

John Madigan – Independent Senator

September 2014

Senator John Madigan is an independent Senator for Victoria elected at the 2010 Federal election. As a result of the 2013 Federal election, Senator Madigan now forms part of a key group of minor party and independent cross bench Senators that hold the balance of power in the Senate.

Senator Madigan was originally elected on the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) ticket, and served as the first federal representative of the DLP since 1974. The DLP is a socially-conservative, decentralist political party of the labour tradition.

On 4 September 2014, Senator Madigan announced his resignation from the DLP. In his resignation, Senator Madigan reaffirmed his commitment to the DLP’s longstanding values and principles, stating “I haven’t left the DLP, the DLP left me.” Senator Madigan also confirmed his support for manufacturing and farming jobs, protecting the vulnerable and upholding the sanctity of human life, in line with broad DLP policy.

The Hawker Britton Occasional Paper on the Senate is available [here](#).

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Key principles

In his resignation, Senator Madigan restated his longstanding commitment to the key values and principles of the DLP. Key values of the DLP include:

Democracy—The DLP believes that real democracy requires a decent and secure livelihood for all—through wage justice, fair rewards for enterprise, adequate social security and equity in the determination of prices, interest rates and the level of taxation. The DLP supports limits upon the concentrations of power and resistance to the spread of totalitarian, supranationalist and other anti-democratic ideologies.

Liberty—The DLP espouses orthodox values and traditions and views the ethic of civic responsibility as the foundation for genuine human freedoms and the common good. This includes a belief in the sacredness of human life, from conception until natural death, as the fundamental basis for all human rights. The DLP’s faith in liberty extends to a belief in distributive democracy as the means to advance the welfare, status and development of the people and support basic freedoms and rights.



Peace—The DLP believes in the development of co-operative links between nations in matters of mutual interest, and the maintenance of a flexible and effective deterrent capability, multilateral armaments reduction and vigilance against unilateralism, pacifism and appeasement.

Key policies

Senator Madigan has also reaffirmed his support for key DLP policies. A list of key DLP policies promoted by Senator Madigan ahead of his resignation are listed below.

1. Agriculture

The DLP opposes the setting of domestic agricultural policy according to international trade agreements and has committed to 'protect Australian farmers from the consequences of those agreements'.

The DLP has developed a comprehensive policy model for the citrus industry. If the model is introduced, the DLP proposes implementing the above model across all horticultural sectors. The DLP proposes:

- immediate bans on Brazilian concentrate;
- a reversal the onus of proof should be placed for dumping allegations, requiring the overseas supplier/nation to prove that they are not dumping;
- local content rules establishing a minimum of 30 per cent Australian raw materials for all juices;
- a 50 per cent reduction in company tax on capital and equipment purchases for five years;
- a 12 month deferral of company tax for the citrus industry; and
- the introduction of selective tariffs will be introduced to protect the industry.

The full DLP agriculture policy is available [here](#).

2. Water

The DLP has called for an immediate moratorium on the current Murray Darling Basin Plan (MDBP), including:

- a review of all water acts;
- an immediate cessation to all water buy-backs;
- legislation to enable third party compensation for any person, entity, business or industry that is or has been impacted by the current or previous acts by any government decision/legislation since the MDBA process began.

The DLP has proposed its own water solution, which includes:

- construction of a 'Lock Zero' between Wellington and Tailem Bend to regulate minimal freshwater flow into Lake Alexandrina.
- manipulation of the barrages to control the water flow and allow the ocean to return the lower system to the estuarine system that nature created

- dredging of Bird Island downstream from the Mundoo Barrage; and
- the introduction of an engineering solution in regard to the operation of the Goolwa barrage to free up 2700 gigalitres back upstream as fresh water for food production.

The full DLP water policy is available [here](#).

The Hawker Britton Occasional Paper on the Murray Darling Basin Plan is available [here](#).

3. *Energy*

The DLP believes Australia should aim to become energy self-sufficient through:

- the exploration and development of new and traditional forms of power generation;
- the establishment of a national oil and gas reserve; and
- the preservation and conservation of a domestic capacity to refine oil.

Coal Seam Gas Mining: the DLP believes that there should be an immediate moratorium on all Coal Seam Gas (CSG) mining until independent scientific research, overseen by federal government representatives, can irrefutably prove it is entirely safe for people, the land and environment, and that there is no risk of contamination to water aquifers.

The DLP has pledged to actively pursue policy changes to institute the following requirements:

- all processes, material inputs and chemicals used in association with CSG should be declared, itemised and their use should be confinement on approval by the necessary regulatory bodies;
- the CSG industry and all those associated would be granted no exemptions to any water act regulations and licences; and
- a plan of action should be enforced to clean up any residual effects of CSG.

The full DLP policy on CSG is available [here](#).

Polywell Plasma Fusion: the DLP supports the Federal Government, in conjunction with Australian universities, academic and scientific institutions, and the CSIRO, to invest into the development of the Polywell system of technology.

The DLP policy on Polywell Plasma Fusion is available [here](#).

4. *Foreign Investment*

Foreign Ownership: the DLP believes there should be a Residential Sovereignty Protection Tax. This would tax foreign buyers of Australian residential property at a rate of 17.5% of the purchase price.

The DLP also believes there should be a Foreign Residential Exit Tax. This would tax foreign owners of Australian residential property at a rate of 50% on the profit made from the sale of that property.



No majority foreign owned entity or individual may own more than 2 hectares of Australian land.

The full DLP policy on foreign ownership is available [here](#).

Development Bank: the DLP proposes the establishment of a Federal Development Bank to provide a source of funding for infrastructure spending by the federal and state governments. The Development Bank would be Australian owned and operated, separate to the Reserve Bank of Australia and external to the Treasury and ongoing budget requirements. Legislative prohibitions on privatisation of the bank would also be enacted.

The DLP argues that by removing the Government's need to seeking funding in foreign markets, a Development Bank would both provide safe investment and build ongoing revenue for future infrastructure projects. The bank would also:

- reduce foreign debt and interest payments;
- relieve budgetary restraints;
- engage in and benefit from long term projects;
- strategically buy into selected industries to protect the nation's economic sovereignty; and
- remove the popular quick-fix and detrimental long term habit of the theft and sell-off of our state assets by governments.

The full DLP policy on their proposed Development Bank is available [here](#).

5. Trade

The Democratic Labour Party supports protectionism and Fair Trade. The DLP does not support Australia's current Free Trade Agreements and the diminution of Australia's tariff system. The DLP advocates selective control over capital inflow by the following measures:

1. a 'usefulness test' for all foreign capital injections
2. an Australian Development Bank (see above)
3. legal rights to Government that enable it to intervene when foreign companies exploit Australian resources to the detriment of the national interest;
4. greater controls on dumping; and
5. increased resources for the Australian government and Australian companies to control dumping within the Australian Domestic Market to be included in FTAs.

The DLP also supports restrictions on Australia's imports from countries which do not demonstrate basic workers' rights, and where manufactured goods do not meet Australian standards.

The full DLP trade policy is available [here](#).

6. *Regional Development*

The DLP supports the development of regional Australia in new regional development areas through low taxation rates to selected industries; low interest housing loans; and funding road and rail and energy infrastructure.

The full DLP regional development policy is available [here](#).

7. *Health*

The DLP proposes the establishment of an independent Health funding body to allocate funding on a needs basis, to be provided six months prior to the start of each financial year. The DLP proposes

- funding for hospitals accommodate the clinical training of medical postgraduates;
- adequate levels of nursing staff to allow for the provision of patient care based on needs; and
- more internships for all Australian-trained medical graduates, and an increased graduate placements for nurses.

The DLP believes that every Australian is entitled to access, equity and justice in the provision and allocation of healthcare. The DLP believes:

- federally-funded Medicare should remain the main provider of general practice services;
- health policies must integrate hospitals with primary care and community-based services.
- faith-based hospitals and health services are entitled to religious liberty and health care workers are entitled to freedom of conscience;
- patients have the right to be fully informed of their diagnosis, possible treatment, benefits, risks and side effects of treatment, and costs, and have the right to refuse treatment.

The full DLP health policy is available [here](#).

8. *Higher Education*

The DLP strongly supports higher education and believes the formation of undergraduate students is a time of utmost importance for both the students and the future of the nation.

Since the 2014–15 Federal Budget, the DLP has announced that it does not support the Government's changes to Higher Education, specifically the increase to university fees that '[enslave students to long term debt](#).'

More broadly, the DLP supports retention of Start Up Scholarships and advocates amendments to the *Social Security Act* to increase student support and welfare.

The full DLP higher education policy is available [here](#).

John Madigan – Background

John Madigan was elected Senator for Victoria at the 2010 Federal election, and commenced his term on 1 July 2011. John was the first federal representative of the Democratic Labour Party since 1974.

Before entering Parliament, John worked as a self-employed blacksmith. John served as the Vice-President (2008) and later as President of the DLP Victoria (2009). Later in 2009, John became Vice-President of the Federal Democratic Labour Party.

On 4 September 2013, Senator Madigan resigned from the DLP. Senator Madigan remains committed to the DLP's

Senator Madigan is an ardent promoter of Australian industry and the importance of the family and local community as the foundation stones of Australian society.

Electoral history of the DLP

The DLP is the modern formation of the former Democratic Labor Party, a conservative anti-communist party which arose out of the Australian Labor Party (ALP) split in 1955 until the DLP voted for dissolution in 1978.

1950s–1970s: formation to dissolution

The Democratic Labor Party emerged from the split in the Australian Labor Party in the 1950s and arose in opposition to the perceived extent of communist influence in the union movement and its concomitant impact on the ALP's foreign affairs and defence policies.

Although the DLP has not won a seat in the House of Representatives at a federal election, it proved successful in many Senate elections.

DLP representation in the Australian Senate (source: APH Library)

Senators	State	Party	Years in office
Condon Byrne	QLD	ALP then QLP from 1957 DLP from 1968	1951–1959 (8 years) 1968–1974 (6 years)
George Cole	TAS	ALP DLP from 1957	1950–1965 (15 years)
Vincent Gair	QLD	DLP	1965–1974 (9 years)
John Kane	NSW	DLP	1970–1974 (4 years)
Francis McManus	VIC	ALP DLP from 1957	1956–1962 (6 years) 1965–1974 (9 years)
John Little	VIC	DLP	1968–1974 (6 years)
John Madigan	VIC	DLP	2011–

The Parliamentary Library history of the Democratic Labor Party, which provides greater detail on the nature of the split, the actions of the party in the 1950s, 1960s and its dissolution in the 1970s is available [here](#).

2000s-Present: the modern DLP

In 2006, the DLP contested the Victorian state election. The party polled 1.97 per cent of the first preference vote. In the Western Victoria Region, the DLP received 2.70 per cent of the vote, and DLP candidate Peter Kavanagh was elected with ALP preferences.

After nearly 40 years out of the Federal Parliament, DLP candidate John Madigan won the final Victorian Senate seat in the 2010 Federal election with 2.33 per cent of the primary vote. Senator Madigan's victory was assisted by preferences from One Nation, the Christian Democrats and the Liberal Democrats.