
Podcasts

Putting science and policy on the same wavelength

The following are two recent podcasts from podcast of Policy Forum.net - Asia and the Pacific's platform for public policy debate, analysis and discussion. Policy Forum is based at Crawford School of Public Policy at the Australian National University in Canberra, ACT. All content produced for Policy Forum.net is available for republishing and reproducing under a Creative Commons licence.*

How scientists can make themselves heard by policymakers

17 Aug 2018

<https://policyforumpod.simplecast.fm/science>

Can scientists make facts great again in an era of fake news? How can we get more young people and women studying STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths? Is humanity heading towards a science utopia or dystopia?

It's National Science Week in Australia (10–18 August 2019), and on this podcast we hear from four scientists working across physics, psychology, engineering, and climatology: Susan Scott, Eryn Newman, Elanor Huntington and Mark Howden.

In a wide-ranging interview, hosts Maya Bhandari and Sue Regan lead a discussion on how researchers can make themselves heard by the public and respected by policymakers, why science must find more common ground with the humanities, and why we need a new engineering for the 21st century.

Professor Susan Scott specialises in gravitational physics at the ANU Research School of Physics and Engineering. Susan was part of the team behind the breakthrough discovery of gravitational waves, winning awards for the way the science was presented to the media.

Professor Elanor Huntington is Dean of Engineering and Computer Science at the Australian National University. Elanor is leading a project to re-imagine a new type of engineering and computing, fit for the middle of the 21st century. (<https://cecs.anu.edu.au/reimagine>)

Professor Mark Howden is Director of the ANU Climate Change Institute. Mark was a major contributor to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports for the UN, for which he shares a Nobel Peace Prize.

Dr Eryn Newman is a researcher at the ANU Research School of Psychology. Eryn's research focuses on distortions of memory and cognition, looking at how people can succumb to 'truthiness' – using feelings and pseudo-evidence to decide what is real, instead of drawing on facts.

Notes: The following were referred to in this episode:

Trapped in a culture of happiness by Brock Bastian at <https://www.policyforum.net/trapped-culture-happiness/>

National Security Podcast: Binary bullets with Adam Henschke and Chris Farnha at <https://simplecast.com/s/78bc35d3>

What do policymakers think of scientists?

14 Sep, 2018

<https://policyforumpod.simplecast.fm/science>

We hear from two senior figures in Australia's policy-making process about what it's like to be at the pointy end of policy creation and formulation, and receiving input – wanted and unwanted – from scientists.

Hosts Bob Cotton and Sue Regan chat to Ian Chubb, former Chief Scientist of Australia, and Taimus Werner-Gibbings, Chief of Staff to Tasmanian Senator Lisa Singh.

They discuss how to get evidence and data on the desk of a politician, the future of science in policymaking, and Ian's personal story of putting his life in the hands of an experimental cancer treatment. Listen here:

Professor Ian Chubb has had a long and distinguished career as a neuroscientist and an academic. He has served as Vice-Chancellor of both Flinders University and the Australian National University, and has been made a Companion of the Order of Australia. He served as Australia's Chief Scientist from 2011 to 2016, and was conspicuous in raising the public profile of science in the media.

* <https://crawford.anu.edu.au/>

Taimus Werner-Gibbings has worked for over a decade in the public service. He has been a Senior Policy Officer in the Department of the Environment, and a parliamentary staffer for both ministers and backbenchers, in government and in opposition. Taimus is currently Chief of Staff & Media Advisor to Lisa Singh, Senator for Tasmania.

Notes: The following were referred to in this episode:

Connections between science and policy – an event by the New Zealand Association of Scientists at https://scientists.org.nz/resources/Documents/NZAS%202018%20programme_v1.pdf

We need magic, not misery, from the wizards of Aus – by Sharon Bessell

Putting community engagement in the neighbourhood of good policy – with Paul Schmitz at <https://policyforumpod.simplecast.fm/community>

Putting the 'Indo' in Indo-Pacific – by David Brewster at <https://www.policyforum.net/putting-indo-indo-pacific/>