

The Australian manufacturing industry

Submitter

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Terms of Ref 'a' — economic growth, national resilience, security (also covers 'b' to 'd')

In this world of growing (and apparently deliberately-fostered) confusion, one of Australia's primary needs is industrial independence.

As long as we tie our manufacturing (and financial and political) path to the whims of foreign (in all senses of that world) interests, we will be dragged around by their interests, not ours.

Two significant factors exist, which would be perilous to ignore.

One is the need to use Australian resources at Australian hands to produce Australian goods. One classic example of this is the proposed Iron Boomerang. We mine iron ore on the left-hand side of our nation, we mine coal on the right-hand side of the nation, it seems unreasonable to not link the two, and also reap the other consequential benefits of ready transport (including tourism) East↔West across the top half of our nation.

The second is the need for a development bank not linked to any of the larger or international banks, to facilitate the above, and any other significant project, without the outcome being controlled by people or groups or corporations with any financial/political bias which runs contra the best interests of our nation.

Terms of Ref 'e' 'f' and 'h' — Australian advantages, global leadership, renewable energy

Australia is not short of natural resources, so putting those to effective use is an obvious priority.

I won't make significant comment on the IPCC's most recent debacle beyond mentioning that they wrote off the most significant influence on climate in one sentence using zero scientific references, and one of their members recently stated that it was not about science, it was about how people voted. Nevertheless — no matter how dramatised — we can address some of their supposed concerns directly.

One of those natural resources is Thorium, so an obvious path forwards there is to design and build Thorium salt reactors, which are not subject to melt-downs, cannot be weaponised, and can be built in 100 megawatt capacity with a physical size only a few metres across.

As well as powering substantial industry almost anywhere, these would carry the advantages of decentralising our energy sources (also a significant military plus), defusing several potential sources of panic — so often used to cause groups of people to act irrationally, massively reducing the quantity of (essentially, these are not significantly recyclable, so are not genuinely 'renewable' energy sources) solar panels and wind energy converters required, and providing employment for skilled people in their manufacture and installation.

Amongst opening pathways to global leadership in many specific enterprises, this would establish free trade in the sense of trade not being enforced by monopolies (including monopolies on control factors such as transport or finances or political interests), rather responding to market pressures.

Terms of Ref 'g' specifically 'g.i' 'g.iii' and 'g.vi' — development, supply chain, skills

Australia has in the past often invented great things, and these have almost always been exported for production elsewhere.

This lack can be remedied by restoring TAFE (and the like) to hard-technology courses so they can act

as bridging education, so that young people can get the background education they need in order to build up to being able to use CNC (computer numerical control) machining tools down to the precision (call it a thousandth of a millimetre) required to build many of the things we now import.

The Government part in this is to make such courses affordable for those willing students who are eager to learn how to fill that gap.

Technical skills are not actually related to whether you are male, female, or whatever you imagine yourself to be; they do not relate to your race or your skin tone; they do not relate to your faith (or your choice of disbelief, which is also a matter of faith); within physiological boundaries, they do not relate to your age; they are in a way a great equaliser.

Summary/Conclusion

I strongly recommend:

- regard the manufacturing industry as a component of our whole nation, in that the interests of this sector and the whole nation are inextricably interwoven;
- consider the interests of Australia first, discarding or ignoring pressure and advice from those with any conflicting interests;
- make your concluding recommendations (and their intent) very simple and very clear, to avoid having your best efforts whittled away by those with a conflicting agenda;
- link Australian industries together whenever reasonably possible;
- carefully consider not-directly-industrial factors such as finance, training and political effects when formulating your recommendations;
- make honest your only policy (which also obviates the need for a flawless memory).

If any of this is not clear to you, please feel more than free to ask questions.

Cheers; Leon