



bushfire&natural
HAZARDSCRC

ADAPTING THE SECTOR

Enabling sustainable emergency volunteering project
(Work package 1)

Blythe McLennan and Tarn Kruger

Centre for Urban Research, RMIT University, Victoria

© BUSHFIRE AND NATURAL HAZARDS CRC 2017



Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science

Business
Cooperative Research
Centres Programme

 **RMIT**
UNIVERSITY

TRANSFORMATION OF VOLUNTEERING (VIEW AND PRACTICE)

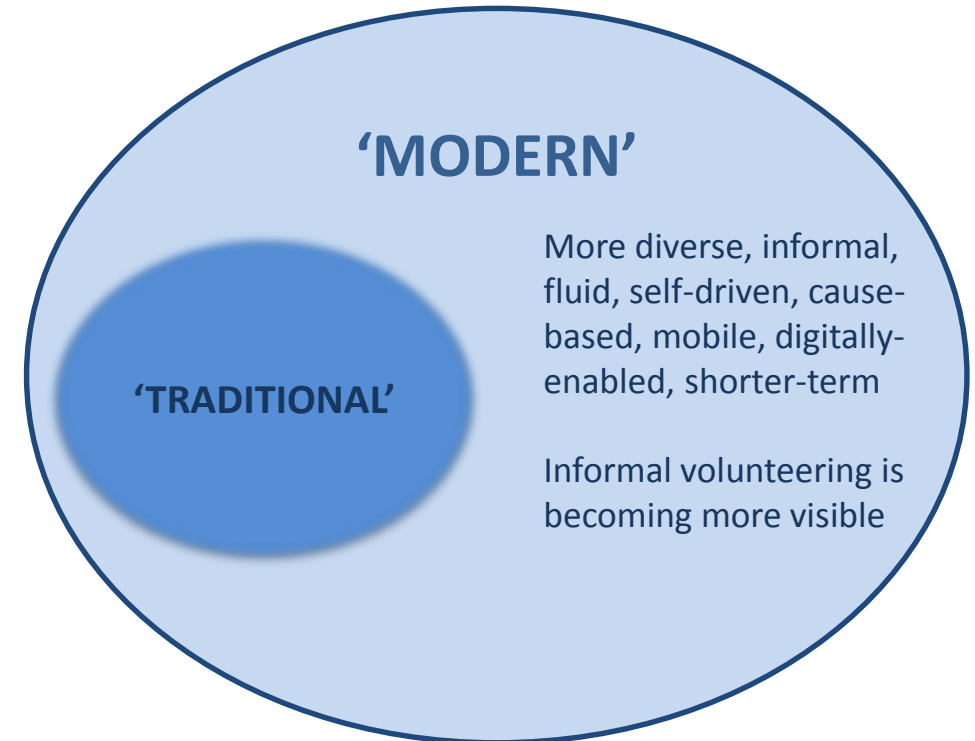
From this



Informal volunteering
(under-the radar)



To this

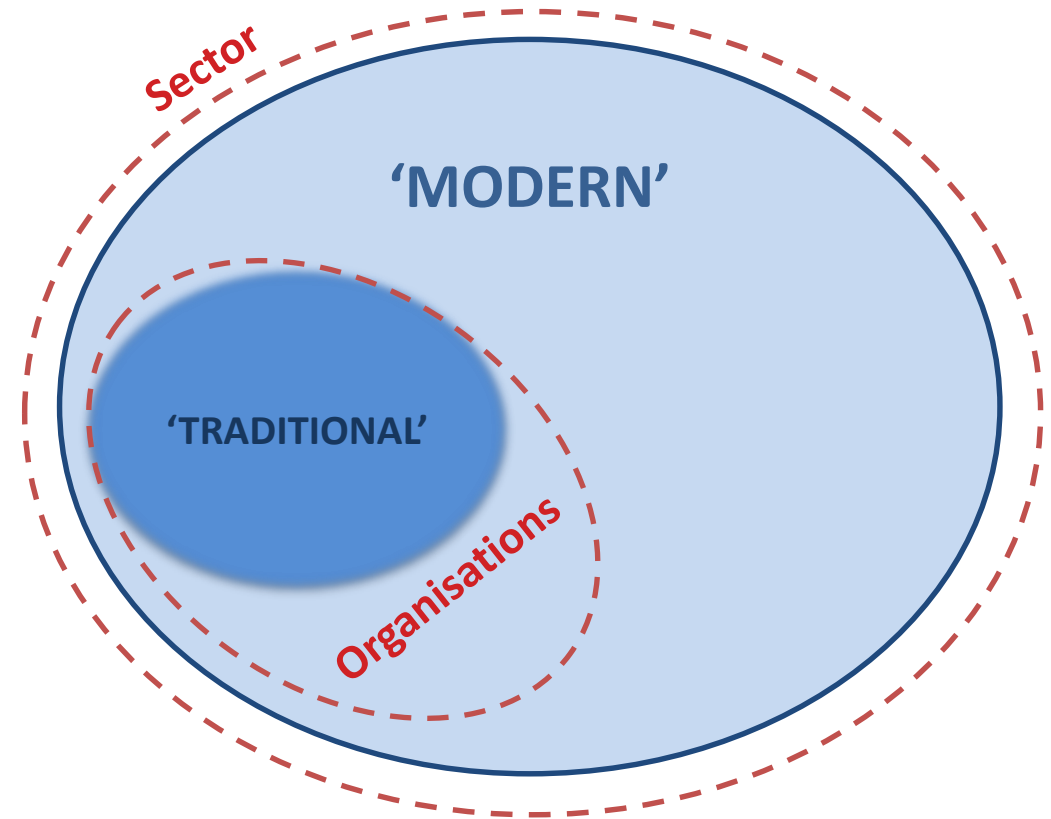


We can't continue to do
more of the same.
We have to do things
differently.

ENABLING SUSTAINABLE EMERGENCY VOLUNTEERING PROJECT

Challenge 1: Adapting the EM sector to the transformation of volunteering (RMIT)

Challenge 2: Enhancing volunteer sustainability - recruitment & retention in EMOs (UWA)



WHO IS INVOLVED

Researchers

- ***Adapting the sector (RMIT)*** – Dr Blythe McLennan, Dr Tarn Kruger, Prof John Handmer
- ***Enhancing volunteer sustainability (UWA)*** – Dr Pat Dunlop, Dr Darja Miscenko, Dr Alex Luksyte, Dr Djurre Holtrop, Professor Marylène Gagné

Lead End Users

- Paul Davis, EMV
- Deb Parkins, IGEM-Vic
- Troy Davies, QFES

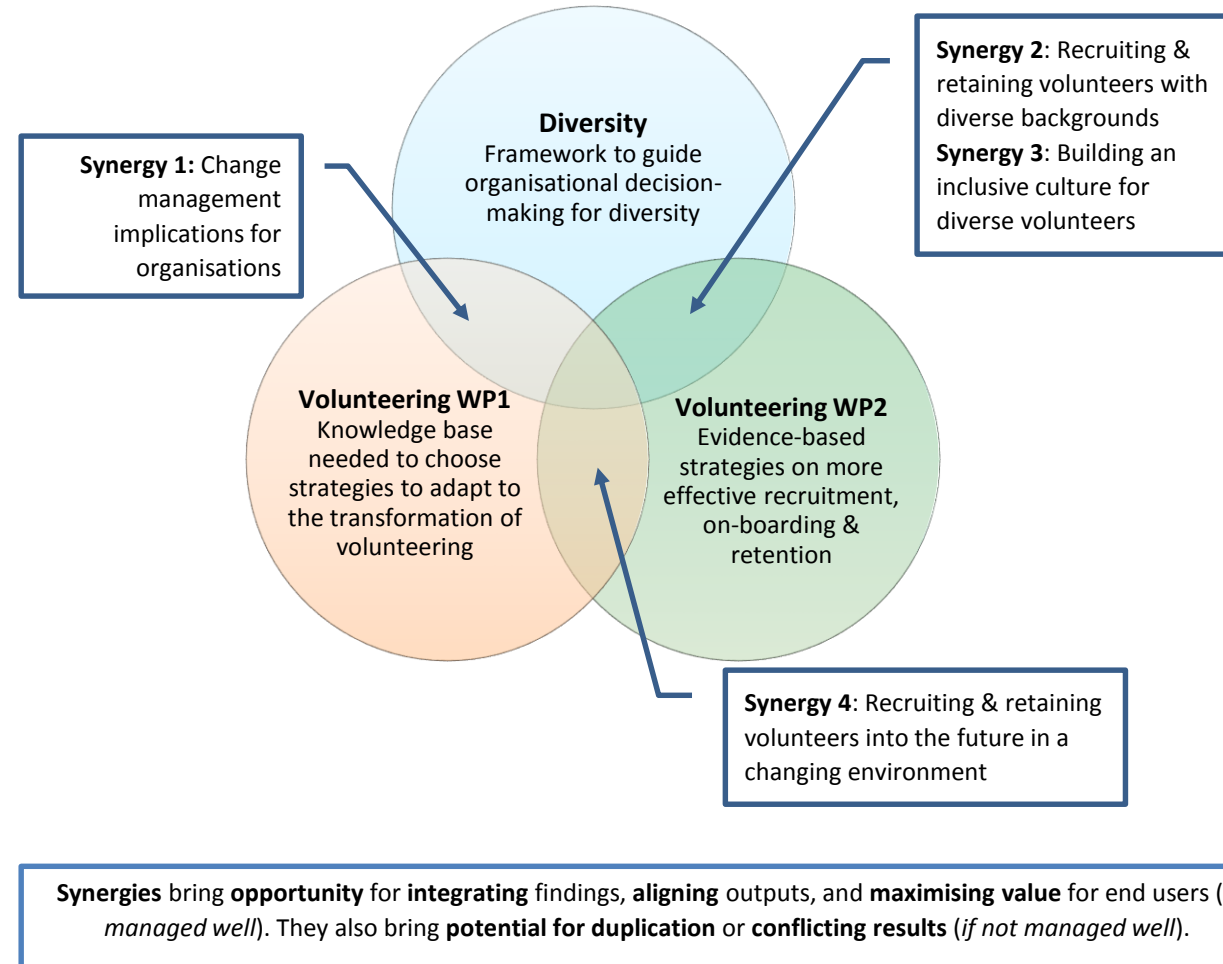
End User Group

- Karen Roberts & Jennifer Pidgeon, DFES
- Ali Martin, CFA
- Peter Jeffrey, Qld SES
- Georgina Goodrich, SA SRO
- Kristine Wendtman, NSW RFS
- Adelaide Cooper & Lisa Grieg, SAFECOM
- Andrew McCullough, NSW SES
- Zoe Kenyon, AFAC

Advisory Group (Adapting the sector)

- Wider end users – volunteer groups, local government, NGOs etc

SYNERGIES WITH DIVERSITY PROJECT



ADAPTING THE SECTOR

Utilisation Outcomes

The EM sector is best positioned to:

- 1) enable and enhance the value of volunteering to communities, and
- 2) capture new opportunities and transform them into practice.



Utilisation Output

The knowledge base that the EM sector needs, transferred into the products it needs, to self-assess emerging opportunities and challenges, and to choose appropriate adaptation strategies.

Foresight

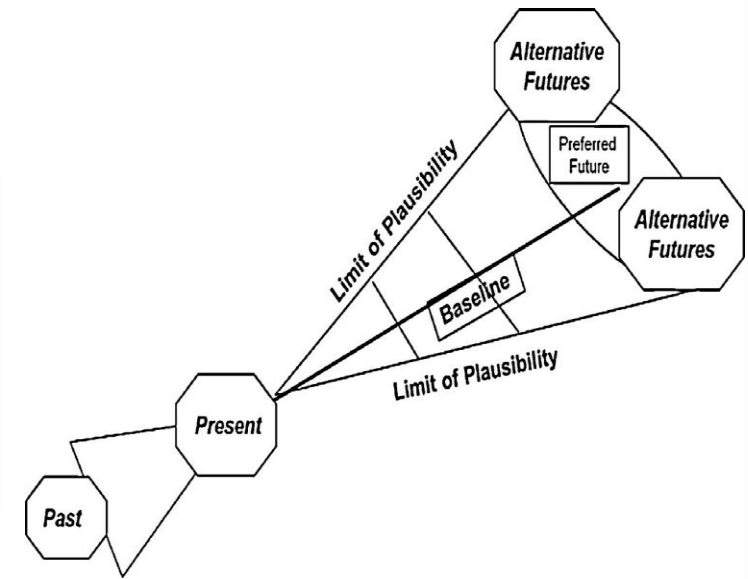
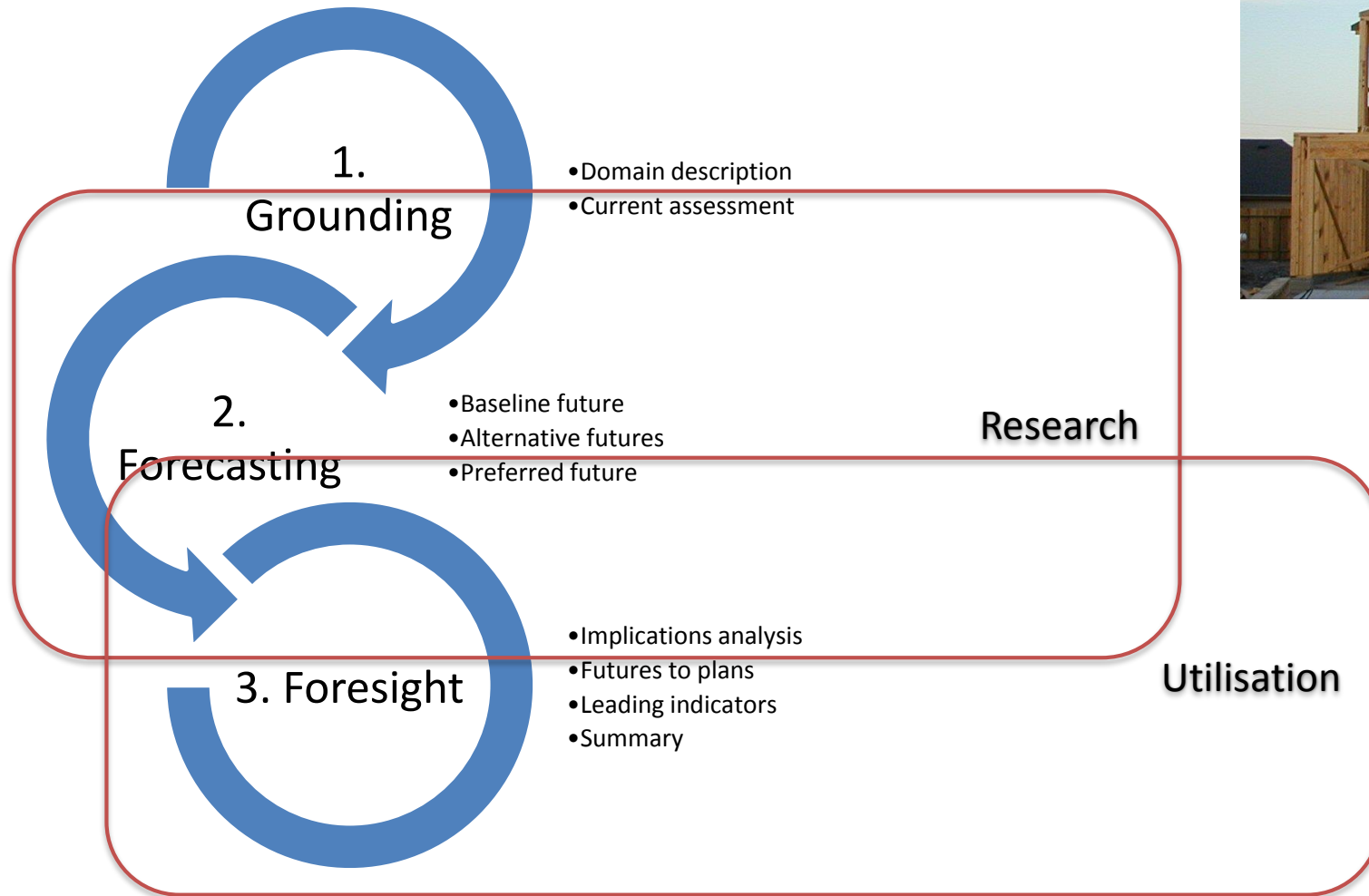
“the ability to plan and think systematically about future scenarios in order to inform decision-making in the present.”

(Constantinides P. The failure of foresight in crisis management: A secondary analysis of the Mari disaster. Technological Forecasting and Social Change. 2013;80(9):1657-73.)

APPROACH - FRAMEWORK FORESIGHT

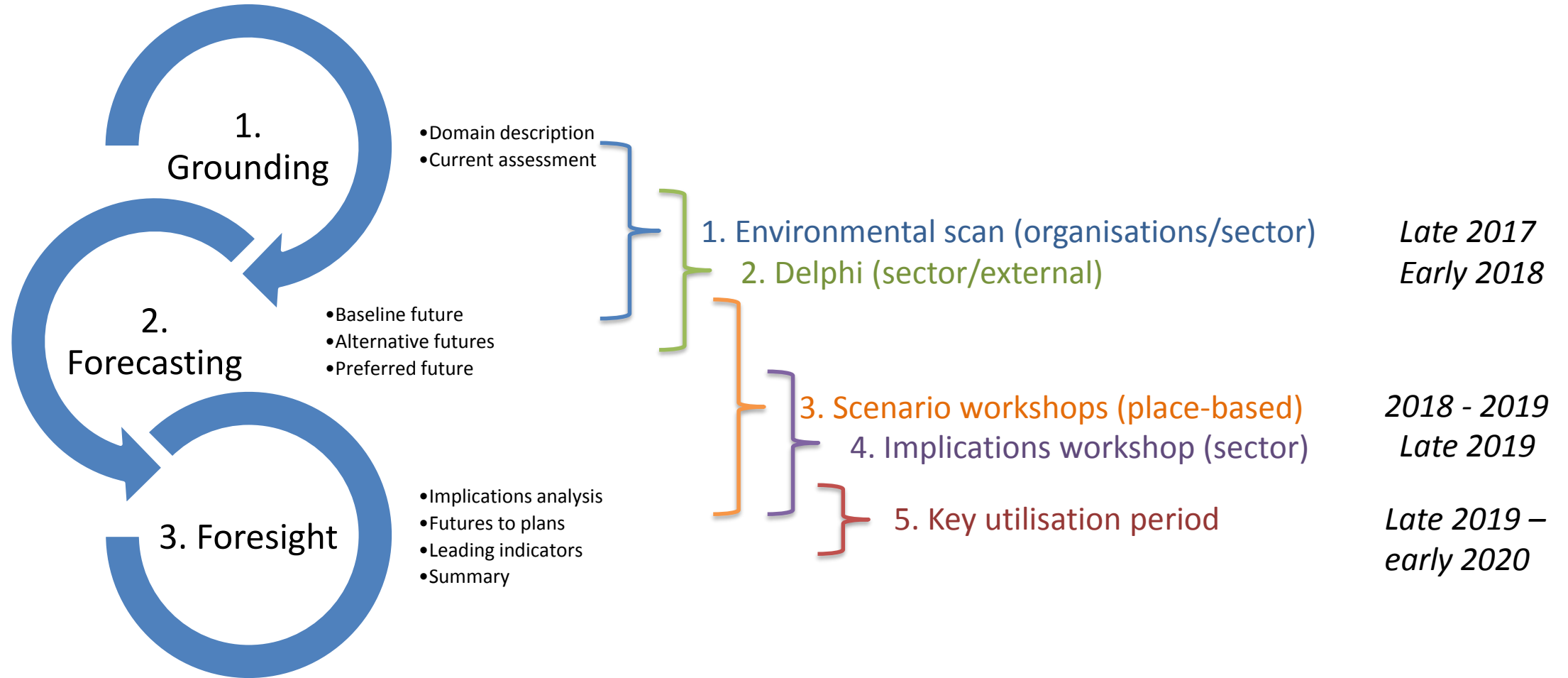


[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)



Hines A, Bishop PC. Framework foresight: Exploring futures the Houston way. *Futures*. 2013;51:31-49.

PROCESS



AN EXAMPLE - FEMA STRATEGIC FORECAST INITIATIVE



Scenario Characteristic	Quantum Leap	Bet on the Wrong Horse	Dragon vs Tiger	Treading Water	Dude, Where's My Sovereignty?
US Economy	Strong, vibrant, dynamic	Lethargic, in and out of recessions	Strong rebound after a period of decline and	Worst since Great Depression	Lagging peer competitors
Climate & Weather	Extreme events more frequent	Stabilizing; climate change possibly reversed	Steady state trend in climate change	Worsening trend, with more extreme weather	More severe storms, droughts and flooding.
Infrastructure	Bleeding-edge modernization underway	Mixed; transport lags global trends	Highly advanced, with embedded IT and security	Seriously degraded	General decline; pay-per-use is widespread
States & Localities	Relatively strong, but with pockets of distress	Rural areas hit by population shifts to urban areas	Recovering after massive federal bail-outs	Extreme fiscal vulnerability with paring of fed help	States very powerful but prospects vary
Major Threat Areas	Climate change effects, technology in wrong hands	Cyber-security, chronic fiscal pressures	Potential for nuclear conflict abroad; complacency	Pandemics, poverty, limited public resources	Underfunded entitlements; foreign influence; weak federal leadership

SFI Strategic Needs		Future Context for Strategic Needs	
Essential Capabilities	1	Develop capabilities to address dynamic population shifts	Emergency managers will be faced with complex demographics shifts as the U.S. population increases, ages, and becomes more culturally and linguistically diverse.
	2	Practice omni-directional knowledge sharing	The proliferation of information from all sources intensifies the need to make emergency management information useful and accessible. The public's role as an information source will be vital.
	3	Infuse EM practices & skills across the entire educational experience	In an expectedly tight fiscal environment, schools will be critically important channels for promoting sound prevention practices, especially in the face of complex threats, like pandemics.
	4	Build a shared EM future vision with appropriate plans & contingencies	The SFI scenarios depict increasingly complex, rapidly changing worlds. Emergency managers will have to collaboratively explore innovative solutions as it prepares for the future.
	5	Leverage volunteer capabilities across all EM phases	Emergency and disaster management resources, especially personnel, are apt to be stretched in future operating environments marked by tight budgets and/or more frequent national emergencies.

QUESTIONS

Environmental scan (the current view of volunteering):

- What strategies/ plans do we need to include?
- Key developments? International best practice?
- Who do we need to talk to?
- When can /can't we talk to you?

Delphi (a wider & deeper view of the future of volunteering):

- Who needs to be involved?
- Is March/April a suitable time to do it?
- Questions we should ask of people?

For quarterly video updates, email blythe.mclennan@rmit.edu.au

More info: <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/research/resilience-hazards/3533>