

Economics References Committee inquiry into “The Australian manufacturing industry”

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Economics

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Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

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My submission is to be made public.

I would like to address the following terms of reference (paraphrase)

- a) National resilience
- b) The role manufacturing has played in Aust and in future
- c) Drivers of economic growth
  
- f) Identifying new areas for Aust's global leadership
  
- h) Opportunities for manufacturing in 'carbon-constrained' world

a) Growing up in Melbourne my parents took us kids on holidays to farms and towns along the Murray River and to Queensland and always us kids would ask "What's here?" And dad would answer by saying what the *industry* was that created the foundation, stability, and growth of the town. It was a productive

economy, as opposed to a service economy. He took it for granted when he worked on the Snowy Mountains Scheme as the infrastructure and industry created the future wealth of the nation. He would show us canals, rivers, dams, dam walls, campsites and factories, and there would often be tours through a factory for us kids. Major projects like this makes for a skilled workforce; it doesn't come from a book, and contributed to meaningful, well-paid, full-time jobs, raising living standards through what was called industry to create "the certainty of better conditions".

b) As any teenager growing up in the 70's would attest Australia could manufacture anything and everything – and we did – and we were proud of our high living standard! Our manufacturing base was intelligence based: Dummies could not and cannot develop Australia!

c) If we want our children and grandchildren to have a higher standard of living and a higher culture, then we need to nurture and develop their thinking and creativity. This can be sped up by a disaster (like now) if we have an *intention* to solve the problem! Large scale manufacturing is a peaceful proactive mission orientation to uplift and inspire a whole nation. For example, like an equivalent Snowy hydro-electric power scheme which was built in the national interest, Professor Lance Endersbee's Australian high-speed ring-rail proposal is just one visionary project linking the whole nation and create opportunities to develop new towns in agriculture, mining, manufacturing, trade etc which can manifest education in machine tool design to solve scientific and engineering problems. Without a vision our nation will perish but by building infrastructure to link developed with undeveloped areas of Australia you create new opportunities in agriculture, mining and manufacturing. The spirit

of the pioneers who built this country for us is still very much alive in the healthiest minds of Australians young and old today.

f) There is no limit to human creativity and ideas, but society requires basic living standards first to foster and cultivate the creative potential that we are all born with. Our mobilisation to defend Australia during WW2 meant we relied on ourselves, and through the allocation of credit by the old Commonwealth Bank – a people’s bank – we invested in machine tools and manufacturing, and we started to build everything including planes, trains, tanks, ships, fridges, washing machines you name it! Australia has already proven many times over, our strengths in pioneering research and discoveries in the health and sciences e.g. invitro-fertilisation, launching the first satellite from our own country and playing a vital role for landing a man on the moon.

We should expand investment in all of these. We'll need a national bank to fund it (like the old Commonwealth Bank did).

h) We need to develop nuclear power in Australia and provide it to all Australians cheaply. Fission and fusion too; not because they emit a low carbon footprint, but because nuclear is a more energy dense fuel, cheap and reliable (more bang for your buck) that is better for the economy. It is good for the environment and will provide for a growing population for thousands of years to come. IF we manufacture and build it!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Janet Pukallus

The Australian manufacturing industry  
Submission 1

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