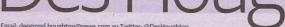
## Des Houghton





T last. Queensland has at hink tank set up by an ensemble of intellectuals and business leaders not in the thrall of the Left.

The Australiag, 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.

I know. One of the institute's first one of the institutes in 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.

warning.
The institute was the idea of former Liberal vice-president Graham Young, a church 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 Shake-speare, the Bible or Tennyson. Young said the institute would also back the reintro-duction of negative gearing. He said AIP would contrib-ute to debate by publishing dis-cussion and policy papers, conducting seminars, partici-pating in forums and engaging the media.

Pharmacist and property

pating 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** IT'S BEEN HAPPENING SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE EARTH. BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN **WE'RE CAUSING IT** 

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

in ecology, spent 16 years as a Greenpeace executive is now the 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

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

"There is no scientific proof that human emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) 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 unusualy 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.

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"The fact that we had both higher temperatures and an ice age at a time when CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were 10 times higher than they are today fundamentally contradicts the certainty that human-caused CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are the main cause of global are the main cause of global are the main cause of global and the contradicts the certainty that human-caused CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are the main cause of global are the main cause 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. warming."

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