

**AGRARIAN MYTH: ITS HISTORY AND USE BY THE
AUSTRALIAN COUNTRY PARTY**

by

Rae Wear
B. A. (Hons.) Qld. 1982

A thesis submitted
for the degree of
Master of Arts
with Honours of the
University of New England.

I certify that the substance of this thesis has not already been submitted for any degree and is not being currently submitted for any other degree.

I certify that any help received in preparing this thesis, and all sources used, have been acknowledged in this thesis.



Rae Wear

CONTENTS

	Page
Acknowledgments	
Abstract	1
Introduction	3
Chapter 1. Myth and Ideology	10
2. A History of Agrarian Myth	25
3. Australian Agrarian Myth	47
4. Varieties of Australian Agrarian Myth	68
5. The Australian Country Party	84
6. Policies	99
7. Agrarian Myth and the End of the Country Party	118
Conclusion	133
Bibliography	137

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There are a number of people who helped me in the preparation of this thesis. I am especially grateful to David Wells of the Department of Politics of the University of New England for his advice and critical comment. In his absence, I was ably assisted by Jeffrey Archer.

At the University College of Southern Queensland, I owe thanks to the Dean of the School of Management, Deborah Ralston and the Associate Dean, Doug Parrish, for their very practical assistance in providing me with time to complete this thesis. My colleagues in the School have provided a supportive environment in which to work. Two in particular deserve special mention. Richard Temple-Smith read and provided useful critical comment on the early chapters. Ian Eddington read numerous drafts of the thesis and provided valuable support and advice.

The National Party of Queensland was also extremely helpful in providing information and access to their newspaper files.

Finally, I am indebted to Peter Wear for his support, perceptive comments and invaluable assistance in solving numerous word processing problems.