

Richmond

**CAPTIVE
OF THE SYSTEM**

Peter Crawford

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author

Peter J Crawford has been working with governments and their agencies and authorities for more than 30 years. He has been closely involved in the development of government strategies and is a leader in public sector reform.

Peter began his career with the CSIRO but quickly made the transition from scientist to manager. He became the first Councillor in the Australian Mission to the OECD in Paris, advising on our interests in science, education, environment and technology.

Working with the Department of Urban and Regional Development he focused on the development of policies for the Australia's cities and regions. Peter has worked as Chief Executive of the Pollution Control Commission and later the Water Board in NSW, during which time he saw the organisation through to corporatisation. He has also been CEO of the Departments of Industry Trade and Technology and the Premier and Cabinet in South Australia. He has also served on a number of public and government boards. Peter also served as Managing Director of AWA Ltd.

Currently as Professorial Fellow in the Graduate School of Management at Macquarie University he is concentrating on encouraging leadership and excellence in public sector management.

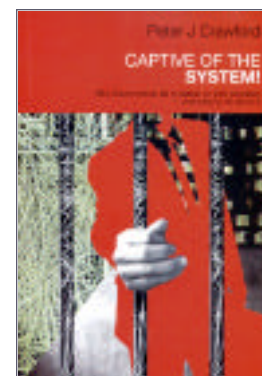


the book

Captive of the System focuses on the many ways in which Australians find themselves trapped and controlled by government bureaucracies. Individuals do not seem, generally, well situated to question how government systems work or to contribute to their beneficial change. They often become hostages to the process to the point where they barely recognise that their rights and interest are being compromised – they fail to see they have become captives of the system. The book shows us how to recognise and understand the patterns of control and some of the available levers of democratic change.

The book starts by introducing the systems that control our lives – some beneficial, many otherwise. It explains the nature of government systems, their impact and identifies those who benefit from them. The chapters deal successively with major areas of government responsibility, from financial, legal and policing to care of the disadvantaged. The book looks at areas where dramatic change is under way, the reasons (often economic) for the change and the impact of these changes on the population. The author examines why new approaches and new systems may be inadequately evaluated and how they may compromise citizens interest & rights in the long term.

The final chapters deal with successful 'system breaking' and institutional change and some of the lesson to be learnt.



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unique selling points

- Expert analysis from an author who has worked both inside and outside Government
- Experienced author whose previous book *The Serious Business of Governing* (Hale & Ironmonger, 1996) sold well

the market

- Students of government and political science
- Public servants and politicians
- Special interest groups in public policy
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