It is common - and comforting - to see public policy as the result of careful craft work by expert officials. They recognise a problem, identify and evaluate possible responses, and choose the most appropriate strategy - this is the ‘policy cycle’. The reality is more complex and challenging. Many hands are involved in policy-making, not all of them official; they are not all addressing the same problem, they have different ideas about what would be a good answer, and the process is rarely brought to a neat close by a clear decision. The development of policy can resemble firefighting, with players rushing to react to demands for action in areas that are already in crisis, or it can be a less frenetic process of weaving, as they search for an outcome which reflects the concerns of all the stakeholders. Effective participation in the policy process calls for a clear understanding of this complexity and ambiguity.

Beyond the Policy Cycle sets policy in this wider context. It recognises that participants in the process are drawn from both government and diverse areas outside government, and looks not at a ‘model’ process but rather at how the game is played: how issues rise to prominence, who is actually doing the work, and exactly what it is that they are doing.

With detailed Australian case studies, and examining the implications of recent trends in policy such as the outsourcing of service provision, Beyond the Policy Cycle offers students and practitioners a critical and engaged look at the activity of policy that reflects the reality of the policy experience.

‘There is a need for an empirically grounded but theoretically informed examination of the work of policy in Australia.’

H.K. Colebatch

Hal K. Colebatch has taught and researched public policy and administration in Australia, Papua New Guinea, East Africa and Southeast Asia, and is currently a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Clinical Management Development, University of Durham and a member of the School of Social Science and Policy at the University of New South Wales. He is Vice-Chair of the International Political Science Association’s Research Committee on Public Policy and Administration, and is a leading author on policy, with his work having been translated into several languages.
Contents

1. Mapping the work of policy

Part One: Organisational Complexity and Policy Work
2. Non-government organisations in policy
3. Bringing in the community sector: Partnerships and advocacy
4. Parliamentary committees as an arena for policy work
5. Creating a focus for policy: The evolution of the Murray-Darling Basin

Part Two: The Widening Policy Arena: Public Participation in Policy
6. Engaging citizens to solve major public policy challenges
7. Participatory policy-making for sustainability

Part Three: The New Gatekeepers
8. Ministerial staff: New players in the policy game
9. From control to networks

Part Four: Discourse, Context and Conflict in Policy
10. Informing policy through integrated information
11. Policy research and organisational demands
12. ‘Busy little workers’: Policy workers’ own accounts
13. Aligning ‘good policy’ with ‘good politics’

Notes
References
Index

Beyond the Policy Cycle is available at your campus bookshop - or complete and return this form to receive a copy with a 10% discount and free delivery.

Stay up to date:
Please let me know about new titles in policy and politics.
(Tick the box and we'll send you an email when a new title is published in these areas.)

Please send me:

copies of Beyond the Policy Cycle @ A$39.95 less 10%

Name: _____________________________________________________________

Institution: ____________________________ Department: ____________________________

Street address: ____________________________ (no PO Boxes please - courier delivery) Suburb: ____________________________

State: ____________________________ Postcode: ____________________________ Tel: ____________________________

Email: _____________________________________________________________

Cheque enclosed (payable to ‘Alliance Distribution Services’) OR

Please charge my credit card: ☐ Bankcard ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card No: ____________________________ / ____________________________ / ____________________________ / ____________________________ / ____________ / Expiry Date: __/___

Signature: ____________________________ Amount: ____________________________

*free delivery only available in Aust and NZ

Allen and Unwin will only use the details you provide in connection with this particular offer, and any directly related issues (eg. notifying you of a new edition). Email alerts occur in the frequency stated. For more info, please contact us on the details above, or visit our website: www.allenandunwin.com

Price is subject to change without notification and is inclusive of GST.

ABN 79 003 994 278 / Acc No 40029