

**FEEDING  
THE HUNGRY**

# Feeding the Hungry

Michael Darby, 30 April 2008

The United Nations and the World Bank on 29 April 2008 announced a Task Force for dealing with a serious global crisis which has seen high food prices and shortages of supply provoke food riots in many countries, and threaten millions with malnutrition or even starvation.



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Christian charity is important and urgent in the short term. An enduring solution requires an increase in food production.

The sad truth is that food shortages have been exacerbated by a range of governmental policies, whether motivated by bureaucratic empire-building, by misplaced environmental zeal, by populism or by malevolence.

As a significant food producer, Australia can set an example to the world by adopting policies which will make an effective and speedy contribution to feeding the hungry.

# FEEDING THE HUNGRY

## POLICIES FOR AUSTRALIA

1. Abolition of taxation on all income derived from primary production
2. Moral support for programs intended to produce crops which require less fertiliser, less pesticides and less water.
3. Abolition of all artificial incentives for the production and consumption of ethanol fuel.
4. Removal of unreasonable impediments to primary production.
5. Reduction of the cost of energy inputs for agriculture

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## POLICIES FOR AUSTRALIA

**Abolition of taxation on all income derived from primary production.** Results will include:

- Major boost to long term domestic and international investment in rural industry
- Greater capacity of rural industry to adapt to new products, new markets, new growing conditions
- Strong boost for employment opportunities with the potential to abolish involuntary unemployment
- Expanded capacity for innovation, e.g. automated cropping
- Improved ability of producers to invest in conservation
- Retention of productive farmland as farmland
- Reduction of the average age of primary producers (now 57 yrs)
- Nett gain to public funds

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# POLICIES FOR AUSTRALIA

**Abolition of all artificial incentives for the production and consumption of ethanol fuel.**

There is a place for biofuels, where fuel is generated at low cost *in situ* from vegetable matter or animal waste. It is economic nonsense and morally wrong to subsidise or compel (*mandate*) the conversion of cropland from food production to fuel production, the best outcome of which is production of ethanol with a value approaching the value of the diesel fuel and fertiliser consumed in its production. The profitability lies only in the subsidies and the compulsion. People starve so western governments can steal from some of their citizens for the benefit of other citizens.

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## POLICIES FOR AUSTRALIA

**Moral support for programs intended to produce crops which require less fertiliser, less pesticides and less water.**

The abolition of income tax on primary production will of course stimulate all research in rural production.

Targeted measures may also be considered, preferably not involving use of public funds.

Opposition to genetically modified crops should be carefully reviewed. “Green” propagandists customarily aspire to reducing the world’s population by slashing the world’s productive capacity, and their adverse impact on policy is already causing starvation and death.

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# **POLICIES FOR AUSTRALIA**

**Removal of unreasonable impediments to primary production.**

Primary producers across Australia have for too long been subjected to excessive bureaucratic interference. We should accept that primary producers are instinctively conservationists who genuinely care for their animals. Bureaucratic hostility to primary producers should be eliminated.

Primary producers deserve to be defended from their sworn enemies including radical vegans and animal liberationists.

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## POLICIES FOR AUSTRALIA

### **Reduction of the cost of energy inputs for agriculture**

Diesel and electricity represent direct energy costs for primary producers, and fertiliser is an indirect energy cost.

“Green” propagandists aim at pushing up the cost of energy. Feeding the hungry requires that energy costs be reduced. The most practical method of achieving this in Australia is the construction of nuclear reactors. Other measures include removal of political restrictions on uranium mining and oil exploration.

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