

# Awakening Democracy

CAPaD – the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

JULY 2023

G'day members, supporters and friends

Best wishes for the winter solstice. In this [Awakening Democracy](#): Active Democracy Bean Voice activity, The Canberra Forum reflection, Living democracy into being, time to rejoin / join ... and much more to read and watch.

## COMING UP

### Living Democracy into being?

August 20 1430 (After AGM) to 16-00; on zoom. [Register here to receive the link](#).

Third in this series of conversations about **living democracy**, we will explore in more depth **how to build new political systems to which we can transfer our consent**.

### 2023 AGM – August 20, 14:00 – 1430, on Zoom.

Yes, it is already that time of year again.

The Annual report is in preparation and will be out in late July.

As foreshadowed, we are refining the constitutional objectives further consequent to members' suggestions at last year's AGM to emphasise the education role more forcefully. Explanation of these changes will be out in early August.

Link will come out in the formal notification.

## Support us please

We are really keen for people who care about the state of politics in Australia to contribute to fixing the system by joining us. Joining can include: membership, being on the Committee, donating time to a project or tasks (eg Awakening Democracy compilation), donating funds to support the Awakening Democracy Foundation education activity (not yet tax deductible but we are working on that) ...

Funds are our only source of income and cover the operating expenses: website and email hosting, Zoom subscription, insurances.

And **for members and those wishing to support our efforts, please join / rejoin here**. Thank you to those who have already responded to last weeks email 😊. [If you received this email, it means you are a current member]

**Future Zoom events** – [listed in our Events Calendar](#). More are in the planning stage.

## 2024 ACT Election and 2025 Federal Election

How do we know who to vote for? Who is the best candidate for the job? How do we know our representative is doing a good job. With our sitting MPs, how can we tell. For challengers, how would we pick between them and them and the sitting MP? How are they balancing their party/personal wants and agendas and the wants and priorities collectively decided by us, the voters?

If you want to be involved in designing and building a process to answer these and other questions, [please contact me](#).

## ACTIVE PROJECTS



The CAPaD Committee has used our [Genuine Engagement Tool \(GET\)](#) to reflect on the **Canberra Forum**. We will be putting out more about this when we have completed feedback from participants.

The participants' report on how the government might support provision of affordable housing in Australia will be uploaded to [Alicia Payne's website](#) in due course.

### Active Democracy ACT (ADACT) & Australia (ADAus)

#### Active Democracy Bean - Together, Yes Conversations

Active Democracy Bean's focus this year is having respectful conversations and encouraging community engagement with the Referendum on the First Nations Voice to Parliament. This will be done within the framework of ADB supporting a Yes vote.

#### Dates and registration links:

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July – Together, Yes hosts support session 7 – 8pm

Register: <https://events.humanitix.com/together-yes-support-for-hosts>

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August - Together, Yes hosts support session 1 -2pm

Register: <https://events.humanitix.com/together-yes-support-for-hosts-br5a4xhf>

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#### Active Democracy Bean Facebook Page

Additionally Active Democracy Bean [has a Facebook page](#) on which they will promote what is on and latest information regarding their activity.

Contact Cath or Jane at [activedemocracybean@canberra-alliance.org.au](mailto:activedemocracybean@canberra-alliance.org.au) for any support or further information.

More about ADB on their [webpage](#). If you are interested in joining, please [email Cath](#).

The Active Democracy ACT [site is here](#).

## OTHER ACTIVITY

### Get Political: Communities taking action event (June 3) Video links - coming still

The CIP Convention site is [here](#) if you want to keep an eye out.

## THINGS TO READ AND LISTEN TO

Our standing reminder about:

- **Democracy Sausage podcast** from the ANU Public Policy Institute. Lots of very topical topics, and
- **The Remakers podcast**. Australia ReMADE's podcast has a fascinating series of discussions and interviews and is well worth a listen. Both **available** from your favourite podcast service.

## Exercising our democratic muscles – zoom event reflections

Peter Tait

A second very stimulating conversation on living democracy happened on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

### Key messages:

Withdrawing consent is only one of four stages in living democracy; these stages happen in parallel.



They are sowing the seeds of change, perhaps launching the idea that change is needed and possible; cultivating the soil (change) which is perhaps designing the alternative systems and institutions to carry the new system and the stories (narratives) to facilitate change happening; weeding the garden, which is withdrawing consent from the current institutions and policies while at the same time, stage four, putting the new systems and institutions into practice.

The simultaneity in the process is crucial.

Consent to be governed, as with consent in many other aspects of our lives, has a long political tradition. Our consent to be governed is core to legitimising our government and the system of social institutions that is our society. Withdrawing consent is how we delegitimise the system once it has stopped delivering for us its part of the social contract, such as action on existential threats, affordable housing, compassionate social security, universal health care and so on. When a government increases the coercive power over us, the people, such as by making peaceful protest illegal, it means taking care of us is no longer their primary concern. Consent can be withdrawn piecemeal, in steps, as new parts of the alternative system come online.

Much more depth and detail can be found in the video of the conversation, [which is uploaded here](#).

*From your committee*

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

**Keep up to date:** <https://canberra-alliance.org.au/>

**Share ideas:** [Twitter @CAPADACT](#)

**Find us on Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1487360858250888/>

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The Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy