

Ann Lawler - CEC New South Wales Senate Candidate

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I've lived in the Hunter Valley all my life. I grew up on a dairy and crop farm in Morpeth, left school after finishing Year 10 at Maitland Girls High, and, apart from a few months in a pharmacy, I worked for seven years at the Commonwealth Bank before leaving to start a family in 1978. That same year, my husband Tom and I bought our first truck which kicked off our transport business of over forty years. We have two sons and a daughter who are all highly regarded for their work ethics and dedication to detail which is reflected in their successful business operations.

My support for the CEC began in 1997 when my mind was opened to the world, and the connectivity between global and domestic politics. Australia's potential is huge if we dump our economic and geopolitical subservience to the imploding market driven ideology espoused by the major parties. Their belief that "the market" — not government — determines the type, quantity and price of electricity or other essential services is absolute madness at best, or outright corruption at worst. No country can operate successfully under

corporatism, the sale of essential infrastructure to the highest bidder in energy, water, transportation, and banking, must be returned to government ownership or regulation.

The CEC's policies are modelled on ideas proven in history: like the *US Glass-Steagall Banking Act* from 1933 which prohibited the predatory Wall Street banks in the United States from preying on their customers, and protected the commercial day-to-day banking for 66 years until the Act was repealed in 1999, which paved the way for the global financial crisis by 2008.

The CEC's Glass-Steagall Bill; the *Banking System Reform (Separation of Banks) Bill 2019* which is currently before the Australian Senate for Inquiry is legislation that's urgently required: Australia's Big Four banks are heavily exposed to a popping housing bubble and over \$38 trillion in global derivatives obligations. The Government has already passed legislation to 'bail-in' banks, including the option for banks to use your savings, or day-to-day bank accounts to prop up the banks if need be. Since 2013, the CEC has exposed a directive from the Bank for International Settlements in Switzerland, for 'bail-in' of bank deposits to be legislated in Australia. No one, not even the banks will benefit in the long-run from bail-in. Their credibility will be destroyed, let's not destroy the economy too. Our bill will prevent bank failure by separating and protecting necessary banking.

The CEC's Five-Point program for Australia to survive the next global financial crash, begins with separating the banks to break their parasitical hold over our country, and, the CEC has written legislation for a government-owned and directed bank which will enable government to fund building the major infrastructure that's so desperately needed, while creating productive meaningful employment to inspire the next generations and give them a future to live for.

If Australia adopts this approach, we can become aligned with a global policy for development and collaboration which China is leading, and currently involves over seventy countries who have signed on to their "Belt and Road Initiative" — building land and sea connectivity through hi-speed rail and sea ports, as well as building state-of-the-art major power and water projects — for the benefit of all nations.

This is quite the opposite to Australia's current trajectory which is leading us into war in the Pacific, against China, at the behest of the less significant Anglo-American establishment.

Don't just think about how you will vote, you have to get personally involved, and fight for the ideas and policies that Australia, and Australians urgently need!

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14 May 2019 - Ann Lawler interviewed on 2 BOB Radio 104.7FM

