

Citizens Electoral Council of Australia

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Independent Political Party

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Bring back DDT to eradicate Zika virus

As the World Health Organisation (WHO) on 1 February has declared the Zika virus a "Public Health Emergency of International Concern", following a dramatic increase in cases of microcephaly (underdeveloped brains in babies) linked to the virus—4,000 since October 2015 in Brazil alone—it is time for Australia to resume production of DDT to eradicate any mosquitoes potentially carrying the virus. The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, the main transmitter of the Zika virus globally, is found in far north Queensland; this mosquito is also responsible for the spread of dengue fever worldwide.

Dr Cameron Webb, a mosquito-borne virus expert at the University of Sydney, says *Aedes aegypti* would play the most important role in the transmission of Zika if it arrived in Australia. On 26 January he wrote: "If we can get outbreaks of dengue, there is no reason we cannot, or won't, get an outbreak of Zika in the future", adding that "there is great potential that *Aedes albopictus*, better known as the Asian Tiger Mosquito, could become established in southern cities. As well as a vector of Zika virus, it can spread dengue and chikungunya viruses and be a significant nuisance-biting pest. Keeping this mosquito out of our cities is critical."¹

Australia once extensively and successfully used DDT until it was banned here in 1987. Beginning in the 1940s, the insecticide application of DDT immediately brought down the world death toll from many insect-vector diseases, especially malaria. There were spectacular, life-saving results around the globe. In 1946, before the use of DDT, Sri Lanka (then British Ceylon, population 6.657 million) had 2.8 million cases of malaria, and 12,500 deaths that year. After large-scale spraying against mosquitoes began on the island nation, the number of malaria cases in 1963 fell to 17, with only one death! In the US state of Georgia, malaria, formerly widespread, was completely eliminated by 1950 after DDT spraying was introduced in 1945. Agriculture gains were also significant, as DDT was effective against plant bugs, beetles, ticks and other pests.

The environmentalist movement—launched by eugenicists and fascists—went into action to stop DDT dead. Prince Philip (who founded the World Wildlife Fund—WWF—along with former Nazi SS officer Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands and Eugenics Society President Sir Julian Huxley), infamous for desiring to be reincarnated as a deadly virus to reduce the world's population, led the charge to ban DDT. In an interview with *People* magazine in 1981, Philip specifically referred to Sri Lanka when he denounced DDT: "I was in Sri Lanka recently, where a United Nations project set out in the late 1940s to eradicate malaria. It's an island and it was therefore possible to destroy the mosquito carrying the disease. What people didn't realise was that malaria was actually controlling the growth of the population. The consequence was that within about 20 years the population doubled." This was no casual opinion: during a 1988 Royal Tour of Australia Prince Philip castigated scientists at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research in Melbourne for working on a malaria vaccine, which he said would just contribute to the "population explosion". (*Diversity and Discovery: The History of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute 1965-1996*, by Sir Gustav Nossal, 2007)²

In 1972 the United States government's Environmental Protection Agency head William Ruckelshaus banned the use of DDT, ignoring his own agency's inquiry from a year earlier which found that the claims against DDT were untrue and ruled it should remain available for use. In 1976, the World Health Organisation issued an international ban, in the form of a recommendation against DDT. Though nations were still technically free to choose to use DDT, and even the US could still export DDT, manufacturers stopped making it, and it was hard to obtain. There were other impediments. For instance, the British Foreign Office and USAID (US Agency for International Development) cut off assistance to nations using DDT. In 1995, the UN Environment Programme started action for a global treaty against DDT and a list of other demonised chemicals, which culminated in the 2001 Stockholm Convention, formally calling for disuse of 12 chemicals (called POPs—"persistent organic pollutants").

As a result, 70 million people needlessly died from malaria over the 1973-2014 period, according to WHO statistics. Today it is present in 97 nations. The 2013 world malaria death toll was an estimated 584,000, with a total number of cases in the range of nearly 200 million. Africa suffers 90 per cent of the deaths. Add to this, the deaths and suffering from dengue fever, chikungunya, West Nile Fever, and other mosquito- and insect-borne diseases, now spreading internationally. Zika is just the latest scourge.

The environmentalist scheme tagged DDT as a "pollutant" of the environment, and a carcinogen to people, animals and plants. The 1962 book *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson became the rallying point for these charges. But Carson's "science" was bogus. Dr Wayland Hayes performed tests for the US Public Health Service, feeding human volunteers up to 35 milligrams of DDT in their food every day for 18 months. (The average human intake of DDT in the United States at that time was about 0.03 mg per day, or 0.36 mg per year.) No adverse effects resulted, either at the time of the study, or during the next 10 years. Dr J. Gordon Edwards, a leading entomologist who died in 2004 at the ripe age of 85, swallowed a tablespoon of DDT on a regular basis to prove DDT's lack of toxicity to vertebrate animals and people. *Esquire* magazine, in September 1971, pictured him ingesting a tablespoon of DDT to prove the point.

In 2006, the WHO lifted its ban on DDT after 30 years. However, no mobilisation has been organised for targeted use of DDT, or development and use of replacement chemicals where DDT resistance is present. Instead, a cynical, anti-chemical campaign has been under way for years, for donor nations and foundations to provide Africans with mosquito-repellent bed nets. This has lessened the statistics of mortality and morbidity, but still malaria is widespread, and a killer.

The reintroduction of DDT should also reduce the incidence of Ross River virus, the most common and widespread of mosquito-borne diseases that infect Australians. The overall benefits for better health and agriculture make a strong case for DDT.

1) <https://theconversation.com/does-zika-virus-pose-a-threat-to-australia-53557>

2) <http://www.people.com/people/archive/article/0,,20080998,00.html>

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4 February 2016

Economist John Kay echoes CEC—separate banking from gambling

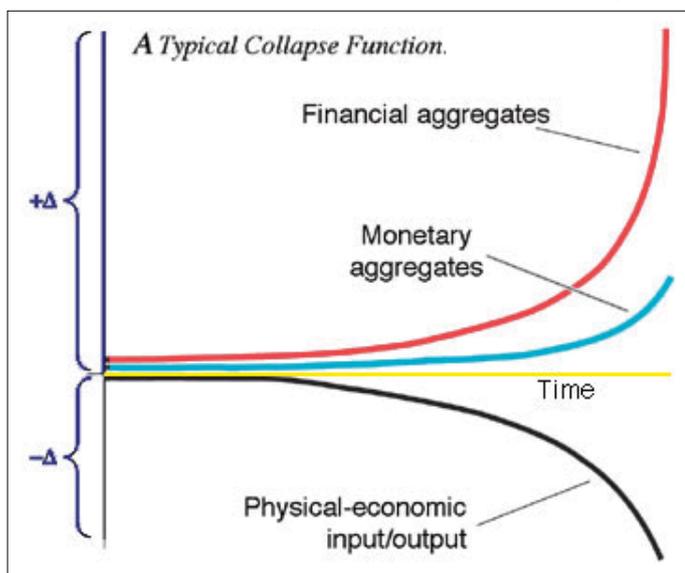
Elements in the Australian media have finally picked up on the crucial issue of Glass-Steagall, thanks to visiting British economist John Kay, the author of *Other People's Money: The Real Business of Finance*.

The Sydney Morning Herald's economics editor Ross Gittins reported the essence of Kay's 1 February speech to the CFA Society in Sydney (regular readers will recognise echoes of the CEC's oft-repeated warnings):

"We need a financial sector to service the needs of the 'real economy' of households and businesses producing and consuming goods and services. But none of this justifies the huge growth in the financial sector we've seen. Most of that growth has come in the form of massively increased trading between the banks themselves in 'financial claims', such as shares and bonds and foreign currencies and 'derivatives' (claims on claims, and even—if you've seen *The Big Short*—claims on claims on claims). If you add together all the financial assets ('claims') owned by all the banks and other financial outfits, they exceed by many times the value of the physical assets—such as houses and business buildings and equipment—which are the ultimate basis for all those claims."

(Since 1994, the CEC has publicised US physical economist Lyndon LaRouche's famous Triple Curve function, which illustrated, even then, the disconnect between financial claims and monetary issues on the one hand, and physical economic output on the other; at the time LaRouche forecast this would necessarily lead to economic collapse, which it has, starting in 2008.)

Gittins continued, "Kay says that, in Britain, bank lending to firms and individuals in the real economy amounts to only about 3 per cent of their total lending. All the rest is lending to other banks and institutions busy buying and selling bits of paper to each other—making bets with each other that the prices of those bits of paper will rise or fall in coming days.



Kay makes what, for an economist, is the very strong condemnation that almost all this speculative activity is 'socially unproductive'. It might or might not benefit the people doing the trading, but it's of no benefit to the rest of the economy."

For those who wonder how Australia's Big Four banks can be so profitable when Australia's physical economy is collapsing, Gittins reports Kay's general insight into how gambling banks can essentially fake profits using derivatives—which the Big Four use heavily:

"If all they're doing is making bets with each other, why aren't the gains of the winners exactly cancelled out by the losses of the losers? [Kay's] answer is that the claims-trading parts of banks have found ways to exaggerate the profits they make by counting expected future profits they haven't actually captured—'paper profits'—but delaying recognition of expected 'paper losses' until they're realised. This game can continue for as long as everything's on the up and the bubble's getting bigger. Once it bursts, of course, former supposed profits become present, unavoidable losses. Many banks teeter on bankruptcy, but the government bails them out and they live to gamble another day."

(This latter point is true, except the bank bail-outs during the 2008 financial crisis bankrupted the governments, so now they can no longer bail out gambling banks, but instead of forcing banks to stop gambling, government and banking authorities have schemed up "bail-in" whereby they will force the banks' creditors, including unsuspecting depositors, to pay the banks' gambling debts by stealing their savings.)

With his general insights, Kay has reached the same conclusion as the CEC and LaRouche, and countless experts around the world—the solution is to separate banking that serves the real economy, from gambling; i.e., do as US President Franklin Roosevelt did in 1933 with the *Glass-Steagall Act*, which averted any systemic banking crises until it was repealed in 1999. As Gittins reported:

"Kay says the answer is to rigidly separate the old-fashioned parts of banking—the facilitation of payments, and lending to households and businesses; the bits that must be kept going through recessions—from all the speculative trading in claims."

Although, as Gittins and Kay demonstrate, the need for Glass-Steagall is indisputable, and it is a beautifully straightforward, uncomplicated financial regulation, it will not be achieved without a fight. The banks that are gambling our lives away exert a completely corrupt control over the political system, especially the two major parties, whether your average bumbling politician knows it or not. Presently, a former partner of one of the most criminal of the gambling banks, Goldman Sachs, is Australia's Prime Minister!

Glass-Steagall is something the Australian people must demand, and be prepared to fight for. The CEC has long led that fight and continues to do so—if you want Glass-Steagall, join us!