THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA
CREATE CHANGE

Australian perspective on UK Food System Resilience concepts

Bill Bellotti
Retired professor in Food Systems
University of Queensland
Brisbane, Australia

Four lenses

1. Agricultural production
2. Public Health
3. Supply Chain Logistics
4. Systems theory and methodology

ABARES (2020) Australian food security and the Covid-19 pandemic. Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences.

Australia is one of the most food secure nations in the world

Australia produces substantially more food than it consumes

Domestic food consumption is stable, while agricultural exports vary

One in six Australian adults haven't had enough to eat in the last year. On top of this, 1.2 million children have gone hungry during the same period

FOOD BANK
FIGHTING HUNGER IN AUSTRALIA

Foodbank Hunger Report 2021

The reality of the food crisis facing Australia

More men than women were overweight or obese in 2014–15; a similar proportion were obese

overweight or obese	71%	56%
overweight but not obese	42%	29%
obese	28%	27%

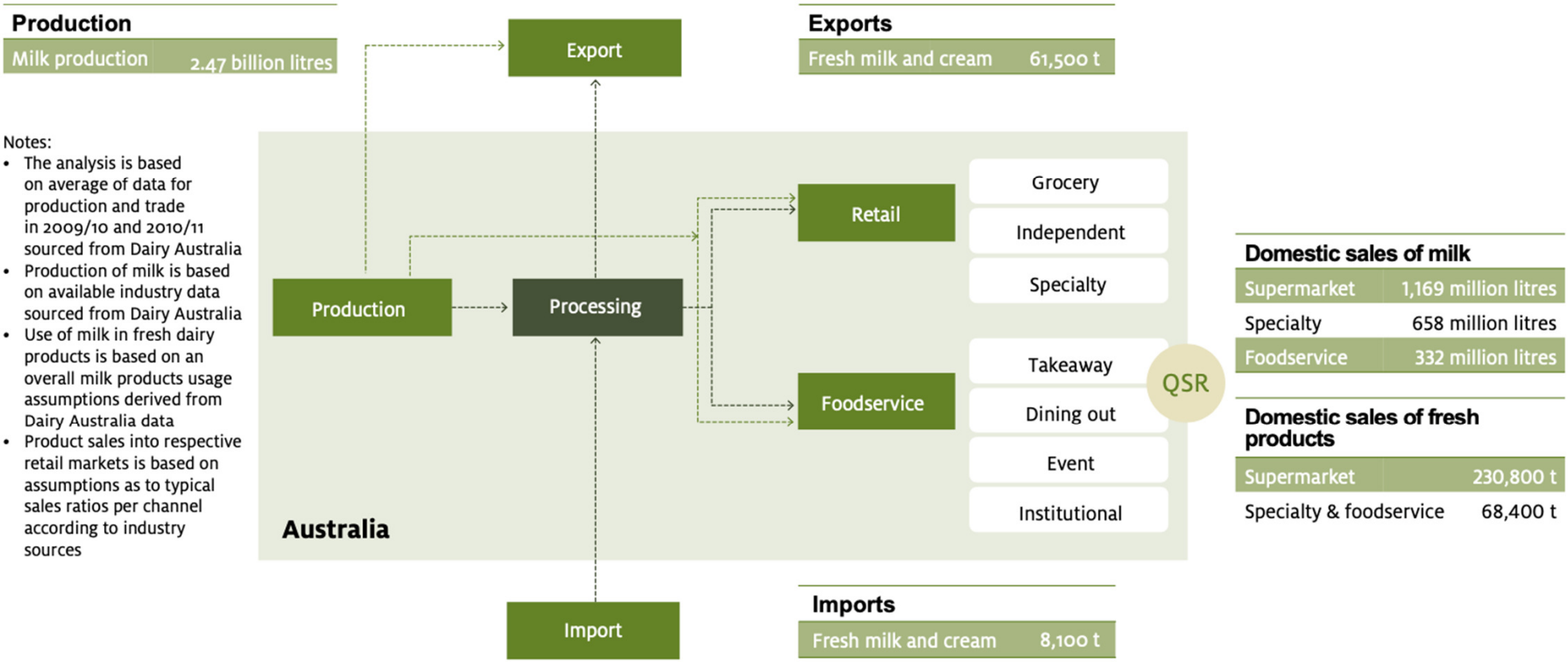
Indigenous Australians and those living outside *Major cities* or who are in lower socioeconomic groups are more likely to be overweight or obese

Cost to the economy was $8.6 billion in 2011–12

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2017. A picture of overweight and obesity in Australia 2017.

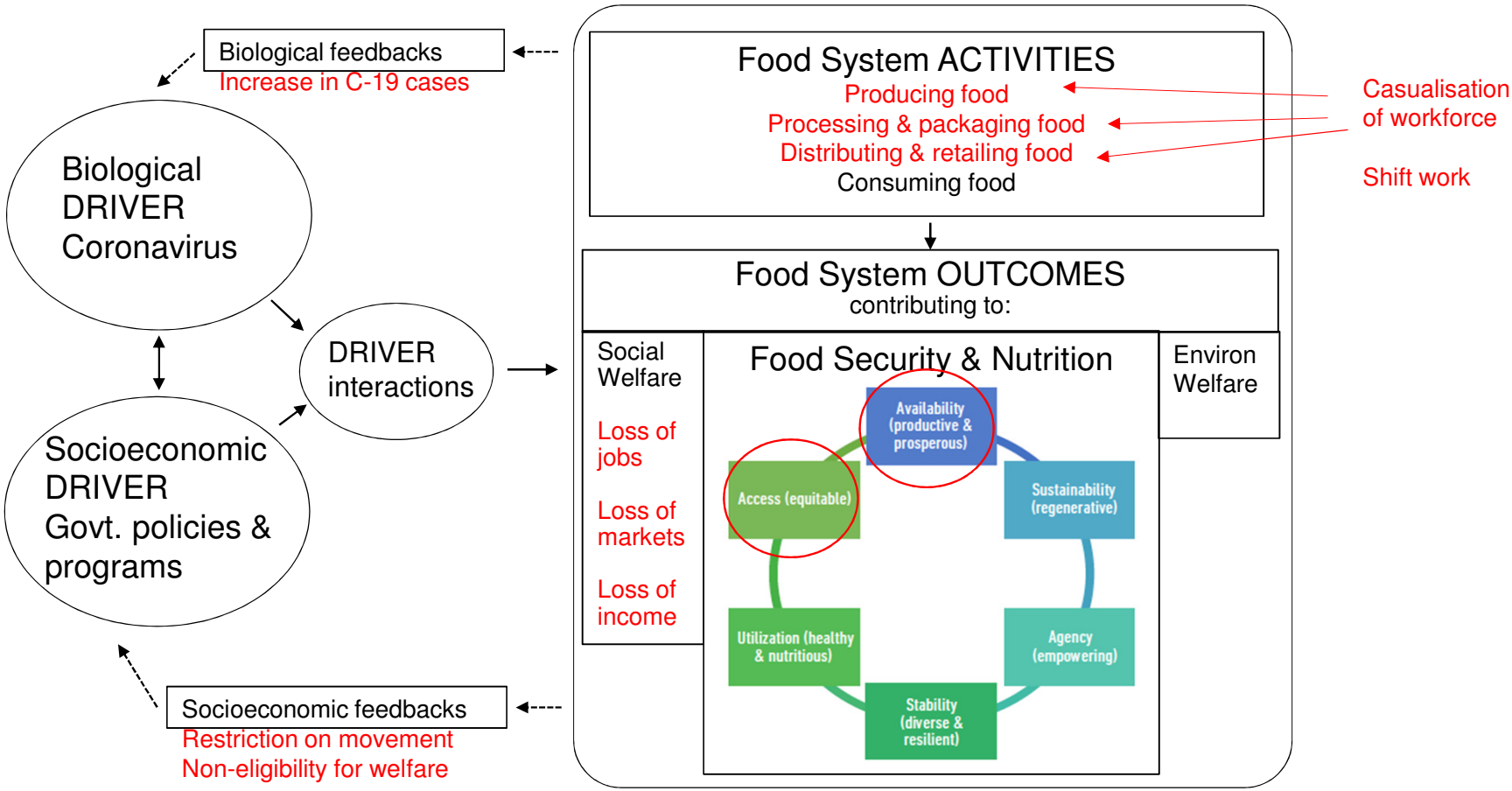
CRICOS code 00025B

22. Fresh dairy supply chain volume map



Spencer, S & Kneebone, M (2012), *FOODmap: An analysis of the Australian food supply chain*, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Canberra.

COVID-19 in Food Systems: Employment



Jones et. al. (2022) A Shock to the System: What the COVID-19 Pandemic Reveals About Australia's Food Systems and Their Resilience. Front. Sustain. Food Syst. 5:790694.

Science as Systemic Intervention

"If intervention is purposeful action by an agent to create change, then *systemic* intervention is purposeful action by an agent to create change

in relation to reflection on boundaries."

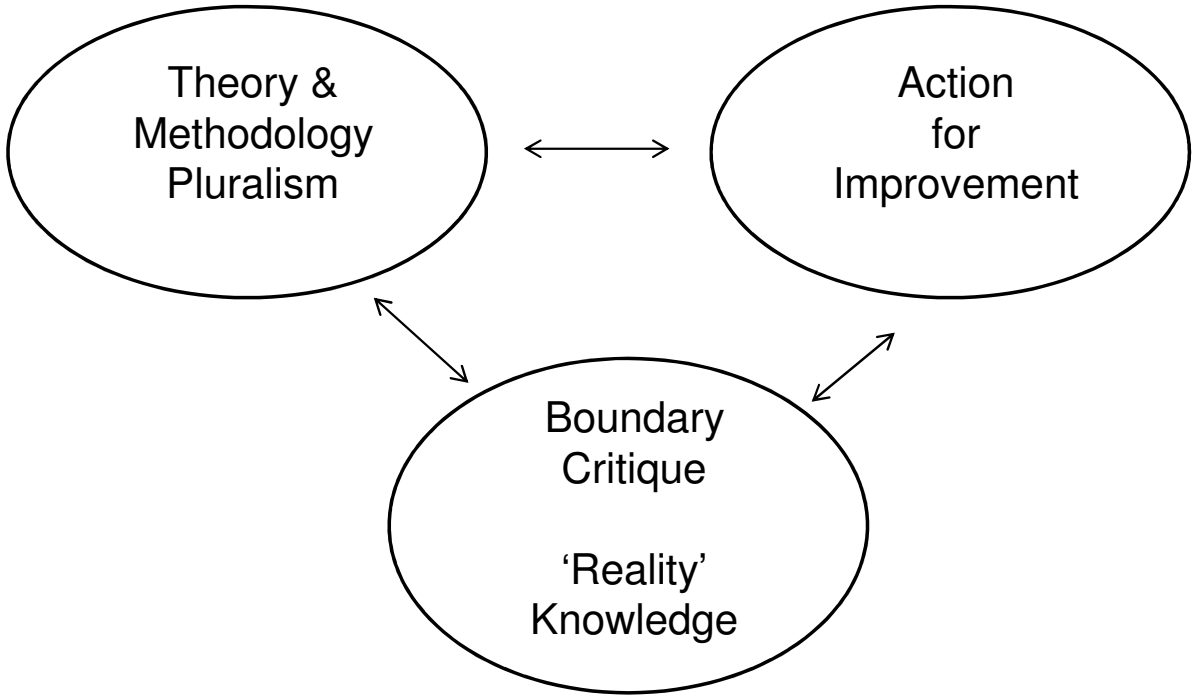
Science as Systemic Intervention: Some Implications of Systems Thinking and Complexity for the Philosophy of Science

Gerald Midgley[1]

Systemic Practice and Action Research, Vol. 16, No. 2, April 2003 (© 2003)

Three Components of Systemic Intervention

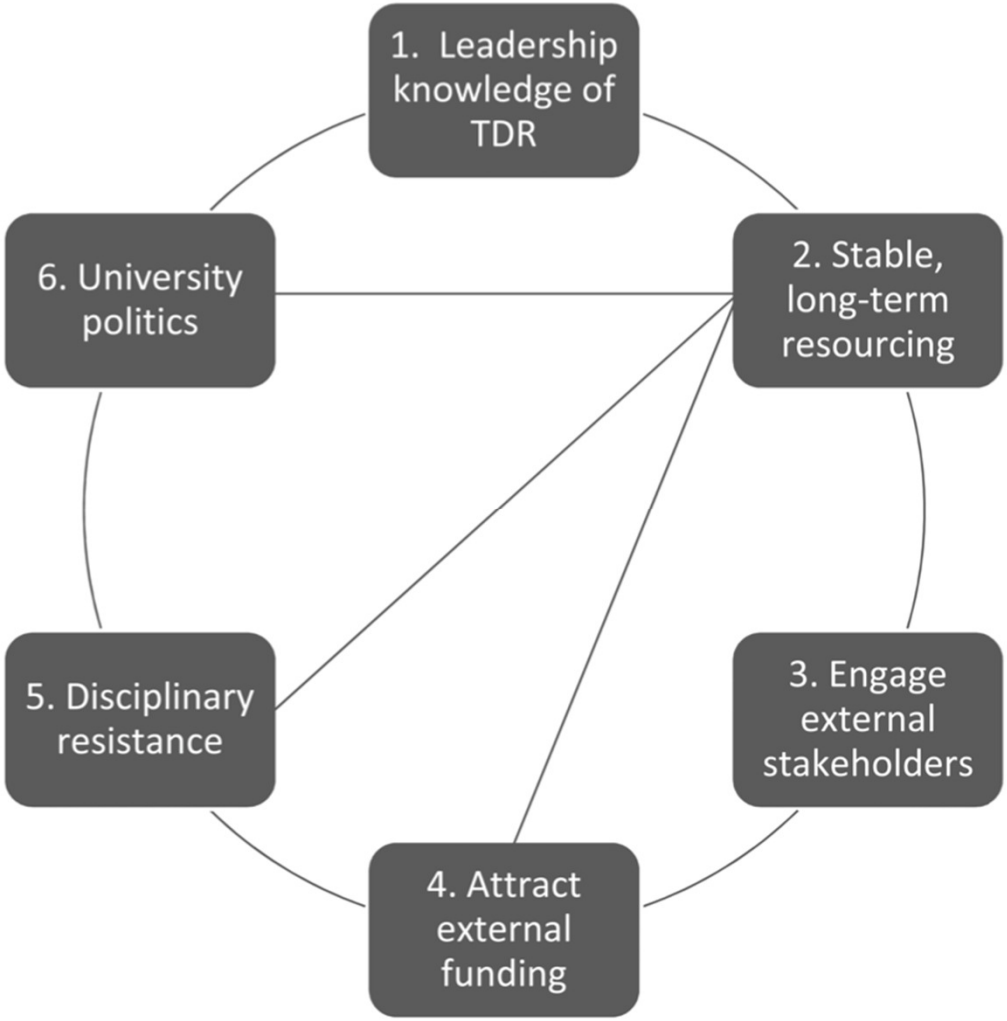
Each component requires Value Judgments



CRICOS code 00025B

This is not easy.

Interconnected challenges to conducting transdisciplinary research in a global research intensive university



Bellotti, B. and D'Agostino, F. (2020) *A fragile existence: A transdisciplinary food systems program cut short*. In: Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Failures. Eds: D. Fam, M. O'Rourke

Key points

- The goal of food security is complex, uncertain, dynamic, and contested
- Therefore we need systems approaches
- While there is high-level support for systems approaches, allocation of funding is political.
- Compared to established disciplines, food systems approaches, including the resilience of these systems, is still in early stages of development.