

## We The People Program 19



### The Lucky Country

All Australians will recognise the phrase the 'lucky country'. It refers to our favourable location, natural resources, freedom, life style and the like. Donald Horne in his book the 'Lucky Country' penned in 1962 said that "Australia is a lucky country, run by second rate people who share its luck". His intent was to point out that other countries used clever means to create wealth while Australians just rode on the sheep's back. With this knowledge the term the 'lucky country' cannot be seen as a term of endearment. I think he was right and still is.

Now it's not wool and wheat but rather we're the world's quarry as we are dig up and sell the farm so to speak with crazy schemes like coal seam gas mining. We are literally burning the furniture to stay warm with no other plan in hand to set this country up for the future. Australians have always punched above their weight in science and medicine and there is no doubt this is where the money should be invested if we're to remain the lucky country. We also have an abundance of sunshine and could be world leaders in solar energy but choose not to be at a government level and that's short sighted indeed. Our prosperity is tenuous to say the least yet we owe it to the generations to come to chart a course to be a clever country and not a clumsy lazy one as we are now. This is not to say that we are all lethargic day to day but we are very lazy democratically with the 'she'll be right attitude'. Well, no it won't.

Ian Lowe, a social commentator, sums it up this way....."Either, we could continue our current economic strategies; this could be called the "steady as she sinks" approach', or, he says, 'we could try seriously to become "the clever country" by investing in our own future.'" Alternately, Paul Cleary's book 'Too Much Luck' is a timely appraisal of the dramatic economic and social impacts of the current resource boom. Cleary argues that the resource investment stampede is squandering Australia's precious non-renewable fossil fuels, leading to a high dollar and higher interest rates at the expense of research, manufacturing and tourism.

Unlucky indeed.....Our three layers of government are hopelessly inefficient and completely unaffordable. We the people don't always use our precious vote well and public lethargy guarantees that those with their snout in the public trough will get a full measure. In other words the Lucky Country will be a basket case unless we demand a new plan, new ideas and a new class of politician especially locally. Enough is enough and we must do away with the bewildered battalion in local Council.

I know there is a lot of anger in society about inequity and over governance. People are disillusioned and that's the stuff revolution is made of in the longer term. In Australia we have to stop thinking we are so very lucky and everything will work out just fine because in life it doesn't. We teach our children they have to be responsible but we don't practice what we preach when we grow up and obtain the right to vote. What do you want for future generations and what are you doing to help create a great Australia. Please, no more relying on luck because success is earned not won. Put simply this is the stupid country if we do nothing.....we're a weird mob indeed.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley