

The Power of 'Co'

- The Smart Leaders' Guide to Collaborative Governance

Are you interested in finding a way of working with diverse stakeholders to co-create enduring solutions to complex issues?

This book is about Collaborative Governance, or the Power of 'Co'. This book provides real evidence of the benefits of collaboration as well as a theoretical framework on which to build the capacity of organisations and individuals to collaborate more often and more effectively to address dilemmas and find solutions that stick.

Collaborative Governance demands the sharing of both power and trust. It also requires a belief in people and their strengths, clear leadership and inclusive processes.

This book introduces and explains a five-step process for finding enduring solutions to complex dilemmas. If you have to work with people on complex dilemmas "The Power of 'Co'" is for you.

Collaborative Governance is, in essence, appreciative, informative, deliberative and iterative.

What our peers have had to say about it:

A compelling contribution by Twyfords built from their extensive experience and research. The book illuminates a pathway to meaningful and effective collaboration, and is a must-read for those who are facing complex challenges.

Sandy Heierbacher, Director, National Coalition for Dialogue & Deliberation, USA.

Twyfords' latest book, The Power of 'Co', is practical, interesting, and full of examples which will resonate with readers from a wide range of backgrounds. If you lead or wish to participate in solving complex problems collaboratively then this is a "must read".

Professor Liz Farmer, MBBS BSc PhD FRACGP MAICD, Adjunct Professor at University of Adelaide, Professorial Fellow at Flinders University

We are still clinging to a political system more suited to the 19th Century, not the 21st Century. It is time for change. This book helps us on that journey.

Dr Geoff Fagan, CEO, The CADISPA Trust, United Kingdom

If we take on the lessons from the 'Power of Co', the whole movement towards finding meaningful and collaborative solutions will continue to expand. Communities and organisations will be better off because of the lessons contained between these pages."

Dr Mike Mouritz, Executive: City Futures, City of Canning, W.A.

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Read this book if you need help:

- Designing and implementing a project with a complex social, environmental or technical situation.
- Facing a complex or controversial dilemma causing community outrage.
- Collaborating with other organisations to achieve your outcome.
- Building the capacity of leaders and employees to work collaboratively.

Whether you are a business leader, an elected official, or an interested and engaged citizen, this book will help you collaborate to solve many of the challenges of our times. It presents vital information for those who truly want to change the course of the future for the better.

David S. Boyd, FAICP, The Urban Associates Group, Wisconsin, USA

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About the Authors



Vivien Twyford believes that as the population grows and world resources are depleted, people will need to work together to thrive. The ability to address “wicked” problems that have no

simple solution and require a new approach to problem solving will be a necessary skill.



John Dengate believes in people – fundamentally that we all have huge amounts of discretionary energy that we are capable of releasing – he engenders and supports an environment which enables

that energy to be applied to the problems at hand. He believes that authenticity is critical to success and works to lay cards face up so that the issues that often block success are visible and can provide impetus for progress and innovative solutions.



Max Hardy comments that the Twyfords' approach is very different - we rely on Appreciative Inquiry as an approach to bring out the best in organisations. We mentor, facilitate workshops and design collaborative and deliberative processes with our clients for their most complex and pressing challenges.



Stuart Waters' best work is when he works with clients to provide advice on how they can partner with their stakeholders or employees using the Collaborative Governance method. He designs processes that are collaborative and deliberative, allowing participants to deeply understand the challenge, in order to provide thoughtful, informed and considered input. In this way Twyfords creates a sustainable future that meets the needs of all involved.

With contributions from:



Tania Jones has more than 20 years' experience with global organisations and management consulting practices. She has extensive experience in strategy development, expertise in business and information systems planning, implementation and change management, and business process change, analysis and design.