

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Economics, Committee \(SEN\)](#)  
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Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on economics  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament house Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary and members

I am a 63 year old small business owner , I was born and raised in Ayr north Queensland, I finished my schooling in year 10 at the age of 15 , at the age of 17 I entered into my first business venture with my elder brother, father and mother we borrowed \$19,000.00 dollars to purchase a second hand cane harvester to start a cane harvesting contract, mum and dad had to mortgage their house to secure the loan, by age 25 my wife and I had our own business, and for 25 years I remained in the sugar cane harvesting and trucking industry, at age 40 we purchased a motel and successfully operated it for 10 years, until we decided to sell and move to Townsville to be closer to our 2 daughters and first born grandchild.

We have owned and operated our mechanical workshop in Townsville for the last 13 years, during my life I have seen many Industries come and go but the biggest impact on me was the end of the motor vehicle production industry, the slap in the face Australia was given by the major automotive industry players and the money handed to them by the government then washed down the drain was nothing short of mind blowing and now we are inundated with foreign motor cars more than we could have imagined, and we accept it as the norm.

If we are to have a sustainable manufacturing industry for future economic growth, we need to stop the mentality of, "Dig it up and send it overseas", and we will buy it back as a car or a shovel or something, value adding is a key component to a productive and sustainable manufacturing industry, we possess all the key components required to be one of the major players in our resources, coal , iron ore, aluminium, copper, zinc, rare earths, water and the list goes on .

The main competitor to Australian manufacturing is China, a dictatorial country that has flooded our country with cheap average quality goods that Australian manufacturers can't compete against, our Government is hell bent on carbon reduction so we comply with the UN bullies so they will like us, we are kidding ourselves if we think China has any intentions of complying, they will keep building coal powered power stations, running them on Australian coal and their carbon emissions will continue to increase they are virtually un stoppable.

Manufacturing needs cheap energy, we have it in coal, government should be encouraging clean coal technology, so more coal fired power stations can come into play, Banks need to be put on notice if they continue on their current ideology of only loaning money to so called green companies who build windmills or the like which by the way have been proven to be carbon positive.

Cheap power is one of the main drivers in manufacturing, if Australia has the cheap power the industry will come, the proposed scheme to build a rail line from the eastern coalfields to the western iron ore deposits would be one of the greatest infrastructure projects in the country's history, if we can build projects like this then the side industries come , civil , mining, logistics, infrastructure services etc, and that includes small business, profitable small business that drives the employment sector which save the government money, low unemployment saves money , it is currently extremely difficult to find people want to work at present as the government handouts are a easier option, the only incentive to encourage people to take up employment, is to discourage unemployment benefits.

The current policy of children staying in school until they are 16 or 17 years old is one of the main drivers of employment shortages , not all kids are good at school, many would be more productive in the workplace, and as an employer many younger people make better employees, not all kids can go to university and have corporate jobs .

Yours Sincerely  
Les Andersen