

## Doubting Australia: The roots of Australia's climate denial

Notes prepared by Australian climate organisations seeking action on climate change  
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The roots of climate denial in Australia can be found in the relationships between fossil fuel industry-funded groups in the US and Australian mining industry, including a push, in the mid-1990's, to kick Australia into a state of denial.

With a massive coal and mining industry backing him, Australian Prime Minister John Howard's government was the perfect breeding ground for climate denial. This was recognised by the Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI) in 1996, which began strategising to develop the Australian arm of their campaign to stop the Kyoto Protocol, which negotiators were just one year away from concluding.

The CEI<sup>1</sup> is a US Libertarian anti-regulation "free market" think tank. For many years it has attacked global warming science and has received more than \$2 million in funding from Exxon since 1998. The CEI coordinates the "Cooler Heads Coalition"<sup>2</sup> and the website <http://www.globalwarming.org>. It is perhaps best known for its bizarre "CO<sub>2</sub> is life" advertisements<sup>3</sup> in 2006. Shortly after these ran ExxonMobil dropped its funding, under pressure from, among others, the UK Royal Society<sup>4</sup>.

In November 1996 a strategy meeting was held at the CEI in Washington that would begin to cement the cross-pollination of people and ideas between Australia and the US<sup>5</sup>.

At the meeting, RJ Smith from the CEI argued that it was clear that "Australia if possible would be a key player in this", so the CEI decided to hold a conference<sup>6</sup>.

Interviewed by Australian journalist Bob Burton in 1997, Smith said: "Early last winter, right after Tim Wirth of the US State Department announced they were going to call for mandatory controls in Kyoto, we said what do we do? How do we stop this?"<sup>7</sup>

Smith met with Ray Evans of the Western Mining Corporation (WMC), and the two began planning.

They held a conference in Washington 1997, and several key deniers were in attendance, along with the Australians. According to *PR Watch* it "offered blanket dismissals of the scientific evidence for climate change and predicted staggering economic costs for any policies aimed at restricting emissions<sup>8</sup>." Australian Embassy Chief of Mission Paul O'Sullivan, gave the address.

According to PR Watch:

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.exxonsecrets.org/html/orgfactsheet.php>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.globalwarming.org>

<sup>3</sup> <http://cei.org/pages/co2.cfm>

<sup>4</sup> [http://royalsociety.org/Report\\_WF.aspx?pageid=8256&terms=ExxonMobil](http://royalsociety.org/Report_WF.aspx?pageid=8256&terms=ExxonMobil) and <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2006/sep/20/oilandpetrol.business>

<sup>5</sup> B. Burton (1997) "WMC's Campaign to Scuttle Binding Targets", *Mining Monitor*, Vol.2(4), December 1997, p1

<sup>6</sup> B. Burton (1997) "WMC's Campaign to Scuttle Binding Targets", *Mining Monitor*, Vol.2(4), December 1997, p1

<sup>7</sup> B. Burton (1997) "WMC's Campaign to Scuttle Binding Targets", *Mining Monitor*, Vol.2(4), December 1997, p1; <http://www.cei.org/gencon/005.01305.cfm>; <http://www.prwatch.org/prwissues/1997Q4/warming.html>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.prwatch.org/prwissues/1997Q4/warming.html>

“In August 1997, the CEI and another front group, Frontiers of Freedom (\$1.2 million from ExxonMobil since 1998)<sup>9</sup> sponsored another conference, this time in Canberra, along with the Australian and New Zealand Chambers of Commerce and the WMC. Ray Evans and WMC’s Managing Director Hugh Morgan played a significant role at the conference, and attendees included then Australian Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer and Environment Minister Robert Hill. Fischer claimed<sup>10</sup> that tough emission reduction targets could put 90,000 jobs at risk in Australia and cost more than \$150 million<sup>11</sup>.”

Speakers included American climate sceptic Patrick Michaels, climate sceptic politicians, Rep. John Dingell<sup>12</sup>, Senator Chuck Hagel and Richard Lawson (President and Chief Executive Officer of the US National Mining Association and present at the earlier CEI meeting).

According to the CEI’s RJ Smith, the purpose of the Canberra conference<sup>13</sup> was to “try and buck [Prime Minister John Howard] up a little more and let him know that there is support of the American people” for his government’s obstructionist stance<sup>14</sup>

Later that year, an Australian at the CEI, Hugh Morley, noted on the CEI’s website that “If Australia sticks to its gun (sic), there might not be a Kyoto treaty after all<sup>15</sup>.”

### **The Institute of Public Affairs (IPA)**

But even before this group of think tanks got together, the Institute of Public Affairs<sup>16</sup> had begun its climate denial campaign. The IPA has been at the heart of climate denial in Australia since it began – one could even argue that the IPA started the climate denial movement in Australia. It is a free market think tank, at times heavily funded by the fossil fuel industry and with strong links to the Australian liberal party.

According to Sourcewatch, the IPA has received funding from BHP Billiton and its subsidiary the Western Mining Corporation, from oil companies such as Shell, Mobil and Woodside Petroleum, along with Tobacco giants Philip Morris and British American tobacco<sup>17</sup>. But the IPA keeps its funding secret, despite the then Executive Director, Nahan, promising a journalist in 2003<sup>18</sup> that they would publish a full list of sponsors and contributors the following year.

Its funding has dropped in recent years, and the IPA has acknowledged that “some of Australia’s largest companies stopped donating to the IPA because of our stance on global warming.<sup>19</sup>”

<sup>9</sup> Frontiers of Freedom is the brainchild of US Senator Malcolm Wallop (Republican).

<http://www.exxonsecrets.com/html/orgfactsheet.php?id=35> Now called “Freedomworks”.

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.prwatch.org/prwissues/1997Q4/warming.html>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.prwatch.org/prwissues/1997Q4/warming.html>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.opensecrets.org/politicians/industries.php?cycle=Career&cid=N00001783&type=I> Dingell’s top industry contributor is the electricity industry

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.prwatch.org/prwissues/1997Q4/warming.html>

<sup>14</sup> B. Burton (1997) “WMC’s Campaign to Scuttle Binding Targets”, *Mining Monitor*, Vol.2(4), December 1997, p1 and <http://www.prwatch.org/prwissues/1997Q4/warming.html>

<sup>15</sup> <http://cei.org/gencon/005,01305.cfm>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.ipa.org.au>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=IPA>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2003/08/11/1060588322537.html>

<sup>19</sup> Letter to Kevin Rudd from IPA Executive Director John Roskam, 12 April 2010

Nearly 20 years ago, in 1990, the IPA brought over one of the world's most prominent climate deniers, Dr. Fred Singer, who has dismissed, amongst other things, ozone depletion, climate change, the dangers of smoking, whaling and the nuclear industry. "Forget global warming and the depletion of the ozone layer - that's the message from a leading US scientist. Moreover, he says public alarm on these issues has been fuelled by political motivation and fanned by media speculation" ran the *Hobart Mercury*<sup>20</sup>

The following year Singer was back in Australia at the behest of the IPA,<sup>21</sup> and wrote a series of essays for the think tank, as did Fred Krug from the American Wise Use group The Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow (CFACT)<sup>22</sup>. In 1992, the IPA then followed this up with a background document by another prominent climate sceptic Richard Lindzen<sup>23</sup>.

The IPA's relationship with these think tanks blossomed, with joint conferences and op eds on various environmental issues with the Heritage Foundation and the American Enterprise Institute, both industry-funded US conservative think tanks.

The hosting of events with international skeptics continues to this day, with recent events including hosting UK peer and founder of the UK's Global Warming Policy Foundation Nigel Lawson in 2007<sup>24</sup> and US denier Patrick Michaels in 2009<sup>25</sup>. Michaels has been a vocal denier in the US since the early 1990's and has received funding from fossil fuel companies such as Western Fuels.

The IPA's extensive connections to the Liberal party go back decades. Today this includes its executive director, John Roskam, a Liberal party powerbroker, and former Howard government staffer, who has run for election on several occasions. Its board chair is former Senator in the Howard Government, Rod Kemp. On its board are former Victoria Liberal party president Michael Kroeger, and former Rio Tinto and liberal party PR advisor Tim Duncan, who now works for Hintons PR.

The majority of other board members have connections with the big resource industries who are opposing the proposed ETS for Australia. For example, Bill Hetherington was the Chairman of Murray Irrigation Ltd, the largest private irrigation company in Australia between 1995 and 2005. In June 2004 it was revealed by the AFR<sup>26</sup> that Murray Irrigation Limited contributed \$40,000 to the IPA and that Environment director Jennifer Marohasy lobbied the Australian government to overturn recommendations to increase the volume of water released into the Murray River.

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[www.ipa.org.au/library/.../1272418380\\_document\\_letter\\_to\\_kevin\\_rudd.pdf](http://www.ipa.org.au/library/.../1272418380_document_letter_to_kevin_rudd.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> P. Margareta (1990) "Professor Singer . . . Theories not Backed by Fact", *Hobart Mercury*, 1 December, 1990.

<sup>21</sup> B. Williams (1991) "Experts Cold On Warming - Scientist", *Courier-Mail*, 22 October

<sup>22</sup> CFACT has received \$582,000 from ExxonMobil and XXX from Koch industries, amongst others. It has organized the denier attendance and events at recent climate negotiations in Bali, Poznan and Copenhagen.

<sup>23</sup> A. Rowell (1996) *Green Backlash - Global Subversion of the Environment Movement*, Routledge, p243.

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.ipa.org.au/events/information/year/2007/event/the-politics-and-economics-of-climate-change-with-nigel-lawson>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.ipa.org.au/events/information/year/2009/event/patrick-j.-michaels---climatologist-and-climate-change-sceptic>

<sup>26</sup> [http://sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Institute\\_of\\_Public\\_Affairs](http://sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Institute_of_Public_Affairs)

Jennifer Marohasy mysteriously left the organisation last year<sup>27</sup>.

Another board member is Tom Quirk, a climate denier who has signed up to a number of different “scientists’ open letters” to various world leaders and railed against action on climate change<sup>28</sup>. He worked at CRA (which was then taken over by Rio Tinto).

Staff at the IPA include Alan Moran, who was named by the Australia Institute’s Clive Hamilton as one of the “Dirty dozen” (see profile on Moran below). Former board member was Hugh Morgan (see below), formerly of the Western Mining Corporation (now wholly owned by BHP Billiton). His son, William, is now on the board.

The IPA was one of the sponsors of the Heartland Institute’s conferences pushing climate denial - in both 2008<sup>29</sup> and in May 2010<sup>30</sup>.

They hosted the launch of Australian denier Ian Plimer’s book in 2009<sup>31</sup>. (see below for Plimer)

The IPA has held a long-running campaign against the Rudd Government’s emissions trading scheme – a search for the keyword ETS on its website<sup>32</sup> reveals a full 11 pages of documents. When Rudd dropped the ETS, John Roskam called on Rudd to scrap the entire department of climate change.<sup>33</sup>

The IPA’s most recent publication is “Climate Change, the Facts”<sup>34</sup>, a book edited by Alan Moran and distributed in April, 2010, to politicians.

“Is climate change caused by humans?” it asks.

In a letter to Kevin Rudd<sup>35</sup> about the book, the IPA crows about “being vindicated” on its “principled stance” against the ETS and questioning global warming. “It is a development that is good for liberal democracy in Australia” it told the Prime Minister and went to say “The IPA is pleased our research on climate change over the last two decades has helped contribute to the shift in peoples views.”

### **The IPA set up the Australian Environment Foundation**

The IPA wasn’t satisfied with its own lobbying so it went about setting up other groups. In 2005 the IPA set up the Australian Environment Foundation, a front group whose name was very similar (perhaps designed to be?) to that of the Australian Conservation Foundation. The first executive director was well known climate sceptic blogger Jennifer Marohasy, who was, at the time, environment director at the IPA. Other founding members include climate denier Bob

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.prwatch.org/node/8452>

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.onlineopinion.com.au/view.asp?article=8559>

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.heartland.org/events/NewYork09/sponsorships.html>

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.heartland.org/events/2010Chicago/cosponsors.html>

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.ipa.org.au/events/information/year/2009/event/ian-plimer%27s-%27heaven-and-earth-global-warming---the-missing-science%27-book-launch>

<sup>32</sup> <http://bit.ly/benCv9>

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.ipa.org.au/sectors/climate-change/publication/1796/ets-backdown-welcomed-climate-change-department-should-be-scraped>

<sup>34</sup> <http://climatechange.ipa.org.au/>

<sup>35</sup> [www.ipa.org.au/library/.../1272418380\\_document\\_letter\\_to\\_kevin\\_rudd.pdf](http://www.ipa.org.au/library/.../1272418380_document_letter_to_kevin_rudd.pdf)

Carter (see below). While the AEF was set up to counter the timber industry, it quickly turned to challenging climate science as well.

The AEF's science advisor is Peter Ridd, of James Cook University who has spoken out<sup>36</sup> against the science on climate change and the Great Barrier Reef.

The AEF, describes itself as “a different kind of environment group caring for both Australia and Australians<sup>37</sup>.”

The AEF set up an online petition against the ETS called “listen to us”<sup>38</sup>. Its purpose was:

“to oppose the ETS because despite all the spin, the bottom-line is an ETS:

1. Will not change global temperatures;
2. Will force Australian jobs overseas; and
3. Will make Australians poorer; while it is richer, not poorer nations that are better able to protect their natural environment”

The AEF has claimed that the Great Barrier Reef is “in great shape”<sup>39</sup> and heralded the shift by independent Senator Steve Feilding when he began questioning the climate science<sup>40</sup>.

It convened the Sydney presentation<sup>41</sup> of Christopher Monckton's tour in January 2009.

### **AEF set up the Australian Climate Science Coalition**

The AEF, in turn, set up the Australian Climate Science Coalition<sup>42</sup>. AEF executive director Max Rheese is also executive director of the ACSC. The ACSC is related to two international counterparts – the New Zealand Climate Science Coalition, and the International Climate Science Coalition. All three appear to be just websites rather than being staffed.

In August 2009, the AUCSC organised a “whistlestop tour on climate and the ETS<sup>43</sup>” of Australia to counter the proposed Emissions Trading Scheme. The entourage was made up of Rheese, US think tank The Heartland Institute's<sup>44</sup> Jay Lehr<sup>45</sup> and Australian denier Bob Carter (see below). Lehr managed to get an editorial into Brisbane's “Courier Mail<sup>46</sup>” while Bob Carter

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<sup>36</sup> <http://www.climateshifts.org/?p=4383>

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.listentous.org.au/>

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.listentous.org.au/>

<sup>39</sup> <http://nqr.farmonline.com.au/news/state/agribusiness-and-general/general/great-barrier-reef-pristine-scientist/1532999.aspx?storypage=0>

<sup>40</sup> <http://aefweb.info/media805.html>

<sup>41</sup> <http://aefweb.info/media809.html>

<sup>42</sup> <http://www.auscsc.org.au/contact.html>

<sup>43</sup> <http://aefweb.info/> see news update.

<sup>44</sup> The Heartland Institute has received funding from ExxonMobil, Koch Industries and other big oil companies, or oil-related foundations, along with money from big tobacco. Heartland is one of the core groups pushing climate denial in the US, most especially with its annual denial conferences. It also runs a “smokers lounge”, campaigning against any regulation on tobacco and smoking. <http://www.heartland.org/suites/tobacco/>

<sup>45</sup> <http://www.desmogblog.com/jay-lehr>

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/opinion/real-heat-generated-by-vested-interests/story-e6frerdf-1225760226767>

swung by Canberra to lobby MP's.

### **The Lavoisier Group**

The links between the main front groups running climate denial in Australia continued with another group, the Lavoisier Group, chaired and set up by former Western Mining Corporation's Ray Evans, with former IPA chair and WMC CEO (1990 – 2003) Hugh Morgan on its board (see below for information on both). Also on the Lavoisier Group board are Harold Clough, a Director of the IPA<sup>47</sup>, and Tom Bostock, director of the Australian Environment Foundation<sup>48</sup>.

Undergraduate at Wollongong University Patrick Hodder spent a summer in 2006/07 studying the Lavoisier group and its relationship with the Federal Government.

"This report concludes that the arguments of the Lavoisier Group, and the way they have been replayed in certain sections of the media, has been useful in allowing the [Howard] Government to retain a skeptical position on climate change over the past decade and still appear prudent and mainstream," he wrote<sup>49</sup>.

### **The lobbyists**

#### **Alan Moran**

"Australia has more to lose from forced reduction in carbon dioxide emissions than any other developed country," was what Alan Moran, the IPA's deregulation director, wrote in an open letter from the IPA<sup>50</sup> to Environment Minister Penny Wong about the CPRS in August 2009. The IPA has been spearheading the campaign to

In an editorial on the the ABC "drum unleashed" blog<sup>51</sup> on the back of the French Government dropping its proposed carbon tax, entitled "climate change requiem," Moran questioned the science of climate change, as he has done since he joined the IPA in 1996:

"It was certainly not the cost to humanity of a warmer climate. Even pessimistic assumptions used by the official estimates put the costs as low. And those estimates were invariably carefully buried in hundreds of pages of diagrams, tables and trivia."

He has argued that renewable energy provisions in the CPRS had "condemned [societies] to economic decline and in many cases a loss of sovereignty."<sup>52</sup>

The Australia Institute's Clive Hamilton has listed Moran as one of Australia's "dirty dozen", arguing in a speech in 2006 that Moran's role

"has been to support the Government and the fossil fuel corporations with anti-environmental opinions about climate science, the costs of emission reductions and the pitfalls of renewable energy. As a bureaucrat in the Kennett Government he played a major role in stopping, for a time, the national adoption of energy performance standards for home appliances that had been agreed by all the states. The IPA has

<sup>47</sup> <http://www.ipa.org.au/people>

<sup>48</sup> <http://aefweb.info/staff.php>

<sup>49</sup> [www.uow.edu.au/content/groups/public/@web/.../uow039118.pdf](http://www.uow.edu.au/content/groups/public/@web/.../uow039118.pdf)

<sup>50</sup> <http://www.ipa.org.au/publications/1696/open-letter-institute-of-public-affairs-climate-change-research>

<sup>51</sup> <http://www.abc.net.au/unleashed/stories/s2867427.htm>

<sup>52</sup> <http://www.ipa.org.au/publications/1690/the-costs-to-australia-of-renewable-energy>

assisted the anti-wind lobby in Victoria, a move that appears to be driven by hatred of environmentalists and a relentless scepticism about climate change.”

Moran has recently argued<sup>53</sup> that polar bear populations are increasing, has slammed the IPCC and jumped on the Hockey stick bandwagon (an issue that has been put to bed by scientists).

He has a regular outlet at the ABC’s website “the drum – unleashed”.

### **Ray Evans, Hugh Morgan**

Ray Evans’ early associations with the US think tank the Competitive Enterprise Institute have already been documented.

Clive Hamilton has detailed, in his book “Scorcher” the exploits of Morgan and Evans as CEO and Executive Officer at the Western Mining Corporation. Morgan was there until 2003 and Evans from 1982 to 2001.

“My role was to engage in the culture wars and provide him with feedback,” Evans says of his work for Morgan,” Sourcewatch reports<sup>54</sup>.

Despite absolutely no climate science background, Evans nevertheless write a book entitled “Nine Facts about Climate Change”<sup>55</sup> that was launched at a meeting organized by the Lavoisier Group in Canberra, in 2007.

He argued:

“The global warming scam has been, arguably, the most extraordinary example of scientific fraud in the post-War period. So many people, and institutions, have been caught up in the web of deceit, master-minded by environmental activists working through NGOs and their manipulation of the IPCC processes, that the integrity of Western science is seriously at risk.”<sup>56</sup>

The so-called “facts” have been thoroughly rebutted by the climate scientists at RealClimate <sup>57</sup>.

Evans is a regular contributor to the conservative magazine Quadrant <sup>58</sup>. He is a regular contributor and commentator in the Australian conservative media on climate change.

Two years later, in 2009, he was back with another book, “Thank God for Carbon”, launched by climate sceptic, liberal Senator Cory Bernardi in Adelaide<sup>59</sup>.

<sup>53</sup> <http://www.abc.net.au/unleashed/stories/s2832420.htm>

<sup>54</sup> [http://sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Ray\\_Evans](http://sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Ray_Evans)

<sup>55</sup> <http://www.lavoisier.com.au/articles/greenhouse-science/climate-change/evans2007-4.php>

<sup>56</sup> <http://www.crikey.com.au/2007/02/28/climate-change-is-bunk-ray-evans-tells-us-why/>

<sup>57</sup> [http://www.realclimate.org/wiki/index.php?title=Lavoisier\\_Group](http://www.realclimate.org/wiki/index.php?title=Lavoisier_Group)

<sup>58</sup> <http://www.quadrant.org.au/magazine/issue/2008/9/satanic-gas>  
<http://www.quadrant.org.au/magazine/issue/2008/6/the-chilling-costs-of-climate-catastrophism>

<sup>59</sup> <http://www.lavoisier.com.au/articles/climate-policy/science-and-policy/TGFC->

Evans is the secretary of the Lavoisier Group; Morgan is the chair.

## Key sceptic scientists

### 1. Professor Ian Plimer

Perhaps the most prominent “darling” of the Australian denier industry today, Ian Plimer is Professor of Mining Geology at the University of Adelaide. He has published more than 40 peer reviewed scientific articles – most of them about ore deposits.

He is not a climate scientist and has never published a peer-reviewed paper on climate change. Nevertheless, he considers himself a scientific expert on the subject.

He has received much notoriety in recent years, largely due to the publication of his book, “Heaven and Earth” in 2009 which argues that global warming isn’t happening. His arguments have been widely debunked by the scientific community<sup>60</sup>. Critics calculate that there are around 390 scientific mistakes in the book<sup>61</sup>.

However, that didn’t stop Leader of the Liberal Party, climate sceptic Tony Abbott<sup>62</sup> praising his work, or for it to sell more than 40,000 copies in Australia alone.

The polarisation around Plimer’s book drew divisions on each side of the “debate” – with the ABC and Australian leading the charge against Plimer’s critics. When Guardian columnist George Monbiot attempted to ask Plimer questions about the arguments he made in the book, he instead received a series of questions from Plimer, answered in great detail by Gavin Schmidt at RealClimate<sup>63</sup>.

Plimer’s lack of climate credentials is one thing. But as a geologist, one would expect him to get his facts right on volcanoes. Not so. In the wake of the eruption by Icelandic Volcano Eyjafjallajokull, Plimer has gained more international attention by repeating his claim that volcanoes produce more CO<sub>2</sub> than humans – a “fact” which has been disproven by major scientific institutions<sup>64</sup>.

Plimer makes no secret of the fact that he has long-held connections with the mining industry. He is the director of four mining companies, earning hundreds of thousands a year from the income. Paddy Manning of The Age sums up his earnings here<sup>65</sup> (original information posted by Sourcewatch).

He is comfortable wearing the hat of his mining allegiances, for example signing a letter<sup>66</sup> from the mining industry calling for tax breaks for Queenslanders in April 2010.

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### [LaunchBernardi.php](#)

<sup>60</sup> [http://www.complex.org.au/tiki-download\\_file.php?fileId=91](http://www.complex.org.au/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=91) also see Tim Lambert’s Deltoid blog [http://scienceblogs.com/deltoid/global\\_warming/plimer/](http://scienceblogs.com/deltoid/global_warming/plimer/)

<sup>61</sup> [http://scienceblogs.com/deltoid/2009/05/ian\\_enting\\_is\\_checking\\_plimers.php](http://scienceblogs.com/deltoid/2009/05/ian_enting_is_checking_plimers.php)

<sup>62</sup> “TONY ABBOTT: I think that in response to the IPCC alarmist - ah in inverted commas - view, there've been quite a lot of other reputable scientific voices. Now not everyone agrees with Ian Plimer's position but he is a highly credible scientist and he has written what seems like a very well argued book refuting most of the claims of the climate catastrophists.” ABC Four Corners 9 November 2009 <http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/content/2009/s2737676.htm>

<sup>63</sup> <http://www.realclimate.org/index.php/archives/2009/08/plimers-homework-assignment/>

<sup>64</sup> <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/blog/2010/apr/21/iceland-volcano-climate-sceptics>

<sup>65</sup> <http://www.smh.com.au/business/a-resourceful-climate-sceptic-20100212-nxnp.html>

<sup>66</sup> <http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/business/a-tax-break-for-putting-up-with-snakes-20100429-tuf4.html>

At the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy's "Essington Lewis Memorial Lecture"<sup>67</sup> in November 2009, he savaged<sup>68</sup> the Rudd Government's ETS, saying ""So on top of everything else it needs to contend with, the mining industry is now confronted by a new age of irrationality." (The Sydney Mining Club joined his call<sup>69</sup> at the same event).

Australia's ABC has defended its use of Plimer as an opinionmaker on climate, saying he is a "legitimate voice for the debate" <http://deepclimate.org/2009/09/05/abc-claims-ian-plimer-is-a-legitimate-voice/>

In early 2010, Plimer hit the Australian media, on a tour around the country with UK climate sceptic and former advisor (not on science) to Margaret Thatcher, Christopher Monckton (Viscount Monckton of Brenchley), who has been embraced by the denial industry. Monckton has no credentials as a scientist at all. Deltoid has covered his mistakes<sup>70</sup>

Plimer's international activities:

- "scientific advisor" to the Australian Climate Science Coalition, a spin-off of the Australian Environment Foundation that, in turn, was set up by the Institute of Public Affairs, of which Plimer is an associate.
- signed a letter to UN Secretary General Ban ki-Moon, challenging the work of the UNFCCC and the IPCC<sup>71</sup>. (The letter was also signed by Tom Quirk, a member of the IPA board).
- Signed another document<sup>72</sup> issued by arch denier, Republican Senator James Inhofe (masterminded by Inhofe's right hand man, Marc Morano, who has since set up his own website, Climate Depot, funded by the Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow<sup>73</sup>).
- Signed an open letter<sup>74</sup>, with 61 other deniers, to Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, asking him to review the climate science, organized by front group "Friends of Science", a Canadian group set up by retired geologists. FoS's fundamental claim is that global warming is caused by the sun.

He publishes regularly in The Australian and is wowed by the conservative right, such as his presentation to the Sydney Mining Club in 2008<sup>75</sup>.

## 2. Robert M (Bob) Carter

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<sup>67</sup> [http://www.unisa.edu.au/alumni/ezine/35\\_lecture\\_09.htm](http://www.unisa.edu.au/alumni/ezine/35_lecture_09.htm)

<sup>68</sup> <http://www.news.com.au/breaking-news/national/climate-change-plan-could-ruin-australia/story-e6frku9-1225799763107>

<sup>69</sup> <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/news/carbon-plan-may-destroy-miners/story-e6frg90f-111117966261>

<sup>70</sup> [http://scienceblogs.com/deltoid/global\\_warming/monckton/](http://scienceblogs.com/deltoid/global_warming/monckton/)

<sup>71</sup> [http://www.heartland.org/full/26498/Open\\_Letter\\_to\\_SecretaryGeneral\\_of\\_United\\_Nations.html](http://www.heartland.org/full/26498/Open_Letter_to_SecretaryGeneral_of_United_Nations.html)

<sup>72</sup> <http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Minority.SenateReport#report>

<sup>73</sup> CFACT has been well-funded by the fossil fuel industry, to the tune of \$582,000 from ExxonMobil between 1998 and 2007 and more than \$1 million from oil family Scaife & Carthage foundations

[http://mediamattersaction.org/transparency/organization/Committee\\_for\\_a\\_Constructive\\_Tomorrow/funders](http://mediamattersaction.org/transparency/organization/Committee_for_a_Constructive_Tomorrow/funders) CFACT hired Inhofe's advisor Marc Morano and set up his climate depot blog – Morano has been at the centre of the denial groups pushing wild and unsubstantiated claims about "climategate"

<sup>74</sup> <http://www.friendsofscience.org/index.php?id=113>

<sup>75</sup> <http://www.sydneyminingclub.org/presentations/2008/november/plimer/player.html>

Like Plimer, Bob Carter is the darling of the international climate denial community and US conservative think tanks.

Carter is the adjunct research professor at James Cook University's Marine Geophysical Laboratory. He is a specialist in rocks: a stratigraphist.

"Naturally, I would turn to geologists for advice on brain surgery, dentistry, accounting or religion, but in the field of climate science I lean towards meteorologists. Geologists such as Prof. Ian Plimer are used to working in eras which last for millions of years - and the period of human civilisation since the great Ice Age may well seem inconsequential, and the life expectancy of people now living a mere blip."

- Barry Jones on ABC "Bob Carter's attack on reason" Dec 9 2009<sup>76</sup>

Carter argues that "I don't have a message. I'm a scientist. I work in the area of climate change. And as a scientist I don't have an opinion, I don't have a political view."

Yet he edited Quadrant Online's "ETS Forum"<sup>77</sup>, in August 2009, whose list of contributors is, with the notable exception of Hugh Morgan, a virtual who's who of the denier movement in Australia today.

For someone who doesn't have a political view, Carter has been busy:

- Signatory, denier letter to Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper<sup>78</sup>
- "expert", Heartland Institute<sup>79</sup>
- Signed a 2007 denier letter to U.N. Sec. General Ban Ki-Moon<sup>80</sup>
- Signed a 2009 newspaper ad by the Cato Institute<sup>81</sup> challenging President Obama's stance on climate change<sup>82</sup>
- signed a letter to UN Secretary General Ban ki-Moon, challenging the work of the UNFCCC and the IPCC<sup>83</sup>.

#### Carter's affiliations:

- New Zealand Climate Science Coalition: inaugural climate scientist<sup>84</sup>
- International climate science coalition: science advisory board<sup>85</sup>
- Australian Climate Science Coalition science advisory panel<sup>86</sup>
- "Expert" of at US sceptic group "Icecap"<sup>87</sup>

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<sup>76</sup> <http://www.abc.net.au/unleashed/stories/s2766216.htm>

<sup>77</sup> <https://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2009/08/emissions-trading-scheme-forum>

<sup>78</sup> <http://www.canada.com/nationalpost/financialpost/story.html?id=3711460e-bd5a-475d-a6be-4db87559d605>

<sup>79</sup> <http://www.globalwarmingheartland.org/experts.html>

<sup>80</sup> [http://www.heartland.org/policybot/results/22621/Scientists\\_Speak\\_Out\\_Against\\_Alarmist\\_Warming\\_Theory.html](http://www.heartland.org/policybot/results/22621/Scientists_Speak_Out_Against_Alarmist_Warming_Theory.html)

<sup>81</sup> The Cato Institute has received \$125,000 from ExxonMobil between 1998 and 2005; and \$5.2 million from oil conglomerate Koch Industries from 1997-2008 <http://www.greenpeace.org/usa/campaigns/global-warming-and-energy/polluterwatch/koch-industries>

<sup>82</sup> [www.cato.org/special/climatechange/cato\\_climate.pdf](http://www.cato.org/special/climatechange/cato_climate.pdf)

<sup>83</sup> [http://www.heartland.org/full/26498/Open\\_Letter\\_to\\_SecretaryGeneral\\_of\\_United\\_Nations.html](http://www.heartland.org/full/26498/Open_Letter_to_SecretaryGeneral_of_United_Nations.html)

<sup>84</sup> [http://nzclimatescience.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=blogsection&id=12&Itemid=45](http://nzclimatescience.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogsection&id=12&Itemid=45)

<sup>85</sup> [http://www.climatescienceinternational.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=280&Itemid=28](http://www.climatescienceinternational.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=280&Itemid=28)

<sup>86</sup> [http://www.auscsc.org.au/about\\_us.html](http://www.auscsc.org.au/about_us.html)

<sup>87</sup> <http://icecap.us/index.php/go/experts>

- Regular speaker at all of the Heartland Institute's conferences, in 2008<sup>88</sup>, 2009 (in New York<sup>89</sup> and in Washington<sup>90</sup>) and due to speak at the 4<sup>th</sup> conference in Chicago, May 2010<sup>91</sup>. The Heritage Foundation posted an update<sup>92</sup> of his presentation at the New York conference in March 09.
- Science Advisor<sup>93</sup> at the Frontiers of Freedom's (now Freedomworks) Science and Public Policy Institute (SPPI) a US front group ExxonMobil provided seed money to set up<sup>94</sup>.

In mid 09, Carter, along with New Zealand denier Chris de Freitas and another long-term denier John McClean (who doesn't appear to have any climate science credentials at all<sup>95</sup>) published a paper in the Journal of Geophysical Research<sup>96</sup> that claimed that the El Nino Southern Oscillation removed any long term trend in global temperature rise.

The paper was riddled with very basic mistakes, pointed out by a global team of some the world's best climate scientists who published a robust refutation<sup>97</sup> of the paper pointing out that the three made the most basic of errors when they dealt with the "noise" in the statistics. Deltoid sums up why here

[http://scienceblogs.com/deltoid/2010/03/well\\_now\\_we\\_know\\_why.php#more](http://scienceblogs.com/deltoid/2010/03/well_now_we_know_why.php#more)

The JGR rejected the original authors' response to the refutation, leading the ABC to cover the cries of "censorship" by the authors<sup>98</sup>. The author response, according to the climate scientists, simply didn't stand up and couldn't be published.

However, Professor Stephan Lewandowsky explained on an ABC blog<sup>99</sup>:

"The decision to reject a reply by McLean and colleagues, which was made on the basis of three detailed reviews of their work, was thus quality control and not censorship. It is not censorship to put an end to illegitimate attempts to interpret detrended data as evidence against global warming. It is quality control. It is not censorship to put an end to pronouncements based on a botched figure that splices together two discordant temperature series without correction. It is quality control."

"This analysis, based entirely on publicly available information, puts to rest the only peer reviewed article that was purportedly about climate change and claimed to challenge the scientific consensus, to have come out of Australia since the IPCC's last assessment report.

<sup>88</sup> <http://www.heartland.org/events/NewYork08/proceedings.html>

<sup>89</sup> <http://www.heartland.org/events/NewYork09/proceedings.html>

<sup>90</sup> <http://www.heartland.org/events/WashingtonDC09/proceedings.html>

<sup>91</sup> <http://www.heartland.org/events/2010Chicago/speakers.html>

<sup>92</sup> <http://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/politics/3626035/Brownlee-stirs-up-coal-dust-cloud>

<sup>93</sup> <http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/personnel.html>

<sup>94</sup> From ExxonMobil funding reports: 2002: \$100,000 to Frontiers of Freedom for "Sound Science & Public Policy Center" <http://research.greenpeaceusa.org/?a=view&d=4386>; 2003: \$50,000 for "science center and climate change" <http://research.greenpeaceusa.org/?a=view&d=4389> and 2004: \$70,000 for "science center and climate change" <http://research.greenpeaceusa.org/?a=view&d=4380>

<sup>95</sup> [http://scienceblogs.com/deltoid/2007/12/monckton\\_watch\\_2.php#comment-681752](http://scienceblogs.com/deltoid/2007/12/monckton_watch_2.php#comment-681752)

<sup>96</sup> <http://www.agu.org/pubs/crossref/2009/2008JD011637.shtml>

<sup>97</sup> see blog of one of the authors, James Annan <http://julesandjames.blogspot.com/2010/03/mclean-debunked-at-last.html>

<sup>98</sup> <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/03/26/2857685.htm?section=justin>

<sup>99</sup> <http://www.abc.net.au/unleashed/stories/s2858332.htm>

This single article is no more.”

## David Evans

“while everyone is entitled to their own opinions, they are not entitled to their own facts” – “brave new climate” blog on Evan’s climate pronouncements in 2008<sup>100</sup>.

David Evans describes himself as a “rocket scientist”, arguing that: “In US academic and industry parlance, “rocket scientist” means anyone who has completed a PhD in one of the hard sciences at one of the top US institutions. The term arose for people who \*could\* do rocket science, not those who literally build rockets. Thus the term “rocket scientist” means someone with a PhD in physics, electrical engineering, or mathematics (or perhaps a couple of other closely related disciplines), from MIT, Stanford, Caltech, and maybe a few other institutions.<sup>101</sup>”

This doesn’t appear to fit with any general description of a rocket scientist which is usually someone who makes rockets.

Evans has been at the forefront of climate denial in Australia for years. He is married to Joanne Nova, a climate denial blogger<sup>102</sup>. Together they run a website called “sciencespeak.com”

According to Evans’ own biography on that site, he hasn’t published a single peer reviewed paper on climate change.

He accompanied Liberal Senator Steve Fielding as an “independent scientist” to a meeting with Penny Wong in June 2009.

He is often published on Lavoisier.com. In July 2008, he argued that there was evidence that CO<sub>2</sub> caused global warming, so therefore global warming wasn’t happening, an argument published in the Australian<sup>103</sup>, but well refuted by others, such as Tim Lambert at Deltoid<sup>104</sup>. That CO<sub>2</sub> causes an enhance Greenhouse Effect is a well-understood and accepted scientific fact.

His arguments have been taken up by the denial blogosphere, including at the US denial front group, the Science and Public Policy Institute<sup>105</sup>, the Competitive Enterprise Institute<sup>106</sup> and others.

He regularly writes for – and is quoted by - the ABC<sup>107</sup> and The Australian<sup>108</sup>.

<sup>100</sup> <http://bravenewclimate.com/2008/08/10/dr-david-evans-born-again-alarmist/>

<sup>101</sup> <http://www.desmogblog.com/who-is-rocket-scientist-david-evans>

<sup>102</sup> <http://joannenova.com.au/>

<sup>103</sup> <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,24036736-7583,00.html>

<sup>104</sup> [http://scienceblogs.com/deltoid/2008/07/the\\_australians\\_war\\_on\\_science\\_16.php](http://scienceblogs.com/deltoid/2008/07/the_australians_war_on_science_16.php)

<sup>105</sup> [http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/manufacturing\\_money\\_and\\_global\\_warming.html](http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/manufacturing_money_and_global_warming.html) SPPI was set up with funding from ExxonMobil

<sup>106</sup> <http://bit.ly/9W401x> The CEI has received more than US\$2 million from ExxonMobil but was dropped after pressure from the UK Royal Society.

<sup>107</sup> <http://www.abc.net.au/unleashed/stories/s2315642.htm>

<sup>108</sup> <http://bit.ly/ba9xzx>

## **William Kininmonth**

William Kininmonth, a retired meteorologist, has never published a peer-reviewed paper on climate science, according to a search of 22,000 academic journals<sup>109</sup>. Former head of the National Climate Centre within the Australian Meteorological Service, Kininmonth has long been a climate denier and is another Australian sceptic scientist who has been taken up by the international denial community and US industry-funded conservative think tanks.

His book, "Climate change, a natural hazard" was launched at a function organized by the Lavoisier Society in 2004<sup>110</sup>

Kininmonth's international activities include:

- Member, Science advisory board, international climate science coalition<sup>111</sup>
- Contributing Author to the Canadian Fraser Institute (a think tank with close links to the oil industry<sup>112</sup>)

International petitions signed<sup>113</sup>:

- 2003 sceptic letter to Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin
- 2006 sceptics letter to Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper
- 2007 sceptics letter to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon
- 2008 "Manhattan declaration" from the Heartland sceptics conference in New York
- 2008 Contributing author, Heartland Institute's document "Nature, Not Human Activity, Rules the Climate" edited by Fred Singer.
- 2009 signatory, Copenhagen Climate challenge, 158 signatories.

## **Kesten C. Green**

Kesten Green is a forecaster from Monash university's Business and economic department forecasting unit.<sup>114</sup> While he hasn't raised his head above the parapet as much as his denier colleagues in Australia, his contribution to the denial campaign is in the work he has done with two other deniers, Willie Soon and J Scott Armstrong to write three papers challenging forecasting methods on weather prediction (see RealClimate's comments<sup>115</sup>), polar bears (see RealClimate's comments<sup>116</sup>) and general climate certainty. Willie Soon has long been working with think tanks in the US and has received direct funding from ExxonMobil for his work on polar bears, despite his expertise being in astrophysics. He's a science advisor at the SPPI, a group set up with ExxonMobil funding. Armstrong is a professor of marketing.

These papers have been taken up and pushed by the international denial community to argue

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<sup>109</sup> <http://www.desmogblog.com/william-kininmonth>

<sup>110</sup> <http://www.lavoisier.com.au/articles/greenhouse-science/climate-change/zillman2004-8.php>

<sup>111</sup> [http://www.climate-science-international.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=15&Itemid=28](http://www.climate-science-international.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=15&Itemid=28)

<sup>112</sup> <http://www.desmogblog.com/fraser-institute-oil-industry>

<sup>113</sup> [http://www.eecg.utoronto.ca/~prall/climate/climate\\_authors\\_table.html](http://www.eecg.utoronto.ca/~prall/climate/climate_authors_table.html)

<sup>114</sup> <http://www.buseco.monash.edu.au/units/forecasting/people/staff.html>

<sup>115</sup> <http://www.realclimate.org/index.php/archives/2007/07/green-and-armstrongs-scientific-forecast/>

<sup>116</sup> <http://www.realclimate.org/index.php/archives/2007/07/green-and-armstrongs-scientific-forecast/>

against climate.

Other activities by Green:

- Speaker at Heartland's 2008 and 2009 conferences and is down to speak at the 2010 conference.
- Signed a Cato Institute letter to Obama in 2008<sup>117</sup>
- Added fuel to the anti windfarm fire in New Zealand<sup>118</sup>
- Author of a chapter in Fred Singer's NIPCC report

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<sup>117</sup> [http://www.cato.org/special/climatechange/alternate\\_version.html](http://www.cato.org/special/climatechange/alternate_version.html)

<sup>118</sup> <http://nzenergy-environment.co.nz/home/free-articles/wind-farm-hearing-takes-unexpected-twist-as-opponents-challenge-climate-science.html>