

Criminal Negligence, Green Ideology Caused Australia's Flood Crisis

by Robert Barwick

Feb. 12—A generation of free-trade-brainwashed politicians is to blame for the flood damage that has recently hit Australia's "Sunshine State" of Queensland for the second time in two years. As Cyclone Oswald made landfall in north Queensland Jan. 28, and was downgraded to a tropical storm, it slowly travelled down the length of the continent's east coast, dumping anywhere from six to ten inches of rain in 24 hours on large areas, with more concentrated deluges of over two feet in a day. The rain caused record flooding in central coastal towns such as Bundaberg, and as far south as the northern New South Wales (NSW) town of Grafton. Along the coast, the rains were augmented by the ocean storm surge.

This region of Australia is prone to enormous floods, yet virtually nothing has been done to build infrastructure to mitigate them. Queensland has some flood-control dams, built after the last great La Niña-event flood period of 1974. Improper operation of one of them, the Wivenhoe Dam near Brisbane, caused the massive flooding of Brisbane two years ago, but this time the dam did its job brilliantly, and held back the flood waters to save Australia's third-largest city. Since the Wivenhoe Dam was constructed, however, Australian politics has been overrun by free-market economics and green fascism, so governments no longer make such long-term investments. Also the rebuilding from the 2011 floods has largely been left to "market forces," so some of the victims of the present floods are still homeless and living in sheds, after two years!

Lyndon LaRouche's Australian co-thinkers in the Citizens Electoral Council (CEC), published in *The New Citizen* newspaper in 2002, in collaboration with the late engineering professor Lance Endersbee, an infrastructure blueprint for Australia titled "The Infrastructure Road to Recovery," which featured 18 grand water infrastructure projects for the nation. The greatest number of these project ideas were for Queensland and northern New South Wales, covering the very same

river systems that are presently in flood: The **Dawson Scheme** would protect the area around Rockhampton (expected to be flooded by this weekend); the **Burnett River Scheme** would protect the severely flooded Bundaberg region (a scaled-down version has since been built, but it is far less effective than the originally proposed design would have been); and the **Clarence River Scheme** would mitigate the flooding of Grafton in NSW, as well as inject more water into the Murray-Darling Basin food bowl. The green-brainwashed Federal Member of Parliament for Grafton recently reacted to the CEC's plan for the Clarence River, and vowed that "not one drop" of the river would be diverted into the Murray-Darling. Her town is now under water.

Prince Philip's WWF vs. Productive Water Management

The CEC's "The Infrastructure Road to Recovery" generated great excitement, especially among constituencies slammed by "green" legislation, including the food-producers of rural Australia. Their enthusiasm provoked Prince Philip's World Wildlife Fund into a mad scramble to block the road to recovery.

In late 2002, WWF organized a meeting of "esteemed scientists" at Sydney's Wentworth Hotel, including depopulation advocate Prof. Tim Flannery, a close associate of zero-growth fanatic Hans-Joachim Schellnhuber, the Queen of England's personal envoy on climate change who chairs Germany's Advisory Council on Global Change. Those in attendance, including ostensible water experts such as the late Prof. Peter Cullen, formed the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists.

Cullen admitted in a speech to the June 2006 North American Benthological Society Annual Conference that the Group's formation was a knee-jerk reaction to the ideas unleashed by the CEC: "In 2002 Australia was in the grip of a major drought and newspapers were run-



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Flooding of the Bremer River at Ipswich in Queensland, Australia, Jan. 28, 2013. Virtually nothing has been done to build infrastructure to prevent flood damage, due to decades of environmentalist opposition led by Britain's Prince Philip.

ning drought stories each day showing the plight of farmers. Radio talk back hosts were dreaming of visionary schemes to turn coastal rivers inland to drought-proof the country. *Many idiotic solutions were being advanced to address the issue,*” he spat. “A group of experienced scientists from a variety of disciplines, who had spent their careers trying to understand the Australian landscape, came together in some despair at the widespread community misunderstanding about our landscape and the variability of rainfall that characterizes it.”

In fact, the proposed water projects in “The Infrastructure Road to Recovery” are based on a well-founded understanding of the potential for well-designed projects to transform the semi-arid Australian landscape with oases of productivity. This potential is epitomized by the **Snowy Mountains Scheme**, one of the engineering wonders of the world, on which Professor Endersbee started his career in engineering. Built between 1949 and 1974, the scheme harnesses the snow-melt of Australia’s highest mountain range, the Snowy Mountains, and diverts 2,100 gigitaliters (more than 1.7 million acre-feet) of water through mountain tunnels into the Murrumbidgee and Murray rivers, generating more than 3,750 megawatts of hydroelectricity along the way. The waters supply intensive irrigation systems in Australia’s food bowl, the Murray-Darling Basin, which produces 40% of the nation’s agricultural output, often from areas that were previously mostly desert.

The CEC’s infrastructure blueprint features a simi-

larly transformative project, the **Bradfield Scheme**, to divert water from the high-rainfall areas of far north Queensland to inland Australia. Its author, the famed Australian engineer Dr. J.J.C. Bradfield, who built the iconic Sydney Harbor Bridge in 1932, envisioned his scheme as transforming the arid climate of the Australian “Outback” by generating higher rainfall through increased moisture and vegetation.

The Wentworth Group of course rejected all such potential, and instead unleashed a propaganda blitz not only against new dam construction

in Australia, but also to dismantle *existing* infrastructure, notably the irrigation systems of Australia’s food bowl, the Murray-Darling Basin. Among the specific projects the CEC proposed for the areas of Queensland that are now flooded, only a scaled-back version of the **Burnett River Scheme** was built, a dam less than half the volume of the original proposal, with no flood mitigation capacity to protect the people of the city of Bundaberg downstream.

This year’s Bundaberg disaster provoked State Flood Recovery Minister David Chrisafuli on Feb. 6 to blame what he termed “crazy green anti-dam groups” for the flood damage. A local green leader, Roger Currie from the Wide Bay Environment Council, countered by calling for the people of Bundaberg to be permanently relocated, instead of building new dams. “I think really the best position this State Government could adopt and one which we’d agree to is that they think seriously about a relocation program for Bundaberg, rather than attempting to invest billions in trying to stop the Burnett River doing what it really does,” he said.

In the pages that follow, we excerpt from a later *New Citizen Special Report*, “The British Crown Created Green Fascism,” published in October 2011. This article on the origins of the Australian Conservation Foundation documents the direct role of Britain’s Prince Philip in brainwashing some leading Australians and bludgeoning others, including through the project that created the world’s first Green Party, in Tasmania.