

Design, democracy and better policy making: a brief exploration

Can design help us make better policy and, as a consequence, improve the capacity of democracy to “deliver”?

In this workshop, we will explore the relationship between design, better policy making and the quality of our democracy.

We’re going to start from the assumption that there is a relationship, and that it is positive – design for better policy is design for a better democracy.

But we’re also going to start from the assumption that we need to understand better what design can do, and what design can’t do, to improve the quality of policy making and therefore of the democracy it serves.



3:00 Welcome and introductions

Martin Stewart-Weeks



3:05 Designing for democracy: the scorecard

Sam Bucolo, Until August 2017, Sam was Professor of Design and Innovation, University of Technology, Sydney, before which he held a similar position at Queensland University of Technology. He is the convenor of the recently established Australian Design Integration network and is an executive board member of the Cumulus global network

3:20 Design and policy: two quick exercises

Participants will split into two groups to focus on a mainstream policy task and, as a group, answer three questions:

- How would you approach the policy task as a design exercise?
- How different would a design approach be to a traditional approach?
- What helps or hinders the wider use of design methods and mindsets in policy making?

Facilitators



Chris Vanstone
Chief Innovation
Officer, The
Australian Centre
for Social
Innovation



Dominic Campbell
Founder and
Director,
FutureGov

4:00 Report back

The two groups will report back on their discussions.

4:10 Can design help democracy deliver?

The final session will be an open forum discussion, facilitated by Martin Stewart-Weeks and including Sam Bucolo, Chris Vanstone and Dominic Campbell, on the impact of better policy through design for the quality and effective of our democracy.

4:30 Close