

PEOPLE, PLACE, POLICY, POTENTIAL

### The Ethical Forester (Because even the right tools aren't enough)

**Chris Perley** 

## **Forests as a Contest of Ideas**

"The Free Market provides the best Environmental Outcome" An economist c. 1994

Um ..... Mining gives you the best Net Present Value

So does Privatising the Gains, and Socialising the Costs

If you replace both a broad & long-term systems view and an ethic ... with financially-determined prescriptive practice ..... you'll get ....

### Tolaga Bay 2018

The result of ... Practices, Events ..... and Ideas

# The History of Ideas

- European Commons history left behind
- Colonial High Modernity
  - Grass-conversion phase; Pure MINING
- Early attempts to rethink the mining regulate sawmiller feeding frenzy 1874. State Forest Service 1919 – First Plantings 1920s
- A Post-depression/post WWII 'Development' Culminating in the 1970s Beech Scheme – "No more Depressions etc."
- The generation shift early 1980s where to from here strategic thinking and a more integrated approach.
- Capital:Nature Dualism 1987 (Descartes Dys-integration).
- The pure capital component corporatised, then privatised
- Forests as singular mechanical bounded 'capital'



Wider Socio-Ecosystem – Indigenous Context - Belonging – Maintain Functional Integrity – The Trickster

Wider Intergenerational Multiple-Utility – Anthropocentric "Sustainable Yield" - Modernity

**Forest Estate – Multiple Crops – "Resourcism"** 

Stand – Single Agronomic Crop – 'Factory' – Modernity on Steroids

The RED BOX Stand – Discounted Capital – Whatever makes most short-term money at least cost

Simplify, only consider \$, quick discounted payback, mine, move

on.

Result: Functional Dysfunction, Tipping Point, Life-Support Disaster.



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#### Tolaga Bay 2018

The result of ... Practices, Events ..... and Ideas

The Ideas make the Practices

# The Narrowing of Scope

- When Culture shifts to a narrowed breadth and term of consideration, then
  - Judgment is reduced ..
  - "Value Rationality" is replaced with the 'Instrumental Rationality' – Modernity on Steroids (The Certain, Controllable 'System of the World')





"Remember, children: Whenever you employ Instrumental Rationality, somewhere in the world a Gulag comes into existence!"





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# The Narrowing of Scope

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  - Judgment is reduced ..
  - "Value Rationality" is replaced with the 'Instrumental Rationality' – Modernity on Steroids (The Certain, Controllable 'System of the World')
  - The professional is replaced with the technical
  - Wisdom is replaced with the prescriptive
  - "Best Practice" Context thinking is replaced with Prescriptive Codes



 Codes & technical prescriptions are suited to Certain, Predictable & Controllable Spaces



Simple-Predictable

# Simple and Complex Space – The 'Hard' and the 'Soft' Sciences

Future Preferences Futu Ecc

Future Socio-Ecological (structures, norms)

30+ years Financial Analysis – Futu Human Health Economic Futures

Future Climatic Events

Biological-Ecological Function

Chemistry/nonquantum Physics

**Growth Modeling** 

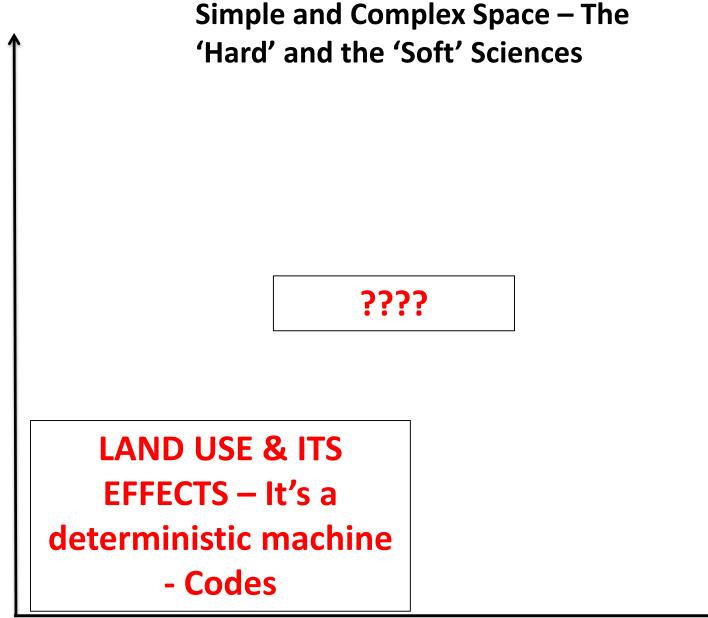
Mechanical (road rules)



**Controllable-Mechanical** 

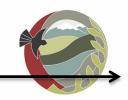
#### Uncontrollable-Adaptive

HOUGHTSCAPE



Controllable-Mechanical

**Uncontrollable-Adaptive** 



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Simple and Complex Space – The 'Hard' and the 'Soft' Sciences

> LAND USE & ITS EFFECTS – It's a Complex Adaptive System. Thinking Caring Culture

????

**Controllable-Mechanical** 

#### Uncontrollable-Adaptive

Simple-Predictable

- Codes & technical prescriptions are suited to Certain, Predictable & Controllable Spaces
- But when we are dealing with Complexity, Uncertainty & Uncontrollability, then
- We need to act through ...
- Systems Thinking Get off this Mechanical Modernity Myth
- Broader & Longer-term Multi or Transdisciplinarity Knowledge Systems
- Value-Rationality relative to shifting contexts
- Resilience Thinking



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#### The Challenge – Shifting to the Complex Uncertain Space

**Promoting – Complex Adaptive** Systems thinking, **EXPECT uncertainty (The Trickster)**, Foresight, Social connections, Non-hierarchical dialogue, Hedging, options & diversity, Adaptive capacity, Scenario analysis, 'what ifs', Understanding place, **Contingent practices, learning by** doing, 4<sup>th</sup> Generation Assessment, Less Technocratic & more Humanities, The Culture of Care – Kaitiakitanga **ETHICS** 



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**Controllable-Mechanical** 

**Uncontrollable-Adaptive**