

# AUSTRALIA THE BEST COUNTRY ON THE PLANET. HOW DO WE KEEP IT THAT WAY IN 2019?

## Address by Sophie York from Sydney to the Toowoomba Branch of Australians for Constitutional Monarchy on 8 September 2019

Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you all for having me back again - and especially John Standley for inviting me.

You will recall that last time I was here, on **SUNDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2018**, I spoke about ***“Australia - the Best Country on the Planet. How do we keep it that way?”***

Today I want to update on that and also give you a brief China update and also a Brexit update.

### **PART 1 : Challenges to the Australian heritage**

1. Quite a lot has changed on the political and social landscape since March last year.
2. The good news is: **Australia is still the best country on earth!** On measures from prosperity to lack of disease, lack of civil conflict, to our low crime rates compared to other countries.
1. If I could reiterate and summarise from last time: Governors such as Arthur Philip and Lachlan Macquarie (and his wife Elizabeth) set us on a civilised path, and we had the benefit of our law being based upon the British Common Law, which incorporated Christian ideals : you recall our Tort law incorporates the concept of the Good Samaritan, Our Contract law is based upon “Do Unto Others”.

Our Criminal law accords due process and the idea of Habeas Corpus, and we drew great things from {the} Magna Carta of 1215 which ***put into writing*** concepts such as the rule of law itself – nobody is above the law, trial by jury and so on. Underpinning it, is that People have *equal human dignity* and cannot lose ***liberty*** on anyone’s else’s whim, allegation or vendetta. Our sentencing philosophy takes into account *not simply retribution*, but also *deterrence* and *rehabilitation*: Christian ideals of forgiveness and the hope of redemption.

The British of course gave us also the concepts of Democracy and the Monarchy, Westminster Parliament, Independent Judiciary, Capitalism, Manners, Natural Law precepts founding the right to be alive and not be harmed, to own private property and so forth...) engineering, farming, defence, building and construction techniques and standards... Not to mention roads, education, sanitation, medicine, the arts, philosophy, literature, music, science and high culture... just to name a few...

2. Our earliest schools were faith-based, and we had Mary McKillop open 117 Catholic schools, where predominantly the poor and working-class gained an education. It set our nation up very well indeed.
3. And as I pointed out last time: All these pluses. This faith culture. *We live off the capital of a Christian culture!*

4. And, notwithstanding the fears of the latest activist group “**Extinction rebellion**”, which sees people supergluing themselves onto busy roads in Brisbane, we *still* have an idyllic climate which is cyclical and which still throws up “droughts and flooding rains”, phenomena noted by Dorothy Mackellar, born in 1885, in her majestic poem ‘My Country’.
5. The global warmists, including the much-flying and to that extent hypocritical Al Gore, based their entire thesis on a hockey-stick graph. This graph said that carbon dioxide emissions went up at the same rate as temperature and therefore, CO2 caused the other. This is a classic logical fallacy. A cat having four legs and a dog having four legs does not mean a cat is a dog. In a recent court case, a judge finally, after nine years, threw out the defamation claim that the *author* of the hockey-stick graph (Climate Professor, Michael Mann) brought against Canadian scientist Dr Tim Ball, who challenged the graph. **Michael Mann did not produce any evidence founding the graph**. So, whatever view you might hold on the global-warming theory, please be aware that *the author of it* was unable or unwilling, in a court case *initiated by himself*, to defend his own graph and provide evidence for its veracity! This is a graph which has been promoted by the IPCC (the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) and *heavily relied upon* especially across the West: by governments, companies, schools and universities. So in the case delightfully named: Mann V Ball, the ball won.
6. If you are interested, have a look at the analysis by Steve McIntyre— I will give the reference to John.<sup>1</sup> The formal ‘scientific method’ has advanced humankind immeasurably well since the Enlightenment, encouraging observation with rigorous scrutiny and scepticism, there’s no justification for abandoning it.
7. But let’s not digress: To continue our list of wonderful attributes in Australia: We have excellent transport, and modern public infrastructure. We have medical services which are unrivalled.
8. We were, until certain state legislation passed as recently as the last 12 months, the *exemplar* in many ways of the pinnacle of Western civilisation, which regarded that human life is paramount - and this realisation is a key **civilising force**. And that to be *fully* human, is to **have** freedom of belief, speech, association, the right to own private property and the right to marry, procreate and parent.
9. Last time I was here, I mentioned that we have *high-quality building codes*. My update report today on this is not as complimentary. I have thought, for over a decade now, that we have allowed more and more ugly buildings to be built, which are not aesthetically pleasing. To those who argue you cannot legislate taste, may I simply respond with this: to have beautiful buildings, you must set a minimum standard for aesthetics. To those who argue that the market will sort it out – *it hasn’t*. And it won’t. Because when the people are only offered ugly buildings, they have no choice. *Money decides*, and fine features are told cost money, and the profit margin is greater where they can skimp on such features. Appearances aside, we have a problem, starting to emerge, with **quality**. There are buildings cracking from structural faults. **Opal Tower**, a residential tower at Sydney Olympic Park in NSW, completed only in August 2018, had to be evacuated by Christmas-time last year. **Mascot Towers**, also residential, built in the last 6 years, was evacuated in June this year, also due to structural cracking.
10. We may also have a “Grenfell” problem, with cladding that is a fire hazard. According to the Financial review, while Australia has so far suffered no fatalities from a [Grenfell-type fire, which killed 72 people in June 2017](#) in the UK, the use of combustibile cladding is more widespread in *our* country.
11. Victoria alone has **681** privately owned buildings with the material – more than *four times the UK total* – while the latest audited numbers show NSW has **447** such buildings classed as “high risk”.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1029/2004GL021750>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.afr.com/property/residential/inevitable-for-australia-to-follow-uk-fund-cladding-replacement-20190510-p51m4s>

12. This is an early sign that we have *neglected to maintain standards* and that we have possibly also allowed *cheap imports* to be used in our buildings. ***We will have to watch this space, as it is an emerging drama.*** There are now recommendations being made that people avoid buying or investing in buildings built in the last ten years. And that the drop in standards may have coincided with the switch to private or even self-certifiers. What an indictment, if that is the case.
13. Without labouring the point: we have had earlier clues to this. In September 2011, the roof of the WIN Stadium, a sports-grandstand in Wollongong NSW, buckled and collapsed in the wind. Apparently 40 % of the steel used in the construction was Chinese steel, inferior in quality to Australian steel, even though Australian steel was available just 2 kms away in Port Kembla at Blue Scope Steel. I also want to mention that you cannot make steel without ***coal*** – an often-overlooked fact in the demonisation of coal.
14. The point is, that compared to many nations, we have enjoyed comparatively high standards in ***everything*** in our free, democratic, constitutional monarchy, standards which are the fruits of our Judeo-Christian heritage, a heritage which acknowledges that each individual has individual dignity, is worthy of respect, is answerable for his or her own actions, *and may take risks and excel*. This is a heritage which prizes individual freedom, delivers excellent social cohesion, allows trust to flourish and also set high standards across the board: from science, manners and morality, to architecture and building standards.
15. Some believe we can cut away our moorings *and have no unpleasant sequelae*. And yet it is plainly obvious that countries which do not have this heritage, do not have *the yield* of this heritage either, that we have enjoyed to date!
16. When I spoke here last time, we still had Malcolm Turnbull as Prime Minister, and the spectre of a republic always went along with that. He had commissioned a religious freedom review which was to report back to him, presumably for appropriate action. He said he cared more about it than gay marriage.
17. So what happened to him between now and March last year?
18. By way of quick recap: in August 2018, Malcolm was challenged for the leadership by Queenslander Peter Dutton who was Minister for Home Affairs (and still is). Malcolm won 48-35, but it revealed there was a lot of dissatisfaction with the PM. He had brought in same-sex marriage, was sitting on the issue of religious freedom, and seemed to be slyly introducing a baseless Emissions Trading Scheme, an ETS.<sup>3</sup>
19. The second spill motion passed on 24 August 2018, Turnbull did not contest the ballot and subsequently resigned as Prime Minister.
20. Treasurer Scott Morrison defeated Dutton in the leadership contest, 45 votes to 40.

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<sup>3</sup> Malcolm went on the attack and sought a Solicitor-General's report on the eligibility of Dutton to serve in Parliament from memory relating to Dutton's wife's business, and Malcolm also required a petition calling for a party room meeting that bore the signatures of at least half (43) of the parliamentary party, before he would call a further leadership spill meeting, in which case he would vacate the leadership (regarding the petition as a vote of no confidence).

Dutton was ruled eligible.

21. Turnbull resigned from parliament<sup>4</sup>, we then had a Federal election on **18 May 2019** and despite all polls saying the Labor-Green alliance would win, the Liberal/National Coalition won 77 seats out of 151 – a majority. PM Scott Morrison, Scomo, called it a miracle. <sup>5</sup>
22. There were a few fascinating dynamics at play in the election.
23. Labor were very confident of winning, and to their credit in some ways, put their policies on the table. So we knew that they were planning on:
  - i. removing negative gearing,
  - ii. abolishing franking credits,
  - iii. they had plans to appoint an LGBTIQ Commissar who would monitor people for politically incorrect utterances

All of which was quite disturbing. But they were also planning on:

- iv. doing a two stage public vote in order to obtain *a republic*. It would have mimicked the postal survey of the marriage campaign and would not have complied with the privacy of a ballot box, nor the impartial information requirements of a referendum.

If you are a constitutional monarchist, as I am and I imagine most of you here in this room are: yes, the election result was indeed a miracle!

24. A couple of things happened in the lead-up to the election which, in retrospect, also made Australians nervous.
25. School children across the nation were pulled out of school “en masse” on at least two occasions in the six months prior to the election, to loudly demonstrate against what they had been frightened into thinking was their imminent demise by frying due to heat caused by man-made climate change – this movement, as mentioned earlier, is now being called “extinction rebellion”. (I am advised they are planning yet another one for 20 Sep). *This is while their NAPLAN scores are scandalously falling, by the tway.*
26. There were also a number of farm invasions in various states around Australia, where activists had put farm addresses and maps on google. Activists boldly entered farms in remote areas, terrifying the farmers and their families, and in some cases even stole farm animals. Adding insult to injury was when the intruders then received only minimal fines by the judiciary.
27. The confidence of the public is undermined when they see their officials, who are meant to be *impartial*, being instead compromised by *ideology* – and especially when it’s the judiciary. The public then had another opportunity to be disturbed. It was over the issue of coal mining, and the carbon-dioxide emissions created by the burning of that coal.
28. The school children, and the public, were being told that coal being burnt leads to emissions which cause global-warming.
29. The loss of impartiality of the judiciary was nowhere more evident than in the case of the Gloucester Hill mine, also in the last 12 months.

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<sup>4</sup> Malcolm Turnbull resigned from Parliament on 31 August 2018, triggering a by-election in his former seat of Wentworth.

<sup>5</sup> Dave Sharma this time *won* Wentworth and the former Prime Minister Tony Abbott sadly *lost* Warringah to Zali Steggall, an independent backed by GetUp.

30. Gloucester Resources Limited (GRL) sought development consent for a new open cut coal mine approximately 5km south of the Gloucester town centre in New South Wales. It is a beautiful area near Taree, a few hours north of Sydney.
31. The NSW Department of Planning and Environment referred the Project to the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) (now the Independent Planning Commission) for determination, after receiving a couple of thousand objections.
32. **In December 2017** the PAC refused consent for the Project, citing zoning reasons and visual, noise, and air-quality impacts.
33. GRL appealed to the Land and Environment Court.
34. The Court's decision in *Gloucester Resources Limited v Minister for Planning* [2019] NSWLEC 7 was handed down on 8 February 2019.
35. His Honour Chief Justice Preston dismissed GRL's appeal and upheld the PAC's decision to **refuse consent to the mine**. *In amongst His Honour's comments in the judgment were these words: [It was the] Wrong time because the Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of the coal mine and its coal product will increase global total concentrations of GHGs at a time when what is now urgently needed, in order to meet generally agreed climate targets, is a rapid and deep decrease in GHG emissions. These dire consequences should be avoided. The Project should be refused.'*
36. A bit of a media storm broke out when it was realized that one of the parties appearing was the Environmental Defenders Office, *which had been established by His Honour*.
37. The judge in the Rocky Hill mine case may well have been a good judge. That was not the issue. The people of Australia become rightly concerned that in a case between private litigants, in a country **where coal-mining is lawful**, a judge was basically trying to make coal-mining an unlawful activity, on his **own** assessment of what causes global-warming. A highly contentious area of science. It is not a basis for a judge to refuse the lawful activity of mining!<sup>6</sup>
38. The Parliament, with its elected representatives, who are accountable to the public, can pass a law which forbids coal-mining. Parliament **hasn't**.
39. There are many reasons to refuse a mine. The concern is that a judge was principally attempting to enforce a treaty, *side-lining Parliament*. We have a dualist, not a monist system, in Australia. This means treaties are **not** automatically law. **Coal-mining is lawful in Australia**.
40. The impact rippled through the legal profession, who had to swiftly advise their clients that this decision could have wide-reaching consequences: not only for the viability of coal and other fossil fuel-dependent industries in Australia, but for those **banks** (and others) who would invest in or support coal and other like industries.
41. There was also, in the lead-up to the election, a big demonstration in the heart of Sydney when the Adani Coalmine CEO and Steve Galilee spoke to Sydneysiders at a Mining club event – which is fine, people can protest but Bob Brown led a protest closer to the election, against coalmining and in favour of renewables. But he has, since the election, declared that wind farms ought not be built in Tasmania (where **he** lives), *as they are an eyesore*.
42. While we are talking climate-change, Australia contributes only around 1.3% of total human-contributed emissions. *Natural* CO2 contribution, on the other hand, is massive. On 1 June 2017, Australia's Chief Scientist attended a Senate Estimates hearing where Senator Ian Macdonald asked if *the world* was to reduce its carbon emissions *by* 1.3 per cent, which is approximately Australia's

rate of emissions, what impact would that make on the changing climate of the world. His response was that the impact would be ‘virtually nothing’.

43. There is some good news: marine scientist Peter Ridd, a Professor at James Cook University in Qld, who was sacked when he challenged the catastrophic predictions being made about the Great Barrier Reef based on global warming hysteria (*the real devastation is to the tourism industry up there due to their claims, incidentally*) – he won his case in the Federal Court! A win for BOTH free speech and scientific inquiry.

## IMMIGRATION

44. Moving on to other developments – some good news: PM Morrison did *not* sign the “Global Migration Pact for Safe, Orderly and *Regular* Migration”, a pact – not a treaty - which would have seriously diminished Australia’s sovereignty when it came to the issue of determining *whether or not people may settle here*. Amongst other things, it required governments to agree to “sensitizing and educating media professionals on migration-related issues”. Migration is a massive issue world-wide, and it is believed to be a one of the major factors influencing Brexit. Migration can be very good thing – we have benefitted hugely in Australia from hard-working migrants contributing over the decades, I am the daughter of a migrant myself, but in more recent years *the rate* has been too high, at 190 000 a year – almost a million people every five years. It was reported this week, that the Coalition has dropped the rate of permanent visas to 160 000.
45. Despite this cut, migration projections in the Budget this year were significantly higher than previous years. The April Budget assumed a net overseas figure of **271,700 in 2019**. This figure was up by more than 40,000 compared to the previous Budget. A positive aspect is that it will require incoming people to live in regional areas of the nation for a minimum of three years as a condition for them securing permanent residency, which should provide a boost to those areas, certainly in demand and if they are prepared to work.
46. In 2018, **29% of the Australian resident population**, or 7.3 million<sup>7</sup> out of 25 million were born overseas. Almost a third.
47. *The backgrounds* are more and more often coming from countries which do not share our Judaeo-Christian heritage.
48. In the list from 2016 census, giving the top thirty nations where people now in Australia were born, China features near the top. Lebanon, Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan are all in the top 30. Whereas Poland, Croatia, Canada, Malta and France are **not**. These latter countries have a Christian or Catholic heritage. The point is not to say, “some people are more desirable as migrants than others”, there are good people all over the world, but it is important to ask: **why** is this the case? WHO is deciding to promote Australia in particular countries overseas? WHO is encouraging increasing patterns of immigration from non-Christian countries to Australia - **and why?**
49. Background can affect social cohesion and culture. Immigration can also affect crime, development of appropriate infrastructure, and everyone’s quality of life generally. High immigration also serves to mask economic shortcomings. Since the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) in 2008, approximately 60% of our economic growth has been due to **rapid population growth**, which is underpinned *not by childbirth* but by mass immigration. So economic growth is being fuelled not by smart economic theory or innovation, just by throwing more and more people into the mix, and hoping that the dominant, wonderful Australian culture can somehow survive.
50. And yet we know that we still have:

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<sup>7</sup> (7,341,910 people)

- high corporate tax rates 30% - which is higher than the US (21%), Singapore (17%) and the UK – which is planned to drop soon to 17%), we have
- rigid industrial relations and we have
- **way too much red tape** (at an economic cost of \$176 billion in foregone economic output), but *the immigration flow covers up these faults.*

51. Youth unemployment is at 11.8%. You can only hope that the causes are being examined for why that might be, in a country of 25 million with excellent mental and physical health treatment options, mandatory education and opportunities in abundance. **Clearly high immigration is having an impact there, also.** Young people cannot grow up and develop careers, if they are trying to go into jobs that have already been taken by migrants **slotting in ahead of them.**

## PART 2 : Freedoms and liberal agendas

### RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

52. One of the greatest concerns in the lead-up to the election was religious freedom. It remains a concern. People do have more confidence in PM Morrison than in Bill Shorten. The issue became recognized even by Chris Bowen and Anthony Albanese - who both admitted this immediately following the election, as being THE sleeper issue of the whole election: that the Australian voter feared that Labor and the Greens between them would demolish longstanding **religious freedom** enjoyed in Australia. School principals in particular were very worried, and I myself received letters from a number of them on the topic.
53. They all expressed similar thoughts which, in summary, were along these lines:
54. Faith-based schools are being accused of *wanting* to expel students solely on the basis of their “same sex attraction”. They *have never sought the right to do so*. Those schools, however, consider it essential that school communities be allowed to operate in accordance with religious beliefs. And this includes the right to:
- i. choose **all staff** based on their belief in the doctrines of the religion concerned;
  - ii. to **speak and teach** in accordance with those beliefs, to apply a faith-driven perspective to the curriculum;
  - iii. to enforce standards of **conduct** consistent with the beliefs of the relevant religion.
55. **Without these three elements in place faith-based schools, part of the observably rich heritage of Australia, cease to be different to any other school, those schools cease to be Christian [or insert religious denomination] faith-based schools.**
56. **Why was this so important?** Because there was a realization that the incoming Labor-Greens government was about to change Australia dramatically, and for the worse. The Labor Greens regard the ability to retain a ‘religious ethos’ as “permission to discriminate”, the word having negative connotations, rather than simply the right to be discerning and allow faith-based moral choices to be made.
57. The current situation on religious freedom now is: that the government is sending it to the **Australian Law Reform Commission** and it must report back in **April 2020**. A bill has been drafted, it operates as a shield rather than a sword, and here are a few sample sections:

**Section 7** - a person discriminates against another person if they treat them *less favourably* due to their beliefs.

**Section 10** - Religious bodies *may* act in accordance with their faith and that includes educational bodies and registered charities, *without it being considered discrimination*. (So even though states can still have their own laws, under s109 of the Constitution, hopefully here the Commonwealth Act *would* prevail to the extent of any discrepancy, and hopefully also the states would amend their anti-discrimination acts to reflect the import of this commonsense! The states have a gap in coverage at the moment, when it comes to religion.)

**Section 13** - It is unlawful for an *employer* to discriminate against someone on the ground of the other person's religious belief or when offering employment; or *in the terms or conditions* on which employment is offered, or by limiting their opportunities in any way, or by dismissing them or making them suffer any form of detriment.

So – the questions arise would it cover the Israel Folau scenario? Well, the law apparently will not have to be abided by, by small companies with an annual turnover of less than 50 million! So it depends on whether Rugby Australia would avoid it or not.<sup>8</sup>

**Section 41** - Statements of belief *do not constitute discrimination* etc. (1) A statement of belief does not constitute discrimination for the purposes of any anti-discrimination law (within the meaning of the Fair Work 8 Act 2009); nor does it at **1(b) contravene subsection 17(1) of the Anti-Discrimination Act 10 1998 of Tasmania;**

This *should* help prevent any recurrence of the Archbishop Porteous case, where he simply told parents who sent their children to a Catholic school, by way of a respectful pastoral letter, of the contemplated change to the Federal law relating to the definition of Marriage, and he advised of the Catholic position on marriage - and next thing was hauled before a Commission to explain himself *as though he had done something wrong!*

58. We are putting a lot of confidence in the Federal Attorney-General, Christian Porter, who has shown astuteness in the past when analyzing why Australia ought NOT have a Bill or Charter of Rights. He wrote a chapter in the book "Don't Leave us with the Bill: The Case Against an Australian Bill of Rights" edited by Julian Leaser, now Federal MP for Berowra where he postulates persuasively that *public policy* is best made by democratically and periodically elected parliaments, than by judicial decisions.

59. If the Act passes, and it is not perfect but it is better than the feral situation we have at the present, it will set a tone which may well provide a pathway for the entire West, which is really blundering its way through this issue quite badly.

60. In the meantime, the states around Australia have been putting late-term abortion bills through their parliaments, I know that In Queensland you had the late-term abortion legislation pass.

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<sup>8</sup> Religious Freedom remains in the balance – Triple medal-winning genius Rugby player Israel Folau case is on foot as we speak. In the Marriage campaign when Rugby Australia said publicly they supported same-sex marriage (a cause beyond their charter and nothing to do with chasing a ball around a field, Israel Folau felt compelled to respond with a post differentiating his position from theirs – he posted: "*I love and respect all people for who they are and their opinions. but personally, I will not support gay marriage*". He then in the lead-up to Easter this year posted a list of sinners recommended to repent – a fairly classic belief held by Christians of Polynesian background.). He was sacked and the case is ongoing, as it has led to the wider discussion of how much control an employed may exert over an employee's basic human rights such as religious beliefs, especially in a situation where they hold them over a monopoly barrel – there are not many comparable jobs to being a Wallaby and playing for Australia. [As people have pointed out - one way or another, the Kiwi CEO Raelene Castle has been able to take our best player off the field – and we lost 36-nil in the last Bledisloe Match to the All-Blacks on Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Aug! ]



In NSW on 8.8.19, the so-called *Reproductive Health Care Reform Bill 2019* passed the lower house 59-31 and is soon to go to the Upper House.

61. Really appalling from a number of aspects, but even simply when it comes to **democratic process**, as the deal was clearly done behind closed doors, due to fear of a minority government. So the Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, who was up until then considered well-regarded and competent, apparently did a deal to get Independent MP Alex Greenwich's vote. He was the lead sponsor of the NSW bill.
  - Bill not flagged in the lead-up to the recent election
  - It was sprung on the Parliament - ambushing colleagues and the public
  - No proper examination done by any committee, let alone any comprehensive responses enabled by the public, who were not even given time to contact their community leaders or MPs
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62. It is also unnecessary. There was no general demand for a change in the status quo. There was a niche Greens' group agitating for it. Late-term abortion up until birth, and sex -selective abortion, is **out of step with the community**.
63. It allows abortion for any reason, well into the second and third trimester – beyond 22 weeks. Only 12 per cent of Australians agree that abortion should be legal for any reason whatever beyond the second trimester<sup>9</sup>.
64. Babies beyond 22 weeks have been shown now to survive<sup>10</sup>. They're viable babies!<sup>11</sup>
65. It could also lead to discrimination on the basis of disability. <sup>12</sup> And there have been a number of *false* findings of imperfections in the baby.
66. There is no requirement in the Bill for psychological assessment or counselling, even though in more than 95 per cent of cases, women name "*psychological*" reasons for abortion<sup>13</sup>.
67. Doctors will be forced to participate, either by performing an abortion or referring for one. Giving a person details of where to obtain an abortion is participating in the abortion itself, and doctors should not be forced by the State to do this, particularly when information about abortion is readily available online and women of child-bearing age in Australia know how to use search engines such as Google. And why should doctors have to vouch for another doctor's services in this way? What if the abortion is botched?
68. There are no criminal sanctions in it, for doctors who perform abortions outside the law, *and they should still be liable to be punished*.
69. The Bill should provide meaningful support for women, including assistance against coercion and domestic violence, which is sadly, sometimes linked to pregnancy. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Personal Safety Survey<sup>14</sup>, 48 per cent of women who report violence from a **former** partner *were abused during pregnancy*, as are 18 per cent of women who report violence from a **current** partner. <sup>15</sup>

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.mja.com.au/system/files/issues/193\\_01\\_050710/dec11141\\_fm.pdf](https://www.mja.com.au/system/files/issues/193_01_050710/dec11141_fm.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-6497947/Smallest-preemie-baby-survivor-Lyla-Stensrud-born-21-weeks-one-pound-look-now.html>

<sup>11</sup> The bill would also allow abortion after 22 weeks for current or future physical, psychological or social reasons, ie basically any reason at all.

This could lead to sex-selective abortion, which seems to already be happening in Australia, even though 81% of Australians, reliably polled, disapprove of sex selective abortion.

<sup>12</sup> More than 90% of babies with Down Syndrome are aborted.

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.parliament.sa.gov.au/HouseofAssembly/BusinessoftheAssembly/RecordsandPapers/TabledPapersandPetitions/Pages/TabledPapersandPetitions.aspx?TPLoadDoc=true&TPDocType=0&TPP=54&TPS=1&TPItemID=324&TPDocName=South%2bAustralian%2bAbortion%2bReporting%2bCommittee%2bReport%2bfor%2bthe%2bYear%2b2016.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/4906.0~2016~Main%20Features~Impacts%20of%20partner%20violence%20-%20children%20witnessing%20or%20during%20pregnancy~24>

<sup>15</sup> It should also provide positive support for women: counselling, information about adoption, financial and medical assistance etc.

70. The Bill should require records to be kept and data to be collated at a NSW level on abortions, gestational age, and the **reason** for the abortion etc.
71. **The Bill *should* require pain relief to be administered to the foetus. This is the least it should do. It is barbaric not to!**
72. The Bill should require babies who were born alive after a failed abortion to be given life-saving treatment (unfortunately, an amendment to require this was voted down in the Lower House.)
73. The selling of foetal remains by abortion clinics should be prohibited. We know from the USA that Planned Parenthood made profits off the sale of remains, particularly from late-term abortions.
74. So, after a massive demonstration in Martin Place in Sydney on Tuesday 20 August 2019, the Premier (who had pretty much voted in the Lower House, pulled the pin on the grenade and then gone overseas), agree to *delay it for investigation* by Upper House Committee.
75. The status of human life elsewhere in Australia is being downgraded.
76. In Victoria, euthanasia was passed last year and came into force June this year. Eleven Victorians **have** received approval to end their lives using government-endorsed medication. A mother from Bendigo has done it already. The number of people who take their own lives under the scheme will be released every six months during the next two years.
77. The Western Australian Government has unveiled a bill for euthanasia and assisted suicide *that's worse than the Victorian regime*. It would even allow a doctor to start a conversation with their patient, at their most vulnerable, about the option of ending their life. Brutal.
78. So when it comes to important issues of life, gender, and religious freedom, Australia is in the throes of upheaval. I will mention gender in a moment.
79. The Marriage Campaign in Australia has had massive ongoing impact. Prior to that there was *respect* for religious freedom. **It now needs legislation to protect it from onslaught**. And yet our brilliant, successful happy nation was built on its foundation!
80. You'll recall last time I mentioned a list of cases being litigated overseas. I will give you the outcomes.
- a. **Trinity Western University** –Canada, which has a charter of rights guaranteeing religious freedom, **found in June 2018** in its Supreme Court, that the law societies of Canada may **refuse** law graduates from Trinity Western University from practising. The University had a covenant which prohibits sexual relations on campus between students, other than those married as husband and wife. Even though this is Christian belief, and even though enrolled gay students who like the University testified in support, and even though this moral position on marriage and chastity is exactly why students (and their parents) **choose** this University and could choose to go elsewhere *where the University doesn't care one way or another who is sexually fraternising* – the 'Frat House' is fine – the Supreme Court found **against** the religious freedom of the University. Which means that there is **no** equality in Canada, when it comes to religious beliefs, they are now **subordinate** to others' deemed desires to express themselves sexually, wherever, whenever, and with whomever.
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- b. **Asher's bakery**<sup>16</sup> - **The 'gay Cake' case** – In Ireland. This case was a setup. A cake was ordered with a last-minute activist message supporting same-sex marriage added to it. Good news: The Supreme Court has now unanimously found in favour of the Bakery, because the bakery did ***not*** refuse to bake the cake because the customer was gay, nor did the bakery refuse service to gay people! They simply refused to provide a cake bearing a message they in conscience disagreed with. The Court ruled that the bakers, the McArthurs, would have refused to make the cake carrying that message for *any customer*, regardless of sexuality. The Court considered whether it was political discrimination, and also a breach of trade rights, and also a European Court of Human Rights case<sup>17</sup> which found that ***obliging people to promote beliefs they do not support was a violation of their human rights***.
- c. **Jack Phillips Masterpiece cakes – in the USA – Good news also:** he didn't want to make a cake for an event he didn't believe in – ***and won***. But activists are still trying to "get" him.
- d. **Felix Ngole**, a UK social worker – spoke up for marriage on Facebook and was sacked from his University course - **he has now WON his case!**
- e. UK magistrate **Richard Page** – **sacked from the Bench after a 30 year career for his observation that, generally speaking, a child does best with both a mother a father - he lost his case**

81. Meanwhile, gender was stripped from marriage definition in our Marriage Act and Gender-stripping in Australia is continuing.

**In Tasmania and now Victoria:** Truth is irrelevant. On official documents anyway, in Birth Certificate legislation passed recently. Birth certificates are meant to be an official snapshot of facts pertaining as at the child's birth. These documents will no longer be that. Not the truth about a child, such as the facts about **biological sex** and **parentage**. Birth Certificates will now be a malleable, changeable social document. Gender will be omitted and be changed! As can the relationships of partners, multiple "parents", and so on. Even **children** can later change them, with parental support. And in Victoria, children are being *encouraged* into **gender dysphoria**. *From age 15, they can be referred to a GP for puberty-blockers, without parental knowledge or consent.*

The import of this will unfold over time, but clearly it will eventually become a worthless document, as eventually it will be proof of nothing. **Truth** will not be required in an official government document. It is now a personal 'social' document – **PSD**.

- 82. We know that children are being encouraged onto puberty-blockers and even into gender reassignment surgery, even though:
  - it is a fact that children change their minds, and that
  - sometimes bullying and mental health issues can be a factor involved in why they want change – any change.
- 83. In Victoria, for schoolchildren as young as 15, parents do not even have to be advised, nor give consent for the referral to a GP for puberty-blockers. These hormones can cause serious and possibly permanent brain changes!

<sup>16</sup> Gareth Lee v Ashers Baking Co Ltd and Colin McArthur and Karen McArthur 19/5/2015

<sup>17</sup> Buscarini v San Marino (1999) 30 EHRR 208, which said that obliging someone to promote a belief they do not support was a violation of their human rights.

84. Paediatrician John Whitehall has written extensively on the matter and I am happy to give those citations for people who wish to learn more about what is going on. When you consider that it was legislated Federally, on the quiet, in Dec 2018 that *Australian parents can be shut out of their children's medical records from age 14*, unless the child allows opt-in, we have a crisis on our hands. **Public servants now have more access to our children's private records than parents. It is ominous, and it is WRONG.**

85. We can expect further chaos *until Australians revolt and say ENOUGH!* Time for "Parent Extinction" activism, in my view! *That's a growing reality, the climate one isn't.*

86. I did read recently that Federal Health Minister, Greg Hunt, was referring the matter of the epidemic of gender dysphoria to the Royal Australasian College of Physicians as they are apparently "the expert clinical body" and have agreed to do the inquiry. This would be very good news - I hope it is true - and that the inquiry is done carefully, objectively, and not ideologically. I have left a message with his office to verify one way or another.

87. **In Sport** – Cricket Australia has just said any person may compete if they identify as any gender, without having to have surgery. What we know is that women are being beaten, literally and figuratively, due to these rules. From

→ Tamikka Brents being smashed by Fallon Fox in mixed martial arts, to

→ biological male "Rachel" McKinnon beating two women to come first in the Canadian cycling championships, to

→ a biological male (Laurel Hubbard, formerly Gavin) winning two gold medals in the South Pacific Women's Weight-lifting championships.<sup>18</sup>

88. As Olympic swimmer Sharron Davies observed, that there are 2000 males in the world *right now* who can **run the 100 m faster than** the fastest female sprinter *of all time!* Women will no longer be able to win medals if this unfair trend is allowed to continue. Martina Navratilova has called it **cheating**, as the males have had a lifetime of testosterone advantage in their bone-and-muscle formation. And they can choose to identify back as male, once they have won the medals!

89. It gets worse – in a UK women's prison – Transgender "Karen White", a biological male, was caught raping women.

90. In Australia, a biological-male-who-identifies-as-a-woman, a prisoner convicted for attempting to kill three people with an axe, Australian transgender **Evie Amati** is jailed in a female prison *Mary Wade Women's Correctional Centre* since her 2018 trial. The photo of the injuries to Ben Rimmer's face are horrific. Evie Amati has been involved in fights with women prisoners who want Amati to be in a men's prison.

91. **Our spoken Language** is being affected. New pronouns are being forced into use on penalty of fines, in *some* Western countries – Jordan Peterson famously pushed back on that in Canada. Fortunately this is not yet required in Australia by law. The **Diversity Council of Australia** has issued

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<sup>18</sup> A New Zealand transgender weightlifter has won two gold medals and a silver in women's weightlifting at the Samoa 2019 Pacific Games.

Laurel Hubbard, 41, formerly known as Gavin Hubbard, scored first place in both the Women's +89kg Snatch and the Women's +89kg and second place in the Women's +89kg Clean and Jerk.

<https://caldronpool.com/transgender-weightlifter-wins-gold-twice-in-womens-competition-at-the-samoa-2019-pacific-games/>

guidelines requesting people not use words like mother, father, husband, wife. This Guide was also issued to employees at a major Australian airline.

92. So when it comes to status of human life, the importance of truth, education of the next generation, and our basic freedoms such as the freedom to believe and speak freely, we are departing from the very civilized standards which have made Australia the best country in the world to live in.

93. *So in answer of the question: "Australia - the Best Country on the Planet. How do we keep it that way?"*

94. *The solution is:*

- i. to reinstate standards. All that stands between civilization and barbarism is the education of one generation.*
  - a. in science – it means restoring the scientific method,*
  - b. in teaching - it means educating rather than indoctrinating,*
- ii. it means reinstating the religious freedom which gave us Australia's magnificent faith heritage, by protective legislation and by education, or both,*
- iii. it means offering help to parents to raise their children well, rather than stealthily usurping their authority and giving it instead to the unconscionable, over-reaching State, and*
- iv. it means reinstating the high standards, in all endeavours, which have all made Australia such a paradise.*

*Thankyou Ladies & Gentlemen - Happy to take some questions!*

95. Then after those will give:

→ **A China Update**

→ Finally end with **Brexit update**.

## AUSTRALIA THE BEST COUNTRY ON THE PLANET. HOW DO WE KEEP IT THAT WAY IN 2019?

**Address by Sophie York from Sydney to the Toowoomba Branch of Australians for Constitutional Monarchy on 8 September 2019**

### **PART 3 : A Brexit Update**

Last time I spoke here, I summarised *why the EU came about in the first place*. If I could very briefly re-iterate that aspect, it was a concept which followed the horrors of World War II and was seen as a sensible response not only to the fighting which had seen the nations of Europe attacking and bombing each other, killing countless people either directly in battle but also as an antidote to the war-created famine caused by farms and factories being unable to function as they had in peace-time, coupled with disease and overborne or severely damaged medical facilities and finally, the problem of mass numbers of displaced people, driven out of their destroyed homes and towns.

World War II was undoubtedly the deadliest military conflict in history. An estimated total of 70–85 million people perished world-wide, which was about 3% of the 1940 **world** population at the time. (There is a country-by-country list in Wikipedia where you can calculate the losses of the countries of Europe, and as it shows, there were many theatres of war also, including in Asia and the South Pacific.)

The War was over by 1945, and **United Nations (UN)** was established in October 1945 to put in mechanisms to promote peaceful international cooperation and collaboration.

In 1949 the Council of Europe was formed, a tailored effort to specifically bring the nations of Europe together, initially ten of them but this outfit was more about the shared human rights principles and did not address the economic aspects and opportunities, so

in 1951 out of a bit of frustration it seems, the Treaty of Paris was signed by a few nations, which formed the European Coal and Steel Community

Then in 1957 Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and West Germany all signed the **Treaty of Rome**, which created the **European Economic Community (EEC)** and also established a customs union.

The idea behind a European Communal body at all was that it would facilitate, throughout Europe, the *easy movement of people* seeking work or a different life experience - *easy* due to common trade laws - to ensure free markets were maintained, and also to ensure respect for the Rule of Law and **democracy**. So the sharing of common goals, especially economic ones because they had skin-in-the- game, would *hopefully* provide a foundation for long-lasting peace.

By 1985 the members had come up with the Schengen Agreement, which allowed people to move around the member countries with *just one common visa*. Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus and Romania are yet to join in, Ireland and the UK opted out.

By 1993, the **European Economic Community (EEC)** became into the European Union (EU) via **The Maastricht Treaty**.

In 2007, the **Lisbon Treaty** amended the two earlier treaties which founded the EU - the Maastricht Treaty (1992) which became the **Treaty on European Union (TEU) in force in 2009**, which seems to be the one everyone refers to most, and the Treaty of Rome (1957) which has become the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). The TEU and the TFEU are the two main ones now.

Article 13 establishes the institutions in the following order and under the following names:

the European Parliament,

the European Council, not to be confused with

the **Council of the European Union** (I kid you not, they are two separate councils, with separate functions – this one is just called the Council, like the Jedi Council - it represents the Executive governments of the EU) , whereas the *European Council* headed by its President Donald Tusk is more about the political direction of the EU,

the European Commission,

the Court of Justice of the European Union,

the European Central Bank and the Court of Auditors.

It obliges co-operation between all these and limits their powers to that specified within the treaties.

The EU promotes itself as providing 4 key freedoms, which enable citizens of its member nations to:

1. **live or work** in any EU country
2. move **money around**
3. sell **goods** without restrictions
4. provide **services** on the same basis.

It prides itself on ensuring that only high standards prevail. So for example, under EU rules and supervision by participating member nations, there won't be contaminated food crossing borders, or polluting behaviours or environmentally unfriendly practices, and so on.

In 2002, euro banknotes and coins replaced national currencies and the Eurozone encompasses 19 countries. The eurosceptic Tory MPs stopped the British pound from being scrapped for the Euro, which came to look rather a smart move as Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece and Spain – called PIIGS - all EU member states - **had debt crises** in 2008 and 2009 and were unable to refinance their government debt – or bail out banks - and had lost the ability to manipulate their own currencies as a method of rescuing themselves. The debt crisis began with the collapse of Iceland's banking system, then spread to the others.

A couple of its other features were that it would stand up for **human rights** and also that it would offer **great global clout**, comprising the voice of 28 member nations, which is more powerful than a nation advocating on its own.

However, and it's interesting that this coincided with its new name-change (from an "Economic Community" to a "**Union**"), it has morphed from being predominantly an economic outfit to a *political* union. And with that came – you guessed it - **over-reach**. It has gone from being primarily concerned with commerce, to reaching into criminal justice, social policy, employment law, defence, foreign relations, culture, media and immigration<sup>19</sup>.

### **So what happened was this:**

**The people started agitating to leave the EU.** The PM at the time, David Cameron, sent it to referendum, held **23 June 2016**. He was a supporter of 'Remain' and did a poor job of defending 'Remain', and also apparently *didn't* strike any major bargains for the UK *if they remained*, which might have made it a more attractive option.

Nigel Farage of the Conservative fringe party UKIP was prominent in the Leave campaign, which became known as "Brexit" **and so was Boris Johnson**. Nigel Farage is a member of the European Parliament and vice-chairman of the pro-Brexit organisation Leave Means Leave,

Brexit was voted for overwhelmingly by the British voters: the voter turnout was an impressive 72.2% of the voluntary-voting electorate. 51.9% of those participating voters, voted to leave the EU. It was more than the British had ever voted on anything, ever!

The Government invoked Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union, starting a two-year process which **was** due to conclude with the UK's exit on 29 March 2019.

That deadline has since been extended to **31 October 2019**.

### **What was meant to happen in that the British Parliament will put into effect what the British people voted they wanted.**

In July 2016, David Cameron resigned, Theresa May was elected as Conservative Party Leader *unopposed* by party members, becoming Britain's second female Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher having been the first.

Theresa May has been a remainder herself but she said "Brexit means Brexit" and set about (apparently) trying to achieve it.

Prime Minister Theresa May was confounded by her own MPs. They have voted to stymie the wishes of the people. And she was confounded by the EU itself, who did not wish them to leave and also want to set an example to other members why they should not leave. In other words, make it as unpleasant as possible so that no other members even think of departing!

Brexit was due to happen on 29 March 2019, two years after then Prime Minister Theresa May triggered Article 50 - the formal process to leave - and kicked off negotiations. But the Brexit date has been delayed twice.

The UK and the EU agreed a deal in **November 2018** but *MPs rejected it three times*.

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<sup>19</sup> Hannan, Daniel What Next p19



Theresa May resigned on 7 June 2019. Boris Johnson was voted in a majority of party-members (66% to Jeremy Hunt's 34%) and took office on 24 July. He advocated removing the backstop from any Brexit deal and replacing it with alternative arrangements. In August he announced he would retain 7 or £9 billion of the £39 billion divorce payment the UK is due to give the EU upon withdrawal.

The Deal is 585 pages long<sup>20</sup>. It is the United Kingdom AND Northern Ireland's withdrawal from the EU and from the European Atomic Energy Community ("Euratom"). The idea of it is to ensure an orderly withdrawal aiming to prevent disruption and to provide legal certainty to citizens, and economic operators, as well as to judicial and administrative authorities, in the EU and in the United Kingdom. So for example, if someone had moved their family to the host state (the UK), to live and work, they wouldn't suddenly have to up and leave.

The Deal also tries to address the issue of "the backstop". The EU insists any deal must contain a backstop. Northern Ireland is under UK control, but it is part of a country which remains in the EU – Ireland. Nobody wants a revival of "The Troubles", as the thirty years of sectarian violence were called, on any pretext whatsoever. These came to an end - officially and by and large practically - in the Good Friday agreement of 1998.

So, to prevent goods and services and people movement crossing into the UK via Northern Ireland, the EU feels there needs to be a border with checks. Otherwise Northern Ireland will become the backdoor for leakage into the UK, *and vice versa*.

The UK wants a soft border. The EU wants a hard border.

If the UK leaves without a deal, the UK will decide what sort of border they will run there.

The EU is a massive venture – for example its budget agreed for 2019 is €165.8 billion. This is only actually 1% of the EU-28's gross national income (GNI). It demands from each member around 0.7% of each member state's gross national income (GNI); So you can imagine how much money that is from a populous, organised, hard-working country like the UK compared with other members countries, some of whom were communist until the last recent decades. So to acknowledge this, the EU budget did include some correction mechanisms designed to re-balance excessive contributions by certain flourishing member states such as the UK.

The EU also gets customs duties paid to it on imports coming in from outside the EU, sugar levies and so on.

6% of the EU budget goes for the administration of European Institutions, including staff salaries, pension, buildings, information technology, trainings, translations and European schools. In some EU countries, it finances up to 80% of public investment. So it is definitely a redistribution network as much as anything else.

However, EU regional spending does not just help poorer regions. It invests in every EU country, supporting the economy of the EU as a whole.

The Deal also makes the UK liable for loans incurred by the EU before the Deal agreement, and also for pledges for macro-financial assistance to various countries (see Article 143). The EU are happy to give some money to the UK on an ongoing basis for any revenue received from its assets

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<sup>20</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/draft\\_withdrawal\\_agreement\\_0.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/draft_withdrawal_agreement_0.pdf)

jointly acquired whilst the UK was a member, and so on, but deduct a percentage for asset management. It details how a report will be done on both sides to communicate all this.<sup>21</sup> The European Investment is the lending arm of the EU.

Part of the deal proposed is that the UK would get repaid the capital it put in as a contributing member. That would be 12 yearly instalments. The first 11 instalments, each equal to EUR 300 000 000, (three hundred million euros) would be due on 15 December of each year starting in 2019. The balance of EUR 195 903 950 due on 15 December 2030.

## **BUT**

**It also says at Article 150 that the UK will remain** liable for financial operations and exposure approved and incurred by the European Investment Board (EIB) even after the date of a signed Deal!

**Nigel Farage's outfit sent Theresa May a letter in the middle of negotiations in 2017, making important points in a context where she was being held over a barrel by the EU:**

**That freedom of movement should absolutely *NOT* keep going for 5 years** after Brexit, that was unacceptable; especially since there was "significant level of public concern" over the lack of "control over migration" - a massive factor in the vote for Brexit.

People are concerned that British society and culture is being lost, due to overwhelming immigration levels and also that the Brits are funding NHS tourism – where people from poorer nations or from nations with as advanced systems, come for their medical treatment to the UK.

- **Free trade.** The inability to sign free trade deals with countries outside the European Union should end on **29 March 2019**, (this letter was written prior to the new delayed deadline of **31 Oct 2019**) and explicitly not continue "during the transitional period". The letter insisted it was crucial that the United Kingdom was also able to "implement global trade deals" *during any transitional period*.
- **New EU laws.** The letter asked the question if new EU laws (passed or implemented after the UK leaves the EU) would need to be "obey[ed]" during a transition period.
- **European Court of Justice.** This was reported by the media as one of the most significant "red lines" of the letter. The letter demanded a "**sovereign**" UK "after March 2019.
- **Deregulation.** EU laws deemed "unnecessary" in business activity should be *repealed and removed* in order to "generate economic growth" and support "farming and fishing".
- **Extension of transition period.** The letter expressed a fear of an "indefinite delay to a proper Brexit". It insisted the EU should "believe we would move to WTO rules", and the transition "must terminate" no later than 30 March 2021.
- **No-deal scenario.** The intervention criticised and contradicted "CBI advice", insisting reverting to World Trade Organization rules was "not to be feared". With this particular point gaining most of the British media's coverage,<sup>[10][11]</sup> the letter claimed that if the European Union was

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<sup>21</sup> P254 Deal: The EIB shall pay to the United Kingdom on behalf of the Union an amount equal to the United Kingdom's share of the paid-in subscribed capital of the EIB as it stood immediately prior to the date of entry into force of this Agreement. That payment shall be made in accordance with Protocol No 5 on the Statute of the European Investment Bank. It shall be made in 12 yearly instalments. The first 11 instalments, each equal to EUR 300 000 000, shall be due on 15 December of each year starting in 2019. The balance of EUR 195 903 950 shall be due on 15 December 2030. The payments made in accordance with this paragraph shall not release the United Kingdom from its liability under paragraph 5.

"not seriously negotiating" for free trade by Christmas 2017, then the UK Government should inform of their intention to move to WTO rules.

The letter had multiple significant supporters outside of the organisation, including a former Leader of the Conservative, Lord Howard, who stated he shared its "aspirations".<sup>[12]</sup>

On 28<sup>th</sup> August the Queen approved the proroguing of the UK Parliament, no earlier than the 9<sup>th</sup> September until no later than the 14<sup>th</sup> October. This was approved by her at Boris Johnson's request, order to stop the MPs from using the Parliament any further to thwart the democratic vote of the people for Brexit. Ironically his opponents regard him as undemocratic for not allowing further abuse of Parliament.

**The bottom line is this for Brexit:**

**It will restore for Britain its sovereignty.**

**It will allow the free trade that the UK thought it had signed up for, in 1972 when it joined!**

**The UK has been legendarily amazing before the EU, it will be so again. The EU needs the UK more than the other way round.**

**The EU wants it to at least remain in the Customs Union – but it shouldn't, it needs to be free from both economic straitjacket and the economic.**

**The EU have overcooked this goose and the game is over.**

**The UK was becoming just a cash-cow which they not only over-crowded by their policies, but also bossed around, used and abused.**

The people are being told to be afraid of a 'no-deal.' But if you read the Deal, it is a method of attaching strings to the UK forever.

The UK could still trade with countries in the EU, people could still stay in the UK, and people could still apply under moral rules. If the Deal is about messing things up for the UK going into the future, they should have a clean-break and walk away. They will get on better with the EU and its member nations if they decline a deal which will strangle them for years to come.

A no-deal is better than a bitter, manipulative, strangle-hold deal, where they are bound to rules and conditions which they can never furthermore have a say in.

As Tony Abbott said in a speech delivered to the Policy Exchange in London on 2 September and published in The Australian on 3 September 2019:

"Remainers plot to sabotage Brexit, or to turn it into a self-vindicating disaster. But know this: there are some 160 countries out there, too polite to take sides, but ready to take you back: back into a wider world, back into a bigger family; nearly all of them willing you to succeed; and just wanting you to get this done".

Thank you!

# AUSTRALIA THE BEST COUNTRY ON THE PLANET. HOW DO WE KEEP IT THAT WAY IN 2019 ?

## Address by Sophie York from Sydney to the Toowoomba Branch of Australians for Constitutional Monarchy on 8 September 2019

### PART 4 : China and our sovereignty

The list of issues/problems to date:

We have had a good relationship with China.

However, they are over-reaching and ruining this relationship. and then wondering why it is changing.

The Chinese Communist Government has allowed severe encroachment on our sovereignty and has compromised our interests –

#### Examples:

Militarising reefs in the Spratlys where our ships sail; 60% of our \$318 billion dollars export industry goes past here. Whoever can disrupt it, even if they never do it, has immense leverage. It also is a flouting of international law and setting a bad example – showing other nations that there is no consequence for breach if you are big enough to get away with it;

Taking over our Ports – Darwin, Newcastle, Melbourne

Building of ports in our region e.g. in PNG - on Manus Island and elsewhere

Essential Services – taking control of Electricity, Gas, Water for Irrigation,

Putting Confucius Institutes which are essentially Communist-friendly propaganda, into Schools and Universities,

Ingratiating our nearest neighbours via big loans - *debt traps* – these Pacific islands are poor- they can never repay these loans

Purchasing land, beef & dairy farms, orchards, Cubbie station – **NO RECIPROCITY**

One Belt One Road,

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank – what is the benefit to us? We contributed almost a billion dollars – there should be instead a Federal AUSTRALIAN Infrastructure investment Bank;

#### Risky things:

Huawei has been shut out of the 5G network in Australia which is good, as there is mounting evidence that they spy on host countries, and also that they are subject to Chinese law which requires co-operation with Chinese intelligence services.

The Huawei CFO Meng Wanzhou has been arrested in Canada for breaching US Law on sanctions against Iran.

China has been detaining our people:

- **our casino employees,**
- Rio exec **Stern Hu;**
- UTS **Prof Feng,**
- Businessman **Matthew Ng)**

And they wanted an extradition treaty to get us to yield up our people, for potentially fake corruption charges against anyone who criticises China; fortunately due to some good Federal MPs such as Senator James Paterson, this did not go ahead.

**There are signs that things are not going well in China.**

**Growing religious persecution in China – is one symptom of Xi's Consolidation of Power. He now has a limitless term as President**

**Falun Gong** – just commemorated 20 years of persecution. It is now known that their organs are being harvested, a tribunal presided over by and chaired by Sir Geoffrey Nice QC, who was a prosecutor at the international criminal tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, said in a unanimous determination at the end of its hearings it was “certain that Falun Gong as a source - probably the principal source - of organs for forced organ harvesting”.

“The conclusion shows that very many people have died indescribably hideous deaths for no reason, that more may suffer in similar ways and that all of us live on a planet where extreme wickedness may be found in the power of those, for the time being, running a country with one of the oldest civilisations known to modern man.”

There is also persecution of **House Christians**.

**In September 2018 China and the Holy See** signed an agreement allowing the Pope to appoint and veto bishops pre-approved by the Chinese Communist Party. Bizarrely, after the agreement the Chinese government decided to continue including the Catholic Church in its religious crackdown and destroyed two Marian shrines.

And there is evidence that Uigyr (Muslims) have been rounded up and placed in concentration camps.

***This is all unacceptable to the modern, enlightened world.***

Chinese authorities have a hard time accepting the idea that all groups should not be completely under their control.

This is to do with their Communist belief system which is that the state has absolute control and that individuals have no right to freedom.

**Christianity** believes that each person has worth and that government is only there as a delegate, by consent of the people, to serve the people by taking care of the big-ticket items such as Defence and public infrastructure, and to protect basic human rights.

The main things to realise is this:

China fears internal unrest and believes that cracking down is the solution. It is not. Granting freedom is the solution. The more free a country is, the less unrest it has.

It is positioning itself as a world super power, but does not realise that empires past and present usually had great and desirable strengths – like the Roman, British and American Empires – the rule of law, treatment of its citizens justly, and OTHER countries wanted what it had to offer. It is only in deteriorating phases that these features falter.

China thinks that by strong-arming countries, or by carrot and stick bribery via aid programs *or buying off politicians* that it can become the next world super-power. You need character and integrity to have that standing.

#### **Australia needs to:**

- start putting Australia's interests first and that includes shoring up relations with our allies

Australia needs to:

- diversify its *markets*

- it needs to **not** let China take over our ports and essential services!

-it needs to have a University student body drawn from a greater variety of nations, it is far too China-centric and is exposed. A Report by the Centre for Independent Studies (CIS) indicates that the Universities of Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, The Australian National University, The University of New South Wales, The University of Technology Sydney and The University of Queensland (UQ), have Chinese students make up 50 % or more of the overseas student body. This is a high level of financial risk, it is also a cohesion risk – we saw students attacked at the UQ by Chinese Communist Party -sponsored students (or members of the United Front), for supporting democracy in Hong Kong. Australia is a democracy and that's what we support. We also believe in free speech!

- We need to also shore up our friendships in our region

Australia needs to support Hong Kong, for moral reasons, but also for self-interest: Hong Kong is the democratic buffer between China and Australia's neighbours, and Australia itself.

We need to support the United States in demanding that intellectual property not be stolen, and that fentanyl not be trafficked.

We must respectfully but firmly let civilised expectations be known and that our future economic and diplomatic relationships depend upon this.

I recommend everyone read "Silent Invasion" by Clive Hamilton.

The worst thing about all this is that China has tipped the world from a "peace footing" onto a "be ready for confrontation or War" footing, And that is a tragedy.

**China needs to repair that damage. NOW!**

**I am encouraged by what has happened in Hong Kong, if the drop in demand for extradition is indeed genuine.**

**There are still outstanding issues of arrests and mistreatment.**

As Miss World Canada contestant **Anastasia Lin** advised, after she was barred from *participating* in the Miss World contest in China: assert boundaries! China needs us all as much as we need them. There will be a severe economic downturn in China if they don't play ball. China's skin-in-the-game 5 times that of America's. America's advice? Stand up to them and they will respect us. **Thank you!**