

Citizens Electoral Council of Australia

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Independent Political Party

14th of January 2011

The Glass-Steagall principle: Floods decimate food production—farm debt moratorium NOW!

The government must enact an immediate farm debt moratorium, both to save the family farmers wiped out by the floods, and to mobilise the rest of the nation's farmers to step up food production to meet the chronic food shortages facing Australia—and the world, demanded Citizens Electoral Council leader Craig Isherwood today.

"It is imperative that the government apply the Glass-Steagall principle to this crisis, by enacting a debt moratorium," he said.

"Glass-Steagall is the principle, enacted by U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt in 1933 to begin to bring the U.S. and the world out of the Great Depression, that the government is responsible for protecting the functionality of the productive, physical economy from predatory bankers and speculative parasites.

"If we are to rescue our food production capability, to preserve our national food security, and to secure our essential contribution to the food supplies of a chronically food-short world, then our family farmers must be freed through a debt moratorium, from the crushing debt burden that is driving them off the land," he said.

The Queensland floods have wreaked havoc in major food production areas all up the coast, washing away crops and precious topsoil, and destroying the farm machinery and transport infrastructure—roads and rail—that is necessary to transport goods.

The dramatic flash flood in Toowoomba and surrounding districts on Monday decimated the state's last functioning food

bowl, the Lockyer Valley, the major supplier of fresh fruit and vegetables to Brisbane.

When combined with the demoralised state of the family farmers targeted for political annihilation in the national food bowl, the Murray-Darling Basin (including the deliberately-shackled irrigators in South Australia's Riverland limited to 67 per cent of their water entitlement while the swollen Murray River rushes by their farms), as well as the drought-ravaged wheat growers in Western Australia's wheat belt, it is clear that Australia itself is in a dire food crisis, let alone our crucial contribution to a food-short world.

Central Queensland cattle and wheat producer and former CEC National Chairman Maurice Hetherington today backed Craig Isherwood's call for a debt moratorium, and said the crisis demands "a new system".

"[Farmers] have lost everything," he said on 13th January. "We're going to have a chronic food shortage here in Queensland—chronic. The first thing I think has to be done is we have to keep the farmer on the land and the small businessman in their small business. That's an absolute priority.

"We need a debt moratorium and low-interest credit pumped in at two per cent to kickstart them and get them going ... That's the first light that will give the farmers the incentive to get in the mud ..."

He concluded, "This is reality. People have to eat, and if they haven't got people producing food there'll be nothing to eat."

SES flood boats stopped from saving lives in Ipswich and Brisbane floods

Numerous trained flood boat operators of Queensland's State Emergency Service (SES) were ordered to sit on their hands while people's lives and properties were threatened in the Ipswich and Brisbane floods.

A leader of a local voluntary SES group contacted the CEC to condemn the decision by Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ) not to use them to respond to the flood crisis, even though it is precisely such an event for which they have trained for years.

The disenchanted volunteer blamed the decision for contributing to unnecessary deaths and destruction: "People drowned and died because the SES wasn't around," he said.

He reported mobilising his local group to be away from home for 3-5 days, including buying and packing tinned food supplies (at their own expense) and getting themselves ready, only to be told by EMQ to wait for instructions that never came.

He explained they are trained for the conditions, training which includes technical knowledge of how to drive boats through muddy waters at roof-top level, to avoid snagging on submerged powerlines and other obstacles, but instead were forced to watch on TV footage of untrained civilians driving boats around the flood zones, carrying people, and goods. Despite warnings to stay out, people will always go into flood waters, he insisted, because they are desperate to inspect their properties etc, and if the SES flood boats were present, there is the possibility of ferrying those people to where they want to go, so they don't put themselves in danger. The SES is manned by volunteers motivated to look after their family, friends, neighbours and the community in this kind of crisis, but because they weren't allowed, his group is disenchanted and demoralised, and many members will probably quit what is an already under-manned service, he said. The SES volunteer added that the next time there is a crisis, the SES members will simply take off their uniforms and deploy to the crisis zone as civilians, so they can do what they are trained to do, without the red tape.



Anna Bligh is locking up much of northern and western Queensland to protect Wild Rivers—does that legislation now apply to Brisbane, or Toowoomba (pictured)? 75% of Queensland is flood affected as of this writing.

Big dams: has Tony Abbott joined the CEC?

Opposition Leader Tony Abbott's call for more dams for flood mitigation echoes what the Citizens Electoral Council, uniquely among Australian political parties, has pushed for two decades, said CEC leader Craig Isherwood today.

"Has Tony Abbott joined the fight, or is he being cynically opportunistic?" Mr Isherwood questioned.

"He'd better be prepared to fight, because it isn't a few feral greenies stopping dams, it's the very British Crown to whom he is so loyal, namely Prince Philip himself, and the organisations he created to impose green fascism on Australia—the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) and the WWF's Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists."

Mr Isherwood observed that most of the media-anointed experts who've come out against Abbott's proposal are citing as their reason the impact of dams on "wetlands", just as the so-called

Ramsar wetlands are being used to shut down irrigation in the Murray-Darling Basin:

"The predictable opponents to dams have started up like a chorus of croaking cane toads, and their ideas are just as ugly," he said.

"They are mouthpieces for a scientific scam, peddled by Prince Philip's WWF through its Ramsar Convention, to relabel mosquito-infested swamps as 'wetlands', which, to 'conserve', must be protected from any and all human activity; in this case—drought-proofing, flood-mitigating dams.

"What a load of rubbish!" he exclaimed, concluding, "If Tony Abbott wants to fight for a truly scientific approach to Australia's development, he should champion the great water infrastructure projects detailed in the CEC's 2002 'Infrastructure Road to Recovery' report, which, if constructed, would have largely mitigated the recent disastrous floods in Queensland."

7th of January 2011

Genocidalists impose water restrictions on food producers during flood

Like the Tantalus of Greek mythology chained in Hades out of reach of an abundant feast, long-suffering South Australian irrigators are being forced to watch the overflowing Murray River rush by, but leave untouched one-third of the water they need to grow food and to which they are *legally entitled*.

With the Murray already full and flowing out to sea through the lower lakes and Coorong, and warnings that a repeat of South Australia's devastating 1956 flood could be on the way, Citizens Electoral Council leader Craig Isherwood cut through the confusion and declared the situation wasn't simply insane, it was *intentionally genocidal*.

"It is genocide to restrict food production during a time when not only is the world facing a food shortage, but Australia too faces a severe food shortage from flood damage on the eastern seaboard and in northern Western Australia," he stated.

"But this latest case is no mere restriction; it is central to the genocidal drive to smash the Murray-Darling Basin as a food bowl by British imperialists who are determined to depopulate Australia and crush any remnants of Australian sovereignty."

Mr Isherwood continued, "The tormented irrigators are family farmers of our national food bowl, the producers of the nation's food supply, who have barely held on through a decade of drought exacerbated by water restrictions for phoney 'environmental flows', but now when they finally have an opportunity to replenish their land and grow full crops, they are being blocked.

"The state governments of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia which are enforcing these restrictions are complicit in destroying Australia's hard-won national food security.

"The only logic to this restriction, is to enforce the agreements that underpin the private water trading system, which from its

inception was promoted by Prince Philip's Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists as a key weapon in its drive to smash the food bowl.

"The private water trading system has profited parasitic corporate speculators such as Macquarie Bank and, before it went bankrupt, Babcock & Brown—whose former water trading specialist David Green is a member of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority!—but driven family farmers off the land or to suicide," he charged. "The actual intent behind all this insanity is not 'profits', but *genocide*, as in the repeated, openly expressed aim of Prince Philip's Green lobby to slash Australia's population from its current 22.5 million down to 5-6 million."

Even though the drought is well-and-truly broken, the four Murray-Darling Basin states are insisting on sticking to an agreement struck during the drought, which set a cap on the total amount of water able to be drawn in each state for irrigation. However, on a technicality, South Australia's irrigators are being limited to just 67 per cent of their allocation, forcing them to spend millions each month buying water from interstate, while the river rushes by.

South Australian farmers require a mere 186 gegalitres to reach their 100 per cent entitlement, which represents only two days flows (90 GL per day) of the swollen Murray River. Ironically, University of Adelaide ecologist David Paton has warned the flows are so strong that they could have a *harmful effect* on wildlife in the Lower Lakes.

Mr Isherwood concluded, "It is up to the people of Australia to demand the various governments protect our food security and the family farmers who provide it. The CEC is leading that fight—join us."

To compare the CEC's record to that of the growing chorus of leaders, including PM Julia Gillard, who claim that nobody could have seen this crisis coming.

ORDER DVD

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