



The Thirty-Three Plank Platform of The Republican Party of Australia [RPA]

for the 2020-2022 Electoral Cycle prepared by PETER CONSANDINE, C.E.O.

- **An Australian Republic** with a model whereby the Australian People become collectively sovereign when the reigning monarch cedes her sovereignty per death or abdication. In short: a Directly-Elected Presidency with codified powers and defined duties. *The RPA champions the idea of **State Republics** as a corollary of the Nationwide 'Oz Republic-by-Default' Campaign. The efficacy of this patriotic exercise would be [*to some extent is *already* happening] to instigate with separate but joint efforts on behalf of the electors of each sovereign monarchical State for the opportunity to establish 'republican' States - seriatim - whereby the electors may vote for their respective State Governors whilst instituting 'republican' structures/arrangements as an equal participating entity in the Commonwealth of Australia until the nation-as-a-whole carries a constitutional 'YES' vote in a (second) federal referendum to become an independent republic in the Commonwealth of Nations.
- **An Australian Charter of Rights, Freedoms, Choices, Values and Responsibilities.** [*Australia is the *only* OECD country which does NOT have any such instrument albeit the State of Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory both have Bills of Rights for their respective citizenry and the State of Queensland is currently exploring doing likewise].
- **An Inquiry into the way Australia governs itself** with the view to reducing the three levels of governance by one to two so that Regionalism, de-Centralisation and *planned* land management practices may be developed, implemented and maintained. [*Section #101 of the Commonwealth Constitution provides the mechanism per the Inter-State Commission]. [**A fully-fledged Capital 'I' Inquiry such as the one envisaged would prove that the need of/for State Governments had entirely evaporated].
- **A revived Federal Land Value Taxation regime** (a la 1910-1952) with the view to reducing the number of land value taxation systems from two to one (Regional rates and Local/Municipal taxes & charges). [*Thus, the continuing 'Shed a Tier!' campaign]. [**A regime such as this - carefully phased in over, say, 5-7 years - would, indubitably, be conducive to both a smart and refined, fully-funded, bipartisan Housing Affordability plan].
- **Wholesale Taxation Reform as regards religions and religious institutions which, for ALL intents and purposes, are businesses.** Presently, because religious institutions are classed as charities they are exempted from municipal rates, stamp duties, land, payroll and income taxes and, partially, GST. In effect, Australian taxpayers subsidise not only their charitable works but also the "advancement of religion". The cost to Consolidated Revenue is UNTold billions of dollars per annum. This deplorable situation must change in the national interest. This reform is long overdue and is a fair and Non-Sectarian initiative.
- **Multi-Member Federal Electorates** (a) 7 elected representatives for each of 50 Federal Electorates arrived at per the proportional-preferential voting system to establish and maintain a *truly, multi-party* democracy; (b) Fixed Terms of 4 years; (c) General re-distributions every 8 years; (d) The Senate abolished and (e) State governments abolished also . [*with a 25 million+ population, Australia is the most *over-governed* Western power in the OECD]. [**with such a dramatic but uber-democratic electoral reform such as this, the number of politicians would more than halve with a corresponding reduction in the number of bureaucrats and a drastic reduction in attendant 'red tape'].
- **Equitable Justice principles to be enshrined in law** to ensure *equality of opportunity* for ALL Australians...the first principle being the recognition of the indigenous population of the nation as the 'First Australians' in an amended Commonwealth monarchical constitution to make the instrument *more complete* whilst preventing any semblance of racial discrimination (apartheid/separate development and the like) en route to a Commonwealth *republican* constitution.
- **Water Security...Incentives for particularly suburban Australians to "gardenise" their properties and replace ALL lawns with native plants + shrubs + trees.** [*this initiative alone would save just *so much* water - NOT to mention the 'cleaner air' factor apropos the sooty emissions from millions of lawn mowers usage.
- **Energy Security...In every walk of Life in Australia there is a need for affordable, sustainable and reliable electricity.** It behoves the Federal Government to ensure Energy Security in-the-broad. And, in this day and age – bearing in mind our international (Kyoto & Paris) commitments – the energy mix, per se, must be comprised of the appropriate levels of renewables e.g. solar+ wind + tidal plus, in addition, nuclear* + geo-thermal + hydro + liquid hydrogen ("water fuel") combined with coal-fired + gas. [*It has belatedly begun to dawn on policy-makers in this country that a Nuclear Industry has been stupidly UNconsidered, even stupidly by-passed and over-looked to date]. [**The right & proper nuclear technology might, perhaps, entail dual-fluid, lead-cooled reactors. Whatever, 'going nuclear' is inevitable].
- **Secular-Humanist ethics, precepts and outreaches** to clearly delineate State and Church matters - especially as regards to policies being mostly-always devised & predicated on cost-benefit analyses, merit and NON-religious grounds & constructs.
- **No Emissions Trading Scheme** and thus no commensurate wholesale roting and/or corruption by those who would damage and/or destroy the Australian economy. [*the Climate and Meteorology Bureaus and certain divisions of the CSIRO, for example, could be combined in to one ALL-embracing Agency to produce ALL the required scientific data needed for policy recommendations to the Commonwealth government for whatever re-directions need to be made in the domain of 'Climate Change & Response'].
- **Gold mined and refined in Australia must henceforth be stockpiled in Australia's national economic interest.** Rival, rising economies e.g. Russia, China, Indonesia, India, Turkey and Brazil are doing just this and, with UNcertain economic times ahead, Australia must do likewise and future exports of Australian gold must be curtailed. This initiative will, into the bargain, realise a 'hardening' of our currency - no bad thing!
- **Fostering of a hemp paper industry - a long neglected and under-valued industry whether by Local, State or Commonwealth governments in this country.**
- **Commonwealth governments must buy UP any oil refineries that are being de-commissioned or placed on the market by the privately-owned sector.** The 1920-1952 C.O.R. (Commonwealth Oil Refineries) scheme, as revived and modernised, would give something of a pointer as to how to proceed with re-structuring and forward-planning. It is absolute nonsense for Australia to be reliant upon *imported* petrol, oil and oil products into the future.

- **There should be a consolidation on the Public Broadcasting front.** Thus, the ABC and SBS should be completely amalgamated and ALL advertising should be precluded when the merged body comes in to being.
- **Voluntary Euthanasia - with the strictest of safeguards applying as is the case in the modern European countries of The Netherlands (Holland) & Belgium and the progressive North American country which is Canada - is a long overdue reform initiative in a compassionate Australia.** The concept of 'dying with dignity' is realisable and with a mature and sensible regime in place, many Australians could choose how they end their lives where for many, at present, this choice is cruelly denied them.
- **Zero Net Migration** whereby if, say, 75,000 people (non-citizens) depart Australia in one calendar year then we allow 75,000 people (non-citizens) from ALL categories of migration to enter the country *legally* in the following calendar year.
- **The Trillion Dollar Australian Crop** viz: INDUSTRIAL, PHARMACOLOGICAL and MEDICINAL CANNABIS be legalised and introduced as part & parcel of the Australian Agricultural and Commercial marketplace. [*This is a comprehensive policy with ONLY winners-all-round - a comprehensive policy which would support Australian farmers, manufacturers, researchers and retailers to develop an entirely sustainable industrial, pharmacological and medicinal cannabis industry in Australia. This policy would UNdoubtedly be a contribution to the national professional, educational and lobbying combined efforts in interfacing with governments and government agencies to obtain the clearest, co-operative outcomes on uniform implementation bases between the public and private sectors of the Australian economy in pursuit of an absolutely sustainable industrial, pharmacological and medicinal cannabis industry in Australia]. [**This is, moreover, a comprehensive initiative which would foster cannabis industry interests in matters such as quarantine, purity, legal distribution, ecology, soils quality and applicable land management in steps and stages as applicable to such a versatile product namely: low thc-pharmaceutical grade cannabis]. [***This is, furthermore, a revolutionary policy which indeed would promote Australian industrial, pharmacological and medicinal cannabis products to neighbouring regional geo-political countries and be, additionally, a crucial employment-generator at both home and abroad and simultaneously an export revenue-generator]. A suggested initiative be that half of the gross profits of this regime go the UPkeep of the country roads of Australia.
- **Key Small Business Proposal as a fillip for Start-Ups:** Interest Free Loans for 5 straight years with attendant conditions and reasonable, negotiated and approved off-sets.
- **Establishing Wattle Day as a Public Holiday:** 1 September, uniformly & annually - Nationwide [*Thus making Wattle Day a promulgated and recognised holiday in the nation's calendar and one that would replace the Queen's Birthday holiday]. Similarly, **establishing Australian National Appreciation of Music Day:** 21 June each year, uniformly. Furthermore, **establishing Eureka Day:** 3 December each year, uniformly.
- **Maintaining that Australia Day be celebrated on each and every 26 January and that the day remain a National Public Holiday.** [*Maintenance of this celebration of European settlement underpins the nation's commitment to the values and traditions of Western Civilisation].
- **Two Nationalities allowed for Australian Citizens but NOT three thus: Dual Nationalities permitted & allowed with the complete phasing out of Triple Citizenship status - by 5 years hence.**
- **A Federal Homeland Security Department/Commission.** [*It is envisaged that ALL States and Territories would combine their considerable resources to ensure both cohesion and co-operation in the pursuit of a maximalist approach to well-being, protection and, indeed, the security of ALL the citizens of Australia].
- **The need for an Over-Arching, Federal Independent Commission Against Crime & Corruption** [*Whereas ALL Australian States now have anti-corruption or integrity commissions and whereas both majoritarian Federal political groupings of the Labor/Green Alliance and the Liberal/National Coalition have considered the matter on *many* occasions since 1990 and whereas the Australian Collaboration - an independent network of community organisations including the Australian Conservation Foundation, the Australian Council of Social Service, the Australian Consumers Association, the Council for the Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences, the Federation of Ethnic Communities Council, the Social Justice Network, and the Trust for Young Australians - has/have advocated for the matter in question and whereas, the three prominent organisations viz: the Accountability RoundTable, the Law Council of Australia and Transparency International Australia - each in their own persuasive ways - have, unceasingly, advocated for the matter in question].
- **The RULE of LAW...**All official power derives from rules of law found in the Commonwealth (monarchical for the time being) Constitution or in laws made under the said Commonwealth Constitution; There is no such thing as unlimited power - be it legislative, executive or judicial; The powers conferred by law to the Commonwealth must be exercised lawfully, rationally, consistently, fairly and in good faith; The courts of the land have the ultimate responsibility of resolving disputes about the limits of official power and in doing so they, like those decisions they review, must act lawfully, rationally, consistently, fairly and in good faith and within the proper limits of their constitutional function; Laws are to be interpreted in accordance with their text, context and purpose and in accordance with common law and statutory rules of interpretation; Laws are to be construed, where choices are open, so as to avoid or minimise their impact on fundamental common law rights and freedoms.
- **Workplace Reform...**Direct engagement between employers and employees through the re-introduction of individual, statutory contracts underpinned by a statutory safety net which allows NON-Union collective agreements; Urgent restructure of so-called UNfair dismissal and general protections laws to ensure that employers are NOT forced to pay "go away money" to settle claims which are without merit; Insurance that strikes that take place during bargaining periods can ONLY be instigated as they relate to matters pertinent to the employment relationship and NOT to a union's (wider) wish list of claims that centre on a union's agenda or a bloc of unions' agendas; Union powers to enter a workplace must again be 'made sensible' and backed-UP by an enforceable code of conduct for union officials who are provided with the privilege of entering an employer's premises; Restructure the Fair Work Commission and create enduring, modern institutions e.g. an Australian Employment Tribunal and a [possibly] separate Australian Employment Appeals Tribunal modelled on international best practice(s).
- **Metro Taxes system to maintain the required infrastructure of Australia's capital cities.**
- **Closer Ties with India including a Free Trade Deal.**
- **Nationalising of the Mobile network.**
- **Street Names on the corners of every street and numbers on every property on the letterboxes and front of domiciles.**
- **Establishment of a National Disaster Management Plan with the governing ethos being premised on building codes which dictate that ALL houses, roads, railways, bridges, power supplies, communications and essential services be made flood & fire proof in cities as well as regional & rural areas.**

- **People's Question Time:** Most local and regional governments (councils etc) allot time for ratepayers to attend meetings and pose questions to the local representatives. A similar process is warranted at the Federal Level so that formal questions can be put to Ministers of State in Canberra, by formal arrangement, when the National Parliament is sitting.
- **Politician's Pledge:** ALL elected Australian politicians need to engender community-wide trust in themselves. A Pledge along the following lines might suffice..."I will serve the Australian People before my party (if they are elected, endorsed party members); I will place the public interest before my own, I will democratically act with care and in the national interest in my decision-making/policy-making/law-making; I will maintain proper parliamentary procedures and, as far as practicable I will keep my promises and respect my parliamentary opponents".

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PETER CONSANDINE

Primary Writer on behalf of The Republican Umbrella Group

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