



newDEMOCRACY

ENGAGEMENT & POLITICS
BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE, BUILDING COMMUNITIES

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The Politics of Engagement

- What characterises the politics of engagement:
 - Growing distrust of politicians
 - The role of the Media
 - Defining “the Community” in the 21st century
- What can random selection contribute to our democracy?



Why is there growing distrust of politicians?

- The quality of Government ranks 2nd after the economy (Scanlon Institute, 2013)
- It is about trust in the decision making process, not just taking a simplistic view (democracy for us is more than being able to go to the ballot box)
- Does this mean that there is growing distrust of the way we do democracy?

Media clippings

ICAC raid on Mudgee council

Officers from ICAC have raided a Mudgee councillor's home and the town's council chambers amid allegations of conflict of interest in council deliberations.

ICAC probe inches closer to Abbott

Liberal Party fundraiser John Caputo says ICAC appearance 'not a good look'

Even I am shocked by ICAC revelations

Geoffrey Watson: the ICAC counsel they call Hollywood

ICAC: 'Carpet man' Paul Murphy coy over campaign funds

ICAC: Gazals entertained Chris Hartcher on luxury yacht but deny paying \$100,000 in bribes

ICAC: Staffer to former energy minister Chris Hartcher admits collecting money from banned donors

Liberal MPs used law firm to launder donation funds, ICAC hears

Federal Liberal MP Karen McNamara dragged into ICAC scandal



Defining “the Community”

- Community and Community Groups are two different things
 - The community is a collection of individuals who are sourcing their own information from other individuals
 - Community groups – enraged or otherwise, are an important part of the democratic process but they do not speak for “the Community”

Case study: The Planning Process

- We have all seen:
 - The lack of trust in the planning process
 - Projects with a genuine commitment to community engagement
 - A vocal minority winning over a silent majority

What can a deliberative approach contribute to our democracy?

- Deliberative approaches are characterised by:
 - Random selection - guaranteed transparency and diversity
 - Space for deliberation – most important and gives people time to consider information before giving input
 - Authority for outcomes – show participants the results



newDEMOCRACY is about
redressing the imbalance

- Its time to introduce innovation into our democratic processes to better manage the politics of engagement?
 - Queensland's challenges and opportunities
 - Can we redefine the community in Queensland?
 - How do we include the media and politicians in this redefinition?
 - What would this mean for engagement methodologies?



Your Questions

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We don't need better politicians. We need a better system.