

We The People

Program 200

## **We the People The Lucky Lazy Country**



Good day to you. Recently I had a conversation with a listener about foreign ownership and especially so regarding Australian land. I share the view that selling our country is a pretty serious matter and one which plucks at my patriotic heart strings. The idea of flogging part of our country to some overseas government or business is hard to accept yet the experts tell us that foreign investment is essential to help build this nation. This is on the dubious basis we don't have enough money or people in this country to fully develop our economy. The ire of the listener was sharpened by the recent sale of Australia's largest dairy farm, the Vandeman's Land Dairy for \$280 million to the Chinese. The dairy produces 100 million litres of milk a year and the Chinese want food security for their 1.4 billion people. Another example is the 99 year lease of the Port of Darwin to a Chinese company with alleged links to the Peoples Liberation Army which infuriated the USA. Then we reflect on the sale of the 240,000 acre Cubby Station in Queensland to the Shandong RuYi group including its water resources. Finally, the news that the Hunan Dakan Pasture company is buying a Kidman cattle property of 23,600 sq km for a measly \$370 million. Try that in China mate.

In my view the Chinese care not for the environment anywhere and their smog ridden cities testify to this along with the international vandalism and reef destruction in the South China Sea and their dreadful manufacturing ethics where even baby milk formula was deliberately poisoned for profit. Life appears cheap in China and even some of their visiting Tafe and university students don't flinch at prostitution in Coolangatta to pay their education fees. Perhaps it says more about us for letting it happen than it does about the students. China is growing dramatically and by 2020 they will have an affluent upper middle class of 100 million people which means while the Americans are building weapons the Chinese are building land banks and Australia is a prime target for this quiet, nonetheless ominous invasion. Of course successive federal Australian and State governments think selling the furniture to stay warm and population growth is good and strive to over populate this dry fragile nation down under. This population madness is unsustainable and economic rationalism based on unsustainability will fail and catastrophically so and soon. The illogical over reach of China and indeed Australia when it comes to population is so stupid, politicians become parodies of themselves. Our so called leaders haven't a clue about what to do next for this lucky lazy country and have no idea of the environmental limitations to their wayward ideas about the health of our land or society.

While some are alarmed at foreign ownership, the facts are not quite so worrying. The top overseas countries investing in agriculture, forestry and fishing are America, Canada, Singapore then China but its changing and fast. In terms of outright land ownership in Queensland the list is headed by the UK then the USA, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Denmark with China not in the top 6 at all. In contrast the Northern Territory is a whopping 30 percent plus, foreign owned. This topic is too complex to elucidate well in just a few minutes and foreign ownership depends on how you measure it but I do have some principles I believe we should keep in mind. As Pauline Hanson once said to me when thinking about Australia's future ..... "***we must be self sufficient in food and we must not be a nation of bed turners for others***". She is dead right in word and metaphor. So when it comes to foreign ownership what really counts is the will of the people. If we don't want so much of it then that's it and in a democracy we have the final call. If we don't like foreign countries playing with our heritage then we the people, still have the final say. Australia's future lies in population stability, wise foreign policy, environmental wisdom and control over careless foreign owners. If our plants and animals can't survive, neither can we and that's a fact most politicians do not acknowledge. In the coming election vote for a sustainable, stable population where people count and our land and heritage matters.

**Until next time this is Kent Bayley**