

Recap Meet-Up #4 – 28 June 2018



Meet Up Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Check - in
3. Facilitated discussion – trust in deliberative process
 - a. What would you need to trust a deliberative process?
 - b. What could be done to support trust in the process?
 - c. What do we still need to understand to support trust?
4. Next meeting topic and call for facilitators

This was the fourth meeting of Deliberate ACT. Our focus was exploring what trust is in a deliberative process.

The meeting was facilitated by Karen Stewart-Moore and Beth Slatyer and structured as an open discussion and reflection to flesh out what people needed to trust in deliberative processes

The group explored the topic through individual, small group and plenary reflections, which created a larger group discussion to move through the session and into the proceeding exercises. The following are the statements, verbatim and non-attributable that were made through the three exercises.

Individual considerations for building trust in deliberative processes

- Trust will only come after there have been a number of deliberative processes
- There needs to a clear question to answer in the process
- An understanding of how we will move to shared power
- How we bring humanity and not fear to these processes
- How these processes keep pace with the rapidly changing environment
- How we look after and encourage critical thinking
- How we allow for public participation in a meaningful way
- What would be the system and structures that you need to operate in
- What the system would look like if it were to be institutionalized
- How these systems would evolve
- How deliberative processes operate in a political context
- Getting the question right
- How do you choose the right method?
- How we give people the ability and skills to develop and answer their own questions
- Overcoming people and groups who have been previously burnt by these processes
- A set of values which is applicable to all deliberative processes
- How you embed deliberative principles into all conversations to build a deliberative mindset in the community for all engagements and consultations
- What's next in terms of deliberative process?
- How do we take the lessons that we have learned so far and continue to move forward with them?

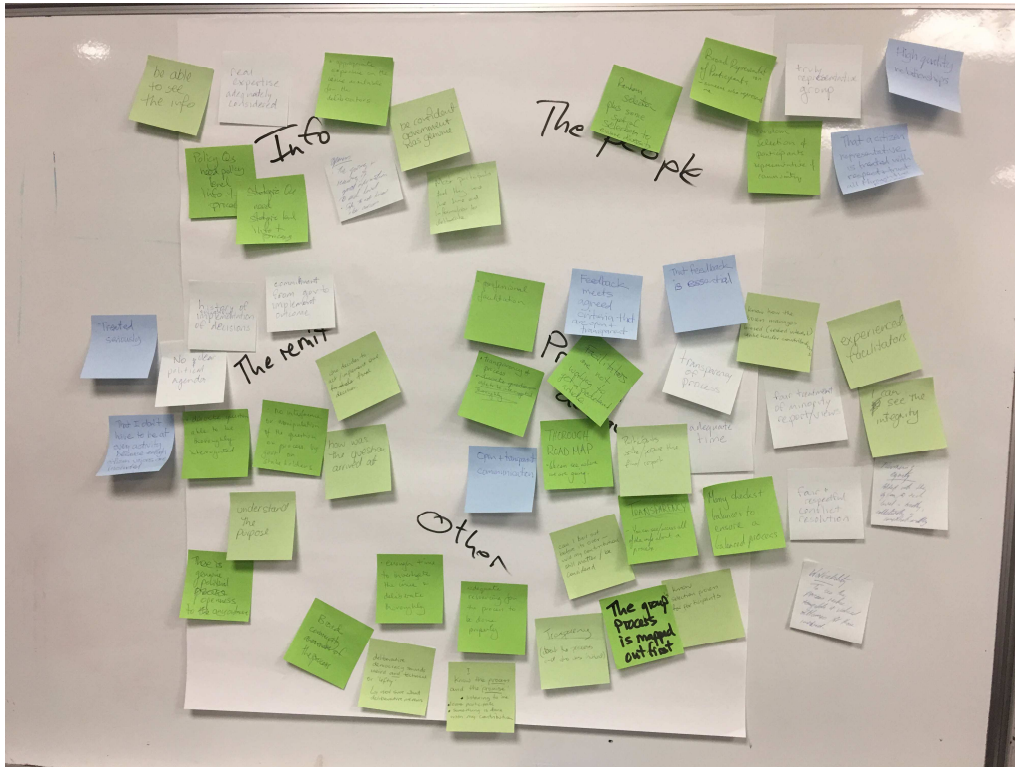
Ways to support trust in a process

- A consensus and commitment to a process, that it is not going to end up nowhere, so there is assurances and demonstrations that it will end up somewhere.

- Using landmark cases, such as CTP to expose commitments from government and that individual contributions will be valued and there will be visibility of the process after.
- Being involved early on in the development of a process and having input, such as an independent arbiter in a process.
- Seeing that it is valued by the power holders in the system that we are in and that it doesn't need to be used all of the time, but is bought in for wicked problems which have vested interests to show transparency and process to address them.
- The process itself and the content, needs to have a method and process to it.
- Processes need to be profiled and show a clear outcome.
- Developing trust in a process which morphs every time to address circumstances, it is difficult to develop trust when there is no standardisation. In our society we trust things that are standardised - and some features of deliberative processes could be standardised over time (eg selection of jurors/panel members).
- There is the difficulty of time, resources and inputs required to make these processes work – they need to be used sparingly so they are not overused.
- When there are vested interests involved in making decisions we lose faith, it makes it difficult to find a place where you can have a balanced conversation. There should be a place where all people can be involved in the conversation and people can have a legitimate say.
- There needs to be room for ordinary people with time and information to have stakeholders offer up their positions and ideas so people can make balanced and reasoned judgements.
- We need to open up opportunities for people to be involved with this themselves, as it is hard to understand until you yourself have been through the process.
- Better leverage people who have been through the process to share their experiences and advocate and be the voice for doing more of this.
- Anyone is capable of being involved in this process.
- People are concerned about who is in the room when it comes to these processes, but when they see it in practice they have more trust.
- How do we build the body of practice?



Post-it exercise: Elements to build trust in deliberative processes



We capture individual thoughts on what you would need to trust a deliberative democracy process. The group broadly categorized these in four areas Information (Transparency), the People (as in the people involved) The Remit (what they are being asked to do) and Process (how the process is designed) and there was an 'Other' category.

As a group we all looked at these, reflected on them in answering the following questions.

What do we still need to understand to support trust?

- What is the right process for different types of questions?
- Deliberative democracy is a tool and solution, encompassed in a range of philosophies – we need to develop a tool to solve solutions.
- What are the trademarks and hallmarks for a robust process.
- We need have an understanding that we can only hone our practice through trial and error, therefore we need to be prepared to fail.
- We need to learn better from past experiences.
- Having the right question when we begin a process to ensure we get the right answer.
- Key principles that give people confidence in the design of a process.
- Being prepared to deal with stakeholders who will change their tactics as these practices change.
- How the broader community feels about deliberative democracy and how they understand it.
- How to make it equally appealing to the left and right sides of politics.
- How we tease out the tool from the philosophy

- How we separate the process and outcome, when we evaluate them rather than bundling them into one.



Next Meeting – Thursday 2 August, 5.30pm, Museum of Australian Democracy (TBC)

We discussed possible topics for next time and through a dotmocracy (voting with sticky dots) came up with the topic of the principles of deliberative engagement. The organizing committee agreed to take this topic and come up with an agenda.