KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN SIA: A GLOBAL VIEW

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World Bank
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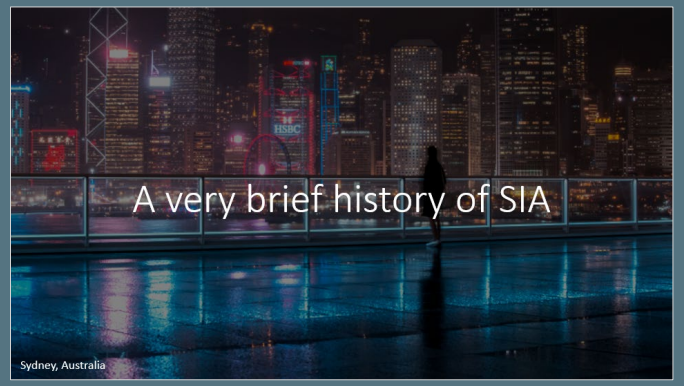
Australian National University
CRAWFORD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

Next Generation Engagement



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Interactive Table of Contents

A very brief history of SIA

Sydney, Australia

WHAT IS IMPACT ASSESSMENT?

- Information
- Consultation
- Regulation
- Evidence based
- Research
- Evaluation
- Licensing
- Representative
- Supports decision-making

WHAT IS SIA?

SIA is the process of identifying and managing the social issues of project development (incl. policies, programs, plans, projects), and includes the effective engagement of affected communities in participatory processes of identification, assessment and management of social impacts (Vanclay et al, 2015).

AIM OF SIA

SIA should provide evidence-informed guidance, incorporating community perspectives, to mitigate or prevent negative social impacts while enhancing project benefits and contributing to sustainability.

- More than compliance
- Active management, not one-off
- Balancing project costs with community benefits
- Incorporating local knowledge and concerns
- Feeding back and responding to ongoing impacts
- Securing the significant, continuing involvement of communities in determining their futures, relative to the development process.

SIA maturity

Early days

Today

Milestones

- Roots in **US EPA Act** (1969/70)
- Developed primarily in US throughout 70s-80s
- **More global** uptake: 1990s
- Growing awareness of **aligned field of CSR/ESG**: late ‘90s/early 2000s
- Introduction of **new practices and technologies**: early 2000s
- Emergence of **community-based IAs**: 2010s
- Proliferation of **socially related IA types** (e.g. gender, human rights): 2010s
- **Digitisation, improved social metrics, move towards SIA certification**: 2020s

Focus

- Initially **anticipatory i**n nature
- Highly **regulatory** based
- Emphasis on **demographics and surveys**
- Improved attention to **role of projects in development**, project **ethics**
- Growing interest in **lifecycle assessments/dynamic SIA**
- Emergence of **community-led IAs**, influence of **citizen science** approach
- Development of **niche, socially related IA practices**
- Contemporary trends towards **integration with other IA types** (e.g. environmental, health)
- **Professionalisation of SIA**

GLOBAL CONTEXT

SIA and major projects: National, transnational & multilateral

A GLOBAL BIG BUILD

US$57 Trillion infrastructure need

Massive government investments

Rise of national/transnational infrastructure initiatives

Era of cumulative impacts

Needs accelerated by climate change response

5 TRENDS INFLUENCING SIA IN APAC

ESG-INVESTMENT

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

CLIMATE ACTION

FATIGUED COMMUNITIES

ESG INVESTMENT

Sovereign ESG data

Connects directly to SDGs

Aiming to improve ESG assessment for investments

Also: Resilient and sustainable infrastructure for recovery DPF

CLIMATE ACTION

RENEWABLES

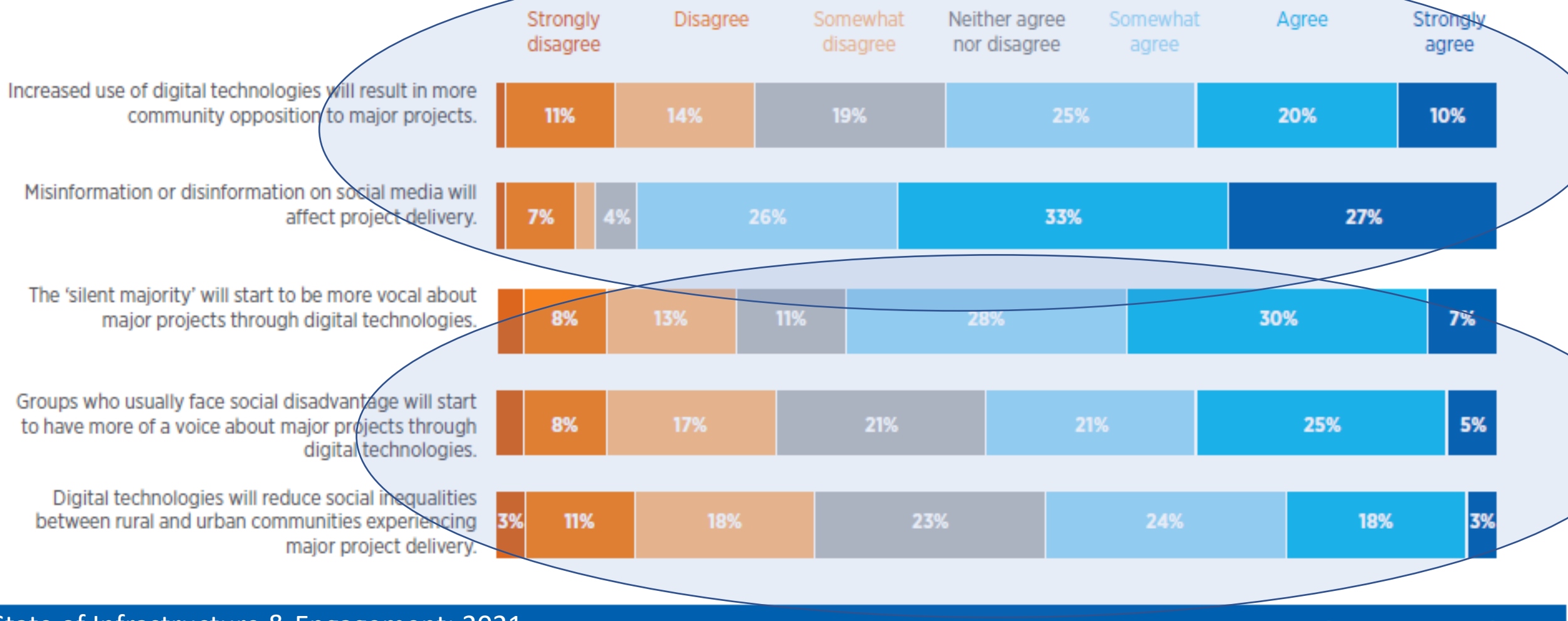
ENERGY JUSTICE

LABOUR CHANGES

MIGRATION

Relationship between digital technologies and stakeholder pressure on projects

n=85



Project delivery

Major influences of project delay

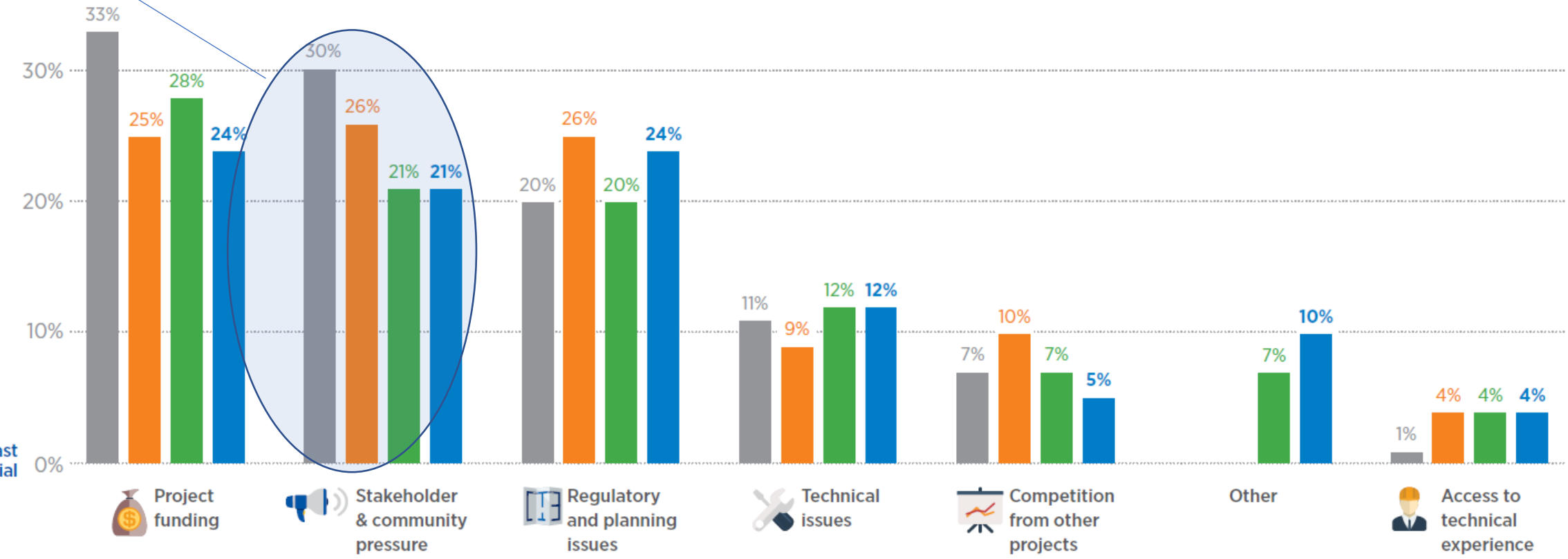
2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
n=70	n=154	n=401	n=125

Most influential

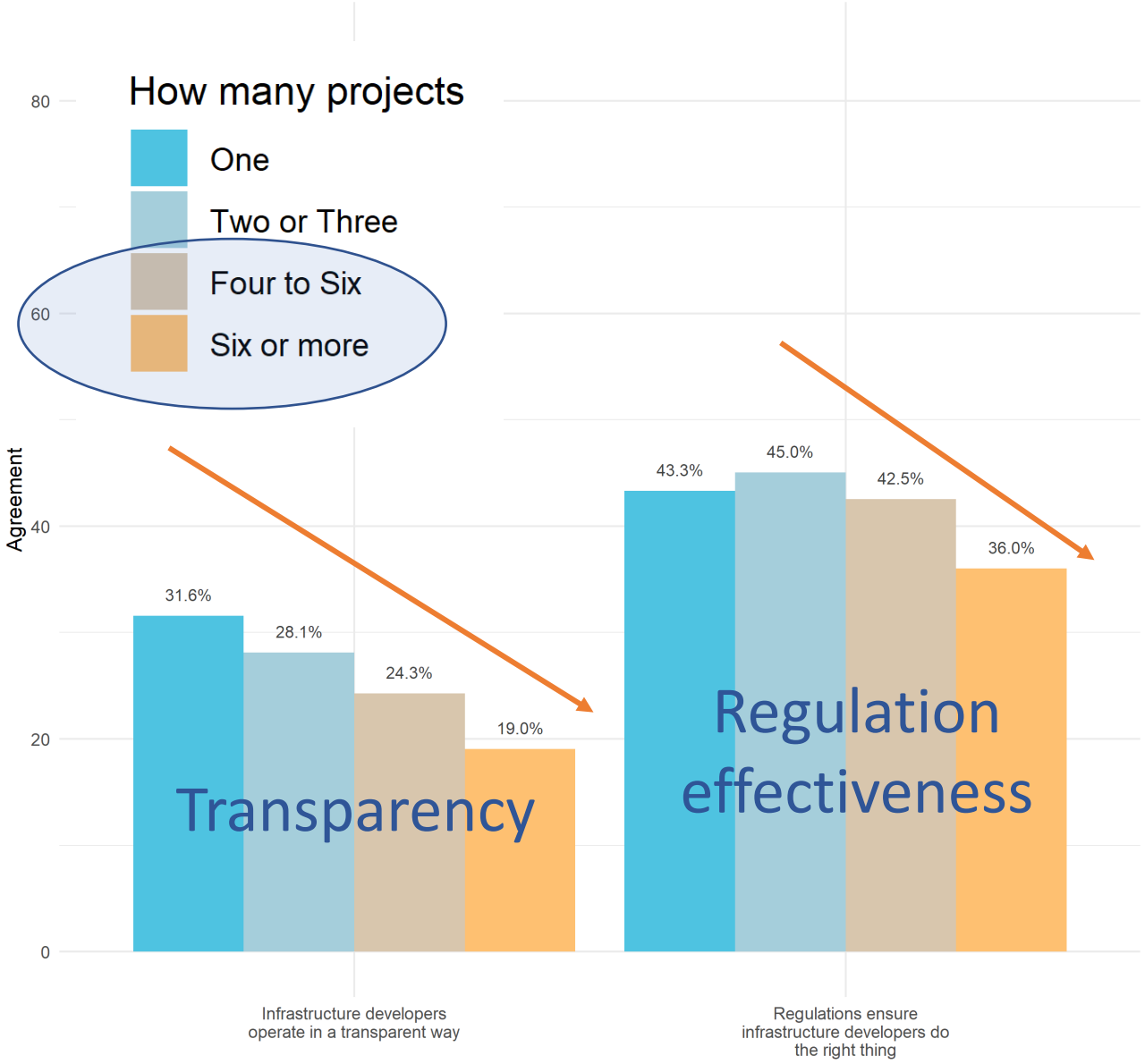
Least influential

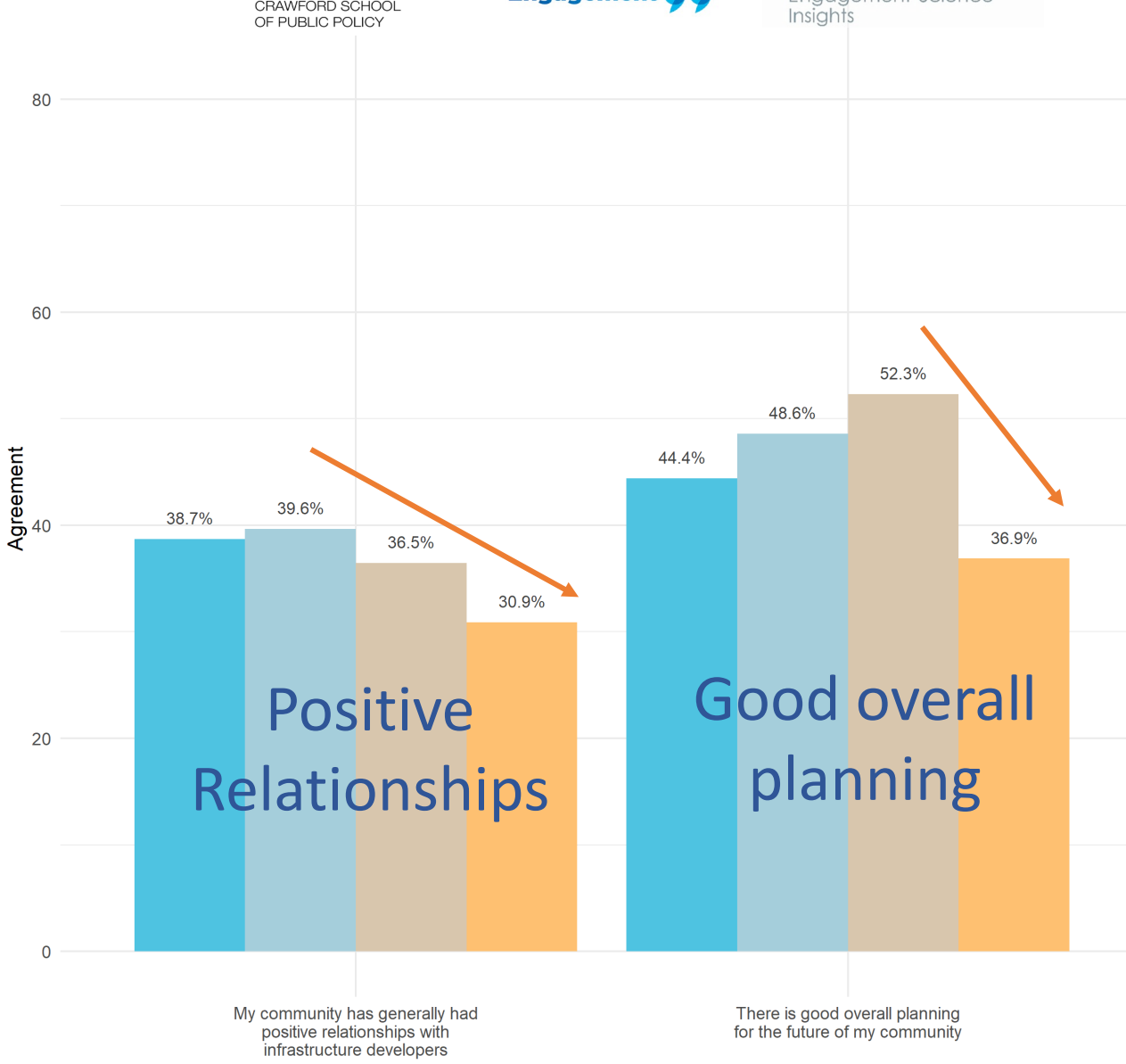
Stakeholder and community pressure

$30B in project losses



Cumulative impacts: Local Surveys results





Fatigued Communities

- Communities are experiencing continued pressure – financial, time, emotional
- Community data from Australia suggests that the impacted communities feel **unheard and overwhelmed**

3 KEY PRINCIPLES FOR SIA

Guiding world-leading SIA

SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Three Key Principles

GENUINE

ACCOUNT-ABLE

COMMU NITY-CENTRIC

SIA: Guidance for assessing and managing the social impacts of projects. IAIA, 2015.

GENUINE

Avoid ‘extractivist’ SIA

Meaningful engagement

Commitment to social impact mitigation

ACCOUNTABLE

Known and accessible:

Participation opportunities

Formal grievance mechanisms

Data sharing and report access

Local knowledge input

How feedback informs decisions

Meaningful engagement

Commitment to social impact mitigation

COMMUNITY-CENTRIC

Impacts understood from community's point of view

Cumulative impacts

Community identity

Priority community needs

SIA IN EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Perspectives from the region

SIA IN EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

CULTURAL ROOTS MATTER

POLICYMAKING IS CENTRAL

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Bice, Sara, and Myungjin Kim. "Impact assessment for desirable futures: perspectives from East Asia." Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal 38, no. 2 (2020): 167-171.

AUSTRALIA: NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES

- National infrastructure pipeline of >$290B
- Market capacity under pressure – particularly in rail

Post-election

- Political mandate for climate action
- Direction on infrastructure projects?

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

PLAN MALAYSIA

Whole-of-government approach

SIA manuals and assessments

Overarching plans link to liveability, happiness and Smart Cities

CHINA BRI & GREEN BRI

US$1Trillion infrastructure investments (total program)

Renewables

Biodiversity and ecosystem management

Green technology innovation

IAIA: Impact Assessment for BRI Projects Symposium, Dec 2020

JAPAN/WORLD BANK QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

Beyond ‘grey’ infrastructure

Six Principles, including:
Integrating social considerations in infrastructure investment

OECD BLUE DOT NETWORK

Sustainable infrastructure certification

New global initiative to
“foster the quality infrastructure investment vital to support sustainable growth and a resilient economic recovery”

THE FUTURE OF SIA
Priorities and promises

SIA FUTURES: 4 KEY ISSUES

CUMULATIVE ASSESSMENT

CROSS-BOUNDARY SIA POLICY/REGULATION

COMMUNITY-BASED ASSESSMENTS

CERTIFICATION SCHEMES

Bice, Sara. "The future of impact assessment: problems, solutions and recommendations." Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal 38, no. 2 (2020): 104-108.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Recommendations

- **Set high policy benchmarks**
- **Adopt place-based/community-centric approaches**
- **Work with and through multilateral/international bodies**

IAIA 23
KUCHING MALAYSIA

Keep the conversation going

Next Generation Engagement

Find out more about the ANU Institute for Infrastructure in Society

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