

**I'VE  
GOT SOMETHING  
TO SAY, BUT  
WHEN DO I HAVE  
TIME TO GET  
TO A PUBLIC  
MEETING?**



**“ Bang the Table is showing that it is far more effective than public meetings both in drawing in more numbers and also reaching people that are traditionally very difficult to get to. ”**

**Claire Hatch, Cultural Value (Melbourne)**

## Our story

Bang the Table was established in 2007 by Dr Crispin Butteriss and Matthew Crozier.

Having worked in the Australian and UK public sectors for around 30 years collectively, Matt and Crispin were painfully aware of the need to bring a larger audience into the debate about public policy. They had both been in the position of running or speaking at unproductive "town hall" style community meetings which provide little benefit for the community or the change proponent (whether government or private sector). These meetings were, and remain, typically attended by a few people who are passionately interested in the subject at hand, vehemently opposed to it, or heard about the free tea and biscuits and came along for a stickybeak.

Of course providers of community engagement services have become more and more sophisticated in the techniques used to engage the community. The IAP2 website provides an excellent resource in this regard. However, no matter how sophisticated, all non-web based methods of engagement have significant barriers to participation: either you have to break your busy routine to attend an event or you have to write a submission.

As long as these barriers to participation persist then we will only hear from a minority of the community - usually the same people each time we consult. These people are to be applauded for the effort they put in to participating in our community but they are by no means representative of the rest of us. Bang the Table is about accessing the silent majority and providing them with an opportunity to participate at a time and place of their own choosing.

## Our mission

Bang the Table's mission is to improve the quality of public debate and level of community involvement in public life.

## Our beliefs

- The opportunity for the individual to have a say in their society is a fundamental human right.
- Good decision making requires that the community is actively and openly involved.
- People should be able to participate in public life at their convenience. Participation should not be a burden that excludes.
- Often the most important ideas come from people who don't feel comfortable speaking in public.

## Our business

Bang the table was established because no matter how well designed, current consultation processes inevitably only reach part of a community or stakeholder group. The internet provides an opportunity to give vastly more people access to information and to have their say. Bang the Table is a company that offer tools for engaging in collaborative learning, discussion, and debate.

## Our experience

Bang the Table are leaders in the field of online community engagement and are by far the most experienced providers in Australia.

We have successfully managed over 200 projects for over 80 clients in 2 1/2 years of operation. We currently work with clients across Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA.

## Our difference

- Bang the Table has a deep appreciation of both the value and risks inherent in good community engagement.
- Our experienced community engagement practitioners and communications team will provide you with best practice advice.
- We have successfully delivered over 200 projects for 80 clients engaging more than 170,000 people.
- Our user friendly design makes our tools the community engagement practitioner's choice.
- We can get you up and running within one week.

# EngagementHQ

**EngagementHQ™** is an online community engagement system that facilitates safe conversations between you and your community. It gets more people involved, simplifies your administration and reduces your costs.

**EngagementHQ™** is a user friendly and engaging platform designed with the practitioner and the community in-mind while still satisfying the stringent requirements of your IT department. **EngagementHQ™** has everything you need to engage your community effectively, efficiently and safely.

**EngagementHQ™** is much more than a software package. **Bang the Table™** is in the unique position of having people with a deep understanding of what is involved for a government organisation or a private sector proponent to engage successfully with your community. Our people have broad experience in public service, communications, community engagement and software development and support.

## 6 reasons to use EngagementHQ™

1. 24/7 independent forum moderation keeps your consultation on track.
2. Integrated qualitative and quantitative reporting makes analysis easy.
3. Hosted video, image, and document galleries provide a rich user experience.
4. Good practice advice from experienced people.
5. We'll get your site up and running in less than a week.
6. Fully hosted and fully supported by our technicians.

# BudgetAllocator

The most efficient and risk free way to get your community participating in planning your budget. **BudgetAllocator™** is a participatory tool used to educate and promote community conversation about the realities of the need to prioritise when resources are limited.

**BudgetAllocator™** takes the boredom out of budgeting. It is user friendly, engaging and makes budgeting fun.

The **BudgetAllocator™** is designed to help your community make intelligent input into your decision making processes. It helps you collect qualitative and quantitative information about your community's preferences to support your decision making. **BudgetAllocator™** is hosted by us and fully supported by our technicians to free up your IT department.

## 6 reasons to choose BudgetAllocator™

1. Makes budget limitations and choices transparent by linking over budgeting to rates or levy increases.
2. Identify as many or as few budget areas and projects as you require and back them up with engaging images and descriptions.
3. Convenient, fun and easy to use for Councilors, Council staff and your community.
4. Integrated qualitative and quantitative reporting makes analysis easy.
5. Link seamlessly from your existing website using your URL or ours.
6. Technical email and phone support available.

## Our clients

Warringah Council  
Willoughby Council  
Yarra Valley Council  
City of Port Phillip  
Buloke Shire Council  
Waverley Council  
Randwick City Council  
Bega Valley Shire Council  
City of Swan  
Moreland City Council  
Wollondilly Shire Council  
Lane Cove Council  
Hornsby Shire Council  
Rockingham City Council  
Cessnock City Council  
Clarence Valley Council  
Lismore City Council  
Logan City Council  
Wingecarribee Shire Council  
Taree Council  
Marrickville Council  
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council  
Ashfield Council  
Broken Hill City Council  
The City of Red Deer  
City of Austin  
Blue Mountains City Council  
Bankstown City Council  
Auburn Council  
Yarra City Council

City of Edmonton  
Gosford City Council  
Newcastle City Council  
Penrith City Council  
Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority  
Department of Environment, Climate  
Change and Water  
VicRoads  
EPA Victoria  
South East Water  
WA Roads/Aecom  
Hunter Water  
Department of Planning and Community  
Development Victoria  
Parks Canada  
ACT Government  
Chain Valley/Fordcomm  
Edmonton Public schools board  
Gladstone Industry Leadership Group  
Innova Clean Soil  
NZ law commission  
Local Government Managers Australia  
Oakstand Property Group  
Andrew Powell  
Crighton Properties  
Shenhua Watermark  
Leighton  
Southern Councils Group  
Peabody Energy



**Bang** THE **Table** 

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