

From: [June English](#)
To: [Economics, Committee \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: The Australian Manufacturing Industry. Economics References Committee Inquiry
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What I have to say, applies to
Terms of Reference (g) The role of government

Government has a critical role to play, if Australia is ever to have viable manufacturing industries, rather than continuing its current role as a giant quarry, mined to advantage other countries.

Manufacturing in Australia cannot occur without 'start up' capital and continuing capital input, as grants and/or loans at low interest rates. Ownership of innovative brains, is not necessarily the province of rich people, or multinationals, with their special advantages and ability to fund private industrial development

A National Development and Investment Bank could prevent haphazard handouts and nurture a manufacturing revolution in Australia.

From where will it get the Funds to do this?

Well, for a start, there is 3 trillion dollars in Australian Superannuation Funds. Use this, instead of allowing Australia and the United States to virtually swap super, for indiscreet gain.

And another thing. Make it mandatory for 'Australian Made', to be used in Australia. Searching for the cheapest product, merely leaks capital overseas. Our brightest brains, will make products better and more competitive, anyway.

If necessary, then, introduce Tariff Protection, to enable creative, founding industry, better able to develop in Australia.

Control the Exchange Rate so our industry is not disadvantaged.

The Playing Field has Never Been Level Anyway.

But all the above is pointless, unless Government Reforms the Bureaucratic Nightmare, presently confronting industry- the bewildering confusion of formidable regulations, red tape and ubiquitous paperwork.

This preparatory list is not long. I am sure the Committee can usefully extend it. Here is a start- Create a development bank, initially funded by superannuation. Nurture these industries with a 'buy Australia' campaign, by introducing tariffs and controlling the exchange rate.

Other countries, lure our frustrated, manufacturing, industries overseas by creating Incentives, such as, minimal taxation, limited bureaucratic interference, and cheap energy, to cite a few. Adopt some of their strategies.

This Committee has a wonderful opportunity to get Australia going; build fast rail, linking raw materials with manufacturing, so that we facilitate our own value-adding, and stop buying back goods made overseas, but which use our local, raw, materials.

The results could boost Australian growth and wellbeing, resembling Roosevelt's New Deal.

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