

I am an Australian citizen born and raised in Australia and I never went to Harvard and in fact I left school at the end of Grade 8 and went out to work at the age of 14 years. I was one of the lucky generation, I did not experience the hardships of the depression or the world wars and I enjoyed growing up in a truly Lucky Country, one that was vibrant and full of opportunity and reward for hard work, along with an affordable and enjoyable lifestyle. I also enjoyed living in a country that knew the true value of a “fair go” and one that was ostensibly governed in the interest of the country and its people. I have seen my share of “droughts and flooding rains” but fast forward 68 years to 2016 and I feel sad, sad and concerned to see such a Lucky Country being sold out and the very fabric of the society that made it great being destroyed and the effects of this sell out and destruction will be far reaching for a long, long time if it is not stopped and the interests of the Australian people and their country are put first before all others.

The list of issues and red flags that give me cause for this sadness and concern are many and have been occurring predominantly over the past 25+ years. They did not start happening yesterday, they have occurred under variously elected government models and they are too many in number to list in an Open Letter but I have tried to summarize the effects below in this letter to you and ask that you question...**Why is this so?**

THE BASICS OF LIFE – FOOD = WATER - SHELTER

FOOD

Good healthy food and water is the essence of human existence and after WW2 Australia enjoyed an abundance of good healthy and affordable food to eat, along with an abundance of good clean water to grow the healthy crops and to drink. That abundance of good food and water is under attack and access to these life staples is also under attack and are not being protected by your government for your long term benefit.

- Almost all of the famous Australian branded processed food products have been bought out by multinational companies and either closed down or moved off shore to be replaced with inferior quality products riding on the back of the famous Australian branded names. All that remains is the famous name on a tin or a box that is filled with inferior products. **Why is this so?**
- Inferior quality imported foods are allowed to enter Australia. The quality of imported foods allowed into the country is far less than the quality that exported products must meet to leave the country. **Why is this so?**
- Mining companies (mostly multinationals) are allowed unfettered access to and free use of water for their operations. Farmer’s access to water is heavily restricted and it is not free and in fact the cost of water today has become more than a farmer can afford to be able to remain viable and to grow crops profitably. **Why is this so?**
- Water, the essence of life, has been allowed to become a tradeable commodity for the benefit of the men in suits and to the detriment of Australian agriculture and your food needs. **Why is this so?**
- Mining companies are allowed almost unfettered access to land for mining and in fact they are encouraged to mine extensively and yet a farmer’s access to and use of land to grow food and crops is highly regulated and prohibitive which again impacts negatively on their long term ability to grow good crops, let alone be viable and profitable... **Why is this so?**
- Multinational processors and retail giants are allowed unfettered access to operate in Australia and are allowed to dominate markets and in doing so drive down farm gate prices and gouge consumers with mark ups reaching to 1,000+% in some instances. **Why is this so?**
- Banks and their lending practices are under a massive dark cloud yet nothing is done to properly investigate or address this dark cloud and in the meantime the banks continue relentlessly with foreclosing on predominantly family farmers and local businesses and foreign entities are just as relentlessly allowed to “buy up the farm” and therefore adding further negative impacts to food security for Australia. **Why is this so?**
- The government of Australia has within its executive powers under the Constitution, the ability to manage all of these issues via laws and legislation on behalf of the Australian people and in a way that ensures affordable food security for the people of Australia and in doing so also retains the best interests of the people of Australia and yet they do not act and in fact in today’s world they are encouraging and aiding and abetting the ongoing destruction of your food security. **Why is this so?**
- Australia has become one of the highest food cost countries in the world. **Why is this so?**
- Why is food and water security of Australia under such a concerted attack from within the country itself?
- **Do you ever ask yourself why? Or what is going on?**

- Land costs have become almost relatively unaffordable in Australia and that impacts massively on the cost of housing and its affordability for the average Australian. **Why is this so?**
- Federal government, State governments and Local councils have embarked on an aggressive campaign to control every aspect of land development and your property rights and all at an ever increasing cost to you the landholders. **Why is this so?**
- Australia, as for food above, has become one of the most expensive countries in the world for housing affordability. **Why is this so?**
- Foreigners are allowed almost unfettered access to buy Australian properties and contribute to the rising cost of housing for the average Australian. **Why is this so?**
- The average Australian demands that they have the Mercedes Benz of housing from day one as their needs for shelter (do we not still learn to crawl before we walk? or has that progressive step in life been dispensed with?) **Why is this so?**
- The Australian banking system enjoys massive profits from their mortgage businesses and yet they contribute nothing to the value of your home other than the stroke of a key on a computer key board to enjoy those profits at your expense. **Why is this so?**
- **Again,** The government of Australia has within its executive powers under the Constitution, the ability to manage all of these issues via laws and legislation and in a way that ensures affordable housing and shelter for the people of Australia and in doing so also retain the best interest of the people of Australia and yet they do not act and in fact in today's world they are encouraging and aiding and abetting the ever increasing cost of your shelter. **Why is this so?**
- **Do you ever ask yourself why? Or what is going on?**

FINANCIAL SECURITY of THE PEOPLE and AUSTRALIA

In order to be able to afford the basics of life such as clean food and water and shelter mentioned above the current monetary system requires people in essence to conduct businesses and or work to earn the money to pay for life's needs and hopefully for people to grow and prosper along with the prosperity of the country. Money is earned, various taxes are paid or deducted and collected by the government as your contribution to provide for the costs of running the country for the good of all the people.

Australia the country is a wealthy country, and through the hard work and effort of the good people of Australia the wealth of the country has grown immensely since settlement and yet today:

- The government will tell you that the country has a massive debt problem...**Why is this so?**
- Where has all that hard earned money and wealth gone to?
- Over the past 25+ years taxes have increased, government services have decreased and yet comparatively more and more the people work harder and yet struggle endlessly to be able to afford the Basics of Life... **Why is this so?**
- Australian banks continue year on year to post record profits in the billions from the stroke of a keyboard
- Multinational companies continue to post record profits in the billions whilst shirking their fair burden of taxes paid to Australia purely by some creative accounting and offshore price transferring and all with the full knowledge and acquiescence of the Australian government...**Why is this so?**... to coin an old phrase...: **"There's a hole in my bucket, dear Liza, dear Liza, There's a hole in my bucket etc.**
- Is Australia really in debt, or is this a lie perpetrated by successive governments to keep ever increasing taxes on the people or have they simply been bad financial managers?
- The Australian people have amassed some \$2 trillion in superannuation savings yet the country is in debt and has to have foreign investment to prosper...**Why is this so?**
- Currently both state and federal governments of Australia AND local councils are embarking on an aggressive campaign to privatize or sell off massive numbers of public services, utilities and infrastructure, all of which in effect have been paid for by your hard work and efforts and taxes...they are selling off your assets that you have paid for down through the years... **Why is this so...Why are you allowing this to happen?**
- The government is destroying the hard working people and they are selling off and destroying your country...**Why is this so...Why are you allowing this to happen?**
- **Do you ever ask yourself why? Or what is going on?**

The destruction of the way of life and the good fortunes of the people of Australia and of the very country itself has occurred more than ever during the last 25+ years AND it has happened under the watch of both the LNP and ALP governments of the day and also with bipartisan support of both of these parties at some time or another. In short, they are all in it together. No other party or person has governed during these years.

It is **TIME** – time for all the people of Australia to stand up, stand as one and stop the continuation of the destruction of your life, your good fortune and of your country.

You **HAVE** to stand up and question what is happening and you **MUST** act to stop it. The longer it is allowed to happen the worse that this destruction will become.

The Federal Election 2016 HAS to be the line in the sand followed by each and every state election and local council election thereafter until it is **STOPPED**. It is your responsibility to act and to stop it! If you want your government to be accountable then you **MUST** hold them accountable! – At the ballot box and each and every day there after

Regards,

Graham Clune

A somewhat sad and concerned citizen of Australia