



Philosophical Statement, Party Platform & Pledges

of the

Republican Party of Australia

for

Senate Election (State of New South Wales) Saturday, 1st December 1984

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Peter Consandine

Brian Buckley

1 & 2

respectively in GROUP "G" on the official ballot paper for the election.

Philosophy:

We believe Australia should become a Democratic Republic. Ideally, 1988 should be the year — when we celebrate our BICENTENARY of European settlement. This would give us 4 years to work out for ourselves the most appropriate republican system. We envisage that we Australians could still remain in the British Commonwealth of Nations if we wished to. However, we need urgent constitutional reform. For 15 1/2 million people — we are an over-governed nation. We have too many elections. We need a realistic Freedom of Information Act; A Bill of Human Rights — indeed an entirely new, more reflective, flexible and easier to reform constitution and which embodies therein the long overdue honourable treaty ("MAKARRATA") with our aboriginal people. We need fixed terms of government (4 years) with National and Regional elections held simultaneously. And we need a multi-member, proportional representation system. The Westminster system has "had it's day" — is outmoded.

We see the Australian Republic and a Republican governmental system as essentially a vital stage in the work of realising an Australian identity, self-confidence and independence — a blending of our multi-cultures.

We hold to the politics, sociology and economics of the real world, i.e. PRACTICALISM. The Republican Party espouses equalitarian virtues and values, choice and individualism. Australian Republicans give precedence to the concept of the sustainable lifestyle, and to the strategy of survival. The earth is humanity's life support resource and, in many ways, it is under critical threat. Our highest priority must, therefore, be the practice of a lifestyle which is sustainable yet comfortable and accommodating on a permanent basis. Thus the need for the strategy of survival (S.O.S.).

We can but make only an embryonic contribution to the beginnings of this most important process. Popular support for the practice of the sustainable lifestyle should transcend all allegiances. It is in the interests of all Australians that they all contribute to the S.O.S. This strategy should be based on the principle of a national obligation to the earth, to our fellow citizens and to our future generations.

continuing restocking of Earth's resources for EARTHSOURCE. The alternative is net surplus exploitation of Earth's resources followed in the foreseeable future by an EARTHSOURCE DOOM of our own making. Already, we are witnessing the alarming devastation of our natural forestland. Woodchippers and unnecessary road builders, as well as the destruction and deterioration of our National Estate by acid rain and multitalious pollutants is increasing alarmingly. Native fauna and flora are being wiped out by the rampant advance of exponential growth extollers. And our water tables are sinking rapidly, our soils are eroding dramatically.

The Continuing "GREENING" Campaign:

Green is Australia's fundamental colour. Our campaign strategy, in no small measure, is meant to heighten environmental and ecological awareness.

"GREENING" emphasises not merely trees but all growing things: the window box, community garden plots, school gardens, nature strips, herb and vegetable gardens, trees and shrubs in our cities, towns and suburbs and on our farms and in our forests and rural centres.

"Continued GREENING" essentially is about the intensified re-afforestation activity which we all can, indeed must, make a contribution towards. Simply put: Reduced GREENING will lead to an OXYGEN FAMINE, or what Paul Erlich describes as an "ECOLOGICAL CATASTROPHE". All living creatures need oxygen and plenty of it!!! All living plants make oxygen, reduce the flow of rainwater to the sea and provide havens for Earth's living creatures. Australia's Bicentennial celebrations indeed deserve to be conducted in a widespread GREEN setting. Green is traditionally associated with peace and cleanliness and is the applicable colour to encourage and enhance appreciation of our beautiful ecology and environment. The paramount goal is to ensure that the earth remains a living wild river.

SENATE ELECTION (State of New South Wales) 1ST DECEMBER 1984

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GREENING POLICY.

1. The allocation, by regional authorities (shire and municipal councils) and Federal Nursery distribution basis, of 5 native trees or shrubs or plants per adult per annum. Planting outside of one's residence to be authorised, of course, but encouragement to plant further afield.
2. Native tree, shrub and plant landscaping of all urban road corridors, highways and freeways.
3. Mandatory native tree, shrub and plant landscaping with all new industrial estate development. Incentives to existing industrial enterprises in the form of company taxation deductions, for the new "green" landscaping undertaken in any one financial year.
4. Preservation and conservation of all native fauna to the utmost extent practicable.
5. Severe punishment for the proven wreckers of the National Estate.
6. National introduction of lead-free petrol and taxation deductions for conversions by private motorists over a 2 year period.
7. The establishment of an AUSTRALIAN SURVIVAL AUTHORITY.
8. A 5 fold increase in funding for Agricultural Biology research.
9. An extension of organic farming methods.
10. Re-instatement, forthwith, of the Water Resources program.
11. New Anthropology courses (with modern refinements) introduction at Australian universities so that we can learn the skills of our aboriginal people who lived in organic harmony with their surroundings.
12. Completion of "PROJECT AQUARIUS" bushfire control research.

We have had RADICAL CHIC and CONSERVATIVE CHIC in recent times . . . it is now time for "SURVIVAL CHIC"!!!



The General Platform:

(Political Economic Principles for a Sustainable Society) THE ECONOMY (further to our Page 1 outline)

1. Should encourage the conservation of natural resources.
2. Should enhance the environment and a way of life which gives each person the opportunity of fulfilment in work and leisure.
3. Should afford equitable growth for all.
4. Should not allow planned obsolescence, waste or uncontrolled technology.
5. Should not foster "technomaniac extravagance" (men and women are not technological animals any more than they are economic or political ones) — Jim Cairns).

The present Prime Minister is mooting a 1985 representative TAX SUMMIT and whilst we see merit in this proposed conference and support same, we advance our own criteria for a fairer, more efficient economic and taxation system, than we currently have.

We truly believe that if the ordinary people of Australia are to trust the economic and taxation system, then taxes, overall, should be more visible (the best tax is the visible tax — Eric Rissstrom) and, likewise, taxation deductions should be more broad ranging. Australia's economic and taxation system, clearly and urgently needs a thorough overhaul. There should be:

- (a) Bank finance more readily available for those who seek it. Also, optimum overdraft and loan facilities through increased competition between banks. Also access for small business to a national market on the stock exchange.
- (b) Horizontal as well as vertical income tax

- (c) Evenly levied straight tax rates, in that, for so far as the budget allows, graduated rates.
- (d) Income splitting provisions for spouses.
- (e) Capital gains taxes provided (venture losses could be written off and 1/3 the annual rate of inflation is taken into account).
- (f) Gradual abolition of a discriminatory regressive tax on personal tax, and tax on Dividend Tax on retained earnings for proprietor companies.
- (g) Extension of tax incentives for "surprise" industries and arts entrepreneurs, sports entrepreneurs, etc.
- (h) Restructuring of tax rates, in graduated scale methods, up to the public company rate (with a 45% maximum on gross income).
- (i) Deductions for working single parents for such things as child minding services.
- (j) Elimination of unnecessary bankruptcies by utilising a stage prior to official management receivership.
- (k) A MINISTER AND DEPARTMENT for SMALL BUSINESS appointed/created.
- (l) All funds necessary to attract or retain the best financial brains in the land (men or women) on the National Securities and Exchange Commission.
- (m) Research and development assistance on a broader scale than now exists for the Private and Public sector researchers and developers.
- (n) Re-introduction of the \$1 notes.
- (o) Reduction of the public debt and government overseas borrowing — the record monthly current account deficit of \$1.08 BILLION puts paid to the Labor Government's "all good economic news" rantings.

Industrial Relations and Employment:

We do not see a Federal wage award system as a more moderate way of DUBSIA based on cost and value time, two trade unions.

We propose the abolition of the industrial award system, in favour of a market based system, employing and employing as a result of the market, not as a result.

We will also not allow the free going trend of profit sharing and the like to be used to spread worker participation.

With the introduction of a national income tax a National Superannuation Scheme, coupled with a National Compensation Superannuation for unemployed persons should be replaced by a National Civil Service Scheme for those who wish to be employed in a period of those unemployed persons. (The introduction of a national health insurance scheme, in lieu of the state. The view we take is that a universal tax should be levied on all with Medical Universal Health Insurance a "good" way to fund. But all people especially must be on the record to want to work and contribute to the national GDP. We must get employers responsible for the job they create. The concept of work the material value of working and earning in a new way.

We believe that whilst the Federal Government has introduced Wage Award system, the market will be a more efficient way of working, by more and more trade unionists, as a result of the "deal" was made with of a market based system of the Federal Labor Government and the market. At the end of the day, the market will be a more efficient way of working, but it must be a market based system of the present. Taxation system should be further eroded by other means, such as a market based system. The market based system of the present is a market based system, but it must be a market based system, not a market based system.



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Transport:

A National Transport Compensation scheme should be married with a National Highways Scheme and levied in the same fashion as Medicare. We support the building of circumferential road systems and **planned** expressway corridors in the urban areas.



National Urban Plan:

Incorporating aspects of the "Engineered Australian Plan" (see Laurie Hogan's book: "MAN MADE MOUNTAIN"), we believe in the **dire necessity** of devising a "CITIES PLAN" i.e. **capital** cities plan. The Scandanavian model would be most applicable to Australia's needs. The National Urban Plan accommodates environmental considerations, regional government ends, private sector involvement, foreign investment input and caters for the good or betterment of all the urban dwellers. To coin a word: "PLANAGEMENT".

De-Bureaucratisation:

Abolition of security of tenure in public employment; less government intervention and regulation.

Education:

The favouring of the teaching of the "NEW ANTHROPOLOGY" in lieu of the discredited "creationism", to young students. (See "SURVIVAL STRATEGY" outline on Page 1).

The placing of accent on relevant-to-future "sunrise industry" teaching and instruction whilst simultaneously encouraging "peripheral" studies at home (with Education Department guidelines).

The minimum of YEAR 10 standard for all students.

The Arts:

The rigorous adherence to the Defence of Australian Employment Policy in theatre, films, stage productions, concerts, television commercials, etc.

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation's department heads should be Australian but where a foreigner is appointed, he or she should be

- contracted for a short term
- prepared to apply for Australian citizenship after one year in the position — provided a renewal of the appointed person's contract is contemplated.

Health and Welfare:

The "preventative medicine" message should be related to children from their kindergarten days.

The government should register all drug addicts and take the sensible decision to legalise hard drug distribution by Government agencies only.

We favour Medicare-funded family planning.

Foreign Policy, Defence and Overseas Aid:

The A.N.Z.U.S. treaty should be re-negotiated and "tightened" in Australia's favour. The very best diplomatic and cultural relations must be established with INDONESIA. We advocate a firm treaty of co-operation with the Indonesians. We favour the despatching of aid (in the broad sense) overseas but we believe a caveat should apply to all aid provided: that we deliver and distribute same to the needy it is aimed for in the first place.

We should export expertise, advisers, trainers, lecturers, surgeons, etc. and, most certainly, we should instigate a system of Australian universities overseas (ASIA, AFRICA, SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL AMERICA). There are 5 very good reasons why:

- Overcrowding would be reduced at Australian universities;
- New job opportunities would be created for Australian academics;
- Building, staff, maintenance and accommodation charges would be lower in these developing countries;
- The costs of attending these universities would be much less for the students, and
- The presence of an Australian tertiary institution overseas would promote good relations with the host country.

We should create an Australian Peace Corps and make INDONESIA the first country where we pilot the scheme.

We should initiate a SOUTHERN PACIFIC-AUSTRALASIAN combined defence force to include New Zealand and other regional neighbours.

We favour an extension of the Defence forces to facilitate a permanent, streamlined coast guard which will decentralise air and sea rescue operations.

Freedoms and Choices:

We champion the right of choice for all individuals. We are concerned about the heightening Orwellian tendencies of public authorities and these trends should be reversed.

We espouse liberal non-censorship for over 18's.

We support full adult rights (and corresponding responsibilities) at age 18.

We believe the optional retiring age — for men and women — can be age 50.

We assert that all Australian citizens are entitled to the living working wage (determined by tribunal e.g. a retained but restructured Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission).

Australianisation:

No foreign combines may own Australian land — we would permit 99 year leases and/or rentals.

No foreign shareholding should exceed 49%.

There should be tax incentives for those Australian businesses (large or small) to convert their overseas-named businesses to native Australian names (over a 2 year period).

The Nuclear Question:

We stand for the maximum practical effort in reducing the threat of nuclear war and in trying to influence the nuclear powers to reduce and dismantle their nuclear armaments stockpiles.



Constitutional and Legislative Reform

Dean Jaensch, in a CURRENT AFFAIRS BULLETIN (December 1981) article entitled "REMAKING THE AUSTRALIAN CONSTITUTION" spoke of: "a new constitution will be above government, parliament and people but must not be out of the reach of the people" and

"a polity undergoes change and evolution; so should the constitution."

We contend the following:

1. Referenda should be carried into reform of the constitution if a simple majority of Australians vote in favour.
2. A new governmental system: — 2 tier unicameral — to rationalise the whole duplicative mess we now must endure.

TYPED AND LATE RETURNED TO THE POLING BOOTH

SENATE ELECTION (State of New South Wales) 1ST DECEMBER 1984

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re Interchange of Federal & State powers

YES

re Simultaneous Elections simultaneous with those of House of Representatives

YES

urge you to vote: YES

3. ... 4 terms — 4 years — elections to Federal, State while they remain and Regional houses to be held on the 3rd Saturday of November in leap years.
4. A Bill of Rights embracing the honourable "makarrata" treaty with the aboriginal Australians alluded to on Page 1, and which has been recommended by H.C. "Nugget" Coombs to all 9 prime ministers he has advised and served.
5. A new national flag, ideally in green and gold colours, depicting the forward-leaping kangaroo, our international symbol of renown.
6. A Republic by 1988!!! — with an Australian elected HEAD-of-STATE. (See below further recommendation)
7. A Youth Parliament (for the 18-26 year olds) (a) to occupy the old Canberra Parliament House (b) to be elected, one from each single member Federal Electorate (while they remain), at the same time as the House of Representatives candidates and (c) to be comprised of young independents — so that all can equally occupy the cross-benches for up to 2 four-year terms.
8. Discontinuance of ministers in the Upper Houses (while they remain).
9. A full patriation from Britain — we are the last remaining British colony: (a) we are a country with a foreigner as its Head-of-State" (Clyde Packer) and (b) we must expect that the British political leaders would allow Australia to extricate itself from the anachronistic and humiliating subservience to Britain" (Gough Whitlam).
10. Enlarged High Court of Australia from 7 to 11 so that each state and territory (while they remain) may have 1 "representative" judge plus 3 others. We proffer that before a judge be eligible for appointment he or she (a) must have not been a card-carrying member of any political party for a minimum 10 consecutive calendar years, and (b) must continue to actually reside in the State or Territory (a) he they remain from which they were selected. The High Court must be de-politicised as to its practices —
11. Pedagogic Representation at Constitutional Conventions — 12 from each state (a) by their members.
12. Sunset clauses on all new legislation — regular review and appraisal of legislation and, if recommended by a review commission, then, update of the said legislation.
13. Introduction of cost benefit impact studies — a "justification code" to all new legislation so that the common question be: Who wins, who loses?
14. The abolition of all imperial honours and awards, Kingdoms and individual citizenship (what Manning Clark describes as "pseudo-patriotism"); (c) an Australo-an activity e.g. allegiance to a foreign Head-of-State and repatriation or deportation of migrants convicted of serious, indictable crimes; (e) the use of taxpayers' revenue to fund any future royal tours, or the distribution of political leaflets (how-to vote cards etc.) on polling days.
15. Green and gold to be named as Australia's official colours — for all purposes.
16. A firming up of the Citizenship Act so that current holders of imperial honours awards and knighthoods etc. will have to relinquish same, as Australians.
17. Removal of knighthoods from the Australian Awards system.
18. Establishment of an Australian Republic National Working Committee to be comprised of members of participants from all sides of politics in Australia.
19. The Hare Clark (Tasmanian) electoral system, writ large, as the most fitting electoral system for a decentralised, regionalised Australia. This system, as such, is the most perfect example of proportional representation in multi-member electorates with the attendant, ideal unicameral structure of government.

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Pledges:

1. Never to support retrospective legislation of any kind.
2. Never to vote to block a Government's supply/money bills.
3. Never to support a tax on the dissemination of knowledge (i.e. sales tax on books, learning and educational aids, etc.).
4. To support Federal funding of all schools on an indirect basis — the education of our children, to the optimum extent, is vital to Australia's long term growth!!!
5. Our contract with the NSW voter, in the first instance, will be to conscientiously propound the Philosophy, Political Platform and general socio-economic policies of the Republican Party of Australia, as outlined herein, should we be elected to serve this state at the 1st December Senate election.

Biographies:

PETER CONSANDINE, 41, unmarried, born Burwood, N.S.W. Resident (32 years) of Strathfield; 3rd generation Australian of Greco-Anglo-Irish heritage. National Convenor, Republican Party of Australia. Bachelor of Arts degree (Political Economics major); Diplomas of Communications and Urban Studies.

Self-employed, freelance Communications and Entertainment Consultant. Overseas work experience (5 years); widely travelled (59 countries and/or principalities).

MEMBER OF: Australian Small Business Association, Social Education Association; General Studies Teachers' Association; Australian Conservation Foundation; Public Relations Institute of Australia (Associate Status); Actors and Announcers Equity Association of Australia (22 years); Association of Theatrical Agents and Employers; Greenpeace.

QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE: Alderman, 2 terms (1977-81) Strathfield Municipal Council; Executive Councillor, 3 terms (1981-83) Inner Western Suburbs (of Sydney) Regional Sport and Recreation Council.

Previous Candidature for Republican Movement: Lowe By-Election (January-February-March 1982); Flinders (Victoria) By-Election (November-December 1982); Australian Senate (State of N.S.W.) March 1983.

BRIAN BUCKLEY, 41, married with one son, born Oberon, N.S.W. Resident (17 years) North Shore of Sydney; 4th generation Australian of Anglo-Irish heritage. National Secretary, Republican Party of Australia. Accountant's Certificate. Self-employed Company Director and small business proprietor. Fairly widely travelled (35 countries).

MEMBER OF: Australian Small Business Association; Institute of Public Affairs; (Treasurer) North Shore (Sydney) Deaf Children's Association.

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