

Australia's Renewable Energy Future: Perceived Social Impacts and Opportunities

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Australia's National
Science Agency

Australian attitudes toward the renewable energy transition – Part 1: General attitudes

April 2024



Australia's National
Science Agency

Australian attitudes toward the renewable energy transition – Part 2

Attitudes and perceptions of renewable energy infrastructure

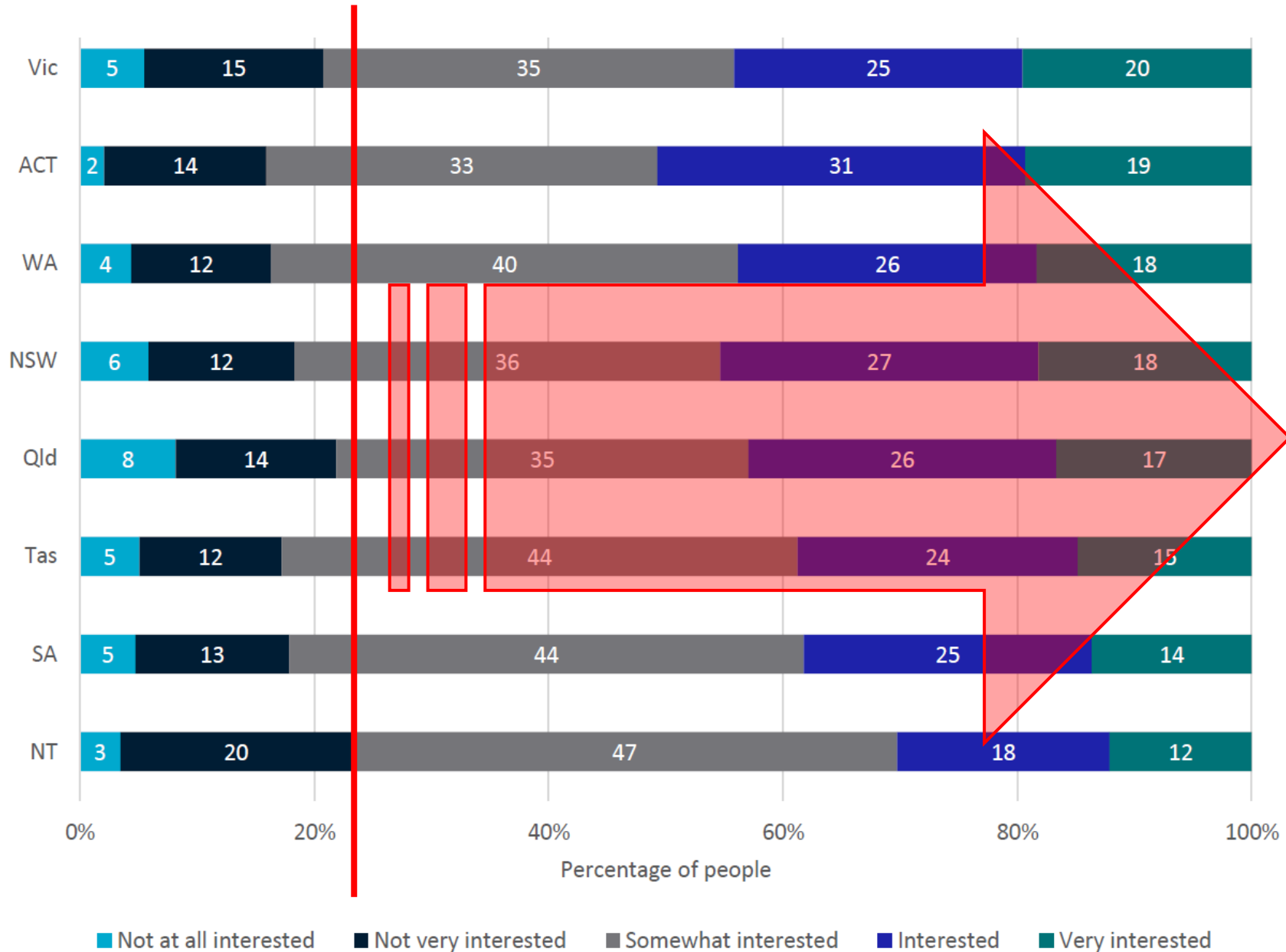
- Solar farms, onshore windfarms, offshore windfarms, and transmission infrastructure

April 2024

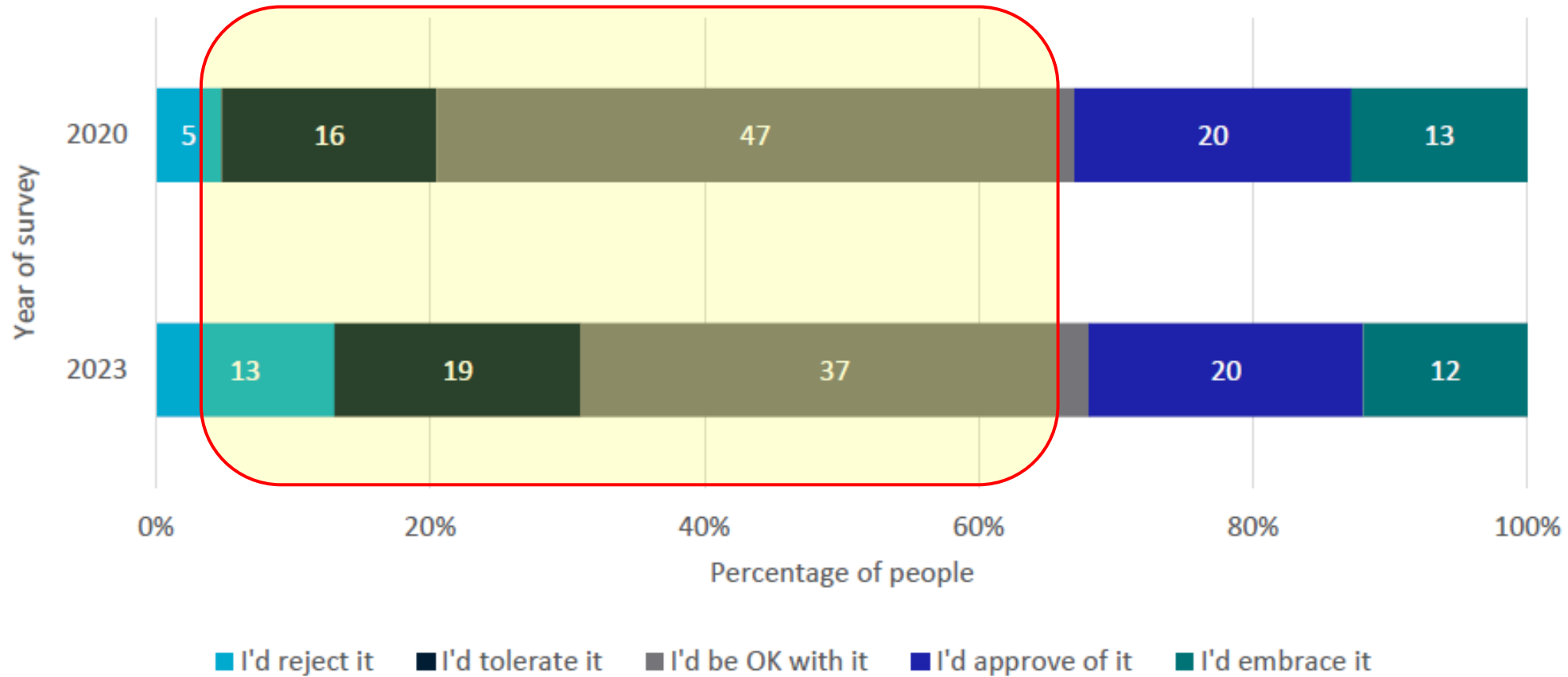
“One in five Australians (20%) agreed or strongly agreed there is no urgency to develop more renewable energy technology because other technologies will be developed to solve climate change issues” [N=6707]

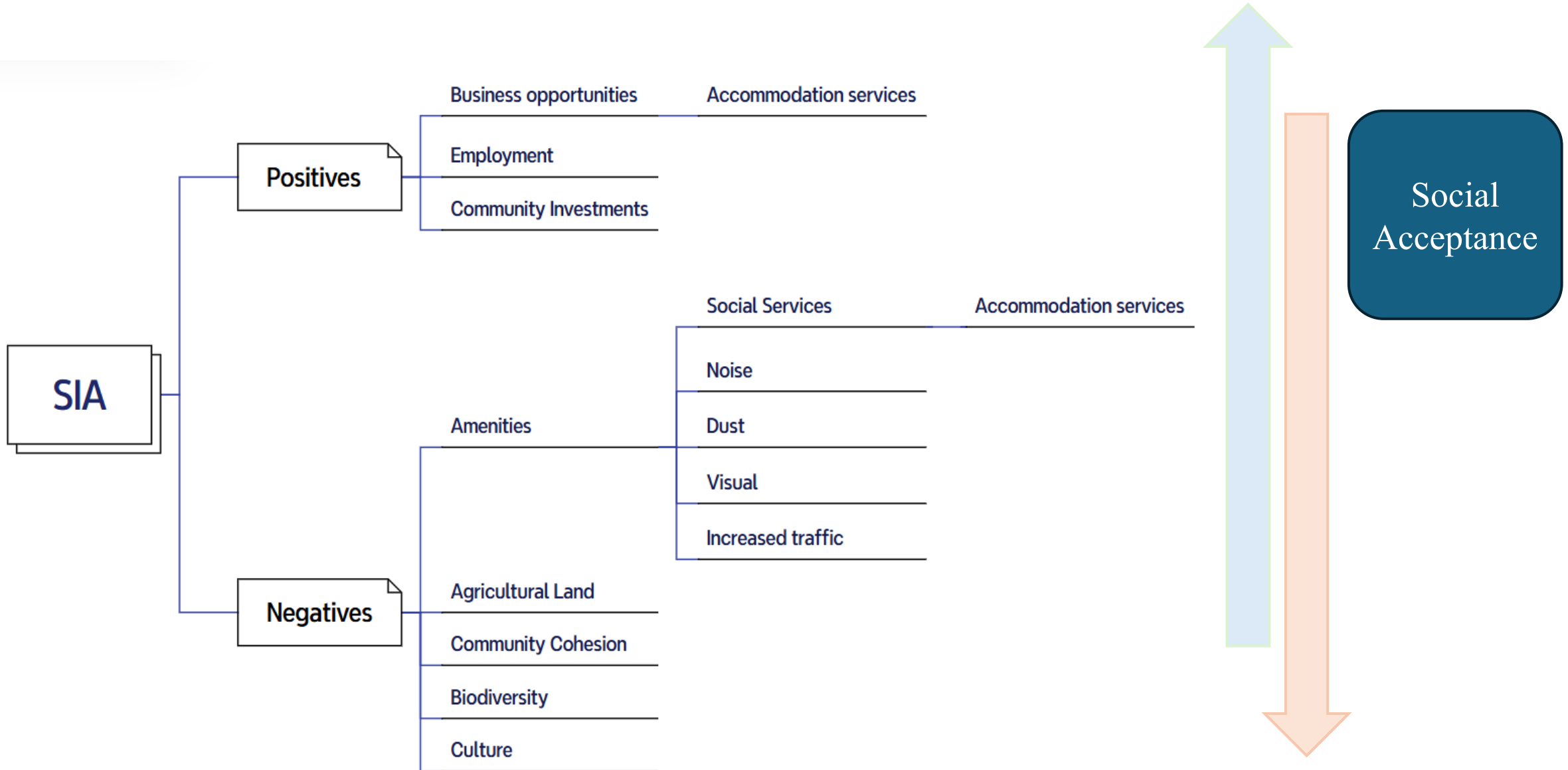
- Analysis of CSIRO 2024 [Part 1 and 2]
- Two literature review articles:
 - i. Sheikh, N. J., Kocaoglu, D. F., & Lutzenhiser, L. (2016). Social and political impacts of renewable energy: Literature review. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 108, 102-110.
 - ii. Bhattarai, U., Maraseni, T., & Apan, A. (2022). Assay of renewable energy transition: A systematic literature review. *Science of The Total Environment*, 833, 155159.
- Scoping Report – ‘Prepare EIS’ status [NSW’s Major Projects as of June 2024 – 82 reports]
 - i. Wind farms [26]
 - ii. Solar farms [37]
 - iii. BESS [14]
 - iv. Hydro [5]
- Semi-structured interview [N=15]

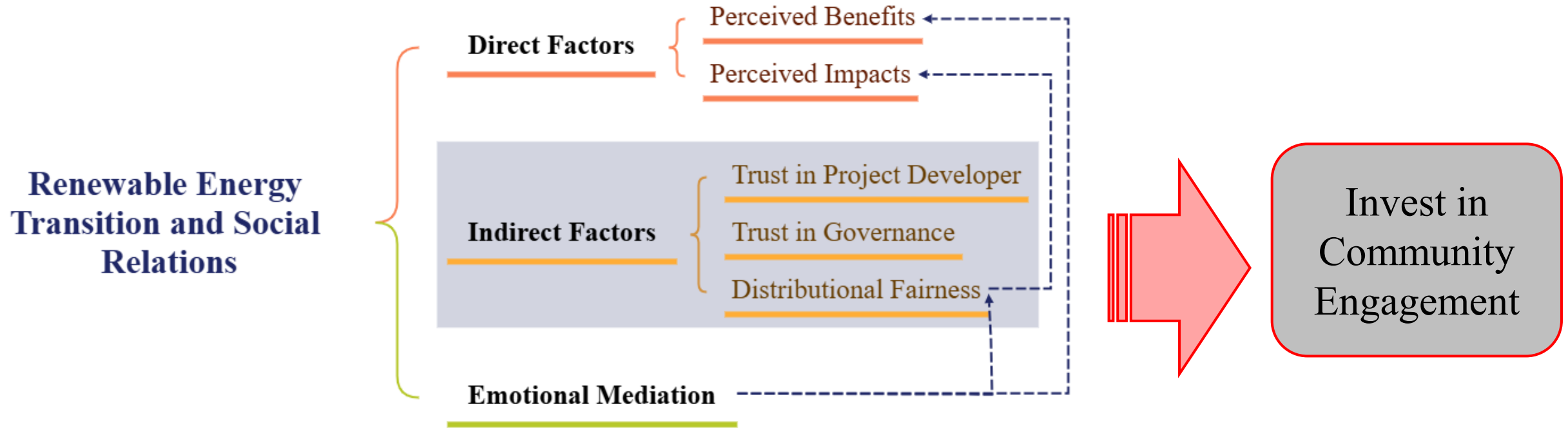
Reported interest in the energy transition by state



Change in attitudes towards living near a solar farm









Policy Decisions	Extent of disruptions	Construction duration	
		Impacts on tourisms	
		Accommodation assurance	
	Health and safety	EMF	
		Noise	
		Fires	
	Economics	Energy cost savings	
		Impacts on property values	
	Transition and livelihoods	Change in comfort	
		Convenience	Energy stability
		Employment	
	Decommission	Disposal methods	
		Lifespan	
Community investments			

“Clearly, the positioning of the SIA report must change from being just an appendix to becoming the most important chapter in the EIA/ ESIA”
(Vanclay, 2024 p.783)

After 50 years of social impact assessment, is it still fit for purpose?

Frank Vanclay 
University of Groningen, The Netherlands

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