

Senate Select Committee on the Reform of the Australian Federation.

A submission by

Terence Holmes, Eltham, Victoria.

Dear Senators,

Any government reform runs the risk of dispensing with the limitations which the Australian people wisely placed upon the Federal Government to limit its power over the freedom of the people. Representatives from the individual States approved the federation of Australia – provided that it complies with the conditions which were written in the Constitution.

I would like to encourage the committee to consider the difference between what may seem to be a 'failure' of the articles of the Constitution and a failure of the Government to abide by the articles of that Constitution; and how that relates, and even validates the enquiry itself.

The word 'reform' is meaningless without context. Reform from what? Reform to what?

“Does the Australian Federation need Reform?”

“Could Reform be implemented merely by a return to Constitutional adherence?”

An important example of a result from the failure to comply with Constitutional principles has been pointed out by another submitter which I wish to embellish upon:

The authority to regulate the purchasing power of the Australian citizen, and the right for States to control their own supply of money, have both been transferred almost entirely to Federal control.

In actual fact, this power has even been relinquished by the Federal Government itself, who has handed it over to a private institution with the inappropriate name of the 'Federal' Reserve Board.

I concede that the Government has a few representatives on the board; but they have no power over monetary policy at all.

This monetary policy is no trivial thing! It controls all economic activity, all trade and commerce both nationally and internationally!, and therefore affects the potential living standards of all Australians.

The abandonment of this Constitutionally protected right and responsibility of the Australian Federal Government, is a direct violation of Article 51 of the Australian Constitution.

To place the destiny of our country in the hands of a profiteering business is, in my opinion, national suicide! Hence, we have placed a yoke on our economy by submitting to policies which prioritise profit over the well-being of the citizen, of monopolies and cartels, and other forms of market manipulation over entrepreneurship, independence and ingenuity.

By submitting to this monopoly of credit, we have committed our efforts to continual expansion which, of course, cannot continue indefinitely. This one issue of forced, continuous expansion has a greater impact on the environment and sustainability (and International relations) than any other factor!

We are at war with ourselves, and our neighbours – not military, but economic war.

Whenever we close the doors of our factories, and whenever we import goods that we cannot 'afford' to make ourselves, we lose another battle and lose ground in this, that was the 'lucky country.'

Since our Constitution was drafted, and provided by the States for the good common associations, purposes and protection of all people of Australia, it seems rather odd that this proposal to modify the agreement should be initiated from those who, perhaps unknowingly, have not abided by it.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I hope that the gravity of this issue is understood by you all, and that you will diligently do what you think is right as our representatives.

Terence Holmes