SESA VIRTUAL SYSTEMS FORUM 2020 - SYSTEMS THINKING ROUNDTABLE

FACILITATOR GUIDE [Login at 10-to and share rotating slides]
(for the facilitator to read at 5-minutes past - 2.5 min)

1. Welcome to the Systems Thinking Roundtable. My name is _____ and I am today's facilitator. I encourage you to download a copy of the RoundTable Guidelines, and there is a link to these in the chat window.

2. Let us suspend judgment and experience the RoundTable together. After the Forum, we can consider its potential and consider future revisions.

3. Please raise your hand if you are joining the RoundTable format for the first time. … Welcome. We will do introductions when it is your turn in the RoundTable. To help us connect, please take the opportunity now to include your organisation and location in your Zoom name.

4. For the RoundTables during the Forum, we have a suggested topic to guide the discussion. Today's topic is _____. To prepare ourselves, can I have volunteers to read each section of the Guidelines?

[Volunteers read RoundTable Guidelines, then stop screen share]

5. Thank you. Again, today's RoundTable topic is _____. I would like to hear everyone's thoughts about this topic, or any other topic on your mind. To maximise our learning, please respect the equal time we have.

6. Since there are ___ people present, let's each take ____ minutes to speak with the help of a timer. Please speak so that everyone can hear. What you say is important to us. We will mute all microphones now to reduce background noise, and will open your microphone when it is your turn.

7. If anyone has come in since the start, please download a copy of the Guidelines from the link in the chat window so that you can follow along.

8. In the physical environment, we would simply move the speaker role around the table. In this virtual format, I will call on a volunteer first. Then, I will continue calling on everyone following my participants list. Do I have a volunteer to start?

[Participants engage in the RoundTable until 5-minutes to]

9. It's time to close the RoundTable session. Thank you for coming today. We hope to see you next time! Do I have a volunteer to facilitate the next RoundTable? For those who wish to, we will leave the room open for open discussion until 9:30am.

SYSTEMS THINKING ROUNDTABLE GUIDELINES
(to be read by different participants - 2.5 min)

1. **OUR FORMAT** is a reflective practice where we first read these guidelines, and devote the rest of the time to individual comments, with speaking time distributed equally between all present today.

2. **OUR PURPOSES:** We accomplish three goals: [1] to guarantee maximum time for each of us to present our views on the given topic, [2] to understand a variety of different viewpoints without interruption, and [3] to become familiar with a simple scaffold to facilitate conscious self-guided evolution, one we can edit over time for our emerging purposes.

3. **OUR EXPERIENCE:** We have found that it takes a few sessions to get maximum benefit from this new format. Over time, we have learned that: *Just as we can break the sound barrier when we travel faster than the speed of sound, we break the communication barrier when we hear 30 authentic viewpoints in 60 minutes.*

4. **GUIDANCE ON LISTENING:** We take this opportunity to quiet our minds and silently reflect on what we hear and our inner thoughts. Listening to each other's comments allows us to value and appreciate different perspectives on the topic and extend our learning in surprising ways.

5. **GUIDANCE ON SPEAKING:** Please introduce yourself with *your name, organisation and city* at the start of your turn, then say something about today's topic, or anything else on your mind. If you prefer, "pass" and just listen today. Let's each take only one turn to speak and limit our time, so we can offer everyone a turn [or two turns if there is time.]

6. **GUIDANCE ON RESPONDING:** We may say "thank you" after you speak. Please save all other responses until after the RoundTable. We don't want to divert each other or ourselves from our own individual learning. If someone says something you would like to build on, you may want to make a note of it, so you can do so during your turn.

7. **GUIDANCE ON NOTE-TAKING:** Please feel free to make notes, but we would like people to be free to speak without fear of judgement by others who were not part of this discussion today. Accordingly, please avoid attribution in your notes or discussions outside the RoundTable. You also might want to make one or two dot points to prompt your thinking when it's your turn to speak.

OUR TOPICS: **24 Jun**: What does systems thinking mean in Australia? | **25 Jun**: How can systems thinking help us navigate global social disruption? | **30 Jun**: Are systems thinking and systems engineering the same thing? | **1 Jul**: How can systems thinking help improve diversity in systems engineering? | **2 Jul**: Reflection on systems thinking in the VSFs.