

# Citizens Electoral Council of Australia

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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

31<sup>st</sup> of January 2013

## Not one drop?

Did the people of Lismore and Grafton remember the words of their local federal MP Janelle Saffin when the floodwaters of the Clarence River went above eight metres this week?

In 2010 Saffin grandstanded in Parliament against the idea of diverting the headwaters of the Clarence River over the range and into the Murray-Darling Basin to inject more water into the nation's food bowl and generate hydroelectricity, vowing, "Not one drop will be taken out of the Clarence River."

How did their fearless leader's words resonate this week with the residents when they watched anxiously as the waters rose to lap over the tops of the levees?

Saffin, and all her fellow MPs who are brainwashed into either green fascism, or free markets, or both, want their fellow Australians to live like the superstitious ancients and bow to the weather "gods" or market "gods" and believe there is nothing we can do to take charge of our circumstances by building infrastructure to mitigate floods and droughts.

Thankfully, the living standard Australians do enjoy today is because political leaders of past generations did build infrastructure, such as the Snowy Mountains Scheme, to meet the nation's needs.

In terms of the Clarence River, the CEC explained a potential diversion scheme in a 25 May 2009 release:

The scheme would divert the waters of the upper Clarence and Nymboida Rivers over the Great Dividing Range into the Dumaresq River, and on into the Macintyre, Barwon, and Darling Rivers, before flowing into the Murray River near Mildura, and on down to South Australia. Additionally, a nearby Macleay River project would divert water into the Gwydir River and on into the Barwon and Darling Rivers.

Emeritus Professor Lance Endersbee designed the Clarence Scheme as a pump storage scheme, which can take advantage of surplus off-peak electricity to pump water over

the range and into storage dams, which will then produce hydroelectricity from an annual flow of water comparable to that of the Snowy Mountains diversion.

(Professor Endersbee was Dean of Engineering and Pro-Vice Chancellor of Monash University, at the end of a long career which included distinguished work on the Snowy Mountains Scheme, Tasmania's hydro scheme, and hydroelectric schemes in Southeast Asia.)

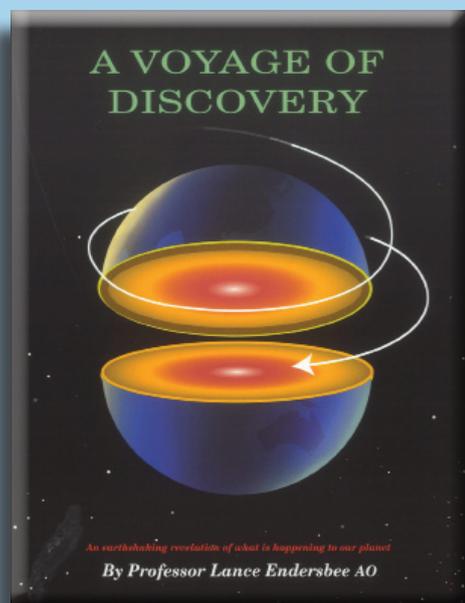
He told a Citizens Electoral Council conference in 1997, "There is the catchment of the Clarence River and it is a wonderful little cup in there, and very steep country, high rainfall and one of the highest rainfall areas in Australia, and they get the summer rains down from the monsoons coming down and they get the winter rains as well.

"So there is a lot of rainfall there and it all flows out into the sea, and if you have been to Grafton, you know how wide the Clarence River is at Grafton. It's a big river.

"So I have ... designed a scheme for the diversion of the Clarence into the Darling. Now ... there is a lot of algae in the Darling... This would flush all the algae out of the Darling."

Most importantly, the Clarence River diversion would go a long way to saving the Murray-Darling Basin, Australia's food bowl, which produces 40 per cent of the national agricultural output, and comprises 75 per cent of Australia's irrigated land.

Citizens Electoral Council leader Craig Isherwood called on the nation's political leaders to act with foresight for the future. "We called to build the Clarence Scheme back in August 2001 when we released our book *What Australia Must Do to Survive the Depression* and then in February 2002 we published a Special Report, *The Infrastructure Road to Recovery* including the Clarence and Macleay projects. Nothing has been done and now we're left with a bill for flood damage and an agricultural sector dying for lack of water. This inaction must stop now."



## Support CEC's campaign to build Australia's future!

Get your copy of Lance Endersbee's *A Voyage of Discovery* \$50 inc. GST, p/h

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5<sup>th</sup> of February 2013

## Register won't stop 'tick and flick' sales of Aussie land

*Citizens Electoral Council leader Craig Isherwood issued the following statement as the CEC's submission to the Commonwealth Treasury's inquiry into establishing a register to track foreign land ownership.*

1 Feb. 2013—Establishing a national foreign ownership register for agricultural land is typical of this government's lying duplicitous intention to sell out the interests of Australians.

The issue is not about a statistical register, recording the sales of valuable agricultural land "after the horse has bolted", but whether or not we want foreign financial interests taking control of our valuable agricultural land in the first place.

Free trade-blinded politicians and bureaucrats such as Trade Minister Craig Emerson fiercely defend the necessity to sell off our land for "crucial foreign investment" in order to protect their system of free trade and globalisation and hence the banks dependent on that looting cash stream.

This argument does not take into account the important issue of the sovereignty of our nation, the real development of resources for all citizens, nor the development of the future potential of our nation as foreign investments become subject to bottom line private-interests, especially the banks' profit margins.

This is the same issue relating to the mining industry which Gough Whitlam and Rex Connor fought to overcome 40 years ago when they wanted to "buy back the farm".

Whilst the Whitlam government was imperfect, its attempt to wrest control of our raw materials wealth from foreign interests was spot on the mark.

In 1966 then Deputy Opposition Leader Gough Whitlam addressed the University of New South Wales saying, "The government is condoning and encouraging the sale of our richest resources to overseas interests. Some of the most amazing mineral discoveries in our history are now in foreign hands. Foreigners do Australians the honour of employing them to dig up their own wealth, to be exported overseas... the whole of our production potential in aluminium is controlled by overseas interests. Almost all the new and rich iron ore discoveries, particularly in Western Australia, have been taken out of our hands... The new coal deposits in Queensland are controlled by overseas interests. Three quarters of the mining and treatment of copper is controlled by overseas interests. Already 70 percent of the mining of zinc is outside our control."

Opposing the sale of Australia's precious agricultural land raises the same issues Whitlam addressed. It is not a question of xenophobia but of domestic national food security.

A number of foreign countries around the world already have, either formally or informally, stated policies to acquire foreign food producing lands in order to export food back to their homelands, to the exclusion of Australian domestic markets. For example, the Qatar government-owned agricultural development and investment company the Hassad Food Company has been given a mandate by its government to secure a food supply for this rich oil-producing state; Qatar imports 95 percent of its food needs.

Given that global food shortages are already occurring in many parts of the world, food production and food security is a crucially important issue for many food-hungry nations today.

Australia can become a food bowl, with the potential to

support at least 100 million people, but this requires a top-down government and war-time like mobilisation to make it happen. Not the free trade-inspired sell-off of our agricultural resources.

It would require the development of large scale water projects as the Citizens Electoral Council has called for; the development of large agricultural precincts with towns and cities to service them for people to live; the development of large-scale transport infrastructure, roads and high-speed rail such as the Australian Ring Rail proposal by the late Professor Lance Endersbee; the development of a high-speed shipping industry from Darwin to move high-value agricultural produce to the rapidly increasing populations of Asia; and the development of nuclear power for the entire region.

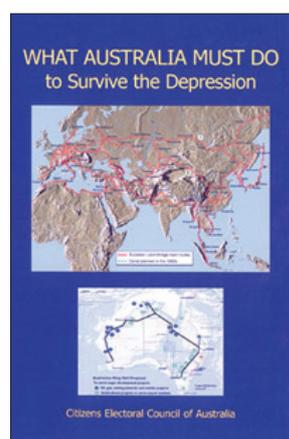
We would fund this type of large scale development with credit issued from a National Bank which the CEC has already designed in its Commonwealth National Credit Bank proposal. So we do not need to sell off the farm to foreign owners in order to develop it—we can issue the credit to do so, ourselves.

We would welcome collaborative partnerships with other governments, even other state-owned agencies to help us develop this region—but the ownership would remain Australian.

Trade agreements would be on the basis of the mutually beneficial development of our food producing capability, for all countries involved—not on the free trade-looting policies of private Anglo-American agro-industrial cartels.

The presently ruling policies of globalisation, privatisation, deregulation and free trade, together with the enforcement of "environmentalist" policies so radical that they are best described as "green fascism", are plunging the vast majority of Australians—along with most of the rest of the world—into poverty and misery; destroying our once-great nation; and eliminating any meaningful future for our children.

On behalf of the CEC, I place on the record our opposition to a mere register, and demand a complete reversal of the policies that are selling off Australian land in the first place.



### WHAT AUSTRALIA MUST DO to Survive the Depression

Price: \$20.00, 330 pages,

There is good news and bad news accompanying this book. The bad news is that Australia (along with most of the rest of the world) is now plunging into an economic Depression. The good news, is that this book provides a way out.

To buy the CEC's book call Toll-Free on 1 800 636 432.