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5 March 2026

**Additional information supplied in response to Questions on Notice.**

**With reference to my Submission no. 243, and the following document:**

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA  
Proof Committee Hansard **SENATE**  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION INTEGRITY ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY  
(Public hearing)  
MONDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 2026 CANBERRA  
[PROOF COPY]

Page 23: **Dr Walker:** “..two key documents from the foundation of the Centre for Independent Studies .... set up at the instigation of John Bonython, the founder of Santos...”

Documents attached here as Appendix below.

Source: Atlas Network archives, Hoover Institution, Stanford University CA, USA. (a) Box 22 Folder 11: 1976 letter from John Bonython (co-founder of Santos oil and gas) to Texan business partner John Murchison (Delhi International Oil, son of Santos co-founder Clint Murchison); (b) Box 142, Folder 9: 1981 letter from Greg Lindsay (exec. dir, CIS) letter to Anthony Fisher (founder of CIS, and Atlas Economic Research Foundation), incl. 1981 CIS Corporate Supporters list.<sup>1</sup>

Page 28 **CHAIR:** “I'll come back to you if we get more time. Just in relation to the ABC article, are you talking about the one that was written recently?”

**Dr Walker:** “By Gareth Hutchens.”

**CHAIR:** “We can go back and look at the Hansard, but if you could reference the name of the article or provide it to us on notice that'd be great.

Gareth Hutchens (2026, 26 Jan) How the Atlas Network is shaping your life, even if you've never heard of it. ABC News. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-01-26/atlas-network-mont-pelerin-society-neoliberal-think-tanks/105700628>

Page 24: **CHAIR:** “We do have evidence that some of the Atlas subsidiaries or affiliates in Australia are funded by fossil fuel money from Australia or elsewhere. Is that correct?”

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<sup>1</sup> Atlas Network archives, Hoover Institution, Stanford University CA, USA.  
<https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c80k2f0h/>

**Dr Walker:** “I also have evidence—which I haven't put into this submission—that Exxon, through the Atlas head office, was directly funding the IPA around 2002.

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**CHAIR:** “Thanks. I want to clarify one thing, Dr Walker. You did mention in your submission that the charities commission should investigate, or perhaps audit, think tanks to look at the connections between the work they put out and any commercial interests. Do you know if they currently do that, whether they do look at it?”

**Dr Walker:** “No, I don't think they do. One of the interesting things that I've found, looking at the Atlas archive, is that from around 2002 there's correspondence between the senior officers of the Atlas foundation in Washington with the public relations people from Exxon. They were concerned about this new thing that emerged around 2002 called ESG. So basically members of super funds were going, 'We don't want our money in fossil fuels,' and people were campaigning for the exclusion of fossil fuels from pension funds. They were explicitly—and it says so in the correspondence—funding the **IPA**. Exxon money was going through to the **IPA** to attack this. They ran a huge campaign. The Howard government then attempted to delist a whole series of organisations on this.”

**CHAIR:** “So there is evidence of them representing commercial interests?”

**Dr Walker:** “I forget his name now, [Gary Johns] I'm sorry, but I can supply that to you, but the guy who was an ex-Labor politician who then joined the IPA who was running this campaign, was the charities commissioner previous to this (present) one. So they have their own people running the Charities Commission as well.”

The evidence below captures the Overton window method of the Atlas Network tax -deductible thinktanks to generate for-profit corporate political propaganda in the media for ‘donors’ disguised d as ‘non-profit public interest economic research’, to influence and shape public opinions and then government legislation, and to infiltrate and take over key positions in public regulatory institutions.

To quote directly from an annual funding proposal to ExxonMobil for a transnational ‘Corporate Society Responsibility’ campaign sent by Atlas president Alejandro Chafuen to Walt Bucholz, Government Affairs, ExxonMobil, Irving, Texas, Oct 30, 2003:

“Senior Fellow Paul Driessen will continue his work on CSR and related topics, such as his new book (*Killing Our Children*, a sequel to *Eco-Imperialism*, emphasizing first-person accounts) and fostering closer collaboration with Australia’s **Institute of Public Affairs** and other institutes on CSR and NGO accountability issues. (Through Atlas’s Health & Welfare Project, **IPA** received a grant from **Atlas** for work on corporate social responsibility standards [..] Previous grants to **Atlas’s** CSR project will continue to support much of the agenda presented here: capitalizing on the *Eco-Imperialism* book and Web site, to bring increased attention to CSR, health and environmental issues via radio,

television other media, and through increased involvement in international conferences (in Africa, Vancouver, China, Chile, Australia and other areas).”<sup>2</sup>

This project of the **IPA** (secretly funded by ExxonMobil USA and others through the US Atlas Network head office), was led by Gary Johns, as documented by The Australia Institute (2004) and others.<sup>3</sup> To quote Staples (2007) at length:

“The language of the **IPA** is neither measured nor temperate. In one article, Gary Johns, Director of its NGO Project, refers to ‘cashed up NGOs’, ‘a dictatorship of the articulate’, a ‘tyranny of the articulate’ and a ‘tyranny of the minorities’, and in another to, ‘mail-order memberships of the wealthy left, content to buy their activism and get on with their consumer lifestyle’. *The IPA has repeatedly proposed withdrawal of financial and other support for NGOs which advocate environmental, social and industrial standards, even when the NGOs are privately funded. . . Consistent with this, it has urged stringent Government provisions for inhibiting public advocacy by NGOs, including certifying or ‘licensing’ measures. De-funding, purchaser/provider contracts, confidentiality agreements, taxation disincentives, and the 2006 Electoral and Referendum Amendment Bill suggest that the [Howard] government has been listening.*

The pervasiveness of **IPA** ideas and comments can be seen by the frequency with which its staff write for and appear in major news outlets, generally without acknowledgement of their connection. *The IPA website shows that in the 3 month period from the beginning of March to the end of May 2006, there were 44 articles published in key Australian media outlets by its staff. That is an average of over 3 articles a week, and this level of input has been continuing for many years.* In June, 2006, the **IPA** website was citing some 900 such article since 1998.

Because of the **IPA’s** protracted, energetic and virulent campaign against NGOs, it was a source of dismay, astonishment and anger amongst NGOs when news emerged in 2003 that the Howard Government had commissioned the **IPA** to conduct a study into the relationship between Australian Government Departments and NGOs, and to also develop a ‘trial protocol’ for public disclosure of NGO standing with Government.

*There was no tender and no public announcement.* Director of the **IPA’s** NGO unit, Garry Johns, headed the inquiry. Johns must be the most active critic of the role of NGOs in Australia today, and the Government was obviously fully aware of what it was doing in its choice. Manning has pointed out that the National Audit Office guidelines require that when the Government engages consultants it must determine the selection criteria and document the evaluation to ensure that the chosen consultants are of appropriate quality and that the process is transparent.

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<sup>2</sup> Atlas Network archives, ExxonMobil funders file, Box 77 Folder 6, Hoover Institute, Stanford University, CA, USA. <https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c80k2f0h/>

<sup>3</sup> Sarah Maddison, Richard Denniss & Clive Hamilton (2004) *Silencing Dissent: Non-government organisations and Australian democracy*, Discussion Paper No.65, The Australia Institute, [www.tai.org.au](http://www.tai.org.au). See also: Burton, Bob (2003) Conservative Group to Advise Gov’t on Accrediting NGOs. IPS News. <https://www.ipsnews.net/2003/08/australia-conservative-group-to-advise-govt-on-accrediting-ngos/>

The irony of the **IPA**, which does not disclose its donors, contracting in secret to monitor NGOs for their transparency and accountability seems to have been lost on both Government and **IPA**. Radio National's Background Briefing in March 2004, also pointed out that the **IPA** website declared it did not accept Government funding at the same time as it was undertaking this \$50,000 contract for the Government, and that it actively engaged in public debate against NGOs on the Charities Bill, at the same time as it was working on the same contract."<sup>4</sup>

In 2017, Gary Johns, the same **IPA** executive secretly employed by ExxonMobil USA via the **Atlas** head office in Washington DC to generate an extensive media campaign attacking the legitimacy and legal status of genuine environmental and other citizen's NGOs, who was then contracted by the LNP government of John Howard (who joined the membership of the **Atlas Network's** elite 'inner sanctum' the **Mont Pelerin Society** in 2010) to propose legislation and means of defunding, monitoring or deregistering other charities/advocacy NGOs the **IPA's** hidden 'donors' feared might reduce their commercial profits by succeeding in public interest campaigns to avoid catastrophic global warming, was appointed director of the regulator, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) by the Turnbull LNP government. This "created incredulous disbelief and concern amongst NGO leaders" (Staples, 2017).<sup>5</sup>

Importantly, this appointment also put an **Atlas Network** operative in charge of signing off on the legality of the charitable status of the **Atlas Network's** fossil fuel/mining funded Australian thinktanks (such as **IPA, CIS, AIP, ATA, LibertyWorks, Mannkal** etc) as legitimate not-for-profit 'research institutes', despite the obvious and direct commercial interest of their fossil fuel/mining corporate investors ('donors') in the production and dissemination of counter-science disinformation, propaganda and anti-renewable energy campaigns adopted as policy positions by the Liberal-National Party, intended to create entirely false beliefs across the electorate, to thwart enabling climate legislation, and to prevent free market competition from (and poison the investment climate for) lower-cost, zero emissions clean energy projects.

Johns was also active in the **Advance** led NO campaign run across the Australian arm of the **Atlas Network** against the 2023 Voice to Parliament referendum, as fossil fuel interests feared a First Nations Voice to Parliament and Treaty might slow down or prevent giant new coal and gas project approvals, as **Advance, LibertyWorks.** and **CIS** spokesman Warren Nyungai Mundine openly declared on the **CIS** website. <sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Staples, Joan (2007) NGOs out in the Cold: Howard government policy towards NGOs. University of NSW Law Research Series. <https://www5.austlii.edu.au/au/journals/UNSWLRS/2007/8.html#fn1>

<sup>5</sup> Staples, Joan (2017) Incredulous disbelief at Gary Johns to head charities regulator. *Pearls and Irritations*. <https://johnmenadue.com/post/2017/12/joan-staples-incredulous-disbelief-at-gary-johns-to-head-charities-regulator/>

<sup>6</sup> Walker, J (2023) *Silencing the Voice: the fossil-fuelled Atlas Network's campaign against constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australia*, *Cosmopolitan Civil Societies*, 15(2).

Mundine, N. W. (2022, Nov 14) Voice will give unjust power to those who have no authority to speak for us, **Centre of Independent Studies**, Sydney.

Inferring current funding of the **Centre of Independent Studies** by board membership, presuming those positions correlate with supervision of investments in the anti-climate policy, anti-renewable energy disinformation outputs aimed at manipulating public opinion, influencing elections, and shaping LNP and other party's policies for the commercial profits of those fossil fuel businesses.

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**Senator ANANDA-RAJAH:** Thanks, Dr Walker. I want to bring you back to Australia. Could you outline for us the key bad actors or main actors in this space, including their donors, who are effectively undermining information integrity around climate and energy.

**Dr Walker:** The main actors?

**Senator ANANDA-RAJAH:** Yes, in Australia—and their donors, if you have that information.

In addition to the extensively documented and inferred funding of Atlas thinktanks and spinoff/ related / astroturfed entities in Australia as documented in my submission. As I have already mentioned in my Right of Reply already published by this inquiry to adverse comments on my research from Michael Stutchbury & Simon Cowan **Centre of Independent Studies** (Submission no. 068), Sandra Bourke **Advance** (no. 80), Matthew Sheehan **Advance** (no. 22), Alex O'Brien & Sue Brown **Responsible Future Illawarra (No Offshore Wind Turbines)** (no. 206):

“In recent years **CIS** board members have included individuals with very senior corporate positions in the following fossil fuel interests: Woodside, Chevron (via board crossover with the American Chamber of Commerce in Australia), big oil consultancies McKinsey, Control Risks and FDI Consulting, major fossil fuel financiers Macquarie Bank, DeutscheBank and the worlds largest post-UN Paris Climate Accord fossil fuel investor JP Morgan (according to BankTrack 2025 report), as well as the law firm Herbert Smith Freehills, whose fossil fuel clients have included Chevron, BP, ENI, Sinopec, China Petroleum Corporation, Korea Gas and Origin Energy.”

I would also like to add that **Advance** has also been funded by the coal billionaire Trevor St Baker, as reported by independent journalist Anthony Klan (2025):

“In 2022-23 coal billionaire Trevor St Baker was one of **Advance's** biggest donors, paying \$50,000 via his coal and gas power stations company St Baker Enterprises, Australian Electoral Commission filings show. As previously revealed, Advance runs an anti-renewables site called “Not Zero”, which is riddled with climate disinformation. It provides a “fact sheet”, which has been

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<https://web.archive.org/web/20231016122102/https://www.cis.org.au/commentary/opinion/the-indigenous-voice-will-give-unjust-power-to-those-who-have-no-authority-to-speak-for-us/>

written by **Advance** and the **IPA**. “They call it ‘Net Zero’...but there is a cost...and you’ll be the now who’ll pay,” says the site.”<sup>7</sup>

Page 27-28: **Senator ANANDA-RAJAH:** What is the role of public relations firms here in Australia in pushing or crafting this sort of messaging? Are you aware of any firms that might be engaged in this role?

**Dr Walker:** Certainly. This is a very important area. Again, this is an industry which is completely dark. It operates without any transparency to the public. But we do know that there is one firm called Topham Guerin..

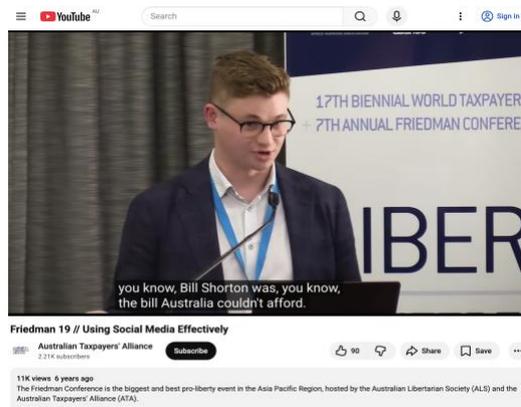
**Senator ANANDA-RAJAH:** If you have any further information on that particular example you cite, could you supply it to the committee on notice, please?

**Dr Walker:** On Topham Guerin?

**Senator ANANDA-RAJAH:** Yes. And you mentioned the Friedman conference—

**Dr Walker:** Again, it's in my submission...

Topham Guerin



Video from Atlas Network-affiliated **Australian Taxpayer’s Alliance** Youtube channel. See from 32.00 mins:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QeHsjnGcpg>

Embedded in the Liberal-National party, Ben Guerin gives a victory speech and master class to the 2019 ‘Friedman’, conference, a regional conference for Atlas thinktank leaders and influencers hosted by the Atlas-affiliated **Australian Taxpayers Alliance, World Taxpayers, and Australian Libertarian Society.**

TG dominate elections with a single message pushed relentlessly on social media: “water on a stone, day in day out”, in multiple different formats taking advantage of Youtube and Facebook algorithms. described by ABC as “a 24-

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<sup>7</sup> Klan, Anthony (2025) Anti-Voice group spreading “whale death” lies. *The Klaxxon*. <https://theklaxxon.com.au/anti-voice-group-spreading-whale-death-lies/>

hour meme machine — a social media firehose of attention-grabbing, emotion-manipulating, behaviour-nudging messaging”.

Here is a detailed ABC article describing TG’s methods in dominating social media attention and feeds with ‘boomer memes’ attacking ‘Electricity Bill’ during the 2019 Australian Federal Election:

Michael Workman & Stephen Hutcheon (2019) Topham Guerin: The team that helped Scott Morrison win is now working for Boris Johnson and Brexit, *ABC News*.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-11-08/topham-guerins-boomer-meme-industrial-complex/11682116>

The bizarre mischaracterisation by the 2019 LNP government re-election campaign (run by TG) of the Shorten ALP opposition policy to support the uptake of electric vehicles (EVs) as a “ute tax” which would somehow “end the weekend” soon migrated to the extreme propaganda against similar policies of Jacinda Ardern’s Labour/Greens/Te Pati Maori coalition government run by the Atlas Network member **NZ Taxpayer’s Union**, along with the same kinds of attacks on Maori that **Advance** and the **IPA** run in Australia.

The following slide was a sample of **NZTU** their social media content in the leadup to the 2023 NZ election (composed by the author).

### New Zealand Taxpayers Union (n=11)

Executive Director: Jordan Williams, head of World Taxpayers Association (Atlas)  
National Party pollster: David Farrar  
Ex National Govt Finance minister: Ruth Richardson

**Grassroots strategy: promote alt-right anti-government rage insurrection and ‘freedom’ street protest movements among anti-Maori, anti-vaxers, farmers.**



**Tāmaki Anti-Fascist Action (TAFA) @AntiFascistAkl · Nov 19, 2021**  
The website of right-wing farmers group **Groundswell**, whose protests have been filled with conspiracy theories about vaccines as well as anti-Māori racism, is owned by the neoliberal **NZ Taxpayers Union**, demonstrating that the former is an astroturf front group of the latter.

- <https://www.taxpayers.org.nz> > taxpayer\_update\_climate\_tax\_corruption\_index  
Taxpayer Update: Climate tax | Corruption index | Vaccines
- <https://www.taxpayers.org.nz> > matt\_burgess\_ets  
Wilful Ignorance: disregarding the ETS will hurt us all
- <https://www.taxpayers.org.nz> > milked  
Taxpayers Milked to the tune of \$48K for anti-dairy propaganda
- <https://www.taxpayers.org.nz> > cartax  
Stop the Car Tax - Taxpayers' Union
- <https://www.taxpayers.org.nz> > taxpayer\_update\_where\_your\_money\_went\_clean\_car\_propaganda  
Taxpayer Update: Where your money went | Clean car propaganda |
- <https://www.taxpayers.org.nz> > op\_ed\_i\_m\_a\_neoliberal\_maybe\_you\_are\_too  
Op-ed: I'm a neoliberal. Maybe you are too - Taxpayers' Union
- <https://www.taxpayers.org.nz> > climate\_grandstanding  
Petition: Climate change grandstanding is not core business
- <https://www.taxpayers.org.nz> > genless  
Revealed: EECA spent \$500,000 staging a fake climate march
- <https://www.taxpayers.org.nz> > climate\_change\_commission\_is\_out\_of\_control  
Climate Change Commission is out of control - Taxpayers' Union

In my submission (no. 243) I demonstrate that the “we need clean cheap nuclear” campaign run by the Centre of Independent Studies and the Institute of Public Affairs prefigured LNP opposition leader Peter Dutton’s 2025 election, and was in reality a red-herring campaign against renewable energy, run across

the same Atlas Network infrastructure of institutes and astroturfed frontgroups that also ran the ‘reckless renewables’ campaign.

Topham Guerin was hired again by the LNP for its 2025 Federal election campaign, see:

Jason Koutsoukis (2024) Dutton hires Morrison’s ‘disinformation’ team. *The Saturday Paper*.  
<https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/news/politics/2024/12/07/exclusive-dutton-hires-morrison-disinformation-team>

See also: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxPUP\\_-2h4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxPUP_-2h4)

This was also covered in the NZ press by *Newsroom*, who noted that:

“This continued reliance [by the Liberal Party] on Topham Guerin underscores the perceived efficacy of their strategies, even as their methods spark debate about the evolving ethical landscape of political campaigning in the digital age.

The core of Topham Guerin’s approach lies in their adept manipulation of the digital ecosystem. They recognize the power of social media in shaping public discourse and influencing voter perceptions. Their strategy is multi-pronged, encompassing the creation and dissemination of viral memes, the strategic use of targeted advertising, and the cultivation of online communities that amplify their messaging. This holistic approach allows them to bypass traditional media gatekeepers and directly engage with voters, often in a manner that traditional campaign methods struggle to replicate. The informal and often humorous nature of memes allows them to penetrate filter bubbles and reach audiences that might otherwise be disengaged from political discourse

However, the rise of Topham Guerin and their embrace of increasingly sophisticated digital tactics, including the recent incorporation of deepfakes into their arsenal, raises significant ethical concerns. Deepfakes, AI-generated synthetic media that can convincingly depict individuals saying or doing things they never actually did, present a new level of potential manipulation in political campaigning. The ability to fabricate seemingly authentic video and audio content raises the specter of disinformation campaigns that could erode public trust in political figures and institutions. The implications for democratic processes are profound, as the line between legitimate political discourse and manipulative propaganda becomes increasingly blurred.”

NewsRoom (2024) Disseminating Disinformation: An Examination of Political Meme Campaigns. <https://webstat.net/disinformation/disseminating-disinformation-an-examination-of-political-meme-campaigns/>

Topham Guerin was exposed by *Crikey* as the author of the Minerals Council of Australia’s pro-nuclear election campaign website.

<https://antinuclear.net/2024/10/03/australias-mining-lobby-is-running-a-pro-nuclear-campaign-using-liberal-party-linked-ad-firm/>

Here I would note the enormous media publicity given to Will Shackel’s (**Nuclear for Australia**) parallel campaign across the Australian media, suggesting a highly professional strategic communications agency campaign. Shackel

appeared on forums hosted by the **Centre of Independent Studies** (founded by grants from uranium mining majors) on the now cancelled ABC program run by ex **CIS** director Tom Switzer, on ‘community forums’ run by the **Institute of Public Affairs**, at talks hosted by the **Australian Institute of Progress** and its director ex Q’ld LNP Premier Campbell, and **Platform NZ**, a New Zealand ‘news like’ Youtube channel which routinely platforms speakers from the Atlas affiliates **New Zealand Initiative** and the **NZ Taxpayers Union**.

Dr Sanjana Hattotuwa, Director of Research at New Zealand’s now defunct [Disinformation Project](#), describes Topham Guerin as associated with “right-wing think-tanks in Australia like the **Institute of Public Affairs** (IPA), and the infamous **Atlas Network**”. I recommend his detailed articles on the dire threat to electoral integrity in multiple countries by this expert disinformation PR unit :

Sanjana Hattotuwa (2025) Sacrificing veracity for virality: Topham Guerin’s influence operations, and democratic implications.  
<https://sanjanah.wordpress.com/2025/03/05/sacrificing-veracity-for-virality-topham-guerins-influence-operations-and-democratic-implications/>

Selections from the article:

“in ‘Disinformation: Electoral integrity, and role of Topham Guerin agency’, we studied in detail Topham Guerin’s activities in Aotearoa New Zealand, around the 2023 general election campaign, and their handling of the National Party’s propaganda [...] we noted ‘Cognitive warfare combines elements of cyber, information, and electronic warfare to manipulate people’s thinking and behaviour on a mass scale. It goes beyond previous propaganda techniques like Cambridge Analytica, but also builds on what we now know it did. This is vital in assessing what we recently studied around Topham Guerin’s role in Aotearoa New Zealand’s sock-puppet, astroturf, and propaganda campaigns.”

“In 2019, *The Guardian* reported that Topham Guerin worked for Conservative Party strategist Sir Lynton Crosby’s CTF Partners to create a “large-scale professional disinformation network on behalf of paying clients including major polluters, the Saudi Arabian government, anti-cycling groups and various foreign political campaigns” on Facebook[2].

“The UK-based Good Law Project published an article titled ‘How Palantir and Topham Guerin’s plan to discredit us unravelled’, covering a covert marketing campaign involving Disrupt, a marketing agency, Palantir, a data analytics firm, and Topham Guerin, a PR agency, targeting influencers to counteract criticism from Good Law Project. The campaign’s aim was to mitigate concerns regarding Palantir’s NHS contract.”

“The text on Topham Guerin’s own website, detailing tactics for the 2023 National Party campaign raise several concerns in terms of potential harms to liberal democracy and social cohesion in New Zealand, in the context of the transcripts studied, and what’s noted in the Good Law press release.

**Spread of misinformation/disinformation:** By focusing on “shaping perceptions” rather than factual policy discussion and using emotionally

manipulative content, they enable the spread of potential misinformation or disinformation to voters. This undermines informed democratic participation.

**Lack of transparency:** Not revealing they were behind the National Party's social media campaign hides who is trying to influence voters and the agendas/incentives behind messaging. This contradicts principles of open democracy.

**Promotion of polarisation:** Seeking to just "showcase" their candidate rather than represent alternative views fosters an us vs them dynamic. Their boast of "rewriting the playbook" also signals aggressive norms. This divides public discourse.

**Data privacy issues:** Amassing datasets on voters from platforms like Facebook to micro-target content raises ethical issues around consent, transparency, and inequities. There could be longer-term threats to civil liberties.

**Undermining public trust:** Tactics like using "TikTok gameplays" or memes for political messaging can spread oversimplified ideas and trivialise civic duties. This seeds cynicism, especially amongst youth who expect sincerity."

Other important 'strat comms' agencies associated with similarly aggressive disinformation campaigns against climate science, policy and clean energy are Whitestone Strategic , fully integrated with **Advance**, and Overton Solutions which has worked for the Australian offshoot of **Turning Point USA**, an organisation which has been funded by the US based Atlas Network member thinktank the **Atlas Society**, which recently awarded coal and gas billionaire and Atlas Network thinktank funder Gina Rinehart a medal at an event co-badged with the **Institute of Economic Affairs** and the **Centre of Independent Studies**.

Page 26:

**Senator ANANDA-RAJAH:** Thanks, Dr Walker. I want to bring you back to Australia. Could you outline for us the key bad actors or main actors in this space, including their donors, who are effectively undermining information integrity around climate and energy.

**Dr Walker:** The main actors?

**Senator ANANDA-RAJAH:** Yes, in Australia—and their donors, if you have that information.

**Dr Walker:** ...[...] **Advance** was set up by Maurice Newman, Sam Kennard and another chap whose name I forget.

Three cofounders of **Advance** were listed on its 2018 website: Maurice Newman (MPS 1976, inaugural board **chair Centre of Independent Studies**, co-founder of 'Atlas TV'- **Australian Digital Holdings**); multibillionaire Sam Kennard, heir to Kennards Hire and his father's board position on the **CIS** board, and **Dr. David Adler**. Adler was the founder in 2017 of the extreme-right Zionist group the **Australian Jewish Association**, which the Executive Council of Australian Jewry has describe as "a private group lead by a small number of unelected people promoting marginal, ideologically-blinkered views." The AJA is

highly integrated into the **Atlas Network** disinformation ecosystem. As the *Jewish Independent* reports:

“The AJA, which was founded in 2017, rejects the right of Palestinians to have their own state. “The land of Israel includes the biblical Jewish homelands of Judea and Samaria,” its mission statement says. It also aggressively opposed the indigenous Voice to parliament and platformed a [vile essay by the late Jewish academic Bill Rubenstein](#), that discussed the prevalence of historical cannibalism within the indigenous community.”

The **AJA** advisory committee includes **Institute of Public Affairs** director Gideon Rozner, and its website carries endorsements by John Roskam (MPS) and Sen. James Paterson, both with extensive backgrounds generating anti-climate policy campaigns and disinformation for the fossil fuel funded **Institute of Public Affairs**.



## GIDEON ROZNER

COMMITTEE MEMBER

Gideon is the immediate former Director of Policy at the Institute of Public Affairs (IPA), Australia's leading conservative think tank.