

# STUCKEDNESS

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On the Organizational Art of  
Forbearance

By

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## CERTIFICATE OF ORIGINAL AUTHORSHIP

I certify that the work in this thesis has not previously been submitted for a degree nor has it been submitted as part of requirements for a degree except as fully acknowledged within the text.

I also certify that the thesis has been written by me. Any help that I have received in my research work and the preparation of the thesis itself has been acknowledged. In addition, I certify that all information sources and literature used are indicated in the thesis.

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Kalpana Vignehsa  
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In Memory of my Father, Vignehsa Ponnampalam

~ 10 years of loving, 20 years of missing, 30 years and growing ~

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

**CEO** – Chief Executive Officer

**CTO** – Chief Technology Officer

**DOG** – Department of Goldfish

**GridLock** – Energy company that won tender to run trial for Australian Government

**ICT** – Information & Communication Technology

**IntelliTech** – Unit set up by GridLock and the Australian Government to implement the trial

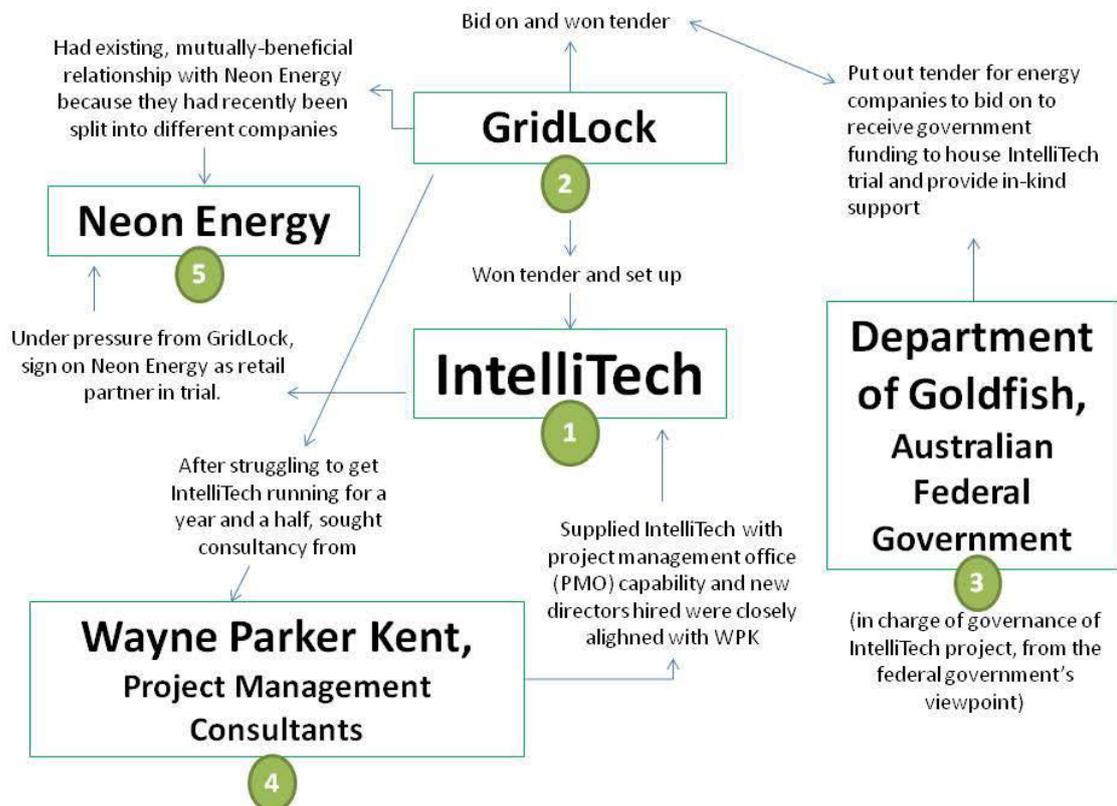
**PM** – Project Manager

**SLM** – Stream Lead Meeting

**WBS** – Work Breakdown Structure

**WPK** – Wayne Parker Kent

## DIAGRAM OF AGENCIES IN THE FIELD



## LIST OF ACTORS-IN-AGENCIES IN THE FIELD

<b>1 IntelliTech</b>	<b>2 GridLock</b>	<b>3 DOG</b>	<b>4 WPK</b>	<b>5 Neon Energy</b>
Jackson Hunt (Program Director)	Don Henshall (Chief Executive Officer)	Kent Heller (Senior Bureaucrat)	Henry Loy (Director)	Fred Billing (Head of Neon Energy)
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Owen Neil (Program Manager)	Vander Russell (Executive General Manager)			
Malcolm Vinski (Program Manager)	Lawrence Mitchell (ex-Program Manager at IntelliTech)			
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	George Ardant (one of 2 full-time GridLock employees (as opposed to contractors) on the IntelliTech project)			
	Rita Langan (Executive General Manager)			

## ABSTRACT

Stuckedness can be described as the taken-for-granted advocacy of the continuance with a practice even when such a performance is counter-productive, not fruitful, or non-generative. Indeed, most people will be familiar with experiences of stuckedness as such practices are to be found in acts such as the staunch dismissal of the issue of climate change despite evidence to the contrary, the repeated choice to stay in toxic relationships, the careless pursuit of profit by corporations, the choice to persist with a habit that is likely to result in degenerative disease, etc. It is also likely that most people will at some point become acquainted with feelings of chagrin towards such practices. Yet, the characterization of practices of tacit forbearance as stuckedness remains largely unproblematized and this thesis seeks to understand how and why a social practice reveals itself as stuckedness.

Drawing on the work of Foucault, and then using genealogical and ethnographic methods, namely the techniques of action nets, a reporting style, and problematized confessional tales, I excavate how and why certain elements come together to be problematized by my respondents in those terms which had become for me an index of stuckedness.

This research draws on data from the specific spatio-temporal field of a costly government-funded innovation trial within the energy sector, operating within a continuously complex environment. Focusing on expressions of taken-for-granted advocacy of recursive self-control or unchanging replication, I make connections between different observable elements (power/knowledge relations, historical and cultural conditions, human and non-human agencies, and the practices under scrutiny) to detail and problematize the justification and utility on which the endurance of practices of stuckedness depends.