

A photograph of an emu standing in a dry, grassy field. The emu is facing left, with its head turned slightly towards the camera. The background is a blurred, dry landscape with some trees in the distance.

Fight with the
Flightless: Australian
Federal Cabinet,
1932

AUSTRALIA

MUNUC 38

Model United Nations of the University of Chicago

CHAIR LETTER

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to MUNUC 38! I'm Lucas, and I'm super excited to be your Chair for *Fight with the Flightless: Australian Federal Cabinet, 1932*! Elliott, Aiden, and I have put tremendous effort into researching and bringing this committee to life for you, and we hope you'll come out with a newfound appreciation for all things Emu War just as we have!

Before I go into why we chose this committee topic and why we're so excited for it, I will introduce myself a bit! I'm a third-year triple majoring in Economics, Public Policy, and Environment, Geography, and Urbanization (CEGU). I grew up in the DC area, but my family is from Brazil. Outside of MUN, I sail and take part in the Brazilian Student Association and Outdoor Adventures club. In my free time, I love hiking, biking, and exploring Chicago neighborhoods!

As part of my interest in policy, geography and urbanization, I love thinking about the consequences of policy decisions and how they can affect natural landscapes and wildlife. The Great Emu War is no different — it was a wildlife management program that became necessary due to a series of questionable decisions by the Australian government in terms of farming on and developing its agricultural interior. The other considerations that accompany the Emu War, such as the Great Depression and infighting among the Australian cabinet, makes the time period especially interesting.

Because of this, 1930s Australia will be the perfect backdrop for you to formulate creative solutions and engage with an interesting and unconventional conflict. As you do so, be

sure that you are familiar with MUNUC ethics guidelines and general crisis mechanics! I'm looking forward to a great weekend and please reach out if you have any questions!

Your Chair,

Lucas

lucaszr@uchicago.edu

CRISIS DIRECTOR LETTERS

Dear Delegates,

Welcome, mates, to the Land Down Under! Your support and expertise could not have come at a better time to our emu-ravaged Outback. My name is Aiden Wetterhan, and I will be your CD for this committee. I am a second-year at the University of Chicago, majoring in Classics and Religious Studies. I still remember my first committee: the successful Partition of India, the much loathed Fall of the Roman Republic, and all the moments of hard work, experimentation, and comradery that got us there. Over the years, I have tried my hand at every committee type, and there is nothing I like as much as taking part in a historical crisis committee. Here, you will find plenty of opportunities for political intrigue, chaotic crisis arcs, and heartfelt speeches to win over other delegates and fight for the interests of your constituents and the survival of your nation.

On campus when I am not participating in MUN, you can find me translating ancient texts with our Classical Translation team (my favorite of which is the Aeneid), having theological debates, and fighting for my Houses' glory in Intramural sports. I also enjoy writing novel works and commentaries in my free time on topics ranging from poetry to political theory and ethics. Whether this is your first or final MUN competition in high school, I hope to make it a memorable one for you and to embark with you all on this whimsical journey of remembering, remaking, and proving the timeless import of this most intriguing political moment. I cannot wait to see you all in committee! Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Your CD,

Aiden Wetterhan

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Dear Delegates,

G'day, mates, and welcome to MUNUC 38! As a onetime resident of Melbourne myself (granted, I was five years old and thus memories are hazy), this is a committee topic near and dear to my heart. All our hopes and dreams travel with you as the Federal Cabinet battles against the ravaging hordes of emus threatening the lifeblood of Western Campion. Australia is truly a land unto itself. The unique mix of British culture and bespoke adaptations to a sun-baked continent-nation makes the Australian people inimitably resourceful, clever, and resilient – skills that will surely come in handy given the bevy of threats facing your committee. A little bit about myself – I'm a third-year Archaeology and Spanish major here at the U of C, lured from my beautiful and perennially 80 degree hometown of San Diego, California by the promise of something called "seasonal weather." I am also the kind of Californian who will gladly die on the hill that yes, In-N-Out is in fact the pinnacle of human achievement, thanks for asking.

My previous ChoMUN outings have included serving as Assistant Chair for How the Sausage is Made: Armour and Company, 1906, as well as Crisis Director for Do You Hear the People Sing? The June Rebellion, 1832. On the circuit, I'm a Vice President of the U of C's travel team (Kant, Kant, Kant!). On the off-chance I'm not doing some MUN-related activity, you'll more likely than not find me with a nice cup of tea, reading Chesterton or binging *Battlestar Galactica* for the umpteenth time. I'm also an avid Civilization player (shout-out to Civ:BE!) and I've been known to try my hand at jazz piano every now and again. For any questions, comments, or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Your CD,

Elliott

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SENSITIVITY STATEMENT

Dear Delegates,

While we hope and intend that this committee will be filled with fruitful discussions, open debate, and a healthy amount of scheming, it's vital that we maintain rules and expectations for our delegates. An exciting debate cannot be achieved without maintaining a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere for everyone. As we mentioned in our Chair Letters and the rest of our background guide, the history of Australia can't be separated from the discriminatory sentiments that characterized Australia in the postwar period, especially as it relates to indigenous communities, as well as other countries that may have been competing in the export markets. That being said, this does not permit delegates to engage in racist, homophobic, or other forms of discriminatory rhetoric during committee. We will not accept any harmful speech or resolutions mocking or targeting minority groups or any cabinet actions that include these discriminatory practices.

Similarly, in the backroom, delegates cannot target minority communities with discriminatory language and practices to gain public support or create attractions of this nature. It should go without saying that bigotry in any form, whether intentional or unintentional, will not be tolerated, and disciplinary action will be taken as necessary. Historical accuracy is not an excuse for any unacceptable or discriminatory behavior, and we expect the modern standard for morals and ethics to be exhibited. If you have any questions about what is appropriate, feel free to send a note to the backroom or ask the dais. If at any point you are made to feel uncomfortable, please feel free to speak to your Chair or Crisis Directors so that we can address any problems that may arise.

That being said, our ultimate goal as Chair and Crisis Directors is to make every delegate feel comfortable. We welcome to engage in debate and have fun, which is why these expectations are necessary. We look forward to meeting you and we're so excited to see the wonderful debates and solutions that you will bring to the Emu War Committee!

~The Dais

STRUCTURE AND MECHANICS

The Australian Federal Cabinet, founded in 1901, is Australia's primary decision-making body. This committee simulates a hypothetical extended version of the federal cabinet, created specifically for the ongoing Emu War and economic crises.

The first meeting of the committee was set on Nov, 8, 1932. This day was chosen because on Nov 2, the Australian Army had conducted a very unsuccessful first strike against the Emus. (In fact, they continued unsuccessful strikes through the end of the war!) In the context of committee, a special meeting has been called between the cabinet and various stakeholders to strategize greater success in the rest of the war. In addition to planning for the Emu War, this committee has also been tasked to address a host of other issues such as failures in Australian farming and the ailing economy. As members of the extended cabinet, you will each have different interests and backgrounds, which will inspire your work as delegates throughout the course of the committee.

Your execs will explain in more detail about the workings of a crisis committee at the beginning of the conference, but the following details a brief overview of frontroom and backroom, the two main facets of a crisis committee.

Frontroom is the side of crisis where you work together with other delegates in committee, moderated by your chair Lucas. Your Crisis Directors will notify you of problems that have arisen throughout the committee, in the form of short skits called crisis breaks. You will solve these problems by giving speeches, writing directives (solutions to the problems), and voting together on solutions. Even though you all will be part of different areas, industries, and interests, you will simulate a committee that works for the best of the Australian country as a

whole. Thus, it is in your best interest in frontroom to work with other delegates to solve problems - the strength of many is much more powerful than the strength of one!

Backroom, run by your Crisis Directors Aiden and Elliott, is where you will carry out your personal plans based on the background of your character. This side of crisis is more individualized; you will write crisis notes (letters written to people you have connections with) to the backroom, asking them to carry out specific actions to achieve your personal goals. To come up with ideas about your “crisis arc”, start with your biography and think about what your character would want to achieve by the end of the committee. We encourage you to be creative with your backroom notes—for example, a scientist could build an arc that attempts to train the emus and harness their might for personal gain, or a journalist could leak information to the public about the dire state of the conflict and use that to kickstart a political career—there’s tons of possibilities, but the key detail is to think about your character’s abilities and aspirations, and building your arc based on that. The sky’s the limit!

HISTORY OF THE PROBLEM

The disasters that plagued 1930s Australia can be traced back all the way to the early days of colonization. However, to understand Australia's relationship with emus and the current state of the economy, we have to first understand the history of a number of physical, economic, and social factors that affect the Australian continent.

Early Australian History, Colonization, and Governance

While Australia was first discovered in 1606 by the Dutch (This date is actually debated by historians, as it may also be 1528 by the Portuguese), the continent wasn't seen as desirable due to its distance from Europe and its lack of high quality soil. When it finally was colonized in the late 1780s, it was famously used as a way to relieve British prisons as well as a base for British sea powers in the area. The original colony, located near modern Sydney, was made up of an initial 730 convicts and 250 free people.¹

From the 1780s to the 1830s, the colony slowly expanded but remained confined to a radius of 200mi from Sydney, outside of which expansion was discouraged. Early Australian governance was largely authoritarian, with governors appointed by the British and no representation at all for residents of Australia. In 1823, this began to change when the New South Wales parliament was created, allowing early representative government.²

Beyond New South Wales, a number of other colonies, also primarily housing convicts, began to materialize throughout the continent, initially in Tasmania and near modern-day

¹ Rickard, John David, et al. "History of Australia." Encyclopædia Britannica, October 17, 2025. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Australia/History>.

² Kemp, David. *The land of dreams: How Australians won their freedom, 1788-1860*. Melbourne: Melbourne University Publishing, 2018.

Brisbane (1825). By 1830, there were over 50,000 convicts on the continent. At this point, Australia's convict population had peaked, and as the continent continued to grow, the population began to diversify.³

From the 1830s to the early 1900s, Australia continued to evolve both in population and governance. In terms of population, it grew from around 58,000 people in 1828 to 3.8 million in 1901, in addition to the roughly 300,000-1,000,000 aboriginal peoples who also called Australia home. In terms of governance, Australia operated during this period as a number of self-governing counties that reported to the British government, but had very little coordination with each other. Despite this, the colonies developed a sort of shared identity between them. Indeed, many of the democratic advancements that came to Australia during the time period would happen at the same time or in close succession across the different colonies: open parliamentary elections beginning in its provinces beginning 1843 (initially only for men with property), suffrage for all men over 21 beginning in 1855-58 (depending on province), and suffrage for women beginning in 1894.

As the colonies in Australia grew larger, more democratic, and more interconnected, the self-governing colony system made coordination difficult, and the need for a unified national government on issues such as defence, foreign policy, immigration, trade, transport became ever more apparent. Recognizing this, Australians joined together to write a constitution and were federated in 1901. With this, the self-governing colonies that used to report independently to the British became one federation, united under a single constitution and prime minister.⁴

³ Museum of Australia. "National Museum of Australia - Defining Moments Timeline." Home, January 30, 2020. <https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/defining-moments-timeline>.

⁴ Museum of Australia. "Federation." National Museum of Australia, July 8, 2025. <https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/federation>.

Federation came with its fair share of challenges. For one, Australia had to draft its own constitution and balance the new federation's needs over those of the Australian colonies (which now became states). The new constitution also needed to be ratified by the British government, to which the federation would continue to be a subject to, until 1942 (with full independence not achieved until 1986). Eventually, Australia decided on a three branch representative government system with a parliament, an executive government, and a judiciary branch.

The parliament is made up of a house and a senate, and is responsible for writing and passing legislation. At first, house and senate representatives were elected by the people through a first-past-the-post (candidate with most votes wins) voting system, where representatives are elected to the house and senate by district. Australia later introduced ranked-choice voting in 1918 and made voting compulsory in 1924. Today, Australia's senate is elected through a proportional representation system, but this was not implemented until 16 years after our committee was set.⁵

The Australian executive branch, much like in the US, has the primary responsibility of carrying out and enforcing the laws. The majority coalition in parliament (the parties or group of parties that represent the majority of the seats) would appoint a prime minister, who would lead the executive branch. The prime minister would in turn select a cabinet of senior government ministers, who would lead the executive departments and ministries of Australia (such as the Dept. of Education and Dept. of Defence). This cabinet is also the primary decision-making body of Australia, and a version of it is what is being simulated in committee.⁶

⁵ Electoral Commission. "A Short History of Federal Electoral Reform in Australia." Australian Electoral Commission, October 8, 2019. <https://www.aec.gov.au/Elections/history-of-electoral-reform.htm>.

⁶ Parliament. "Infosheet 20 - the Australian System of Government." Home – Parliament of Australia, February 18, 2013. https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/House_of_Representatives/Powers_practice_and_procedure/00_-_Infosheets/Infosheet_20_-_The_Australian_system_of_government.

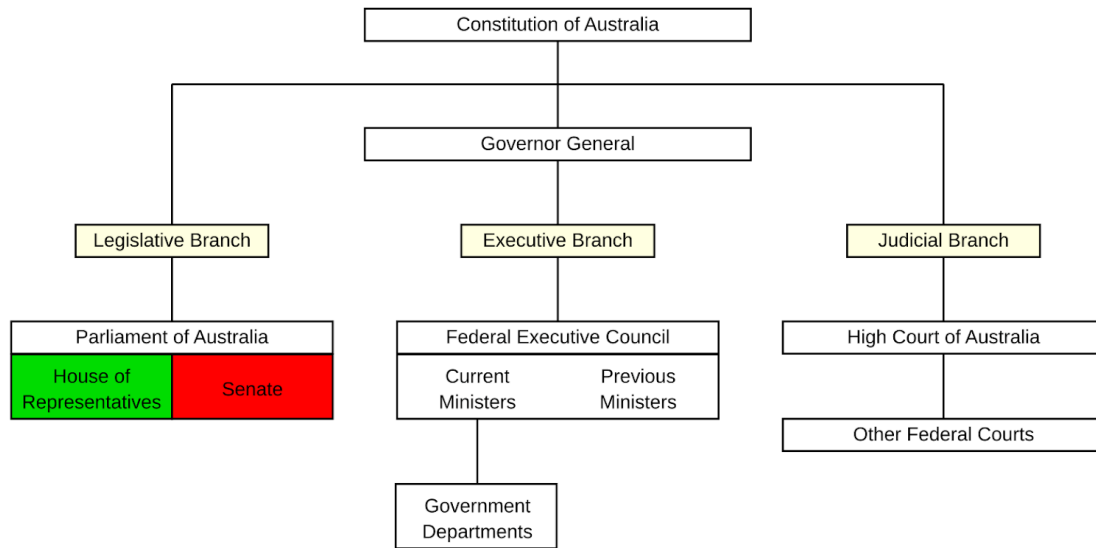


Diagram of the Australian Executive and Legislative Branches. The General Governor holds a ceremonial role as the representative of the (British) monarchy, but typically defers to the prime minister on any matter of real importance.⁷

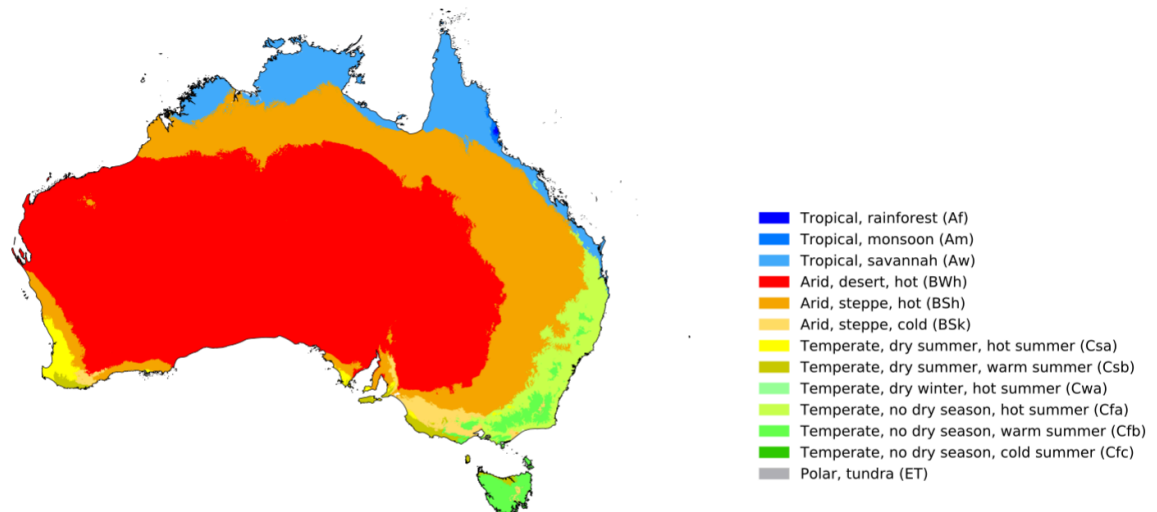
Finally, the Australian Judiciary has the power to judge cases and interpret laws, as well as interpret the constitutionality of new laws passed by parliament. Judges are appointed by the governor-general, but at the behest of the prime minister.

Agricultural History and Emus

Throughout Australia's history, development has remained largely confined to coastal areas and adjacent lands. This is because Australia's inner regions are generally less productive for agriculture, consisting mainly of desert climate and poor soils. Of the coastal areas, early

⁷ Australian Government Structure. n.d. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Au_gov_chart.svg.

development on the continent largely stayed confined to the eastern temperate and subtropical regions, shown in the map below.⁸



Climate Zones of Australia. Subtropical and temperate zones near the coasts are most suitable for agriculture.⁹

However, at the turn of the 20th century, Australia began running out of space. While there was plenty of land available, most of the land with suitable growing weather in the east of the country had been occupied. As such, when the government was disbursing land for settlements, it had to look elsewhere. Due to climate and soil conditions, the center of the country was unavailable to agriculture. This left Australia's West, where decent soil and climate conditions made agriculture theoretically viable. Western Australia was inhabited pre-1900s, but was always less populated than the east. Thus, unlike the east, there was still plenty of open

⁸ Pratley, Rowell. (n.d.). Chapter 1. *Evolution of Australian Agriculture*. Retrieved August 17, 2025, from https://cdn.csu.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/4310644/Chapter1_PratleyRowell.pdf

⁹ Climate Zones of Australia. n.d. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Koppen-Geiger_Map_AUS_future.svg.

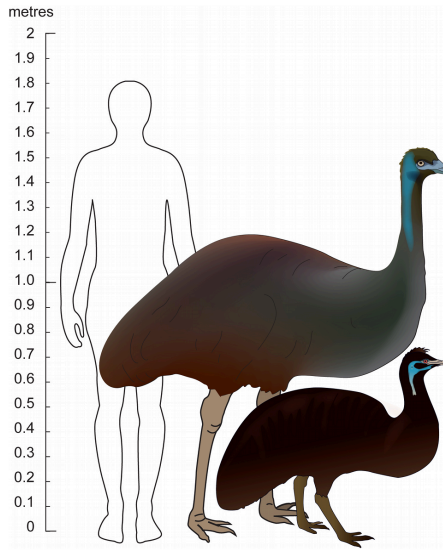
space with decent climate conditions. However, two reasons made this space mostly unoccupied: poor soil conditions and emus.

In terms of soil conditions, Western Australian soil is acidic and low in organic matter and clay. While technically farmable, it presents a challenge for most crops, and fertilization is usually necessary to maintain good crop yields. Some crops such as wheat are relatively well-suited to the region's soil conditions, so the farms that did exist in the area generally grew wheat and other cereal crops, earning the Western Australian farming region the nickname "wheatbelt".¹⁰

And then there were emus. Emus are a flightless bird species native to Australia. They are quite large (see size comparison below), almost as tall as a human. Emus are omnivores, and while they mostly depend on seeds, fruits, and flowers for their diets, they occasionally eat insects or small vertebrae as well. Emus need fresh water every day and are known to travel in hordes for up to hundreds of miles in order to find it, guided by the sight of clouds, the sound of thunder and the smell of wet ground. In Western Australia, they also exhibit a seasonal migratory behavior, moving south in search of winter rain, and north in search of tropical summer rain. They can run at over 30mph, are strong swimmers, and are not deterred by most fences, being able to jump up to 5-7 feet or, if they're motivated enough, charge directly at the fence and tear through.¹¹

¹⁰ Soil Quality Australia, "Western Australia," 2025

¹¹ Shorter, G. (n.d.). *Dromaius novaehollandiae* (emu). In Animal Diversity Web. Retrieved August 17, 2025, from https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Dromaius_novaehollandiae/



*Emu to human size comparison.*¹²

While sometimes considered a pest, emus' risk to agriculture is more so from their large size, massive flocks, and migratory behavior than from their diet itself. In fact, emus are sometimes considered pest control because they are foragers and prefer to prey on insects and rodents than on most crops. However, when in large groups traveling in search of water, they can easily trample over croplands and cause rampant destruction. They will also consume some cereal crops (particularly wheat), if they are hungry enough. They inhabit the vast majority of the continent. However, the emus in eastern Australia are far less numerous than in the west, and as such, they wouldn't travel in groups large enough or frequently enough to cause significant damage.¹³

¹² Emu to Human Size Comparison. n.d. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Emu_size.png.

¹³ Smithsonian's National Zoo. (n.d.). Emu. Retrieved August 17, 2025, from <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/emu>



*Picture of an emu.*¹⁴

Still, despite the emus and the soil conditions, most of the suitable farmland in eastern Australia had already been mostly settled by the 1900s, leaving Western Australia as one of the few places with lots of empty farmland left. For government decisionmakers in the east, the problems of Western Australia were also far away and unfamiliar, and again, the land was technically farmable, setting the stage for a series of questionable government decisions that took place over the next 20-30 years.

World War I and Soldier Resettlement: The Emu Battle Emerges

In the mid 1910s, the young federation of Australia faced one of its first major challenges: World War I. As it was still part of the British empire, Australia had a duty to contribute towards the war effort, and the newly-federated country was by-and-large, at least initially, happy to do so, with the war being “greeted with great enthusiasm.”¹⁵

¹⁴ Picture of an Emu. n.d. <https://animalia.bio/emu>.

¹⁵ Australian War Memorial, “First World War 1914–18,” n.d.

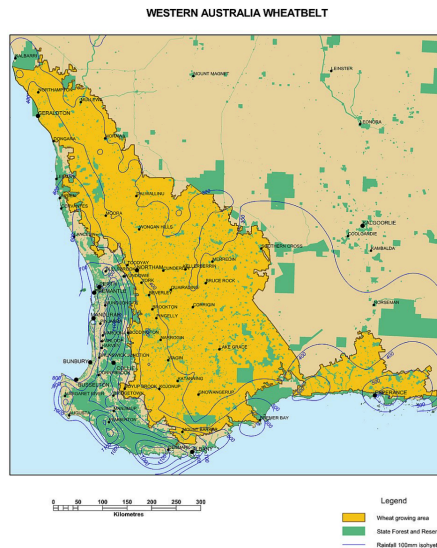
Of Australia's total 5 million people, 416,000 enlisted in the war. Of those, 60,000 were killed and another 150,000 were wounded, gassed, or taken prisoner. As information on the war was highly public and the quantity of soldiers was quite large, policies that helped soldiers upon their return were greatly popular. One such policy is soldier settlement, which gives soldiers land to operate farms. After World War I, a total of 23,200 farms around the country were allocated for soldier settlement.

With this came the crucial question: where to get the land. The Australian government still had vast reserves of public lands, known as crown lands. The caveat: this land was largely in fringe areas, like the wheatbelt of Western Australia, which was full of emus and poor soil conditions. Using the land was hardly anyone's first choice, but with tens of thousands of soldiers to resettle, the Australian government could hardly afford to be picky.

That's not to say all World War I soldier resettlement took place in Western Australia; the resettlement program actually did a strong job of drawing from land in various provinces by purchasing farmland when needed. In the end, only about 1,095 of the 23,000 farms were in Western Australia. But, the soldiers who settled onto those 1,000 or so farms got the short end of the stick to say the least.

For the first few years, the farmer's difficulties were mostly limited to the poor farming conditions. In fact, the emus at first mostly ignored the farms, following their regular pattern of moving north in the summer and south in the winter in search of rain. Through much of the 1920s, then, Australia was cautiously optimistic that the western Australian resettlement program would prove successful in the long run. However, by the late 1920s, the emus began to realize that the new farms along their migratory pathways could serve as a useful source of food and water. They began deviating towards these farms, trampling crops and leaving behind massive

destruction in their wake. Much of this damage was concentrated in the Campion District, around the middle of the Western Australian grain-growing area (called the wheatbelt), as shown on the map below.¹⁶



*Map of the Western Australian wheat belt.*¹⁷

Things escalated as the Great Depression took hold. In 1929, many Australians were unable to afford staple foods, the Australian government began a subsidy program that encouraged farmers to increase their wheat production. However, by the 1930s, it became clear the government would be unable to continue the subsidies. The end of the subsidies, along with low wheat prices from overproduction, left many farmers struggling. Things were particularly difficult for farmers in Western Australia, where wheat comprised the vast majority of crops grown, and farmers were still plagued by both emus and poor soil.

By 1932, the situation became dire. A major drought in Western Australia drove emus to search for water anywhere they could find, which was often at farms. As such, emu invasions

¹⁶ Department of Agriculture and Food, WA. (2018). Grainbelt of Western Australia [Map]. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Retrieved August 17, 2025, from https://library.dpir.wa.gov.au/gis_maps/2

¹⁷ Map of the Western Australian wheat belt. n.d. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:WA_Wheatbelt_A4.jpg.

onto farmland became even more frequent, larger in size, and more destructive than ever. Hordes of emus would descend upon farms, devouring and trampling crops, destroying fences, and consuming as much water as they could find. By mid-1932, a quarter of Western Australian farmers in the area gave up and abandoned their land.

With Australia's beloved resettled soldiers facing such a difficult predicament, the government had to do something. They decided to address the most acute problem, the emu, by launching a wildlife management operation with the goal of culling the Western Australian emu population and reducing disruption to farms. The first phase of the operation took place from Nov 2 - Nov 8, 1932 and was unsuccessful at making a significant impact on the emu population. Indeed, out of over 1000 sighted, only around 50 birds killed with over 2500 rounds of ammunition fired. This failed attempt marks the beginning of our committee.

Australia and the Great Depression

Beyond Western Australia's problems, the country was also in the midst of a recession spurred by the global Great Depression. Beginning in 1929, the Great Depression was caused by a variety of factors. While its beginning is usually attributed to the stock market crash of 1929, it was the ensuing reaction – a mix of bank runs and money shortages, combined with a US government that raised interest rates and refused to provide economic stimulus – that worsened the severity. The Great Depression left the US with a severe money shortage, leading US banks to reduce lending to countries and businesses abroad.

Reduced U.S. lending caused a major ripple effect in Australia because much of the country's development in the 1920s had been bankrolled by lending from US institutions. When that lending stopped or, even worse, when institutions demanded their money back, it was

difficult for Australia to comply. Thus, issues like bank runs and money shortages became a major problem locally as well.

Australia's agricultural sector was hit especially hard during this time. Due to the global economic crisis, demand for global commodities like wheat and wool reduced dramatically. At the same time, global supply increased as other countries ramped up due to post-World-War-1 agricultural and industrial production. Excess supply alongside decreased demand resulted in global prices for goods like wheat and wool falling by more than half between 1929 and 1930. To make things worse, the U.S. implemented the Hawley-Smoot tariffs, increasing tariffs on imports and stifling trade even further. As an export-driven economy that depended on selling goods, lower global prices were especially damaging for Australia. With less money flowing in through export industries, those working in those industries reduced their domestic spending, helping lead to a widespread economic recession in Australia.

These issues left Australia in a dire situation by 1932. Unemployment was at 32%, a record for the country, and over 40,000 men migrated from city to city across the country in search of work, usually to no avail. For many families, the only thing keeping them from starvation was the Susso, a government welfare system that protected those unemployed for an extended period of time and had no assets or savings. Susso payments were very small, significantly less than the base wage, and were intended for no more than the most basic of necessities. Luckily, soup kitchens and charity organizations stepped in and provided some relief.



Children lining up for food.^{18,19}

The recession had major political implications. From 1929 to 1931, Prime Minister James Scullin of the ALP (Australian Labor Party) had tried various approaches to stopping the recession, such as mimicking the U.S. approach of raising tariffs and cutting government spending. By 1931, Scullin's party had split into three factions. One, led by Jack Lang and inspired by British economist John Keynes, hoped to solve the recession through increased government spending to stimulate growth. Another, led by Joseph Lyons, believed the Scullin government needed to be even more fiscally conservative, and proposed raising taxes and further

¹⁸ Children lining up for food. n.d.

<https://picryl.com/media/schoolchildren-line-up-for-free-issue-of-soup-and-a-slice-of-bread-in-the-depression-71e403>.

¹⁹ "Life during the Great Depression." Year 10 Modern history. Accessed October 18, 2025.
<https://10historyjri.weebly.com/life-during-the-great-depression.html>.

lowering spending. Finally, Scullin continued to insist on a middle approach, believing in a compromise with only a small cut to government spending.

In the end, Lyons and Lang both split off to form separate parties, forming the United Australia Party (UAP) and Lang Labor party respectively, by April 1931. In November 1931, Lang Labor and UAP successfully called for a vote of no confidence to expel Scullin. This vote took place in December 1931, and, although both Lang Labor and the UAP both picked up seats, Lyons' UAP won by a comfortable margin. With that, Lyons became prime minister.

Lyons, like Scullin, had also been mostly ineffective in resolving the recession so far. He took a fiscally conservative approach by cutting spending programs over providing stimulus. This has not worked, and unemployment has only increased further during his term. In convening this committee, he hopes to both resolve the Emu crisis, but also provide the Australian people with some much needed distraction and good news in a time of economic difficulty.²⁰

²⁰ Museum of Australia; "Great Depression." National Museum of Australia, September 27, 2022. <https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/great-depression>.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

That brings us to the situation at hand. With the emus ravaging the heartland of Australia's agricultural economy and leaving devastated adjacent economic sectors, fragmented political movements, and ruined livelihoods of countless civilians and lauded veterans of the Great War in their wake, there exists sufficient popular support for continued military action against the emus. Recall that this committee begins upon the first and very unsuccessful strike ordered by the Lyons Cabinet against the emus.

Throughout this process, consider how you might avert public attention away from this failure: perhaps you might be able to find a way to spin this action as a success to further increase the morale of your citizens and combatants. Are there lessons to be gained from this encounter? Might our political body need restructuring as a result of this failure or should an entirely different body be drawn up to aid in the war effort?

Factors to Consider

Great Depression: The Elephant in The Room

With so much poverty and unemployment plaguing Australia, the Emu War might seem like a mere distraction. After all, it's a local issue affecting crops already being oversupplied and only impacting a few thousand farmers, a number that pales in comparison to the tens of thousands who are displaced or on the edge of starvation throughout the country. So why, then, do we care about the emus? For Lyons, much of the reason is political: at a time where Australia has seemed to only lose against everything, the Emu War stands to be a much needed win. Surely, Australia can defeat a few birds. Given that Lyons's recession-fighting tactics have been

so-far ineffective and his approval is slipping, it makes sense that he might want to pursue this war as a way to get Australian minds away from the economic catastrophe.

Why Farm in Western Australia at All?

Beyond the political rationale, there are a few other valid reasons to drive the emus away. By allowing the emus to continue to destroy Western Australian crops, the Australian government would be turning a blind eye to the thousands of farmers who call the region home. With little arable land available elsewhere in the country to resettle them and few job opportunities anywhere else, allowing the emus to run rampant could mean sentencing those farmers, many of whom fought valiantly during WW1, to destitution, starvation, or worse.

In addition, while Western Australian farmland may seem slightly unproductive now, there is much potential ahead. With a number of attainable changes, such as improved water infrastructure and fertilization programs, farming in Western Australia could one day be successful and allow crops other than wheat to grow in the area. In Europe, many new processes to develop crop fertilizers have been growing in popularity. Most notably, the Haber-Bosch process has been developed, allowing for efficient conversion of nitrogen into ammonia. This ammonia can then be mixed with additives to produce a fertilizer compound, which can in turn be dumped on fields to increase ground nitrogen concentrations and promote crop growth. While synthetic fertilizer methods such as this are relatively unpopular in Australia, their continued success in Europe shows promise. However, for any of these new methods to be successful, the emus must be taken care of first.²¹

²¹ Argus Media. 2024. *History of Ferts*. Market Insight Paper, June 14, 2024. [https://www.argusmedia.com/-/media/project/argusmedia/mainsite/english/documents-and-files/news-and-insights/market-insight-papers/historyofferts_v11_2024-06-14-\(1\).pdf](https://www.argusmedia.com/-/media/project/argusmedia/mainsite/english/documents-and-files/news-and-insights/market-insight-papers/historyofferts_v11_2024-06-14-(1).pdf)



*Farmland in Western Australia is dry and desolate.*²²

Enabling Farming in Western Australia: The Emu Threat

As mentioned in previously, emus are a formidable foe due to their large size, numerosity, and speed. If the decision is made that Western Australian farmland is worth saving from the emus, there are various strategies that can be chosen to keep the emus off farms. While fighting the emus directly is certainly an option, we can also take advantage of their behavior, such as their tendency to migrate towards water and their physical abilities, to develop solutions that would allow the emus and farmers to coexist peacefully. These may involve improved fencing, setting up watering fields to lure emus away from farms, emu relocation, or whatever else you can think of. Don't be afraid to be creative!

²² Farmland in Western Australia. n.d. <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=145180138>.

What Next?

Even if the cabinet manages to solve the Emu War/Western Australian farmland crisis, the administration's woes will be far from gone. Delegates should come prepared with a plan for how to address the economic recession, and ensure Australians have access to jobs and food. This is an incredibly difficult task, one that at this point every country in the world had failed at, but one that, with the skillsets present in this cabinet meeting, could perhaps be solved.

Political Infighting

The current political situation in Australia is especially precarious. As you'll recall, the Australian Labor Party, which dominated Australian politics until 1931, had split into three factions (with Lyons' United Australia Party and Lang Labor being the offshoots). In addition to these three parties, there exists two other parties in Australian politics: the far-right *Country Party*, which entered a coalition with the United Australia Party (UAP), and the right-leaning *Emergency Committee of South Australia*, which was created in 1931 with the sole purpose of opposing the Labor Party in the 1931 elections. A small communist party also existed, but did not hold any seats.

Most of you all, being in Lyons' cabinet, are loyal to the United Australia Party (UAP) and their mostly hands-off approach of using spending cuts to resolve the depression. Politically, things have been pretty good thus far. Your party has a wide majority in both the house and senate, and so has been largely unhindered in passing policies this past year.²³

In other words, almost anything this cabinet decides on, Congress will approve. However, as time ticks on and Lyons' government continues to be unsuccessful at bringing material

²³ Australian Parliament. n.d. "1931 Election." In *Parliamentary Handbook – Elections*, Australian Parliamentary Handbook. Accessed August 18, 2025. <https://handbook.aph.gov.au/voting/elections/1931/214>.

improvement to Australians, support for the other parties continues to grow. With another election on its way in 1934, it's imperative that Lyons and his cabinet adapt to bring results to Australians, or else they risk losing the majority they fought so hard to achieve. If Lyons' popularity slips too far, it's not impossible also that another vote of no confidence be called sometime in the future to remove Lyons from office.

As you take into account these questions and considerations, remember also the positions that you represent within the Australian cabinet as well as your own interests and abilities. A minister of defense, for example, might see the Emu War as an opportunity to prove their military prowess in front of the Australian people, while a businessman might push for policies that have a greater positive effect on the Australian economy as a whole. Your challenge then, both as a committee and a delegate, is to balance these competing interests and perspectives in order to bring forth the solutions that will bring Australia greatest prosperity as a whole.

DELEGATE POSITIONS

Hon. John Latham – Minister for Industry

Latham serves as the deputy leader, second-in-command, of the Lyons cabinet. He is the political leader of the opposition party, the Nationalists, which only a year ago were merged with the UAP in order to create a seemingly united front against the economic turmoil of the time. The Nationalists constitute a majority of the UAP, but Latham judged Lyons to be a more charismatic and unifying figure. No one in this cabinet can doubt the technical skill and rhetorical training of Latham. He labored as a delegate member at the peace conference at Versailles, presented arguments before the High Court, Australia's Supreme Court, and fought fiercely in the political realm to hold the deeply unpopular Billy Hughes accountable to Australians.

His efforts to secure the interests of the Australian people and its relations with the rest of the British Empire have earned him several imperial and national accolades. Over the course of his service to the bar and to Australia's military interests, he has become a deeply popular figure, particularly among the various departments of the Australian government and national political figures. However, Latham may occasionally struggle with his popularity among the Australian people who do not see Latham's work directly benefitting them or who disagree with his greatly liberal politics.

John Perkins – Minister of the Interior

John Perkins is among one of the most studious and rigorous politicians in the Lyons cabinet. After completing his education, he returned to Cooma to work as a farmer, as was tradition in his family. He grew interested in supporting the local community, especially the safety of its people, their progression in matters of education, and advocacy for the people of Cooma in local and regional politics. Pivoting to politics, Perkins progressed through the ranks of leadership no matter if he was working in academia, as a public servant, or as a local mayor. It soon became clear that he was made for greater things outside Cooma.

Perkins became a politician governing over New South Wales, and he eventually joined the Lyons cabinet at the federal level. He brings much experience with common life and the aims of journalism in Australia to this cabinet. Most importantly, he possesses a deep understanding of how broad, brushstroke political and economic policies can have enduring effects on different sectors, occupations, and communities. He currently serves as Minister of the Interior with a focus on administering the less populous and well-exploited territories in Australia. Traditionally, the Minister of the Interior has possessed a comparatively mundane but intellectually driven job involving careful choice for social and economic development. Given the Great Depression's devastation on both of these governmental supports, Perkins may have the opportunity to push the typical boundaries of his position.

Frederick Stewart – Minister of Economy

Stewart was a devout Methodist who often used his religious beliefs as a source of guidance in his life. During times of both personal and national economic surplus or downturn, he clung to these beliefs. Using his great wealth, he provided housing for the poor, free bus

tickets, food, and other alms. Stewart was not originally a man from wealth, working menial jobs from childhood. Eventually, through arguably either well-timed or ingenious land speculation, he resold plots of country estates outside of Sydney for residential and agricultural development, earning a massive fortune. Later, when the government refused to offer transportation to his newly acquired land, he set out to develop a bus system which would provide coverage to the rural community. Stewart is described as having a fierce attitude and often carries this into the political arena.

Even though he has almost no prior experience in politics, Stewart has just been appointed Minister of Economy. He seems awfully well-versed in economic affairs, having risen to a position of trembling economic might from near poverty. What's more, he is well-known for his attention to the plight of poor workers, and he has advocated for workers' rights reforms. Still, Stewart faces an important challenge that no previous minister of economy ever encountered; he must set new national economic fiscal trade policies, a right recently acquired due to Australia's break from mercantile tradition of the British Empire.

Henry Gullett – Minister for Trade and Customs

Gullett administers the department of Trade and Customs, which is in charge of tariff collection, patents, and trade and commerce. Before becoming minister, he was a war correspondent during World War I, helping to cover the Western Front. He also led recruitment and enlistment activities to encourage more Australians to join the war.

Because of his background, Gullett is deeply aware of each aspect of soldiers' experiences. After the war, he became inaugural director of the Australian War Museum before beginning a political career, running in the 1922 and 1925 elections. In 1928, he was appointed

Minister for Trade and Customs for Scullin (the previous prime minister's) cabinet, but lost his seat in 1929. During the Labor Party split, Gullet separated from Scullin and joined the formation of the United Australia Party, which brought Lyons to power in 1931. He was then once again appointed Minister of Trade and Customs, this time by Lyons. By Nov 1932, Gullet's health was declining, and rumors were rising that he may need to be replaced, with Thomas White being the top contender.

Josiah Francis – Minister in Charge of War Service Homes

Francis was the minister in charge of War Service Homes, as well as the assistant minister of defence. Effectively, this meant he was in charge of the human side of war matters, taking care that both soldiers and veterans were well-fed, well-settled and happy. As such, he cares, likely more than anyone in the cabinet, about the well-being of returned soldiers and the success of the resettlement program. Francis' background was as a member and later leader in the Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia, which fought for pensions, housing, and more for soldiers returning from war, including for the establishment of soldier settlement in the first place.

Sir Harry Lawson – Minister of Territories

Having served for decades in both regional and federal politics, Lawson fits the textbook definition of a career politician. In fact, he was the longest serving premier and worked in the Victorian district, where he grew up, over the course of several district changes. However, Lawson is quite unlike a stereotypical ineffective career politician. With a combination of popularity and cunning, he has won several difficult elections where he was the outsider, seen the

Liberal party through two evolutions into the Nationalist and then the United Australia Party, and the Nationalist party relevant through the 1910s and 1920s when populist parties secured more seats in the federal government and his party was reduced to a minority faction.

Lawson never gained much acclaim through his speeches or political maneuvering in Parliament. Rather, he was most fervently lauded for his connection to his constituents when serving in the Victorian legislature. Lawson also has a great deal of political connections and experience with Australian legal code.

Sir George Pearce – Minister for Defence

Pearce was born to a humble family in South Australia and became well-acquainted with the daily struggles of life for common workers from an early age. At first, Pearce moved between several jobs in a gold mine and was involved in different trades, but these endeavors proved to offer a meager lifestyle and few prospects for long-term success. However, these struggles only served to build a man of admired character. Pearce first found success when ascending the ranks of trade unions in his state, which he eventually came to lead with great success.

Pearce's time in the Senate and House is quite remarkable, representing one of the longest on record. While some might attribute his political success to his formidable ability to capitalize on political opportunities, many of Pearce's peers cannot help but acknowledge his careful and nuanced approach that have only continued to evolve over the years. Pearce originally joined Parliament 31 years ago as a staunch socialist in support of protectionism and a weak military. Now, Pearce has risen to be Minister of Defence and a strong supporter of proactive military development across all branches as well as a staunch conservative. One of his

foremost considerations in politics is working together with many political opinions to create a nuanced position that does not sacrifice political viability.

Archdale Parkhill – Postmaster-General

Parkhill was Australia's Postmaster General, a role later known as Minister for Communications. Parkhill grew up in New South Wales to a middle class family and did not attend college, going into the workforce as a clerk. He began a career in politics after being elected to the municipal council of a nearby town in 1904 and then pivoted to being campaign directors for major national parties: first the Liberal Party, then the Nationalist Party, and then the United Australia Party (UAP) when it was founded in 1931. His role as a campaign director brought him great proximity to party leadership, winning him ministry positions once the UAP came to power in 1932. However, Parkhill had little experience with government decision-making itself, with his background being more so in the campaign trail than in governance.

As of October 13, 1932 (less than a month before committee was set), Parkhill had been appointed as Postmaster-General, where he controlled regulations on the national postal and telephone systems. As of November, Parkhill has had little time to make any strong impact, but finds himself in an important moment of his political career, where he must prove he can not only campaign, but also govern.

Charles Marr – Minister for Health

A native of New South Wales, Charles Marr's origins were relatively humble. As the son of a bootmaker, Marr was pushed from an early age to pursue a technical education, which his

parents believed would allow him to rise beyond the family's lower-class status. Educated at Sydney Technical College, Marr pursued electrical engineering and landed a post with the Postmaster-General's Department for the State of New South Wales. Marr's affinity for the bleeding edge of technology drew him to radio broadcasting, a skill which was put to use during his service in the first World War. Successfully parlaying his wartime fame into a post in Parliament, Marr quickly rose through the ranks to become one of Lyons' trusted subordinates.

Marr has brought both his competence with technology and his ability to integrate modern advancements into the organizations he leads into the Ministry of Health, implementing upgrades to Australia's antiquated health system. Innovations such as bushplane ambulances, effective radio coordination between medical posts, and up-to-date stocks of the latest pharmaceuticals will certainly be used to the fullest extent in the Federal Cabinet's handling of the military conflict against the Western Campion flocks. Marr's knack for the technical and his love of gadgetry make his Ministry of Health a force with which to be reckoned – he will not rest until the medical corps, and then the rest of the government, is brought firmly into the modern age to best serve Australia in its time of need.

Allan Guy – Assistant Minister for Trade and Customs

Allan Guy hails from Tasmania and has experience with a variety of political domains due to his upbringing and various careers. His father was one of the founding members of the Australian Labor Party, and Guy himself worked as a regional trade deputy, public servant positions associated with finance, and as a member of local government under Lyons. He even briefly assumed Lyons' position when Lyons became injured! Guy is known for his skill in

dealing with complex economic situations, primarily through economic theory and apparent affability with federal politicians.

He previously worked under Scullin's government and has past experience with negotiating foreign trade deals and setting foreign tariff and loan acquisition policy. His promotion to Assistant Minister for Trade and Customs was pushed through by Lyons, with whom he already had a good rapport. Some on the cabinet, especially more conservative voices, claim that Guy was promoted as part of a political scheme, but Guy's supporters point to his expertise in practical economics and his many connections among the Australian political class.

Richard Gavin Gardiner Casey – Assistant Minister of the Treasury

Richard Casey is no stranger to the global elite. Born with a figurative silver spoon in hand as the son of a well-to-do Queensland landowner and state Assemblyman, Casey's childhood was spent following his father as he rose in prominence, moving from Brisbane to Melbourne and then to England for his university education. Casey attended Cambridge University, graduating with second-class honors in the mathematical sciences tripos. Upon the outbreak of the first World War, Casey served as an aide-de-camp in the Australian Imperial Force. Experiences with German prisoners-of-war and Australians' Turkish allies had an oversize impact on the young man, instilling in him a strong appreciation for the importance of diplomatic alliances and knowledge of world affairs. Eventually, Casey was able to secure a posting in London as political liaison officer for the Australian government, where his grasp of international politics continued to grow.

Elected to Parliament soon after his return to Australia from the United Kingdom, Casey was made Assistant Minister of the Treasury. Casey's encyclopedic knowledge of Australia's

standing with her enemies and allies gave him a considerable advantage when it comes to charting the course of the nation's economic goals, and he is more than willing to leverage his contacts abroad to secure whatever deals are in Australia's best interest. Ultimately, Casey dreams of a world where Australia is able to decisively win the Emu War and become a regional powerhouse thanks to a strong economic network of firm allies.

Helen Munro Ferguson – Head of the Australian Red Cross

Although Ferguson has only spent six years in Australia, she commands great respect from Australian women and has significant name recognition throughout all provinces. This popularity comes in part from her stellar reputation as an important administrator for the Australian Red Cross, the YWCA, and other women improvement or women-led organizations. She often goes on national tours across Australia with her work-husband, who used to be governor-general of Australia, in order to garner donations for her various charitable causes.

Under Ferguson's leadership, the Australian Red Cross tended to soldiers across the British Empire during World War I. After the war, she encouraged the group to continue with their charitable work, especially towards the poor and children. Previously, this work was assisted by various social security programs instituted by the Australian Federal Government. Due to the Australian government's poor fiscal situation, only one underfunded and hardly accessible poor law exists, dramatically reducing the impact of her work. A large number of Australians currently receive food from charitable organizations such as Ferguson's. With such vital work being carried out, Ferguson has now been sequestered by Lyons to remain in Australia for a several-month mission to assist the poor in Australia living in run-down camps. She knows

very little about the logistics of the Emu War though certainly her experience with wartime care and food distribution could be a useful asset for this military mission.

Sir Otto Ernst Niemeyer – Director of the Bank of England

Niemeyer is known both for his quick wit and his ability to untangle the most complex and convoluted economic conundrums. He was born in the United Kingdom and lived there his whole life though he has taken several economic policy tours in the United States, Australia, and other countries. He comes from a well-to-do family, which acquired its wealth from the prosperous trades between the United Kingdom and Continental Europe. Niemeyer decided to continue the family legacy of skill in international economics, but as a civil servant instead. He received the first place award from the Civil Service Exam and was immediately offered a respectable position in the HM (His Majesty's) Treasury.

Niemeyer continued to climb the ranks in the treasury department. He has proposed national economic plans to the head of Parliament and even befriended Montagu Norman, who later appointed him to a high-ranking position in the Bank of England. Though Niemeyer wielded an unquestionable ability to charm English politicians, financiers, and intellectuals, his tour of Australia in 1931 was anything but pleasant. He had attempted to broker a deal between the Australian government and British debt holders only to end up on national news for calling Australians “fiscally irresponsible and a burden on the Empire”. Many of the Australian people hold a poor opinion of the British financier from this debacle, especially amongst government officials associated with the Scullin government due to the view that Niemeyer was the cause of their government's collapse. Since a new government is in place, Niemeyer has been asked by

Parliament to return to Australia to attempt to complete a new financial deal, preferably one that should endure past any new political turmoil.

Sir Benjamin Marshall – Political Representative

Marshall was born in rural New South Wales to a family of shopkeepers who installed a devout and traditional exercise of Anglicanism to the young boy. Throughout his early adult life, he was lauded as a champion of workers rights and, as only a common worker in the factories of Cantabarra, successfully negotiated an end to ongoing meat packing union strikes. Since then, he caught the eye of upper management at General Foods and was promoted to a manager of a canning factory in Tasmania.

Over the following two decades, he rose to prominence politically in Tasmania and briefly worked as an advisor of Joseph Lyons. All the while, he maintained a position as a consultant for several important national companies. Two months ago, he was elevated to the position of Political Rep. at Walter Construction Group. The company oversees several important national construction projects for the Australian government and is currently looking to capitalize on the government's renewed interest in military quarters. Marshall has devoted the last two weeks to rallying support from raw goods manufacturers and local governors to allow for a tariff free and rebated assembly of these structures. Today, Marshall has arrived at the Australian Cabinet building to propose several investment opportunities for this new campaign. Marshall has few pre-existing contacts in the Australian parliament besides Lyons as well as middling fame for his religiously-inspired care for poor workers.

John McMahon – CEO of Three Threes Manufacture

McMahon is an elderly heir of Three Threes Manufacture, hailing from a Classical mansion along the city center of Rockhampton, Queensland. He has a strong affinity for political intrigue and backroom negotiations. Despite his five-year tenure, he maintains a near spotless business record through meticulous backroom dealings and negotiations. By studying his father's business records, attending exclusive meetings, and receiving personalized instruction from various tutors throughout his life, McMahon has become one of the most skilled corporate leaders of the Great Depression.

Despite this success, the Great Depression has affected his company particularly painfully. Last year, a fourth of his workforce was laid off, consumers continuously groaned about the unrealistic prices of McMahon's manufacturing goods, and strikes have been threatened at nearly all of his production plants across Australia. In a last ditch effort to stabilize his company, McMahon's board of investors has sought to liquidate his company's investments in a foreign food imports company. However, a few trusted economic advisors and federal politicians have come to McMahon in an attempt to dissuade him from this plan which has the potential to sharply increase the price of food in the country. Many farmers, on the other hand, are in favor of McMahon's attempt to salvage his company as that would make their crops more profitable. McMahon has come to this body in an attempt to broker a deal to preserve his company's importance and prestige.

Frederick Lawson Whitlock – Ornithologist

Frederick Lawson Whitlock is perhaps Australia's most prominent voice when it comes to bird behavior. He grew up in England and quickly became a published ornithologist, although he was not yet well-known enough to support himself through ornithology. As such, he worked long, grueling days as a bank manager in Nottingham. In 1896, tired of his job, he robbed the bank he worked at and attempted to flee to Australia. He was captured and imprisoned, but was released in 1901. He subsequently moved to Western Australia and continued to live there since, studying the life cycle and peculiarities of emus and other bird species. By 1932, he had written dozens of articles for renowned Australian nature journal, *The Emu*. Whitlock is more knowledgeable than perhaps anyone when it comes to the behavior, life cycle, and peculiarities of emus.

Robert Joel (Joe) Cooper – Hunter

Few people are as knowledgeable as Joe Cooper in animal habits. As a self-sufficient hunter in Northwest territory, he spent hundreds of hours studying buffalo habits to best locate them. When his family decided to move to the Western Territory, Cooper had to adapt his skills to capturing emus instead. He became well-known in his community after sharing his hunting spoils with his neighbors when they were struggling to find work. In terms of the Emu War, Cooper has both the expertise and experience to devise strategies to locate Emus, and he was invited to this cabinet to provide some of this know-how. While Cooper enjoys hunting, he is also known for being a gentle soul, sparing animals from needless pain and taking care of the local communities in the areas he hunted in. As someone who greatly respects nature, Cooper is against wanton killing of animals and believes that violence is only necessary as a last resort.

Lyndhurst Gilbin – Economist

Lyndhurst Gilbin grew up in a wealthy and influential family in Hobart, Tasmania. Growing up, he had always loved math, statistics and economics. He attended the University College of London, where he majored in math, and then went on to pursue an unsuccessful career in gold prospecting in Canada. After moving back to Australia and briefly operating a fruit farm, he pivoted into politics, he served as Government Statistician of Tasmania from 1919-1928. He was also briefly a professor of economics at the University of Melbourne.

During the depression, from around 1929-1932, Giblin published a series of articles in the Melbourne Herald, which explained the economic concepts behind the depression in simple terms to the general public. The letters were quite popular, and contributed to prime minister Lyons appointing Giblin as commonwealth statistician (effectively the chief statistical officer of the Australian Federal Government). As part of this cabinet, Gilbin is expected to provide useful insight for the economic issues that Australia faces, including best courses of action from the issues created by the wheat subsidies and providing input on what steps the country should take to emerge from the Great Depression.

James Mitchell – Premier of Western Australia

James Mitchell had humble origins, being born to a family of farmers in Dardanup, Western Australia. Much of his pre-political background was in banking, where he was the manager of Western Australia Bank's Northam branch. In this role, he dealt heavily in agricultural development loans, sparking an intense interest in agricultural expansion. He took this with him when he won the race to be Premier of Western Australia in 1919. As Premier, he favored government subsidies for farmers as well as programs like soldier settlement and

assisted migration. In fact, it was largely his government that laid the framework for the early soldier settlement program, so Mitchell has a strong stake in its success.

Mitchell failed to win reelection as Premier in 1924, but won again in 1930, leading to his position as a member of Lyons' Cabinet during this critical period in Australian history. His years of experience with farming communities, combined with his bona fides as the son of farmers himself, give him a strong foundation for working together with the people of Western Australia in order to solve the problem of the emus.

Thistle Yolette Harris – President of the Australian Wildlife Society

Harris, a Sydney native, always loved studying and appreciating the natural world. After graduating from the University of Sydney with a degree in Botany in 1924, she became a secondary school science teacher, a job she continued to do through 1932. Outside of work, she became a prominent member of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia – an organization dedicated to pushing for wildlife conservation, new preserves and national parks, and general good stewardship of the natural environment – and was later elected by her fellow members as President of the society. In 1932, she began work on the *Australian Wild Life* journal, which soon became the flagship publication of the Wildlife Preservation Society.

In terms of the Emu War, Harris wishes to see the emus happy and protected from human interventions. From her educational background in botany and agricultural studies, Harris is also prepared to weigh in with important scientific input as far as crop growth in Western Australia – this expertise in botany was what won her an invite to this cabinet.

Jason Casway - Farmer from the Campion Region

Casway was originally born in London in 1898 to a small family of factory workers. He was known from a young age as an eccentric child with an affinity for discussions and debates. This innate talent was noticed and nurtured by teachers, family, and community members from a young age. Upon the completion of his lower studies, he received a scholarship to attend Oxford. Despite this, he was drawn to glory on the battlefield and enlisted in the United Kingdom's standing army at the age of 18, just in time for World War I.

After receiving numerous accolades, his penchant for speech and debate returned. He capitalized on this by running for a seat in parliament under the pledge that he would do his best to prevent further wars. Unfortunately, his years in the military wore out his debating skills and he failed to find a receptive audience for his message. After years of failing to secure seats in local legislatures around England, Jason accepted a calmer life in a small town in Western Australia called Campion, living alongside other fellow soldiers. Jason toiled for six years as a farmer in Campion until he arose to shrieks from his family that half of the year's grain production had been trampled over by emus. Angered, he finally found a message that resonated with the people and successfully organized a campaign that ultimately got him to the apex of government, where he remains a passionate advocate for farmers in Western Australia.

Harold Herbert – Artist

Harold Brocklebank Herbert is a man of simple pleasures. A painter by trade, Herbert is renowned for his lithographs and his lush, carefully crafted watercolor paintings. Originally a student of architecture and applied design, Herbert's talent for the arts soon landed him a prominent position in Victoria's artistic community. As a founding member of the Australian

Watercolor Institute's committee of artists, his reputation among his colleagues was nothing short of sterling. Despite his increasing accolades, there is nothing Harold Herbert loves more than to set up his easel and palette in the great outdoors next to a picturesque village or a stunning vista and paint away. There is also nothing Harold Herbert hates more than when a village or vista is disfigured by the forces of chaos – or worse, modernism.

A staunch advocate of traditionalism in the arts, Herbert takes any chance he can get to rally against what he perceives as the existential threat of modern art. His hatred for the emus ravaging West Campion comes from a simple fact: after the herds of animals have passed through the countryside, it resembles nothing so much as the stunted shapes and twisted geometries of a modern art piece. Such a landscape could never – no, should never – be allowed to exist. The Cabinet has seen fit to enlist Herbert's services as an artist to document the march of the avian horde, and Herbert sees it as a sacred duty to use the power of his brush to rally his fellow artists and the nation at large against the birds who are making a mockery of the traditionally beautiful Australian countryside.

John Alexander Shearer – Inventor

Western Australia faces a number of agricultural challenges, with its dry, infertile soils and frequent Emu attacks. However, if there's anyone who can whip up a machine to address these challenges, it's John Shearer. Shearer grew up in Gladstone, South Australia, and was always fascinated by farming machinery. He was well-known in engineering circles for his numerous patents and inventions, making improvements and experimenting with plows, harrows, sprayers, and more. Not seeing much money in the agricultural devices business, he pursued a career in real estate, but retired in the late 1920s in order to dedicate more time into

experimenting with agricultural machinery. He was called to serve in this cabinet because he is confident in his ability to help Australia engineer its way out of both the Emu War and the agricultural issues facing the country.

Harry John Weston – Public Relations Specialist

Just as any army would, the Australian Army doubled down on recruitment efforts during the country's involvement in World War I. State-sponsored recruiting committees and civic organizations led public campaigns promoting the war effort and encouraging young men to enlist. Harry John Weston – an expert public relations specialist who made posters for the Win the War League – was invited to serve in this cabinet to offer his perspective on how to effectively contain any bubbling pro-emu sentiment among the public.

Weston, a Tasmanian native, was a former sailor, clerk, and teacher before moving to the mainland and committing to a career as an artist. A onetime member of the Pumpkin Patch Exploration Association, Weston had a soft spot for the underdogs and eccentrics of the world. This made him particularly sympathetic to the innocent farmers whose lands were trampled on by violent emus running rampant. He saw the Emu War as a valiant fight, on par with any other battle, that true Australian patriots should be proud to support.

James George – Emu Specialist

George came from a middle class family in Western Australia. Wanting to instill a love of nature in their children, George's parents often took him and his eight siblings on trips into the Australian outback. Unfortunately, on one of these trips, George wandered too far from the campsite and became lost. Half delirious from hunger and thirst, he was saved by a flock of

migrating emus. They led him to a river in the middle of a forested clearing, where he survived on the river and nearby berries. He was eventually found by a passing group of farmers and returned to his fear-stricken family.

While he was not allowed to wander two feet outside of his parents after the incident, he developed a strong fascination with emus. Due to his experience, he saw them as gentle creatures and even found their lack of wings utterly adorable. After excelling in school, he decided to become a professor, receiving a degree in anthropological ornithology from the University of Western Australia near Perth. During this time, he could never quite let go of his memories of his time with the emus and maintained a profound understanding of the emus' plight. After all, emus, too, needed water to survive in Australia's harsh and dry climate. In many ways, he saw the farmers' settlement in Western Australia as an encroachment into emu space. Emus should have the right to run free across their homeland! This train of thought did not bring Geoge many fans, but his expertise in emu habits was ultimately determined to be too valuable a source of information to be left out of committee.

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