

## **The Green's Agenda**

*By the Hon. Kevin Andrews, 2011, then shadow minister for Families, Housing and Human Services, for Quadrant Online. Also included in the KiS report, Government for the Silent Majority (see link in lists of Posts).*

The Greens operate from a set of ideological principles and beliefs that extend beyond the warm, cuddly environmentalism they wrap themselves in. While ‘environmentalism’ lies at the core of the Greens’ ideology, their policies, if ever enacted, would radically change the economic and social culture of Australia.

While the Greens appeal to an alliance of young, tertiary-educated students and professionals, the party has increasingly been infiltrated at the parliamentary level by members of the hard left.

### **Infiltrated by members of the hard left**

The description of ‘ecological Marxism’ sums up the two core beliefs of the Greens. First, the environment or the ecology is to be placed before all else. Second, the Greens are Marxist in their philosophy and display the same totalitarian tendencies of all previous forms of Marxism as a political movement; totalitarian meaning the subordination of the individual in the impulse to rid society of all elements that, in the eyes of the adherent, mar its perfection.

For the Greens, a pristine global environment represents earthly perfection. It underpins their ‘ecological wisdom’ and is at the core of their ethic. It is to be protected and promoted at all costs. Hence, all old growth forests are to be locked up; logging is to be prohibited; wealth is to be scorned; economic growth is opposed; exclusive ownership of property is questioned; there should be a moratorium of fossil fuels exploration; dam construction should be discouraged; genetic engineering and agricultural monoculture is rejected; world trade should be reduced; and a barter economy encouraged. It explains why the Greens believe the world’s population is excessive and should be reduced, and why human consumption should be cut.

### **The Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

The Greens also call for ‘the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to be amended to include rights to a healthy natural environment and intergenerational rights to natural and cultural resources’. In turn, the Greens would be able to rely on international courts and fora to press their agenda. The Greens’ belief in their environmental nirvana manifests itself in a new coercive utopianism.

The Greens’ ‘ecological wisdom’ is the principle upon which all other policies are founded: ‘economic development must be compatible with, *and subservient to*, ecological sustainability’. Consistent with this principle, the Greens advocate high levels of state ownership in the economy and an expanded role for the bureaucracy, including an extensive international regulatory bureaucracy. They advocate government ownership of natural monopolies, and government investment in strategic assets. They question economic growth, advocate higher taxes and seek the introduction of death duties and resource taxes. Wealth is

scorned. The fact that wealth generation has resulted in economic prosperity for both individuals and the nation, and lifted many people out of poverty, is of less significance than the deification of the environment.

### **Secondary boycotts and industry-wide strikes**

The Greens would privilege unions, providing more extensive right-of-entry provisions, abolish secret ballots for union action, water down independent contractors' legislation, abolish the Building and Construction Commission, and introduce a minimum of five weeks annual leave. They would allow secondary boycotts and industry-wide strikes. The Greens also support the privileged position of unions in New South Wales to be able to prosecute work and safety breaches and profit from the actions. Despite the boast in 1996 that 'we do not get money from big business or the big trade unions', the Greens have been recipients of substantial donations from left-wing unions in recent years.

The Green's Global Charter advocates 'eliminating the causes of population growth'. Elsewhere, they propose limiting the expansion of cities, opposing freeways, and imposing eco-taxes. In their policy documents, the Greens state that 'population policy should not be driven by economic goals or to counter the effects of an ageing population'.

### **The world is overpopulated**

Consistent with their belief that the world is overpopulated and the environment is in danger, the Greens want to reduce immigration. The reduction should be in the numbers of skilled immigrants, while numbers in the refugee and humanitarian categories should be increased. The Greens propose an open-door policy for asylum-seekers. They would increase the number of places, remove mandatory detention laws, abolish the rule against refugees gaining permanent protection if they had spent time in a third country, restore the migration zone to include places like Christmas Island and Ashmore Reef, provide immediate legal assistance to all claimants and allow free movement around the nation with access to services.

In addition, the Greens propose that 'Australia adopts a definition of environmental refugees in its assessment criteria and works in the UN system for inclusion of a definition in the United Nations Refugee Convention'.

The Greens' documents speak of 'participatory democracy' as one of their foundation principles, but they favour global and central decision-making: Hence the creation and expansion of international bodies, including the United Nations and new world environmental courts.

### **Conclusion**

What is at stake in the Greens' 'revolution' is the heart and soul of Western civilisation, built on the Judeo-Christian/Enlightenment synthesis that upholds the individual—with obligations and responsibilities to others, but ultimately judged on his or her own conscience and actions—as the possessor of an inherent dignity and inalienable rights. What is also at stake is the

economic system that has resulted in the creation of wealth and prosperity for the most people in human history.'