'VISIONS OF SHARING RESPONSIBILITY FOR DISASTER RESILIENCE': SHARING CONTROL
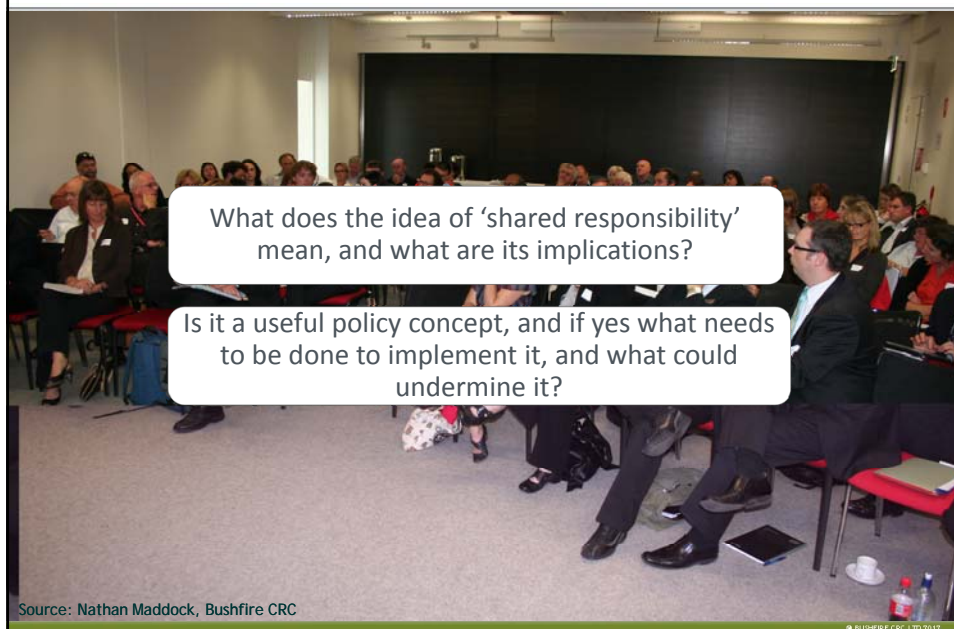
Blythe McLennan and John Handmer
Centre for Risk and Community Safety, RMIT University, Victoria

Responsibility has always been shared in Australian fire and emergency management
'Shared responsibility' is a **normative statement**
But the same statement is being used to make **different normative claims**

A STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

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What does the idea of 'shared responsibility' mean, and what are its implications?

Is it a useful policy concept, and if yes what needs to be done to implement it, and what could undermine it?

Source: Nathan Maddock, Bushfire CRC

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WHO SPOKE?

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1) Expectations and perspectives

❑ **Richard Thornton,** Bushfire CRC

❑ **Craig Lapsley,** Fire Services Commissioner, Victoria

❑ **Anne Leadbeater,** Kinglake community & Murrindindi Shire Council

2) Perspectives from current research

❑ **Blythe McLennan,** Centre for Risk & Community Safety, RMIT University

❑ **Michael Eburn,** Fenner School of Environment & Society, ANU

❑ **Barbara Norman,** Urban & Regional Planning, Uni of Canberra

❑ **Leo Dobes,** Crawford School of Economics & Government, ANU

3) Panel – Community/local perspectives

❑ **Julie Molloy,** Volunteering Queensland

❑ **Vanessa Fabre,** Brisbane City Council

❑ **Sam Johnson,** Student Volunteer Army, Christchurch

❑ **Kate Lawrence,** Macedon community & National Rural Women's Coalition

❑ **John Richardson,** Australian Red Cross

❑ **Briony Towers,** Centre for Risk & Community Safety, RMIT University

❑ **Malcolm and Jane Calder,** Steels Creek community

4) Panel – Government perspectives

Chris Collett, Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department

Mark Duckworth, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Victoria

Terry Hayes, Country Fire Authority, Victoria

Jeanette Pope, Department of Planning and Community Development, Victoria

Steve Opper, NSW SES

Russell Rees, Municipal Association of Victoria

5) Open discussion and panel – Key issues for the future

Noreen Krusel, Bushfire CRC

John Schauble, Office of the Fire Services Commissioner

Chris Collett, Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department

Kate Lawrence, Macedon community & National Rural Women's Coalition

Anne Leadbeater, Kinglake community & Murrindindi Shire Council

Barbara Norman, Urban and Regional Planning, Uni of Canberra

Peter Stanley, Centre for Historical Research, National Museum of Australia

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WHO WAS THERE?

Source: Nathan Maddock, Bushfire CRC

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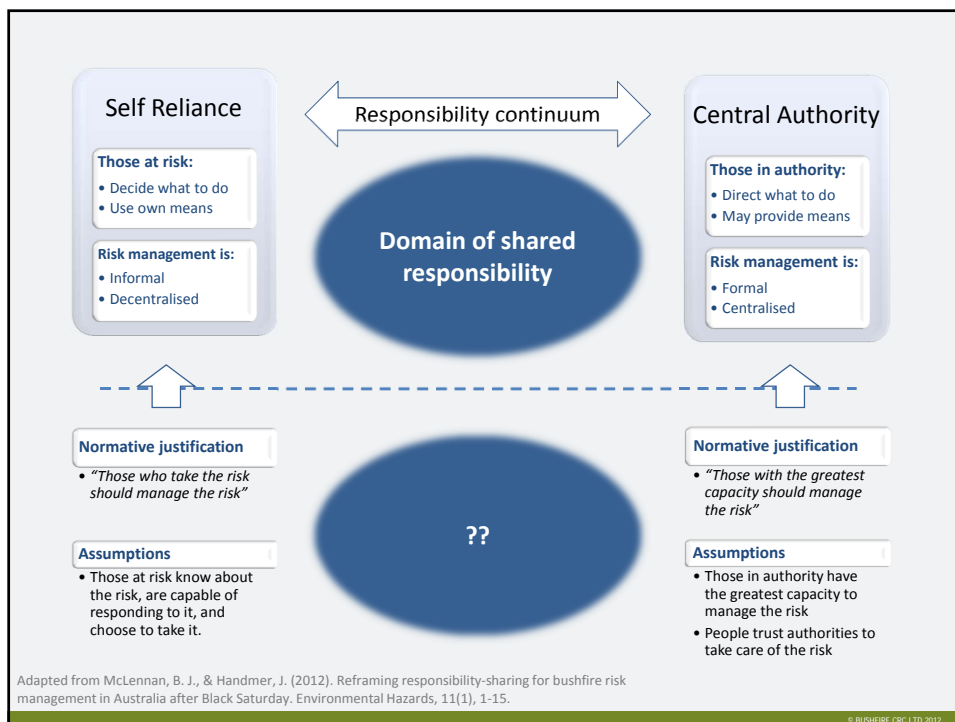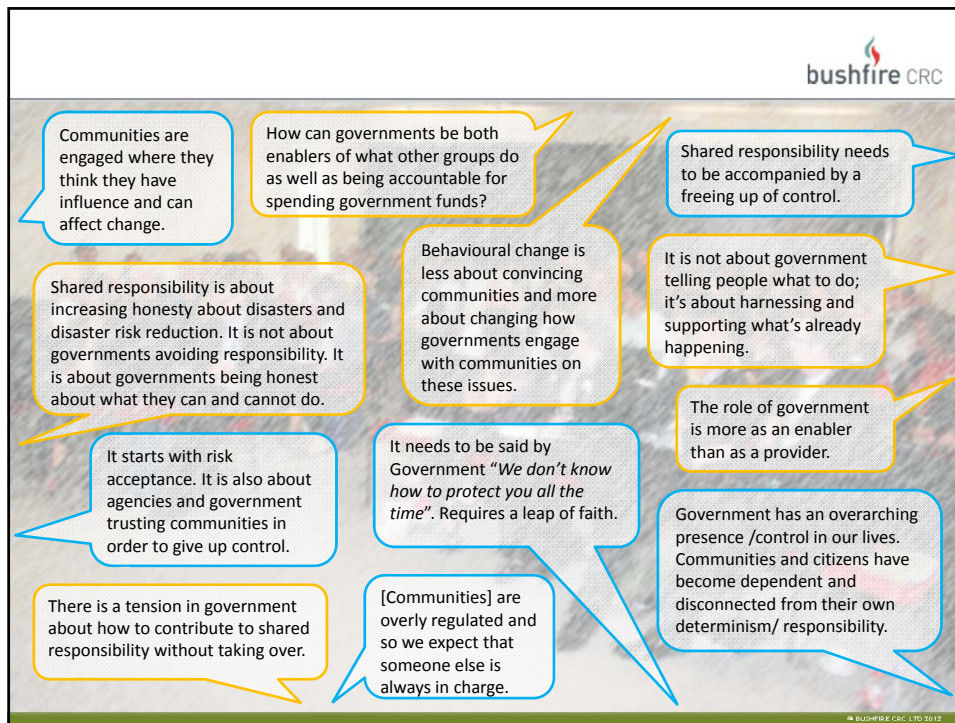## WHAT DID THEY TALK ABOUT?

Many things but two stood out...

Communicating limits to government capacity

Communities having greater control

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What exactly is responsibility?

Risk and responsibility both require agency

Responsibility implies choice, control and capacity

Adapted from McLennan, B. J., & Handmer, J. (2012). Reframing responsibility-sharing for bushfire risk management in Australia after Black Saturday. Environmental Hazards, 11(1), 1-15.

IMPLICATIONS

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o Recognise sharing responsibility is also sharing control.
  o Control over decision-making (choice/agency)
  o Control in acting (capacity)

o Unpack assumptions about control underpinning normative claims (others' and our own)

o Consider both push and pull approaches to encouraging community responsibility
  o Push – persuasion, regulation
  o Pull – making space by relinquishing control, building capacity

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CONSIDERATIONS

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o What about:
  o Risk acceptance?
  o Government accountability?
  o Political factors?
  o Facing the next inquiry?
  o Constraints on community capacity?
  o Control in the context of uncertainty?

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LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCES ELSEWHERE

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For a written account of the workshop 'google': **"visions of sharing" "bushfire crc"**