Cost Recovery and the Crisis of Service Delivery in South Africa provides a theoretical and empirical review of the dramatic shift from welfare municipalism to a neoliberal vision of balanced budgets and fiscal restraint. Centred largely on case studies in a number of South African municipalities, this volume critically examines 'cost recovery', the heart of this new municipal vision.

The authors contend that cost recovery has far-reaching implications for access to services, affordability and privatisation. At a theoretical level, the book explores ways of reversing the insidious effects of commodification, the role of the market in shaping service delivery, and the way we ‘value’ essential goods such as water. These issues are of increasing importance internationally as governments around the world move more aggressively toward full cost recovery measures.

_The ANC's current policies pretend that everyone, capitalist and shanty-town dweller alike, has more or less the same interests and can be served by more or less the same policies. This book debunks this myth most convincingly._

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David A McDonald is the Director of Global Developmental studies at Queen’s University, Canada and Co-director of the Municipal Services Project. John Pape is Co-director of the international Labour Resources and information group (ILRIG) at the University of Cape Town.

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