

# Case studies in resilience

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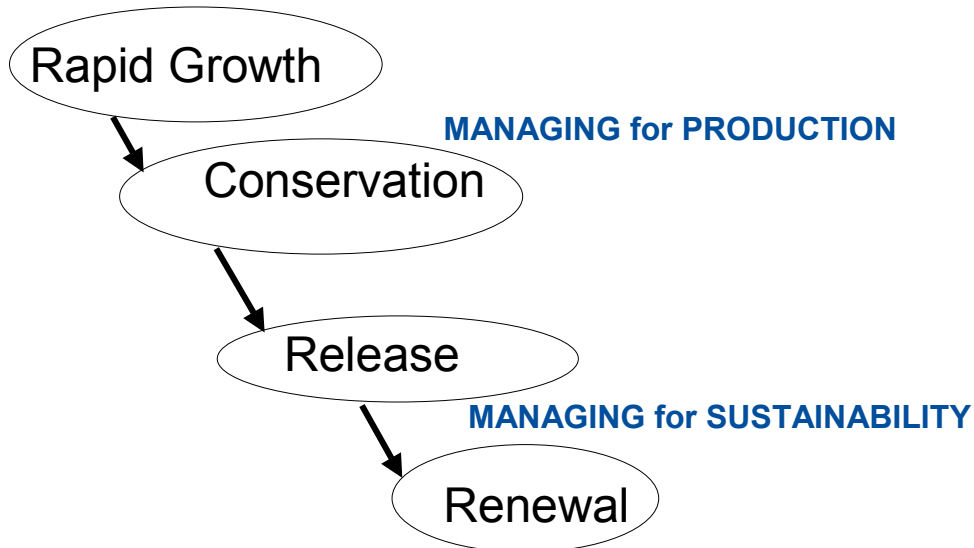
# Resilience in farming communities

## ***Resilience***

*is the ability of a community to absorb shock  
and to regenerate and then continue to  
function effectively in a desirable state*

*A resilient system may not be a desirable  
system*

## Adaptive cycle



## Case Study 1

### Eastern Riverina

- trend toward cropping dominant systems

## Case Study 2

### South West Slopes

- diversity of enterprises

## Case Study 1

- Relatively uniform climate and soil conditions
- Rapid uptake of new technology
- Good overall education standard
- Strong network of young farmers, historical connection
- Low level of land use diversity (sheep and cropping in different ratios)
- Close proximity to markets
- Reasonable infrastructure and close to major centre

## Case Study 2

- More diverse climate and soil conditions
- Good uptake of new technology
- Good overall education standard
- Strong network of young farmers
- Considerable diversity of land use
- Reasonable proximity to markets
- Reasonable infrastructure
- Diverse population and industry/enterprises  
– new arrivals

## Case 1

Rapid growth → **Conservatism**

- Focus on production management
- Lock-in trap – investment strategies has ↓resilience
- Lack of desire to change

## Case 2

Rapid growth → **Conservatism**

**Release**

**Renewal**

- Production focus with growing emphasis on managing for sustainability
- Evidence of need for change
- Creating forums to develop strategies

## Comparing the studies

### Case 1

- Sign. ↓population
- Reputed innovators
- Claim resilience but focus on performance
- Do not recognise resilient qualities
- Comfort zone
- Opinion leadership

Cohesiveness VS

### Case 2

- Rel. stable population
- Diverse interests
- Significant impact of climate change
- Seeking outside input
- Active effort to build resilience beyond \$
- Information seeking

Connectivity

## Key ingredients for resilience

1. Recognition of the need to change
2. Forum for informed discussion with **all stakeholders**, seek expert opinion:
  - cultivation of **connectiveness**
  - links with range of experts**interconnectiveness**

# EH GRAHAM CENTRE

*for Agricultural Innovation*

*an alliance between Charles Sturt University & NSW Department of Primary Industries*

## Resilience in farming communities

- Resilience is an attribute of a community
- No two communities are identical
- A community's inherent qualities (social, financial and biophysical) are critical in its potential to build resilience

*Certainly the future of the community and how it manages shocks and unpredicted events depends on the community being aware of where they are at, what outcomes they want (ie what are the important ecosystems goods and services) how they got to where they are, where they want to be and the uncertainties and unexpected events they are likely to encounter along the way – do they have strategies in place to manage these.*

The community is resilient to **what?**

## Resilience in farming communities

Managed systems move through four phases:

- rapid growth )
- conservation )
- release )
- re-organisation & renewal )

*The ideal is to build resilient socio-ecological systems with the capacity to change as the world changes, while still maintain their functionality.*

*Resilience management is an attempt to consider the whole system, to encourage informed discussion among all players/stakeholders to develop robust pathways that identify options/actions that can be taken to ensure the SES does not shift into an undesirable configuration.*