

## Representing Carbon Property Rights

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### Peter Spencer

52 day hunger strike ended Jan 10, 2010

Spencer argues that the Commonwealth of Australia is deriving benefit from his farm – that by preventing him from clearing, Australia can meet its Kyoto commitments.

Spencer insists his protest is not over land clearing, but property rights.

Contested Property Rights





Context

TS 1E – Environment and  
Energy: Policy and Practice

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Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April

## Land versus Property ... And what are those rights things?



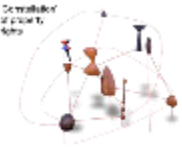
- National and/or global carbon trading market requires **secure and well-defined carbon property rights**
- But what is the difference between **carbon as property** and **land as property**? *And different views of property!*
- How do rights interact – bundle of inanimate sticks?
- Inherent complexity – *property, perceptions, environmental systems*

Land versus Property

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Energy: Policy and Practice

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| Bundle of rights  | Web of Interests  | Constellation of property rights   |
|---|---|--|
|  |  |                                    |
| - Maine 1861  | - Arnold 2002<br>- Zellmer & Harder 2007  | - Boydell, Sheehan & Prior 2009 -<br>- Boydell et al. 2009a<br>- von Benda-Beckmann, von Benda-Beckmann & Wiber 2006 |

From bundles to constellations

## Concepts of “Land”

Eg. *Boundaries that define your farm on the surface of the Earth*

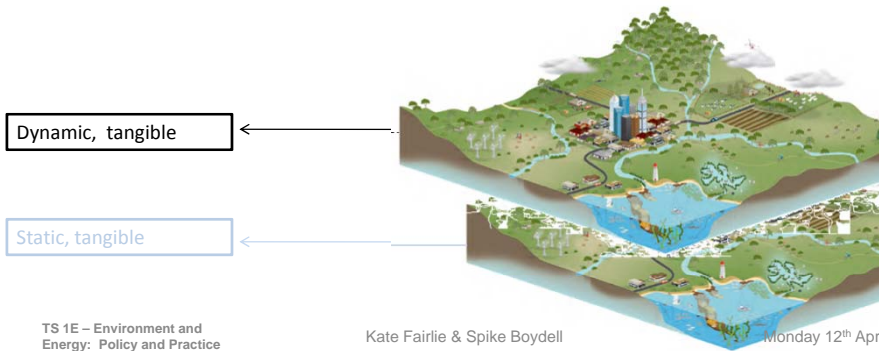
Static, tangible



Layers of complexity

# Concepts of "Land"

Eg. *Water*



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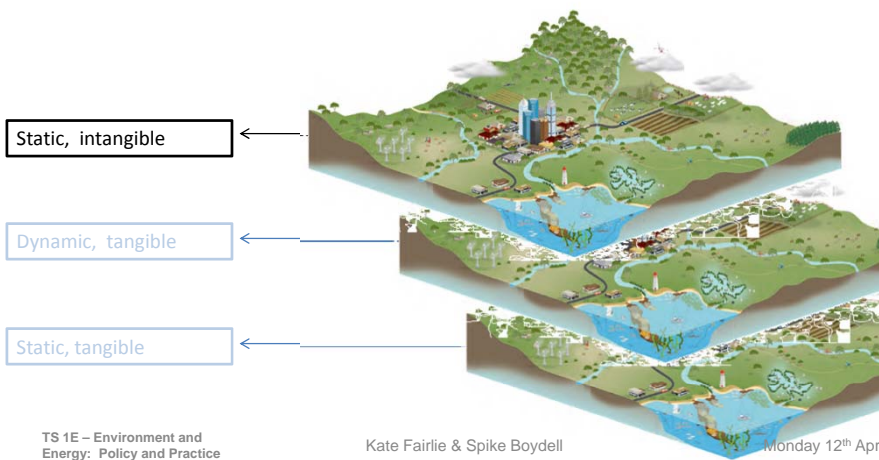
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April

Layers of complexity



# Concepts of "Land"

Eg. *Airspace, geological pore space*



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Layers of complexity



# Concepts of "Land"

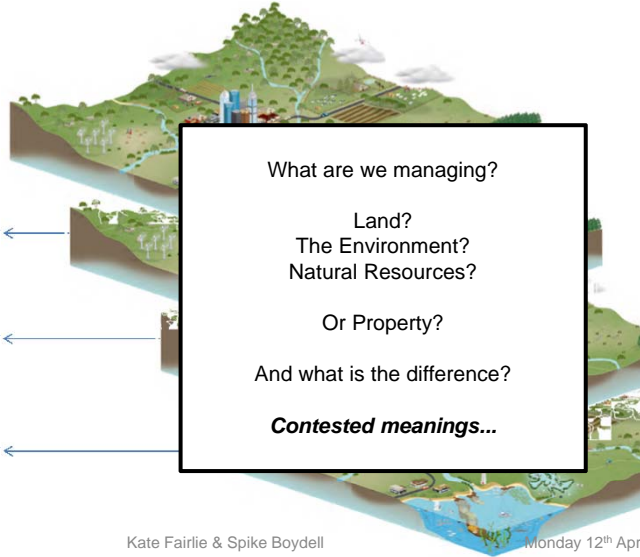
Eg. Carbon

Dynamic, intangible

Static, intangible

Dynamic, tangible

Static, tangible



Layers of complexity

*"You can no more sell our land than the sky. Our affinity with the land is like the bonding between a parent. You have responsibilities...obligations... You can speak for a child. But you don't own a child."* (Behrendt, 2003)

## High- and low-context societies



High- and low-Context

## So – what’s the issue?

- Disconnect between legal, economic and community understandings of property and ‘what I own’.
- Need for a representation that highlights rights and how these intersect, and adequately communicates this to all stakeholders

Need for a representation

## Visualisation

- How do we communicate property rights?
  - How do we represent property rights?
- Are these the same thing?

Communication:  
Visualisation vs. Representation

How can we design a property rights representation that is all-inclusive?

aesthetic data visualization

data-driven aesthetics

Visualisation & Representation

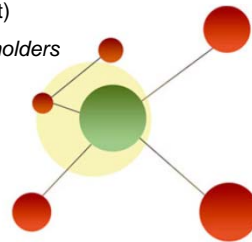
## Key Concepts: In Summary

-Property varies. Ultimately it requires an understanding of relationships between people / stakeholders over 'land'.

-Need a property rights representation that communicates:

- A property (the object to which the rights refer)
- The property rights
- *The interaction between property rights – push/pull*
- Stakeholders (people who are affected by the right)
- *The interaction between property rights and stakeholders*

- Needs to be dynamic – explore push/pull factors e.g. with carbon storage, water, risk management, etc.



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