

Australia's Productivity & Competitiveness – Overview

By Ron Manners – www.mannkal.org

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For the past two months we have featured the hot topic of Australia's slipping productivity and competitiveness.

This topic is of major concern to anyone who wonders if Australia will ever achieve its true potential.

Great feedback was received with many people commenting on the major advances that were made in the 1980s (major mining productivity reforms stimulated by Charles Copeman, see his tribute below) and more recently in the 1990s (waterfront reforms stimulated by Chris Corrigan and Peter Scanlon), but instead of a new breed of strong management emerging to follow these examples, the soft option of appeasement was followed and the result is obvious for all to see.

- Car manufacturing – exported from Australia.
- Food processing – exported from Australia.
- Our mineral exploration expertise and capital – often exported from Australia.

Our mining industry productivity has slipped, in many cases, 50% since 2000 (see later comment).

If you would like an insight into the way that Australia's Maritime Union is throttling our North West Oil and Gas projects, just read Grace Collier's comment on the *Corruption seen on the high seas (Australian Financial Review – 24th May, 2014)* - [here](#).

So, in this concluding (Part 3) of our Focus on Productivity we have brought together the various comments made so far (below).

We are happy to receive and publish any specific examples of 'impediments to productivity'.

There is much more to this issue than the daily media's demands for a lower A\$ and further reductions of interest rates.

A fundamental restructuring of defectively lopsided industrial agreements will require management to act in the interests of their shareholders and the nation at large.

Where is the strong management and political will to steer Australia back to productive prosperity?

Follow these links to overview the existing problem.

- Introductory comments to AMPAC Conference (text) - [here](#)
- Introductory comments AMPAC Conference (video) - [here](#)
- Chris Davis AusIMM presentation (video) - [here](#)
- Prof. Ian Plimer's AMPAC Conference presentation (video) - [here](#)
- Tribute to Charles Copeman: 1930 – 2013 - [here](#)
- (& again) Grace Collier's AFR article, 24th May, '13 - [here](#)
- We've wasted the boom: Cutifani - [here](#)
- Andrew Forrest – Taxation on Housing FBT - [here](#)