

‘It’s Time’: ‘It’s Not Too Late’....Sovereign Resilience of Australia

Australia is failing to manage a ‘Systemic Risk’ as defined by Strategic Risk Policy™ – the impact of COVID-19. Unless this is overcome, COVID-19 will most probably become a national ‘Wicked Problem’ requiring a major, slow and costly redesign and rebuilding of parts of the ‘Australian model.’

A ‘Systemic Risk’ differs from normal risks in that it has multiple or plural legal owners – and must be managed collaboratively and formally by the owners ‘as one.’ It cannot be managed separately using the old, linear ‘silo approach’ of working individually. The owners of the risk are the Federal, State and Territory Governments on behalf of today’s Australians and future generations.

New problems require new solutions and cannot be solved using failed traditional risk management methods which in fact allowed the current situation to occur. ‘Sleeping at the wheel’ - ‘Nothing to see here’ are outdated, negative and dangerous – as those who failed to anticipate and do what is necessary, run for cover – ‘It’s someone else’s fault or responsibility’ - ‘I’m here to help.’

Critical now is nationally driven, ‘real’ joint action to recognise, understand and take the necessary formal and collaborative action to prevent Australia suffering further damage. Secondly, to move quickly into national recovery and thirdly, front-load future resilience protection.

In June 2020, ARPI and its affiliate ERPI (the European Risk Policy Institute) through the Global Risk Policy Network, alerted the world to ‘Risk Domino’ potentiality. That is, while Australia (and other countries) are pre-occupied with COVID-19 they are highly vulnerable to other negative actions both internally and imported from overseas. Within days the cyber-attack on Australia was announced.

In fact, a combination of three inter-related negative causes are converging into a perfect storm to create the unwanted Wicked Problem – political disruption, economic dominance and social unrest. All three are man-made and imported to Australia, and reflect the ‘Exponential Vulnerability Curve’ operating across the world that ARPI warned of in June.

Importantly for humanity, mental well-being and our future, opportunity for innovation and growth, greater independence, and stronger resilience and sustainability of the great Australian way of life are possible and can be direct outcomes if the joint action approach outlined above is taken now.

ARPI, through its global Centre for Advanced Risk Policy Studies (CARPS) is working on new thinking and new approaches to resilience including in relation to critical global infrastructure. ARPI is directly advising governments and energy corporates around the world on employing Strategic Risk Policy™ to better inform their decision-making, through greater situational awareness from network information.

Meanwhile, ARPI calls on the Federal Government to ensure it knows who owns and thus controls Australia's critical infrastructure, energy resources and consumer services – and secondly, to fully adopt Strategic Risk Policy™ thinking, approaches and frameworks to ensure informed policy decision-making.

Clarity, awareness and anticipation across Federal agencies and also across State and Territory Governments are fundamental pillars of protecting Australia for all Australians and building the future Australia that we all want to live and work in.

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ARPI - Convenor of the Global Risk Policy Network

 **GRPN**
Global Risk Policy Network

 **ERPI**
European Risk Policy Institute