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We need leaders who will fight for ‘a greater Australia’

Forces greater than our prospective Prime Ministers, Malcolm Turnbull and Bill Shorten, will determine Australia's fate. Given that, as a nation, we have not yet decided to take the advice of former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser to “grow up”, we will surely be swept along with the tide of change now taking place globally.

The CEC, with our international collaborators in our own movement and within governments and institutions, is pushing to ensure that that oncoming change is guided by the principle of development for the benefit of all mankind. This principle is being propelled into reality right now by the development initiatives of China, in collaboration with Russia and the other BRICS nations, and many smaller nations working with them. There is, however, a powerful drive towards chaos and war from the dying trans-Atlantic financial empire, sucking countries into its gravitational pull.

The lack of courage and vision displayed by our leaders, who remain in the thrall of the Anglo-American elite, is typified by the announcement by Major Projects Minister Paul Fletcher last week, when he declared that “there is no commitment by the Turnbull government” to funding a high-speed rail line from Brisbane to Melbourne, as “it's just not a sensible priority”. Dr John Bradfield, who designed the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the yet unrealised Bradfield Scheme, and for whom Fletcher's electorate is named, would be rolling in his grave.

Citing a similar length of track in Spain which took 30 years to build, Fletcher told *The Australian Financial Review's* National Infrastructure Summit that rising population may make the proposal economical in 30-50 years' time! In stark contrast, China built 9,531 km of rail last year alone, 3,306 km of which was high-speed. This year it will put 3,200 km of new rail into operation—not to mention the rail it is building in nations across the rest of Eurasia and Africa.

If we realise the economic imperative at stake, and create a sorely needed economic miracle, people will flock to it and the surrounding regions will develop. Likewise we need to overturn our thinking on banking. It is time politicians stopped being intimidated by bankers (like David Murray)



Projects like the Snowy Mountains Scheme, were conceived by visionary nation builders, which Australia sorely needs today. Photo: Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Authority

who hyperventilate that a Glass-Steagall separation of the Big Four banks—which will prevent them from gambling with deposits, so they are used to fund the real economy—is “not in the national interest”. Murray also said that government credit creation is *irrelevant or unworkable*—although Australia has done it before, and it built this country! (p. 3)

In an April 2014 interview with politics professor Robert Manne, Malcolm Fraser displayed the quality of thinking required of our leaders today:

“I'm asking Australia to break with her long past—the whole history of Australia from colonial times Britain had the capacity to drag us into wars, and America now has the capacity to drag us into wars, and I think it is time we grew up ...

“We should also make up our minds to do something with Australia as a nation,” he stated. “And just as Australians did after World War II: ‘Look, we're not defensible with 7 million people. We've got to build, people, we've got to have more people from more countries.’ ... We could afford it, we could be a nation of 40-45 million people, we'd have to spend, invest in environment and water and infrastructure, but these things are not beyond us, and if it meant giving up some of today's consumption to accomplish a better and a greater Australia, I believe all Australians would feel proud at the end result. And we'd be in a better place to advance peace and security throughout our part of the world. ... We would have to be a citizen in the world, and not believe we can shut ourselves off from the world, as though we can be entirely separate.”

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