

**From:** [SeniorClerk, Committee \(SEN\)](#)  
**To:** [Economics, Committee \(SEN\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Senate Standing Committee on Economics  
**Date:** Thursday, 9 September 2021 9:46:54 AM

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**From:** Kenneth Bebb [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, 9 September 2021 9:44 AM  
**To:** SeniorClerk, Committee (SEN) <SeniorClerk.Committees.Sen@aph.gov.au>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Senate Standing Committee on Economics

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Economics  
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Canberra ACT 2600

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I am dismayed at the current lack of skilled tradespersons in the field of Mechanical and Production Engineering generally. I worked in that industry from mid 1964 until retiring in 2009.

Up until approximately 1980, Australia had many Manufacturing companies with a skilled tradeforce that could make High quality goods for sale within Australia and for export to countries worldwide.

This is what continued to keep us THE LUCKY COUNTRY.

After the 80's the Australian Government changed policies to allow Banks to offer Investment loans to borrowers thus creating a world of false economic values. ie buying houses to take advantage of inflationary capital gains.

This is a major reason why property prices are out of the reach of the younger generations today.

We need to get away from the Neoliberal way of thinking, it creates a world of derivatives debt which puts the Banks at risk of collapse. ie Leman Brothers. Only manufacturing can add value to a country to make it rich and independant

But to achieve this we need to again build up our skilled workforce, and time is running out to do this as most of the experienced engineers are reaching retirement age.

Australia needs to increase the number of apprenticeship courses and employ those skilled tradies still young enough to teach and be able to pass their knowledge on to future generations before it's lost. I make the point, TIME IS RUNNING OUT.

I still use my skills to make or repair things for myself but i,m finding it more difficult to obtain material of suitable size because of the reduced demand from industry for the range of bar sizes that used to be available. This in turn makes finished products more expensive. An example is to make something from dia. 12 bar it may be necessary to machine down from dia.20. A relatively huge waste. An increase in industry will create a demand for more material sizes which in turn would reduce production costs.

An increase in industry = more workers = less on gov. support = more salary and wages tax collected = more for politicians salaries. It's a no brainer.

The company I worked for has approx. 500 employees. That alone would pay over \$6M dollars in just personal income tax per year.

I believe we need a publicly owned National Development Bank as the Commonwealth Bank used to before it was privatized, to support startup of new industries and development of inland irrigation schemes.(The Bradfield schemes). This would open up vast northern areas for farmland for crops to be sold here and in overseas countries.

This completes my submission but I will finish by strongly recommending you read a submission sent to you dated 27 August by an ex work colleague and close friend of mine, one Alan Baker. His submission is a wealth of knowledge.

Regards

Kenneth [REDACTED] Bebb [REDACTED]