

Citizens Electoral Council of Australia

Postal Address: PO Box 376, Coburg Vic 3058

Phone: 1800 636 432 Fax: 03 9354 0166

Home Page: www.cecaust.com.au Email: cec@cecaust.com.au



Authorised by R. Barwick, 595 Sydney Road, Coburg, Victoria 3058. Printed by Citizens Media Group Pty Ltd., 595 Sydney Road, Coburg, Victoria 3058.

Independent Political Party

10th of October 2012

Isherwood: Greece is coming to Australia!

CEC leader Craig Isherwood said today that the recent warnings of Australia's economy heading into the same crisis as Greece are correct—but the reality is worse than people know.

Former CBA boss and Future Fund chairman David Murray told ABC radio on Oct. 4 that Australia's debt burden is putting the nation at risk of the same crisis as Greece. His warning followed Economist Professor Ross Garnaut's prediction to a Sep. 18 conference, that Australians must brace themselves for falling living standards as the mining boom ends.

"Australia is drowning in debt," Isherwood said, "because City of London banks [Please go online for more info: http://cecaust.com.au/main.asp?sub=releases&id=2011_11_11_Super_Scam.html] and their Labor and Liberal accomplices, starting with Hawke and Keating, hijacked the economy and destroyed the productive manufacturing and agricultural industries that created our national wealth.

"The government is lying like crazy when it claims its debt is small: 25 years of privatisation and outsourcing shifted a huge chunk of government debt onto private companies, but the repayments on that debt still come out of the hides of the Australian people.

"Importing more and more of the goods we used to make for ourselves, and borrowing from overseas to pay for them, has given us a permanent current account deficit, which has driven Australia's gross foreign debt to \$1.4 trillion [\$1,400 billion], 100 per cent of GDP.

"The government crows that we are far better off than the rest of the world, but it is the rest of the world we have to borrow from, to pay for our imports."

Isherwood said Ross Garnaut [Please go online for more info: http://cecaust.com.au/main.asp?sub=releases&id=2011_02_11_Garnaut.html] and the other "free trade maniacs" who destroyed Australia's industrial base are now preparing to whack Australians with the same brutal cost-cutting austerity that is destroying the people of Greece, where:

Youth unemployment in Greece is 55.4%; overall unemployment has climbed in 12 months from 17.2% to 24.4%, and the poverty rate is 28%—austerity isn't working.

Many parents are being forced to surrender their children to aid agencies because they can no longer care for them, and numbers of homeless children living on the streets are now dying.

The only public paediatric cardiac surgery unit has been closed, so children whose families cannot afford insurance have no access to the only remaining unit at the private Onassis Hospital. Many children have already died, and a spate of lawsuits has erupted. Neonatal screening for 40 major disorders and diseases for newborn babies has been drastically cut back because of budget cuts.

The Greek Institute for Children's Health, the country's key institute in this area of medicine, has seen its budget cut drastically. One highly skilled employee has seen her salary cut from EU1,400 to EU900 euros and even this reduced salary is never paid on time. "If the institute's funding does not come through, or if it is closed down, national neonatal testing will stop. We will see children dying from disorders that we know how to detect, and know how to treat", she said. Other organisations that deal with children's health problems, such as autism, have had their funding cut back drastically.

On Sep. 20 Dimitris Varnavas, the head of the national union representing hospital doctors, accused Greek Health Minister Andreas Lykourntzos of executing the IMF's cost-cutting orders by closing clinics, charging that the government's goal was to demolish the public health system and close down half of the country's 132 state hospitals. The minister claimed his cuts would not result in any layoffs, but no one believes him, and it doesn't matter anyway, since most hospital staff are simply not being paid, some having gone payless for as long as half a year.

Prostitution has increased by more than 1000% in Greece, in part due to cuts in aid for single mothers.

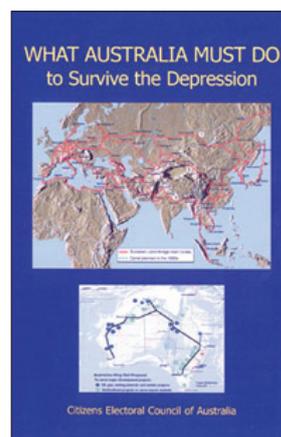
Greek trade unions federations held a general strike 27 September, shutting down the country and bringing up to 100,000 people into Syntagma Square, or Constitution Square, in front of the parliament. Participating in the strike were municipal employees and civil servants, staff in state-run public utilities, teachers, doctors, and hospital staff, as well as merchants, lawyers, civil engineers, and bank employees. The tax office, Customs, and Finance Ministry staff launched a three-day strike on the same day. Obviously fearing that the demonstration could swell to hundreds of thousands, as they have in the past, security forces deployed hooded provocateurs to clash with the 3,000 police deployed at the parliament. Using tear gas and violence against the young and old, men and woman alike, the police broke up the demonstrations and cleared the entire square.

"Austerity isn't a financial solution—it's genocide!" Isherwood continued. "Its perpetrators should be charged with crimes against humanity.

"The only solution is to rebuild productive industries that create real wealth. Australia must return to protectionism and start producing for ourselves again.

"Only the CEC has the plan for this. As we call for in our resolution 'The Future of Australia: Develop or Die' [For more info please go online: <http://cecaust.com.au/resolution/>], we must dump all of the post-1983 economic 'reforms'—free trade, financial deregulation, floating dollar, national competition policy, etc.—that have so destroyed our industries.

He concluded, "The conditions in Greece show us what is at stake, so join the CEC's fight to stop Australia from going the same way."



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3rd of October 2012

Wheat deregulation is an act of economic warfare on Australia

The Australian government's push to fully deregulate wheat exports betrays Australia's wheat farmers to predatory global grain cartel companies and commodity speculators, charged Citizens Electoral Council leader Craig Isherwood today.

"This final act of wheat deregulation, to extinguish the last remaining regulatory mechanism of the old Wheat Board, is the latest blow to Australian industry, in the decades-long economic warfare offensive on Australia unleashed under Hawke and Keating," he said.

"It is a calculated assault on Australia's family farmers, our national food security, and our capacity to feed millions of people around the world."

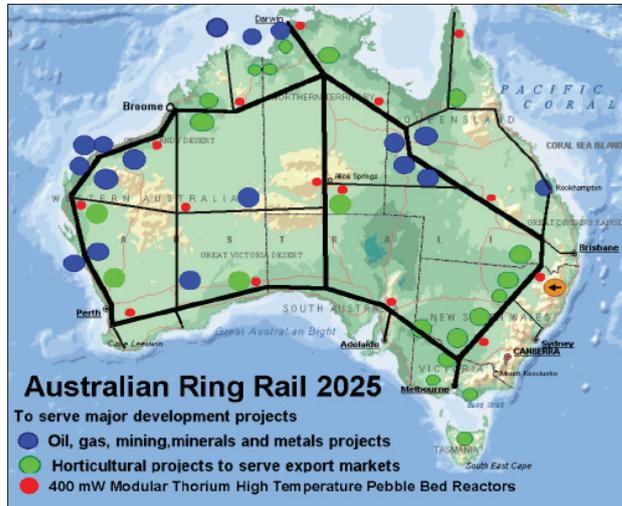
Isherwood said deregulation would be the final nail in the coffin of a once stable, regulated national wheat industry that was able to be a major, independent player in the global wheat market, out of reach of the multinational grain traders such as Cargill and Bunge.

"Every attack on the wheat industry's regulatory protections since the privatisation of the Australian Wheat Board into AWB Ltd. in 1999 has been to profit the predatory grain cartel," he said.

"The industry has been a big target of the British-directed drive to strip Australia of every protection under which our nation was once a powerful, agro-industrial economy."

Isherwood explained, "The private grain cartel companies hated AWB and its counterpart the Canadian Wheat Board, because such national single desk arrangements protected those nations' wheat growers from the predatory trading practices the cartel companies use to create wild market fluctuations that enable the traders to buy cheap off the growers and sell dear to customers, and generate enormous profits."

(It was grain cartel companies including Cargill through their front U.S. Wheat Associates who blew up the scandal that was used to finally kill off the AWB, by feeding a Murdoch media journalist,



Caroline Overington, with damaging information. "They obviously had an agenda," Overington admitted to the March 24, 2009 Freedom of Speech conference in Sydney. "They wanted to see AWB destroyed."

"They successfully destroyed AWB, they now intend to get the government to strip away the last regulatory protection, and then the way will be clear for the cartel companies to destroy all remaining vestiges of collective grower power in Australia, such as Cooperative Bulk Handling (CBH) in Western Australia—the targeting of CBH is already underway.

"Food production is precious, in a world where a billion people are starving," he said. "Under great leaders of previous generations, such as Country Party giant John 'Black Jack' McEwen, food production was protected through government regulation, to give farmers the best possible chance to produce. Those leaders thought it was enough that farmers had to battle the elements—they shouldn't have to battle predatory global traders too. This was the outlook that led the Australian government to establish the Wheat Board in the first place."

Isherwood concluded, "It is absolutely necessary to fight the push by the government and global grain cartel for full wheat deregulation, but that fight is one part of a much broader fight against all of the deregulation policies that have caused so much destruction to Australia's industries and communities. At stake is Australia's survival as a nation with an industrial economy that can feed its people and more besides.

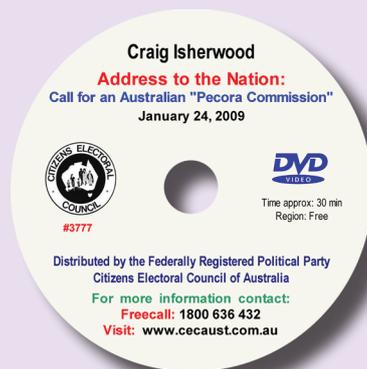
"The CEC is leading this fight. Our national resolution campaign, *The Future of Australia: Develop or Die*, calls for the repeal of all such destructive deregulation policies since Hawke and Keating. Every concerned Australian should confront their elected officials on where they stand on these issues, and if they are also opposed, what they intend to do about them. And there's really only one thing to do: Join the CEC."

Order your free information *Develop or Die* pack today!

Fill in the coupon to request a copy of our *Develop or Die* pack, including *The Takedown of Glass-Steagall*, *Craig Isherwood Calls for an Australian Pecora Commission*, and the "Defeat the British Crown's Green Fascist Dictatorship" New Citizen newspaper, or call toll-free

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