

**Submission
No 53**

**INQUIRY INTO THE CONTINUED PUBLIC OWNERSHIP
OF SNOWY HYDRO LIMITED**

Organisation:

Name: Mr David Christie

Telephone:

Date Received: 19/06/2006

Theme:

Summary

From: "David and Betsy Christie"
To: <lawandjustice@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 19/06/2006 12:16 pm
Subject: Snowy Mountains Scheme

Submission
David.D.Christie
Re: the intended sale of the Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric Scheme

To:- lawandjustice@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Re: The Snowy Mountains Scheme.

“These blokes must be crazy!”. Or so I thought when they asked me to be very careful in loading their strange looking instruments onto the Pack- Horses. When asking what these things were for, I was told that they were for measuring the quantity and depth of water in rivers and streams. Well ! , I thought that everybody knew the easiest way of doing that was to ride one’s horse into the water, and if it came up above the saddle flaps, one’s horse and you would soon be swimming.

The year was 1947. Surveyors and Engineers from the Water commission were packed in on horseback from the Khancoban side and other places. They were the Forerunners in the construction of the Snowy Mountains Scheme, and it was from them that I learnt of this great and ambitious plan to stem waters which ran wasted into the Sea. The Revenue gaining By-product of this design was to be in the way of generating Hydro-Electric Power, whilst waters stored and turned inland to our somewhat parched inland would enhance our rural areas. Thus, making a very secure Food Bowl for our Australian Population at large.

With the experience, education, revenue, and engineering skills gained from this initial project in the Snowy Mountains would come the even greater project of water conservation all the way around our Australian Continent. It would be self-funding, and would provide employment for very many years to come, and as with much of Australia’s infrastructure it would be proudly owned by the Australian people. Such was the ambition of visionaries with true ability, who’s loyalty to Australia and their fellow countrymen were obviously paramount. Fortunately, at that time we had a Federal Labour Government in power who were of that same persuasion. The Labour Government was strongly opposed by the Menzies led Liberal Opposition in regard to this Project.

Although there were a number of Liberal party members who did have some loyalty to Australia at that time (mostly Returned Servicemen) we must remember that Bob Menzies himself was fully romanced and seduced into being Britain’s man in Australia. A project such as the Snowy Scheme, with it’s threat of cheaper power to feed the Australian industrialization which had so quickly picked up during WW11 may have lead to the abandonment of Australia as only being a mere provider of raw materials to Britain and the world. Australian owned industries could in turn make Australia a completely self sufficient and powerful nation. Something that Menzies saw as being not in the better interests of Britain. A country which gave him personal accolades, honours, etc, etc.

Fortunately, the Snowy Mountains Scheme was well underway when the Liberal Party swept into power at the end of 1949. The fear campaign “ That the Labour Party were going to Nationalize the Banks, and wreck the Country” won the day. (It was never mentioned that the British had very large share Holdings in Australian Banks) Although Menzies was pleased to take any credit for the Snowy Scheme, in the same way that he did for the Standard Gauge Railway (which he

also opposed), he lorded over an enterprise which would continue no further than necessary. It is most obvious that the precedents and standards of self service, set by Menzies in government are very much alive today, and by some very much followed and revered.

Those of us who were employed in the construction of the Snowy Scheme (many of us returned servicemen) have much pride in the fact that not only it being a success, but also that we were doing something constructive for our Country and People. It should never be stolen away from those who paid for it and for whom it was constructed.

Over the past 20 or 30 years there have been many billions of Dollars of publicly owned assets stolen from the Australian people, and sold off at almost give away prices. We elect representatives into Parliament with the intent that they will Manage those assets to the best of their ability. For a manager to sell off assets which do not belong to them, does constitute THEFT for which they should be charged and sentenced. For a manager who cannot handle other people's assets, and it is obvious that they have no ability to do so, from this they should be quickly removed.

Our forefathers, and founding fathers who set the wheels of progress in motion for the Australian people had no problem in managing Publicly owned assets, but most of them had a fair semblance of loyalty to not only our Country, but more importantly to future generations. A thing, which is obviously far removed from the reasoning of our present leaders. Logic borne of loyalty to ones Country and People is completely defied.

Howard, quite contemptuously, indicated that the sale of the Snowy Mountains Scheme was a done deal. I do not know of anybody who elected this Real-estate Salesman to sell off their assets. But I do know this, IT IS NOT A CASE OF SAVING THE SNOWY SCHEME, IT IS STRICTLY A CASE OF STOPPING THETHEIVES.

Whenever large cakes are cut up, there are always those crumbs which fall from the side of the table for the Rats (Note :- the twenty Million Dollars that some Law Firm is claiming for their initial assistance in this traitorous deal alone)

Unfortunately, this is only the tip of the Ice-burg with regard to the huge problems that the Australian people have allowed the easily romanced, seduced, or purchased careerist leaders to lead our country into.

The facts are as follow. There is no other country on this earth that is so unique in it's land mass, mineral wealth, and population numbers. To join this with our history of colonization, and the struggle to establish a system of management , which also had to be unique, we find that our forefathers very much knew what they were doing. Even under the black cloud of having to be subservient to another country on the other side of the world, they set out to build a decent and upstanding nation which would not be subservient or weak. At the end of the Second world war, any child was borne into a system of being a not in debt inheritor of a country which had the most magnificent balance of Privately and publicly owned assets. As such, Australia was the envy of very many Countries. Now any child borne in Australia, is borne into Debt, and I have sadly heard my country referred to as the Great Whore Of the Pacific. This has to Stop. I would be very pleased to elaborate on any things that I have mentioned, and even a lot more if your committee would like.

I am Most Sincerely
David .D. Christie