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March 2017 Newsletter



Forum:

We are pleased to advise a forthcoming forum with presenter Dr Mark Lopez as our keynote speaker on the topic of Australian multiculturalism. Mark has authored several books specifically notable is his "The Origins of Multiculturalism in Australian Politics 1945-1975".

Attached to this newsletter is a forum flyer and biography of Mark's extensive background in academia, business and politics. Mark is a resident of Melbourne where he operates a very successful tutoring business. The forum is scheduled for Sunday afternoon at 2.30pm, 2nd April, at the Royal Perth Yacht Club, Crawley Bay, Nedlands.

The Local Scene:

The verbal dust has settled a little after the recent election however the media and political commentators have had a wonderful time picking over the entrails. An opportunity to comment at such a time cannot be passed so here are a few observations in the national interest.

The Liberals knew well that they had problems but did not come up with a circuit breaker and suffered the consequences. The GST issue is one that they should have resolved and maybe the cabal of WA upper and lower house Federal representatives should have united as one voice to pressure the Prime Minister. Or is it a case of personal benefit before state representation? Changing the GST allocation formula with state government agreements is virtually impossible but a guaranteed floor with the difference coming from consolidated revenue would have been a game changer.

The ACT and Northern Territory used to be funded by the Commonwealth before the GST was introduced. Now they get a share of what was supposed to be a replacement for state taxes.

It is about time the gambling revenue of the eastern states was taken into account with the GST as WA, very socially responsible, has resisted the explosion of poker machines outside of the Crown Casino and subsequently limited, but not eliminated, the blight of problem gamblers.

The PM acknowledged in August 2016, here in Perth, that WA was getting a raw deal and needed a guaranteed floor price. Fixing the GST allocation would have removed the mining tax issue and supported their country colleagues instead of providing fuel for the opposition.

The GST allocation issue had better be fixed before the Federal election in 2019!

One Nation ended up nearer 8% than the 13% early polls suggested. Poor candidate selection and poor discipline combined with some odd commentary from their leader did not help their cause. The preference deal was hyper ventilated and should have been a backroom deal without the publicity to minimise upsetting voters on either side of the divide. Regardless, the deal was not really going to alter the outcome. If the Liberals want to reclaim the disenchanted voters who are gravitating away they will have to lift their game and stop ignoring the elephant in the room.

Post election at a Perth Town Hall speech former Labor MP Stephen Smith acknowledged that the political elite will have to take note of the disenchanted middle class or suffer the consequences of a Trump or Brexit effect. Both Labor and Liberal are ignoring the warning signs. At the same function Peter Tinley, Labor MP, eloquently highlighted the need to accept technological disruptors such as Uber and plan for more of the same. Peter was highly enthused by the need to promote new generation disruptive industries here in WA.

His overwhelming embrace of the alarmist climate change mantra provided a window into what we can expect from the Labor party and their Green mates. Where will we go with renewables? Hopefully not down the South Australian path.

Past Labor MP and Ambassador to the USA, Kim Beazley, also spoke at the same function providing an insight to trade with Asia but more specifically Indonesia. His derogatory description of "morons" who criticise Islam as practiced by 250 million peaceful and law abiding muslims in a nation that will be the

biggest trading nation in the region, is indicative of an elitist viewpoint in accommodating conflicting cultures for monetary gain.

Indonesia will be an important and growing market for Western Australia however walking on cultural eggshells has been weaponised by the Indonesians whenever feelings of Australian (white, Anglo) intransigence has been perceived.

CNI Policy Group:

Under the chairmanship of Executive Director Denis Whitely the CNI policy group has been meeting regularly to produce a number of priority issues to which our lobbying effort has been focused, some of which follow:

National Electricity Market:

The most recent submission was to the Independent Review into the Future Security of the National Electricity Market under the Chairmanship of the Chief Scientist, Dr Alan Finkel AO.

Key recommendations made were:

- (1) That National and State/Territory Renewable Targets (RET) be abandoned.
- (2) That no further taxpayers money be invested in renewable programs at National, State or Territorial level.
- (3) That energy security and reliability be restored and guaranteed by reverting to 'clean coal technology' coal fired power stations, preferably that achieved by 'scrubbers' rather than the more expensive HELE ultra-supercritical combustion type, encouraging the upgrade of existing power stations and the development of new clean coal technology ones.
- (4) That the whole range of "climate bodies" and related instruments, generation certificates, emissions intensity and carbon credits etc., be phased out in an orderly way to save the nation billions of dollars.
- (5) That nuclear energy be considered for an appropriate time in the future when it can be guaranteed as safe, secure and economic.
- (6) That at the review of the emission reduction target (26-28%) scheduled for 2017, the Federal Government abandons the emission reduction target.

In the light of recent political initiatives at the Federal and State level (especially in South Australia) the security of energy supply is now a national security issue, after many years of alarmist climate change rhetoric, which has now delivered a network under stress with escalating costs and with price increases of up to 300%. Industries are openly planning for shutdown and relocation with the resultant loss of employment and taxation revenue.

The report from Dr Alan Finkel will be interesting reading as the political heat of years of wilful anti carbon hysteria forces Governments to face reality with economic and rational energy generation initiatives and confine renewables without subsidies to reality economics.

SSCA

Extensive representation has been made to State and Federal representatives regarding the Safe School Coalition Australia (SSCA) program. The response by conservative representatives in government have been sadly lacking in the urgent need to defund and eliminate this appalling program from our schools. The new WA Labor government has indicated they will fund the program to \$1.4 million once they are in power. Unfortunately there are vast numbers of parents, grandparents and social workers who are unaware of the implications of this program on the young immature minds of our children.

Already enforced in Victoria this program over rides the parent's right to shape their child's moral values. Parents cannot opt out as the program is a whole of school approach.

It discriminates against teachers and children who have a different opinion due to their cultural heritage or beliefs. It demands that all students not only accept but celebrate LGBTI lifestyles, and learn about intimate aspects of alternate sexualities.

Boys dressing as girls, girls dressing as boys, using each others bathrooms and change rooms, boys and girls competing in each others sports, and 4 year olds being told "Only you know whether you are a boy

or a girl” is encouraged under this program. Website links and partnerships with groups such as Minus 18 who support a network for gay, bi, lesbian and trans youth with promotion links to sex shops and gay nightclubs, is all part of the package to primary and secondary schools.

We recommend parents take charge of their responsibility as parents and stop putting trust into the system to do the right thing. Only parents can make a difference about what values are acceptable, otherwise teachers and Education Dept bureaucrats under Labor Party political influence will inculcate values of the SSCA program.

The War on Coal:

The CNI has regularly communicated concerns about the renewable energy targets (RET) to all sides of politics and industry leaders over several years. In recent letters to the Prime Minister, senior political advisors, the PM's Cabinet Sub-committee on national energy policy, we have again emphasised the urgency of establishing security of energy supply at rates which do not punish the Australian taxpayer.

The cost to taxpayers of these RET, as reported in The Australian Newspaper, 6 Feb 2017, is \$3 billion a year and rising and there are other major costs related to various climate bodies and clean energy initiatives. These costly programs were given impetus by the decisions and commitments made at the December 2015 meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The UNFCCC is informed by the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), an organisation which has a dubious record – remember 'climategate' 2009 and multiple occasions where the IPCC simply behaved dishonestly to enhance their 'global warming' claims. Now, highly credible reports reveal that the IPCC provided misleading data to the December 2015 meeting, to debunk the warming hiatus. Refer “politics and climate science make for a toxic combination,” Matt Ridley page 10 and “misleading data used to debunk warming hiatus: top scientist,” Graham Lloyd, page 3, The Australian Newspaper, 7 February 2017.

The concept of a Clean Energy Target (CET), which became the RET, was introduced by the Howard Government in 1997 for political gain, not economic gain. There is no rational economic basis for the RET. What is required is for Australia to scrap its RET: to scrap all of the climate change and related energy bodies; stop the closure of coal mines and coal fired power stations; to support any coal fired power station, not currently using clean coal technology, to upgrade using scrubbers rather than HELE technology. In a legal and properly moral way phase out all renewable energy subsidies both industrial and domestic; cancel Australia's remaining commitment to the UN Green Climate Fund. Savings to Australia will amount to billions of dollars each year.

In other words let the renewable energy develop in its own time without taxpayer support. Through research and development, at its own cost, over time the renewable energy industry will find a sustainable role. Australia must reduce its energy costs to become a low cost producer again and must regain its energy security or the consequences will be dire!

Drugs and Alcohol:

In our December 2016 newsletter we addressed the Drug Epidemic issue following our Drug Forum in August which we will now revisit in the shadow of the WA Labor Party taking power, as Labor and the Greens are enamoured with the legalisation lobby group.

The Labor party rhetoric as being tough on drug dealers will not fix the problem of Perth being the meth capital of Australia. While the Liberal government funded rehabilitation and prohibition, its State Govt Meth Strategy did not concentrate on reducing demand. The opportunity to change when dealing with the prohibitionist Liberals has been lost and if Labor revert to form our illicit drug problem will persist and grow under the harm minimisation philosophy and their legalisation supporters.

Sweden's compulsory rehabilitation of problem drug users has a proven history of success and should be the basis of a future rehabilitation program. Peter Lyndon-James of Shalom House with his program of

rehab is highly successful and is a person who could readily shape an effective government supported program with a high degree of potential success.

The successful anti smoking campaign is the template for attacking the illicit drug user epidemic as a first step in reducing demand. Every drug user is a prospective drug dealer and attacking the major dealers may be spectacular media events but has little effect on reducing demand.

Harm minimisation policy encourages illicit drug use as the addict is afforded the benefit of a relatively safe environment for continued using. Until the addict stops using drugs the demand will continue to drive the illicit industry.

While we should not prejudge the new government it is difficult to ignore its predecessors, some of whom have been re-elected to cabinet portfolios. Labor pre-election statements do not offer much solace.

The Icelandic Model:

Another international model that our Government should consider adopting is the successful Icelandic Reversing Teenage Substance Abuse program.

A report by Harvey B. Milkman quotes: " For three decades, I have been a regular consultant to this spectacularly beautiful and sparsely populated Nordic country (pop 332,000). In the late 90's, it was commonplace on Friday and Saturday nights to observe hordes of drunk teenagers sully the streets of Reykjavik in mob-like revelry. Today, nearly 20 years later, I am witness to Iceland's unprecedented success in preventing substance misuse and other harmful behaviours among arguably the most volatile demographic on earth – teenagers."

Iceland's progress is evident in the figures quoted: From 1998 to 2016, the percentage of 15-16 year old Icelandic youth drunk in the past 30 days declined from 42% to 5%; daily cigarette smoking dropped from 23% to 3%; and having used cannabis one or more times, fell from 17% to 5%.

Promoting alternative recreational activities, strengthening family ties, improving self-efficacy (a person's experience of competence and self regard), building social competence (comfortably and responsibly relating to others), and broadening cultural experiences are the most effective strategies for delinquency and drug abuse prevention. At-risk youth can turn their lives around when exposed to and engaged in fulfilling alternatives to drugs and crime.

Parents played a major role in this success story together with schools, research scientist, politicians, media, sport organisations and corporations with basic goals which were to: Increase time spent together by adolescents and their families; Postpone the onset of alcohol use until 18 years of age and over; Increase adolescent participation in structured and organised youth activities supervised by adults.

Australia has always benefited from its natural open air environment and its attraction to sporting activities but unfortunately does not have the same enthusiasm as in past times, possibly too many technology distractions for today's society.

Graham Edwards as Minister for Sport and Recreation 1987-89 was quoted telling his cabinet colleagues that increased funding of his portfolio would save them funding extra police, prisons and health services; but without much success. It is unlikely attitudes have changed much in 30 years. A good start might be to raise the legal drinking age back to 21 where generations survived such an arduous penalty.

Let us work towards convincing our new political masters that there are alternative strategies available.

Quarantine:

Australian biosecurity has suffered as a consequence of down grading our quarantine standards to satisfy international trade agreements which attacked Australia's high standard bio-protection as a trading barrier. There is significant disagreement with industry, government bureaucrats, politicians and importers about what should have been a trading benefit as a clean green nation. Slowly but surely our food production green advantage is being undermined by failures in our quarantine system.

Australia has suffered a litany of quarantine failures starting with equine disease impacting the horse breeding industry in August 2007. Since then we have had bananas, prawns, bees, fire ants and now in WA tomato potato psyllid which is not good for local or export market. New Zealand is the nearest neighbour with this pest. Quarantine vigilance is a national interest.