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AUSTRALIA'S FOREIGN POLICY NEEDS TO BE GROUNDED IN A CLEAR-EYED ASSESSMENT OF OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS. → How should we define Australia's national interests in a changing world? How should our values underpin Australia's foreign policy? What should we do differently? How can we do better?

Comment - we have already defined our national interests, security threats, foreign aid, international trade and investment. No need to change or redefine these. However what should we do differently? Focus on restructuring the farming industry/agricultural industry and create substantial start ups for people to create food crops for export. Lessen the imports and develop our own food for our own consumption and export it as well.

I read this article. The last line disturbs me. 32,000 tons? Why cannot Australia redevelop its land, its farming infrastructure to grow thousands of fruit trees and create jobs from that? Why are we importing orange concentrate? I tell you because it is cheap. Julie Bishop be daring enough to challenge the status quo.

Be upfront and work with the Agricultural Minister to develop Australia's land. Yes it will cost to redevelop the land and provide the infrastructure upfront but it will give people jobs to do.

### **The South Australian Citrus Board wants federal authorities to impose an interim ban on imports of orange juice concentrate from Brazil because of contamination concerns.**

The US Government is testing shipments of juice after traces of the potentially harmful fungicide carbendazim were found in cheap Brazilian concentrate.

The chemical is used to control a range of fungal diseases in fruit including mould, mildew, blight and rot.

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority is currently reviewing its use in Australia because of concerns it may cause birth defects.

Studies have shown the chemical may cause infertility in laboratory animals.

Australia imports 32,000 tonnes of frozen orange juice concentrate from Brazil every year.

We need to focus on Australian Jobs both here and overseas.

Australias unemployment is around 700,000 people and that figure is probably more if one takes into account underemployment. Look the point is this: Australia needs to find work for the unemployed and for graduates. I was astounded to be informed that 30% of graduates cant find jobs in their chosen field. This

will result in a brain drain and an attitude shift which has already happened. Australia's young people and middle aged are doing "their own thing" and it is reflected in parliament. Employers just want to pay the lowest rate possible (in the private sector) whereas government rates are good or acceptable. Coming back to my main point 700,000 people are waiting for a job to land.

Options: the government to do something different.

1. Allocate the gap year for students or those finishing grade 12 and for dole bludgers to go into one of the military. There is a large proportion of kids who don't have the right attitude towards work. It won't hurt them nor the politicians. For too long no one in Canberra has the guts to make it happen for fear of being voted out. Show some leadership please. If 50,000 people are placed into military establishments across Australia then 10% may continue with the job and join up which will boost our defense forces naturally. 45,000 will go back to mainstream life and have a renewed approach to work and social life and showing respect and manners to others. Please consider this.

2. Redevelop Australia's land- to create rich fertile food crops for export and lessen the unemployment for young school leavers.  
Please consider this.

02 AUSTRALIA HAS DIVERSE INTERESTS THAT SPAN THE GLOBE. → Which countries will matter most to Australia over the next 10 years? Why and in what ways? How should we deepen and diversify key relationships? → Which global trends, such as developments in technology, environmental degradation and the role of non-state actors, are likely to affect Australia's security and prosperity? How should Australia respond?

China is our biggest partner now. However the slow growth over there means that there will be a revolution in a few years. The revolt will come from the masses and ordinary Chinese will take over the government. It is becoming quite desperate as not every Chinese are rich. Over production of goods and a tariff of 45% from America on China imports will make it tough. However China will just demand America to pay back its debt it owes to them. We need to focus on having mandatory Mandarin language in all schools from a young age so that we can have young entrepreneurs or government staff speaking fluent Mandarin with Chinese officials or business owners in the future. The fact is that China and Hong Kong have all the money and are closer to us. Will we become Chinaustralia or Auschina with more tourists and people wishing to emigrate from China? I suspect. This is a trend now and more Chinese will come here. The majority are nice and welcoming but they also have their cultural nuances. Pauline and the xenophobics will just have to get used to it.

Australia will need to worry about North Korea.

Australia doesn't have to get involved in China's interests such as Taiwan or their relationship with North Korea (trade). Sometimes Australia has got a bit of finger in every pie but it doesn't need to.

03 AUSTRALIA IS AN INFLUENTIAL PLAYER IN REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS. → Which regional and global organisations matter most to us? How should we support and shape them? How can we maximise our influence?  
Focus on Red Cross and AusAid and WHO.

04 AUSTRALIA NEEDS TO BE AMBITIOUS IN GRASPING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES. → What steps should be taken to maximise our trade and investment and expand commercial opportunities for

Australian business? How can we ensure Australia is positioned to take advantage of opportunities in the global economy? What are the key risks to Australia's future prosperity and how should we respond?

Australians small business is dying from over competition. There are many companies who deal in the black market and do deals because they cant afford to pay their taxes and keep staff on and pay for insurances, rent, super and on and on. If a small business is a sole trader or employing less than 5 people then half their tax rate. Provide more incentives for small business. A small business cant turn into a big business without some help from the government.

See 01 above.

05 AUSTRALIA CONFRONTS A RANGE OF STRATEGIC, SECURITY AND TRANSNATIONAL CHALLENGES. → How can Australia best deal with instability beyond our borders? How can our foreign policy, including our overseas development assistance program, support a more prosperous, peaceful and stable region? How should our international engagement work to protect Australia against transnational security threats, such as terrorism?

Australia cant deal with instability beyond our border. Australia is part of the international policing and intelligence organisations so maintain the status quo. Look if Australia is dealing with a democratic country then we are on the same playing field with the same or similar views on how to treat its people, provide government services for disabled and elderly and communities etc. If Australia is dealing with a non-democratic society, communist country or one party then we cannot influence their ideology.

One of the main problems with "Terrorism" is overuse of the word in mainstream media around the world including Australia. Australia is giving it a voice and those terrorists love seeing it on TV being repeated again and again and again. Dont give them that voice. Australians and other have a right to know what happened but lets not keep harping on it. Put something positive on TV news like a new investment or infrastructure or focus on Australians doing great things overseas. They never get a voice. They may get an award here and there but no voice. But unfortunately Terrorists do something to maim, kill somebody and we are onto it. Sensationalism through the media needs to change. I am sick and tired waking up to murders, assaults, terrorism, fires, traffic accidents and other negative news. Change the media.

06 AUSTRALIA USES A RANGE OF ASSETS AND CAPABILITIES TO PURSUE OUR INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS. → What assets will we need to advance our foreign policy interests in future years? How can we best use our people and our assets to advance Australia's economic, security and other interests and respond to external events? → How can Government work more effectively with non-government sectors, including business, universities and NGOs, to advance Australia's interests?

Australia needs to focus on its next generation coming through. Australians aged 10-30 need to start learning another foreign language most likely Mandarin but Indonesian- Malaysian, Indian, Vietnamese. Arabic language will be important for those entering the intelligence services.

thanks

John