

South Australia: Reforming Democracy policy statement

August 2015

On 13 August 2015, South Australian Premier the Hon. Jay Weatherill MP released the *Reforming Democracy: Deciding, Designing and Delivering Together* policy statement.

The policy statement details the South Australian Government's commitment to more effectively consult and build partnerships with the business, not-for-profit and local community when formulating public policy in order to deliver higher quality services to South Australians.

Mr Weatherill said the policy statement seeks to build on the reform agenda as outlined in the South Australian Governor's Speech, as delivered in February 2015, by focusing on utilising digital technologies to engage with the broader South Australian community to carry out projects aimed at attracting innovation.

The *Reforming Democracy: Deciding, Designing and Delivering Together* sets out to:

- Reach public judgment on big issues
- Collaborate to create public value
- Build South Australia's collaborative capacity
- Make *Better Together* even better

Reach public judgment on big issues

The policy statement announced the South Australian Government will support four partnerships between State Government and businesses, or not-for-profits, with a total of \$200 000 to be made available in order to carry out processes that involve the local community in the development of policy and services.

The South Australian State Government has made commitments to utilise at least two citizen juries by December 2017. Citizen juries have already been engaged with the question in 2013, "How can we ensure we have a vibrant and safe Adelaide nightlife?" in 2014 with the "Sharing the roads safely" and in 2015 with the "Cat and dog management."

In addition to commitments for Fund My Idea and a refined version of Fund My Community, the policy statement proposes further opportunities to engage with the community when deciding the allocation of Governments funds, by utilising digital platforms and face-to-face opportunities.

Collaborate to create public value

The policy statement outlines support will be provided to government agencies to run three demonstration projects that aim to generate new perspectives in regards to areas of community needs.

The sharing economy is recognised within the policy statement as an opportunity to further raise awareness of resources and assets the general public and organisations have that could benefit and deliver value to the South Australian community.

The policy statement provides the example of the South Australian Share N Save website that identifies opportunities for people to share or swap items and to work together using collaborative economy principles. Furthermore, the policy statement details the intention to further utilise Civic Tech, meaning technology platforms, such as the Your Say Website in order to provide the community with opportunities to become involved in State Parliament debates.

Build South Australia's collaborative capacity

The policy statement announced that in 2016 South Australia will host a weeklong festival exploring the themes of collaboration, innovation and democracy that aims to provide a platform to showcase South Australia and its leadership on an international level.

In order to monitor collaboration methods, the policy statement outlines the State Government will partner with South Australian universities and researchers to evaluate the impact of policy implementations and guide future development of South Australia's collaborative expertise.

The policy statement also announces an awards program will be developed in order to promote best practice in community collaboration to bring innovation to South Australia.

Make *Better Together* even better

The policy statement announces the South Australian Government aims to enhance community engagement via phone and online methods. The policy statement commits to holding an additional 10 GovChats that provide the public with opportunities to freecall ministers and senior executives and raise issues on selected topics. An online GovChat will also be trialled. A dedicated country GovChat will also be held. This commitment stems from two GovChats already held on public transport and criminal justice.

Country Cabinet will remain part of the consultation process and the policy statement announces a further six to be held between August 2015 and 2018. The policy statement details that Each *Country Cabinet* will provide communities with the opportunity to receive up to \$50 000 in funding for a local project.

Further information

To view the South Australian Premier's media release on the policy statement, click [here](#).

To view the *Reforming Democracy: Deciding, Designing and Delivering Together* policy statement, click [here](#).

To view Hawker Britton's Occasional Paper on the South Australian Governor's Speech, click [here](#).

To view open online consultations via the YourSay website, click [here](#).