

Climate denialists
Heartland Conference
May 16-18, 2010 Chicago

Notes prepared by Australian climate organisations seeking action on climate change

More than 70 speakers will make keynote presentations or participate in panel discussions at the Fourth International Conference on Climate Change, May 16-18, 2010 in Chicago.

"Sponsors" include organizations which have received over \$47 million from energy companies and right-wing foundations

ExxonMobil (1998-2006): \$6,199,000
Koch Foundations (1986-2006): \$4,438,920

Heartland received \$676,500 (unadjusted for inflation) from ExxonMobil between 1998 and 2006.

Includes Institute for Public Affairs (IPA) and the Australian Libertarian Society.

Heartland also runs a "smokers lounge" – campaigning against any regulation on tobacco and smoking

Line up of Aussies

Robert M (Bob) Carter

Bob Carter is a darling of the international climate denial community and US conservative think tanks. He is also on the research committee of the IPA, the fossil fuel-funding right wing think tank.

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 2009¹

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"², 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.

¹ <http://www.abc.net.au/unleashed/stories/s2766216.htm>

² <https://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2009/08/emissions-trading-scheme-forum>

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

- Signatory, denier letter to Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper³
- "expert", Heartland Institute⁴
- Signed a 2007 denier letter to U.N. Sec. General Ban Ki-Moon⁵
- Signed a 2009 newspaper ad by the Cato Institute⁶ challenging President Obama's stance on climate change⁷
- signed a letter to UN Secretary General Ban ki-Moon, challenging the work of the UNFCCC and the IPCC⁸.

Carter's affiliations:

- New Zealand Climate Science Coalition: inaugural climate scientist⁹
- International climate science coalition: science advisory board¹⁰
- Australian Climate Science Coalition science advisory panel¹¹
- "Expert" of at US sceptic group "Icecap"¹²
- Regular speaker at all of the Heartland Institute's conferences, in 2008¹³, 2009 (in New York¹⁴ and in Washington¹⁵) and due to speak at the 4th conference in Chicago, May 2010¹⁶. The Heritage Foundation posted an update¹⁷ of his presentation at the New York conference in March 09.
- Science Advisor¹⁸ at the Frontiers of Freedom's (now Freedomworks) Science and Public Policy Institute (SPPI) a US front group ExxonMobil provided seed money to set up¹⁹.

In mid-2009, 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 all²⁰)

³ <http://www.canada.com/nationalpost/financialpost/story.html?id=3711460e-bd5a-475d-a6be-4db87559d605>

⁴ <http://www.globalwarmingheartland.org/experts.html>

⁵ http://www.heartland.org/policybot/results/22621/Scientists_Speak_Out_Against_Alarmist_Warming_Theory.html

⁶ 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>

⁷ www.cato.org/special/climatechange/cato_climate.pdf

⁸ http://www.heartland.org/full/26498/Open_Letter_to_SecretaryGeneral_of_United_Nations.html

⁹ http://nzclimatescience.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogsection&id=12&Itemid=45

¹⁰ http://www.climatescienceinternational.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=280&Itemid=28

¹¹ http://www.auscsc.org.au/about_us.html

¹² <http://icecap.us/index.php/go/experts>

¹³ <http://www.heartland.org/events/NewYork08/proceedings.html>

¹⁴ <http://www.heartland.org/events/NewYork09/proceedings.html>

¹⁵ <http://www.heartland.org/events/WashingtonDC09/proceedings.html>

¹⁶ <http://www.heartland.org/events/2010Chicago/speakers.html>

¹⁷ <http://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/politics/3626035/Brownlee-stirs-up-coal-dust-cloud>

¹⁸ <http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/personnel.html>

¹⁹ 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>

²⁰ http://scienceblogs.com/deltoid/2007/12/monckton_watch_2.php#comment-681752

published a paper in the Journal of Geophysical Research²¹ 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 of the world's best climate scientists who published a robust refutation²² 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

The JGR rejected the original authors' response to the refutation, leading the ABC to cover the cries of "censorship" by the authors²³. 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 blog²⁴:

"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. This single article is no more."

Kesten C. Green

Kesten Green is a forecaster from Monash university's Business and economic department forecasting unit.²⁵ 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 comments²⁶), polar bears (see RealClimate's comments²⁷) 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 against climate.

²¹ <http://www.agu.org/pubs/crossref/2009/2008JD011637.shtml>

²² see blog of one of the authors, James Annan <http://julesandjames.blogspot.com/2010/03/mclean-debunked-at-last.html>

²³ <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/03/26/2857685.htm?section=justin>

²⁴ <http://www.abc.net.au/unleashed/stories/s2858332.htm>

²⁵ <http://www.buseco.monash.edu.au/units/forecasting/people/staff.html>

²⁶ <http://www.realclimate.org/index.php/archives/2007/07/green-and-armstrongs-scientific-forecast/>

²⁷ <http://www.realclimate.org/index.php/archives/2007/07/green-and-armstrongs-scientific-forecast/>

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 2008²⁸
- Added fuel to the anti windfarm fire in New Zealand²⁹

Author of a chapter in Fred Singer's NIPCC report

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 journals³⁰. Former head of 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 2004³¹

Kininmonth's international activities include:

- Member, Science advisory board, international climate science coalition³²
- Contributing Author to the Canadian Fraser Institute (a think tank with close links to the oil industry³³)

International petitions signed³⁴:

- 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 skeptics 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.

Ian Plimer

Plimer is a director with three mining companies, [Ivanhoe Australia](#), [CBH Resources](#) and [Kefi Minerals](#).

²⁸ http://www.cato.org/special/climatechange/alternate_version.html

²⁹ <http://nzenergy-environment.co.nz/home/free-articles/wind-farm-hearing-takes-unexpected-twist-as-opponents-challenge-climate-science.html>

³⁰ <http://www.desmogblog.com/william-kininmonth>

³¹ <http://www.lavoisier.com.au/articles/greenhouse-science/climate-change/zillman2004-8.php>

³² http://www.climate-science-international.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=15&Itemid=28

³³ <http://www.desmogblog.com/fraser-institute-oil-industry>

³⁴ http://www.eecg.utoronto.ca/~prall/climate/climate_authors_table.html

Annual reports for the three companies reveal that:

- CBH Resources paid Plimer \$A125,000 in 2009 and \$181,003 in 2008. [As of June 2009](#), Plimer also had options on 3,569,633 CBH Resources shares. At the early November 2009 share price of .10, Plimer's options would be worth approximately \$A356,963. However, CBH's annual report does not list details of what price, if any, the options would be available at, or the time limit under which they would have to be exercised.
- As part of his [employment agreement](#) with Ivanhoe Australia, Plimer can forgo annual directors fees of \$65,000 in return for a total of 100,000 share options "for nil consideration." The options are available in four installments, on September 1 each year from 2008 through to 2011, subject to Plimer continuing in employment with the company.
- Ivanhoe Australia, which has an interest in uranium exploration, stated in its 2008 [prospectus](#) (pdf) that "one of the arguments for nuclear energy is its substantially reduced level of carbon emissions." Hying nuclear power as a "solution" to global warming is standard fare for uranium mining companies, but one wonders if it makes Plimer a little uncomfortable. After all, he [claims](#) that in his book he tested the hypothesis "that increased atmospheric CO2 creates global warming" and found it to "be invalid on all time scales and by a diversity of methods."
- Plimer is also non-executive Director and Deputy Chairman of Kefi Minerals, a U.K.-headquartered mineral exploration company with gold and copper exploration projects in Turkey and, via a joint venture, gold projects in Saudia Arabia. According to the company's [2009 annual report](#), Plimer has 250,000 shares in Kefi which, at the early November 2009 value of 2.25 British pence, would be worth over \$A10,106. Plimer also has options on 2 million more shares which can be exercised at 3 pence prior to December 12, 2012. Kefi Minerals' 2009 annual report does not disclose what directors fees, if any, Plimer is paid.

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 community³⁵. Critics calculate that there are around 390 scientific mistakes in the book³⁶.

However, that didn't stop Leader of the Liberal Party, climate sceptic Tony Abbott³⁷ 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

³⁵ 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/

³⁶ http://scienceblogs.com/deltoid/2009/05/ian_enting_is_checking_plimers.php

³⁷ "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>

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 RealClimate³⁸.

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 CO₂ than humans – a "fact" which has been disproven by major scientific institutions³⁹.

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 here⁴⁰ (original information posted by Sourcewatch).

He is comfortable wearing the hat of his mining allegiances, for example signing a letter⁴¹ from the mining industry calling for tax breaks for Queenslanders in April 2010.

At the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy's "Essington Lewis Memorial Lecture"⁴² in November 2009, he savaged⁴³ 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 call⁴⁴ 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 mistakes⁴⁵

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 IPCC⁴⁶. (The letter was also signed by Tom Quirk, a member of the IPA board).

³⁸ <http://www.realclimate.org/index.php/archives/2009/08/plimers-homework-assignment/>

³⁹ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/blog/2010/apr/21/iceland-volcano-climate-sceptics>

⁴⁰ <http://www.smh.com.au/business/a-resourceful-climate-sceptic-20100212-nxnp.html>

⁴¹ <http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/business/a-tax-break-for-putting-up-with-snakes-20100429-tuf4.html>

⁴² http://www.unisa.edu.au/alumni/ezine/35_lecture_09.htm

⁴³ <http://www.news.com.au/breaking-news/national/climate-change-plan-could-ruin-australia/story-e6frku9-1225799763107>

⁴⁴ <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/news/carbon-plan-may-destroy-miners/story-e6frg90f-111117966261>

⁴⁵ http://scienceblogs.com/deltoid/global_warming/monckton/

⁴⁶ http://www.heartland.org/full/26498/Open_Letter_to_SecretaryGeneral_of_United_Nations.html

- Signed another document⁴⁷ 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 Tomorrow⁴⁸).
- Signed an open letter⁴⁹, 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 2008⁵⁰.

Alex Robson

Robson is an economist and former secretary of the Australian Libertarian Society.

Robson has written articles for both the IPA and the Centre for Independent Studies - Australia's two most prominent right-wing think tanks.

Garth Paltridge

Emeritus Professor **Garth Paltridge** (born April 4, 1940, Brisbane, Queensland) is a retired atmospheric physicist.

In 2002 he retired as the Director of the Institute of Antarctic and Southern Ocean Studies, University of Tasmania. He had previously worked as the Chief Research Scientist of the CSIRO Division of Atmospheric Research. In August 2009 he published a book on global warming, *The Climate Caper*.

Paltridge is heavily linked to the Lavoisier Group. The Group organised the launch of Paltridge's book on August 11, 2009 in Melbourne, Australia.

Also attending are:

Senator Cory Bernardi
John Humphreys (Aust libertarian Soc)

The Institute of Public Affairs (IPA)

But even before this group of think tanks got together, the Institute of Public Affairs⁵¹ had begun its climate denial campaign. The IPA has been at the heart of climate denial in Australia since

⁴⁷ <http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Minority.SenateReport#report>

⁴⁸ 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 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"

⁴⁹ <http://www.friendsofscience.org/index.php?id=113>

⁵⁰ <http://www.sydneyminingclub.org/presentations/2008/november/plimer/player.html>

⁵¹ <http://www.ipa.org.au>

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 tobacco⁵². But the IPA keeps its funding secret, despite the then Executive Director, Nahan, promising a journalist in 2003⁵³ 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.”⁵⁴

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*⁵⁵

The following year Singer was back in Australia at the behest of the IPA,⁵⁶ 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)⁵⁷. In 1992, the IPA then followed this up with a background document by another prominent climate sceptic Richard Lindzen⁵⁸.

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 2007⁵⁹ and US denier Patrick Michaels in 2009⁶⁰. 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.

⁵² <http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=IPA>

⁵³ <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2003/08/11/1060588322537.html>

⁵⁴ Letter to Kevin Rudd from IPA Executive Director John Roskam, 12 April 2010
www.ipa.org.au/library/.../1272418380_document_letter_to_kevin_rudd.pdf

⁵⁵ P. Margareta (1990) “Professor Singer . . . Theories not Backed by Fact”, *Hobart Mercury*, 1 December, 1990.

⁵⁶ B. Williams (1991) “Experts Cold On Warming - Scientist”, *Courier-Mail*, 22 October

⁵⁷ 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.

⁵⁸ A. Rowell (1996) *Green Backlash – Global Subversion of the Environment Movement*, Routledge, p243.

⁵⁹ <http://www.ipa.org.au/events/information/year/2007/event/the-politics-and-economics-of-climate-change-with-nigel-lawson>

⁶⁰ <http://www.ipa.org.au/events/information/year/2009/event/patrick-j.-michaels---climatologist-and-climate-change-sceptic>

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 AFR⁶¹ 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.

Jennifer Marohasy mysteriously left the organisation last year⁶².

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 change⁶³. 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". Former board member was Hugh Morgan, 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 2008⁶⁴ and in May 2010⁶⁵.

They hosted the launch of Australian denier Ian Plimer's book in 2009⁶⁶. (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 website⁶⁷ 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.⁶⁸

The IPA's most recent publication is "Climate Change, the Facts"⁶⁹, a book edited by Alan Moran and distributed in April, 2010, to politicians.

"Is climate change caused by humans?" it asks.

⁶¹ http://sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Institute_of_Public_Affairs

⁶² <http://www.prwatch.org/node/8452>

⁶³ <http://www.onlineopinion.com.au/view.asp?article=8559>

⁶⁴ <http://www.heartland.org/events/NewYork09/sponsorships.html>

⁶⁵ <http://www.heartland.org/events/2010Chicago/cosponsors.html>

⁶⁶ <http://www.ipa.org.au/events/information/year/2009/event/ian-plimer%27s-%27heaven-and-earth-global-warming---the-missing-science%27-book-launch>

⁶⁷ <http://bit.ly/benCv9>

⁶⁸ <http://www.ipa.org.au/sectors/climate-change/publication/1796/ets-backdown-welcomed-climate-change-department-should-be-scraped>

⁶⁹ <http://climatechange.ipa.org.au/>

In a letter to Kevin Rudd⁷⁰ 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 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 out⁷¹ 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 Australians⁷².”

The AEF set up an online petition against the ETS called “listen to us”⁷³:
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”⁷⁴ and heralded the shift by independent Senator Steve Feilding when he began questioning the climate science⁷⁵.

It convened the Sydney presentation⁷⁶ 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 Coalition⁷⁷. 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

⁷⁰ www.ipa.org.au/library/.../1272418380_document_letter_to_kevin_rudd.pdf

⁷¹ <http://www.climateshifts.org/?p=4383>

⁷² <http://www.listentous.org.au/>

⁷³ <http://www.listentous.org.au/>

⁷⁴ <http://nqr.farmonline.com.au/news/state/agribusiness-and-general/general/great-barrier-reef-pristine-scientist/1532999.aspx?storypage=0>

⁷⁵ <http://aefweb.info/media805.html>

⁷⁶ <http://aefweb.info/media809.html>

⁷⁷ <http://www.auscsc.org.au/contact.html>

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 ETS⁷⁸” of Australia to counter the proposed Emissions Trading Scheme. The entourage was made up of Rheese, US think tank The Heartland Institute’s⁷⁹ Jay Lehr⁸⁰ and Australian denier Bob Carter (see below). Lehr managed to get an editorial into Brisbane’s “Courier Mail⁸¹” while Bob Carter 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 IPA⁸², and Tom Bostock, director of the Australian Environment Foundation⁸³.

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 wrote⁸⁴.

⁷⁸ <http://aefweb.info/> see news update.

⁷⁹ 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/>

⁸⁰ <http://www.desmogblog.com/jay-lehr>

⁸¹ <http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/opinion/real-heat-generated-by-vested-interests/story-e6frerdf-1225760226767>

⁸² <http://www.ipa.org.au/people>

⁸³ <http://aefweb.info/staff.php>

⁸⁴ www.uow.edu.au/content/groups/public/@web/.../uow039118.pdf