

Federal Election 2001 – terror begets more terror

These thoughts are my personal political opinions, and do not necessarily represent the views of any of the organisations I am involved in.

Terrorism

In 1974 I was living in Southampton, England, and commuting daily to London by express train and underground rail to the head office of Woolworths at Marylebone in the inner City.

The Irish Republican Army (IRA) started a campaign of terror in London by leaving briefcase bombs on the crowded station platforms in the rush hour.

On several occasions I was forced to evacuate the station because of a bomb or a 'scare'. It is a terrifying experience, worse the second and third time

On one occasion I was on a train that slowed and crept gently through an empty Baker Street Station, where one blast had killed 22 innocent commuters. It would have made a good suspense movie, but this was real life.

So I know what terrorism is like from the receiving end, and I abhor it. But trying to solve the problem of terrorism by using even more terror tactics is wrong. That isn't the way civilised societies should operate.

Isn't the Christian view supposed to be "to turn the other cheek"? I expect the Islamic view probably has a similar phrase. What is happening in Afghanistan is a disgrace. It is a perfect example of what is wrong with this world. Overwhelming force is being let loose on an innocent population. That is terrorism.

Likewise in Israel/Palestine. And do you think that the Israelis wouldn't use their nuclear weapons, if they 'had to'?

Did the USA stop and ponder the inhumanity of dropping two atomic bombs on Japan? No – as soon as the first bomb was ready for delivery, it was used on a major city. The second bomb was of a different design, so that the scientists could compare the results on the two cities. They have since gone on to develop bombs hundreds of times more powerful than Hiroshima, and they have thousands

of them in their arsenal. Does this arsenal add or subtract to Terrorism?

I should like to ask Howard what he thinks the USA should do when the terrorists buy themselves a nuclear weapon. They can put it in a shipping container and send it from anywhere in the world to anywhere else, and when it arrives at its target port it automatically detonates, wiping out all of New York, or Sydney, or Cairns.

Do you incinerate all Afghanistan and the whole of the Hindu Kush and turn it into one large radioactive bomb-crater? And if you do, what do you think the "terrorists" will do next – because you know they have friends scattered throughout the world, who will stop at nothing ...

Refugees

Has anybody noticed how all the refugees turning up on our shores are the same people you saw six months ago on TV News fleeing from Afghanistan and Iraq – where the biggest terror is caused by the USA and its staunch ally, the UK, and its client states Australia, New Zealand, and Canada.

We have a refugee problem because the USA is terrorising innocent people into abandoning their home country. Howard and Beazley are both staunch supporters of this terror campaign.

Democracy and Freedom

The USA has rewarded the current lot of military dictators in Pakistan, who overthrew their democratically elected government at the point of a gun. They use tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannon on their citizens very day to break up protest riots.

The USA doesn't give a damn about Democracy and Freedom. It supports military dictators all over the world, whenever it suits their purposes, and Howard and Beazley do too. I am ashamed of the lot of them.

Voting

The person I support most strongly is Senator Bob Brown, of Australian Greens. I had the pleasure of driving him from Townsville to Cardwell a few years ago, when he

came to talk and to plant mangrove seedlings amongst the beachfront mangroves mutilated by Port Hinchinbrook. When we stopped at the Cardwell Gap Lookout, looking out over the Hinchinbrook Channel he paused and he said, "Surely no-one needs to have it explained to them why this area needs to be protected." He is a good man.

The Greens' Senate ticket for Queensland is headed by Sarah Moles, who led the opposition to the Eastlink project, and the Green candidate for Kennedy is Cherie Rivas, who lives in Bouli.

More fish killed

There has been another fish kill washed up on our beaches, this time on the east coast of Hinchinbrook. A 'Fresh Frozen Shrimp' plastic bin similar to those used on trawlers was picked up amongst the fish. The trawlermen are saying there is no evidence to show it was trawlers that caused it, and even if it was them, then it was against their rules.

The decision on whether it was an 'industry-related' occurrence is first made by EPA. If it is, then a report will go to DPI (Fisheries).

One wonders whether it will influence the Mission Beach no trawl zone decision.

Crocodiles

The Environment Minister, Dean Wells, has said that due to the attack on a child at Port Douglas, all crocodiles sighted off public beaches between Townsville and Port Douglas will now be considered "problem crocodiles", and that rather than relocating them to alternative natural locations, they will be sent to crocodile farms, which will be allowed to expand to cope with the numbers.

This proposal seems to be badly thought out. Crocodiles often change river systems as territories expand and contract. I have written to the Minister and to GBRMPA to ask if this change to natural processes is an acceptable impact on the ecology of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

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