

APPENDIX 4
IS THE RENT SUFFICIENT ?

Will the economic rent in Australia be sufficient to meet all the legitimate expenses of our 3-level government?

Firstly: this question is very largely irrelevant to our subject. Whether or not it is sufficient the rent belongs to the community and must in equity be confiscated, i.e. put into the public revenue. If it is not sufficient it must still be used for the community's requirements as far as it will extend.

To permit the rent to be privately appropriated, as at present it largely is, is the greatest social iniquity of modern times and causes immense mischief. Society is being virtually stood on its head; social virtues are being negated and social evils promoted.

Secondly: Nevertheless, as there are many who consider ethics secondary to expediency, or who cannot perceive or understand the beneficent operation of natural social law, an answer to our question must be given. The answer is as follows:

If the government functions normally and efficiently and public affairs are conducted accordingly the rent will be more than sufficient. Although we cannot expect any government to be perfect we can and must require our elected representatives to be efficient, economical and responsible. Irresponsibility, extravagance, partisanship, war and "defence" are the most likely areas of misgovernment in consequence of which expenditure could exceed the rent. If government runs riot there is no telling what the expenditure will be. But when the level of integrity and understanding in the community is so high that the rent is recognised as the true community revenue, and taxation is held in public detestation, it is highly improbable that substantial misgovernment will be permitted.

The practical view is that with good government in control public expenditure will greatly diminish. As already shown, unemployment will disappear, together with tariffs, bounties, subsidies and nuclear armaments, and people will no longer retire from work as pensioners in such great numbers as at present. Free trade and competition will make living cheaper and simpler. Even more importantly, under good government the rent itself will greatly increase, as will wages. As the community progresses rent increases: this is the law of rent. The surplus production increases naturally as the needs of the community increase.

So, we can confidently give a positive answer to this question.