

A person wearing a high-visibility orange shirt, a safety harness, and a helmet with a face shield is using a chainsaw to cut into a tree trunk. The scene is set in a forest with many trees in the background. The text "Adventures in safety innovation" is overlaid in large white letters.

# Adventures in safety innovation

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Head of Innovation

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**WORKSAFE**

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# What would you do?

Practices to (re-)invent

- Incident investigation
- Audits
- Risk assessments
- Golden rules
- Safety walks
- Safety culture program
- Safety observations
- Safety performance indicators
- Safety management system
- Health and Safety committees
- Return to work processes
- The way work is done
- Something completely new
- Something else

# Perfection

Zero is the goal

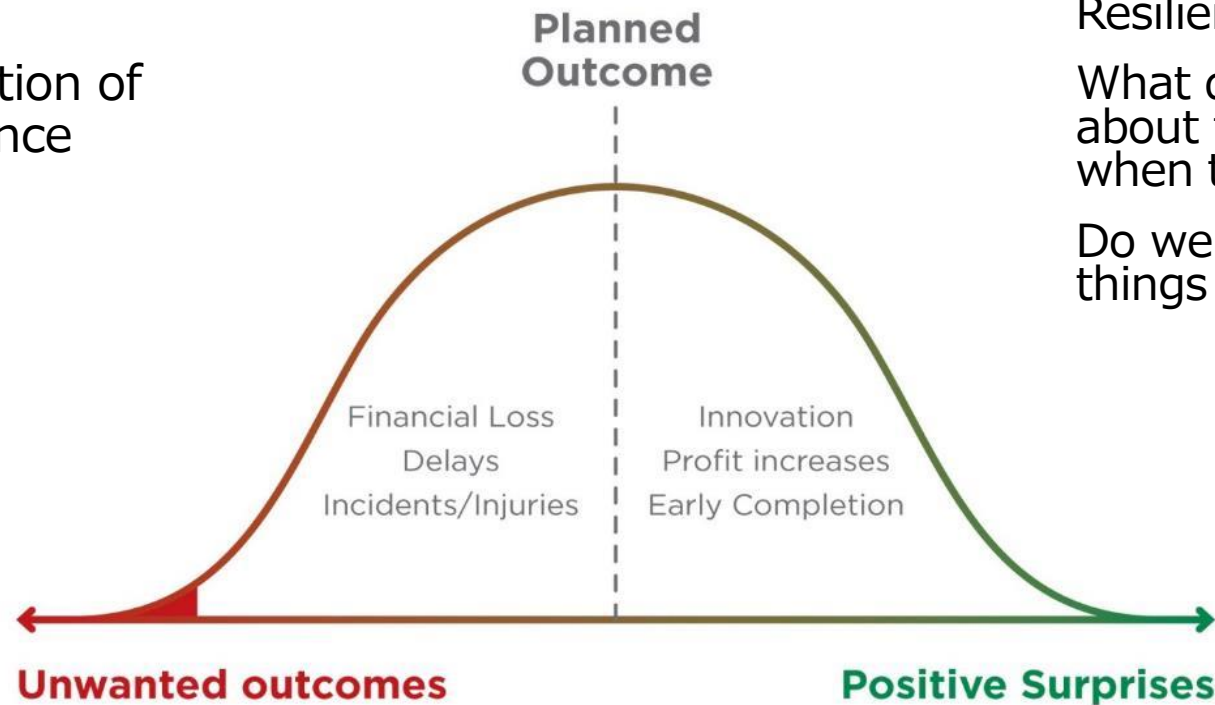
Uses a small portion of  
the total experience  
base

# Capacity

Resilience is the goal

What do we know  
about the 99,9999% of  
when things go right?

Do we understand how  
things go (right)?



## ALFA STANDS FOR **ASK & LISTEN, FIND OUT AND ACT.**

### **ASK & LISTEN**

Operational employees are invited to talk about their experiences and challenges from working in the project. The conversations are recorded, transcribed and identifying information removed.

### **FIND OUT**

A working group representing a cross-section of the organisation is engaged to identify patterns and key challenges to improve project outcomes.

### **ACT**

A Site Improvement Team develops interventions to address the identified issues to improve productivity, efficiency and safety. The interventions are developed step by step.





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# Four modes of social change

## to people

– Subjects

– Dependent

– Duty

– Obey

– Receive

– Command

– Downloads

## for people

– Consumers

– Independent

– Rights

– Choose

– Demand

– Serve

– Shares

## with people

– Co-designers

– Interdependent

– Purpose

– Participate

– Contribute

– Facilitate

– Edits

## by people

– Entrepreneurs

– Community

– Care

– Instigate

– Create

– Enable

– Uploads

*Role of people:*

*Relationship:*

*Moral driver:*

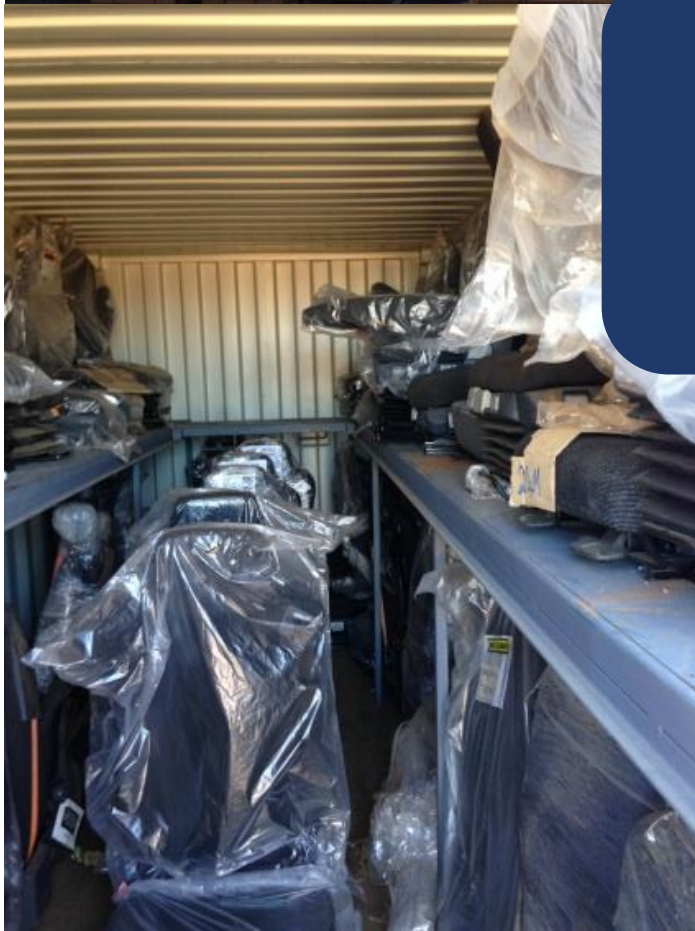
*Involvement:*

*Action:*

*Change agent role:*

*Success is:*





Yard

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# Lessons learned

1. Learn by doing
2. Start where the energy is
3. Get a sponsor, not permission
4. Start small and stay close
5. Iterate, iterate, iterate
6. Show, don't tell



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# Daily debriefs

End of shift team learning opportunities

- What worked well?
- What was difficult?
- What could have gone better?
- What can we do to improve things?

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# Lessons learned

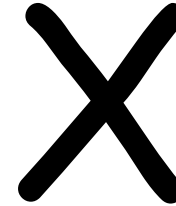
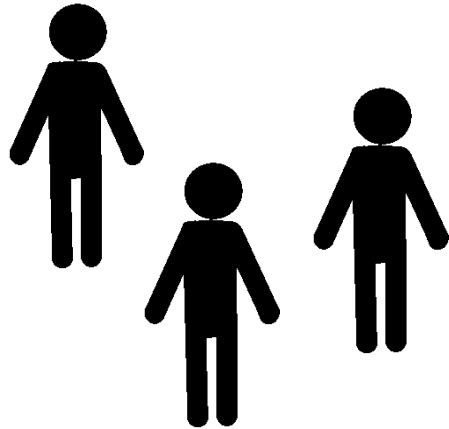
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# Improving the relationship between people and X

Human-centred innovation



(process, product,  
service, system, etc)

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# Design by

## *Hierarchy*

- External requirements
- Top-down priorities
- By the book
- Linear/Static
- What should be
- Concept

## *Value*

- Demand/need
- Flow
- Pressure
- Interactions
- What is
- Context



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# What if...

## FINDING NEW WAYS TO APPROACH A PRACTICE

### How

- Change the method
- Change the focus
- Change the type of information collected
- Change the analysis
- Change the medium
- Change the questions
- Change the purpose
- Change the direction

### Who

- Who conducts the process?
- What do participants contribute with?
- Make it interactive
- Make it collaborative
- Make it participative
- Make it transparent

### Where/when

- Focused: spread out, ongoing
- On site: removed
- Before: after (timing)
- IRL: Online?
- Room layout

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# Emergent practices and ideas

- Positive investigations
- Audit the system
- Variability indicators
- Work capacity program
- Worker-lead safe work method statements
- What safety looks like
- Collective insights
- Uncertainty assessments
- Workaround amnesty
- Collaborative drawing risk assessment



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# Invitations to Safety-as-Possible

Sources of itchiness

## **Process inefficiencies**

- Safety audits
- Risk assessments
- Incident investigations
- Health and safety committees
- Safety observations
- Inductions
- Contractor pre qualifications

## **Unexpected success**

- Success is systemically connected to the work context
  - Where do you have your best performance?
  - When do you have your best performance?
  - Who performs well?

## **New perspectives**

- Theoretical advancements
- Social insights
- Technological breakthroughs

## **Changing preferences**

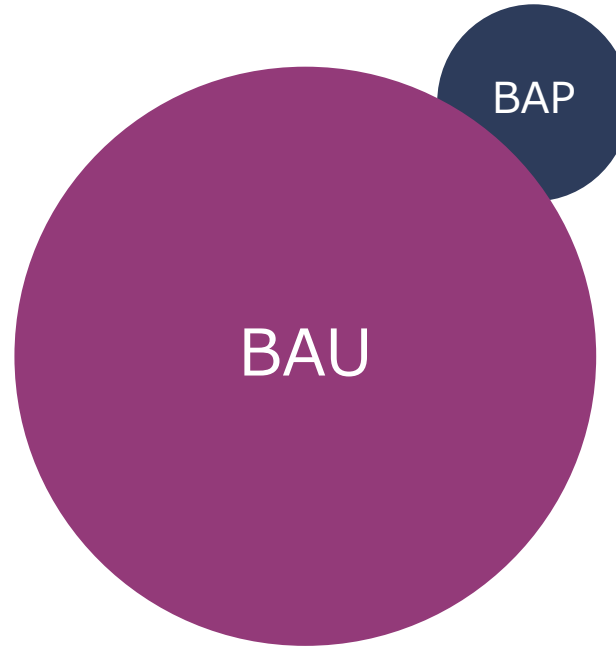
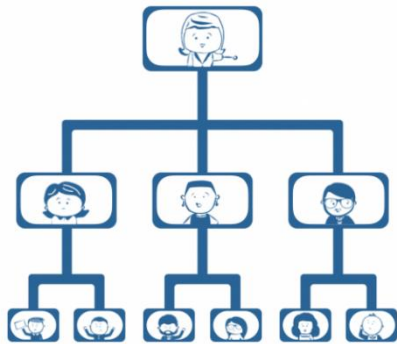
- Constraints
- Preferences
- Collaborations

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# BAU and Business-as-possible

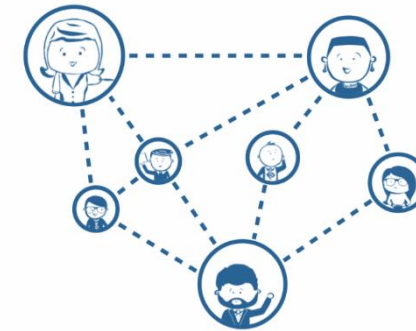
## Business as usual

- Standardised
- Well-known cause/effect
- Control/Predictability
- Specify and report



## Business as possible

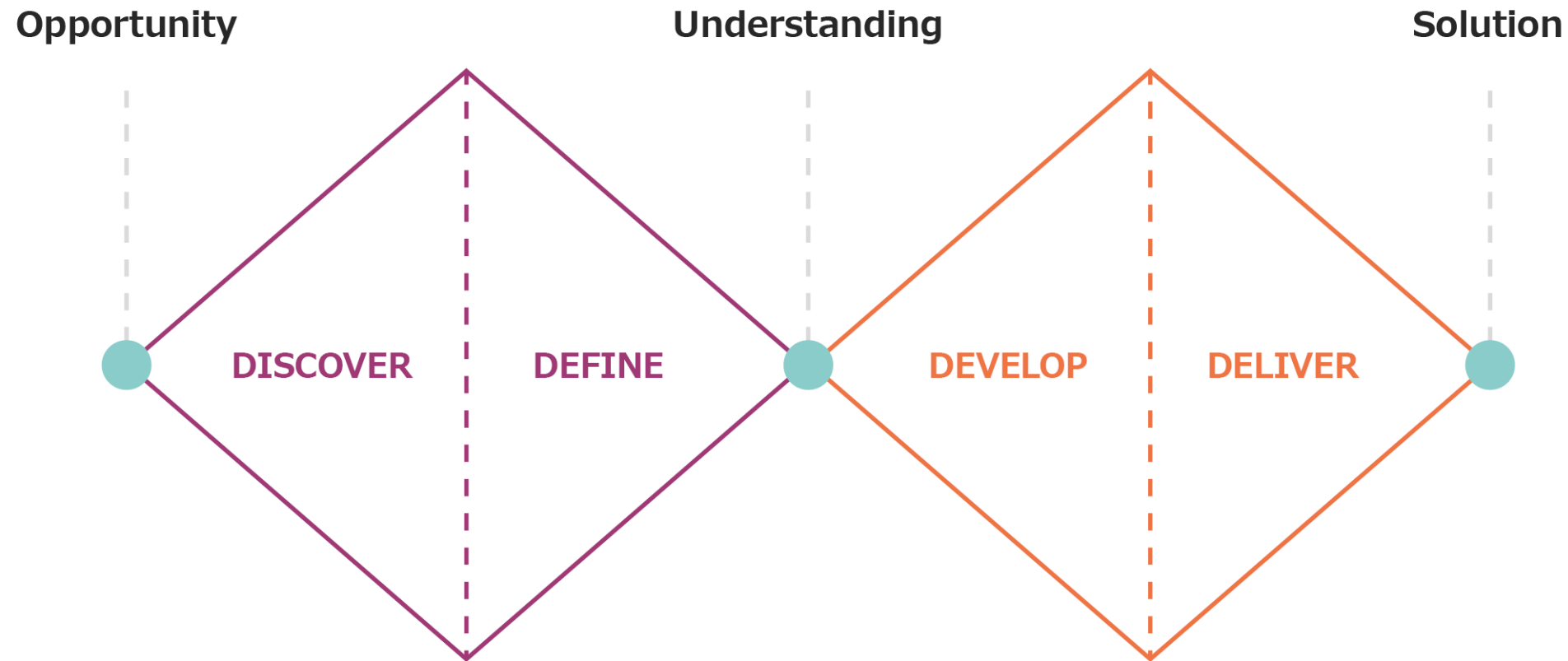
- Different
- Emerging/blurry
- Learning/Discovery
- Sense and respond



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# The innovation process

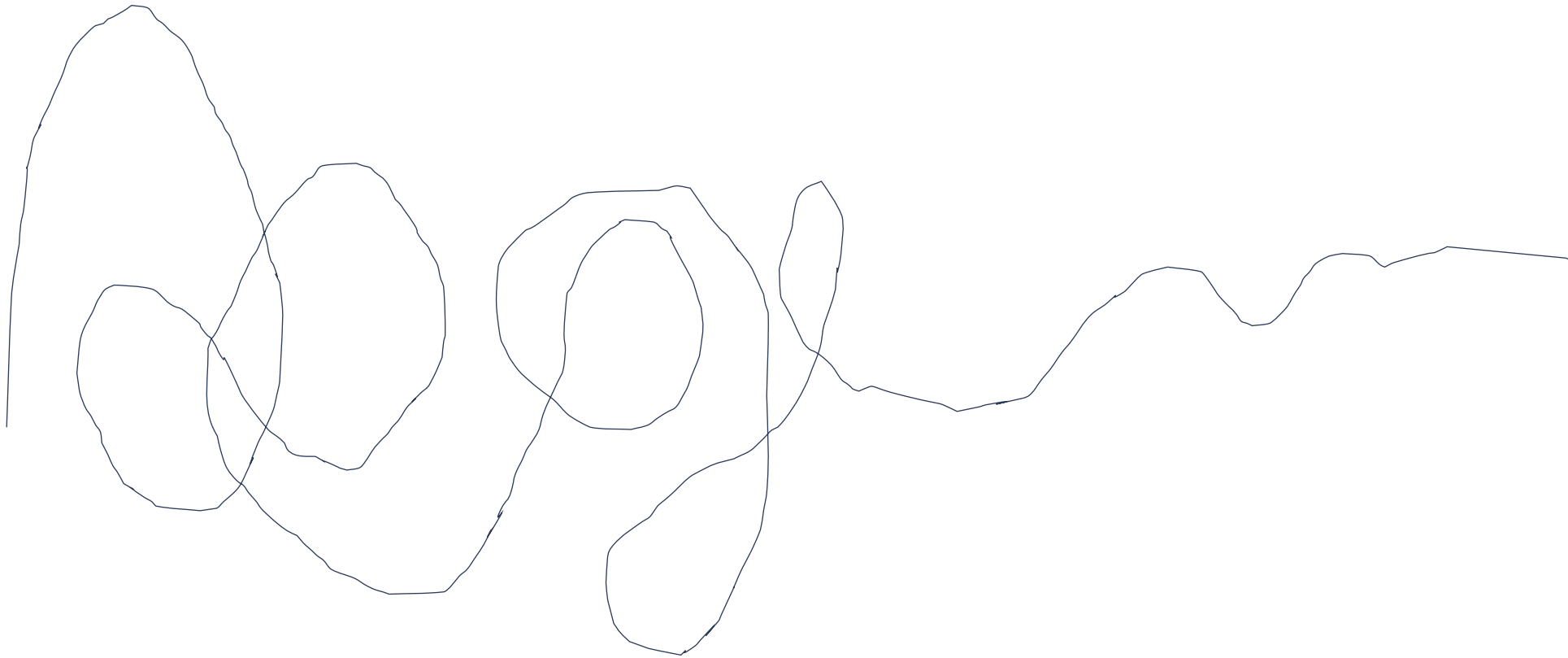
THE DOUBLE DIAMOND OF IDEA DEVELOPMENT





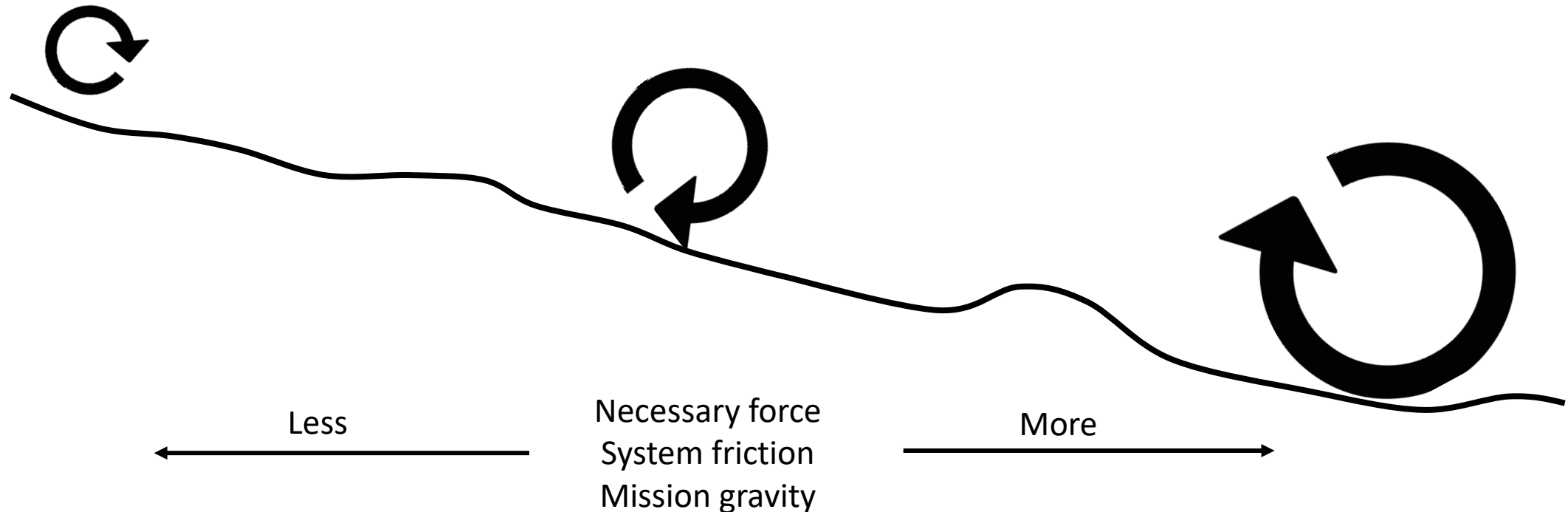
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**It's messy and iterative**

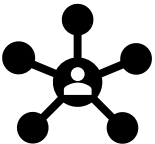


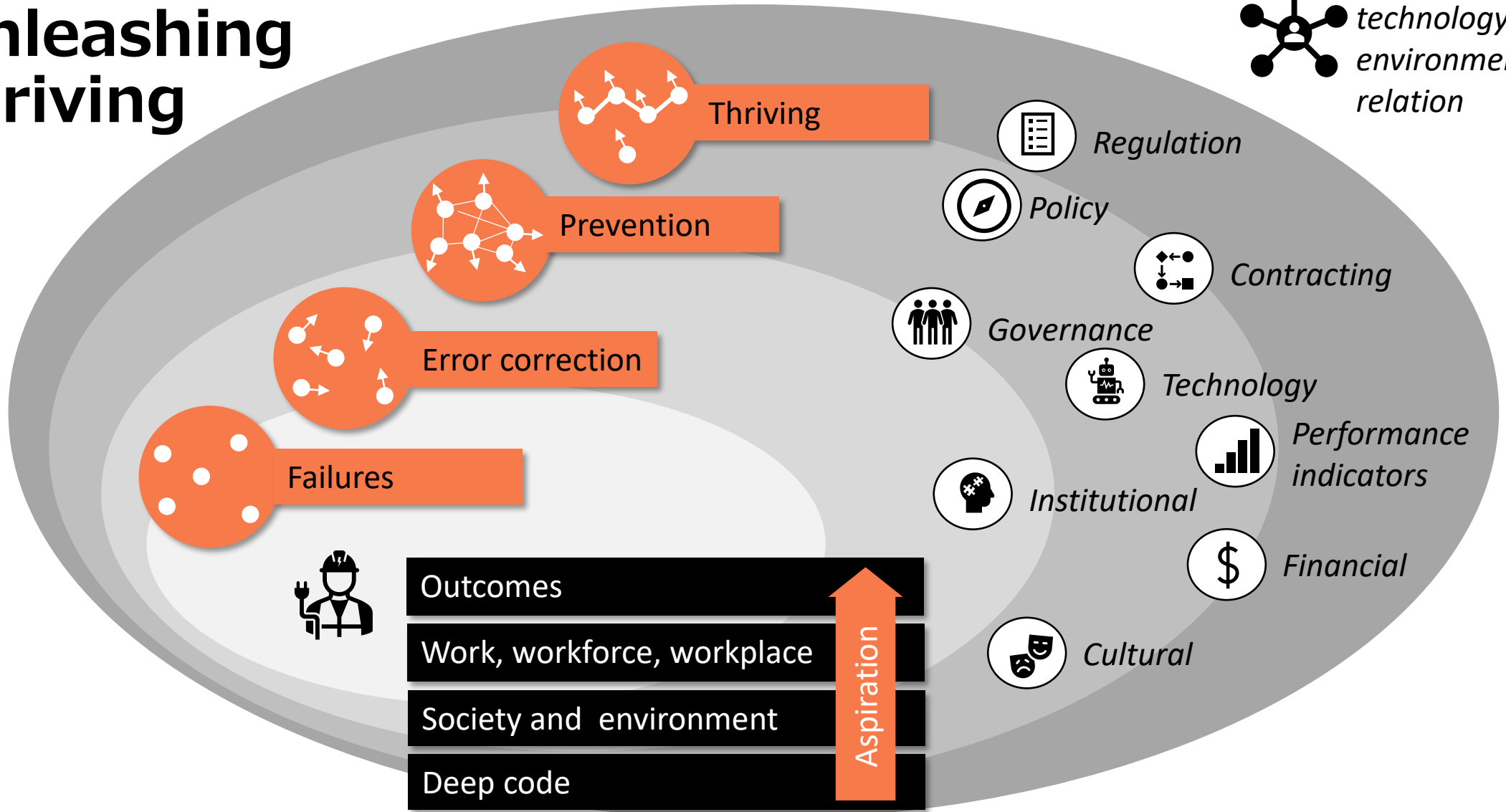
# Scaling through snowballing dynamics

- Prototypes in one place
  - Rich small data, local learning and value
  - Local politics
- Prototypes in multiple places
  - Shared learning and value, early evidence
  - Regional politics
- Prototypes in many places
  - Convincing evidence
  - National politics



# Unleashing thriving

 A new human-  
technology-  
environment  
relation



 Scale of innovation

 Strategic experiments (system acupuncture)

## OLD POWER

## NEW POWER

Currency

Current

Held by few

Made by many

Downloads

Uploads

Commands

Shares

Leader-driven

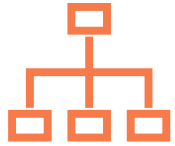
Peer-driven

Closed

Open



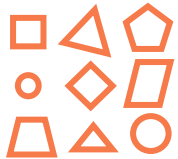
# Traditional innovation



Supply driven (focused on experts' propositions) centrally coordinated and limited



Lots of ideas funneled down to only a few ideas



Individual organisations working in competition with each other



Focussing on your idea only



- Risk of building insufficient legitimacy
- Orchestration capacity inherently limited
- Incomplete market coordination

# Mission innovation



Demand driven, emergent and open portfolio



A portfolio of ideas can generate a change movement



Organisations working together as a cohort or ecosystem



Thinking about how an idea can connect with others to shift the wider system



How do we facilitate emergence at scale over a longer period, shifting what is considered possible and desirable?

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# How to start

Innovation as done

- Start small
- Go where you are loved
- Imperfect action over inactive perfectionism
- Embrace the messiness
- Remember, the current system isn't working either



Getting you home healthy and safe.  
That's what we're working for.

**WORKSAFE**  
Mahi Haumaru Aotearoa