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Rendezview

Miranda Devine: Foreign-funded green groups could take whole swathes of Australia out of the productive economy

Apart from Hillary Clinton and Julia Gillard's friendship, what does Australia get from the Clinton Foundation for donating all that cash? A whole lot of trouble, writes Miranda Devine.

Miranda Devine 4 min read October 30, 2016 - 12:00AM News Corp Australia Network 0 comments

Apart from the friendship between Hillary Clinton and Julia Gillard, what does Australia get from the Clinton Foundation for donating all that cash? A whole lot of trouble is what. (Pic: AFP Photo/Pool/William West)

Rendezview

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Hillary Clinton and Julia Gillard have a lot in common — and it's not just the ladylike shoes and matching

pearl earrings.

They both love to play the gender card, turning their immense privilege into victim status and dividing the electorate by sex.

Thus, Gillard nobbled Tony Abbott with her fabled misogyny speech and Clinton's machine manages to drown out every Wikileaks embarrassment with a new Donald Trump bimbo eruption.

The other thing the two ladies have in common is the Clinton Foundation, which Wikileaks emails now show is an influence-peddling political slush fund.

And guess which country was one of its biggest donors? Australia. Yep, we're up there with Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

The Australian taxpayer shovelled at least \$88 million into the Clinton Foundation and associated entities from 2006 to 2014, reaching a peak of \$10.3 million in 2012-13, Gillard's last year in office.

On the Clinton Foundation website, AusAID and the Commonwealth of Australia score separate entries in the \$10 million-plus group of donors, one rung up from American teacher unions.

In 2009-10 Kevin Rudd handed over another \$10 million to the foundation for climate research, part of \$300 million he squandered on a Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute.

Gillard also donated \$300 million of our money to the Clinton-affiliated Global Partnership for Education.

Lo and behold, she became chairman in 2014 and has been actively promoting Clinton as president ever since — in a campaign video last December slamming Trump, in opeds trumpeting the next woman president and in appearances with Clinton spruiking girls' education.

The Abbott government topped up the left-wing organisation's coffers with another \$140 million in 2014, bringing total Australian largesse to \$460 million, according to a press release from Foreign Minister Julie Bishop.





Hillary Clinton and Julia Gillard share a lot in common — peal earrings, playing the gender card ... and the influence-peddling political slush fund that is the Clinton Foundation. (Pic: David Caird/News Corp Australia)

And yet, apart from the beautiful friendship with Gillard, what did Australia get from the Clintons for all that cash?

A whole lot of trouble is what.

The latest treasure trove of Wikileaks emails released last week shows that Australian green groups have been secretly funded to destroy our coal industry by environmental activists connected to the Clinton campaign.

The email account of Clinton's campaign chairman John Podesta reveals extraordinary details of the sabotage of the \$16 billion Adani coalmine in Queensland, which has damaged Australia's national interest and denied cheap electricity to millions of poor Indians.

Last August John Hepburn, former Greenpeace activist and founder of Australian anti-coal group the Sunrise Project, sent a crowing email to his American paymasters, the Sandler Foundation, which is also a major donor to the Clinton Foundation. (Founder Herb Sandler and mate George Soros funded another Clinton-aligned progressive group, the Centre for American Progress, previously chaired by Podesta.)

“The Adani Carmichael mine and the whole Galilee Basin fossil fuel industrial complex is in its death throes,” Hepburn wrote in the email forwarded to Podesta.

“I am going to buy a few bottles of bubbly for a celebration with the (Environmental Defenders Office) legal team, our colleagues at GetUp, Greenpeace, 350.org, ECF, Australian Youth Climate Coalition, Mackay Conservation Group, Market Forces and the brilliant and tireless Sunrise team.”





Sunrise Project anti-coal agitator John Hepburn. (Pic: Supplied)





Hillary Clinton's campaign manager John Podesta. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

In another email forwarded to Podesta, Hepburn panics about an Abbott government inquiry into environmental charities and discusses hiding Sunrise's sources of funding to safeguard its charitable tax status.

Hepburn boasts about the latest legal blow to Adani, when the Federal Court overturned its approval and the Commonwealth Bank quit the project.

In it he now wants to “escalate the campaign towards the other 3 big Australian banks”.

And he mocks miners who “try to claim that there is some kind of foreign-funded and tightly orchestrated conspiracy to systematically destroy the Australian coal industry. (I seriously don't know where they get these wacky ideas from!)”

As if it's not bad enough that foreign-funded activists are meddling with our largest export earner, Podesta's emails also detail their insidious influence on indigenous land owners who blocked the Adani mine using powerful native title rights.

This alliance of green groups with native title owners is a frightening development detailed in a new book by historian Keith Windschuttle, *The Break-up of Australia: The Real Agenda behind Aboriginal Recognition*.

He reveals the imminent expansion of native title claims, either approved or quietly being processed, stretch across a whopping 60 per cent of the Australian continent, an area twice the size of Western Europe.



Anti-Adani mine protesters. (Pic: Anna Rogers/News Corp Australia)

Already 6000sq km of the Kidman cattle empire in the Kimberley has been given, via native title, to green activists to be converted from productive cattle country to a wildlife conservation area.

“In return, the Yulumbu people get a paltry \$50,000 a year royalty,” Windschuttle writes.

“As a flora and fauna sanctuary it is economically defunct for the foreseeable future.”

At worst, writes Windschuttle, the upcoming referendum for indigenous constitutional recognition, proposed by Gillard in 2012, could pave the way for a separate Aboriginal state on native title land, funded by taxation, royalties and lease payments — passive welfare in another guise.

At the very least, the alliance between foreign-funded green groups and indigenous owners gives environmentalists the opportunity to take whole swathes of Australia out of the productive economy and shut down industries they don't like, from coal mines in Queensland to cattle farms in Western Australia.

Thanks for nothing, Hillary and Julia.

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