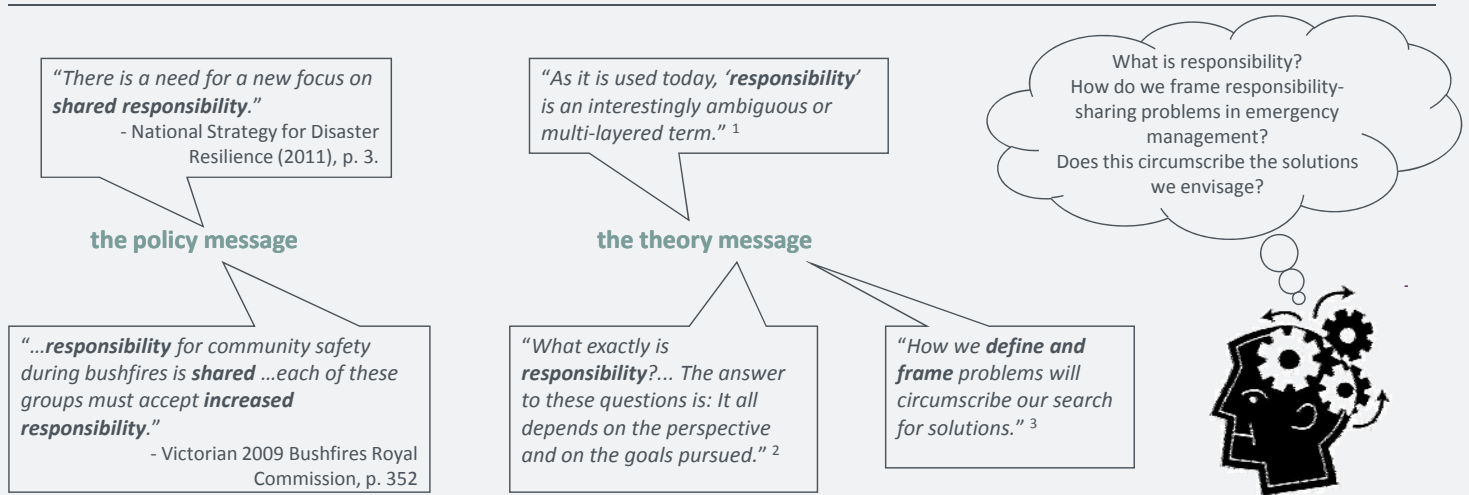


What is the problem with sharing responsibility?

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Framing ‘wicked’ problems

Frames are the “underlying structures of belief, perception, and appreciation”⁴ that shape how we ‘see’ problems. However, “a way of seeing is also a way of not seeing.”⁵

‘Wicked’ problems are problems that do not have easy, straightforward, win-win solutions.⁶ Framing wicked problems too narrowly can restrict what solutions we envisage, and it may lead to disputes over goals.

Reflecting on the different ways we frame the ‘wicked’ problem of sharing responsibility for emergency management can help us to see alternative solutions. It may even help us to move past some intractable disputes.

Stage 1 of the Sharing Responsibility project identified 11 key ways that the problem of sharing responsibility **between government and non-government sectors** is framed in risk research (see Fig 1). Importantly, each frame emphasizes some facets of responsibility more than others. The next stages of the project explore alternative solutions.

Figure 1: Responsibility-sharing frames



Facets of responsibility: obligation (o), accountability (a), causality (ca), freedom & constraint (fc), relationships (r), capacity (cp), trustworthiness (t)

The Sharing Responsibility project

For more information about this project and a copy of the Stage 1 report, go to the Bushfire CRC website at www.bushfirecrc.com (Follow links to: *Our Research* > *Understanding Risk* > *Community Expectations* > *Shared Responsibility*)

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