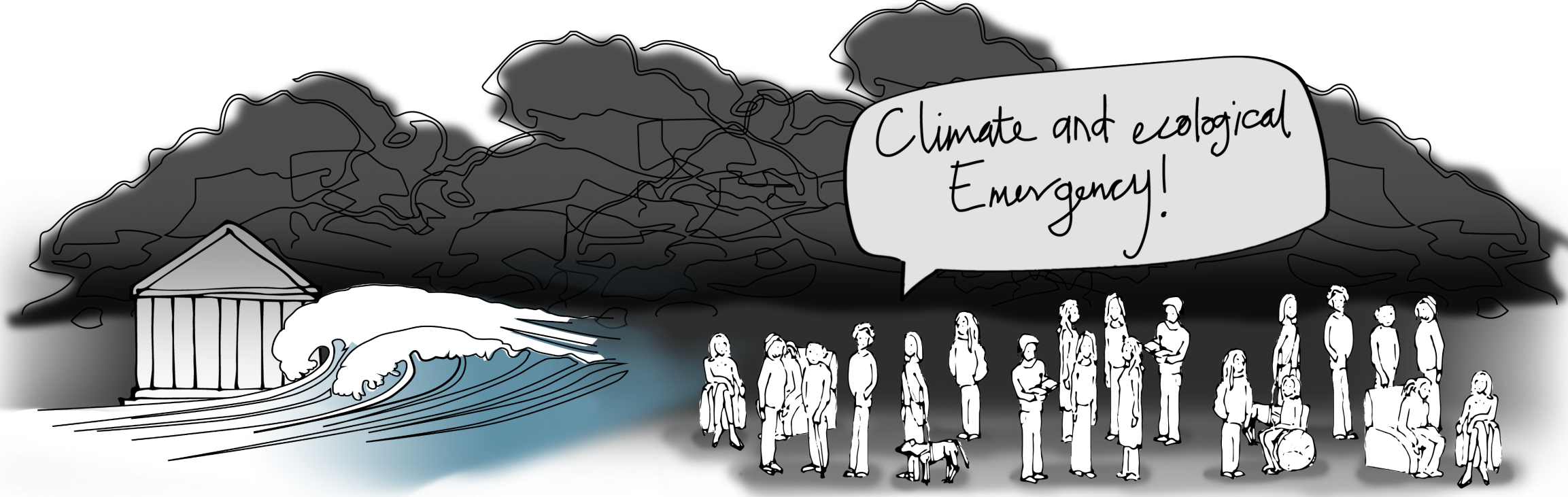
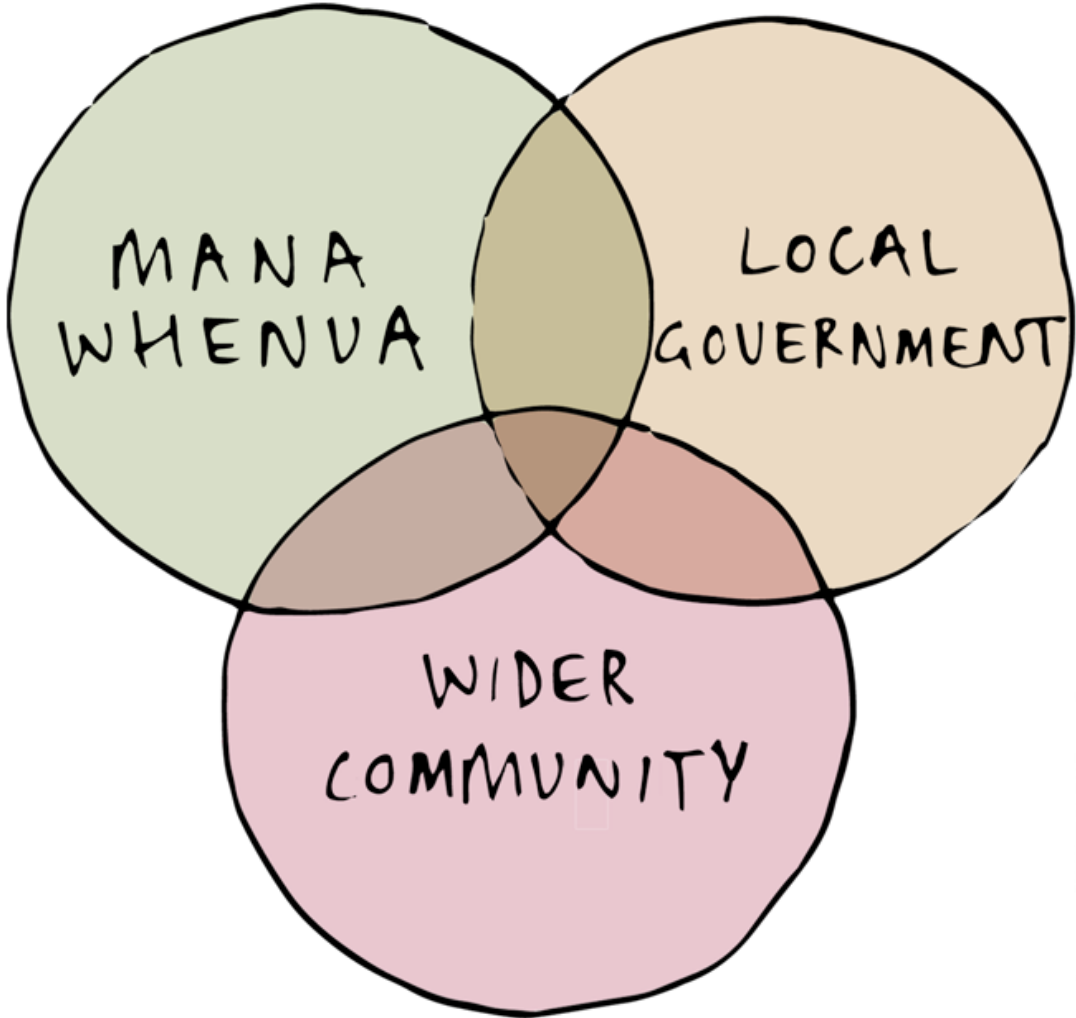
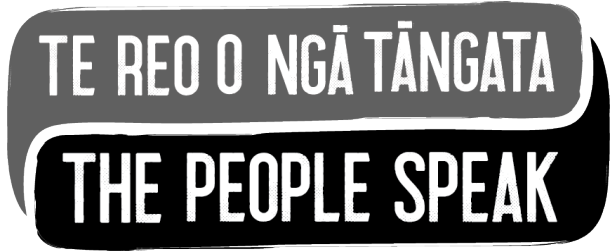


Te Tiriti-based Climate Assemblies For Aotearoa

UNA SDG Summit Slide Pack 2nd September 2021



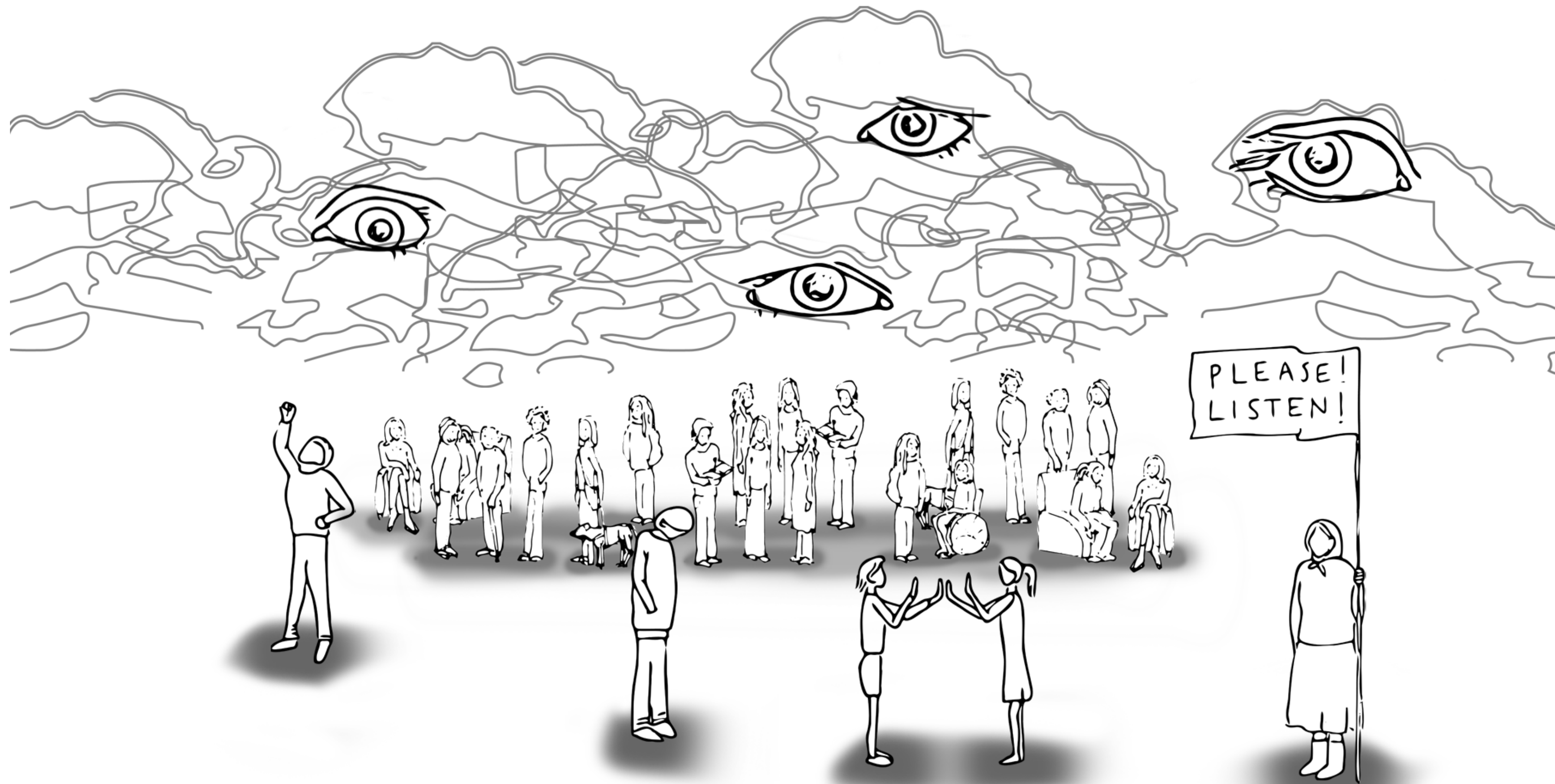
Ngāti Toa Rangatira &



Te Reo o Ngā Tāngata | The People Speak formed in 2019 to pursue a Te Tiriti-based Climate Assembly. Our work has developed through a shared passion for urgent climate action and a shared belief that deliberative democracy is able to do this effectively. While we are focusing on Climate, these methods can be used across all areas and have proven especially useful at addressing complex and intersectional issues that require large trade-offs and attract opposing views.

Links to the Sustainable Development Goals: In regards to the SDGs we are specifically addressing Goal 13 - Climate Action; 16 - Peace and Justice, Strong Institutions; and, 17 - Partnerships to achieve the Goal. However, we could have included a lot more, if not all, of them.

Relationship with Ngāti Toa Rangatira Originally our group was open to national and regional opportunities, and felt it made sense for a few reasons to focus locally. We couldn't be happier to say we are now working in collaboration with Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira, Ngāti Toa Rangatira towards holding a Te Tiriti Based Climate Assembly in and for Porirua. Half an hour north of Wellington Ngāti Toa Rangatira are the mana whenua of Porirua which has a diverse community of inhabitants including the highest Pasifika population outside of Auckland. This Porirua Climate Assembly is happening with the support of the Climate Change Commission and many other allies.



Why are we undertaking this work?

Te Reo o Ngā Tāngata is acutely aware that not all voices are heard equally.

It can be easy to feel disillusioned and helpless when it comes to influencing government action on issues that are important to us.

Even politicians can be frustrated, isolated and feel they can't make a difference.

On climate; glaciers are melting faster than we are making progress.

Whether we are marginalised, disengaged or very engaged and trying to make a difference, political effectiveness can feel unachievable.

Wins are too slow - and in the case of Māori often painfully taking generations, and even then changes are too little too late.

This exclusive system was always designed to keep people out. We'll look at the birth of democracy briefly in another slide.

Elections are heavily influenced by corporate economic interests, lobby groups, the most vocal and those who currently benefit the most from the status-quo

The government doesn't represent my people. It has damaged my loved ones and ancestors

Short election cycles can't address complex problems affecting the future!

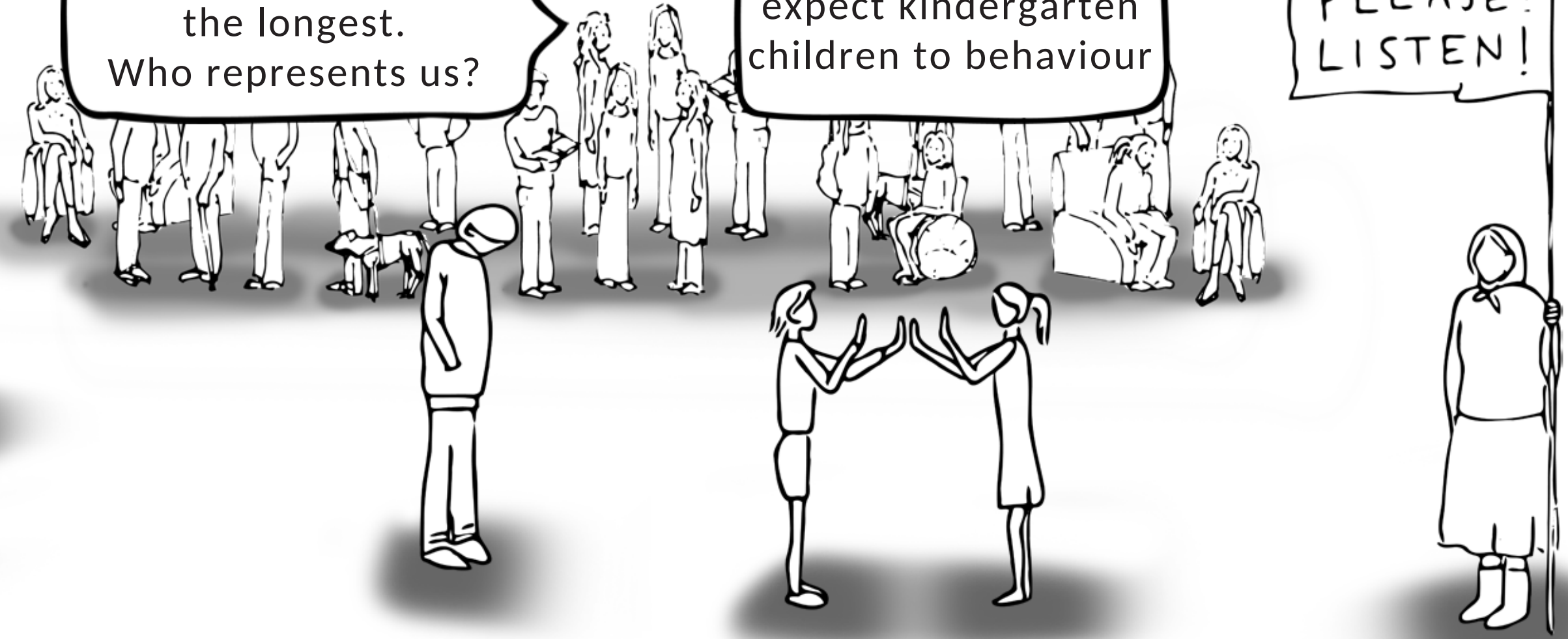
No party is addressing what is important to me and what I think needs to happen — so I don't vote

Not enough people vote for our democracy to be "representative"

Under 18 year olds can't vote but we will live with the decisions the longest. Who represents us?

"Debating" in Parliament is disrespectful and worse than how we expect kindergarten children to behave

PLEASE!
LISTEN!



No doubt there would be some agreement that there is plenty to complain about when it comes to the current political status-quo.

The need for the UN SDG goals is itself evidence of that. Here are some examples of what we commonly hear:

It feels like our elections and politicians are able to be bought - by companies that have no morals towards the protections of people and environment

Since its inception the NZ Government has failed to honor our country's founding document - this has had devastating effects for Māori and Māori culture

People don't feel represented and, so, are inclined not to vote - resulting in a feedback loop of less and less representation and a more and more exclusive political system - or if they do vote, that in between elections they feel they have no voice at all.

TE TIRITI O WAITANGI

OUR AGREEMENT TO ACT

1. Kawanatanga

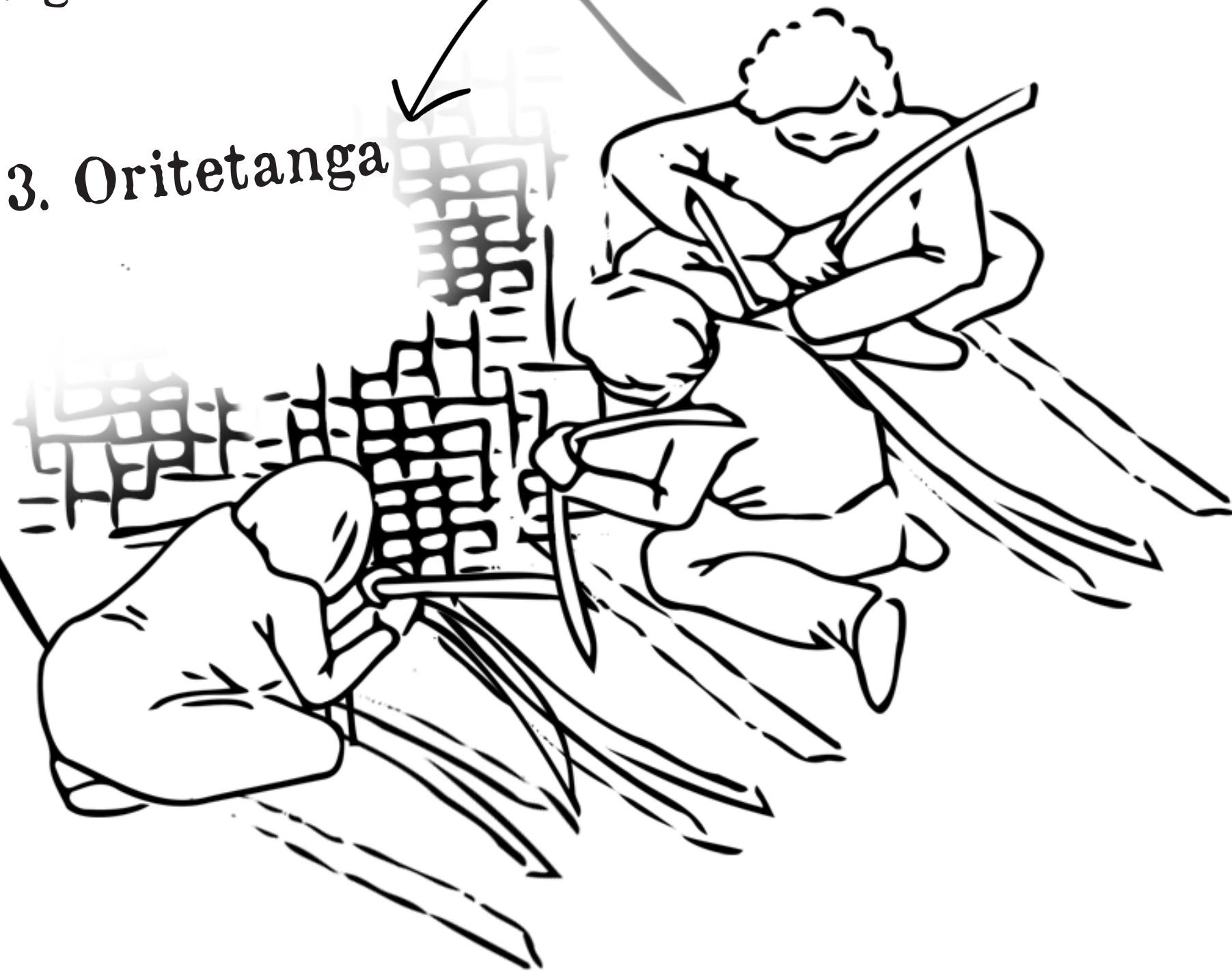
Crown governance of citizens & citizenship for Māori

2. Tino Rangatiratanga

Equality

3. Oritetanga

Absolute protection of Māori leadership over Māori land and taonga



It can be said that New Zealand's wealth has come from the taking of resources and power off of Tangata Whenua Māori and putting it in Colonial and tauwiwi hands. Despite this founding document of our country abuse of power has carried on for the past 181 years and continues today. The deterioration of the quality of life and culture and taonga of Tangata Whenua has been overlooked, often in the interest of economic growth alongside control of resources and political power that benefits a few.

But the strength of our society is reliant on the wellbeing of all of its people, and right now we clearly see the wealth / poverty and access gaps turning into chasms - embodying Te Tiriti is the best guide we have. At its core it is our agreement to act - and no action should be taken without honoring it.

This is a very simplified view of Te Tiriti and its complexity needs to be acknowledged as well.

This is why it is our central principle for Climate Assemblies. Whilst there is a great deal of global precedents to learn from, every aspect of the development in Aotearoa needs to be co-designed with Mana Whenua. Not lifted and planted but used to inform and strengthen our own circumstances. The potential to vastly improve the quality of life, not only for Māori - who are currently and have historically suffered the most from our Euro-centric systems - but for all people who enjoy and take pride in living here, who feel connected to Aotearoa NZ.

Also, it could make the Aotearoa NZ Version of Deliberative Democracy a world first - An Assembly based on Te Tiriti relationships.



BRITISH COLUMBIA
ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS



First Peoples'
Assembly of
Victoria

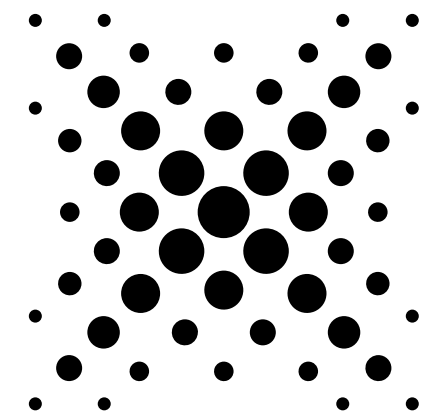


WE THE **CITIZENS**
SPEAK UP FOR IRELAND



Peterborough 
citizens

LEEDS
citizens



Citizens' Assembly
of Scotland
Seanadh Saoranaich
na h-Alba



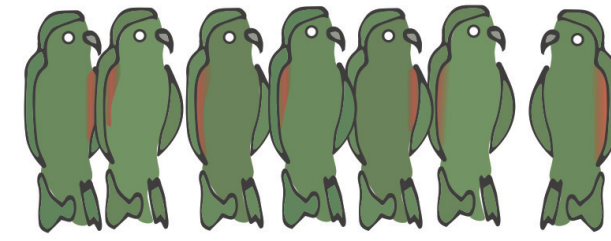
These are just a handful of the Assemblies that are happening around the world.

Groups of indigenous people are ground breakers of the deliberative democracy movement, creating processes and opportunities from an indigenous perspective. It has proved a useful tool for being able to stand alongside current politics and be heard with the strength of a clear and unified voice.

Complex issues have been deliberated on across wide ranging societies and their complex cultural bases with resounding positive outcomes and feedback from both policy makers and participants.

(See link appendix on last page)

HOW TO ASSEMBLY

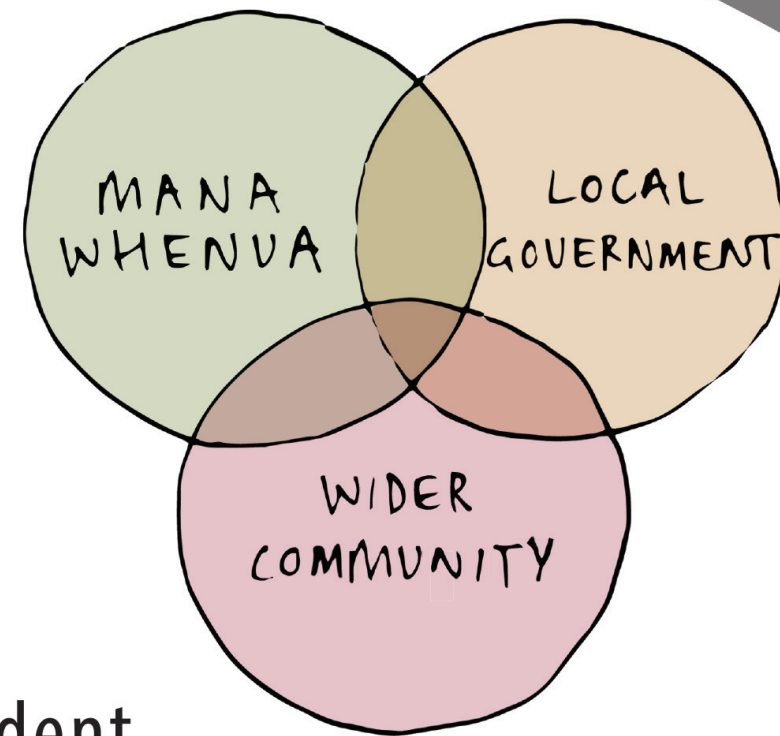


11 Steps

2. Honour Te Tiriti



3. Co-design



4. Oversight and independent coordinators

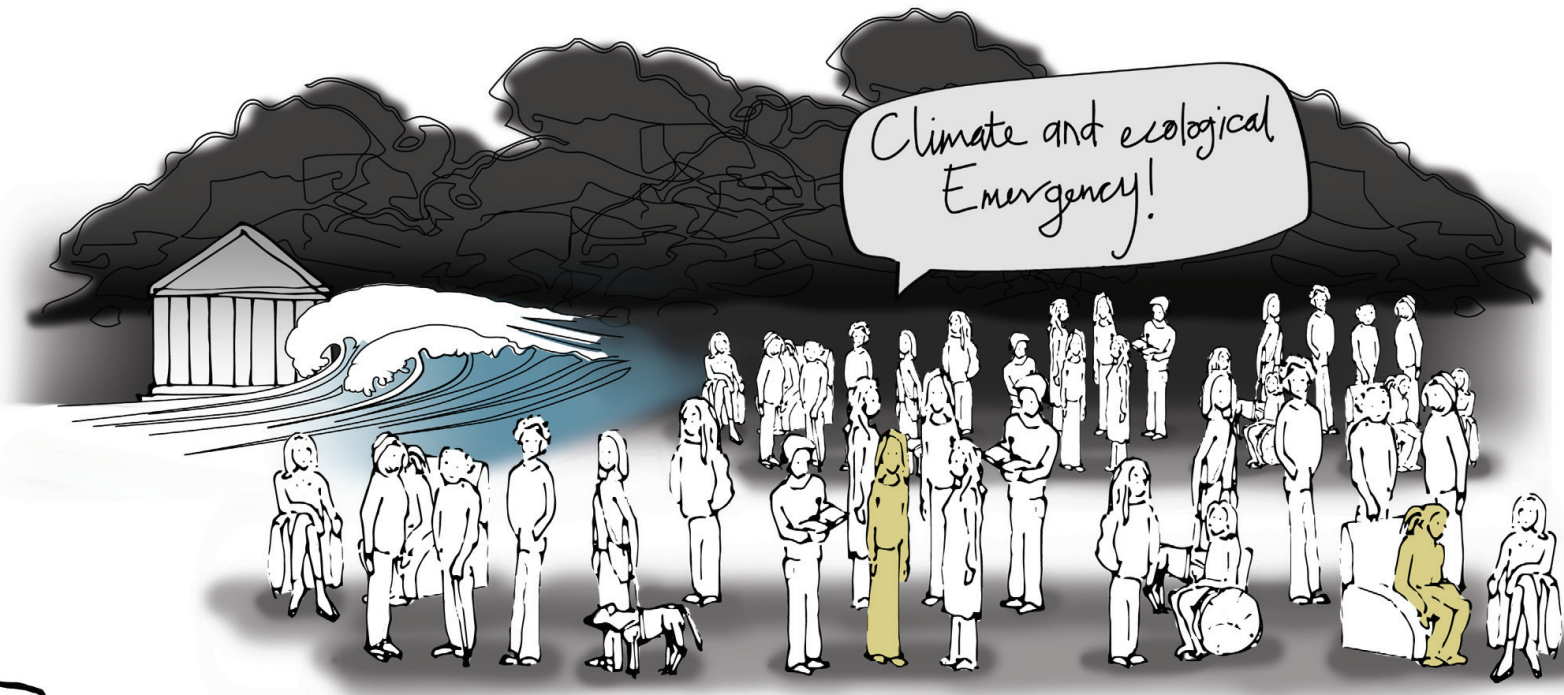


logistics
facilitators
experts
stakeholders
media
etc

5. The question



1. Political commitment



So, what does an Assembly process look like? A brief overview:

1 - There needs to be a political commitment. This ranges from an assembly having full power - as in recommendations made by the assembly are final - to the more common approach whereby recommendations made by the assembly are received by elected representatives and a public response is given. The representatives are required to be transparent to tell the public exactly how they will address the Assembly outcomes.

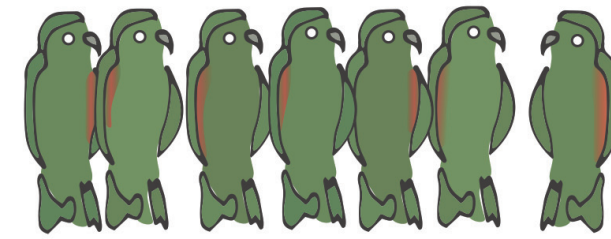
2 - Embodying Te Tiriti o Waitangi - an Aotearoa specific aspect which means partnering with mana whenua in governance and a co-design process to enable tino rangatiratanga throughout. This is an area that we currently are, and will be working on continuously, with Ngāti Toa Rangatira.

3 - A co-design process ensures suitability for the issue that is going to be addressed. The more information you have from those affected by the outcome of the project - the more appropriate and usable that project and its outcomes will be.

4 - Oversight - fairness and transparency to engender trust and create just processes that can be enduring.

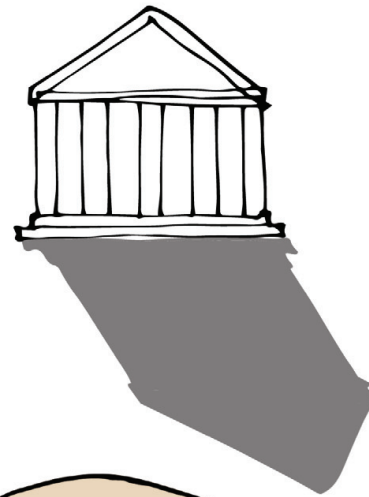
5 - A central question, or questions - what is the Assembly addressing in its deliberations? The exact wording of this question can sometimes be firmed up by the assembly itself.

HOW TO ASSEMBLY

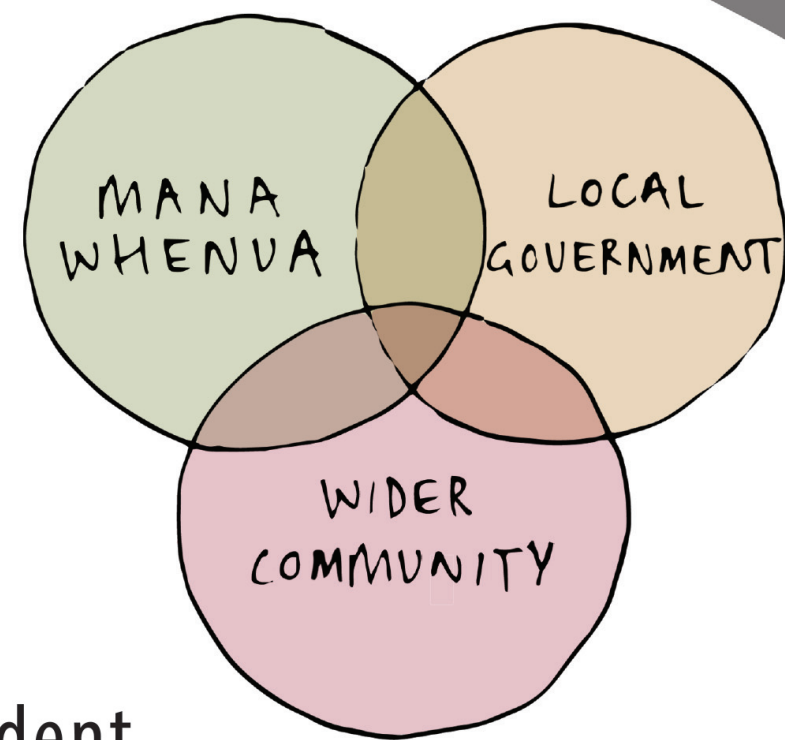


11 Steps

2. Honour Te Tiriti



3. Co-design



4. Oversight and independent coordinators

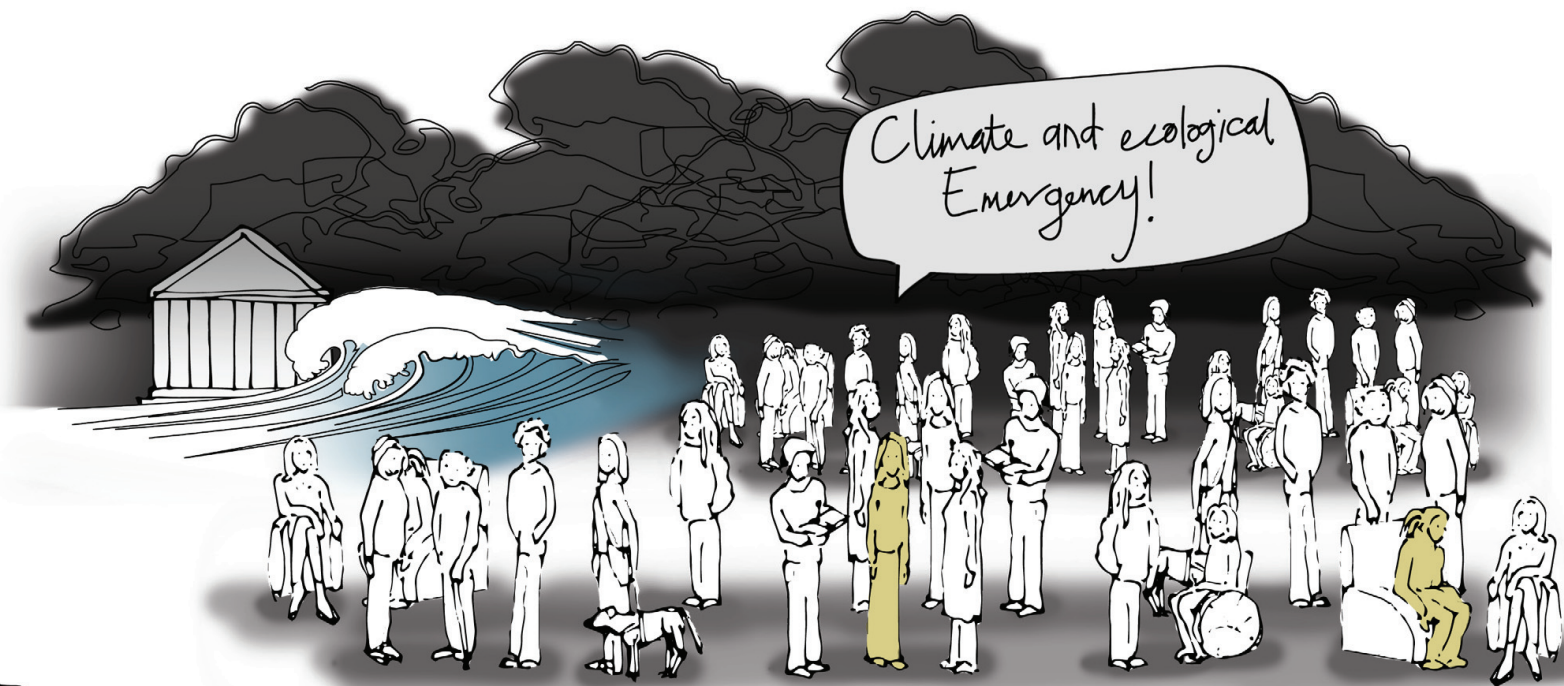


logistics
facillitators
experts
stakeholders
media
etc

5. The question



1. Political commitment



6. The population

7. Selection process

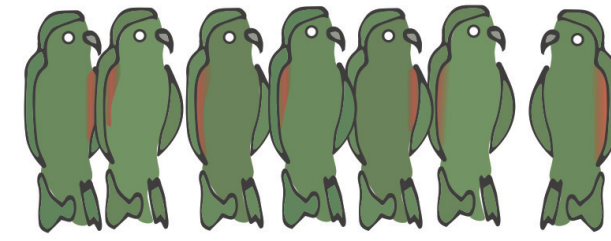
8. Experts and stakeholders

6 - The population - an awareness and enthusiasm by enough people in the community for the selection process to be representative.

7 - Selection often uses Random Stratified Sortition, which means randomly selecting a large pool of people and inviting them into the process - of those who accept; the pool is narrowed based on important demographics such as income, gender, ethnicity, position and other things that may be determined by the co-design process, including issues of Te Tiriti and indigenous rights.

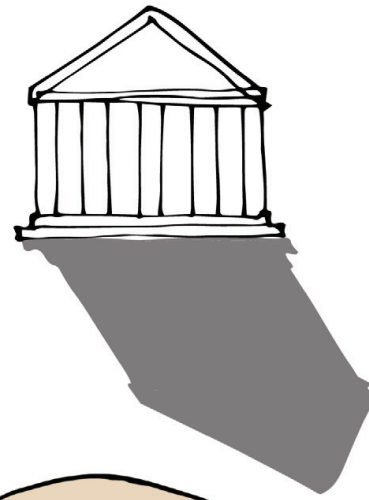
8 - Experts and stakeholders: The Assembly is addressed by relevant experts. It is important to have a multicultural understanding of what constitutes an Expert or a Stakeholder (e.g. Mātauranga Māori, Lay experts, inclusion of submissions by interest groups) and this needs to be determined in the co-design process. Of course an Assembly is premised on every person being an expert in their own lives.

HOW TO ASSEMBLY

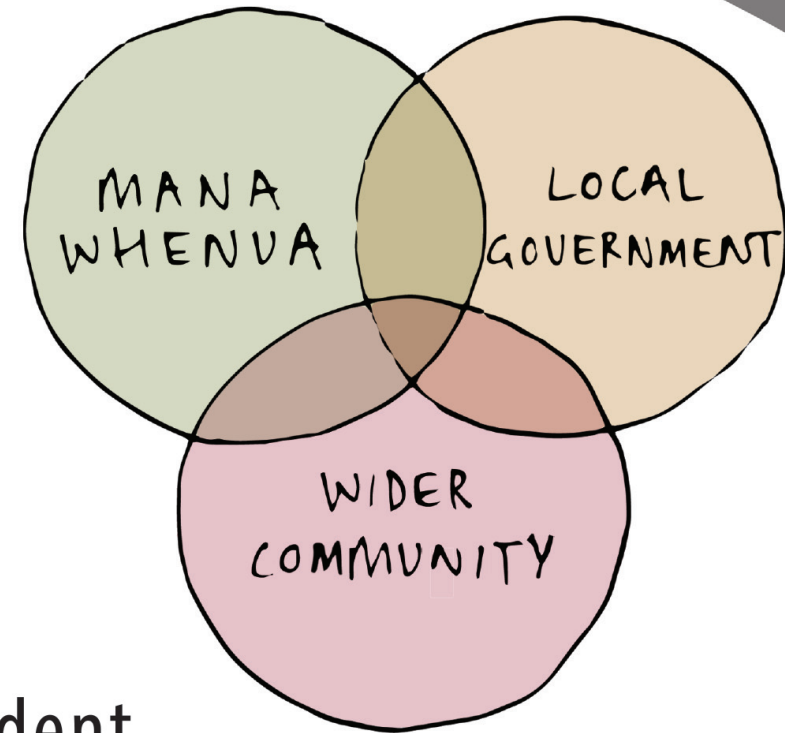


11 Steps

2. Honour Te Tiriti



3. Co-design



4. Oversight and independent coordinators

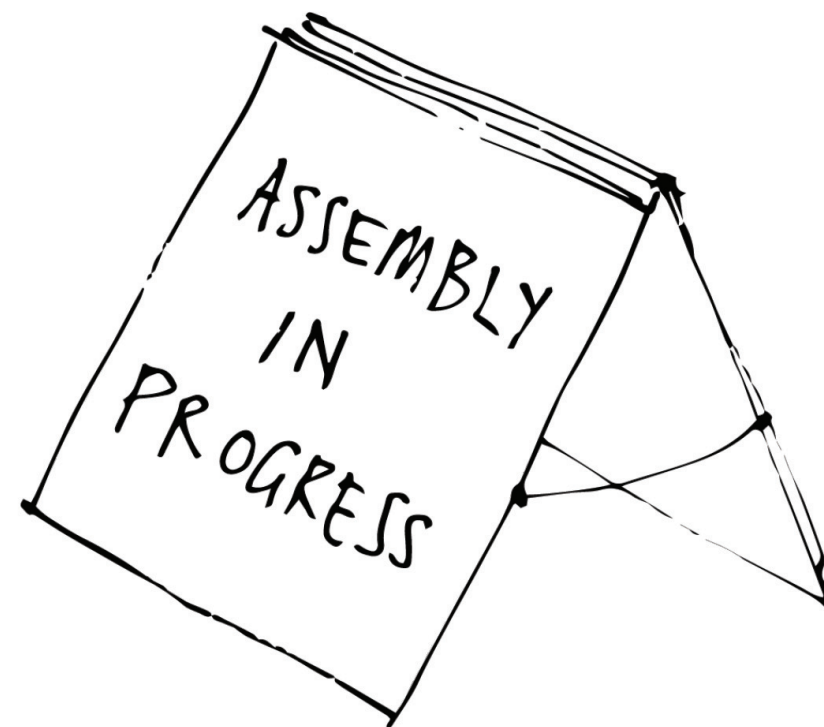


logistics
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experts
stakeholders
media
etc

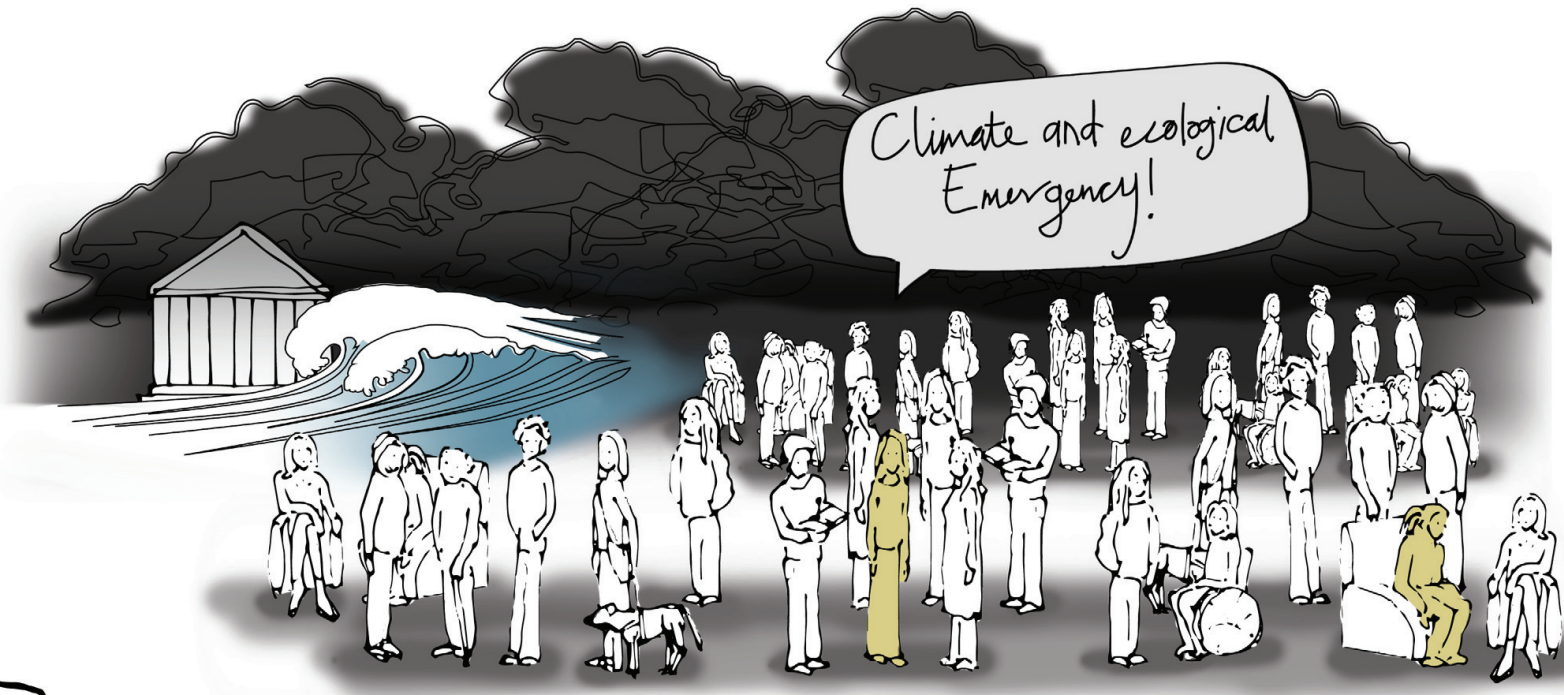
5. The question



9. Assembly deliberation



1. Political commitment



6. The population

7. Selection process

8. Experts and stakeholders

10. Reports



11. Post report



9 - Assembly: The Assembly decides the values their Recommendations will embody and sets up some ways of working. Facilitation is an important part of the process to ensure that there is a safe and accessible space where people are supported to learn and listen to each other. Where group cohesion and different perspectives are authentically held together so that people can make their best decisions for the whole community.

Meanwhile, the wider community is involved through online, media and other engagement. Information given to the Assembly members is made available to the general public through live-streaming and more public aspects of the process such as panel discussions, social media, news media etc.

10 - Reports: The Assembly will come up with Recommendations which are usually given to elected officials in the form of a Report. Where possible consensus is reached, if necessary a majority vote as defined by Assembly members can be used.

11 - Post Report follow through is essential and the forming of a Coalition can ensure the Recommendations are acted upon in the agreed way.

To emphasise: this is a simplified look and does not reflect the opportunities presented by genuine local co-design processes with mana whenua, the wider community and local representatives and decision makers.



Governments can make enduring, trusted decisions – faster

Representatives know that Assembly-based decisions will not endanger re-election

Voter enthusiasm is greatly enhanced – so is their trust & engagement in civil issues

Representatives gain greater understanding as randomly chosen assemblies show the wishes of their electorate

Decisions that are divisive complex, urgent or concern long term issues can be resolved

Costs from opposition to government decisions and actions is reduced or removed

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In short: greater cooperation by public officials and greater participation by the public in democratic processes is able to make legislators more effective and efficient, to provide greater value for the taxpayer dollar and to be more in touch with the communities they are elected to work for and with.

Individual politicians don't have to be the only face of difficult issues, which can brand them for life and threaten their re-election.

Legislators feel more able to make decisions that people want - with less backlash - because they are better able to understand the wishes of their electorate.

Making decisions in ways that ensure those decisions are enduring, trusted and can address complex issues that usually divide communities and elected representatives - should be beneficial to all those who live and work and do business in the community.

Decisions are able to be enacted faster. In Ireland, which used a National Citizens' Assembly to consider the issue of making abortion legal in a heavily Catholic country, it took only 2.5 years from the time the Assembly was held through to receiving the Recommendations and then onto a public referendum and then law change.

Please see links at the end of this slide pack for a short video on the Ireland use of Citizens' Assemblies (which is still ongoing today) and also short videos on what other Governments and councils who have been working like this are saying about the process.



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People develop trust in Assembly outcomes from watching ordinary people deliberate together

Outcomes of Assemblies better reflect the needs of the people

People feel valued with their voices heard

Access to clear and balanced information from many sources on issues that concern us

Understanding diverse perspectives leads to a more tolerant, inclusive society

People feel proud of their democracy, and that issues are considered fairly - not influenced by corporate and vested interests

So, what are "ordinary" people saying after having been involved in an Assembly process?

That they feel valued.

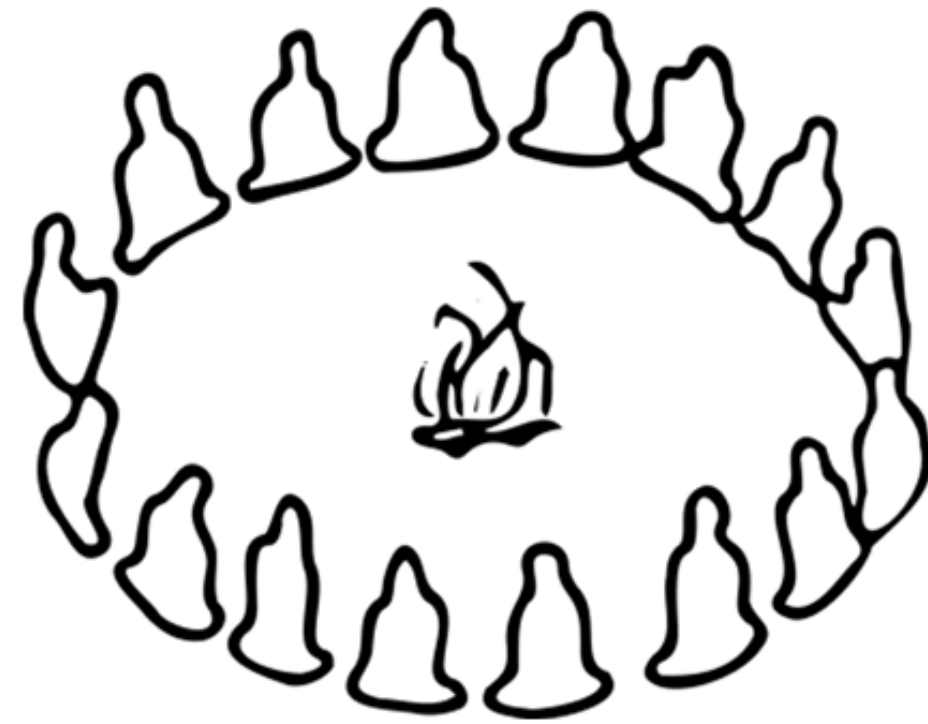
That they were supported to understand complex information and trusted to make the best decision they could in the interest of their communities which gave them pride and trust in the outcomes.

People are prepared to focus on the needs, and the common ground of all people, collaborating to find the solutions that meet the needs of the most people across the whole community.

That they learned a lot, including skills that they are able to use in their daily lives and jobs, that improve their quality of life.

That this way of working is not adversarial - it is collaborative and strong and is a pleasant move away from the win lose set up of opposition politics which is not designed to handle complex or longer term issues.

Indigenous Traditions



Western Traditions



Why do we need new tools to help strengthen our democracy? Do we need to change our democracy?

A short history:

Deliberation in its most inspiring form has been used by indigenous decision makers since time immemorial. Some of their techniques are directly influencing ways we are using and creating methods of deliberation today.

Deliberation was also used in what we consider to be the start of democracy as we know it - in ancient Greece. Deliberators were chosen by a lottery of members of the public - or Sortition. Those people for a certain amount of time were then tasked to make decisions on behalf of the people. Unfortunately, this random selection wasn't random at all because it didn't include people who didn't own land, it didn't include women of any class, and, of course, having slaves was OK - but slaves were also not included in the Sortition or at all in ancient Athenian democracy.

Deliberative Democracy also draws on principles of restorative justice and non-violent communication. When people are heard, they can listen to others. Listening creates understanding and heals community divisions. To help the whole community we can support each other's needs, even if we don't agree on everything else.

Nothing is static - we need change now more than ever - before that change is beyond our control.

GLOBAL WARNING



Governments and business-as-usual (big business) have failed to take the action required to safeguard living conditions for the future of young people alive today and that of future generations.

In fact we see purposeful obscuring of climate change to maintain vested interests despite science's strong warning that things could get really bad if we don't make a dramatic turn around. We are living in an increasingly dystopian world lurching from one emergency situation to the next. We have to talk about that. We have to find ways together to navigate our way back to safety, to transform these institutions in order that they - and we, and businesses and everyone - can act.

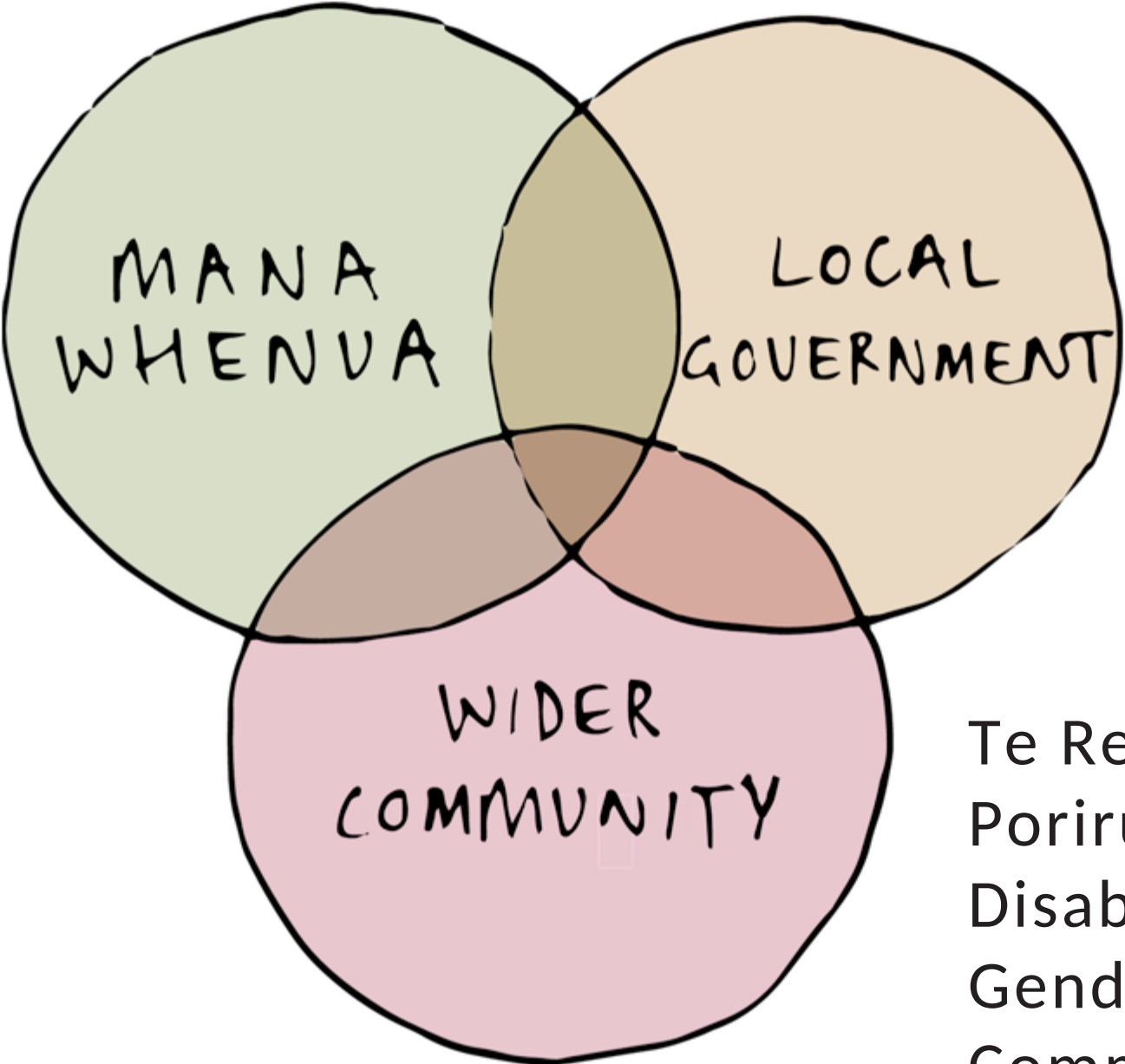
With the 6th mass extinction beginning and eco-systems collapsing it has become our responsibility to envisage and then realise methods of governance and decision making that promote equity, wellbeing, education and the natural environment upon which we all depend.

We have to have hard conversations in safe ways. We need new ways to solve new issues. We need to be holistic.

This is what deliberative democracy can assist us to do.

A Te Tiriti-based Climate Assembly For Porirua

Ngāti Toa Rangatira
Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira



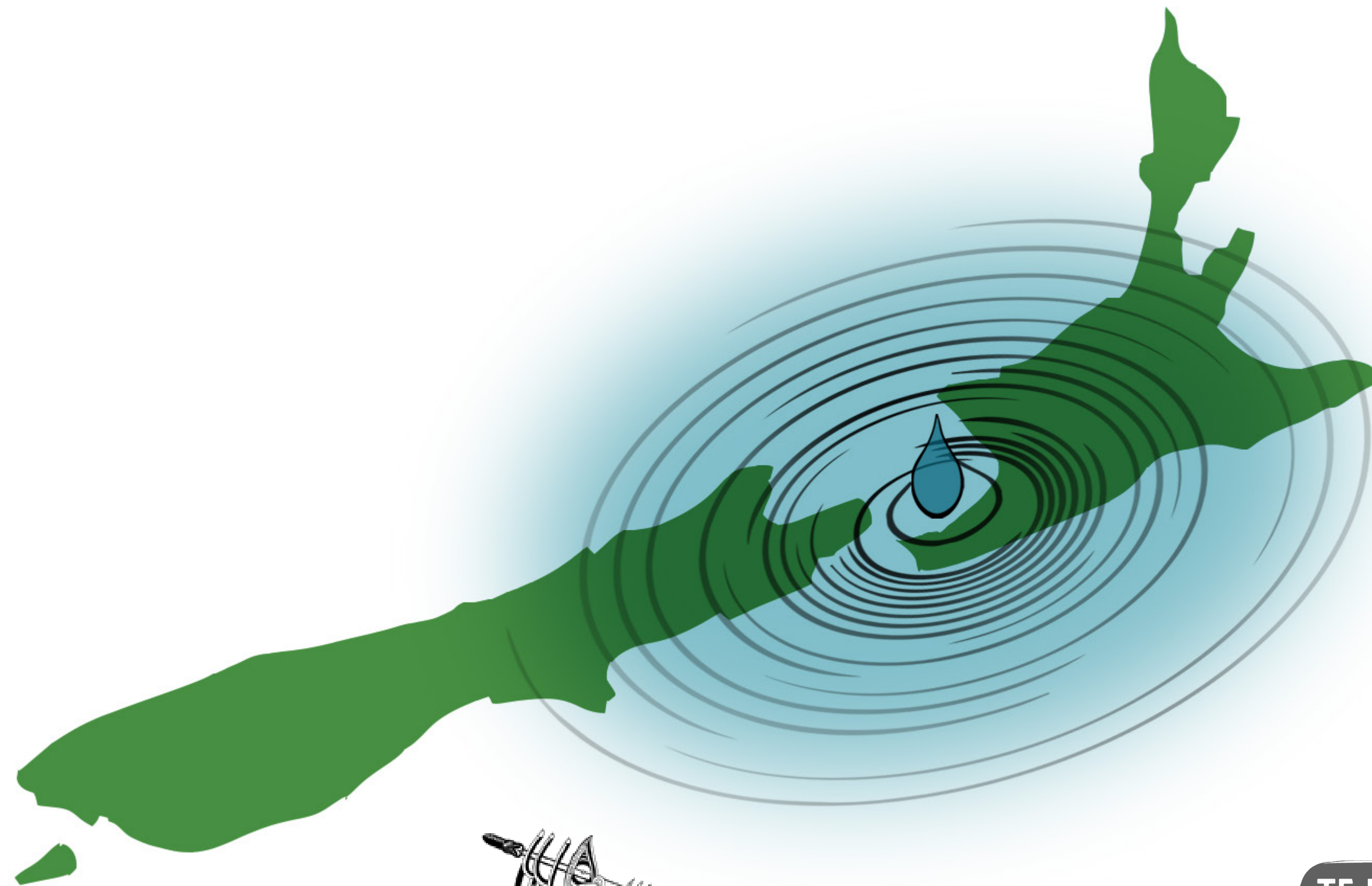
Porirua City Council
Greater Wellington Regional Council
The Climate Change Commission
Central Government

Te Reo o Ngā Tāngata | The People Speak
Porirua Youth
Disability community
Gender equality
Community leaders and groups
Sports clubs
Churches
Emphasis on those most often left out
And more

Here's where we're at with this vision:

In our two years of working together every politician we have spoken to thinks it sounds fantastic, but no one specifically offered to pick up the mantle. The Climate Change Commission have written in their report that new ways of engaging with the public are essential for effective climate action. They have offered their expertise to help our Assembly members comprehend the problem and the detail within their report. We have connected with Porirua City Council, and multiple community organisations in Porirua including importantly, youth.

Most importantly we have found true partners in Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira, mana whenua of Porirua. Together we have begun a journey to a safer, more inclusive, fairer and radically more effective way of working and decision making.



Ngāti Toa Rangatira &

TE REO O NGĀ TĀNGATA
THE PEOPLE SPEAK

With this Porirua Assembly being an Aotearoa (and possibly a global) first, we are hoping to inspire and inform, and to take on a pathway of learning and developing new ways of decision making. There are independent evaluators and researchers documenting our process and we intend to make available all information and learnings on an ‘open source’ basis so that it can be built upon. Because the only thing that should be competitive about achieving the SDG goals is how we can together, get there the fastest.

Please tell your representatives that we need Te Tiriti Climate Assemblies now!

If you’d like to learn more or be involved in our project or contact us about anything else please see the next slide for important links and contact information.

Contact info and links

Web: www.thepeoplespeak.nz/

FB: www.facebook.com/ThePeopleSpeakAotearoa

Email: thepeoplespeakaotearoa@gmail.com

Twitter: www.twitter.com/PeopleSpeak_NZ

Below are links to 2 videos from Australia, where Citizens' Assemblies, Juries or Mini Publics are regularly held at State and Local Govt levels, particularly in Victoria and South Australia. They are approx. 5 mins each.

The first is focused on the participants' experiences of assemblies and the second on the experiences of decision makers:

<https://youtu.be/z-Yc4vuG5B4> And

<https://youtu.be/jQCQysiJ8dA>

Here is a short 16min film on the Irish experience of assemblies which in just over 2.5yrs went from Assembly to legislative change, breaking the political deadlock on abortion reform. (The Assembly also made recommendations on constitutional reform, climate change and aged care questions. The Assembly process has continued to be used in Ireland on an ongoing basis.):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjpuDk9_BWI

Here is a 2020 OECD report on deliberative or Citizens' Assemblies, which explores the reasons and routes for embedding deliberative activities into public institutions to give people a more permanent and meaningful role in shaping the policies affecting their lives. Link to the full report and highlights document:

<http://www.oecd.org/gov/innovative-citizen-participation-and-new-democratic-institutions-339306da-en.htm>

Here is a link to Matike Mai; a report from The Independent Working Group on Constitutional Transformation in Aotearoa NZ:

<https://nwo.org.nz/resources/report-of-matike-mai-aotearoa-the-independent-working-group-on-constitutional-transformation/>

Here is a global crowdsourcing platform for researchers, activists, practitioners, and anyone interested in public participation and democratic innovations:

<https://participedia.net/>