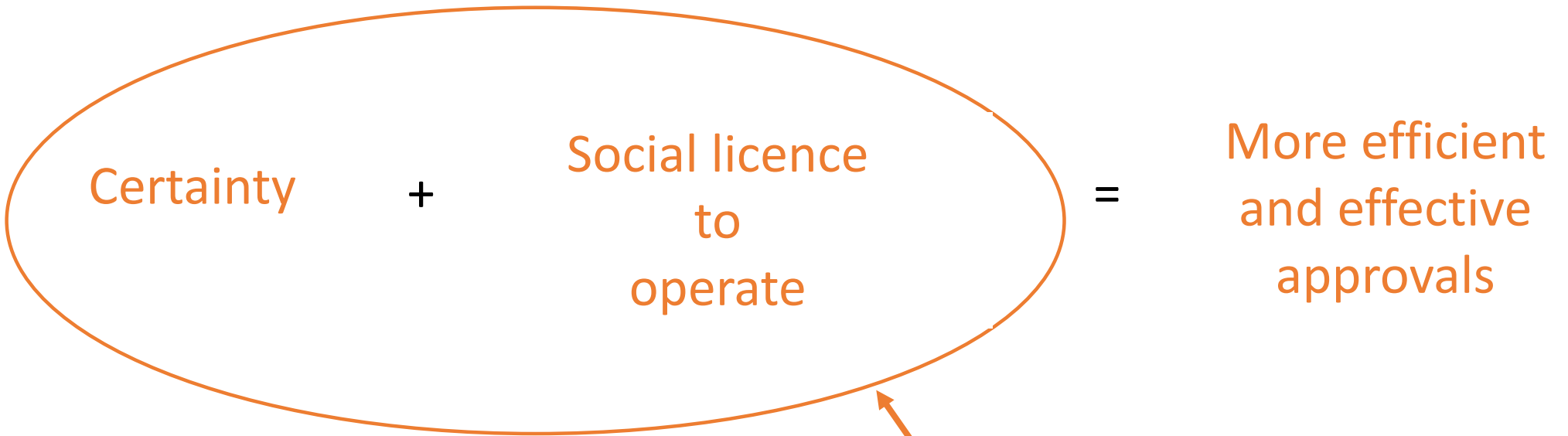
# Social Impact Assessment: a different way of approaching environmental approvals

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SIA approach to approvals

# Assumptions

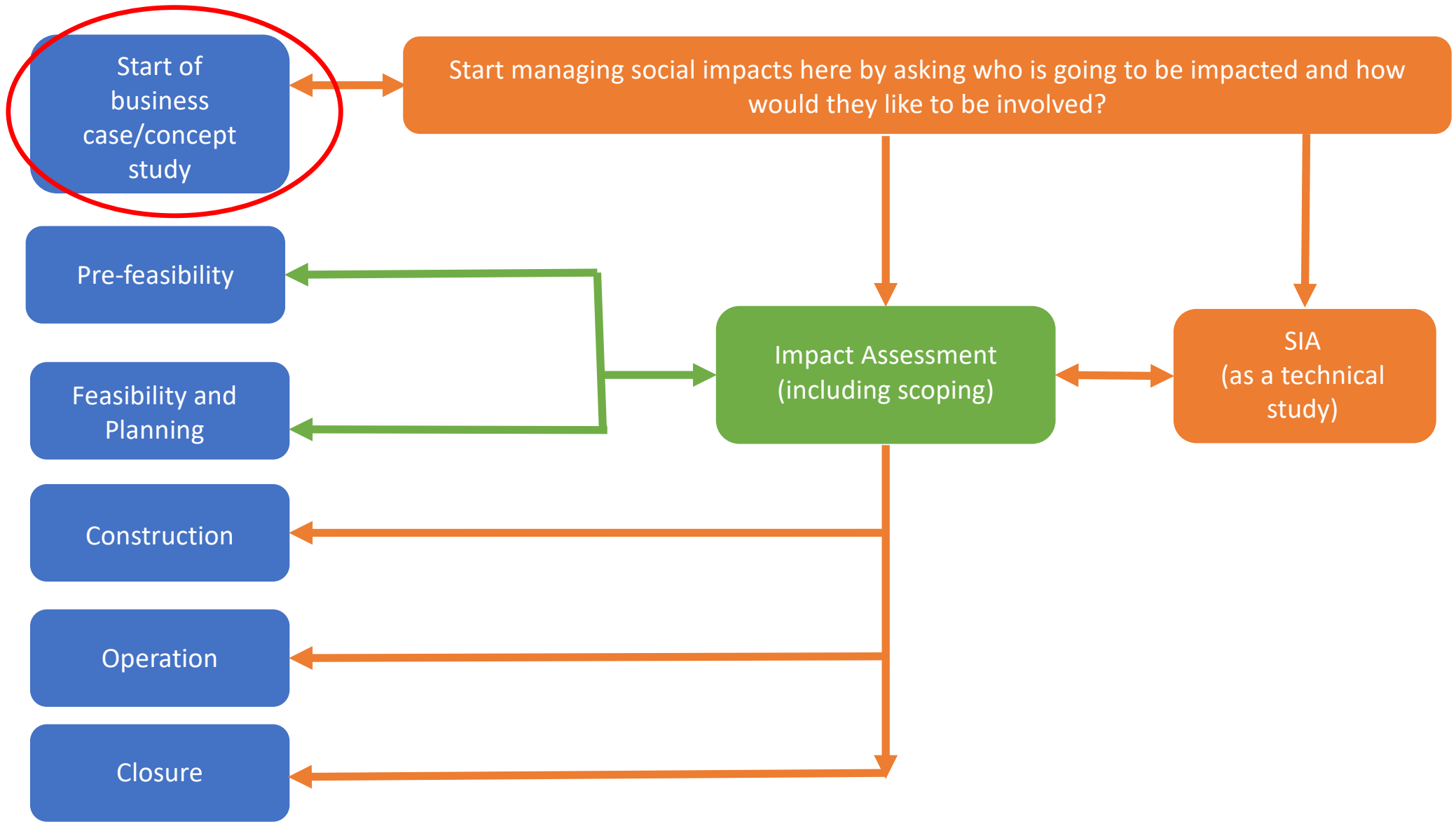
- A 'social impact' is anything linked to a project that affects or concerns any impacted stakeholder group
- Almost anything can be a social impact so long as it is valued or important to a specific group of people

(Vanclay *et al* 2015)

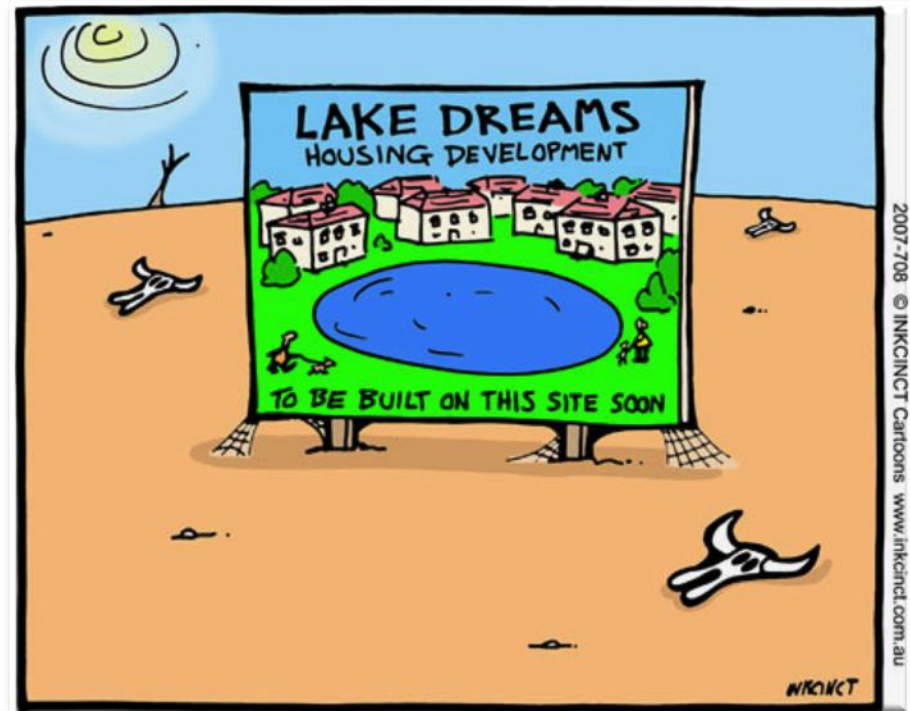
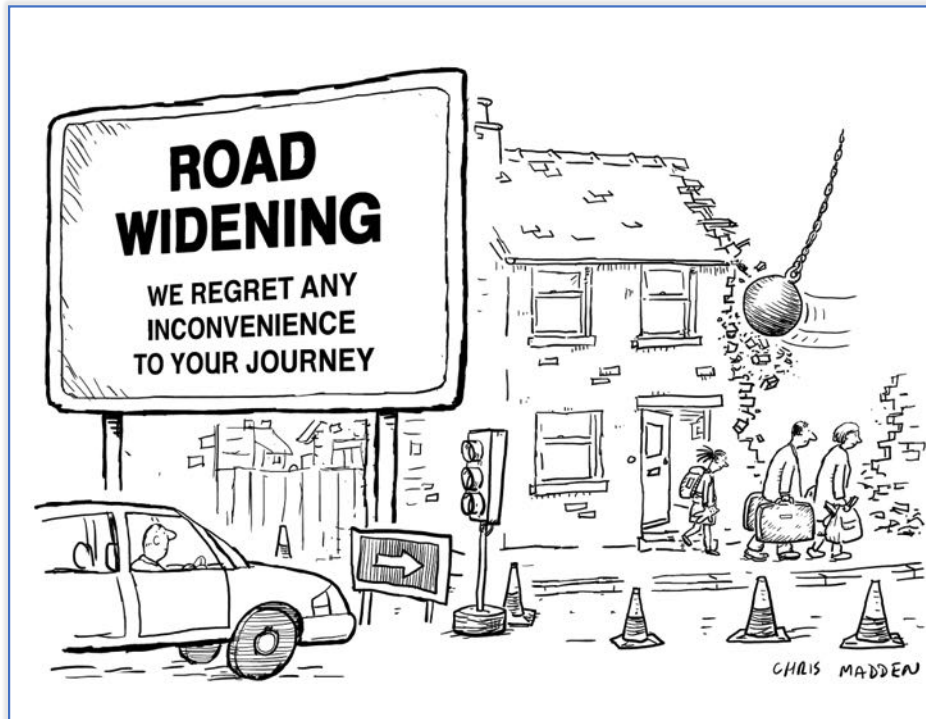
If not managed, potential social impacts are project risks







# Social impacts vs Environmental Impacts



# Step 1 – desk-based research

- a. Who will be impacted
- b. How will they be impacted across the life of the project
- c. Suggestions for how these impacts can be mitigated or managed





# Step 1 – desk-based research

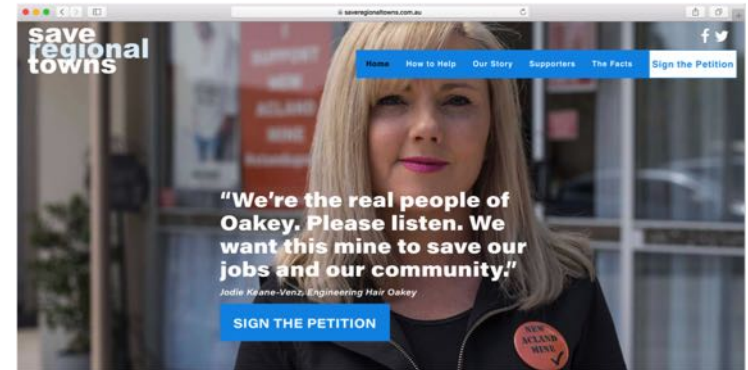
Identify who may be impacted across the life of the project and how:

- Landholders, residents and businesses
- New neighbours
- People in 'host communities' of the project
- People whose livelihoods and wellbeing may be affected as a result of the project
- Indigenous people with a connection to the land and waters
- People who have an interest in the flora and fauna in the area (including weeds and pests)
- People who have an interest in the water in the area
- People who have an interest in the heritage values
- People who are more vulnerable, such as the elderly and people with disabilities
- People in the wider region who may have an interest in the project

# Step 2 – ask/ground truth

Ask how people would like to be involved in:

1. Scoping
2. Baseline - choice of indicators and data collection
3. Impact identification - choice and significance
4. Management – development of management plans, mitigation strategies, shared responsibilities
5. Monitoring – data collection and share responsibilities



# Challenges?

- Its our project/we are the experts, they are our decisions not theirs
- People want certainty and we can't provide it in the time we have
- They will be against the project and won't want to work with us
- People will take advantage, they'll want more influence they can have
- But we are the experts, we have the university degrees and experience
- The process won't be independent or objective
- We won't be able to agree, there are too many and diverse opinions



# Concluding remarks

- Anyone can do this
- Growing importance of managing social risks
- Builds a strong foundation
- Invest at the beginning
- Go on the journey together
- Legislation doesn't cover everybody
- Our work is about building relationships
- It's aligned with our code of ethics



# Key references

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