

General News

Beware hidden agendas

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62

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The idea of a bill of rights found many supporters at the 2020 Summit, however, less publicised was the fact that it also attracted many who were opposed to it. Presently, both the Australian Capital Territory and Victoria have enacted versions of a statutory bill of rights, as a way to educate and allow greater constitutional protection. Even in spite of such success, we have notable opposition, namely in the form of former NSW Premier, Bob Carr, and the Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, George Pell. We must, however, also consider the following. Firstly, the matter of principle. Although those who endorse a bill of rights believe that they are advocating an objective list of neutral rights, the fact is that a social agenda has been instilled without the intervention of such things as elections or accountability. Secondly, implementing a bill of rights at the federal level can be problematic, as can be seen from the government of former Prime Minister Bob Hawke.

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