



Aligning social investment with clean energy
infrastructure:

The Deep Place Approach

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Our vision:

That all people have appropriate and affordable shelter and are engaged in sustainable communities

- Compass is a community based not for profit community housing provider
- We own or manage over 4,200 social housing dwellings
- We started in Newcastle and now operate throughout central NSW and in Queensland
- We are a **Silver** member of the NSW Government's Sustainability Advantage Program – **Going for Gold**



Defining Poverty



- Absolute or Relative
- International definition:
 - where household income is less than 60% of the national average.
 - Australian Average Income = \$960 per week for couple with children under 5
 - Australian Poverty level = \$570 per week
- That was 22% of Australian children living in poor families (2013)



The lived experience of poverty

- Stigma (personal and communal)
- Invisibility (lack of official interest/response)
- Poor public investment/services
- Financial exclusion
- Digital exclusion
- Poor health performance
- Poor educational performance



The behaviours of poverty

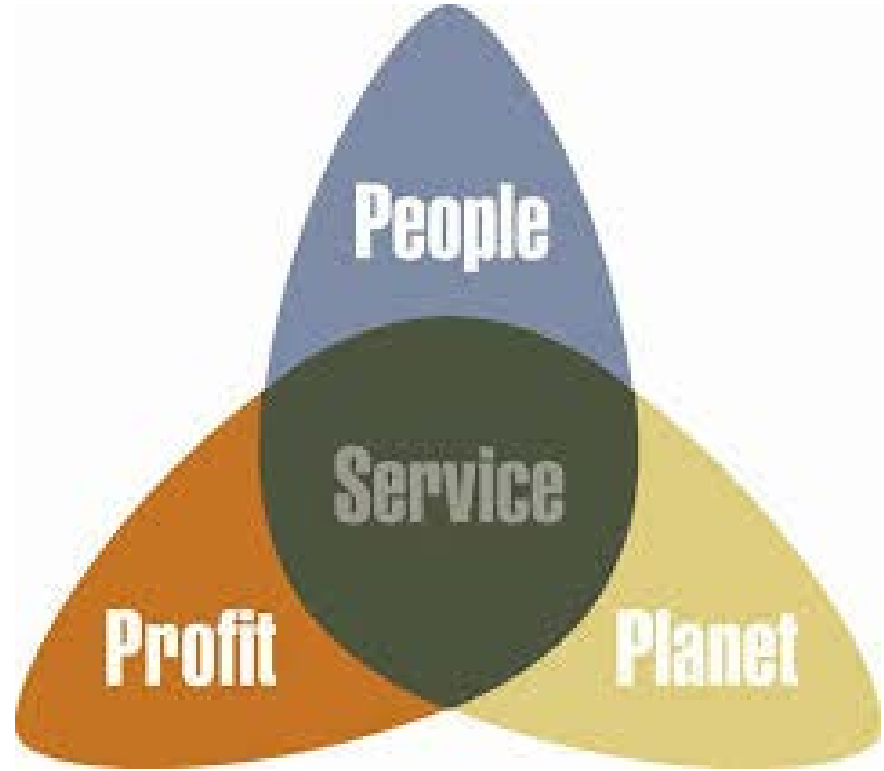
- Disengagement
- Disaffection
- Low self-esteem
- Anti-social behaviour
- Crime
- Alcohol and substance misuse.
- Apathy



Introducing the Deep Place approach



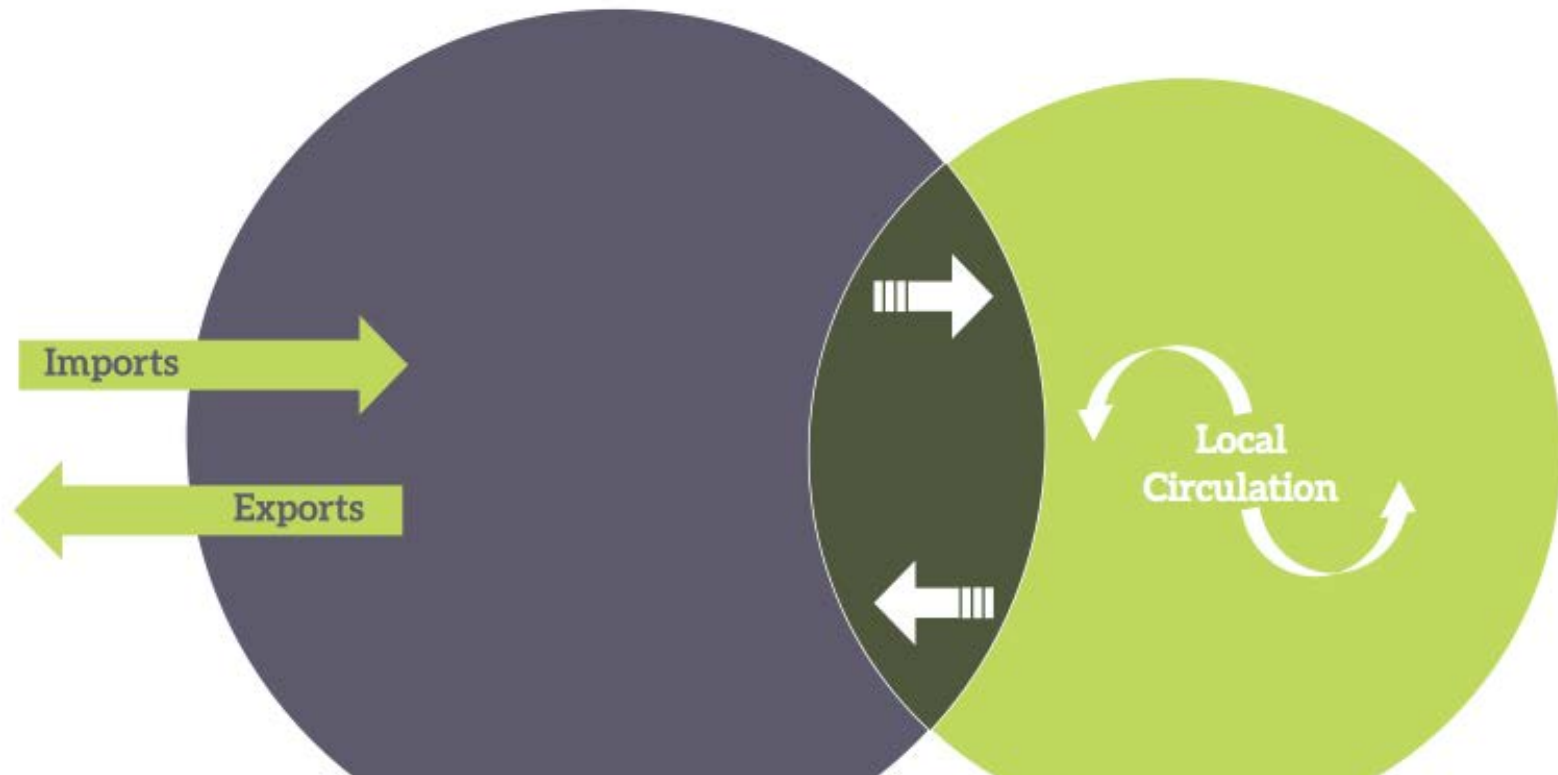
- Tackling the 'cause of the causes' of poverty
- Revitalising local economic activity
- Providing bridges to the economic mainstream
- Providing new local economic employment routes
- Ensuring residents connect to opportunities
- Reconfigure local services



Re-localising Economic Activity

EXTERNAL ECONOMY

LOCAL ECONOMY



Key approaches:

- Identify new economic activity:
 - Local food production
 - **Energy conservation and supply**
 - Local care services
 - E-commerce and E-employment

(Tredegar Deep Place study

<http://bit.ly/1m6GqcQ>)



Clean energy infrastructure

- Retro-fit **Solar Panels** to existing housing stock – at scale
- Reduce world carbon gas emissions and Compass carbon footprint
- Reduce household energy bills
- Contribute to sustaining tenancies
- Targeted recruitment, training and employment of tenants
- Economic and social integration
- Combats social exclusion



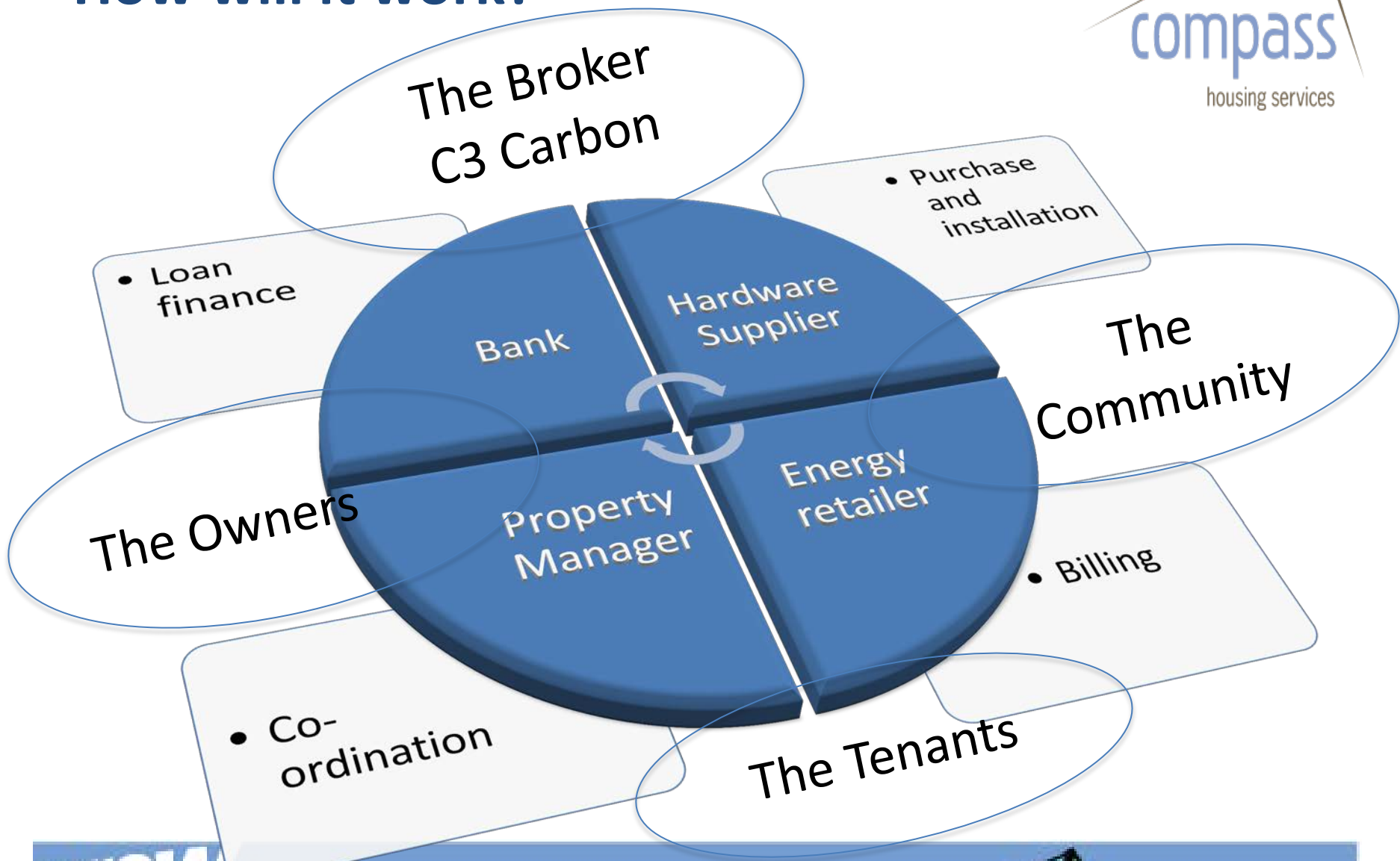
Case Study - Solar power generation for Compass Housing tenants



- **Self financing** scheme where tenants can participate in clean energy future and save on power bills
- **Tenants up until now have been excluded** from participating in solar power schemes
- **Tenants actually subsidise** the home owners and their generous feedback tariffs



How will it work?



Challenges



- Bringing the package together – multiple players
- Tenant understanding, acceptance and commitment to model
- Internal business case
- Integrating into ongoing maintenance system
- Unknowns



The end Vision



- Compass installs solar panels on all suitable properties – cost & carbon neutral
- Tenants save money and contribute to carbon emissions reduction
- Affordable scheme established where all tenants (public-community-private) can purchase or lease solar panels located on community property
- Schemes are copied and multiply
- Human race survives better for longer

