

Application of natural capital thinking to collaborative urban river restoration shows the role of social networks, social capital and human influence in accessing the benefits of urban blue spaces.

Three modes of Natural Capital Thinking:

1

Spatial distribution of environmental assets within the catchment

2

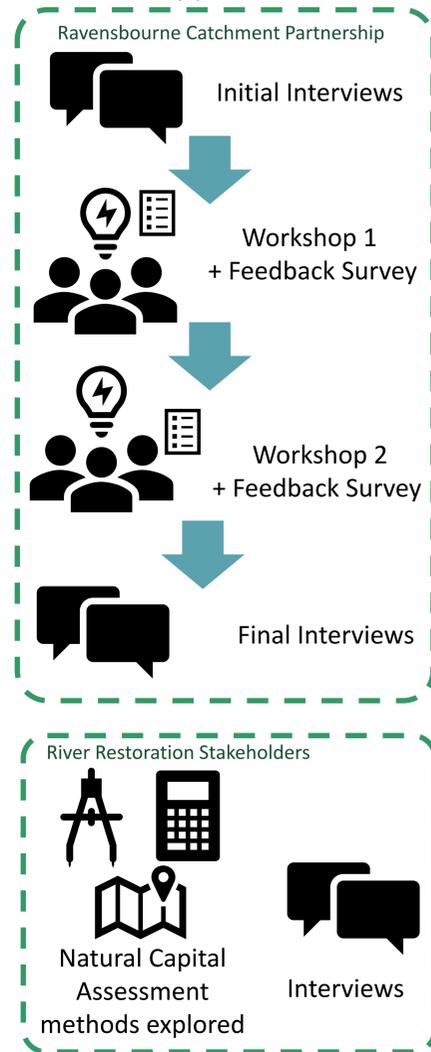
Stock, Flow and Value of assets, resources and services

3

Value of the benefits received from assets

Participatory Methods

Various natural capital participatory decision making methods applied¹

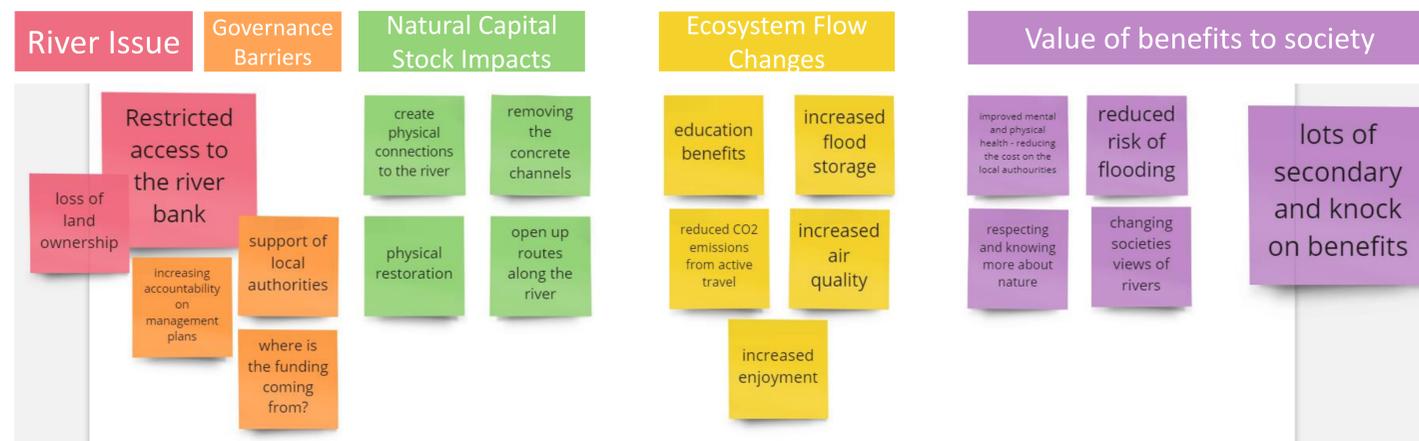


Results

In workshop 1, participants were asked to rank the priorities for the catchment, discussed spatial natural capital data and discussed benefits received from restored rivers. At the end of workshop 1, participants ranked priorities of the catchment again.



In workshop 2, participants discussed river restoration projects, barriers to restoring rivers, and worked through the Stock, Flow and Value framework for overcoming river restoration issues.



Natural Capital valuation tools were assessed. River restoration stakeholders interviews on experiences, usefulness and application of natural capital valuation tools in providing evidence for nature based solutions.

Key Conclusions

Participants developed **shared understanding** of priorities of access to rivers and wider public understanding. **Social capital investment** to enable natural capital benefits.

Participants utilised this framework to build from natural capital investment through to environmental and social benefits. **Wider understanding** of the social and health benefits of restoring urban rivers.

Natural capital tools require **expert and specialist knowledge** which can make them **inaccessible**.

