

Citizens Electoral Council of Australia

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Independent Political Party

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Australia should solve the refugee crisis we helped create

Many Australians roundly denounced Immigration Minister Peter Dutton's 17 May outburst stoking fear of illiterate refugees crowding out our jobs and dole queues, but nobody addressed the elephant in the room: our nation's role in creating the biggest refugee crisis since World War II.

Successive Australian governments of both parties cheered on our "dangerous allies", as the late former PM Malcolm Fraser called the UK and USA, as they unleashed the crises in Iraq, Libya, and Syria, justified by a series of lies. There were no spontaneous, grass-roots uprisings, and we did not intervene to protect people from murderous regimes; rather, we and our Anglo-American masters have colluded with Saudi Arabia and Turkey, who foster and fund terrorism;¹ and we have subverted, at every opportunity, the main players who are successfully pushing back the ISIS terrorists—Syria and Russia.

Citizens Electoral Council leader and Victorian Senate candidate Craig Isherwood demanded today that Australia break its blind adherence to the US-UK strategy for regime change and war. "The special relationship is causing Australia to lose its humanity—tolerating and perpetrating horror on the other side of the world, and on our borders", Isherwood said. "A humanitarian response to the refugee crisis would be to stop supporting the genocidal wars that are forcing millions to flee, which would mean breaking with the Anglo-American Empire."

Australia pledged last September to take 12,000 Syrian refugees, but reportedly only 300 have arrived so far, and the full resettlement will take a further 12 months; Canada, on the other hand, has already met its target, resettling more than 26,000 Syrians.

"The CEC has always had a policy of welcoming refugees to make a better life for themselves, and to help us build Australia, as we did post-World War II and as the Fraser government did after the Vietnam War. The CEC's vision to build numerous grand infrastructure projects² on the scale of the Snowy Mountains Scheme will require a much more generous immigration intake. As to the protest that we will unleash a flood of people coming here if we expand immigration quotas, I say, *well, stop the wars!* By far the majority of refugees emphatically do not want to flee the country of their birth, but are forced to by the horrific conditions we helped create!"

Take the case of the Syrian refugee named Henekal, a mother with a physical disability who fled Raqqa after her husband disappeared, carrying her daughter for hours. Henekal told ABC's *Lateline* on 18 May, "Before the war, we had absolute safety. Then all of a sudden, it became a terrifying nightmare of destruction and the sound of guns and planes." (Emphasis added.)

The long-term plan for Syrian regime change

In 1991 then-US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney's office listed a series of targets for regime change, including Syria, Iraq and Libya. By 2001 there was a detailed Pentagon plan to topple no fewer than seven neutral and non-belligerent countries, and 2006 documents exposed by WikiLeaks revealed the active plan of the US embassy in Damascus to overthrow the government of Syria. At this point there were no demonstrations or uprisings against the government of Bashar al-Assad. The 2011 intervention against Qaddafi's Libya—an ally of the United States and Britain in the battle against Islamic extremism—set up a "rat line" of weapons into Syria (via Turkey), to encourage revolt against Assad and destabilise the country. (Please go online to watch this interview with American Senator Richard Black, recently returned from Syria, for more detail.)

The ensuing crisis, together with increased foreign support for any and all anti-Assad rebels, allowed ISIS to expand massively, taking control of much of the country, and beyond. The US Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) forecast exactly this in a 2012 memorandum to the White House, which said that supporting anti-Assad forces would lead to al-Qaeda creating a "Salafist principality" and an "Islamic State". The Obama administration pushed ahead anyway.

Isherwood also called for an immediate end to the cruel and inhumane imprisonment of asylum seekers in detention centres. "Australia has a moral obligation to these people. Whether they settle here permanently, or temporarily while peace is restored to their homelands, we should be welcoming and compassionate, as we would expect any Australian to be treated if they were in a similar situation."

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reports documenting the roots of
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1) http://cecaust.com.au/releases/2016_01_11_British_Royals_PM.html

2) <http://www.cecaust.com.au/policy/blueprintforeconomicdevelopment/index.html>

3) <https://larouchepac.com/20160505/us-policy-syria-interview-va-senator-richard-black>

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25 May 2016

'Free market' smashes milk producers

By Ann Lawler

Australian dairy farmers sit at the bottom of the trickle-down profit line with no bargaining power, often forced to accept milk prices that are below their production costs. This is again the devastating reality for farmers who supply Murray Goulburn and Fonterra, after both dairy co-operatives recently slashed their farm-gate price for milk solids. Dairy farmers are not victims of the processors, however, but of the "free market" dogma that Australian agriculture has been forced to swallow over the past three decades, which has sabotaged the entire industry.

The roots of this crisis lie in Paul Keating's 1992 National Competition Policy Review, chaired by Macquarie Bank executive Professor Fred Hilmer. Macquarie is the spawn of City of London investment bank Hill Samuel, which was set up in Australia to be a corporate battering ram for free market "reforms" such as deregulation and privatisation. Hilmer's report was used to deregulate the dairy industry in 2000, which John Howard's Coalition government forced through. The Coalition badgered, coerced, and bribed dairy farmers to accept deregulation because it was "going to happen anyway" so "take this compensation package" and either "get bigger, or leave the industry". The result of this "competition" reform has been fewer competitors: *Dairy Australia* reports that over the last 30 years the number of dairy farms has fallen by two-thirds, from 19,380 in mid-1985 to 6,128 in mid-2015. The survivors have been forced to get big: over the same period the average herd size has increased from 93 cows to an estimated 284, and is trending upwards to very large farm operations of over 1,000 head of cattle. Under competition policy, what's happened to dairy farmers has happened right across the agricultural spectrum.

There is also less competition overall, as evidenced by the growth of the Wesfarmers (Coles)-Woolworths duopoly. In their fake milk-price war, which drove milk down to \$1 per litre, they are warring not with each other, but with the farmers and processors who are forced to wear the cost. Driving down the farm-gate price increases the duopoly's bottom line; and if some manufacturers and farmers are forced out of the industry? "Tough", shrug the free-trade-brainwashed journalists and economists, "that's how competition works".

The free market plans of bankers and farmers ...

The specific troubles of Murray Goulburn, Fonterra and their suppliers are a symptom of this free market fraud imposed upon them. Always desperate for new margins—"lean and hungry" as the economists approvingly say—Murray Goulburn and Fonterra were driven to "innovate" with new products and chase foreign markets for sales, exposing them to volatility in commodities markets, currencies, interest rates, and the predatory speculation associated with each. Forced to raise capital for expansion and to hedge against the uncertainties of the global market place, first Fonterra in 2012, and then, following Fonterra's lead, Murray Goulburn in 2015, took the extraordinary step of

abandoning the core principles of a co-operative to list on the stock market, in order to raise capital by selling unit shares to outside investors to whom they promised a pre-determined rate of return on investment.

The essence of the crisis now is that, with sales this financial year well down and farm-gate price reductions backdated to last July, the farmer shareholders have to put their hands into their pockets to meet the returns that Fonterra and Murray Goulburn promised to the outside investors, and to also meet the remuneration owed to the board members who set all this up.

As it happened, both co-ops took the step of floating on the stock market under the influence of a number of unelected, appointed or special members sitting on their boards, who have little or no background in the dairy industry, but years of experience in leading positions in accounting, banking, equities, capital raising and other fields of corporate management. The list of board members reads like a Who's Who of the predatory world of finance. Both boards boast bankers from Australia's Big Four banks and/or their New Zealand subsidiaries. Both boards are also connected to leading global accounting firms, which like ratings agencies are part of the permanent infrastructure of global finance—just four firms audit the books and sign off on all of the speculative schemes of all of the world's multinational banks and corporations. Past and present members on Fonterra's board are partners or former partners of PricewaterhouseCoopers—the same firm Fonterra's competitor Murray Goulburn appointed in 2013 to replace Deloitte as their external auditors. Another global accounting firm, Ernst & Young, also represented on Fonterra's Board, was appointed by Murray Goulburn to approve the remuneration of now former CEO Gary Helou, who locked Murray Goulburn into its \$1 per litre milk contract with Coles and pushed through the stock market float (Helou walked away with \$10 million, or the value of 10 million litres of Coles/Woolies milk). Interim Murray Goulburn CEO David Malinson, who replaced Helou, previously worked for the ANZ bank, and was Fonterra's chief financial officer for six years.

Australia (and New Zealand) should heed the advice of Henry C. Carey, the American System economist who was an adviser to Abraham Lincoln, who wrote *The Harmony of Interests* to define the stark difference between the industrial protectionism known as the American System, and the British System of "free trade":

"The object of free trade is proclaimed to be the increase of commerce, but commerce withers under it", Carey wrote. "We thus have here, first, a system that is unsound and unnatural, and second, a theory invented for the purpose of accounting for the poverty and wretchedness which are its necessary results ...

"The object of protection has been, and is, to restore the natural tendency by which industrial manufacturing takes its place by the side of the producer of food (national self-sufficiency), thus reducing substantially transportation fees and middle men sales costs and bringing about the stabler self-sufficient communities and nations."