

# The mismatch between knowledge and democracy

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# 1. What's wrong?

- Useable knowledge is crowded out in bureaucratic impotence, path dependency and closed minds for what goes wrong (taxiservices)
- Independent research is under pressure; too much is farmed out to consultants
- Vital information is withheld from parliament
- Politics is driven by teletext, rather than the other way around

## 2. Knowledge infrastructure needed

- WRR + four broad based Think Tanks (“people”, “planet”, “profit” and “governance”) for *issue search, policy analysis and evaluation*
- More challenging careers at the policy end (rotation with centres of excellence; a policy on high potentials)
- More delegation and feed-back in implementation (apply-or-explain – see my paper for session 5.1)

### 3. It's all there: use it!

- Develop in-house professionals into human capital responsible for advice
- Keep advice and evaluation separate, but
- Let the Think Tanks advise on bona fide resource people at home and abroad
- Try new ways of using resource people (interviews; workshops)
- Small is beautiful: the banking crisis team

## 4. Democracy and Knowledge, a mismatch in reverse

- Discipline the House by implementing the Van Lunteren report (IBO 2004)
- Grant the Senate the right to refer legislation back to the House
- Continue the advisory functions of the Council of State (RvS), but
- Entrust its judicial role to a “Governance Chamber” and (or at) the Supreme Court