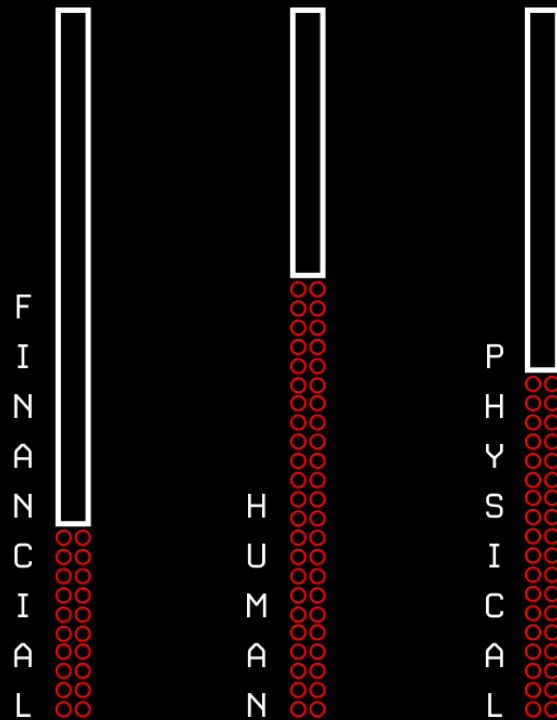
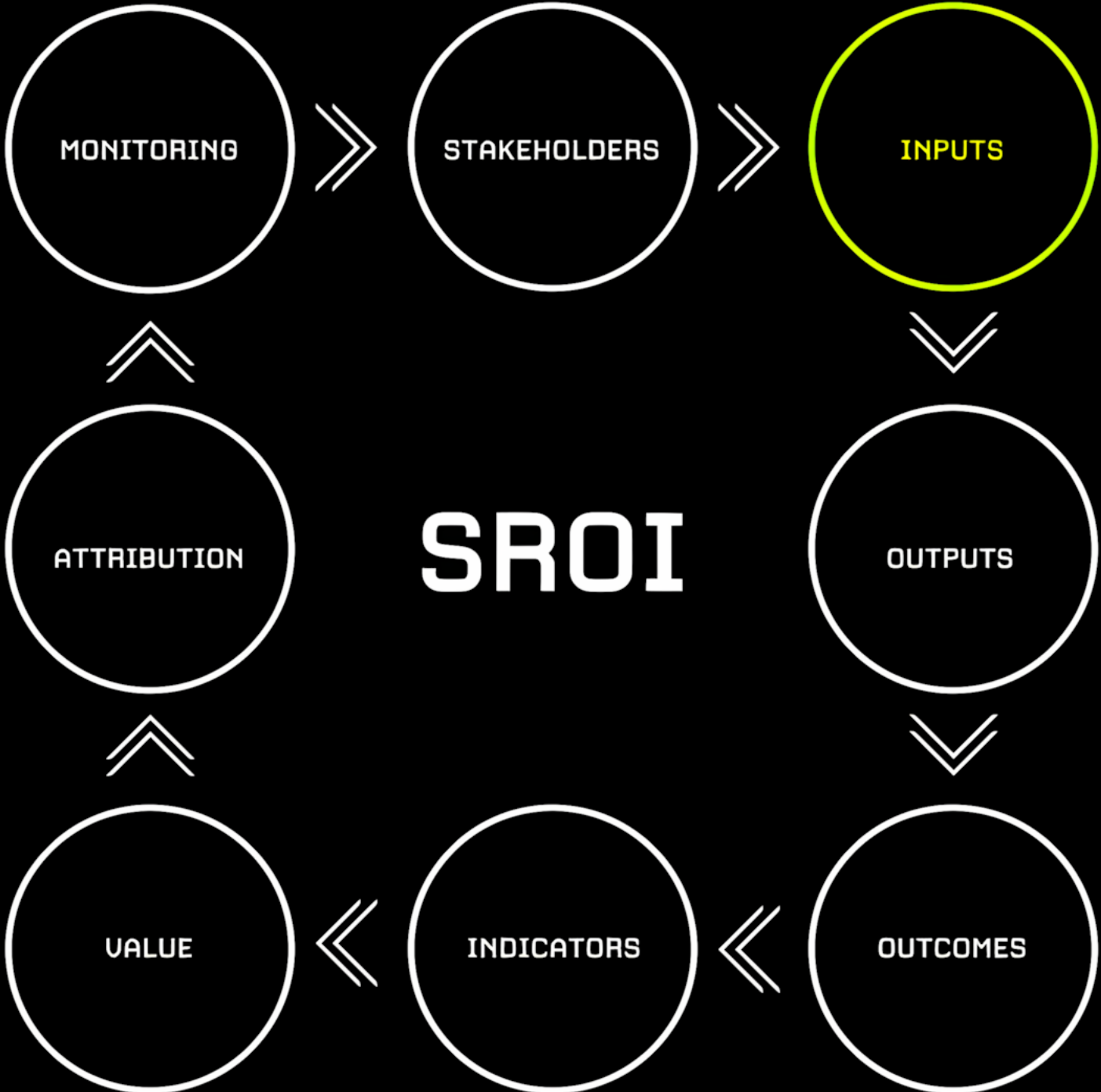


# Inputs

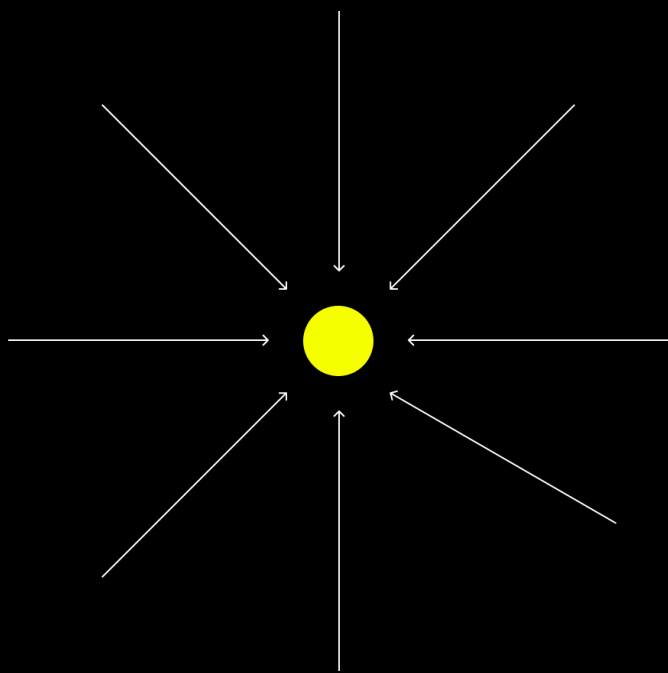
Recognising Everything You Put  
In





# 1. Introduction

## What are Inputs?



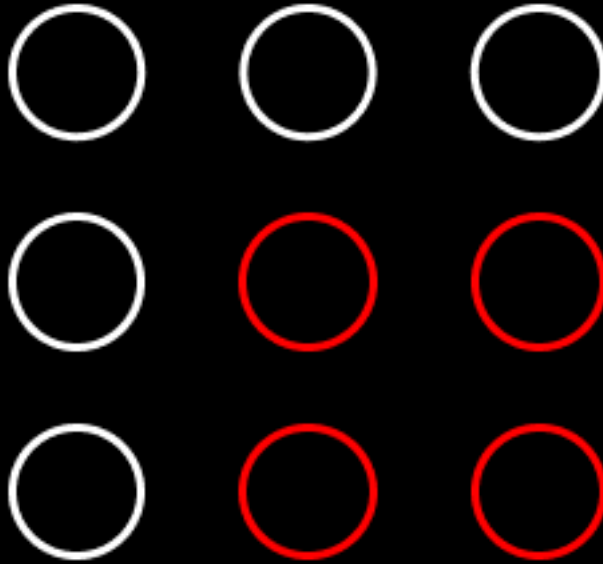
Inputs are the resources your organisation uses to deliver a programme, project, or activity. They are everything you need to get started and keep going before any results or occur

When we talk about SROI, we're talking about value i.e. how much positive change was created compared to the resources used to create it. Inputs form the cost side of SROI ratio:

$$\text{SROI} = \frac{\text{Total value of outcomes}}{\text{Total value of inputs}}$$

So if you're unsure or unclear about the cost side (your inputs), the final number could be misleading by either over- or under-stating your impact. Therefore its important to have a good understanding and keep a good record of these.

## 2. Why Inputs Matter?



**Credibility and True Impact** Accurately reporting inputs shows that outcomes took real effort and resources. This build trust amongst with funders and partners.

### **Help Funders Understand Value**

Funders want to know that their support is being used wisely. Detailing inputs shows how your resources were turned into results.

### **Support Transparency and Accountability**

Being open about what went into a programme shows measurement is being taken seriously. It also helps others assess whether your outcomes are replicable or scalable.

### **Help Improve Over Time**

Knowing inputs lets your organisation track what worked and what was resource-intensive. This supports better planning and smarter decisions in future.

There are different types of inputs that can be broadly categorised into the following groups:

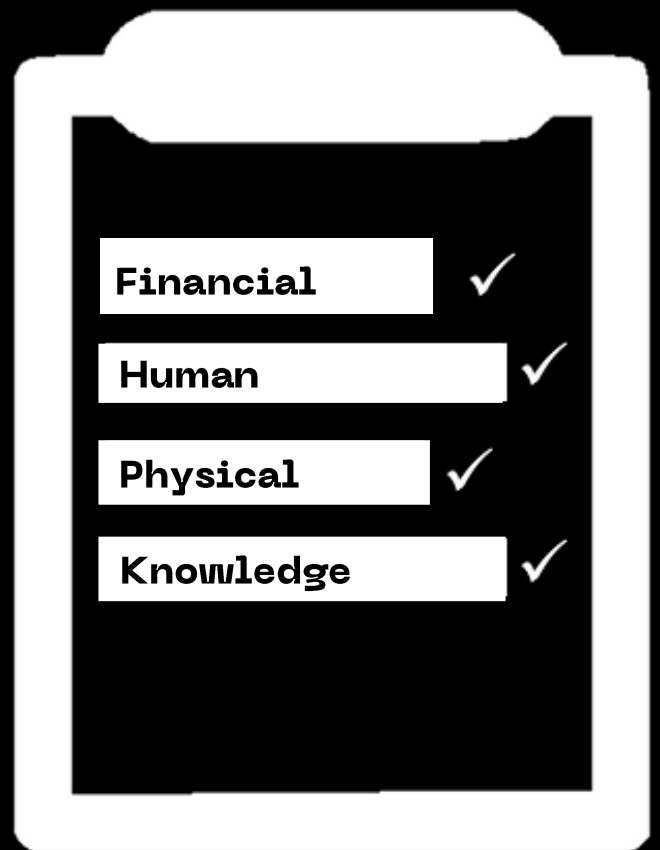
**Financial Resources:** Grants, donations, insurance, monitoring and evaluation systems, IT software or licenses, participant payments, or any other budget allocations.

**Human Resources:** The time and expertise of staff, volunteers, board or governance members, or external professionals.

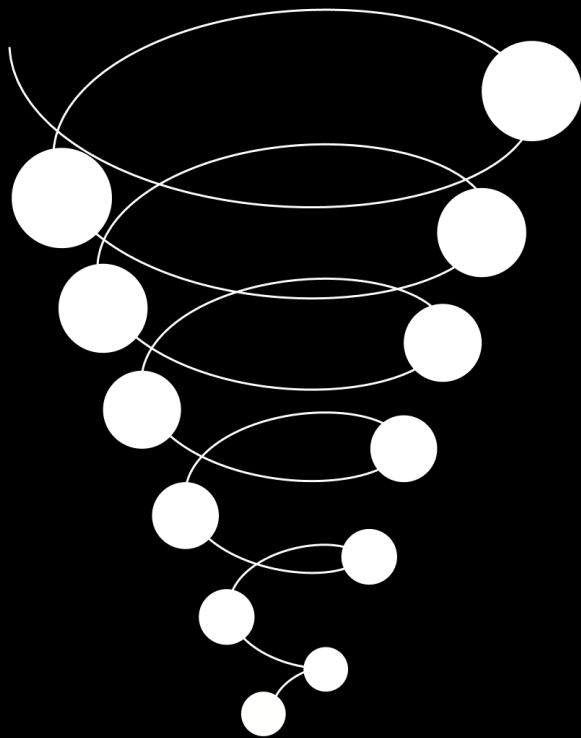
**Physical Resources:** Facilities, equipment, vehicles and transport, or technology that enable your work.

**Knowledge and Cultural Resources:** Programme design and curriculum, Mātauranga Māori or kaupapa Māori models, community relationships and trust, brand and reputation.

### 3. Input Types



## 4. Identifying Inputs



Quantifying inputs means pinning down the size of every contribution.

Ask: how much was actually used? Money, time, space, distance—everything needs a number.

### **Checklist:**

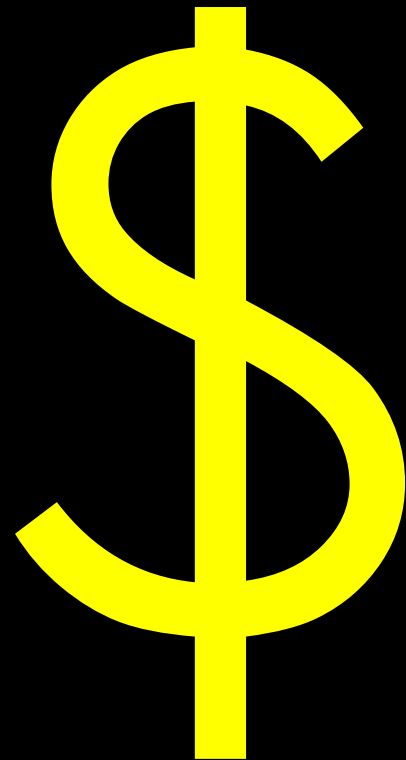
- Review payroll, invoices, and hire agreements for cash figures.
- Record staff and volunteer hours from rosters or timesheets.
- Measure physical use—square metres occupied, kilometres driven, equipment-hire days.
- Cover the whole accounting period and all stakeholders, not a snapshot.
- If data are missing, note the proxy used (e.g., average weekly volunteer hours). Keep counts separate; valuation comes later.

## 5. Quantifying Inputs: Money & Time

Before any valuation, you need a baseline. Quantifying turns commitments into evidence you can defend and surfaces gaps or double-counting. For every input, capture five dimensions:

- Money spent — dollars from bank accounts, grants, petty cash
- Time invested — contract hours, overtime, volunteer shifts, meetings
- Space occupied — square metres of office, paddocks, marae
- Distance travelled — kilometres for site visits, deliveries, outreach

Cover the accounting period and all stakeholders. When data are missing, note the proxy and its source.



## 6. Example - Urban Community Garden Initiative – Inputs Snapshot

Scenario: A neighbourhood trust converts a vacant lot into a teaching garden that supplies fresh produce and runs weekend workshops for local whānau. The project operates for one full growing season (April – March).

### Financial Resources

- Council Grant: \$12,000 towards tools, seedlings, and insurance
- Local Business Sponsorship: \$3,500 for signage and workshop materials

### Human Resources

- Project Lead: \$9,600 — 240 hours at \$40/hour (0.3 FTE across 12 months)
- Volunteer Gardeners: 400 hours logged at community working bees (tracked sign-in sheets)
- Horticulture Students: 120 placement hours contributing to bed preparation and data collection

### Physical Resources

- Leased Land Parcel: 500 m<sup>2</sup> supplied by Council at zero rent (market rate \$8/m<sup>2</sup>)
- Tool Library: Spades, wheelbarrows, and irrigation gear borrowed from the local Men's Shed (replacement value \$2,200)

### Knowledge & Technical Expertise

- Permaculture Advisor (Pro-bono): 8 onsite sessions (approx. 16 hours)
- Workshop Facilitators: Four weekend classes on composting and seed saving (10 hours total)

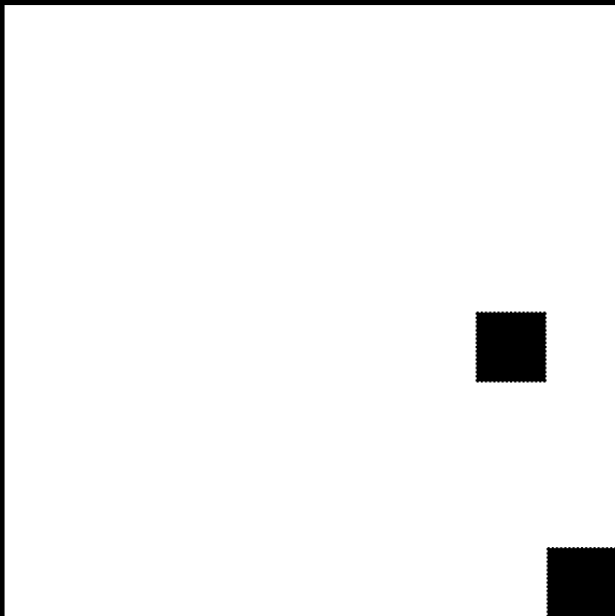
### Cultural & Relational Resources

- Kaumātua Blessing and Karakia: Opening ceremony and seasonal planting days (4 sessions, koha equivalent \$150 each)
- Neighbourhood Trust Network: Existing relationships used to recruit volunteers and secure produce distribution partners (descriptive, not monetised at this stage)

*All quantities cover the full accounting period and the entire stakeholder group. Values are recorded for transparency only; no social value calculation is applied here.*



## 6. Common Mistakes



- **Forgetting In-Kind or Volunteer Contributions:** Unpaid time, donated space, or pro bono services are often left out, even though they are essential to delivering a programme.
- **Double-Counting Inputs:** Sometimes the same input is accidentally counted twice. For example, volunteer time being included both as an input and also baked into partner contributions.
- **Ignoring Shared Costs or Overheads:** Core functions like admin, IT, or transport are often missed because they're not directly tied to programme delivery.
- **Not Documenting How Values Were Calculated:** Failing to record how you arrived at a number reduces transparency and makes the analysis harder to trust.

## 7. Conclusion

Every social impact evaluation needs to begin with a clear understanding of what was invested. Inputs whether financial, human, physical, knowledge or cultural are the foundation as they represent the time, money, energy, and trust that made the outcomes possible.

Valuing inputs fairly and transparently ensures that final results are not just a feel-good number but a credible and grounded reflection of the effort behind the change. By identifying and assigning value to all contributions, including those that are often overlooked or unpaid, this gives proper weight to the full range of resources involved.

Most importantly, careful input mapping respects the people and communities who supported the work. It gives funders confidence, supports better planning, and ensures a strong comparison of what went in with what came out.

Matatihi has delivered dozens of social impact assessments across diverse sectors, from valuing the impact on Māori of 5G spectrum ownership to assessing the benefits of mentoring and many other meaningful projects along the way.

Our approach combines rigorous methods aligned with New Zealand Treasury standards, government expectations, and specific funding criteria, ensuring that your outcomes are clearly understood and valued appropriately.

Feel free to reach out anytime - I'd love to kōrero about your aspirations and explore how Matatihi can support your goals.

Jay Whitehead (PhD)

Economist and Founder at Matatihi

Ōraka Aparima | Ngāi Tahu | Kāti Māmoe

