



Senator Peter Whish-Wilson  
Select Committee on Information Integrity on Climate Change and Energy  
Department of the Senate  
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Dear Senator,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the adverse and false comments made about ADVANCE in a number of submissions made to the Senate Select Committee on Information Integrity on Climate Change and Energy.

It is remarkable that an inquiry set up to look into concerns about misinformation has ended up platforming extraordinary levels of false and misleading claims about ADVANCE, but that is also to be expected given, as outlined in ADVANCE's submission, "misinformation" is a fig-leaf for the overtly political hit job this inquiry is intended to be.

In anticipation of the lies about ADVANCE we expected to be raised in this inquiry, many of the adverse comments in the submissions have already been addressed in our own submission, but for the sake of clarity and the integrity of the committee, I am happy to once again address these comments head-on.

### **Transparency and Accountability**

A number of submissions make claims about ADVANCE's lack of transparency and accountability. They make dark assertions about ADVANCE's funding and claim links and connections that do not exist.

An illustrative example is in Submission 21, where the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision Making and Society (ADM+S) claims ADVANCE “is attempting to influence the wider public sphere in ways that rival party campaigns while evading the same levels of scrutiny and accountability.”

ADVANCE is a registered third party organisation and we are held to the same transparency standards as any other third party organisation, including donation disclosures, financial audits, and compliance with Australian Electoral Law. It is completely false to say we are not accountable or transparent.

ADM+S also imply ADVANCE is blurring “the line between legitimate community advocacy and covert lobbying” and reluctantly admits we are not “strictly an astroturf organisation”. I urge ADM+S to talk to the nearly 500,000 ordinary Australians who back ADVANCE and see what real community advocacy looks like outside their government funded academic bubble. They are not opposing Net Zero because they’ve been duped, they oppose it because it’s a bad idea and they support ADVANCE’s campaign against it.

### **Submission 60**

QUT Digital Research claims ADVANCE “was established and is funded by representatives of the IPA and CIS.” This is completely false and based on a news article full of other similarly false information about ADVANCE’s history. Just as organisations advocating for renewable energy might work together, ADVANCE has worked with the IPA and CIS on occasion on campaigns where we have shared interests. But ADVANCE is a fully independent grassroots organisation and was not established by the IPA or CIS, nor is it funded by them.

### **Atlas Network**

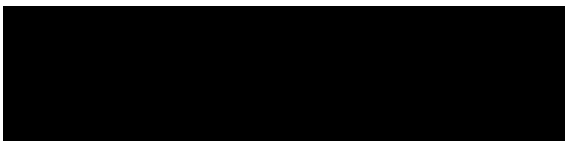
Several submissions, including 100, 107, and 108, make the claim ADVANCE is either part of or has “links” to the Atlas Network. Again, this was addressed in our submission.

ADVANCE has nothing to do with the Atlas Network. I did not know what it was until asked about it by a journalist.

These allegations are of a piece with the tone of many submissions that try to ascribe nefarious motivations to ordinary Australians who oppose the Net Zero agenda. Australians don't need academic researchers to tell them the "correct" information about Net Zero, they can just look at their power bill and what happened to it over the last three years. They don't need scientists to tell them about how renewable energy will deliver a wonderful energy grid, they can just look at the increasing number of blackouts and native forests being chopped down. They don't need politicians telling them about "doing our fair share" because it's well known that China, India, and the United States are all continuing to increase their emissions and nothing Australia does will change that or alter the climate.

ADVANCE makes no apology for promoting the views and beliefs of our supporters or advancing their objectives. They aren't misinformed, they aren't bots, they aren't fake. They're very real, and the electoral consequences of trying to censor them, belittle them, and ignore them will arrive in time.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Sheahan  
Executive Director, ADVANCE

October 10, 2025