

# Citizens Electoral Council of Australia

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Authorised by R. Barwick, 595 Sydney Road, Coburg, Victoria 3058. Printed by Citizens Media Group Pty Ltd., 595 Sydney Road, Coburg, Victoria 3058.

Independent Political Party

10<sup>th</sup> of May 2013

## Australia without family farmers is not 'viable'

Right now, as a consequence of *political* decisions, many thousands of family farmers across Australia face immediate ruin:

600-1200 family farmers in WA's eastern wheat belt are under siege by the banks and both the state and federal governments, which are conspiring to starve the farmers of credit in order to force them off the land and/or privatise and sell their cooperative to foreign grain cartels.

Many hundreds of beef producers in northern Australia have been blindsided by the government's outright sabotage of their export markets, which has caused a glut of beef on the domestic market that has driven down the price of cattle from \$500-1000 per head, to as low as \$20, leaving hundreds bankrupt and suicidal.

Hundreds of both fruit growers and dairy farmers in northern Victoria are getting smashed by the government's policy of free trade, which is forcing the SPC Ardmona cannery in Shepparton to drastically reduce production, and has collapsed the price of milk way below the cost of production.

However, the government, which has caused these crises, is hammering the farmers with the message that they aren't "viable".

The CEC exposed in its June/July 2012 *New Citizen* newspaper that the number of genuine family farms in Australia as of 2010 hit the dangerously-low figure of 40,000, down sharply from 120,000 two decades earlier in 1991, and from 204,000 in 1953.

If the people of Australia tolerate their governments, of both major parties, continuing to aggressively drive family farmers out of agriculture—whether for reasons of free trade, banker-rationed finance, or green fascism (including that of the vegetarian militants who purport to speak for animals)—they face the very real prospect that *their nation* will not be viable.

The present crisis is a mortal threat to Australia's food security. Corporate agribusinesses would be lying in wait to acquire some of these farming operations, but they do not guarantee a nation's food security. Agribusinesses only produce when it suits their bottom line, and often on contract to global supply chains, regardless of domestic food needs. Only strong family farms that produce reliably, prioritise the domestic market and export surpluses, and nurture the land to pass on to future generations, guarantee a nation's food security.

The present crisis is also a threat to the global food supply. An estimated one billion people around the world go hungry every day, while the two sectors where family farmers are being smashed, wheat and beef, are Australia's two biggest agricultural exports.

Australia is the second largest wheat exporter after the U.S., and WA's wheat growers produce the majority of the Australian crop. The government is letting the banks destroy WA's growers, at a time when drought and freezing

temperatures in the U.S. are expected to reduce that nation's 2013 winter crop by 25 per cent, and dry conditions are reducing wheat production in Russia, traditionally the world's third-largest wheat exporter.

Australia's live beef exports to Indonesia significantly increased the protein consumption of millions of low-income people in that nation. Australia's meat export markets in the Middle East include some of the nations where food shortages triggered the overthrow of national governments in 2011. Australia's self-inflicted crisis exacerbates a global shortage: U.S. beef production, which represents one-fifth of global output, is expected to fall sharply this year.

There is no reason for any presently struggling wheat grower, beef producer, fruit grower or dairy farmer to lose their farms. It is entirely within the government's power to *immediately*:

- declare a moratorium on farm foreclosures;
- order the banks to renegotiate farm debt at lower interest;
- establish a government agency for farmers to borrow at low interest to finance their crops and capital upgrades;
- impose tariffs on canned fruit imports, and announce penalties on Coles and Woolworths for further abusing their market dominance by sourcing fruit and vegetables from overseas that are produced domestically;
- establish government-to-government contracts with nations such as Indonesia, to resume the supply of beef, with our government guaranteeing both the supply to Indonesia, and the price to Australia's producers; such contracts should also be sought in the Middle East and Africa.

The only long-term solution, however, is that the government must enact a Glass-Steagall separation of essential banking services from speculative investment banking, so as to protect and prioritise credit for agricultural production. The government must then establish a national bank, owned and managed by the government, which will direct long-term credit into strengthening and expanding the nation's food production. This would include, for instance, investing in more domestic meat processing capacity, of which the present crisis has shown Australia to be woefully short.

Citizens Electoral Council leader Craig Isherwood declared today, "The decision before the government is not a business decision, it is a national interest decision. Any family farmers that are forced off the land by this crisis will be the clear victims of the government's deliberate intention, for which the government must be held to account.

"That is up to the Australian people," he continued. "If you understand the importance of family farmers to Australia's viability as a nation, and are willing to take responsibility to fight for the nation's future, join the CEC."

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8<sup>th</sup> of May 2013

## Isherwood: Join my appeal to U.S. Congress to re-enact Glass-Steagall

Citizens Electoral Council leader Craig Isherwood today called for Australians who hold any position of elected office or community leadership to join him in an appeal to the U.S. Congress to pass the tabled legislation, *House Resolution 129*, which re-enacts the separation of commercial banking from investment banking mandated in the 1933 *Glass-Steagall Act*.

All over the world local leaders are writing to the U.S. Congress to urge passage of HR 129, because if Glass-Steagall is re-enacted in the U.S., where it has the best chance, it will defeat the opposition of the City of London and the Crown, and enable its enactment in every country.

Craig Isherwood has prepared the following letter to the members of the U.S. Congress:

### Urgent Appeal to Representatives and Senators of the U.S. Congress

Tuesday, 7 May 2013

Dear Honourable Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thousands of Australian citizens have joined a campaign to call on our Parliament to act for the Glass Steagall separation of banks in our country.

This campaign draws to the attention of our legislators the real threat facing our Australian banking system from the deepening global financial crisis; a crisis which puts at serious risk the bank deposits of the Australian people, and essential banking services for the real economy.

We have requested that our legislators take immediate action to protect deposits and normal commercial banking services, by enacting strict banking separation as did U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt's *Glass-Steagall Act 1933*.

The original *Glass-Steagall Act* split deposit-taking, standard commercial banks from Wall Street's speculative investment banks, creating entirely separate entities under different roofs, thus successfully protecting the U.S. banking system until Glass-Steagall's repeal in 1999.



We have asked our legislators to apply the Glass-Steagall principle to Australia through legislation to divide each of the four major banks into two parts: 1) normal commercial banks as per Glass-Steagall standards, and 2) institutions involved in investment banking and other forms of speculation. Banks that speculate will then do so with their own money and at their own peril, with no government protection whatsoever.

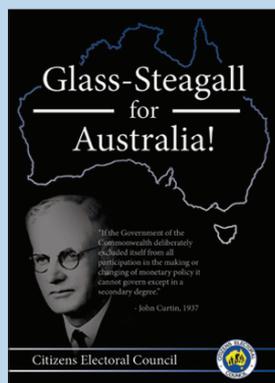
Therefore, we respectfully appeal to you to re-enact the banking separation of the original *Glass Steagall Act*, in the form of the HR 129 "Return to Prudent Banking Act" sponsored by Representatives Marcy Kaptur and Walter Jones.

Yours sincerely,  
Craig Isherwood  
National Secretary/Treasurer  
Citizens Electoral Council of Australia

### GET A FREE COPY

For a complimentary copy of the new pamphlet *Glass-Steagall for Australia*, including the article, "What Glass-Steagall Will Do", a dialogue with *Executive Intelligence Review* Economics Editor Paul Gallagher who explains the continuing danger derivatives pose to the global financial system, call toll-free 1800 636 432, or send this coupon to: CEC, PO Box 376, Coburg, Victoria, 3058.

Please leave all the required details.



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