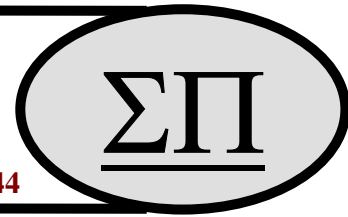


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The RAINBOW 2000[©] PROJECT.

(Incorporating Albany Anzac 2014-18[©] Re-enactment and Albany Bicentennial 2026-27[©])

Neil Smithson for O'Connor MHR 2010

Good morning and welcome – I am your Independent Candidate for O'Connor.

First - a little bit about myself for those who do not know me.

I am 50 years old, married to **Denise** Smithson, and together we have a young 3 year old daughter.

I was educated at Christ Church Grammar School in Perth, and attended Curtin University where I graduated with a **Master Degree in Planning** for Urban and Regional Studies – my professional forte is Regional Economic Development, and I like big picture planning.

I am a Corporate Member of the **Planning Institute of Australia**; the Environmental Institute of Australia & New Zealand; and the National Environmental Law Association.

I now run my own Planning & Environmental Consultancy based in Albany having previously worked in four States, 12 regions and with 38 cities around Australia. I have also done some consulting work overseas for groups like the **United Nations** Development Program.

I attend St. Johns Anglican Church in Albany, and am a member of Rotary International, having served as a two-time **Past President** of the Rotary Club of Albany. I am also a Past Senior Vice President of the Albany CCI, and enjoy the odd game of hockey – coaching, playing and umpiring.

In 2003, I was admitted to His Royal Highness Prince Phillip the Duke of Edinburgh **Commonwealth Study Conference**, and I am also an associate of Future Directions International, the former Governor-General Major General Michael Jeffrey's research and policy organisation.

PAUSE

Written & Authorised by Neil Smithson of 364 Middleton Road, Albany, Western Australia 6330

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There is a chart on my wall at work called Anzac planner, and it is there to remind me that in this world :

There are two types of **planner** :

1. Those that will say what can be done, and
2. Those that will say "you can't do that".

There are two types of **consultant** :

3. Those that will tell you what they think you want to hear, and
4. Those that will tell you what they think you need to know.

Everything said here today is available from the **website**.

If elected, these are the things I will support :

1. State Government of **Manypeaks** (Commonwealth of Australia)
2. State Government of **Recherche Goldfields** (Commonwealth of Australia)
3. **Population** growth and regional development throughout Australia
4. Uranium Mining & **Nuclear Power**
5. Port Corporations / **Seaport relocation** for Albany and Esperance
6. **Gas pipeline** from Bunbury via Albany to Esperance
7. **Railway lines** linking Newdegate, Lake King, Ravensthorpe & Esperance (400km)
8. **Railway line** linking Leonora, Wiluna & Newman (800km)
9. Anzac 2014-18 celebrations - **Albany Anzac** Re-enactment 2014 (\$100m)
10. **LNG Highways** - Albany, South Coast, Great Eastern, Goldfields, Esperance
11. **Bremer Basin** oil & gas exploration and **biofuels** research / production
12. **Desalination** for water supply - salinity management
13. **Carbon pricing** for CPRS emissions & renewable power generation
14. Private health insurance & regional **private hospitals**
15. **Empowerment**, self-determination & private enterprise.

If elected, these are the things I would not support :

1. **Minerals Resource Rent Tax** (or the former RSPT) – it is not in regional Australia's interest to support this new tax
2. More government from or by Canberra & Perth – it is **spurious** to suggest that either Perth or Canberra can do a better job locally than the people in our communities
3. Australian Constitutional Monarchists – I am sixth generation Australian and support the monarchy and Australia's heritage, but it is time we as a nation moved on to represent ourselves to the World as one society in freedom.

I noted with interest after the first so-called **leaders' debate** that the phrase '**Peak Oil**' did not feature once in the entire discussion.

There is a lot of information available from the website to justify my assessment of priorities, but by and large the most immediate major concern would be the emerging impact of Peak Oil.

This is reflected in my commitment to :

1. Uranium mining & nuclear power
2. Expanding the gas pipeline network
3. Extending and upgrading the railway network
4. Planning for LNG highways
5. Encouraging Bremer Basin oil & gas exploration
6. Desalination for water supply
7. Carbon pricing and renewable energy.

Most importantly, it is a pragmatic expression of how we as a community can address local and global **climate change** and the need to alter our energy management strategy – without nuclear power, a global solution is virtually unachievable. (McMahon & Davis, Murdoch University).

While a lot of O'Connor people are concerned about the Government's proposed Mineral Tax (**RSPT** or **MRRT**), in my opinion there are valid grounds to oppose the legislation in both the Australian Constitution and Parliament.

The main concern with either mining tax would be if the **Greens** hold the balance of power in either the House and / or the Senate.

This effectively would mean that Australians change the basis of taxation in this country, without constitutional referendum, so as to supplement ongoing **federal budget deficits** where the government can't make ends meet now.

I think it takes courage to place your family in a boat, and head out across the seas in pursuit of a new and better life. The **refugee** migration issue is consuming too much political time, money and opportunity for us all, and I would handle the problem differently to make the process work for Australia's interests.

There is no doubt in my mind that regional Australia can support **population** growth, whether that is a function of birth rate or **migration**.

People are looking for government to say what can be done – clear concise guidance based on good **planning** that removes both red and green tape to instil confidence and encourage investment.

Private enterprise is the foundation of our society – and my strategy is unashamedly pro-business & commonsense. The alternative is government intervention – which can only take place as a function of taxation.

Most people believe that **Royalties for Regions** has been a boon, and I agree – so try to imagine the return on investment to a State Government of Manypeaks and Recherche Goldfields.

It's a political question – was Albany ever capable of thinking and acting like a capital city for a new **State of Australia** – the legislation certainly permits it, but is there the community will to progress.

For Kalgoorlie, Esperance and the **Goldfields**, there are potentially huge financial resources available to spread their wings and grow. Indeed, the strategy I have outlined will open up the entire south coast and eastern inland areas for development.

It really boils down to whether you think Perth acts in the best interest of the regions. And now **Canberra** wants its share as well.

Albany **Anzac** 2014-18 should be self-explanatory – Australia's #1 cultural heritage event deserves to be celebrated in style and with reflection. And then follows the **Bicentennial** celebrations for Albany of 2026-27.

It was the Coalition that established and oversaw the **Agribusiness** MIS taxation scheme. It was Federal Labor that has subsequently established **Infrastructure Australia**, Regional Development Australia and now the National Anzac Centenary Commission.

No-one spends \$40 million dollars over 4 years on a planning & environmental assessment process that ends in a fatally flawed project. **Grange Resources** is going to want a solution for its \$1.7b Southdown iron ore project at Wellstead, and Albany wants the employment & investment.

If the Hon. Simon O'Brien MLC – WA's Minister for Transport permits Grange to access the road reserves of the Albany ring road and Princess Royal Drive for its slurry pipe, then that will limit the future expansion capacity of any road or rail improvement for Albany port access – not to dismiss the interim construction management program and its impact on freight transport.

Main Roads and the **Australian Rail Group** have said exactly that, and if you are familiar with the Old Woolstores site, then I don't support pushing that onus onto private landowners who have different aspirations for the future of their waterfront property.

If the Minister doesn't give Grange Resources access, and the various **Waterfront** projects do proceed, as they eventually will – well, as a qualified planner, I am particularly interested in each of the other O'Connor candidates' solution for this problem – they will need a solution if elected.

The **Rainbow 2000[®] Project** was written in 1997, and in essence, the City of Albany, the Great Southern Development Commission, the State and Federal Governments on both sides have all declined on multiple occasions over 13 years to even be briefed.

This is a project that will create 30,000 jobs and lead to billions in investment through superannuation funds and infrastructure partnerships – it is everything all major parties espouse should be happening – the problem is that it just wasn't their idea (**intellectual property**).

Over the past decade, the community of Albany has effectively by-passed opportunities to relocate the Port of Albany during the \$120m Grain Upgrade, the \$150m introduction of the Plantation Timber industry, and now the would be \$1.7b Iron Ore industry – all as a function of the fragmentation of state **governance**, if not the direct intervention of State politics and commercial monopoly.

In this time, there has been significant growth in cruise shipping, and had the **Port of Albany** expanded and relocated to an area with ten times the current land backed area (and permanent ring road access including rail), it would have freed up the current port area for tourism and property development just like Bunbury & Geraldton.

In fact, **Rainbow 2000**[©] was documented before Oakajee, and we all know where Geraldton and the Mid-West are heading with future expansion. Those same arguments apply to Esperance, but it is a much harder task.

There are also significant future sea port **opportunities** associated with containerisation, fisheries, oil & gas, fuel bunkering, livestock export and military vessel support, as well as airport expansion to international status for tourism, hospitality and freight logistics supporting specialist agricultural export activities, education, commerce, retail, manufacturing, etc.

I have been studying this for thirteen years now, and **port relocation** is the only solution – several people have already said exactly that, including the Federal Member for O'Connor.

I believe the O'Connor electorate should make a definitive statement to counter the Greens in the Senate – otherwise **Uranium** mining and **nuclear** power will languish for another decade, with climate change the worse off.

Your vote is very important, and this election is about choosing a future for ourselves. That starts now with your choice for **O'Connor** in the House of Representatives, and the Western Australian senate team.

Thank you for your attention today. I would **appreciate** your support, and promise you that I will do my best for O'Connor.

Neil R. Smithson

Independent Candidate for O'Connor 2010

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**How to vote : O'Connor
House of Representatives
Green Ballot Paper**

- | | | |
|----------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 8 | Huntley, Andy | (Greens) |
| 9 | Robinson, Jean | (CEC) |
| 2 | Tuckey, Wilson | (Liberal) |
| 5 | Scallan, Pat | (FFP) |
| 7 | Young, Jacky | (CDP) |
| 4 | Crook, Tony | (National) |
| 6 | Stokes, Geoffrey | (ESJAP) |
| 3 | Bishop, Ian | (Labor) |
| 1 | Smithson, Neil | (Ind) |

I will finalise my preferences after the August
CCI forums in Albany (6th) & Kalgoorlie (13th).

**How to vote : WA Senate
Large White Ballot Paper**

- 1 Liberal** (above the line)

The **RAINBOW** 2000[©] PROJECT.

(Incorporating Albany Anzac 2014-18[©] Re-enactment and Albany Bicentennial 2026-27[©])

- a Regional Planning Strategy for Albany and the Great Southern.

The Rainbow 2000[©] Project is a doctoral research & corporate investment program analysing the relationship between planning and politics in Economic Development in Australia, and more particularly a case study of Albany & the Great Southern Region of Western Australia – thesis : Is planning the antithesis of politics?

The following is a proposed model for regional governance evolution embracing Federal, State, Regional and Local transitional arrangements for a period of four years from proclamation (open elections thereafter).

BEFORE (Western Australia)

Federal Member for O'Connor (Tuckey)
Senators for Western Australia (12)

3 Members of Legislative Assembly

Member for Albany (Watson)
Member for Blackwood-Stirling (Redman)
Member for Wagin (Waldron)

3 Members of Legislative Council

Member for South-west (McSweeney)
Member for South-west (Holt)
Member for Agricultural (Benson)

Great Southern Development Commission

Chairman GSDC (Rundle)

Southern Aboriginal Corporation

Noongar Elder (Penny)

14 LGAs of the Great Southern

Mayor, City of Albany
Deputy Mayor, City of Albany
President, Shire of Denmark
President, Shire of Plantagenet
President, Shire of Cranbrook
President, Shire of Kojonup
President, Shire of Broomehill / Tambellup
President, Shire of Gnowangerup
President, Shire of Jerramungup
President, Shire of Woodanilling
President, Shire of Katanning
President, Shire of Kent
President, Shire of Wagin
President, Shire of Dumbleyung
President, Shire of Lake Grace

AFTER (Manypeaks)

Federal Member for Manypeaks (Smithson)
Senator for Manypeaks (1)

3 Members of Legislative Council

Member for Albany
Member for Stirling
Member for Piesse

3 Members of Legislative Council

Member for Great Southern
Member for Great Southern
Member for Great Southern

1 Member of Legislative Council

Member for Great Southern

1 Member of Legislative Council

Member for Noongars

15 Members of Legislative Assembly

Member for Frederickstown
Member for Vancouver
Member for Denmark
Member for Plantagenet
Member for Cranbrook
Member for Kojonup
Member for Broomehill Tambellup
Member for Gnowangerup
Member for Jerramungup
Member for Woodanilling
Member for Katanning
Member for Kent
Member for Wagin
Member for Dumbleyung
Member for Lake Grace

BEFORE (Western Australia)

AFTER (Recherche Goldfields)

A similar model for regional governance evolution would be worked up in consultation with stakeholders for Recherche Goldfields (with Kalgoorlie as the State capital), again embracing Federal, State, Regional and Local transitional arrangements for a period of four years from proclamation (open elections thereafter).