

Victory: Banks forced to bend to people's needs!

The *Australian Alert Service* is the weekly publication of the Australian Citizens Party.

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Lead Editorial

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Westpac executives (back to camera) at the 2 March Sale hearing of the bank closures inquiry being questioned by Senator Gerard Rennick (right), who pushed for the inquiry. After coming under rare scrutiny by Senators who are prepared to take them on, [Westpac has backed down](#).

Woe betide the plans of the banking elite to make the RBA fully independent, and rob the government of any oversight over banking, so they can steal our savings to rescue their financial system when crunch time comes. We have just demonstrated that the banks can be forced into line by the actions of a mobilised citizenry working through their elected parliamentary representatives!

Instead of *the banks robbing us* of our democratic rights and our money, *we are robbing them* of their exit plan when their system crashes.

The Senate inquiry into regional banking closures is turning a blowtorch on the banks, and Westpac has melted. Having sweated under the scrutiny of the committee's first Sale hearing on 2 March, Westpac refused to attend the next hearing, effectively saying "leave us alone—we'll stop closing branches!" (p. 3).

Even the media are jumping on the victory bandwagon, from regional press to 6PR in Perth, which congratulated the Australian Citizens Party during a drive time radio interview with Robert Barwick last night. Many different groups jumped to be identified with this victory.

With this win on the board, we will press the advantage. Westpac has undermined the other banks, by showing that branch closures aren't justified. We will push for the inquiry to put the spotlight on every town losing its banks. Simultaneously, we will push our positive plan for a national infrastructure and a postal bank, already raised in the wake of this week's win by LNP Senator Gerard Rennick in a Sky News interview on 9 May.

The impact that banks have on the livelihood of every Australian, in every corner of this continent, cannot be underestimated. Today, the nation is experiencing the exact reverse of the rapidly expanding growth unleashed by King O'Malley's vision for a top-down national banking system combined with an extensive bottom-up postal banking network. His was a thoroughly-composed blueprint for development of the nation *and* the nation's people. It required battles over many

decades and was never unleashed in its entirety, but it saw the nation blossom and grow. Today, amid a spiralling collapse of growth, livelihood and culture, we have the chance to bring about his plan's fulfilment.

Another brilliant example of the power of the people to change their destiny is the Assange campaign, which has tapped into the national sentiment of Aussies to stand with a fellow Australian, imprisoned for revealing the lies that led us into destructive wars. The AUKUS subs rip-off has drawn out the realisation that we are again on that pathway, and especially as we struggle to pay the mortgage or buy the weekly groceries, we are not about to let it go unquestioned.

Both the Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, and Opposition Leader, Peter Dutton, have finally been drawn on the Assange issue, with Albanese admitting that *if* it proved warranted, Assange has "served his time" anyway; and US Ambassador Caroline Kennedy received a cross-party delegation from the Bring Julian Assange Home Parliamentary Group. Former Foreign Minister Bob Carr issued a statement saying that with both leaders having said "the US should drop extradition proceedings", the test is now on: "If America persists it will show Washington treats Australia with contempt and regards us as a client state not to be taken seriously." The Assange team is escalating, with rallies planned when US President Biden is in Sydney for the Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue comprising the USA, Australia, Japan and India)—another front for warmongering. Get involved if you can (p. 2).

Both of these campaigns reflect a building groundswell that can't be ignored by otherwise largely impotent politicians. This is a lesson for them too—when they grow a spine they can accomplish big things! With the new financial meltdown building, this fight is coming to a head fast, so strap in for the ride!

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