

# Awakening Democracy

CAPaD – the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

AUGUST 2021

G'day members and friends

In this [Awakening Democracy](#): **AGM coming, Memberships due**, Charitable Status progress, Active Democracy ACT progress, and more things to read and watch.

## COMING UP

### **AGM - September 12, 2pm - Announcement**

Please put in your diary and come along (members – [so join up](#)) for this year's AGM where we are looking for people wanting to join our exciting work for getting the best democracy we can in Australia. There are a couple of vacancies on the Committee.

### **2021-22 Memberships due**

Thank you to those who have rejoined us in the past two months. We have really appreciated the support you have given us this past 12 months. How good it is to be involved in transforming politics in Australia. The electorate-based democracy movements **including Active Democracy** is building momentum.

If you cannot join us actively, please continue your moral and financial support by renewing your membership or joining us. Memberships are still our major source of income.

## ACTIVE PROJECTS

### **Active Democracy ACT & Australia**

To **get involved or find out more**, visit the websites ([Active Democracy Australia](#) and [Active Democracy ACT](#)), come to the zoom or [contact the Secretary](#).

There is an active group in Bean.

### **Demfest 21: a festival celebrating locally driven democracy in Australia.**

Shaping up well. Help organising always welcome.

### **#OurDemocracy**

Finally, the Big Deal documentary is coming. Have a look and share [The Big Deal - Is our democracy up for sale?](#) We are arranging a screening or two in Canberra after its launch in September.

## OTHER ACTIVITY

### **Charity status**

The constitutional objectives have been updated and submitted to the ACNC.

### **Report on 2020 ACT Election**

JACS Committee report on the [Inquiry into the 2020 ACT Election and the Electoral Act](#) was tabled in the Assembly this week. CAPaD's input was noted. Some of the pertinent outcomes were recommendations that candidate statements can be lodged at nomination (supporting our recommendation); to reimpose limits on donations to \$10,000; make roadside corflutes a thing of the past, and ban donations from tobacco, alcohol and gambling related entities. For CAPaD we will need to rework our candidate statement strategy for the 2024 election.

## NEW STUFF TO READ AND LOOK AT

Connecting to Parliament explanatory graphic

[centre-dtp-infographic-v2.b.png \(5333x3000\) \(wordpress.com\)](#)

### **Citizen Jury on Gene Editing:** held in Canberra June 2021

Three reports on the Gene Editing Jury hosted by the University of Canberra Deliberative Democracy group.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vh5oDI5rwtI>

12 minute audio: an ABC Radio Drive interview with Professor Dianne Nicol, director of the Centre for Law and Genetics at UTAS, speaking about the Citizen's Jury (C J) process held in Canberra in June this year. Professor Nicol describes some of the benefits of using a C J process of randomly selected Australians to explore legal, ethical and social concerns around the technology.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pvze3h\\_4wFg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pvze3h_4wFg)

10 min audio Jane Longhurst from Your Afternoon ABC Radio Tasmania interviews Professor Dianne Nicol from UTAS, on the recruitment process of the gene-editing Citizen Jury, as well as the ability of these ordinary Australian citizens to debate at a very high level.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrWqOWhXHHg>

5 min visual interview, Nas from ABC Breakfast interviews Dr Simon Niemeyer of the UC Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance, and Angus Ashton-Hicks, a participant from the Citizen's Jury on Genome Editing. Discussion centres around how the Citizen Jury process brings science, the community and decision makers into conversation with one another. We learn that documentary film makers Genepool Productions were filming at the CJ sessions, for use in their new film.

### **DEMOCRACY AS FUN 'COLLECTION'**



Courtesy Canberra Times.

*From your committee, with best wishes*

**Contact us:** [secretary@canberra-alliance.org.au](mailto:secretary@canberra-alliance.org.au)

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