QUEENSLAND WATER MODELLING NETWORK

Lessons from a water modelling Community of Practice

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Communities of Practice (CoPs) – what?

<u>QWMN CoP domains</u>:
Urban water and liveability
Landscape restoration
+
Climate change
Skills (data, models, careers)

- ***Domain**:* a shared competence, identity defined by shared domain
- ***Community**:* build relationships, care about each other and how they learn from each other
- ***Practice:*** shared repertoire, do things together, improve their practice, share ideas

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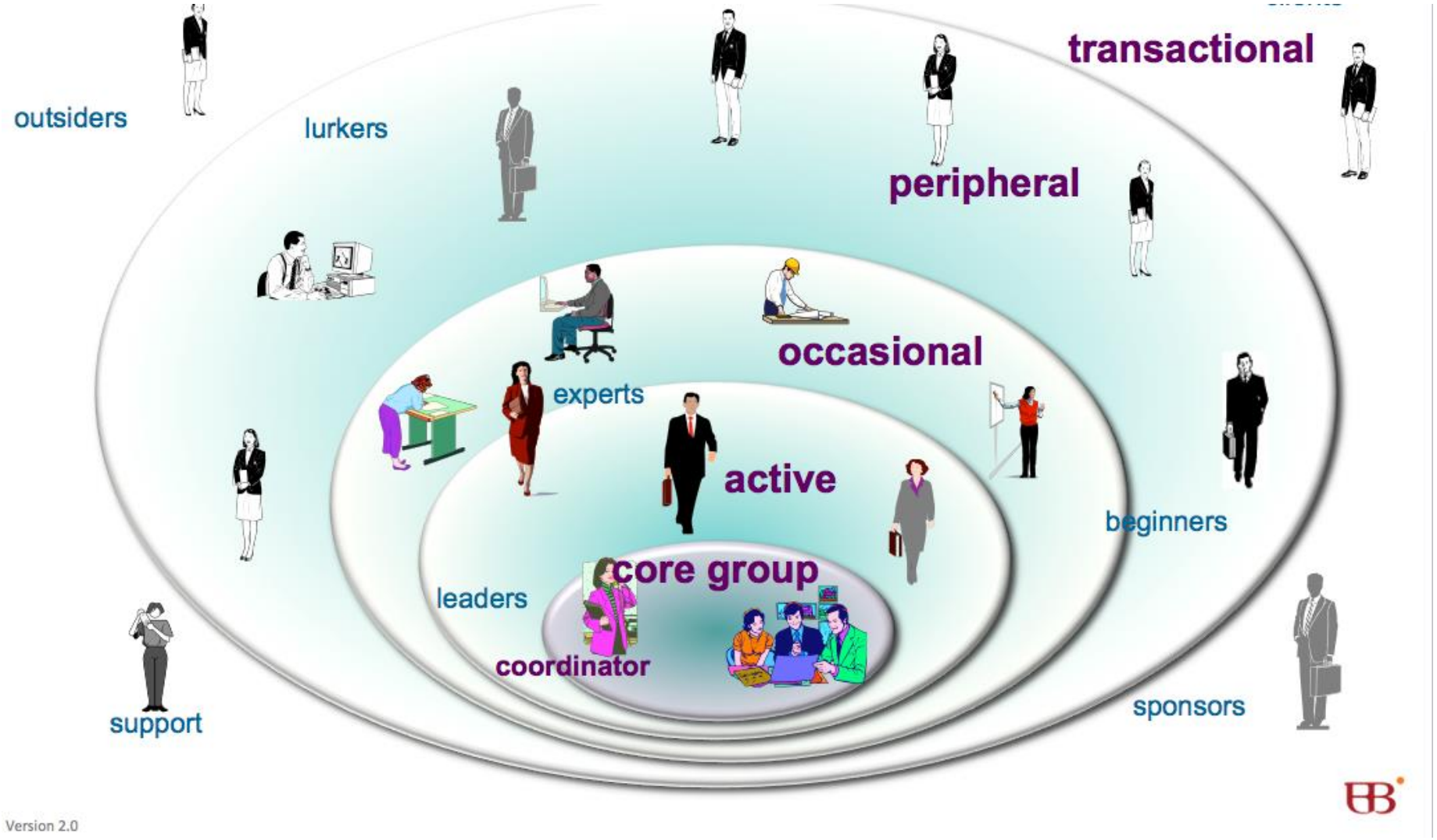
Communities of Practice – what?



https://wenger-trayner.com/project/levels-of-participation/

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Communities of Practice for the QWMN – why?

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Are required to produce

Underpin

Desired capacity

Capacity to innovate and use models and modelling to effectively inform QLD water policy, planning and management processes

Core capabilities

- **Translate btw user and use needs and modelling**
- Create new and improve models
- Integrate models across scales and processes
- Access and re-use of common data and models
- **Visualise and communic -ate outputs**

Fundamentals

Competent, skilled and knowledgeable workforce

Social infrastructure:
Actors, relationships, trust between actors

QLD data and model infrastructure:
Standards, processes for curating and sharing data and models, repositories of data and models, visualisation and communication tools

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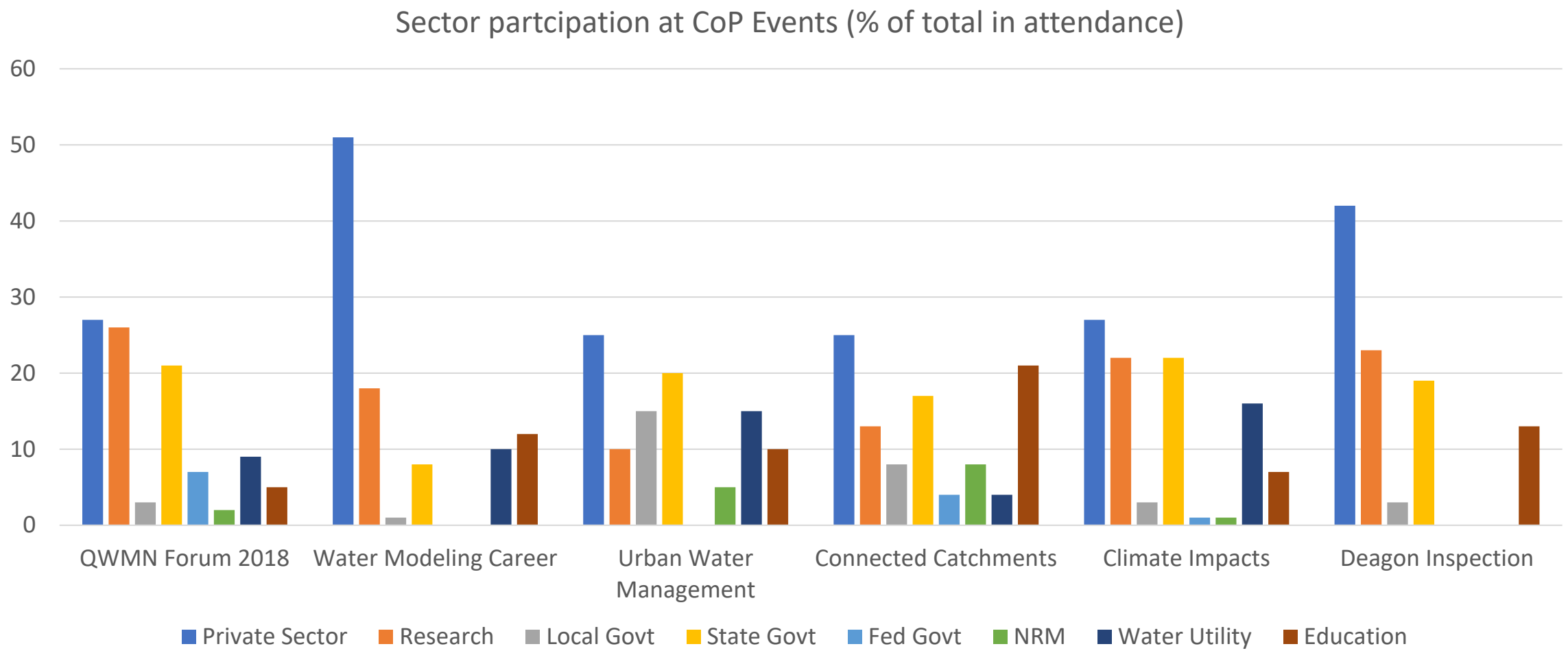
QWMN CoP events



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QWMN CoP – some reflections

	What
What's working well	**Popular events**: using a mix of social media advertising, professional networks and charging a small fee is ensuring strong to full attendance at events **Diversity of participation**: the CoP events have served so far to grow the participation of the private (consulting) sector in relation to the QWMN – consultants make up 25-50% of participants at CoP events, government 9-35% and research 10-26% **Encouraging participation**: including informative presentations at events leads to participants engaging in group workshop activities that can build collective insights
What we need to work on	**A busy space**: ensuring that we engage widely with other relevant actors running water-related events in Brisbane to avoid clashes is an ongoing transaction cost **Coping with diversity of interests**: the QLD water modelling and use sector is diverse with interests, and there is a need to provide more "hands on" exploration and learning activities for the technically focussed as well as use focussed events **Cultivating senior support**: if we can develop an appreciation amongst senior executives and team leaders of the value of the CoP network to their organisation they will encourage and support staff participation – and maybe future funding

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Opportunities and challenges

- **Clarifying the domains:** landscape, climate change and skills events are emerging as the areas around which the community is forming and which we will pursue further
- **Working to grow the core and active groups**: we are seeing the emergence of core and active groups but need to grow these so (i) we have a larger pool from which to cultivate champions who will create the momentum for longevity and (ii) so we don't just rely on the same suspects and look like an exclusive club
- **Going from event to output**: through changing resourcing we have tuned our ability to quickly produce informative event write-ups quickly after events and socialising these – we can improve further here
- **Creating and measuring outcomes and impacts**: CoPs can produce learning and ultimately innovative practice change action – we need to undertake M&E to identify where we are having an impact and to design future activities to enhance this

Cycle 1: Immediate value
(activities and interactions)

Cycle 2: Potential value
(knowledge capital)

Cycle 3: Applied value
(changes in practice)

Cycle 4: Realised value
(performance improvement)

Wenger, Traynor and De Laat (2011)

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FLOOD community of practice

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