



11th July 2011

Tax, Tax, Tax...Spend, Spend, Spend...Elect, Elect, Elect

Dear Sir,

Historically, the greatest power a government could wield to control its citizens was food rationing. In our highly-developed, modern industrial society, a similarly effective control instrument would be the rationing of energy supplies.

Within the so-called "carbon tax" announced by the Gillard Government, there is a potpourri of tax relief, subsidies, grants, concessions, offsets, cash handouts, exemptions and buybacks. All producers, including farmers, should view these deals as the down payment the Government is willing to pay (with our money!) to obtain that power.

Already we see a parade of special interests, queuing to accept the Government's offers. They range from union leaders, apparently unconcerned about the employment of their members, to the treacherous National Farmers Federation, who would rather participate in the artificial Carbon Farming Initiative than defend their members who wish to produce real food and fibre demanded by consumers. But the advantages and benefits they obtain, and the extra powers concentrated in the Government, come at the price of less electrical and mechanical power for the remainder of society.

Senator Christine Milne says that we are "turning our back on the fossil fuel age." If so, we are turning our back on all the advantages that fossil fuels have brought to humanity. One of these is tripling the world's food supply in Bob Brown's lifetime. The production of one kilo of nitrogen fertiliser, to take just one key input, requires the equivalent energy released by the burning of 1.4-1.8 litres of diesel.... a very good explanation of why populous China's CO2 emissions have increased by 171% since 2000.

It's why Japan declared at Cancun it would not accept restrictions on its emissions under the forthcoming revised Kyoto Protocol "on any conditions or under any circumstances." Many countries around the world have indicated similar intentions.

These details are conveniently missing from the Government's policy announcement. Other strategically withheld information includes not differentiating carbon from CO2, an invisible, harmless, trace gas without which there would be no life on earth.

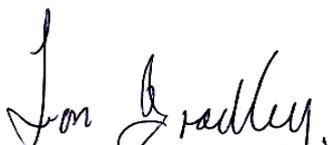
Repetition of a lie does not make it true. Neither does it make for good policy.

If the climate change catastrophe that Bob Brown foreshadowed at Carbon Sunday's press conference is imminent, then it will remain imminent. Amongst the blitzkrieg of detail absent was any mention of the fact that 25% of all the CO2 ever produced by humankind has occurred in the last 10 years, yet even IPCC scientists agree that there has been no statistically significant warming in that period.

Hence, Labor, the Greens and the Independents appear to find cause and effect where there is not even correlation. Yet they are willing to sacrifice every Australian's living standard, our prosperity, and the strength of our economy in pursuit of a senseless goal that is impossible to achieve.

We at the PGA have an old-fashioned affliction: we demand evidence that a proposed policy will achieve a desired goal. We're dubious that a "Tax, Tax, Tax, Spend, Spend, Spend, Elect, Elect, Elect" policy will ever control the weather.

But we know for certain that a modern industrial economy cannot exist without adequate supplies of energy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leon Bradley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "B".

Leon Bradley
PGA Climate Change Spokesperson