

Urban elites mustn't ignore regional voices

Kristian Jenkins

It's old news. Most who follow the thread of cultural and political "progress" recognise that those with the persistent temerity to question "progressive" dogma leave themselves open to condemnation.

Australia, like the rest of old Christendom, has long been post-Christian. Hallelujah, many cry. Fewer though are happy to celebrate the advent of the post-liberal society which is forming around us, and when the inevitable post-democratic world dawns in the near future, those shouts of exaltation will fall silent altogether. It will be too late then, however, to turn back.

In a truly confounding display of self-sabotage, which could only ever be conceived of within the human spirit, the West has, for multiple generations, been hell-bent on tearing out its vital roots. That task is essentially complete now, so it can hardly come as a surprise to see the trunk and branches withering around us.

And it shouldn't any longer surprise us when decent people of good faith have their legitimate views on any number of social and political issues summarily dismissed as bigoted and hateful. Indeed, if that were the extent of it, that would be too much, but in fact it's the decent people of good faith *themselves* who are dismissed as bigoted and hateful, merely for holding views which aren't sanctioned by the illiberal metropolitan elite.

To hold conservative opinions is to be anathema. Even to maintain classical liberal views is increasingly risky. Unless you can parrot the identity-politics slogans of the leftist cultural Marxists who dominate public opinion today, you can expect to be regarded as beyond the pale.

Where does this leave regional and rural communities?

If the recent same-sex marriage survey is a reliable guide of regional opinion then we can say that it leaves a large segment of them marginalised, along with anyone else who can't subscribe to the new "progressive" manifesto.

Of the three electorates who voted "No" in Queensland all three were rural, and even where regional communities returned a majority "Yes" vote the split was more often closer to 50/50 than the approximate 60/40 split returned by the country as a whole (with the notable exception of Victoria).

So we can see that in this case, just like in state and federal elections, regional communities tend to vote for conservative policies and candidates more frequently than their inner-metropolitan counterparts.

Therefore we can say that many in regional and rural communities will have to get used to having their political outlook ridiculed, and worse, will have to get used to the external imposition of policies which will decimate traditions and institutions which have served their communities for generations.

Many will celebrate this fact, but it's an ominous tendency which should terrify those interested in maintaining the freedoms we have grown accustomed to in Australia. The left has always been partly defined by the totalitarian sub-strata which seams through it, and as it wins more and

more cultural victories we will see that the swelling triumphalism displayed in their recent victory on SSM will come to be regarded as nothing more than celebratory high-jinx compared with the cruel policy imposition which is coming.

Until there is a counter-swing against the “progressive” cultural and political momentum, many in regional and rural Australia will have to join other traditional communities – indigenous Australians, immigrant populations, faith communities, older people, conservatives and others – in either fighting back, or learning to live as a pariah people.

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