

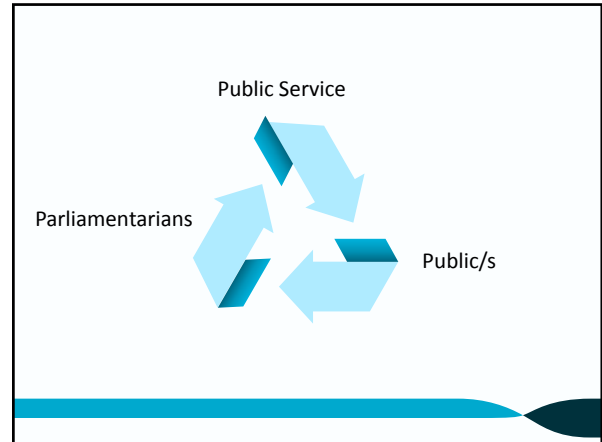
Creating a dialogue with communities: the two-way conversation of citizen science

Art of Communication Forum, Sydney Coastal Councils Group Inc. Customs House, Sydney

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www.csiro.au



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In 100 words or less....

- Increasingly, the community is making more sophisticated use of tools and approaches, and using these simultaneously. This can:
 - broaden the reach and impact ✓
 - but armchair and internet activism may reduce local social capital ✗
- These approaches have substantially increased the transaction costs for government, and this is a problem. ✗
- Complex issues can be discussed and communicated in a sophisticated manner with the community. ✓

A few images to draw upon

Community is making more sophisticated use of tools and approaches....

- The use of legal instruments
- Community health and sustainability outcomes
- Appropriate knowledge / multiple evidence bases
- Importance of economic information
- Partnership approaches
- Advocacy and the politicisation of issues

Our political influence....

The Fishing Party, the Australian Fishing and Lifestyle Party, the Australian Fishing and Recreation Party, Outdoor Recreation Party (Stop the Greens), Horse Riders Party, Shooters and Fishers Party, Australian Motoring Enthusiast Party, Australian Sex Party, Australian Sports Party, Bullet Train for Australia, Future Party, Bank Reform Party, No Carbon Tax Climate Sceptics, The Wikileaks Party, No Parking Meters Party.....



Policy is political and value-based...

No matter how well-prepared we might be for moments of opportunity for policy change, it has to be emphasised that policy can never be so rational as to delete the political and value-based contests and choices that some view as 'irrational'.

Poor knowledge, moral biases, conflicting interests, hidden agendas and the allure of convenient quick answers will always exist. Beyond that, all policy is political, and so it should be (Dovers 2005, p. 33).

We want it to be simple but it is really not...

People don't give you things because you're right.

People don't make policy just because it's right.

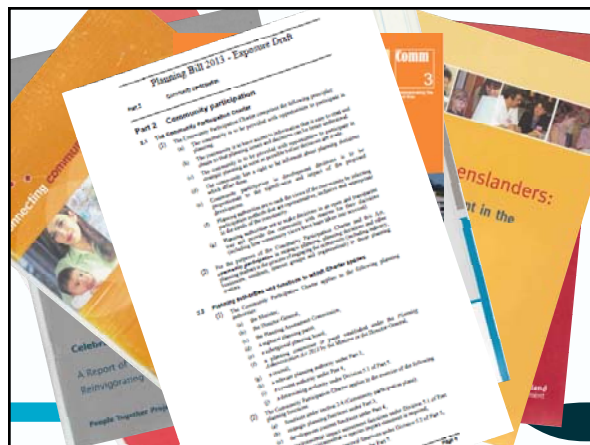
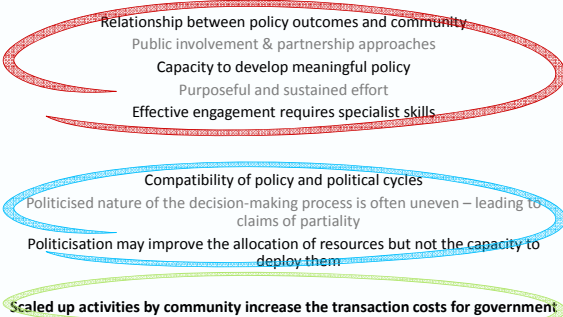
Sometimes they make it because it's expedient.

Sometimes they make it because there's lobbying involved or people who are very loud or people who are very good at distorting facts.

And that's what they make policy on.

It's not simple, we want it to be simple but it is really not (Rosenblatt, pers. comm. 2006).

What's holding us up?



So what does this mean...



- More informed purchasing of science
 - Parliamentarians e.g. POSTnotes
 - Public sector e.g. collaboration & coordination, adaptive leadership, enabling structures and processes
- More informed consideration of options
 - Community / key stakeholders e.g. deliberative processes

Thank you

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