

WE CHANGE MINDS

The Australia Institute

**2015-16
ANNUAL
REPORT**

The Australia Institute

Research that matters.

CORPORATE INFORMATION

The Australia Institute Limited presents its Annual Report for the financial year 2015-16.

CORPORATE INFORMATION

DIRECTORS

John McKinnon (Chair)
NGO director, and philanthropist, formerly worked in funds management and international development

Professor Barbara Pocock (Deputy Chair)
Emeritus Professor, Business School,
University of South Australia

Elizabeth Cham
Former CEO of Philanthropy Australia (96-06)

Andrew Dettmer
National President of the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union.

Dr Samantha Hardy
Philanthropy Adviser, Callum Hardy Consulting

David Morawetz
Psychologist and economist
Founder and Director, Social Justice Fund

Professor Spencer Zifcak
Allan Myers Professor of Law, ACU and Barrister and Solicitor, Supreme Court of Victoria

Lee Thomas
Federal Secretary, Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation

Lin Hatfield Dodds - *resigned 25 May 2016*
National Director, UnitingCare Australia

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ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

The Australia Institute is the country's most influential progressive think-tank. We conduct research on a broad range of economic, social and environmental issues in order to inform public debate and bring greater accountability to the democratic process.

Our work is independently funded by donations from philanthropic trusts and individuals, as well as grants and commissioned research from business, unions and NGOs. The Australia Institute is not government funded and does not accept donations or commissioned work from political parties. With no formal political or commercial ties, the Institute is in a position to maintain its independence while advancing a vision for a fair and progressive Australia.

OUR GOAL

The Australia Institute is determined to push public debate beyond the simplistic question of whether markets or governments have all the answers to more important questions: When does government need to intervene in the market? When should it stand back? And when regulation is needed, what form should it take?

When we talk about the *'research that matters'* we're talking about making real, tangible changes that wouldn't have happened if we weren't there to make them happen.

NEWS
MAY 21, 2018

Economic think tanks setting the election agenda

A new political nous in economic research groups has seen them capture debate and set the policy course for the election.



MIKE SECCOMBE



LOCAL CHAIR
sky NEWS LIVE
THE AUSTRALIA INSTITUTE
BEN OQUIST

PM AGENDA

ROCKHAMPTON THE THREE SEATS THEY HELD IN TASMANIA TO LABOR. LIBERAL 17:50



sky NEWS LIVE
BILLY REID ONLINE
BILL SHORTEN SAYS THE LABOR PARTY IS MOST CERTAINLY BACK AND JUST NEED SOME PATIENCE AS COUNT CONTINUES

PM AGENDA

LULURU NOW 19* ons provider, SEW Eurodrive is fully equipped to keep industry up and running. 17:51

We're confident that we consistently deliver on the promise of our motto: **research that matters.**



THE SATURDAY PAPER

WED 20 | 17 MAY 2018 | \$6.00
GOING OVERBOARD 15 Paul Bongiorno on Turnbull's reversion to fear politics
FRESH MOVES 18 Rafael Bonachela talks dance with Benjamin Law
LAUGH LESSONS 20 Helen Razer on ABC's Comedy Showroom

Think tanks calling the shots

A new political nous in economic research groups has seen them capture debate and set the policy course for the election. *Mike Secombe reports.*



WE'VE HAD A BIG 12 MONTHS

2015 →



JULY

We released a new video explaining the extent of fossil fuels subsidies in Queensland.

Richard Denniss also penned the cover essay 'Of Clowns and Treasurers' for The Monthly, an issue which subsequently sold out.



AUGUST

Our research was front and centre in the push back to the Prime Minister's proposed changes to the EPBC. The front page coverage in The Age quoting our research slammed the amendment as one 'based on dubious and exaggerated evidence.'



SEPTEMBER

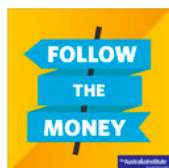
Cathy McGowan AO hosted the launch of our report *Heartland: The bush needs its ABC*, launched by the former Member for New England, Tony Windsor, Senator Dio Wang and Joel Fitzgibbon MP.

2016 →

New and Noteworthy



FiveThirtyEight Elections
FiveThirtyEight



Follow the Money
The Australia Institute



Stuc Midc Maur



FEBRUARY

Our chief economist, Richard Denniss released his new book *Econobabble*, and we were lucky enough to have Laura Tingle the political editor at Australian Financial Review launched it.

Economic benefits of nuclear dump exaggerated: report

NEWS

The multi-billion dollar benefits of establishing a local nuclear waste dump were grossly exaggerated in last month's royal commission tentative findings, according to a response by the Australia Institute released today.



MARCH

Our research exposed that the economics of international nuclear waste dump in SA just don't stack up.

JANUARY

We launched a new podcast, which debuted at #8 on the iTunes chart.



OCTOBER

We announced our new partnership to produce the CEDEX report.

NOVEMBER

We hosted the President of Kiribati, His Excellency Anote Tong on a visit to Australia in the lead-up to Paris COP21.

DECEMBER

Our report *Two Birds, One Little Black Rock* outlined a solution to the twin problems of incentives for retirement of coal fired generation and funding mine rehabilitation liabilities.



APRIL

Our Queensland Job Growth Summit featured delegates from all the major jobs industries in Queensland, in addition to keynote by the Deputy Premier Jackie Trad and other government and industry figures.

MAY

Our research showed that most voters support a transition to 100% renewable energy.

JUNE

Our research exposed the flaws in economic election claims, and we were even mentioned by Bill Shorten in the Leaders Debate.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

JOHN McKINNON



To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often. If we accept Winston Churchill's words, then 2015-16 has brought us close to perfection. It has been a period of major change.

Firstly, in mid 2015 we had a seamless change of Executive Director from Richard Denniss to Ben Oquist. Having worked in numerous organisations across several diverse industries that have had major personnel transitions I can honestly say that this was the smoothest, happiest and most effective I have ever witnessed. Of course, Richard did not leave The Australia Institute but remains our Chief Economist. As such, he continues to research, write and speak about progressive ideas and policies for Australia. In fact, Richard has become even more prolific and Australia can only be the beneficiary of this.

Furthermore, Ben Oquist has brought to the Executive Director role his peerless strategic mind and political wisdom. Whether it be measured financially, through media coverage or less quantitatively, via political effectiveness, Ben has taken the Institute to new heights.

In mid 2016 a further significant change took place. Lin Hatfield-Dodds stepped down as chair after 5 years in the role in order to take up a senior government position. While we were happy for Lin's career advancement, her leadership will be sorely missed. Lin has been the only chair of the Institute I have served under and I must say her example of humble but strong leadership underpins the strength of the Institute today. She will be missed.

As the new chair replacing Lin, I start my tenure with a mix of excitement and trepidation. Excitement at the energetic, purposeful, harmonious and highly effective organization I find myself chairing. Trepidation in realizing what a vital task I have taken on. For my children, for all future generations and indeed, for our current population, it is just so vital that we address inequality, that we tackle climate change, that the neo-liberal stranglehold on economic discourse is broken, that progressive voices are heard and are effective. As the leading progressive think tank in the country we carry an awesome responsibility.

As if to prove Churchill right, in the midst of these major changes, the past year has seen some extraordinary successes. At the 2016 federal election superannuation fairness and negative gearing were key issues, both "untouchable" issues having been put on the national agenda through years of work by the Institute. The coal

industry continues to lose its social license as the Institute has continued to highlight its massive government subsidies and questionable economics. The idea of a global coal mine moratorium, seemingly crazy a year ago, is now seriously discussed and has been adopted by several major coal producing countries following Richard Denniss's groundbreaking work.

Post the Federal Election renewable energy was again under attack, via proposed funding cuts to ARENA and following the South Australian storms. Again, the Institute displayed its agility and responsiveness to bring quality research into the debate at the right time to maximum effect. Similarly, also post election, when a cut to Newstart seemed unquestioned, the Institute rose to the occasion and prevented a cut to the incomes of the poorest Australians.

In November 2016 our march towards "perfection" continues when the Institute moves to Manuka as the lead tenant in a new space to house progressive organisations. Through this further change, to join like-minded others in a physical space we can enhance collaboration, amplify voices and increase effectiveness across the whole progressive movement.

I am very proud to be part of such an organization. I would like to thank our board, especially those finishing their terms at this AGM - Spencer Zifcak, Sam Hardy and of course Lin Hatfield-Dodds. For those joining the board, welcome - you have big shoes to fill.

Thanks also to the Research Committee. They play a vital role in ensuring our research remains top quality and relevant. We are privileged to have a group of such high caliber people on the committee and the effectiveness of our research is testament to the job they have done.

Finally, none of the work we do can take place without financial resources. To those who have supported our work over the past year: a huge thank you. If you have become a regular donor, double thanks. Your belief in a better, fairer, more progressive Australia, keeps us going. Whether you give a lot or a little, you are valued partners with us in this project.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BEN OQUIST



Contrary to popular belief, good ideas do not speak for themselves. Good ideas need people to speak for them, and to champion them. That's why The Australia Institute exists. We need to ensure that good ideas spread. That they are seen by the public; that policy makers and politicians get them in their hands. At the right time.

Facts cannot speak for themselves either. We need your help to ensure we can speak for them.

Elections are important times in a democracy not just because governments come and go but it is a time when a large section of the population are more attentive to policy and politics. And our research continues to lead the political debate.

Any way you measure it, it's been a big twelve months. There have been so many highlights over the past year that it would be impossible to name them all. We hope to have captured our most substantive work over the following pages. And we have even more exciting research planned for the coming year.

This year we are proud to have hosted our first Head of State, facilitating the trip to Australia of His Excellency Anote Tong, President of Kiribati in the lead up to COP21 in Paris. We also hosted a COP21 reception in Paris for His Excellency and guests in the name of a call for No New Coal Mines

We also saw some change in the structure of the Institute.

We merged with Jubilee Australia Research Centre, and we hope to create more impact with the important work in Bougainville.

We also welcomed Dr Jim Stanford from Canada, as the director of our new centre: the Centre for Future Work, and he has certainly hit the ground running with his work on manufacturing and labour issues for the centre.

Thank you to our outgoing chair Lin Hatfield Dodds who has led the Institute through some initially challenging times but ultimately saw our organisation truly blossom. Also to outgoing board members Spencer and Sam who have served on the board for many years.

My first year in charge of the Institute has been a privilege, and as you can see I think we have achieved a lot. Behind our work sits a tremendous team. We pride ourselves on trying to genuinely work together to integrate our research, media, strategy, administration, communications. This enables maximum agility, maximum impact in a fast paced political and media environment.

Thank you to everyone in The Australia Institute family — our staff, our board, and our supporters. Whether you contribute financially or read and help spread our research and work through our email list and social media posts — we simply couldn't exist or be effective without you. Thank you.

It has been a year of change and a year of growth at the Institute as you can see. The Australia Institute continues to go from strength to strength as we become a powerhouse of intellectual leadership in Australia and the world.

INTRODUCING THE CENTRE FOR FUTURE WORK

How can families, communities, unions and progressives make their voices heard, and create a more balanced, diverse economic discourse?

The Australia Institute has launched a new initiative to amplify the progressive economic perspective in Australian economic debates.



Record low wages and income growth coupled with record increase in household debt. Not really something you'd want to boast about. Photograph: Greg Wood/AFP/Getty Images

@GregaGamut

Tuesday 14 June 2016 06:30 AEST



Shares

Comments

24,192

939

New research by the Australia Institute reveals that across a broad range of economic measures, the Abbott/Turnbull government has performed the worst of any Australian government since Menzies took power in 1949. The institute's paper also notes that historically there is little correlation between "business friendly" policies and economic performance.

Inevitably election campaigns become focused on economic management. On this score historically, the Liberal Party is usually assumed to be the better economic manager. For example, a poll earlier this month by the *Essential Report* had voters preferring the LNP over the ALP on the issue of who they trusted on "management of the economy" by 39% to 27%.

Such a belief is behind the Liberal party's main desire to fight the election campaign on their economic plan, the central feature of which is the company tax cut.

← JOBS AND GROWTH... AND A FEW HARD NUMBERS

To demonstrate the lack of correlation between a government's stated economic orientation, and the actual performance of the real economy, Dr Jim Stanford, the director of our new *Centre for Future Work*, compiled historical data on twelve standard indicators of economic performance: including employment, unemployment, real output, investment (of various forms), foreign trade, incomes, and debt burdens. We compared Australia's economic performance under each Prime Minister, on the basis of these twelve selected indicators.

The Australia Institute has launched a new initiative to amplify the progressive economic perspective in Australian economic debates.

Our aim is to build a distinct and unique centre of excellence, housed within the Australia Institute, to focus on the core economic issues facing working people, their families, and their communities: jobs, wages, industrial development, globalization, fair taxes, quality public services, income distribution, and more.

Our ultimate goal is to ensure that working people, and their unions, have more influence in the economic debates that will shape the quality of life here.

We want to show politicians, the media, and our own members that there are credible, positive, progressive solutions to the economic challenges we face.

A key ingredient in our project is the arrival in Australia of Jim Stanford, a leading progressive labour economist. Dr. Stanford worked for 20 years in Canada's union movement (first with the Canadian Auto Workers, and then with its successor organization, Unifor). He is one of the most widely-reported economists of any stripe in Canada, and is well-known and respected internationally. His book, *Economics for Everyone*, a progressive 'textbook' on economics for trade unionists and other concerned non-specialists, is used as a teaching resource by unions and community organizations around the world. He is recognized for his unique communication and teaching skills, presenting complex economic topics to unions and other audiences in an accessible way.

The Australian labour movement is facing big challenges. With union membership falling in some areas and a push by certain conservative sections of society to eliminate or at least marginalise the union movement altogether. Now is also a time for union renewal and we believe a lively think tank combined with Dr. Stanford's experience with Unifor can play a part.

Dr. Stanford is excited to come on board as the founding Director of the Centre for Future Work. He shares the Institute's vision of building a stronger, respected, influential voice on economic issues: one that respects and empowers the interests of working people, instead of belittling and devaluing them.

Our ultimate goal is to ensure that working people, their families and communities, and their unions, have more influence in the economic debates that will shape the quality of life here. We want to show politicians, the media, and our own members that there are credible, positive, progressive solutions to the economic challenges we face.





NO BUSINESS IN ABUSE

The Australia Institute has added to the growing chorus of resistance to Australia's abusive and illegal offshore detention policies through *No Business in Abuse* providing researching and policy solutions for alternatives to detention.

We have contributed to regional capacity building initiatives in Indonesia, training Indigenous people's human rights advocates on business and human rights legal frameworks and advocacy strategy.

The Institute's involvement and work with No Business in Abuse in 2016 built on the campaign's previous successes and responded to the acquisition of Australian detention contractor Broadspectrum by Spanish infrastructure giant Ferrovial.

In Oslo, our business & human rights advisor Brynn O'Brien met with the secretariat of the Ethics Council for the Norwegian Government Pension Fund, which monitors the Fund's portfolio and evaluates its investments against Ethical Guidelines set by the Norwegian Ministry of Finance. The Ethics Council then makes recommendations to Norges Bank Investment Management (NBIM) about whether companies should be put under observation or excluded from the Fund for breaches of the Guidelines.

NBIM holds approximately 1.7% of Ferrovial. In April, we briefed the Ethics Council on Ferrovial's bid for Broadspectrum. According to this recent media reports, NBIM has now referred this matter to the Ethics Council for a formal decision. Upon its successful acquisition of Broadspectrum, Ferrovial announced that it would not re-tender for detention centre work beyond the expiration of the current contract in February 2017. The significance of this cannot be overstated, and was more than likely a direct result of pressure applied to Ferrovial by its financial backers after their engagement with NBIA. The Australian Government relies on the active participation of companies in implementing its abusive policies offshore. It is now left with an expensive hole in the middle of its policy, which puts further pressure on its operation.

Additionally as part of the campaign and engagement strategy, we attended the OECD conference on Responsible Business Conduct in Paris and spoke at parallel event to the Human Rights Council's 32nd sitting in Geneva, and attended Ferrovial's AGM in Madrid in May 2016.

Domestically, seven local councils have now decided to do no further business with companies profiting from human rights abuses. The Australia Institute assisted community and council members from several of these areas, including Byron Shire, City of Yarra and City of Sydney in successfully preparing for and passing boycott motions.

JUBILEE AUSTRALIA RESEARCH CENTRE

In the last year, Jubilee continued its engagement on Bougainville issues by focussing on the Province's new Mining Act, which paves the way for the re-introduction of mining there. In November 2015 we released the report *The Devil in the Detail: An Analysis of the Bougainville Mining Act*. The report details how the repressive new Act authorises the central government to take land regardless of landowner consent, defining mining 'in the public interest'. It also imposes severe penalties on landowners who protest mining on their land including lengthy prison sentences and exorbitant fines, and provides for the suspension of critical human rights.

At present, we are in the middle of an awareness raising tour in Bougainville about the Act. We are working with Bougainvillean facilitators to tour communities on the island and hold awareness sessions to inform locals about what the Act might do. The tour, which finishes in August, has already raised a great deal of interest and debate in the media and in the Bougainvillean parliament.

Jubilee has continued in the last year to engage with its other work areas. It continues to play its key watchdog role monitoring the projects and the policies of Efic, our export credit agency, especially those that can have harmful impacts on communities overseas. We continue to engage closely with local and international partners who work on the issues of sovereign debt and tax justice.

In the coming year, we plan to extend our work in a number of new directions. We will continue to look at the human rights and environmental impacts of mining projects in PNG. We are also planning a new multi-year project to work with companies, investor groups and politicians in Canberra to develop important new standards and, where necessary, laws that will make Aussie companies more responsible corporate citizens overseas.

At an organisational level, our merger with the Australia Institute is now complete. While Jubilee retains its broader research and advisory networks, so important to our work, we also now benefit from working closely with the highly qualified staff at The Australia Institute. We hope that the collaboration between these two groups will continue to be effective. We sadly are saying farewell to Brynnie Goodwill, who has been at the helm of Jubilee for the past two and a half years. Brynnie's excellent stewardship over this time has been invaluable; although we say goodbye to her, we hope that Brynnie will stay involved in one capacity or another in the future. Former Jubilee National Coordinator and Board Chair Luke Fletcher will take over as Director from the beginning of July. The old Jubilee Board has been reconstituted as the Jubilee Advisory Group, and will be chaired by Katie Gauld.





57
Research
Pieces

+



23 Submissions
to Government
Inquiries & Project
Assessments

+



over **60**
Opinion
Pieces

+



39
Briefing
Papers

+



1
Book

OUR RESEARCH AT A GLANCE

In 2015-16, the Australia Institute produced 57 pieces of research and made 23 submissions to government inquiries and project assessment processes.

This substantial body of new research builds upon areas of longstanding inquiry by the institute — inequality, mining, renewable energy and corporate welfare, to name a few.

We have also found opportunities to take our research in new directions; including fossil fuel divestment, affordable housing, and public investment in health and education.

The broad brief of our research is anchored by a sharp strategic focus — defining the problems we face, and offering workable solutions.

SUBMISSIONS TO PLANNING & PARLIAMENTARY PROCESSES



SUBMISSIONS TO PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

- Shipping Legislation Amendment Bill 2015: Review of regulation impact statement
- Establishing a gas community benefits fund
- An industry out of time: Submission to the South Australian Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission
- Funny money: Submission to Senate Standing Committee on Economics inquiry into foreign bribery
- EPBC Amendment Bill 2015: Submission
- Economic security for women in retirement: Submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Economics
- Submission on Tax Laws Amendment (Combating Multinational Tax Avoidance) Bill 2015
- Draft guidelines for economic assessment of mining and coal seam gas proposals: Submission

SUBMISSIONS TO PLANNING PROCESSES

- Submission on NSW Integrated Mining Policy
- Terminal 4 Planning Assessment Commission determination meeting
- Mt Thorley-Warkworth Continuation Project: Submission to NSW Planning Assessment Commission following proposed changes to the State Environment and Planning Policy, or 'Mining SEPP'
- Establishing a gas community benefits fund: Submission
- Abbot Point Growth Gateway Project: Submission on environmental impact statement
- Airly Coal Mine project: Submission to Planning Assessment Commission
- Bylong Coal Project: Submission on Environmental Impact Statement, Appendix AE Economic Assessment
- Rix's Creek Extension Project: Submission
- Draft guidelines for economic assessment of mining and coal seam gas proposals: Submission
- Digging for answers: Response to tentative findings: Radioactive waste storage and disposal facilities in South Australia
- Wilpinjong Extension Project: Submission
- Wambo Mine Modification 12: Submission
- The Good Shepherd, economic security indicators
- On for young and old: The economics of Homeshare
- Surprise me when I'm dead: Revisiting the case for estate duties

POLLING & COMMISSIONED RESEARCH



REPORTS, BRIEFING NOTES BACKGROUND BRIEFINGS



BRIEFING NOTES & BACKGROUND BRIEFINGS

- Too close for comfort: How the coal and gas industry get their way in Queensland
- Wind vs Coal NSW T&I submissions
- Who says?: Public support for environmental advocacy
- Take the pressure down: Sorting scare and substance in the renewable energy target debate
- Passing gas: Economic myths around the Northern Territory's North East Gas Interconnector pipeline
- Cutting the company tax rate: Why would you?
- Free Trade Agreements: Costs and benefits
- Carmichael in Context: Quantifying Australia's threat to climate action
- Be careful of what you wish for: The economic impacts of Queensland's unconventional gas experiment and the implications for Northern Territory policy makers.
- Queensland's unconventional gas experiment and the implications for Northern Territory policy makers
- When you're in a hole - stop digging!: The economic case for a moratorium on new coal mines
- Finland's fine example: How to fix the regressive nature of traffic fines in Australia
- From Start to Finnish: Reforming South Australia's traffic fine system
- Top Gears: How negative gearing and the capital gains tax discount benefit the top 10 per cent and drive up house prices
- Tax concessions by age
- Money doesn't grow on trees: The financial and economic losses of native forestry in NSW
- Securing renewables: How batteries solve the problem of clean electricity
- Are government plans to tackle bracket creep good for average people?
- The Gender Equality Dashboard (Catalyst)
- Company tax cuts: What the evidence shows
- We can do better: Beyond "stop the boats"
- Income tax cuts by electorate
- Company tax cuts: An Australian gift to the US Internal Revenue Service
- Great Barrier Bleached: Coral bleaching, the Great Barrier Reef and potential impacts on tourism
- Electorate renewables briefing notes
- Renewable energy in Indi and Australia
- Renewable energy in New England and Australia
- Renewable energy in Bass and Australia
- Manufacturing (still) matters: Why the decline of Australian manufacturing is NOT inevitable, and what government can do about it
- Jobs and growth... and a few hard numbers: A scorecard on economic policy and economic performance
- Nice work if you can get it: Jobs outcomes from renewables growth policies
- Unemployment by electorate
- Unemployment by electorate in South Australia
- Unemployment by electorate in Queensland
- Unemployment in New England
- Political endangered species: The decline of the major party voter
- ABCC Double Dissolution in the media
- The goon show: How the tax system works to subsidise cheap wine and alcohol consumption

COMMISSIONED RESEARCH

- The role of ridesharing in addressing Canberra's transport challenges
- NSW Planning Department proposal
- Switching off gas: An examination of declining gas demand in Eastern Australia
- The impossible dream: Free electricity sounds too good to be true. It is.
- Oil in the Great Australian Bight: Submission to Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
- Economic assessment of the Hume Coal project
- Corporate malfeasance in Australia
- Great Barrier Bleached: Coral bleaching, the Great Barrier Reef and potential impacts on tourism

POLLING

- No New Coal Mines polling
- Clean Energy Capital: Public support for ACT clean energy leadership

INSTITUTE PAPERS & EXPERT REPORTS



INSTITUTE PAPER

- Heartland: Why the bush needs its ABC
- Go Home on Time Day 2016
- Two birds, one little black rock: Solving the twin problems of incentives for retirement of coal fired generation and funding rehabilitation liabilities
- Power down II: The continuing decline in Australia's electricity demand
- Charity ends at home: The decline of foreign aid in Australia
- Workin' 9 to 5.30: Unpaid overtime and work life balance
- I Want My ABC (and SBS and NITV): The future of national public broadcasting
- Jobs growth in Queensland: Trends and prospects
- No politics at Aunty's table: Depoliticising the governance of the ABC

EXPERT REPORT

- New Acland

BOOKS



ECONOBABBLE: How to Decode Political Spin and Economic Nonsense

Richard Denniss, Black Inc.

OPINION PIECES



In addition to publishing formal research, our research team penned over 60 opinion pieces throughout 2015-16. These pieces amplify the impact of our research and introduce our work to new audiences. Reflecting the broader range of research topics over the past year, opinion pieces from Institute staff cover a wide range of subject matter. Analysis of state and federal budgets are also a regular focus of these pieces.



NO NEW COAL MINES

We launched No New Coal Mines in August, but it was President Anote Tong's visit to Australia in November that really changed the debate domestically.

The Institute's involvement ensured the President's visit was a success from start to finish, beginning with securing a one-on-one interview with ABC AM's Michael Brissenden - Australia's agenda-setting radio current affairs program.

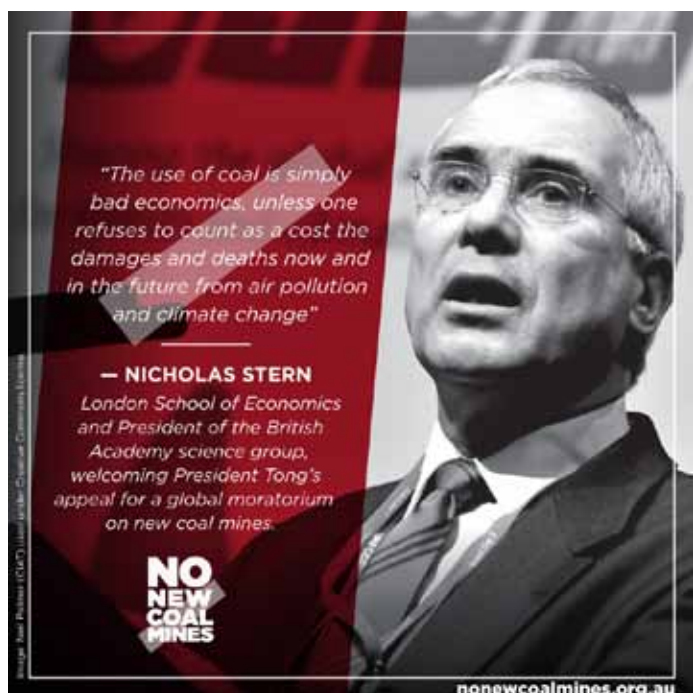
The Australia Institute launched the No New Coal Mines initiative, backed by our research demonstrating the environmental and economic impacts just one new Australian mine -- Carmichael coal mine in Queensland -- would have.

We pulled together and publish an open letter to world leaders by 61 prominent Australians, including three Australians of the Year, two Nobel Prize laureates, and Australian rugby world cup hero David Pocock, in The Sydney Morning Herald.

We then hosted President Tong's visit to Australia en-route to Paris COP21, so that he could speak to the Australian public directly about the need for a global moratorium on new coal mines.

The Institute played a crucial role in organising meetings for the President with key players including state and federal MPs, traditional owners of the land which the Carmichael Mine would be situated, farmers and the farmers federation, and banking and financial representatives to discuss divestment.

And on the cusp of COP21, we also played a key role in coordinating and publishing another open letter, this time with signatories such as former NASA Goddard Institute Director Dr. James E. Hansen, Dr. David Suzuki, Nobel Laureate in economics Professor Kenneth Arrow, Professor Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, and Ian Dunlop joining 52 scientists, economists and other experts in calling for a moratorium on new coal mines ahead of the Paris Climate Summit.

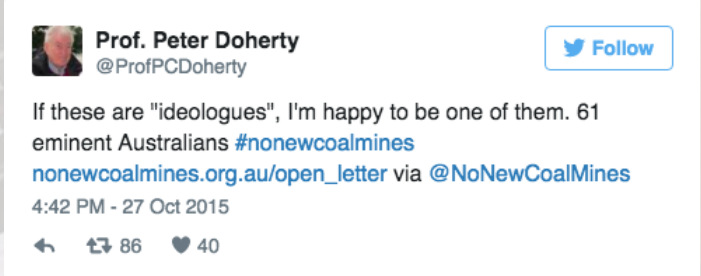




Australia's breakdown king David Pocock more concerned with climate change than facing All Blacks

The Daily Mirror 27 October 2015

61 eminent Australians including three former Australians of the Year, two Nobel Prize winners, and Australian Rugby player David Pocock signed an open letter to President Hollande and World Leaders, supporting President Tong of Kiribati's call for a global moratorium on new coal mines.



Signatory to the letter, and former head of the Reserve Bank and Climate Change Authority, Bernie Fraser appeared on AM to discuss the open letter and call for a global moratorium on new coal mines, setting the agenda for the nation's daily news and current affairs coverage, with 'Bernie Fraser' even becoming a trending topic on twitter in Australia.

The open letter also received coverage from Fairfax Media's Chief Political Correspondent, Mark Kenny, and was reported on page 2 of The Sydney Morning Herald. The letter was also covered by The Guardian's Lenore Taylor.

Our strategic timing of the publication of the open letter resulted in the morning press coverage setting the tone for the political news of the day - Prime Minister Turnbull's announcement of Australia's incoming Chief Scientist - with the first question asked from the press pack (by ABC's Chris Uhlmann) being about the open letter and call for a moratorium on new coal mines.

Consequently, reportage regarding Australia's incoming Chief Scientist was about his 'vision for Australia without coal', and Malcolm Turnbull resorted to building his own straw-man argument to beat down, leading to him being roundly criticised for his response, including a piece in the Guardian titled 'Malcolm Turnbull's rhetorical dance around coal reveals extent of his constraint'.

Thousands tweeted, shared the letter on Facebook, signed the petition and recruited their friends to sign it impacting on the political discourse in the lead-up to the Paris COP21 talks.

We obtained an analysis of coverage which contained either "The Australia Institute [and] coal/moratorium" or the specific phrase "No New Coal Mines" in the 103 days between 09 Sep 2015 and 20 Dec 2015. Conducted by iSentia, it found 168 media items in the Australian market. This coverage reached a cumulative audience of 6,703,053 and had an 'advertising space rate' (ASR) or equivalent value of AUD \$2,071,786.

This initiative has seen The Australia Institute takes its first steps into the foreign policy space and it has strengthened our relationships with several very high profile people globally from science, health, economics and politics.



MELBOURNE WRITERS FESTIVAL WITH NAOMI KLEIN

The Australia Institute were proud to have sponsored Naomi Klein to appear at the Melbourne Writers' Festival for a sold-out event. We were even more thrilled when she used her Australian tour to back the call for a global moratorium on new coal mines, saying 'when you're in a hole, stop digging. No. New. Coal. Mines.'

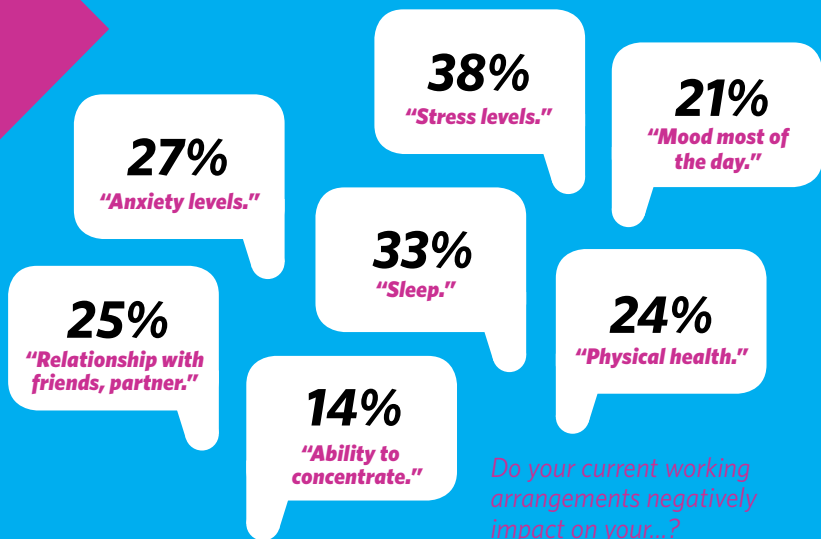
GO HOME ON TIME DAY

Go Home on Time Day is going strong and now in its ninth year. In this year's report, our research found that Australians now donate \$128 billion in unpaid overtime per year.

We also launched a new Go Home on Time Day website, with an overtime calculator, which was accessed by over 4,500 Australians on the day to find out how much they were donating to their employer in unpaid overtime.

Australians are donating billions in unpaid overtime to their employers.

HOW IS THIS HAVING A NEGATIVE IMPACT?



YES: THIS WORKPLACE IS GOING HOME ON TIME

Get your leave pass for

Go home on time day
18 NOVEMBER 2015

Visit > gohomeontimeday.org.au



“As set out in the report released this week by The Australia Institute, in this digital era, if you wanted to create a new broadcasting service to serve multicultural audiences, you wouldn’t create an entire separate broadcasting organisation.”

-- MARK SCOTT
National Press Club Address

EVERYONE LOVES OUR ABC

Keeping a properly funded national broadcaster truly independent of Government interference is important for our democracy. The good news is the public thinks the same. In particular, rural Australians who love their ABC.

This year, The Australia Institute released polling which showed that the majority of voters in a number of blue-ribbon Liberal held seats oppose cuts to the ABC. Then, in September, Cathy McGowan AO hosted the launch of The Australia Institute’s report, *Heartland: The bush needs its ABC*, launched by the former Member for New England, Tony Windsor, Senator Dio Wang and Joel Fitzgibbon MP.

This new report by The Australia Institute revealed the extent of the decline of regional media across Australia and explored the role of the national broadcaster in the future. It also demonstrated that there is overwhelming support across the country -- from the city to regional and rural areas -- for increased funding to the ABC for greater regional services.

Enshrine ABC independence in the constitution: Australia Institute

March 2, 2016

☆ Read later



Matthew Knott

Communications and Education Correspondent

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Email article Print

In addition to Heartland, the Institute also launched two reports with ABC Friends.

The first, I want my ABC (and SBS and NITV), detailed how in today’s technological climate we could merge the ABC and SBS back-end operations to devote more resources to producing content Australians love. This report was mentioned in Mark Scott’s final Press Club address as the Managing Director of the ABC.

The Institute also participated in the ABC Friends National Campaign Forum in Parliament House to discuss what Australians expect from their ABC, and used the opportunity to launch The Australia Institute’s report *No Politics at Aunty’s Table: Depoliticising the Governance of the ABC*.

FEDERAL IMPACT

ESTATE DUTIES

With the ongoing debate about the revenue crisis vs the spending crisis, the Institute posited the idea: wouldn't you rather pay more taxes when you're dead, rather than in the here and now? And made the case for an estate tax, backed by Tim Costello.

The idea that death duties are politically impossible in Australia has become an article of faith. But if given a choice, wouldn't people prefer to be taxed less when they are alive in exchange for paying a bit more when they are dead?

SHIPPING LEGISLATION

The Australia Institute's strategic intervention with our submission on the *Shipping Legislation Amendment Bill 2015* showed that the Government's proposed changes would have cost more than 9 in 10 domestic shipping jobs if passed. Due in part to the findings of our research, the legislation was voted down by the Senate.

2016 FEDERAL BUDGET

Our analysis of the winners of the 2016 Budget made front page news in every metropolitan daily newspaper in the country. Our modelling showed that not only were young people the biggest losers of the Federal Budget, the biggest winners were Liberal Party held electorates (including the Prime Minister's own seat of Wentworth) while 9 in 10 Tasmanians would miss out on the income tax cut completely.



Abbott government shipping changes will sink 1000 jobs: research

September 4, 2015

Comments 10 [Read later](#)



Heath Aston

Political reporter

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EXCLUSIVE



TAKING AN EDUCATED GUESS →

In our report 'Taking an Educated Guess' we revealed that OECD countries which invest in education have a much greater improvement to standard of living than those which cut company tax rates.



▲ OUR ANALYSIS OF THE WINNERS OF THE 2016 BUDGET MADE FRONT PAGE NEWS IN EVERY METROPOLITAN DAILY NEWSPAPER IN AUSTRALIA.

Our modelling showed that even in the highest paid electorate (the Prime Minister's seat of Wentworth) the full income tax cut will only be enjoyed by one third of income earners, while 9 in 10 Tasmanians will miss out completely.

"The point to this story, though, is not so much one of who is right and who is wrong. It is the fact that over several days this week the Finance Minister spent a great deal of time debating not with his opponents in Labor or the Greens, but with a think tank."

— Mike Secombe, *The Saturday Paper*, 21 May 2016

CUTTING COMPANY TAX WHY WOULD YOU?

ADVERTISEMENT

Australia Doesn't Need Lower Taxes.

AN OPEN LETTER

To Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull

Data from the OECD, IMF and World Bank make clear that Australia is a low taxing country. To have world class health, education and transport services we need to collect the revenue to fund them.

A debate about tax reform should begin with the question of how much tax is required to fund the services we need to build a fair and decent society in Australia.

And real tax reform also requires fairness. A serious tax reform package designed to be 'fair' should address as a priority the current generous tax concessions to the top end of town, the inequitable distribution of superannuation tax concessions and the capital gains tax discount, not how to give big business large company tax cuts at the expense of services that everyday Australians rely on. Cutting programs which support needy Australians to give more tax benefits to companies or large income tax cuts to the wealthiest is not fair.

The OECD says inequality harms growth. While inequality will always be in the community, what matters is its extent, its direction, and its causes. What's more, increasing inequality hurts the economy and divides the community.

The pursuit of equity and fairness must lie at the heart of our national goals. Fortunately, not only is the pursuit of equity broadly supported by the community, it is good for our economy as a whole. Collecting more tax, more equitably, will make Australia a better place to live and work.

We urge the Prime Minister and all political leaders not to cut taxes at this time — and certainly not for companies.

SIGNATORIES—

Bernie Fraser
Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia 1989-96
Professor Carmen Lawrence
Former Federal Minister, Premier of WA and Federal President of ALP
Professor Peter Doherty AO
Nobel Prize in Physiology/Medicine 1996, Australian of the Year 1997, Laureate Professor, University of Melbourne
Emeritus Professor Barbara Pocock
Business School, University of South Australia
Professor Spencer Zifcak
Allan Myers Professor of Law, Australian Catholic University
Professor John Quiggin
School of Economics, University of Queensland
Professor John Langmore
Professorial Fellow, School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne; Former Member for Fraser
Emeritus Professor Frank Stilwell
Political Economy, University of Sydney
Simon Sheikh
Founder & Managing Director, Future Super
Ross Knowles
Co-founder and chairman of Ethinvest, chairman of Australian Impact Investments, founding co-president of Responsible Investment Association of Australasia
Dr David Morawetz
Economist, founder and director, Social Justice Fund
Dr George Argyrous
Senior Lecturer, School of Social Sciences and International Studies, University of NSW
Dr Margaret Mousa
Lecturer, Economics, Finance and Property, Western Sydney University
John Menadue AO
Businessman and public commentator; former senior public servant and diplomat
Emeritus Professor Simon Chapman AO
School of Public Health, University of Sydney
Emeritus Professor Bob Douglas AO
National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University; Director, Australia21

Stuart McMillan
President, Uniting Church in Australia
Lin Hatfield Dods
National Director, UnitingCare Australia; Former Chair of the Australian Social Inclusion Board
Josh Bonstein
Lawyer, Company Director
Eva Cox AO
Writer, feminist, sociologist, social commentator, activist
Dr Jim Stanford
Economist and Director, Center for Future Work, The Australia Institute; Department of Economics, McMaster University
Dr Mark Zinsack
Tax Justice Network Australia
Peter Kriesler
Associate Professor, University of NSW; Director of The Society of Heterodox Economists
Emeritus Professor Meredith Edwards AM
Institute for Governance, University of Canberra
Dr Susan Schroeder
Lecturer, Department of Political Economy, University of Sydney
Dr Marilyn McHugh
Research Fellow, Social Policy Research Centre, University of NSW
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Hon A/Prof Anne Junor
Deputy Director, Industrial Relations Research Centre, University of NSW
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Dr Lynne Chester
Senior Lecturer, Department of Political Economy, University of Sydney
Dr Kerry Higgs
Associate, University of Tasmania; Fellow, Club Rome
Dr Evan Jones
Honorary Associate, Department of Political Economy, University of Sydney
Dr Jocelyn Piley
Honorary Adjunct Professor, Sociology, Macquarie University
Paul Barrett AO
Former Secretary, Departments of Primary Industries & Energy and Defence Chair, UNE Foundation Chair, Australia 21
Ben Quixut
Executive Director, The Australia Institute

To add your name to support real and fair tax reform
Visit > tai.org.au/fairtaxreform

Authorised by E. Bennett, LS/131 City Walk, Canberra ACT 2600

#FACTSFIGHTBACK

FACT 1 // \$7.4 billion to the big banks. Cutting the company tax rate will save the Commonwealth Bank \$2.3 billion over the next 10 years, and over \$7.4 billion for the big four banks combined.

FACT 2 // Australia's loss is America's gain. Due to a foreign tax treaty, American companies pay the US Internal Revenue Service the difference between the Aus and US company tax rates — currently an extra 5% tax, on top of the 30% paid to Australia. The company tax cut when fully implemented will see Australia forfeit US\$732 million (AUD\$999m) per year of tax revenue to USA.

FACT 3 // The biggest 15 companies receive a third of the benefits of the company tax cut when fully implemented. Advertising that the cuts will benefit all Australians looks like a good investment — look at how much big mining saved from writing their own mining tax.

Cutting Company Tax. WHY WOULD YOU?

The Company Tax cut gives the Big Banks an extra \$7.4 billion

\$7.4 billion over next 10 years
All Big Four Banks

3 billion over next 10 years
Commonwealth Bank

How is even the US Treasury a bigger Budget winner than everyday Australians?

US Treasury revenue vs Australia's loss

US\$732 million per year (AUD\$999million p.a.) forfeited to US Treasury

So-called 'trickle-down' economics has been resurrected and renamed 'growth dividend' to support company tax cuts.

The Australia Institute has spent considerable effort researching the impacts of the Government's plans to cut company tax rate, and the evidence and experience of 'trickle down' is that it creates neither jobs or growth as claimed, but drives greater inequality.

Our research has found the economic case for a company tax cut particularly weak. The tax cut comes at considerable cost to government revenue and will deliver over \$7 billion to Australia's big four banks at a time of already record profits.

The company tax cut would also result in an effective multi-billion dollar transfer of tax receipts from the Australian Treasury to the US Internal Revenue Service.

Our analysis of Treasury's own modelling shows little likely economic gain from the tax cut.

Community attitude polling research we have commissioned also shows overwhelming public opposition to these tax cuts, and we were also able to co-ordinate an open letter to the Prime Minister signed by former Governor of the Reserve Bank, Bernie Fraser, Professor Peter Doherty, President of the Uniting Church (Australia) Stuart McMillan, President of the ACTU Ged Kearney to name a few.

GREAT BARRIER BLEACHED

Research by The Australia Institute estimated tourism areas adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef risk losing over 1 million visitors per year, worth over \$1 billion in tourism expenditure if severe coral bleaching continues on the Great Barrier Reef.

This expenditure supports around 10,000 tourism jobs in regional Queensland, which are also considered at-risk.

While many potential visitors will seek out other Australian attractions, this research found that many will choose to not visit Australia at all. Based on polling of China, UK and USA, almost 175,000 people each year from these countries are more likely to visit a country other than Australia if bleaching persists.





Wednesday
 August 19, 2015
 Published in
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THE AGE

INDEPENDENT. ALWAYS.

Resource projects Review questions 'legal sabotage' claim

Coalition targets 'vigilantes'

Mark Kenny
 Lisa Cox
 Jane Lee

An attempt by Tony Abbott to blame "legal sabotage" used by green groups to kill off large resource projects in the courts, at the cost of tens of thousands of jobs, is based on dubious and exaggerated evidence, according to an independent review of environmental law.

An analysis of the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conser-

vation Act by progressive think tank the Australia Institute has found only a fraction of the roughly 5500 projects referred since the act's inception in 2000 have been challenged using "third-party appeal rights".

Elements of the yet-to-be-released study, obtained by Fairfax Media, reveal that of those projects referred to the environment minister for assessment under the act, about 1500 have been judged to require formal assessment, with just 12 refused federal environmental approval - nine of those

because they were deemed "clearly unacceptable" even before being referred for formal assessment.

And of those 5500, only 27 have been the subject of third-party legal appeals.

"Third-party appeals to the Federal Court have only affected 0.4 per cent of all projects referred under the legislation," Australia Institute executive director Ben Oquist said.

After weeks of difficulties resulting in the loss of the former speaker and divisions over same-sex mar-

riage, the Prime Minister told Coalition MPs the government now wanted to get the focus back on jobs and growth by removing legal paths for third parties to stymie big resource investments.

To that end, the government plans to amend section 487 of the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act to remove the power of so-called "third parties", such as environmental groups, from intervening in referrals from the minister under that act, via the courts.

Labor and the Greens said they would not support government's proposal, meaning the government will need the crossbench if its plan is to pass the Senate.

"I regret to say, Mr Speaker, that some green groups are doing their best to sabotage jobs and investment in Australia," Mr Abbott told Parliament yesterday.

Attorney-General George Brandis will move to repeal the section after

Continued Page 4

Weather

Today Partly cloudy
 Tomorrow Partly cloudy
 Friday Windy
 Details

4-14
 7-17
 13-17
 Page 51

Odd Spot

Leading Russian geologist Dr Alexander Koltypin claims an ancient non-human civilisation drove giant all-terrain vehicles in central Turkey's Phrygian Valley 12 to 14 million years ago. He says tracks still visible - mysterious groove-like markings in now solid volcanic rocks - were not created by any natural process.



BusinessDay

Asclano in \$9 billion take-over deal
 Page 21

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Wonder Explore Create...

Discover a magical Early Learning Centre for girls and boys aged 3 & 4.

When news broke of the Prime Minister's proposed attack on the EPBC Act, The Australia Institute was front and centre pushing back.

The frontpage coverage of The Age, quoting our research, slammed the amendment as one "based on dubious and exaggerated evidence."

Less than a week later, the proposal was dead in the water.

DEFENDING THE EPBC ACT

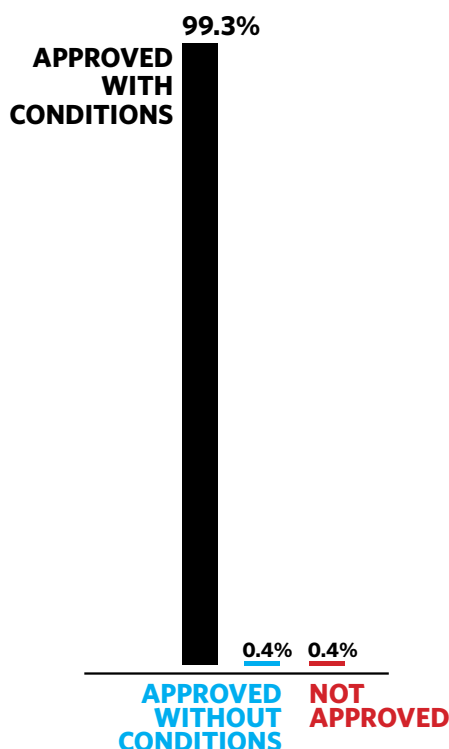
“So in fact there have been six successful claims on 5,500 projects on a change introduced by John Howard in 2000 — this is a crisis.

“So what do you do when you don’t have a plan for jobs?

“You start creating false bogeymen and saying ‘We better be careful. We better be scared. Don’t get out of bed in the morning because the Greens are under the bed with this terrible section of the act crafted by John Howard’.

-- Bill Shorten, 19 August 2015

EPBC DECISIONS ON RESOURCE PROJECTS, BY OUTCOME



On 18 August, the Prime Minister launched an attack on environmental law. He proposed amendments to the Environmental Protection of Biodiversity and Conservation Act (EPBC), to prevent third-party community groups from seeking judicial review or environmental approvals (which the government branded “environmental lawfare”).

Senior Coalition cabinet members backed the amendments, arguing the courts were flooded with appeals aimed at blocking resource projects and drying up investment in regional Australia.

Though the announcement caught many by surprise, we foresaw the move weeks in advance. Recognising that environmental law and mining could soon come under fire, we engaged a researcher to counter it.

The research was brought forward as soon as news broke.

The next morning, our research was on the front page of The Age, in most NewsCorp mastheads, Radio National’s breakfast and AM program, as well as ABC’s 7.30.

The debate was transformed. What began as a story of environmentalists disrupting the economy quickly became one of a government latching to a non-issue. In a cynical effort to ‘distract’ from it’s other, real failings.

In addition, we took immediate steps to brief the crossbench, encouraging them to publicly raise any concerns or objections.

Dio Wang, John Madigan, Clive Palmer, Nick Xenophon and Glenn Lazarus all made statements either ruling out or raising significant objections to the proposal.

Opposition Leader Bill Shorten quoted our research to taunt the government; crucially, the counterattack was within our frame, where the amendment was a scheme to distract from poor economic policy.

With Labor, the Greens and the crossbench united in opposition, the proposal looks effectively dead in the water.

MINING & RENEWABLES

QUEENSLAND FOSSIL FUEL SUBSIDIES →

Our work on Queensland's fossil fuel subsidies has been ongoing, including press conferences with Together and QTU on coal subsidies and education, and associated media.

Based on our June 2015 Outclassed report highlighting how Queensland's schools and social services are affected by mining industry assistance and lobbying, we produced social media content including infographics, posters and a short YouTube explainer video.

We were able to build on this work with the Queensland Future Jobs Summit in 2016.

WHAT WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

YOU HAVE \$9.5 BILLION: WOULD YOU SPEND IT ON

MINING SUBSIDIES

OR

ALL OF THESE



- 3 HOSPITALS +
- 1010 DOCTOR SALARIES FOR SIX YEARS +
- 1950 NURSES SALARIES FOR SIX YEARS +
- 45 NEW SCHOOLS +
- 1950 TEACHERS SALARIES FOR SIX YEARS +
- 32 FIRE AND RESCUE VEHICLES +
- 1 REEF WATER REHABILITATION +
- 415 POLICE SALARIES FOR SIX YEARS +
- 34.5 KM OF BRUCE HIGHWAY UPGRADE +
- 1 NORTH COAST RAIL LINE DUPLICATION

Sources: QLD Treasury (various years), State Budget Papers, Peel et al. (2014) Mining the Age of Enlightenment, The Australia Institute, Canberra.

* Sections A,B and C

THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN THE MINING INDUSTRY \$9.5 B IN SUBSIDIES OVER 6 YEARS INSTEAD OF TEACHERS, HOSPITALS AND ROADS, QUEENSLAND GOT COAL.

LET'S BACK QUEENSLANDERS, NOT COAL COMPANIES.

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The Australia Institute
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the guardian

election 2016 australia world opinion sport football tech culture lifestyle fashion media environment

Guardian sustainable business
Innovations in renewables

Max Oprey
Monday 30 May 2016 10:20 EDT

Most voters support transition to 100% renewable energy, says Australia Institute

Polling indicates 71% would be more likely to vote for a party that supported distributed small scale solar and storage

3,333 Shares 349 Comments

Battery storage technology has the potential to reshape not just the energy and transport sectors but also the upcoming Australian federal election, according to a...

← SECURING RENEWABLES

In our paper 'Securing Renewables: How Batteries Solve the Problem of Clean Electricity' we showed that batteries paired with renewables are set to revolutionise Australia's energy industry and cut emissions.

Climate campaigner Tom Swann Conservation Council's environmentalist of year



John Thistleton   

“It was exciting, because we were making history, this was something that put divestment, ethical investment on the top tier of the national, political discussion. It was a watershed moment.”

— Tom Swann, Australia Institute researcher
on winning ACT Environmentalist of the Year for work on ANU divestment.

UNCONVENTIONAL GAS

Over the past year The Australia Institute has conducted numerous outreach and stakeholder engagement meetings and events regarding the economic assessment of coal seam gas projects in New South Wales, including meetings with senior Planning bureaucrats.

The Institute also participated in the Victorian unconventional gas inquiry and with other groups contributed funding and resources to the *Switching off gas — Gas demand in eastern Australia* research conducted by the University of Melbourne Energy Institute in August 2015.

Although the report is nationally relevant, an important part of the purpose of this report was to inform the Victorian Government inquiry into unconventional gas, and the Victorian Government itself, of the likely gas demand fall (50% over next 10 years according to the research), in order to counter gas industry claims that the gas is needed, or that more gas will bring down the gas price.

Australia Institute staff also gave briefings to government and stakeholder groups who had influence on the Victorian Government's final decision on unconventional gas, including the Department of Premier & Cabinet, Department of Energy and Resources, Manufacturing Australia, ACTU & AMWU and the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO).

In November 2015 The Australia Institute worked with Lock the Gate to release a report looking at the economic impacts of QLD's unconventional gas experiment and the implications for Northern Territory policy makers. Following on from this report, we conducted public and stakeholder engagement and outreach activities around this report. These included a Northern Territory unconventional gas trip for a NT Parliamentary briefing, public forums in Katherine (including a Katherine Council briefing), Mataranka and Tennant Creek. The Institute also conducted Federal Parliamentary briefings to Senator Urquhart, Senator Xenophon, Senator Lambie and an advisor to Minister Frydenburg.

The Institute also published a report in August, *Passing Gas on the NT's North East Gas Interconnector (NEGI) pipeline*, addressing the key economic myths of this project.

NSW & ACT FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT

The Institute has continued work on fossil fuel divestment. In August 2015 we published polling research providing crucial support for the Newcastle Council divestment decision, as the Council sought to reconsider its decision following mining industry backlash. We also produced a report into the university sector's investment strategy, sent to 100 senior university administrators around the country. Australia Institute researcher Tom Swann was awarded ACT Environmentalist of the Year for his fossil fuel divestment work.

QUEENSLAND JOBS GROWTH SUMMIT

On April 26th, we held the Queensland Jobs Summit in partnership with the University of Queensland School of Economics.

It was an extraordinarily successful stakeholder and public engagement event, bringing together key Government figures and heads of all Queensland's main industry groups to emphasise that almost every industry in Queensland is a larger job creator than mining, by far. The heads of these industries relayed the message direct to Cabinet members and the public.

At the summit, The Australia Institute launched its report, *Jobs Growth in Queensland: Trends and Prospects* outlining recent employment trends and future prospects of Queensland's industries and regions, and in the process thoroughly debunked the claim that jobs growth in Queensland would come from the mining industry.

The Queensland Jobs Growth Summit resulted in much positive media in Queensland, and culminated in the Courier Mail writing a positive editorial applauding both the Summit and the results of the report, and adopting the four pillars of future jobs growth in Queensland from the report as its own (replacing Campbell Newman's mining and forestry based pillars).

Importantly, this work helped change the narrative not only within government, but with the public and the media. Both the report and the Jobs Summit event were crucial in helping to reframe 'jobs and growth' in Queensland ahead of the 2016 Federal Election, creating space in the debate, as well as economic credibility for the No New Coal Mines policy ask of the collaboration.



SUMMIT SPEAKERS INCLUDED →

- QLD Deputy Premier, Jackie Trad
- QLD Treasurer, Curtis Pitt
- QLD Environment Minister, Stephen Miles
- QLD Employment minister, Grace Grace
- Saul Eslake
- CEO QTIB Daniel Gschwind
- VC Griffith, Professor Ian O'Conner
- CEO CCIQ Stephen Tait
- State Sec AMWU Rohan Webb
- Assistant State Sec QNU, Sandra Eales
- Geoff Hogg, CEO Star Entertainment



OUR SPEAKERS THIS YEAR →

- Gai Brodtmann MP
- Kirstie Parker, Close the Gap
- Clare O'Neil MP & Tim Watts MP
- Senator Richard Di Natale
- Silent Majority Podcast
 - Rob Harris & Alice Workman
- Senator Sam Dastyari
- Laura Tingle & Richard Denniss
- Chief Minister Andrew Barr MLA
- Cathy Wilcox
- Senator Katy Gallagher

Over the past year we've had some great speakers at our free monthly Politics in the Pub events in Canberra.

Our biggest thanks to all our great speakers.

POLITICS IN THE PUB

Syndicated
in to

5952

different bands,
frequencies and
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2953

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Mentions

IN THE MEDIA AND ONLINE

44,612,700

total audience

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(Advertising Space Rate)

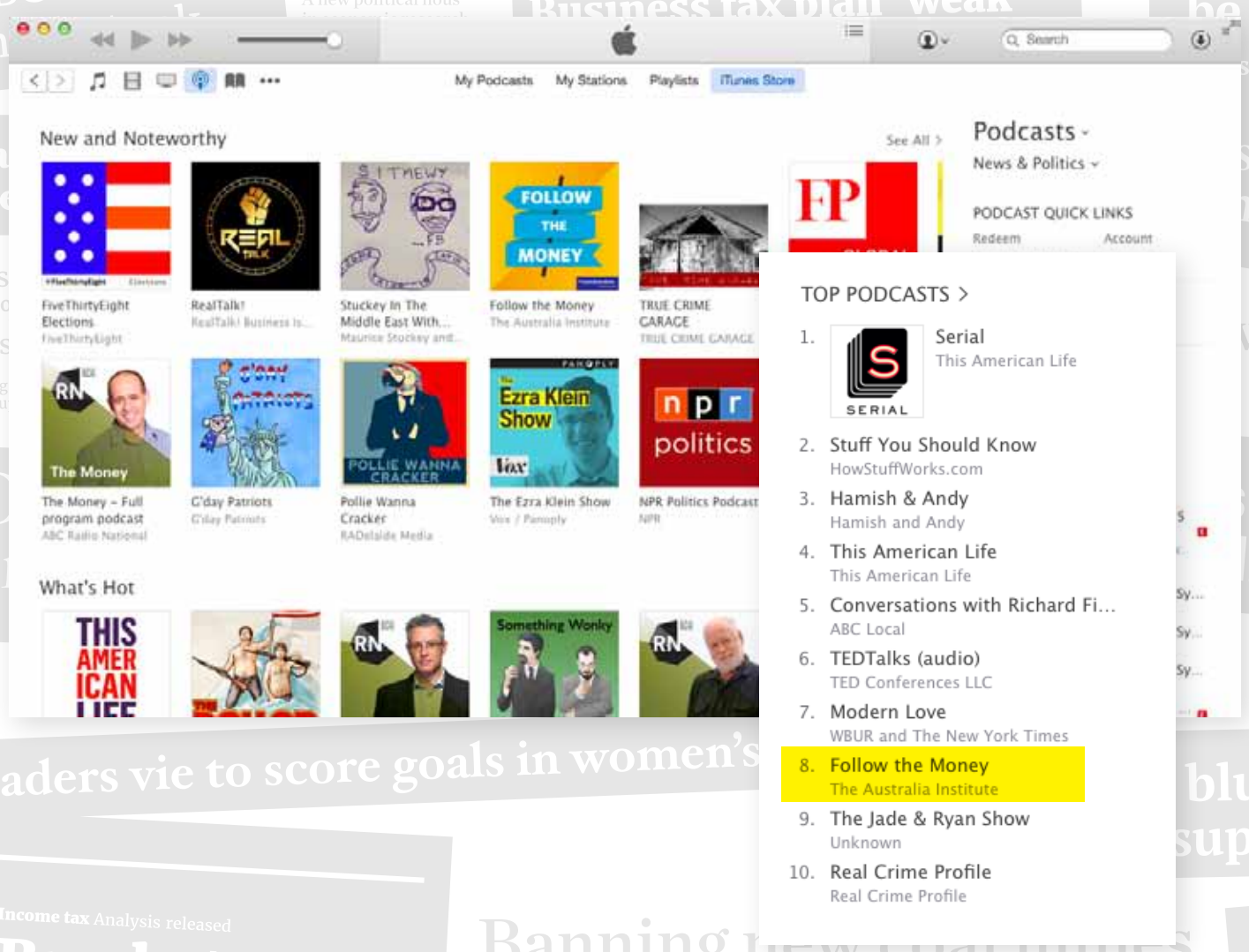
I think tanks calling the shots
A new political nous

Tax breaks on rentals and super unfair to young
EXCLUSIVE
• Comment: Negative gearers aren't poor

Economy Study raises questions about government's tax package
Business tax plan 'weak'

Boost regional ABC funding: the

These be lea
tion is



Leaders vie to score goals in women's

Income tax Analysis released
Bracket creep

Banning new coal mines

AND WE EVEN LAUNCHED A PODCAST →



Cutting business taxes doesn't lead to growth: study

Why we must scrutinise the would-be senators

From Page 1

Australia's breakdown king David Pocock more concerned about climate change than facing All Blacks

The real

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For over two decades, the independent thinking of the Australia Institute has been powered by the support of individuals and philanthropic trusts.

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Including
901
People who
donated for the
first time



Your support has allowed us to confront some of the greatest public policy challenges this country faces, without prejudice.

Supporters of the Australia Institute understand the power of ideas; donations large and small all contribute to make our research possible.

This financial year, we significantly increased our number of individual supporters making monthly, tax-deductible donations to the Institute.

Building our monthly donation is a critical part of securing organisational funding for the Institute, allowing us to forward plan and realise more long-term research goals.



This year we also launched our *Institute Insider* regular monthly donor program, and saw our regular givers

**INCREASE
BY 168%**

'The Australia Institute tells us what we need to know before we know we need to know it!'

— *Institute Insider supporter*



REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS MATTER.

Research that matters doesn't happen overnight. Regular monthly donations mean that we can budget for the future, make forward plans, and helps us safeguard our research agenda.

— *Rod Campbell, Director of Research*



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All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. The Australia Institute has DGR status and is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for Profits Commission.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Australia Institute recognises its responsibility to maintain corporate governance practices that are robust, accountable and of a standard that meets the expectations of its stakeholders. The Institute's board and its staff are committed to implementing high standards of corporate governance and will continue to work towards achieving this.

OUR CORPORATE GOVERNANCE POLICY

The principles of good corporate governance comprise an effective, accountable and ethical decision-making process focused on meeting the Institute's corporate objectives. These are outlined in the various documents that have been developed to guide the work of the Institute and the operations of its staff.

The Constitution outlines the main corporate governance responsibilities and practices are in place for the Institute and to which both the Board collectively, and the Directors individually, are committed.

The role of the Board is to govern the organisation, rather than to manage its day-to-day activities. The Board is committed to fulfilling its duties to the organisation, observing all relevant laws and regulations, and providing employees with a safe and rewarding place in which to work.

The Institute is committed to promoting ethical and responsible decision-making and procedures in relation to the research it carries out and the reports it publishes. Its activities are governed by the highest standards of reporting, based on exhaustively researched topics and constructive and unbiased conclusions.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A board of eight directors governs the Institute, meeting up to three times a year. All non-executive Directors volunteer their time, and receive no remuneration for serving on the Institute's board. The Executive Director of the Institute serves as an ex-officio member of the Board.

MEETING OF DIRECTORS IN 2015-16

Our Board met on the following dates

Directors	1 Jul	28 Oct	30 Mar	25 May	No. Attended
Lin Hatfield Dodds (Chair)	1	1	1	0	3
John McKinnon (Chair -- as of 25 May)	1	1	1	1	4
Professor Barbara Pocock (Deputy Chair)	1	1	1	1	4
Elizabeth Cham	1	1	0	1	3
Andrew Dettmer	1	0	1	1	3
Dr Samantha Hardy	1	1	1	1	4
David Morawetz	1	1	1	1	4
Professor Spencer Zifcak	0	0	0	1	1
Lee Thomas	1	1	0	0	2
<i>Ex-officio</i>					
Ben Oquist	1	1	1	1	4

Ceased -- Lin Hatfield Dodds resigned from the Board effective 25 May 16.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Research Committee approves the Institute's research priorities and activities funded from the Research Fund. The Research Committee met twice in 2015-16 in August and December. Membership of the Research Committee is subject to the prior approval of the approving authority (Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR) and members are nominated on the basis of their proven ability to direct a research program, as evidenced by their academic qualifications and professional appointments.

Research committee members for 2015-16 were: Professor Jon Altman, Dr Hugh Saddler, Dr Richard Denniss, Emeritus Professor Alastair Greig, Emeritus Professor Barbara Pocock, Professor Spencer Zifcak and Professor Hilary Bambrick.

MANAGEMENT

Executive Director Ben Oquist and Deputy Director Ebony Bennett led the day to day operations of the Institute throughout 2015-16.

