

Imagining 2040 – Pathways to Flourishing Futures

A podcast series which aims to increase future vision public imagination and radical hope to help achieve transformative change



Imagining 2040 is a new podcast series launched by Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. (Australia). The series targets an identified future vision public imagination deficit. It seems that a majority of everyday citizens are not visualising plausible pathways which could help achieve better futures. Better futures which could be flourishing - climate-safer, properly nature protected, socially more inclusive and supportive, and economically fairer.

Without more people imagining and discussing the plausible road maps which could lead toward flourishing futures - and coming together to push for their political adoption—we risk being stuck with a narrow view of progress that simply extends current, business as usual development trends into the years ahead. We know that such trends are increasingly likely to take us towards [failing, dead end outcomes](#) with mass declines in human and other species wellbeing - unless we [transition](#) our development pathways fundamentally and urgently.

Purpose and Vision

But realistically, how can we help create the flourishing, climate-safer, properly nature protected, more socially supportive, and economically fairer futures many of us hope to see realised? At a time when major challenges such as growing inequality, the loss of nature, and loss of trust in democratic institutions threaten our collective future wellbeing. Back to basics, *Imagining 2040* offers a space to start to visualise something better. We draw on the concept of [futures literacy](#)—the skills to imagine different futures and understand their importance to current actions and decisions. The series aims to encourage futures literacy amongst listeners - to help them understand that 'the future' is something that can be actively shaped and influenced - and that they have a vital role in contributing to that process.

Series Approach

Imagining 2040 presents guest interviews structured around imaginative future vision questioning. We want to demonstrate the use of preferable futures visualisation and explore possible pathways toward futures that could be:

- Climate safer and better adapted to increasing climate disruption
- More respectful and properly protective of a place for nature and more than human species
- More supportive and inclusive of all citizens socially
- Much fairer economically in resource distribution across populations
- More democratic via stronger public political participation and community-led decision making

The podcast supports the idea that [future vision imagination](#) is a public good. Without it, future development pathways will remain controlled by those with the [most power and wealth](#) who manipulate narratives of progress for their own benefit. Imagining 2040 will use the podcast medium to encourage listeners to consider themselves as active agents for positive change, as democratic alliance builders of better futures. We hope to complement the contributions of a small but [growing group](#) of [podcasters](#) with shared objectives around [futures literacy and visioning](#).

Why Imagination Matters

- Societies lacking compelling citizen-led alternative visions for future development are likely to repeat past errors and persist with [failed development approaches](#) dominated by powerful vested interests.
- Many people lack accessible platforms [to imagine alternatives beyond](#) business-as-usual trajectories.
- Cultivating [imagination is essential](#) for policy innovation, civic engagement, and systemic transformation.

What to Expect

Listeners will find:

- Inspiring future vision-oriented conversations with imaginative thinkers, activists, and everyday citizens
- Evidence-based better future development stories full of radical hope
- Tools and imaginative exercises for visualising and working toward better futures

Pilot Series Topics

The pilot series features five episodes covering the topics of:

- A series introduction
- Art-science collaboration and nature-connectedness education
- Achieving stronger citizen-led resistance to vested interests domination of future progress
- Employing more effective system-level approaches to social and climate change advocacy
- Extending the benefits of citizen-collaborative urban planning for 2040 and beyond

All pilot episodes are now live on major podcast platforms Please use the links below to access them - and consider leaving a review or feedback if you enjoy the series.

Community Engagement

HOPE Inc. (Australia) will soon host dedicated web pages and social media channels for the podcast. We want to amplify the stories of change in the podcast and invite listener feedback to help shape future episodes. We hope to ensure that public imagination is not only sparked but mobilised by this podcast series.

Join Us

Whether you're an environmental and social justice advocate, curious citizen, or someone searching for [radical hope](#) in uncertain times, Imagining 2040 provides a space to explore possible and plausible better futures—and ways could get there together. Please share your thoughts on the pilot series or reach out to HOPE Inc. (Australia) for more information and opportunities to become involved.

Subscribe now and start imagining 2040.

Together, let's help build future development pathways that serve people, place, and planet.

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