

DemFest 21 Chat recording

This chat recording has been edited to remove material not pertinent to the discussions within the sessions. Spelling has been corrected.

Saturday 6 November

09:53:36 From Nick Vlahos : Curious Evan, if Gadgets works with open (raw) data portals that are increasingly being populated by govt's

09:56:53 From Peter W Tait : Hiding data in plain sight, if you like.

10:05:37 From Nick Vlahos : Interesting, Marcus, this reminds me somewhat of a process here in Toronto called KidScore run by an org called Maximum City

10:10:11 From Toby Chambers : If PlaceScore had been used in Wagga would it have better identified needed community infrastructure and be a transparent method of allocating public funds and resources rather than Pork Barrel at time of election?

10:10:51 From Peter W Tait : Interesting observation Toby.

10:11:55 From Marcus Crowley (Sydney) : Hi Toby. Coincidentally my team produced our first report for Wagga Wagga this week.

10:18:37 From Plaxy : Individuals' wills, including mine, may not be well informed enough to want to write a will letter. I don't trust the media to educate me about complex issues and would prefer to see representative groups of non-politicians go through a deliberative process and express their will or wills.

10:19:28 From Thor Prohaska : So what happens if the elected rep doesn't do what the voters wants?

10:23:33 From Marcus Crowley (Sydney) : Plaxy - do you think that schools then should be a better job of preparing us to vote responsibly?

10:24:56 From Nick Vlahos : Roslyn, thoughts on CitizenLab?

10:25:37 From Plaxy : @marcus Yes and also to deliberate and dialogue responsibly and effectively - perhaps more importantly?

10:26:19 From Thor Prohaska : There is a tension between the Sortition supporters and the Direct Democracy supporters. Roslyn has looked at this question and has in my opinion valuable insights into Sortition.

10:27:58 From Thor Prohaska : Everybody talks about democracy but there are many views on what democracy actually is. I think we involved in this space need to have a common understanding of a definition.

10:28:25 From Roslyn Fuller : RE: CitizenLab, I think their PB module is particularly well thought through. I like the visuals (which I think is an important factor) and their modular system, as well. They definitely have an all-round functionality. We included them as well, although have not done reference check for them yes.

10:32:52 From Marcus Crowley (Sydney) : We are up against Netflix, to be honest. It's a dry, complex topic and needs to be gamified.

10:34:34 From Thor Prohaska : The established powers don't want the citizenary to look closely at how govt is run

10:34:37 From Nick Vlahos : Might need to connect at some time, Thor. Our connecting to parliament process was interesting in that an MP based his conscience vote on Maeve's Law as a result of the two public town halls we held. (online and in person).

11:46:34 From Peter Martin : Thanks Gilles, good point about maintaining contact. So interesting to hear all these views and to learn from your various experiences.

13:05:58 From Thor Prohaska to Peter W Tait(Direct Message) : Is a mini-public like the Voices kitchen table conversations?

13:06:11 From Peter W Tait to Thor Prohaska(Direct Message) : 1. there are 12 active members and about 30 members and a supporters list of 200.

13:06:21 From Thor Prohaska to Peter W Tait(Direct Message) : Thanks

13:06:40 From Thor Prohaska : Is a mini-public like the Voices kitchen table conversations?

13:06:42 From Peter W Tait to Thor Prohaska(Direct Message) : 2. mini public is the generic name for citizen juries, citizen assemblies, and similar arrangements.

13:08:24 From Mark Spain : A mini public is a deliberative process. A kitchen table conversation is a method for deep listening

13:17:32 From Thor Prohaska : Petra, in this example, where the participants randomly selected and if so what was the pool.

13:19:08 From Thor Prohaska : <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20191001-dunbars-number-why-we-can-only-maintain-150-relationships>

13:31:19 From Paul Atkins : what proportion of the cost is the selection of participants or running the event? marketing firms select random samples all the time at very low cost. why would the selection be expensive?

Sunday 7 November

09:24:35 From Millie Rooney (she/her) | Australia reMADE to Everyone:

ahh the public good/common good debate :)

09:29:27 From Peter W Tait to Everyone:

In public health; public health or the public's health.

09:36:12 From Peter W Tait to Everyone:

community or citizens is another dimension

10:12:06 From Peter Martin to Everyone:

...talking about 'public good' - I think we need to have ways of measuring human well being built into assessing how our economy is performing

10:14:10 From Glenn Cummings - proACT to Everyone:

agreed Peter. GDP is a terrible measure of how well society and communities are doing

10:29:33 From Peter Martin to Everyone:

In thinking about indicators of well being it can be helpful to stand back and ask the question 'what is an economy for?' which quickly leads to consideration of social and community values

10:30:00 From Millie Rooney (she/her) | Australia reMADE to Everyone:

millie@australiaremade.org

10:54:50 From Peter W Tait to Everyone:

@PeterM: yes, one of Richard Denniss' lines is that the economy isn't a person, it is a system to deliver things people need. So we should stop talking about it as if it was a person. we should surface the people who are using the language for what it is; eg the wealthy want lower taxes and less government regulation; that is good for them not for 'the economy'.

11:16:49 From Anna Bateman to Everyone:

TheLocalParty.net

11:28:05 From Peter Martin to Everyone:

Great initiative Craig

11:32:10 From Nardine Alnemr to Everyone:

Rob, can you share the website link?

11:32:42 From Peter W Tait to Everyone:

<https://activedemocracy.org.au/>

11:33:54 From Craig Blakley to Everyone:

once you have a candidate then we need to help voters find them

11:52:29 From Nardine Alnemr to Everyone:

@Craig, it would be interesting to see in our surveys if people engage with platforms like VoteEasy to get acquainted with the candidates

11:53:02 From Anna Bateman to Everyone:

Whenever I hear the someone say the economy is 'going gangbusters' something we hear a lot in Tassie - I find myself using 'For who?'

11:53:38 From Peter W Tait to Everyone:

Indeed; for who is the key question

11:57:03 From Anna Bateman to Everyone:

In Tassie we only really hear from our Federal representatives if we are within 3 months of an election.

12:00:17 From Nardine Alnemr to Everyone:

@Anna, that's interesting—what's the most common format?

12:01:17 From Craig Blakley to Everyone:

as we are running out of time, My email is craig@voteeasy.com.au please ask me as many questions as you would like

12:03:00 From Anna Bateman to Everyone:

Newsletter and diary fridge magnets and weighing in on State issues - gingerly

12:05:53 From Anna Bateman to Everyone:

Thanks Plaxy- and for everyone my email is Anna.Bateman@thelocalparty.net thanks everyone it's been a great chat - I've really enjoyed it

12:06:38 From Craig Blakley to Everyone:

Thanks, Anna would you please get in touch, would appreciate your input.

12:11:11 From Nardine Alnemr to Everyone:

Thank you Petra, here's my email nardine.alnemr@canberra.edu.au

12:11:26 From Nardine Alnemr to Everyone:

This is the website <https://connect2parliament.com/>

12:13:09 From Anna Bateman to Everyone:

The Diversity is great and Barbara you are also right - where possible we need to collaborate and direct our power and resources.

12:13:33 From Anna Bateman to Everyone:

For the common good

12:13:46 From Barbara O'Dwyer to Everyone:

Thanks Anna. Yes, we need more collaboration.

12:13:55 From Thor Prohaska to Everyone:

Anna, You have rules in your constitution (citizens juries, 2 year terms) but once the candidate is elected how do you enforce that? Like what happens if the candidate once elected just refuses?

12:14:16 From Craig Blakley to Everyone:

agreed, it's the only way it will work and we collectively can do it.

13:36:00 From Peter W Tait to Everyone:

2017? Democracy100 study; Museum of Australian Democracy and Canberra Uni IGPA

13:38:47 From Anna Bateman to Everyone:

TheLocalParty.net has embedded citizen juries in our constitution and we are calling for Citizen Juries on our response to Climate, Justice reform and Salmon Farming

13:41:23 From Anna Bateman to Everyone:

Question to Polly and Emily - if politicians are reluctant to hold or be involved in a Citizen jury - what your advice - do we just hold one anyway?

13:45:16 From Peter Martin to Everyone:

Polly - very interested right now in what you plan to do in SA in awareness raising - we might be able to work with you on that

13:45:33 From Polly Cameron to Everyone:

From November 15, the URL will be changeopolitics.org.au

13:46:26 From Anna Bateman to Everyone:

Great Polly! Might be worth looking at Tassie MP's - the Tas Health dept has a page on citizen juries but seem to have no appetite for any

13:48:12 From Polly Cameron to Everyone:

Great, Peter & Anna. Happy to talk here or afterwards at polly@changeopolitics.org.au

13:49:11 From Nardine Alnemr to Everyone:

@Polly, can we share the link on Twitter or you're yet to launch the website?

13:49:58 From Polly Cameron to Everyone:

Hi Nardine, thank you for asking! From Nov 15 any public shares would be very very welcome - thank you [URL will be changeopolitics.org.au]

13:51:39 From Rob Salter (Melbourne) to Everyone:

Emily, do you think it's feasible for voters' groups to run deliberations in their electorates, and could you help with this?

13:58:27 From Thor Prohaska to Everyone:

Petra, why was CTP contentious and did the deliberative process help the consensus building process?

14:06:12 From Peter Martin to Everyone:

Am keen to get those two docs Petra

14:07:59 From Peter W Tait to Everyone:

The template is on the CAPaD website <https://canberra-alliance.org.au/activity/#current-capad-activity> in the current activity tab

14:08:05 From Polly Cameron to Everyone:

Petra, would be interested to hear your answer to that final questions you raised also: how much of the criteria would you have to meet to be able to call something a Mini-public etc legitimately?

14:12:06 From Polly Cameron to Everyone:

<https://www.newdemocracy.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/New-Democracy-Handbook-FINAL-LAYOUT-reduced.pdf> sharing our UNDEF partnered handbook as a resource here also for those interested

14:23:53 From Peter Martin to Everyone:

We in SA are setting up a group called South Australians for Citizen Assemblies (SAsCA) - early days

14:33:09 From Polly Cameron to Everyone:

I have to duck off, lovely to connect here and all the best to everyone. And if you want to help make this change; please enter your email here: <https://www.changepolitics.org.au/>