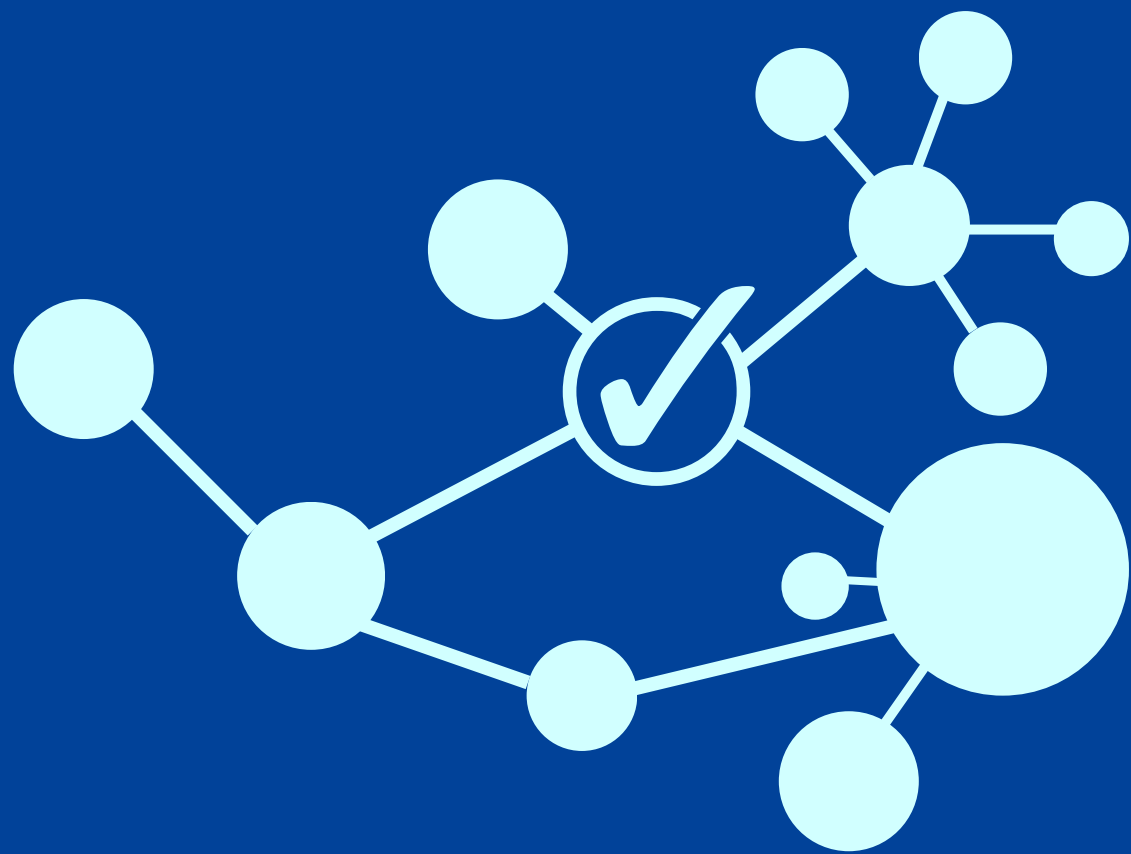


A new democratic process for climate and disaster resilience



*Pilot opportunity
for your council*

Is your community grappling with what to do about climate change and disaster resilience locally?

Does your council face any of these challenges in community consultation?

- it's difficult to involve **large, diverse communities** in **productive, nuanced** discussions.
- disagreement can seem overwhelming, and it can be hard to find points of **consensus** and **make progress**.

New approaches are emerging across the world in response to these democratic challenges.

Here's a chance for your community to be part of this innovation.

About the opportunity

Researchers at the University of Melbourne are looking to **partner with a local council** to pilot an exciting new democratic approach for climate and disaster resilience.

This cutting-edge project will make use of a cost-free, **innovative online platform called Polis**.

Polis is designed to help communities **'crowdsource consensus'** and take practical action, and to better understand disagreement and diversity.

It is an **interactive platform** which enables **large groups** of people to discuss issues. It visually displays patterns of agreement and disagreement in real time as the discussion evolves.

Polis is carefully designed to support much **richer discussion** than simple voting or survey processes can, while avoiding many pitfalls of social media platforms.

Leading governments internationally (e.g. local governments in the US and UK and Taiwan's national government) have been using Polis to make progress through controversial issues.

We have been trialling using Polis in Australia, and we want to partner with you with the aim of supporting communities to find new ways forward through the challenges of climate change and disasters.

What would the partnership involve?

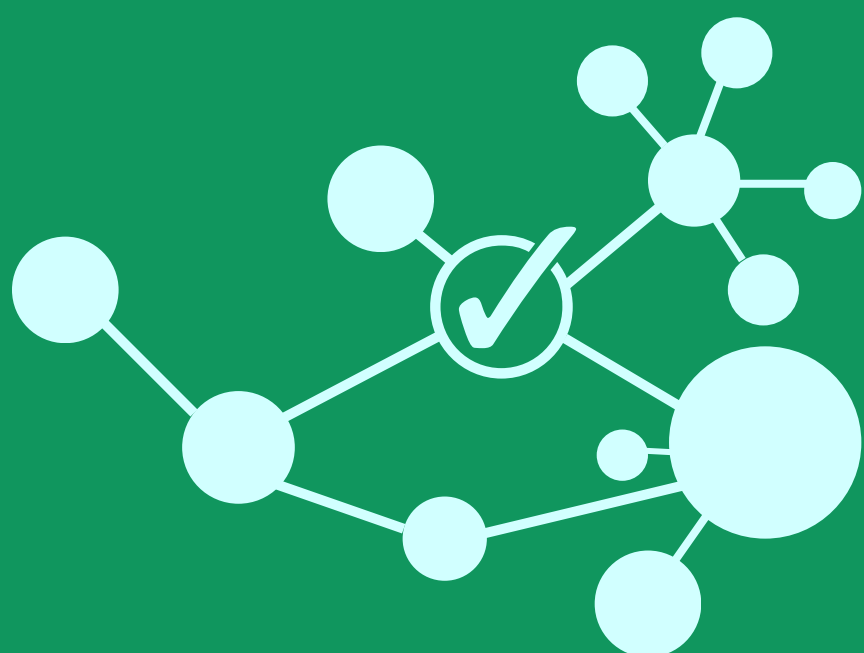
There is **no cost** involved in using Polis.

Together, we would decide on a topic for community consultation which:

- is a 'hot topic' related to climate change/disasters locally
- requires council to take some kind of action/decision

The researchers would facilitate the Polis conversation(s) and provide findings to support your council's decision-making.

Your council's role would include communicating with residents about the issue and consultation process, and using community input to inform next steps.



Contact

If this opportunity interests you, please get in touch!

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Example Polis conversation snapshot

People can express their views, vote on what others have said, and see patterns of agreement and disagreement as the discussion evolves.

What should be done to increase flood resilience locally?

Anonymous wrote: 2 remaining
We should prioritise moving the hospital away from the floodplain.

Agree Disagree Pass / Unsure

Share your perspective... Submit

Opinion Groups

The visualization shows two clusters of opinions on a 2D plane. Cluster A is a large grey polygon on the left, containing a blue circle with a white checkmark and the label 'A 22'. Cluster B is a smaller grey polygon on the right, containing a green circle with a white checkmark and the label 'B 4'. A horizontal bar between the clusters shows a green segment followed by a red segment, representing the distribution of votes between the two groups.

Majority Opinion Group: A B

