Awakening Democracy

CAPaD – the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

OCTOBER 2026

G'day members, supporters and friends

In this ***Awakening Democracy***: busy times, more **Happenings**, **Reimagining ACT Governance Event Series – next up October 19th**, Community Assembly follow up on our federal MPs contribution to government action on a gas tax and gambling regulation, update on the Standing Citizens' Assembly, CAPaD connections to and role in the pro-democracy ecosystem and … as always lots of stuff to read, hear and watch.

COMING UP / HAPPENINGS

Reimagining Governance for the ACT Event series.

Third event, October 19th, **A Larger Assembly – Do more MLA's make for Better Government?**
Local Politics in the Pub event, 1730, Irish Club, Weston.

Register here.

Fourth: Monday November 16th, **Would a (Standing) Citizens' Assembly work for the ACT.**
Local Politics in the Pub event, 1730, Irish Club, Weston.

Much more details on our events page.

Register here.

A **Festival of ACT Democracy** over the weekend of June 19 – 20 in mid-2027, with a concluding event on the Monday 21st evening at that Local Politics in the Pub, for a major analysis of and think about which of the ideas raised and the options that reinforce or counter other are worth taking forward.

All this activity is an arc spanning across to the 2028 ACT election.

Watch our emails and Events page for links to registration and updates, and for newer events.

Our federal MPs contribution to government action on a gas tax and gambling regulation

On December 6th, **Community Assembly** to hear their report back from our five federal MPs on what they have done to progress a 25% levy on gas exports and having the government fully implementing the Murphy Report.

At this stage we are planning another Community Assembly for early March to come up with asks for our federal MPs for 2027. We will run another community poll before, as we did last year, to collect proposals that we want our MPs to contribute to next year.

And planning ahead, we intend to run candidate forums for the federal and ACT elections in 2028.

Connections in the pro-democracy ecosystem

CAPaD joins the **Stop the SLAPP Alliance. The website for the Alliance is live**. This is one of a several campaigns the Australian Democracy Network is running of which CAPaD is a member and participant.

It is another of a number of emerging organisations active in the pro-democracy ecosystem in Australia.

Others we are aligned and participating with include:

- Stronger Charities Alliance
- New Economy Network Australia, for whom we convene the Good Governance and Democracy Hub (a bit quiet at the moment)
- Centre for Australian Democracy whose aim is more effective civics education in schools
- Alliance for Citizen Participation, a new organisation aiming to coordinate and support pro-democracy activity in Australia
- Foundation for Tomorrow and their National Conversation Development Lab, aim to build stronger 'democracy'

as well as ProACT and Progressive Action Lab in Canberra.

The pro-democracy ecosystem is really humming.

Toward and into Democratic Living

Citizens Assembly for the ACT - CAfACT

A group of Canberrans has started to pubicise this and seek ideas and input from the community. There is a webpage with information, and at that website are links to be involved and donate.

If you are interested in helping by being at stalls, handing out information, being part of the planning or in any other way you can, please get in touch.

What we want our MPs to contribute to in 2026 Progress.

We also note that media reports delegates "voted to incorporate a pledge to give Australians a "fairer return" from their natural resources into Labor's National Platform." I suppose that is something, though what exactly will happen as a consequence is to be seen. We can ask them (the MPs) in December.

Active Democracy Bean

Local Politics in the Pub

Third Monday every month. Watch out for the emails forwarded from ADBean for up to date details. Register from their Facebook page (registrations preferred but not essential); link below.

Any questions or interest to join in? Contact **activedemocracybean@outlook.com**.

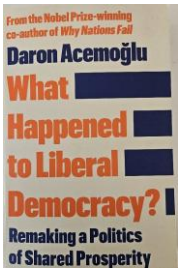
Active Democracy Bean has a Facebook page for the latest what is on and information. More about Bean and ADB on their webpage. **The Active Democracy ACT** site is here.

THINGS TO LISTEN TO, WATCH AND READ

Our standing reminders about:

- **Democracy Sausage podcast** from the ANU Public Policy Institute. Lots of very topical topics.
- **Juice Media** for an irreverent and spicy look at current politics in Australia and beyond.
- **Punters Politics** another clever comedic look at Australia's political goings on.
- Crazy Town From the Post Carbon Institute (go to Products/Podcasts). 2026 season happening on an esoteric collection of topics.
- AusPol Explained**:** "an educational YouTube channel that focuses on explaining everything to do with Australian politics."
- **Voices for a New Economy**, the podcast of the New Economy Network Australia (CAPaD is a member and Convenes the Good Governance and Democracy Hub).

All **available** from your favourite podcast service (and YouTube).



Jon Alexander's podcast How to save Democracy. Jon has also written the 2023 book ***Citizens:*** *Why the Key to Fixing Everything is All of Us*.

New addition to CAPAD's Library (yes we have a library**) ->**

Sociocracy Explainer – on CAPaD's Facebook: scroll sown to August 8.

António Guterres: "Second, we are witnessing an extraordinary transfer of power away from governments to a handful of private corporations and individuals. Their reach now extends across politics, economies, information flows, technological development, and the civic space on which societies depend." Copy of full speech here.

New rules finally put a ceiling on money in politics – but the cap is double what it should be

Kate Griffiths, Grattan Institute, in The Conversation, 26 Sept 2026, ideas for how to make the new federal election laws fairer to new candidates.

The McKinnon Exchange, September Edition. "Government is ultimately judged by what it gets done. That sounds obvious. But across Australia and other democracies, the gap between announcing reform and actually delivering it has become one of the defining challenges of government." "We discuss the culture of politics and the toll it takes on the people we rely on to lead, make decisions and deliver reform. …
Better outcomes require better institutions, better leadership and a political system capable of supporting both."
McKinnon believes one way to a better political system is by educating MPs to be good at their job.

Community Independents Network **Growing beyond the usual suspects: how change spreads with Damon Centola**
Hint, it doesn't spread as a linear process radiating out from a central hub. This works for infectious diseases but not change making ideas. Rather it proceeds from the periphery as nodes of change connect across 'wide bridges' and begin to infiltrate the centre. CAPaD might have a role as one of those nodes. For instance, the sudden increase in conversation about changing the ACT governance system.

And there is more: Community Independents Network, **From campaigns to community power: turning election energy into lasting empowerment** with Hahrie Han and Amanda Tattersall. Not just about elections but explores the difference between mobilising people for a moment and organising them for lasting power. The latter is CAPaD's objective. A brief summary of the main points is on our Views page.

Contributions welcome

If you come across articles relevant to CAPaD's objectives, please send links so we can share here. Also if you get really inspired and write something in response to something you have seen or read, we would welcome a copy we can add to our Views page.

From your committee.

Contact us: secretary@canberra-alliance.org.au
Keep up to date: https://canberra-alliance.org.au/
Share ideas: BlueSky: @CAPADAUS.bsky.social and Mastodon: @CAPADAUS.mastodon.social
Find us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/groups/1487360858250888/
Watch us on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/@capad-awakeningdemocracy9799/videos

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