

Webinar Chat Log: The Role of the Senate in Our Democracy

00:20:12 Hayden: Welcome all - Hayden from the Australia Institute here! Thanks for joining us today.

00:21:50 Greg (Darwin, Australia): hear hear

00:22:18 Graeme Tychsen: Basic tenet, Aussie government should ensure equal playing field, one vote, one value. But many unchecked power hubs. Cost of "dining" with Coalition/ALP. Small/big government, silly concept. Bout effective government, for society's professed values. Government can get in people's way, as can myriad other circumstances, only government can remove. EG, Aged disabled abused bullying. 40 years social upheaval, rightly end overprotected economy+globalisation, "losers" to wolves. Honest successful concede good fortune, as no one God. Oz multicultural, yet parliaments over-rep UK/Irish names. Mabo/Wik quietly trying to bury beleaguered sovereign First Nations. "Traditional owners", patronising social tyranny, per Anglo-Saxon culture, often prevails. Oz, class based? Yessiree, like many breaking necks for status private schools. Senate, blighted, as part of parliament. See Julie Bishop ABC 7.30 Mar 8

00:23:43 Hayden Starr (Australia Institute): You can read the Australia Institute's recent report 'Representative, Still: The role of the Senate in our Democracy' here >

<https://australiainstitute.org.au/report/representative-still-the-role-of-the-senate-in-our-democracy/>

00:24:09 Greg (Darwin, Australia): Yep. That's why real, full-time democracy would work much better than our electoral aristocracy, and one day of democracy every 3 years.

00:24:24 Ahmad Masri: Good morning from Docklands, Victoria

00:30:52 Darren Poinen: Question: Is the operation or existence of the Senate, influenced in anyway on the concept of path dependency since 1901 ? Both from a social point of view and an economics policy point of view ?

00:31:42 Hayden Starr (Australia Institute): Darren, great question. Would you be able to put it in the Q&A?

00:35:51 Cate Cooper: I love senate estimates!

00:40:05 Graeme Tychsen: Parties rule not parliament as the house of Australians' lawmaking.

00:43:42 Hayden Starr (Australia Institute): A little reminder, the chat has options for 'all panelists' or 'all panelists and attendees'. Select the latter option to participate in the chat with everyone.

00:45:45 David Tehr: Yes Graeme Tychsen, and Modern Representative Democracy works *best* with a two-party system

00:45:46 Patrick O'Leary: Going to Scott's relevant point earlier. Quite soon it may be the case that ACT has a greater population than Tasmania. But a grossly disproportionate Senate representation. Is there any mechanism for redressing this even slightly. Given the role of the federal parliament with additional powers over the Territories.

00:50:30 Graeme Tychsen: Julie Bishop spoke of the selfish "sense of entitlement", of the toxic Australian parliament's, society of lawless wilderness, (ABC 7.30, Mar 8). Our law makers, at the bottom of the barrel. No wonder many think of snouts in troughs, which cannot be trusted. Without the best efforts, to clear the air, Christian Porter will be left stewing.

00:51:59 Graeme Tychsen: "Big swinging dicks" - heaven forbid - these are the people put up by the party system to be voted for.

00:56:08 Petrice Davidson: NZ have the most democratic system according to the CATO human index on freedom (2020). Aust is in 5th place.

00:58:45 Graeme Tychsen: Isn't that the point of reports etc, to fill the files; look at the unactioned royal commissions; world of spin and reality based on saying something often enough and wear down with attrition.

00:59:17 Anne Heard: Aaarrrgh! Missed first 25 mins, may this topic covered. Why are senate "deals" not made public?

01:02:50 Petrice Davidson: Delegated authority can result in deals not made public, or not publicly informed.

01:07:21 Graeme Tychsen: Persuasion is the gold standard but now it's red herrings all around of fake news and alternative universes.

01:09:46 Graeme Tychsen: Last 40 years has been an ever faster changing world but the social reforms to secure Australians have been overlooked.

01:10:42 Hayden Starr (Australia Institute): Here is the report for those interested > <https://australiainstitute.org.au/report/representative-still-the-role-of-the-senate-in-our-democracy/>

01:13:38 Hayden Starr (Australia Institute): Thanks to all for joining us today and for participating in the discussion! For details about upcoming webinars and to book head to https://nb.tai.org.au/webinar_series.

01:14:25 Hayden Starr (Australia Institute): The full stop ruins that link sorry, this one works > https://nb.tai.org.au/webinar_series

01:14:36 Petrice Davidson: There is not enough public input to inform policy in Australia.

01:14:37 jennifer manson: If in Canberra, it's well worth attending the Senate lectures when they're on. Only an hour with diverse political topics, they increase understanding of politics.

01:15:14 tanya smyth: Are those Senate lectures recorded at all?

01:16:11 jennifer manson: yes

01:16:20 Hayden Starr (Australia Institute): https://nb.tai.org.au/webinar_series

01:16:22 Cath Graeme-Cook: Thank you all

01:16:26 Elizabeth Prime: Excellent discussion, thank you to all.

01:16:30 jennifer manson: they're on the parliament website

01:16:47 Graeme Tychsen: Closing the gap.....watch the step.

01:16:56 Hayden Starr (Australia Institute):
<https://publishing.monash.edu/product/challenging-politics/>

01:17:13 John Hawkins: Thanks all!