

## Murray-Darling Basin Threatened

# Prince Philip Moves To Shut Down Australia's Food Production

by Doug Mitchell, LaRouche Youth Movement, Australia

MELBOURNE, Oct. 21—Less than 12 months after the Australian people rejected a genocidal carbon-trading scheme, due to a mobilization by Lyndon LaRouche's associates Down Under, Australia now faces a new form of green genocide: the shocking, deliberate shutdown of the majority of the nation's food production in Australia's "food bowl," the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB). One of the richest agricultural production areas in the world, the MDB feeds not only much of Australia, but many millions of human beings in the rest of the world as well.

The government's Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) has just announced its intention to cut an average of between 27-37% (3,000-4,000 gigaliters) of the water allocations to agriculture in the Basin, with some areas to be slashed by 45%—this, on top of massive cuts already over the past three years (including virtually mandatory "water buy-backs"). Given the extensive, complex irrigation system built up in the MDB over decades, entire towns, and even whole regions in the Basin will simply disappear, and Australia's population will collapse—which is the intention of the MDBA plan.

The ostensible (psychotic) reason for the cuts is to "restore river health"; in reality, the whole project is the result of a decades-long campaign by the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) to reduce the population to 5-6 million from its current level of 22 million people. HRH Prince Philip founded the ACF in 1963, as a branch of his World Wildlife Fund (WWF), personally chaired the ACF from 1971-76, and has directed its activities from off-stage ever since. The MDB shutdown project is being moved into high gear now, as part of the British Crown/City of London plot for genocide, in the context of

the present global financial/economic collapse.

### The Clarence River Scheme

The Murray-Darling Basin is situated in an area which covers Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia—four of Australia's six states. It produces 71% of Australia's irrigated crops and feeds 61% of all Australians, along with millions elsewhere.

Figure 1  
**The Murray-Darling Basin**



*Australia's Murray-Darling Basin is its "food bowl," producing 71% of the country's irrigated crops. It is now the target of the nazi Prince Philip's Australian Conservation Foundation, a branch of his genocidal WWF.*

The basin is named after two of Australia’s longest rivers, the Murray and the Darling, which provide much of the water for that irrigation; the Murray River also provides drinking water for the capital city of South Australia, Adelaide.

The MDBA has begun to hold “public consultation meetings” to get “feedback” from the population on the scheduled cuts. Already, the rage from the population has provoked talk of parliamentary inquiries and sophisticated pledges to “look at the human cost” of this plan. In the real world, only throwing out the plan and adopting a NAWAPA-style approach to the continent can prevent the genocide. LaRouche’s associates in the LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) and the Citizens Electoral Council (CEC) are now intervening toward that end in the 22 MDBA-run scheduled “consultations” in towns across the Basin, which have been attended by enraged audiences of 500 up to 5,000 citizens.

Headlined by new, breakthrough LYM-produced Google Earth tours of the Clarence Scheme and other great water projects, the LYM and the CEC are proposing an entirely different approach: that the MDB, and Australia as a whole, must develop a higher platform of infrastructure, in water, rail projects, and nuclear power.

The Clarence River Scheme was developed in detail by Australia’s great water specialist, the recently deceased Prof. Lance Endersbee. The Scheme will bring floodwater from the Clarence River near the town of Grafton in northern New South Wales—which water otherwise flows out to sea—and divert that into the Dumaresq, Macintyre, and Barwon Rivers, which will flow into the Darling. This water will be used for irrigation, and will be cycled into the atmosphere multiple times, as with NAWAPA, to provide more green than any greenie could wish for. Also, Australia must, and will, build a high-speed maglev rail line from Melbourne, through the Basin and on up to Darwin, where Australia’s unique high-speed ships can take the crops that suffer a “tyranny of distance” (i.e., short shelf-life of fruits and vegetables), to the large and often-starving population of Asia.

### **LYM/CEC Intervention Shapes Debate**

LYM and CEC activists have attended most of the meetings so far. Our intervention into, particularly, the



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*At a mass meeting in Shepparton Oct. 12, LYM member Katherine Isherwood put forward the concept of the Clarence River Scheme, a NAWAPA-style proposal to divert floodwater to the Darling River.*

opening three meetings, has forced a discussion about real solutions—rather than mere rage or acceptance of the MDBA plan’s “inevitability,” which is a typical reaction of the victim mentality of the British Empire-dominated Australian farming identity.

LYM members Katherine Isherwood and Doug Mitchell went to an MDBA “public consultation” meeting in Shepparton on Oct. 12, and arrived in time for the afternoon meeting, which was attended by 600 people. In the question period, one man characterized the consequences of the plan very well, saying that he saw a funeral procession pass through town this morning, and thought, “Geez, they’ve started [dying] already, and the plan hasn’t even begun yet!”

Then Katherine asked about the Clarence River Scheme, “Why don’t we look at taking some of the floodwater from the Clarence and send it into the Darling River?” The government bureaucrats tried to dismiss the question, saying those Schemes don’t work. Katherine got a round of applause for her question, and it heightened and shaped the level of discussion afterwards, as two old men expressed support for what she said, before asking their questions.

Katherine’s question sparked a round of discussion in the nation’s press over the Clarence River Scheme.

- On Oct. 13, the local *Daily Examiner* newspaper in Grafton published an article headlined “Clarence di-



version not on agenda.” It quoted CEC leader Craig Isherwood, and the member of Parliament for Page (where the Clarence River flows): “Mr Isherwood has called on the government not to reduce water allocations to farmers but solve the problem of the lack of water in the Murray-Darling by diverting the Clarence. ‘The Clarence River Scheme would divert some of the enormous volume of water in the Clarence River over the Great Dividing Range and into the headwaters of the Darling River system,’ he said. Federal Member for Page Janelle Saffin said she was opposed to any diversion of the Clarence. ‘I stand by my community, not one drop goes from the Clarence,’ she said.” What she doesn’t realize is that the water is floodwater!

- Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) News of Oct. 19 reported that “The Federal Parliament has been told that water from the Clarence River should not be diverted inland to ease problems in the Murray-Darling Basin. The idea drew a positive response at a meeting of irrigators in the Victorian town of Shepparton last week.” The ABC article again quotes the local MP, Janelle Saffin, who insisted in Parliament that “not a drop” will be taken from the Clarence by “water raiders.”

- Independent MP Tony Windsor (whose vote was crucial to forming a minority Australian Labor Party government, following a Federal Election on Aug. 21), who will head a parliamentary inquiry into the “human costs” of the MDBA plan, said that he welcomes suggestions such as the Clarence River Scheme to his inquiry.

### The Anger of the People Grows

On Oct. 13, two meetings were held in Deniliquin, in New South Wales. At the morning meeting, 1,000 people got inside before they shut the doors. Then, the 300 outside showed how angry they were at being locked out, throwing the MBDA report into a bonfire. The afternoon meeting was attended by 500 people.



EIRNS/Doug Mitchell

*Five thousand angry people showed up for a meeting in Griffith, New South Wales, to express support for the Murray-Darling farmers; the LYM distributed 4,000 flyers.*

There was a spotlight on the speaker on stage, like in comedy acts: “Oh, that looks like a target,” said one person. The first question was, “You haven’t given people a chance to read the report—how do you expect this to be an accountable process?” Another man proposed building dams, by bringing water from the north, and building infrastructure. LYM member Lars Thystrup asked a question on the Clarence River Scheme, “You’re willing to spend all this money to shut down the basin, but why don’t we build the Clarence River Scheme to increase the water and develop the basin?” He got a round of applause. The panel answered by referring to their response to an earlier questioner: “Locals won’t be happy, you’re stealing their water.” Look at the lies they try to tell to demoralize people! The LYM distributed 400-500 flyers and several contacts were made in organizing afterwards.

On Oct. 14, the MDBA circus moved to Griffith, also in New South Wales. Word had spread the previous day that 5,000 people were expected. And that proved to be correct. In fact, a number of businesses stayed closed in the morning, to allow their personnel to attend the meeting, and show their support for the farmers.

The LYM members were joined by three CEC activists, one of whom had printed 5,000 color flyers, and organized some women from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Group to help hand them out. Close to 4,000 flyers were distributed. Marquees were erected outside the main venue to accommodate the crowd, and in each



EIRNS/Doug Mitchell

*Some of those attending the Griffith meeting were so angry, they burned copies of the government's Murray Darling Basin Authority report. But such misdirected rage will not solve the problem: LaRouche's associates Down Under are fighting for a real, NAWAPA-style development program for Australia.*

was mounted a screen linking them into the main event. But even the marquees didn't accommodate all the crowd, which flowed into the car-park. When most people put their hands up to ask a question, they had our flyer in their hands!

From the very start, the air was almost electric with underlying rage. The audience booed and ridiculed the speakers. When Mike Taylor, the chief MDBA officer, apologized for fumbling through a slide show, one man shouted, "Yeah, well, you're doing well at fumbling everything else!"

One of the CEC supporters raised the Clarence River Scheme when he spoke to the meeting. He pointed out that in the ten years since the MDBA plan was drafted, the country has been in drought, so the people who wrote it have known nothing else. Their assumptions on the Murray-Darling system are false. Then he pointed out that building infrastructure to drought-proof the region was the solution, and explained how he used the dry period to clean out his dams and build new ones on his property, all of which are now full due to the rain. Instead of taking a regressive position on the basin, and rationing water, there needs to be more infrastructure and an increase in the volume of water. This could be done by building the Clarence River Scheme, which was designed by former Snowy engineers, in order to flow water from the coast into the Murray-Darling

system. This was very well received by the crowd.

Other angry comments from the audience:

- One man spoke of people being "on the edge of despair," and that there will be a rise in prescriptions after this meeting, and people will take their own lives: "How can you guys sleep at night?"

- "How can you make a recommendation taking water from us if you're an outsider? If you're not making a living out of the farming community, come and live here a while."

- "You've made no provision for looking after businesses if they fall over, but you've made provision for frogs and birds who go elsewhere if there's no water."

- "The whole Murray-Darling region and everyone that's going to be affected, what are they going to lose? Lives, families, jobs, businesses. We are going to take you to the biggest court case in the land ... for having idiots like you on the biggest payroll ever that we can only dream of

having one day, telling us 'we're gonna destroy your town.'" This man was very animated as he shouted and refused to use a microphone. He then went outside and started burning the report. People followed him out, and soon there was a big pile of about 200 of the reports on the fire.

Afterwards, the LYM continued to get flyers out to people as they left, telling people who already had one: "The government is trying to kill you. Join the CEC's fight to stop them." One man took a flyer and said it would photocopy it in color and give to 40 of his clients.

### **Real Leadership Needed To Win the Fight**

The Griffith meeting became a significant marker for what potentially could happen next in this battle. Either stepping up to a higher platform on which to fight: LaRouche's NAWAPA perspective, with a real green photosynthesis process; or giving up: an escalation in farmer suicides (which already has been too high), anarchy, or assassinations, elements of how a culture destroys itself, true Classical tragedy.

So, the LYM/CEC are about to release more material to steer this fight in the right direction. We are printing 40,000 flyers to distribute at the remaining meetings, and are rushing to produce a video on the Clarence River Scheme, which will soon be available at [www.cecaust.com.au](http://www.cecaust.com.au)