

TWELVE SROI CHECKS

**A PRACTICAL AUDIT GUIDE
FOR DEFENSIBLE SROI**



About the Checks

Strong SROI rests on clear design, fair claims about cause, and careful valuation. These twelve checks follow that path. They hold space for context and culture, keep claims modest, and keep the numbers accountable. Read straight through or dip into the part you need.

Part A - Design & Scope

Check 1: Theory of Change

Check 2: Stakeholder Mapping & Inclusion

Check 3: Materiality — What's In, What's Out, and Why

Check 4: Outcomes \neq Outputs

Part B - Causality & Counterfactual

Check 5: Attribution — Claim Only Your Share

Check 6: Deadweight — The Counterfactual

Check 7: Displacement — Same Total, New Split

Check 8: Duration & Drop-off — How Long It Lasts

Part C - Valuation & Reporting

Check 9: Discounting — Future to Present

Check 10: Monetisation & Valuation Sources

Check 11: Headline Results — NPV & SROI

Check 12: Sensitivity, Transparency & Assurance

STATUS AUDIT



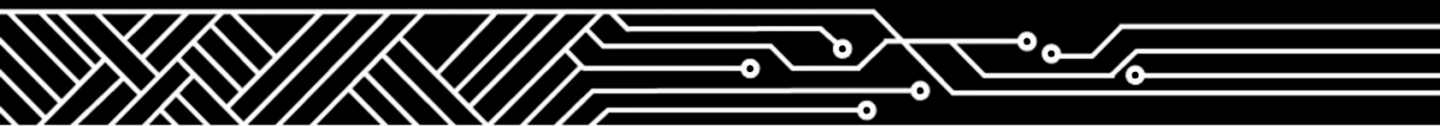
APPLIED



PARTIAL



N/A





Part A

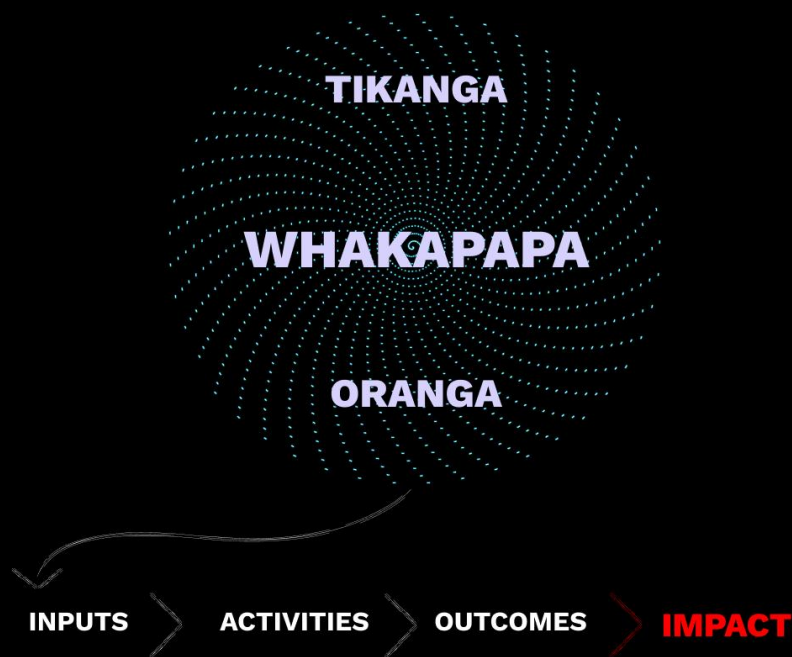
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Design &
Scope



Check 1

Whakapapa-led Theory of Change



Explanation

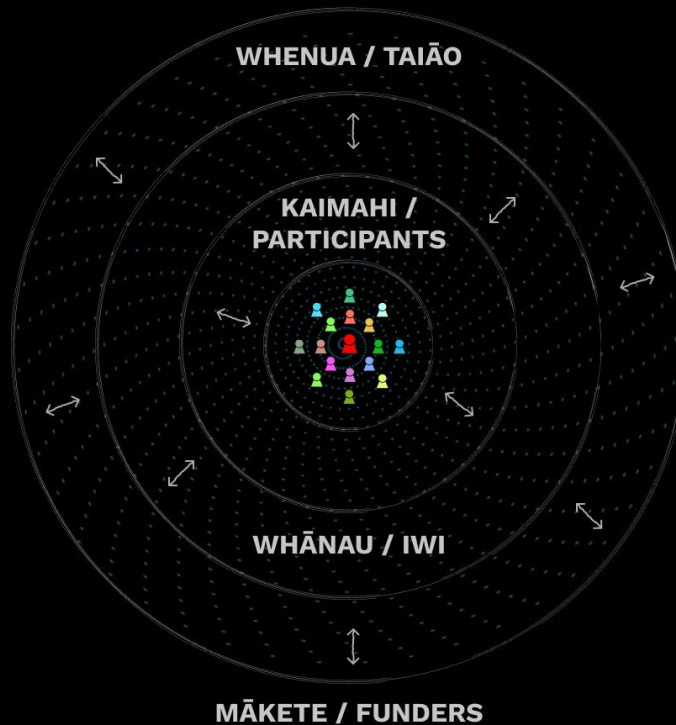
Begin with purpose and context: who is served, what must change, and the relationships and duties that guide action. A Theory of Change makes the logic testable. **inputs** → **activities** → **outcomes** → **impact**. In Māori settings, **whakapapa** and **tikanga** anchor the chain; elsewhere, mission and community expectations play that role. Use the chain to test choices over time.

Check 2

STATUS



Stakeholder Mapping & Inclusion



Explanation

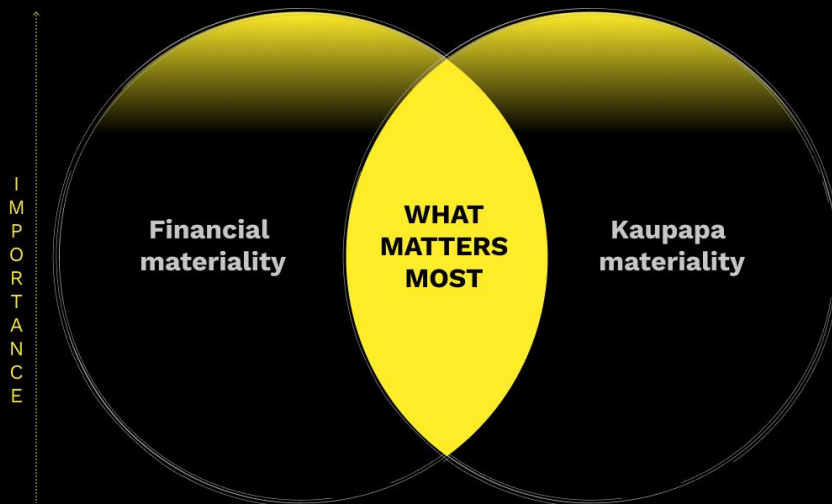
Start with the *who*. Map participants, families, partners, funders and affected groups. Use culturally appropriate engagement (e.g., *kanohi-ki-te-kanohi*), co-design measures, and record who was included, who wasn't, and why. Breadth of voices and depth of participation build credibility.

Check 3

STATUS



Materiality - What's In, What's Out



Prioritise topics high on either lens; elevate those in the overlap.

Explanation

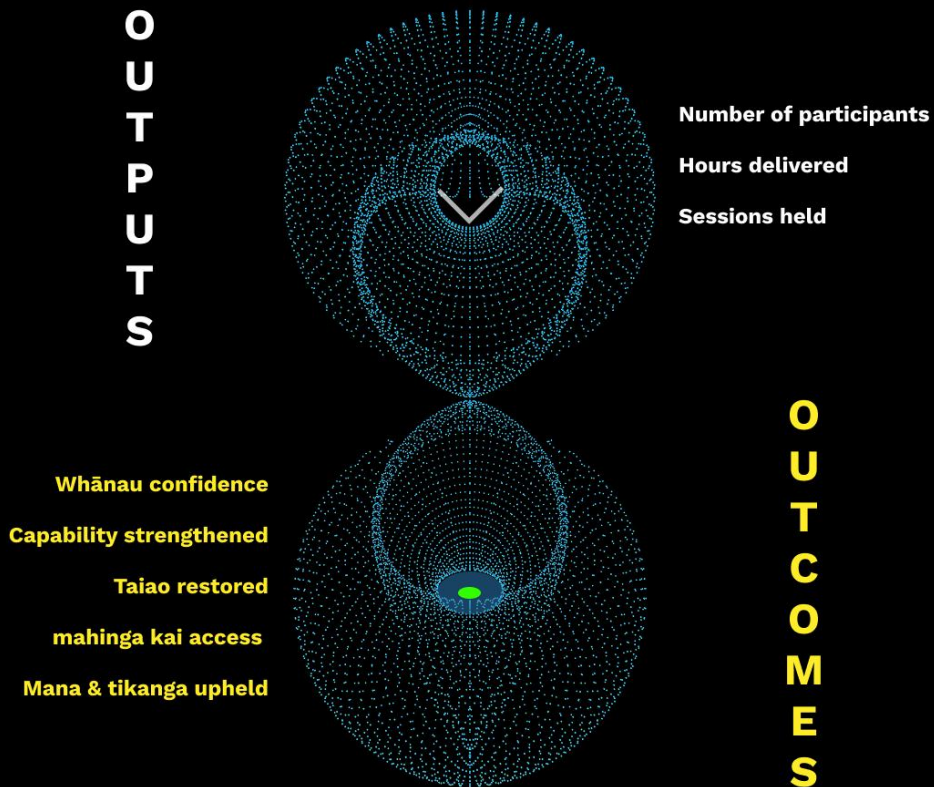
Materiality selects what matters. Use two lenses: **decision** [magnitude, risk, compliance] and **values** [what matters to people, culture and environment]. In kaupapa Māori contexts include tikanga, mauri of taiao, equity and inter-generational oranga; elsewhere, translate to local values. Document inclusions, exclusions and reasons.

Check 4

STATUS



Outcomes ≠ Outputs



Explanation

Outputs are activities; outcomes are changes. Choose indicators from material topics, set baselines and time windows, triangulate admin data with surveys/observation, and disaggregate where it matters. Balance quantitative with qualitative; avoid vanity metrics and one-off snapshots.

Part B

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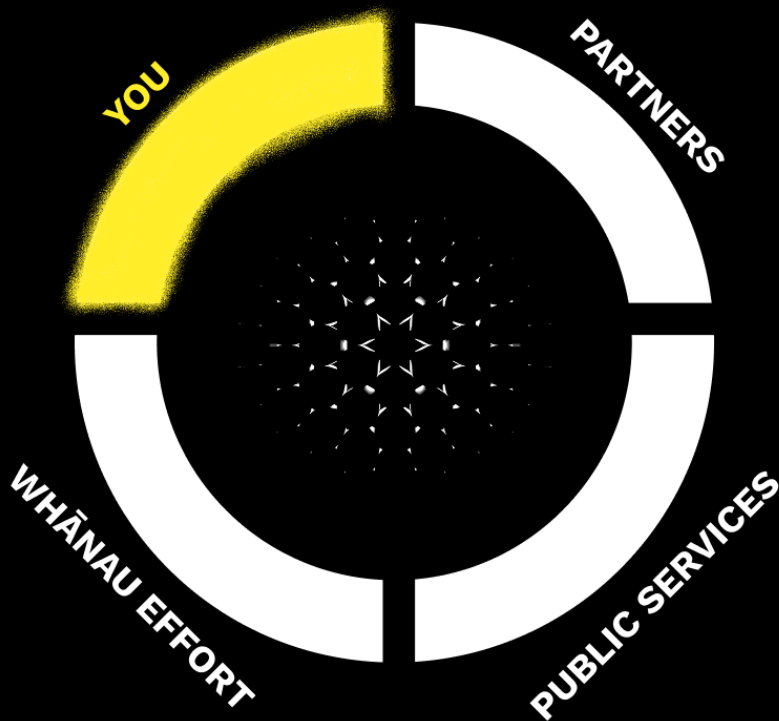
Causality &
Counterfactual

Check 5

STATUS



Attribution - Claim Only Your Share



Explanation

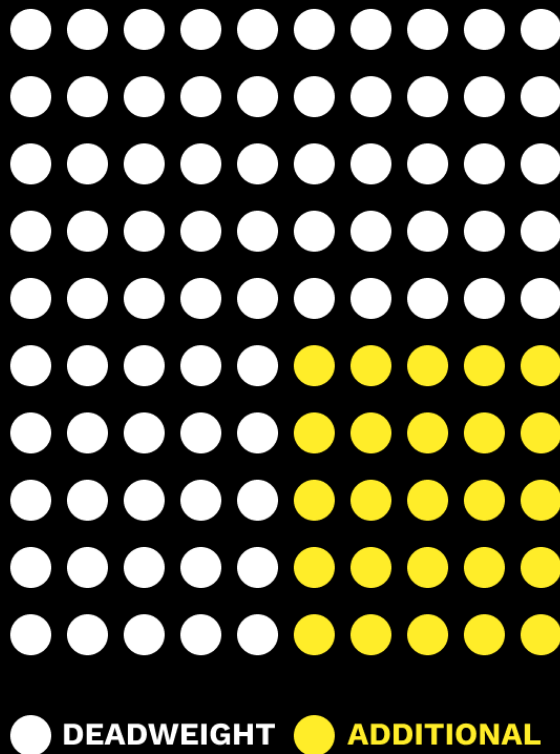
Impact is shared across your programme, partners, services and context. Map contributors and evidence, then allocate credible shares totalling 100%, each with a brief rationale. Publish the rule for repeatability; never assume 100% attribution unless other causes are ruled out.

Check 6

STATUS



Deadweight - The Counterfactual



Explanation

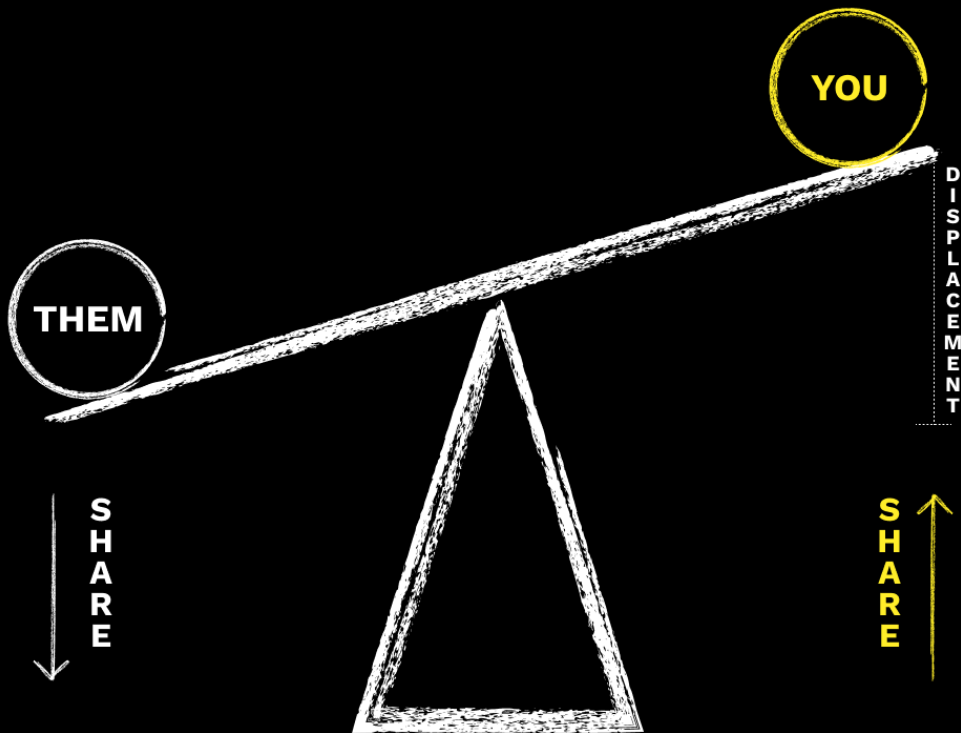
Deadweight is what would have happened anyway. Estimate using trends, comparators, benchmarks and judgement. Subtract deadweight **first**, then consider displacement and attribution. Keep time windows explicit, lean conservative, and test sensitivity.

Check 7

STATUS



Displacement - Same Total, New Split



Explanation

Displacement arises when gains come at others' expense. Test whether the pool is fixed [jobs, places, budgets]. If totals are flat while your count rises, split uplift into **net-new** vs **displaced**. Apply adjustments in order: deadweight → displacement → attribution; state the unit and horizon.

Check 8

STATUS



Duration & Drop-off - How Long It Lasts



Explanation

Ask how long change persists. Track cohorts, look for retention signals, benchmark against persistence/relapse evidence, and set an endpoint. Keep only the retained portion each year (drop-off), then discount. Test alternatives and explain the choice.

Part C

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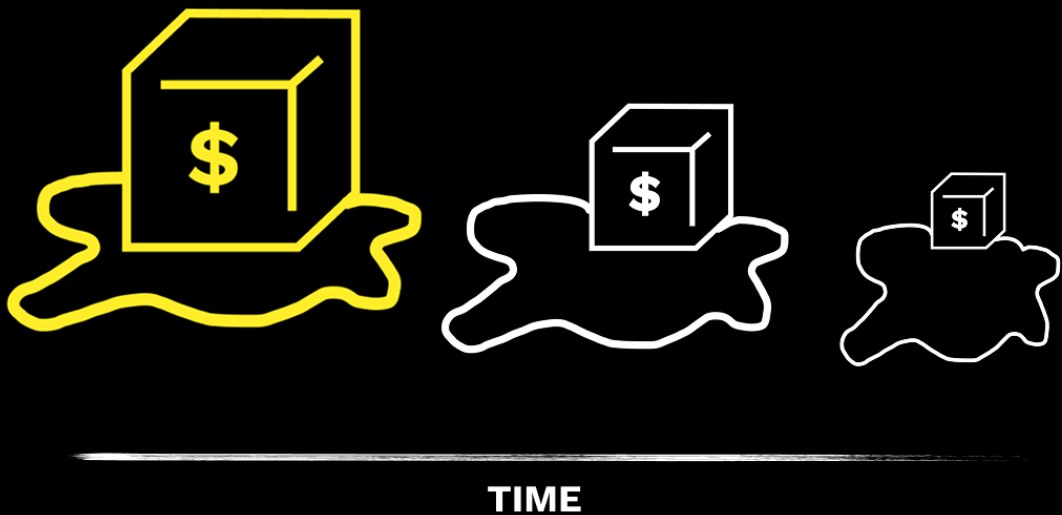
Valuation &
Reporting

Check 9

STATUS



Discounting - Future to Present



Explanation

Discounting converts multi-year costs and outcomes to present value. Use the current social rate (or a governance-approved rate consistent with kaupapa), document the base year and price basis, and show a sensitivity sweep.

Check 10

STATUS



Monetisation & Valuation Sources



VALUE = 

VALUE = 

Explanation

Non-market outcomes still carry value. Use credible proxies with sources and base year, avoid double-counting, publish ranges when evidence is thin, and record governance for culturally specific valuations. Map

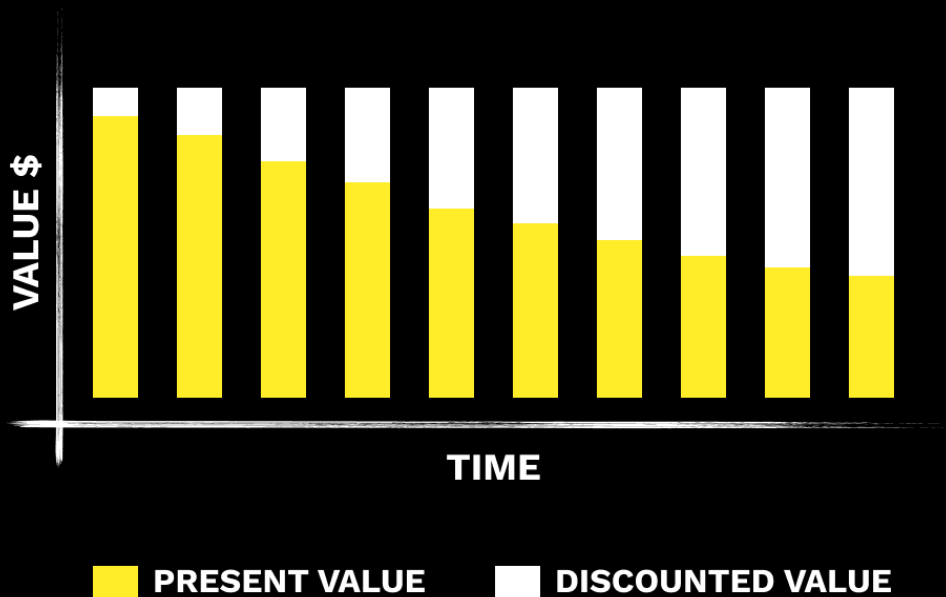
Outcome → Indicator → Valuation source..

Check 11

STATUS



Headline Results _ NPV & SROI



Explanation

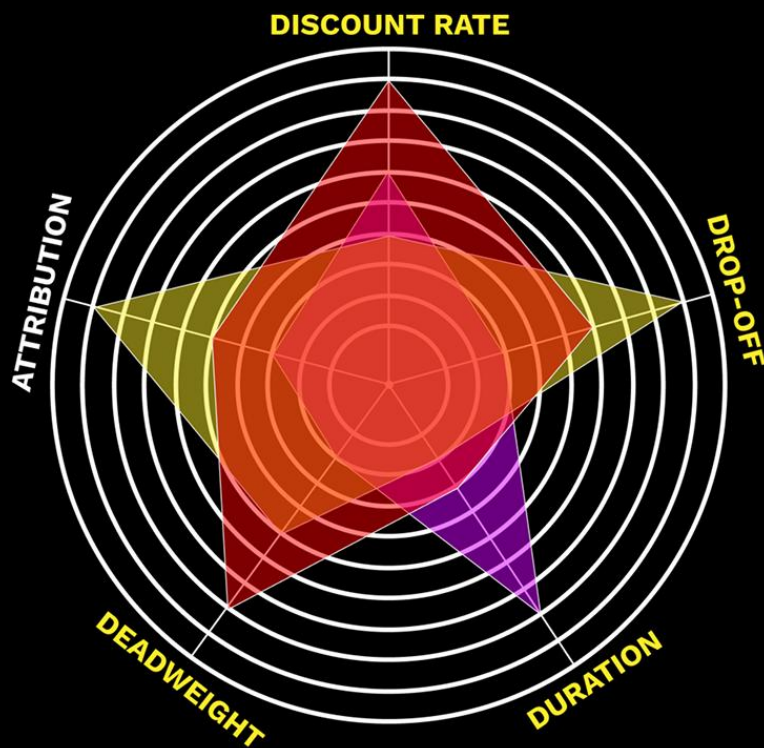
Two summaries: **NPV** = $PV[\text{benefits}] - PV[\text{costs}]$; **SROI** = $PV[\text{benefits}] / PV[\text{costs}]$. Use the ratio as an efficiency signal, not a financial return. Pair the point estimate with credible bounds.

Check 12

STATUS



Sensitivity, Transparency & Assurance



Explanation

Show what moves results. Vary the most uncertain levers while holding cohort size, unit values and costs constant. Make the workbook auditable, record verification steps, and note what will change in practice.