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**Structuring the Bounds of the
Possible:
Neoliberalism and the Discursive
Hegemony of Neoclassical
Economics**

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ABC	Australian Broadcasting Corporation
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACOSS	Australian Council of Social Service
ACTU	Australian Council of Trade Unions
AEA	American Economic Association
AEC	Australian Electoral Commission
AEI	American Enterprise Institute
AES	Australian Election Study
AFSI	Australian Financial System Inquiry
AGO	Australian Greenhouse Office
AHURI	Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
AIRC	Australian Industrial Relations Commission
ALP	Australian Labor Party
AP6	Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
ATSIC	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
AWA	Australian Workplace Agreement
BCA	Business Council of Australia
CCS	Carbon Capture and Storage
CGT	Capital Gains Tax
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
COP	Conference of the Parties
CRA	Commonwealth Rent Assistance
CSHA	Commonwealth–State Housing Agreement
FHOS	First Home Owners Grant Scheme
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNP	Gross National Product
GST	Goods and Services Tax
HECS	Higher Education Contribution Scheme
HIA	Housing Industry Association
IEA	Institute of Economic Affairs
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LULUCF	Land use, Land Use Change and Forestry
LETDF	Low Emissions Technology Development Fund
MRET	Mandatory Renewable Energy Target
NAACP	National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
NATSEM	National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling
NCHF	National Community Housing Forum
NCP	National Competition Policy
NFCB	Non-Financial Corporate Business (Sector)

NGRS	National Greenhouse Response Strategy
NHS	National Housing Strategy
NLRB	National Labor Relations Board
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
ONA	Office of National Assessments
OPEC	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
PNFC	Private Non-Financial Corporate Sector
PPM	Parts Per Million
RBA	Reserve Bank of Australia
SAP	Structural Adjustment Program
SCLC	Southern Christian Leadership Conference
SHA	State Housing Authority
TAA	Trans Australian Airlines
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
US	United States
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WHO	World Health Organisation
WTO	World Trade Organisation

ABSTRACT

Since the 1970s the adoption and implementation of neoliberal policies worldwide by industrialised and developing countries alike has resulted in radical changes to the international social, political and economic landscape. This thesis argues that neoliberal policies may be understood as an ideological and political vehicle through which capital has sought to restore business profitability and economic growth in the wake of the post-war boom and that neoclassical economic theory (with its emphasis on market-based modes of resource allocation) has been used to legitimate the implementation of policies conducive to the interests of an international economic elite. It suggests, further, that since roughly the 1960s, proponents of both neoclassical economics and neoliberalism (in government, business, the academy and elsewhere) have sought to reorganise their societies (and the societies of others) in accordance with a number of *a priori* neoclassical/neoliberal theoretical postulates. This, it is argued, has resulted in the institutionalisation of a neoliberal policy paradigm (i.e. a pervasive conceptual framework through which policy-makers understand and view policy problems) on the one hand and the ascendancy of an overarching, neoclassically-oriented economic discourse (which fashions our understanding of the world) on the other; both of which have acted to constrain the range of policy alternatives available to governments in Australia (and elsewhere) over the past three decades by structuring the bounds of the policy possible. It is the author's contention that this has rendered our political institutions and those who are charged with the task of administering them largely incapable of addressing many of the social and environmental problems confronting our society and civilisation and that an awareness, understanding and recognition of the aforementioned developments is a necessary prerequisite for successfully addressing such problems.

DECLARATION

This work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution to Seth Nicholls and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text.

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