

## **DROUGHT SUPPORT PUBLIC FORUM – BRISBANE SUBMISSION 1.12.08**

### **Introduction**

Good afternoon, I'm Jan Pukallus, the Queensland state secretary of the Citizens Electoral Council. Our party is now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year, and is best known for our association with the U.S. statesman and physical economist Mr. Lyndon LaRouche.

First of all I'd like to take on the title of this forum "Drought Support", which presumes that drought is a fact of life that Australians will forever be at the mercy of. The truth is, that drought is *not* natural: it's political. Cattle may have to put up with drought, but what's natural for human beings, unlike animals, is that we can think creatively and solve problems and can willfully take responsibility for future generations. It sets us apart from and above the beasts; we apply our ideas to new & improved technology to increase our power in and over the universe, which we can measure. This benefit can be measured with improvement in standard of living, quality of education, longevity; we are happier, healthier and improve our culture. Scientifically speaking, we have increased our potential relative population density, per capita and per square kilometer on the planet. More than mere existence, we improve life as a whole.

To that end, I challenge the committee to drop any fatalism on the question of drought, and adopt a vision for Australia's future of drought-proofing infrastructure and expanded agricultural production, thriving rural communities, and decentralised population growth. The CEC has that vision, and in recent years has developed infrastructure and policy proposals to realise that vision, which I include in this presentation as appendices.

1. Lyndon LaRouche's 3-part solution to the global financial crisis—the HBPB, a National Bank, and a New Bretton Woods international monetary reorganisation.
2. The Infrastructure Road to Recovery
3. Statement of Demand on the global food shortage
4. We Must Have a National Fertilizer Policy

### **Global economic breakdown crisis**

I would like to situate my presentation for 'Drought Support' in the context of the global financial crisis, and therefore need to frame it with some economic news by the world's most accurate economic forecaster Lyndon LaRouche, and refer you to the graph on the front page of the CEC's 2006 NC newspaper. **LHL's famous triple curve graph** (Explanation of systemic breakdown crisis—highlight how lower curve includes agriculture production, the looting of which is responsible for the current agricultural crisis).

### **(Ref: Graph on Derivatives of Aust Banks)**

Providing drought assistance to agriculture is futile unless this economic crisis is solved, as farmers are being looted by financial derivatives quicker than the Government could

provide funds. On the other hand, any measures to save agriculture will also be key to solving the economic crisis, and vice versa.

Lyndon LaRouche has prescribed three steps that must be taken by governments immediately, as an emergency response to the global financial crisis, before anything else would work.

1. **HBPB**, which is an emergency firewall legislation that will immediately freeze the financial system, put a moratorium on any home, farm and bank foreclosures, putting the banks into a category of bankruptcy protection, so they can keep trading while the Government reorganises them, and writes off the derivatives.
2. **A NEW CREDIT SYSTEM**. Crucial to any physical recovery is a government-owned national bank, like the old Commonwealth Bank, which can fund grand nation building public infrastructure projects and the revival of strong farming and manufacturing industries in Australia.
3. **NBW**. Led by America, Australia must join with Russia, China & India in an American System of economics, a type of New Bretton Woods agreement of trade modeled on FDR's 1933-44 protectionist economic recovery initiatives, which promoted the greatest economic growth the world had ever seen, as opposed to the British free trade system adopted globally now.

### **THE RECOVERY: WHERE DOES IT COME FROM? (show *WAMD & Infrastructure New Citizen*)**

Five years ago the CEC produced an infrastructure vision for Australia, called *The Infrastructure Road to Recovery*, the centrepiece of which was 18 grand-scale water infrastructure projects. Australian engineer, Emeritus Professor Lance Endersbee, an underground water and tunnel expert who helped build one of the Engineering Wonders of the World, the Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Power Scheme, and Tasmania's hydro scheme, is still working politically to get these water projects built for Australia. These are proposed to be part of "infrastructure corridors", where the water projects are complemented by railway, nuclear power, and high-speed shipping infrastructure, which will enormously expand Australia's economic opportunities.

**Science drivers/Infrastructure corridors:** (talk of each for 1-2 min)

- **18 water projects**
- **Nuclear Power**
- **High speed shipping**
- **Mag-lev rail**
- **Space industry**

**CONCLUSION**

This is what needs to be done today, not to merely ‘manage the drought’ as our colonial masters would want, but to drought-proof Australia once and for all! Human beings are not confined to the biosphere as if just higher-apes with a fixed population density—we develop it! This is the way Australians used to think, back when our economy still functioned. The legacy of nation-builders like the great JJC Bradfield or Prof. Endersbee has enabled Australia to provide for 22 million people with a high standard of living but without applying the science driver ideas outlined here, we will reach a boundary condition—like animals do—and face mass starvation, disease and death. Therefore the choice is simple: Stand on your hind legs, take on the massive political challenges in front of us and joyously *build* our way out of the Depression, or prepare for a New Dark Age, and watch as millions or billions of people die; if so, we lack the moral fitness to survive.

## **APPENDIX 1.**

### **STATEMENT OF DEMAND: ON THE GLOBAL FOOD SHORTAGE**

1. The Government must immediately regulate domestically-manufactured fertilizer prices, and subsidize imported fertilizers (relative to world prices), so that farmers pay no more than what they did in January 2006, when the current hyperinflationary spiral really took off.
2. The Government must slash the cost of all petroleum products for the agricultural sector, by suspending the hyperinflated international pricing for domestically-produced oil, and by eliminating the fuel excise.
3. The Government must immediately regulate domestically manufactured agricultural chemicals, especially weedicides and herbicides, and subsidise imported agricultural chemicals, to January 2006 prices. These chemical costs have soared just like the cost of fertilizer and petrol. The hyperinflated costs of these three items, together with the slashing of water allocations in the Murray-Darling Basin, form the immediate chokehold stopping Australian farmers from making a dramatic contribution to the world food crisis.
4. The Government must guarantee a minimum floor price for the resulting harvests.
5. The Government and quasi-governmental agencies must immediately cease all “environmental flows” of water in the Murray-Darling Basin, and cease government purchases of water, which is driving the cost of it to \$1000 per megalitre or more, this in one of the richest agricultural areas in the entire world, which provides more than 40% of our agricultural production, and over \$20 billion per annum in agricultural exports.
6. The Government must take immediate steps to keep our pig, sheep and dairy industries alive and producing, by imposing a significant tariff on pork imports, by subsidising hay and other feed grain for our diminishing sheep flock, and by reinstating water allocations to farmers in the Murray-Darling Basin.

## APPENDIX 2.

### **We Must Have a National Fertilizer Industry!**

Australia must have a policy of National Food Security, both for our own citizens, but also because many tens or even hundreds of millions of human beings rely upon us, as one of the world's largest exporters of food. Central to such food security is the development and maintenance of our national soil fertility, which requires the development of a national fertilizer industry, in concert with associated measures.

1. In the short term, the Federal Government must immediately regulate domestically-manufactured fertilizer prices and subsidise imported fertilizers, so that farmers pay no more than what they did in January 2006, when the current hyperinflationary spiral really took off.
2. For the long term, several other measures are required. Under the auspices of the Federal Agricultural Minister, the Federal Government should immediately:
  - a. Create a Fertilizer Control and Development Board (FCDB) to develop a national fertilizer industry, with all necessary powers to ensure the reliable supply of all farm fertilizers;
  - b. Nationalise all aspects of fertilizer production which are not wholly Australian-owned and operated, including nationalising all mineral deposits associated with fertilizer manufacturing, such to be administrated by the FCDB;
  - c. Enact tariffs and related protective measures to support the development of a national fertilizer industry;
  - d. Outlaw or nationalise foreign-owned corporations involved in Australian agriculture (which are invariably arms of Anglo-Dutch cartels), including financial cartels (e.g. the Dutch-owned Rabobank), which have consolidated their hold upon Australia over the last two decades or so of ruinous British "free trade" policies;
  - e. Establish the required transport infrastructure, with an emphasis on rail; this will provide, inclusively, for the transport of fertilizer raw materials, as well as for the manufacturing and distribution of the final products;
  - f. Establish generous tax concessions for wholly-owned Australian corporations or for Australian citizens investing in the manufacture of fertilizers.
3. Furthermore, the Fertilizer Control and Development Board shall:
  - a. Contract government to government trade agreements to secure any fertilizer minerals which Australia does not currently have, and, where possible and in concert with other Government agencies, develop such minerals domestically;
  - b. Assist in the finance or purchase of machine tools, or other capital machinery required by the industry;

- c. Establish state-based Soil Science and Agronomic Institutes to increase the fertility of Australia's soils, and to provide scientific soil and other necessary tests as a free service to all farmers.

Finally, our most precious agricultural resource is the individual skilled farmer and his or her family. Given that British free trade policies have destroyed tens of thousands of family farms, we must enact policies to maintain and increase this human resource, something similar to the "Danish Model" of developing high-tech farmers. This involves a five year college-based education, with a further five years on-the-job training, following which new farmers are eligible for a farmers re-settlement package of land, along with the equipment required to operate the land; providing the farmer stays and works the property for at least ten years, the title of all property and machinery is transferred to that farmer for 10% of the value of the depreciated machinery and property.