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DANGEROUS IDEAS

Greenpeace 'traitor' joins rally against Left

AT last, Queensland has a think tank set up by an ensemble of intellectuals and business leaders not in the thrall of the Left.

The Australian Institute of Progress is on a mission to promote small government and the principles of freedom of expression, freedom of association, property rights, freedom of worship and free markets.

The institute has directors from the Liberal and Labor gene pools. And I am happy to report it is bristling with dangerous ideas.

The Green Left, the Socialist Left and the soft Left will hate it. So will many journalists I know.

One of the institute's first actions will be to bring controversial Greenpeace co-founder Patrick Moore to Brisbane next week. Moore is regarded as a Judas by the greens for arguing we have more to fear from a new ice age than global warming.

The institute was the idea of former Liberal vice-president Graham Young, a churchy organist who was expelled by the party in 2007, and Gary Johns, a former Keating government minister and adjunct professor at QUT Business School.

Young (above) becomes executive director of AIP.

He said: "We believe that individuals, not governments, are best placed to direct their own futures and that it is their ideas and efforts that help shape the collective future."

"The debate in Queensland has been dominated by a left-of-centre mindset.

"We desperately need an organisation that is not party political and willing to debate intelligently and forcefully."

Young said AIP would soon be debating privatisation, education, debt and the Queensland Plan, the environment, social media and cultural trends. The institute would explore the giant leap to the Left in universities in the teaching of humanities.

He was especially critical of the "postmodern destruction of the enlightenment" in universities. An example was the rise in peace and conflict studies which had usurped international relations studies.

"There are people in our universities who think you can hug a terrorist," he said.

He warned universities were producing cultural illiter-



ates unfamiliar with Shakespeare, the Bible or Tennyson.

Young said the institute would also back the reintroduction of negative gearing.

He said AIP would contribute to debate by publishing discussion and policy papers, conducting seminars, participating in forums and engaging the media.

Pharmacist and property tycoon Bob Tucker, a former Liberal state president, will chair the institute.

Tucker also chairs Trade Coast Central, a company developing an innovative, hi-tech industrial subdivision adjoining Brisbane Airport.

He is one of Brisbane's major property developers specialising in industrial and retail developments.

Other directors include Amanda Stoker, a barrister and former prosecutor; Glenn Ferguson, a corporate lawyer and past president of the Law

OF COURSE I BELIEVE IN CLIMATE CHANGE. IT'S BEEN HAPPENING SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE EARTH. BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE CAUSING IT

Patrick Moore

Council of Australia; and Dan Ryan, a commercial and technology lawyer and who sits on the board of Hong Kong's leading free-market think tank, The Lion Rock Institute.

Other leading academics and business leaders would join the institute, Young said.

Young welcomes the controversy that will likely accompany Patrick Moore's visit to Brisbane. "Science is about disagreement," he said.

Dr Moore, who has a PhD in ecology, spent 16 years as a Greenpeace executive in his biggest critic of climate-

change hysteria. Moore admonished green groups who characterise humans as "enemies of the Earth".

In a recent television interview in Sydney he criticised the environmental movement for suggesting "humans are evil and nature is good". Moore has been branded a traitor to the environment by expressing doubts about the dangers of global warming.

"There is no way of knowing what will happen next," he told *The Australian*.

He testified at a US Congressional hearing into global warming earlier this year.

"There is no scientific proof that human emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) are the dominant cause of the minor warming of the Earth's atmosphere over the past 100 years," he said.

"Today, we live in an unusually cold period in the history of life on Earth and there is no reason to believe that a warmer climate would be anything but beneficial for humans and the majority of other species.

"The fact that we had both higher temperatures and an ice age at a time when CO₂ emissions were 10 times higher than they are today fundamentally contradicts the certainty that human-caused CO₂ emissions are the main cause of global warming."

Moore has been an "independent environmentalist" since philosophical differences forced him out of Greenpeace in 1986. He said cooling of the Earth was a bigger problem than global warming and carbon dioxide was demonised as toxic when it was vital for life.

"If there wasn't carbon dioxide in sufficient quantity in our atmosphere, it would be a dead planet," he said.

The optimum CO₂ concentration for plant growth is about four times the current level, he says, and concentrations 20 times higher would not be considered harmful on submarines or spacecraft.

He added: "Of course I believe in climate change. It's been happening since the beginning of the Earth. But that doesn't mean we're causing it."

Young said Greens Senator Larissa Waters had not responded to an invitation to debate Moore while he was in Brisbane.



• Severe drought in Queensland is making it tough for cattlemen.

• Beef cattle farm income fell 48 per cent in northern Australia in real terms in the past decade and now stands at \$49,000 per farm, says the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences.

• Australia still has about 26.7 million head, fewer than in previous years. About 8.3 million head will be slaughtered by year's end.