

Annual Conference 2026

October 28 - 29, 2026

Graphic Recordings

Engagement Institute

sketch GROUP


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CAPTURED WITH ♥ ON TURRBAL & YUGGERA LAND
@SKETCHGRP
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WE NEED TO HAVE TOUGH CONVERSATIONS
?♥
ENGAGEMENT
BUILDING BRIDGES
Welcome TO MEANJIN
MAROOCHY
BARINGA BARAMBAH
CONNECTING TO A PLACE THAT SUSTAINS US
PROTECTING
nurturing
WE EACH HAVE A LENS THROUGH WHICH WE SEE THE WORLD
PROPERTY
OWNERSHIP
REWARDING HARD WORK


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WE ARE ALL COOPER AT TIMES
WE ARE ALL LEADERS IN OUR FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES, AND OUR ROLES
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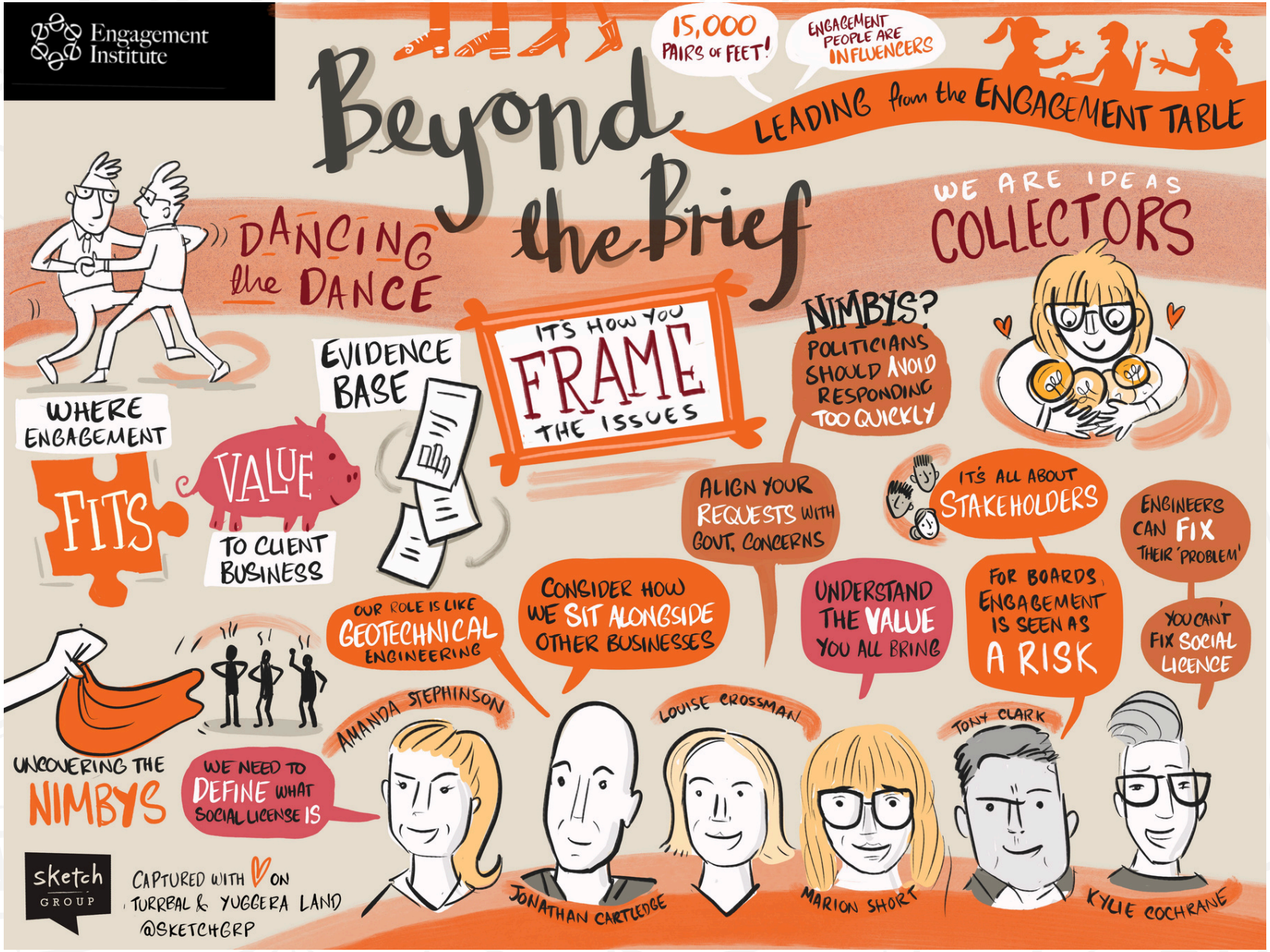
COMING A CROPPER
COOPER
Keynote
DR KRISTIN FERGUSON A.M.
Leading with Impact:
The Art of Modern Leadership
LEADERSHIP IS SIMPLY A SERIES OF MOMENTS
GOOD LEADERS KNOW WHAT IS NEEDED & WHEN
BE AWARE!
BLIND SPOTS...
BIAS / NEED TO WIN
FEEDBACK
UNDERSTAND YOUR TRIGGERS
HEAD
HEART
CURIOSITY IS A NO-BRAINER
PERSPECTIVE
THE MOST POWERFUL ATTRIBUTE
READING the ROOM
EMPATHY
I DON'T KNOW YET...
BUT
FEAR
STATUS
BUREAUCRACY IS KRYPTONITE
SELF-AWARENESS
CONSIDER YOUR WORD : WISDOM RADIO
3
HONEST
CURIOUS
FLEXIBLE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Beyond the Brief
15,000 PAIRS OF FEET!
ENGAGEMENT PEOPLE ARE INFLUENCERS
LEADING from the ENGAGEMENT TABLE
DANCING the DANCE
WE ARE IDEAS COLLECTORS
IT'S HOW YOU FRAME THE ISSUES
NIMBYS?
POLITICIANS SHOULD AVOID RESPONDING TOO QUICKLY
EVIDENCE BASE
WHERE ENGAGEMENT FITS
VALUE TO CLIENT BUSINESS
ALIGN YOUR REQUESTS WITH GOVT. CONCERNS
IT'S ALL ABOUT STAKEHOLDERS
ENGINEERS CAN FIX THEIR 'PROBLEM'
OUR ROLE IS LIKE GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING
CONSIDER HOW WE SIT ALONGSIDE OTHER BUSINESSES
UNDERSTAND THE VALUE YOU ALL BRING
FOR BOARDS, ENGAGEMENT IS SEEN AS A RISK
YOU CAN'T FIX SOCIAL LICENCE
UNCOVERING THE NIMBYS
WE NEED TO DEFINE WHAT SOCIAL LICENSE IS
AMANDA STEPHINSON
JONATHAN CARTLEDGE
LOUISE CROSSMAN
MARION SHORT
TONY CLARK
KYLIE COCHRANE
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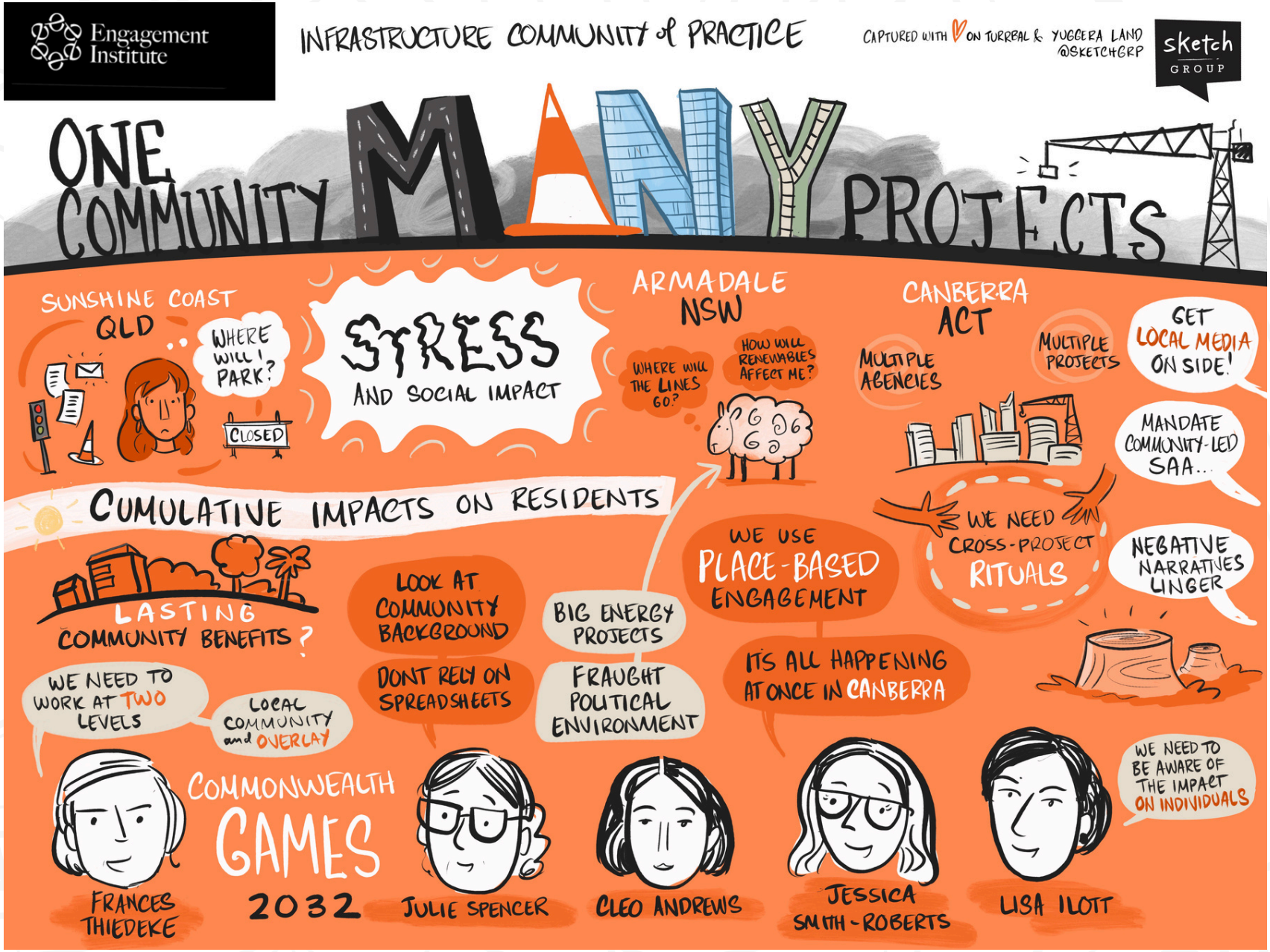
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INFRASTRUCTURE COMMUNITY of PRACTICE
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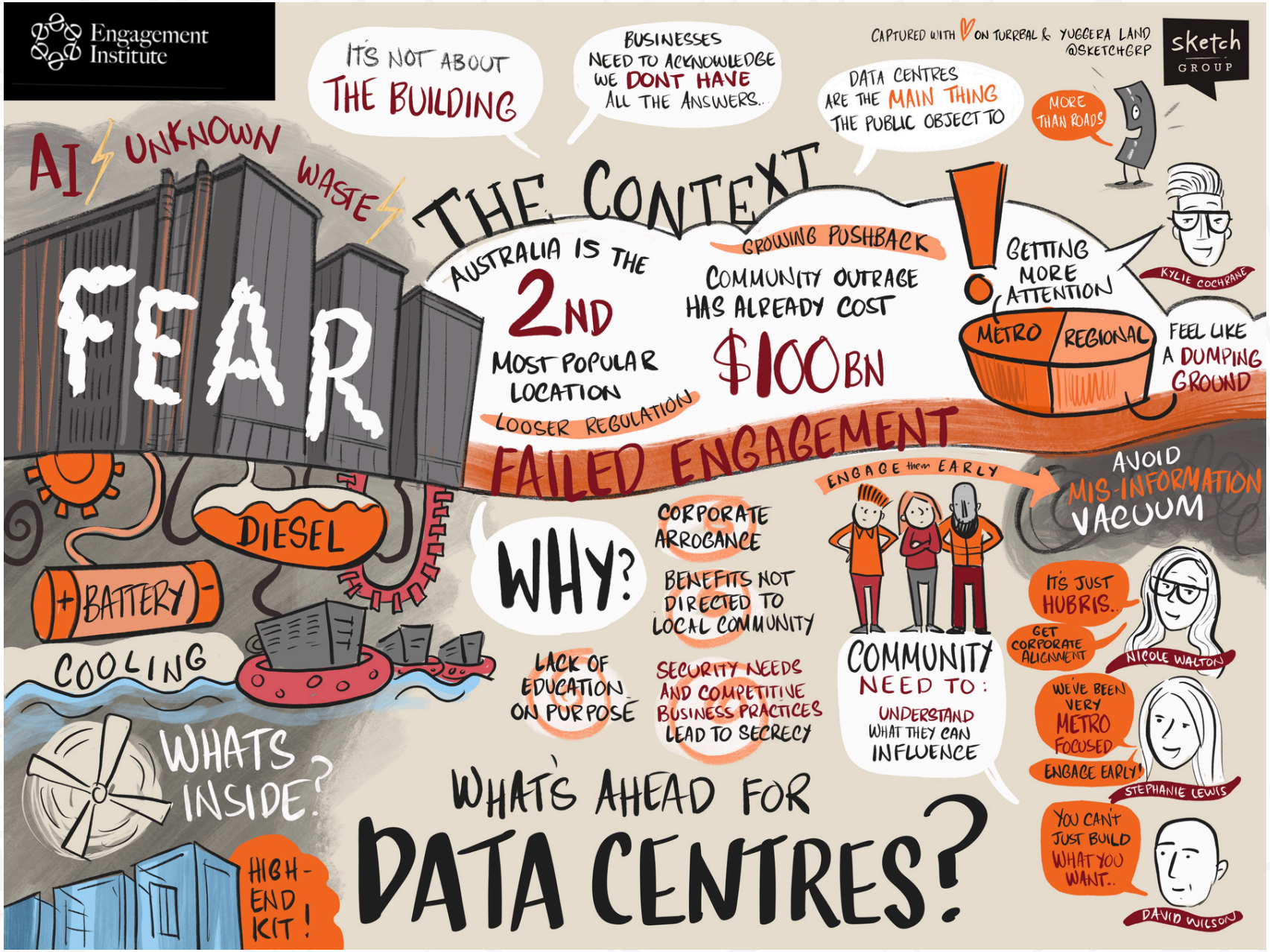
ONE COMMUNITY MANY PROJECTS
SUNSHINE COAST QLD
WHERE WILL I PARK?
CLOSED
STRESS AND SOCIAL IMPACT
ARMADALE NSW
WHERE WILL THE LINES GO?
HOW WILL RENEWABLES AFFECT ME?
CANBERRA ACT
MULTIPLE AGENCIES
MULTIPLE PROJECTS
GET LOCAL MEDIA ON SIDE!
MANDATE COMMUNITY-LED SAA...
CUMULATIVE IMPACTS ON RESIDENTS
LASTING COMMUNITY BENEFITS?
WE NEED TO WORK AT TWO LEVELS
LOCAL COMMUNITY and OVERLAY
LOOK AT COMMUNITY BACKGROUND
DONT RELY ON SPREADSHEETS
BIG ENERGY PROJECTS
FRAUGHT POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT
WE USE PLACE-BASED ENGAGEMENT
IT'S ALL HAPPENING AT ONCE IN CANBERRA
WE NEED CROSS-PROJECT RITUALS
NEGATIVE NARRATIVES LINGER
WE NEED TO BE AWARE OF THE IMPACT ON INDIVIDUALS
COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2032
FRANCES THIEDEKE
JULIE SPENCER
CLEO ANDREWS
JESSICA SMITH-ROBERTS
LISA ILOTT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IT'S NOT ABOUT THE BUILDING
BUSINESSES NEED TO ACKNOWLEDGE WE DONT HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS..
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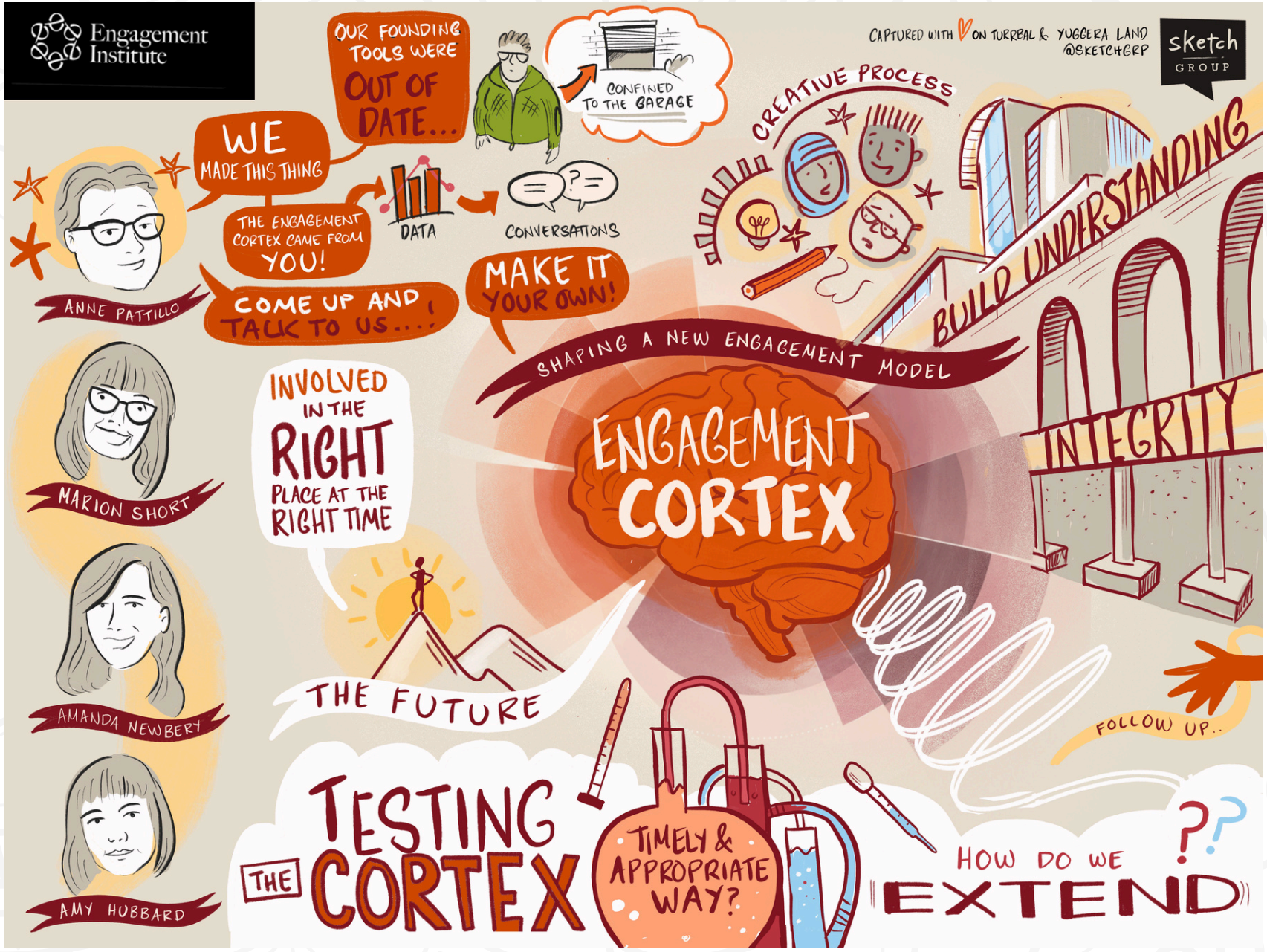
DATA CENTRES ARE THE MAIN THING THE PUBLIC OBJECT TO
MORE THAN ROADS
AI
UNKNOWN
WASTE
FEAR
THE CONTEXT
AUSTRALIA IS THE 2ND MOST POPULAR LOCATION
LOOSER REGULATION
GROWING PUSHBACK
COMMUNITY OUTRAGE HAS ALREADY COST $100BN
GETTING MORE ATTENTION
METRO
REGIONAL
KYLIE COCHRANE
FEEL LIKE A DUMPING GROUND
FAILED ENGAGEMENT
DIESEL
BATTERY
COOLING
WHY?
CORPORATE ARROGANCE
BENEFITS NOT DIRECTED TO LOCAL COMMUNITY
LACK OF EDUCATION ON PURPOSE
SECURITY NEEDS AND COMPETITIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES LEAD TO SECRECY
ENGAGE them EARLY
AVOID MIS-INFORMATION VACUUM
COMMUNITY NEED TO: UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY CAN INFLUENCE
IT'S JUST HUBRIS..
GET CORPORATE ALIGNMENT
NICOLE WALTON
WE'VE BEEN VERY METRO FOCUSED
ENGAGE EARLY!
STEPHANIE LEWIS
YOU CAN'T JUST BUILD WHAT YOU WANT..
DAVID WILSON
WHATS INSIDE?
HIGH-END KIT!
WHAT'S AHEAD FOR DATA CENTRES?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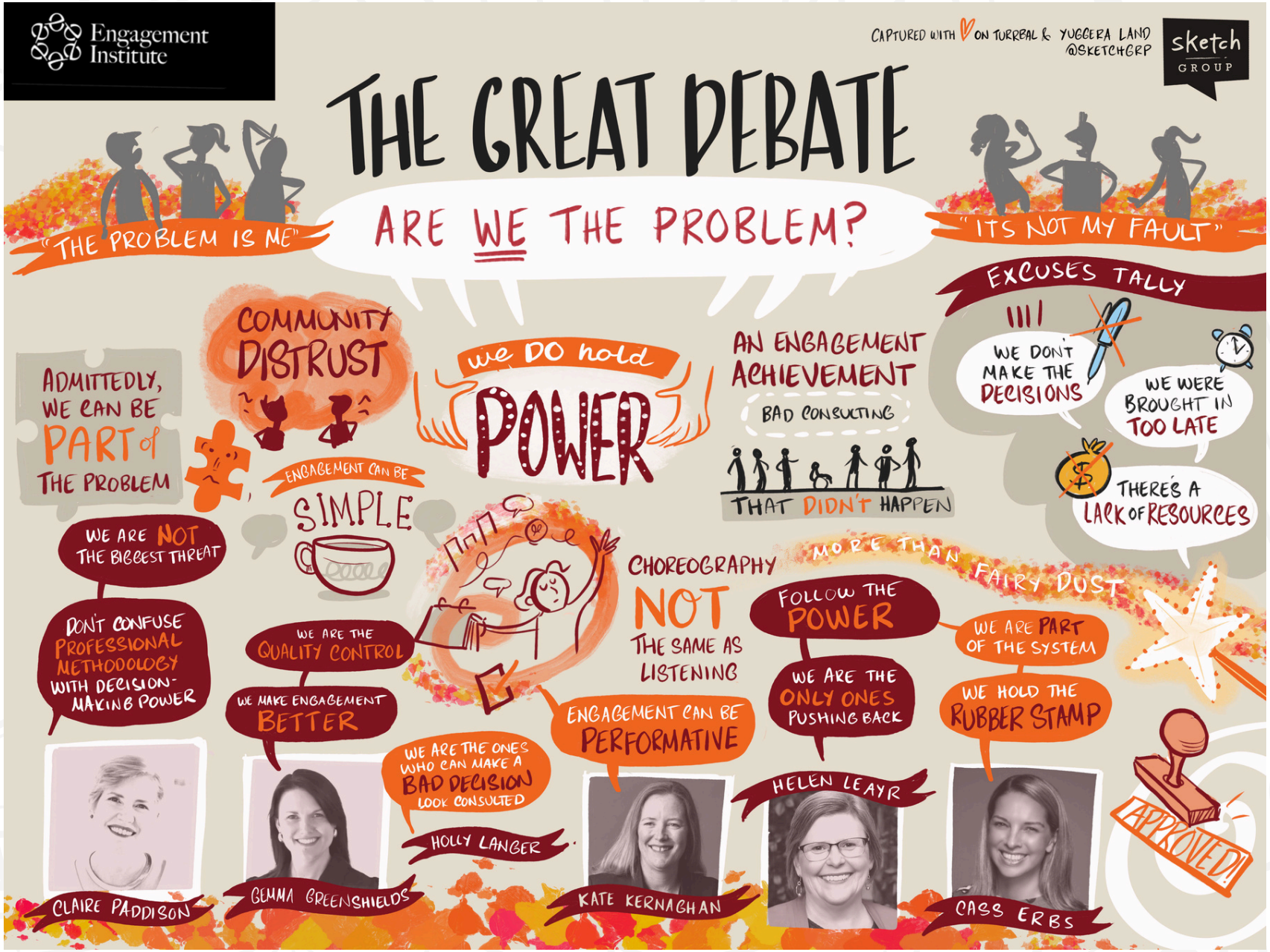
OUR FOUNDING TOOLS WERE OUT OF DATE...
CONFINED TO THE GARAGE
WE MADE THIS THING
THE ENGAGEMENT CORTEX CAME FROM YOU!
DATA
CONVERSATIONS
CREATIVE PROCESS
BUILD UNDERSTANDING
ANNE PATTILLO
COME UP AND TALK TO US...!
MAKE IT YOUR OWN!
SHAPING A NEW ENGAGEMENT MODEL
INTEGRITY
ENGAGEMENT CORTEX
INVOLVED IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME
MARION SHORT
THE FUTURE
FOLLOW UP..
AMANDA NEWBERY
TESTING THE CORTEX
TIMELY & APPROPRIATE WAY?
HOW DO WE EXTEND ??
AMY HUBBARD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THE GREAT DEBATE
ARE WE THE PROBLEM?
"THE PROBLEM IS ME"
"ITS NOT MY FAULT"
EXCUSES TALLY
WE DON'T MAKE THE DECISIONS
WE WERE BROUGHT IN TOO LATE
THERE'S A LACK OF RESOURCES
COMMUNITY DISTRUST
ADMITTEDLY, WE CAN BE PART of THE PROBLEM
we DO hold POWER
AN ENGAGEMENT ACHIEVEMENT
BAD CONSULTING
THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN
ENGAGEMENT CAN BE SIMPLE
WE ARE NOT THE BIGGEST THREAT
DON'T CONFUSE PROFESSIONAL METHODOLOGY WITH DECISION-MAKING POWER
WE ARE THE QUALITY CONTROL
WE MAKE ENGAGEMENT BETTER
CHOREOGRAPHY NOT THE SAME AS LISTENING
MORE THAN FAIRY DUST
FOLLOW THE POWER
WE ARE PART OF THE SYSTEM
WE ARE THE ONLY ONES PUSHING BACK
WE HOLD THE RUBBER STAMP
ENGAGEMENT CAN BE PERFORMATIVE
WE ARE THE ONES WHO CAN MAKE A BAD DECISION LOOK CONSULTED
HOLLY LANGER
HELEN LEAYR
APPROVED!
CLAIRE PADDISON
GEMMA GREENSHIELDS
KATE KERNAGHAN
CASS ERBS


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PLANNING
FOR COMMUNITY BENEFIT
QUEENSLAND'S REFORMS IN PRACTICE
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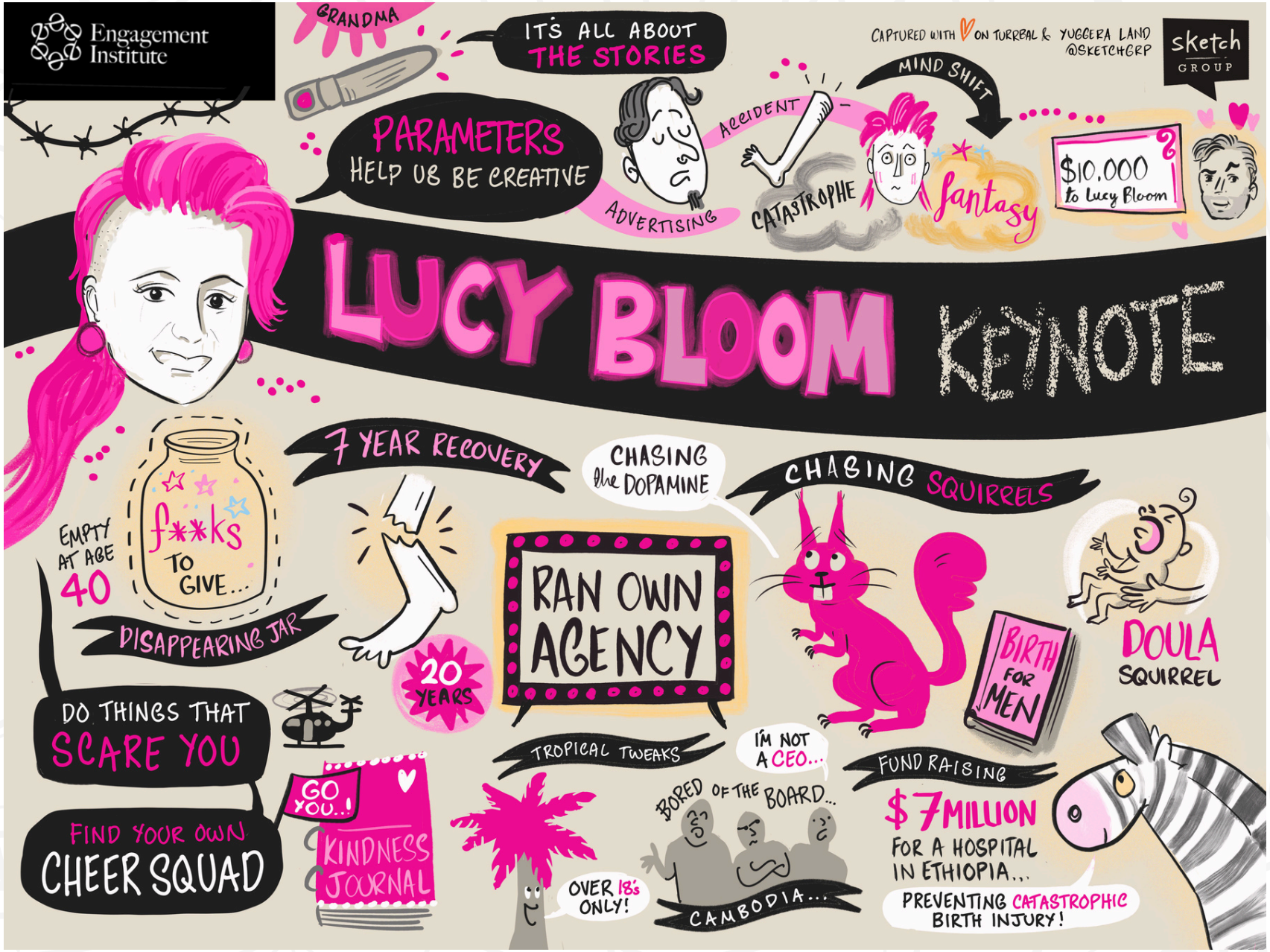
ALISTAIR KINGSTON
REFORM!
ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS
GETTING OVER LINE
LOCAL GOVT EMPOWERED
A RICH RESOURCE!
SOCIAL IMPACT TOOLKIT
ENGAGING EARLY
WE CAN BE DESPERATE FOR SPEED
BUT WE NEED AUTHENTIC COMMUNICATION
PETA HARWOOD
EACH LOCAL COMMUNITY IS VERY DIFFERENT
COUNCIL SHOPPING?
SOME ARE MORE OPEN!
WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO DO MORE THAN SIGN OFF..
THE PUBLIC EXPECT HUMANS TO ASSESS SUBMISSIONS
AMANDA NEWBERY
AI USE CAN PRESENT A LEARNING OPPORTUNITY
GENUINE OPINIONS
A.I. SUPPORTED SUBMISSIONS
FAT GRANT
BANG!
GRIND
CLUNK!
FOCUS ON IMPACTS OUTCOME
SOCIAL IMPACT IS ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF CHANGE on PEOPLE
WE SHOULDN'T NEED TO BUY COMMUNITY ACCEPTANCE..
THERE'S DANGER IN FOCUSING ON COMPLIANCE..
REBECCA ROEBUCK
PLANNERS ARE OFTEN NOT OPEN TO EARLY ENGAGEMENT
NOTHING BEATS HAVING CONVERSATIONS
LEISA PROWSE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GRANDMA
IT'S ALL ABOUT THE STORIES
PARAMETERS HELP US BE CREATIVE
ADVERTISING
ACCIDENT
CATASTROPHE
MIND SHIFT
fantasy
$10,000 to Lucy Bloom
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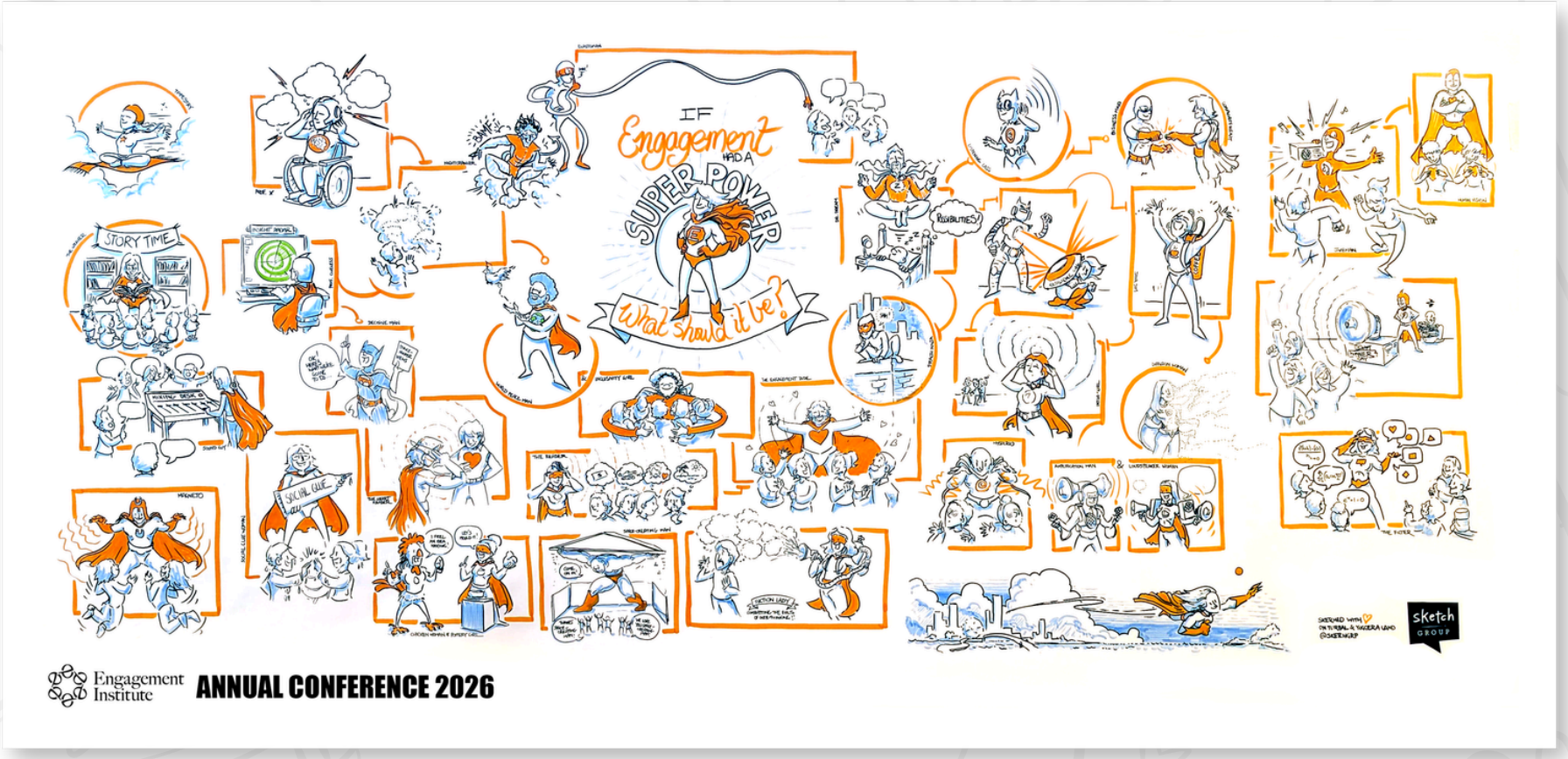
LUCY BLOOM KEYNOTE
EMPTY AT AGE 40
f**ks TO GIVE...
DISAPPEARING JAR
7 YEAR RECOVERY
20 YEARS
CHASING the DOPAMINE
RAN OWN AGENCY
CHASING SQUIRRELS
BIRTH FOR MEN
DOULA SQUIRREL
DO THINGS THAT SCARE YOU
FIND YOUR OWN CHEER SQUAD
GO YOU..!
KINDNESS JOURNAL
TROPICAL TWEAKS
OVER 18's ONLY!
I'M NOT A CEO...
BORED OF THE BOARD..
CAMBODIA...
FUND RAISING
$7MILLION FOR A HOSPITAL IN ETHIOPIA...
PREVENTING CATASTROPHIC BIRTH INJURY!


IF
Engagement
WAS A
SUPER POWER
What should it be?
STORY TIME
SOCIAL CLUB
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Here's how we help organisations engage their staff and communities.



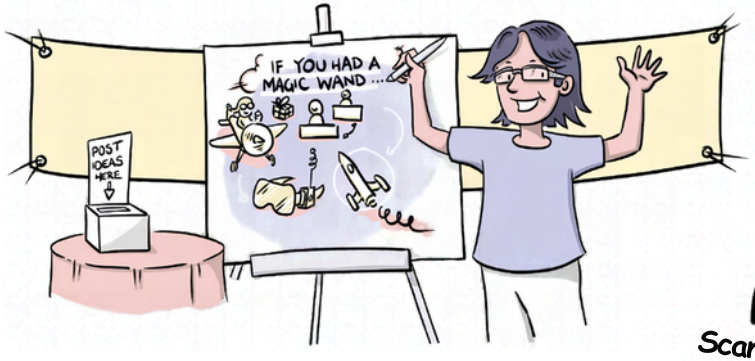
VideoSketch™
Animated videos that simplify complex messages.



LiveSketch™
Discussions captured live, for all to see.



IdeaSketch™
Every contribution, visible and valued.



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"Loved the friendly, efficient and responsive team. It was the most positive seamless experience!"

- Banyule City Council



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