

From: UQ VC OFFICE uqvc@uq.edu.au 
Subject: RE: D14/10464 : Fwd: Taxpayer funding of University of Queensland aiding Greenpeace?
Date: 1 July 2015 8:23 am



To: Malcolm Roberts malcolmr@conscious.com.au, UQ VC OFFICE uqvc@uq.edu.au
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Dear Mr. Roberts,

In regard to your correspondence on 29th May, 21st May, and again to your correspondence of 25th April in relation to the UQx course Denial101x.

Let me begin by reiterating that The University of Queensland has thoroughly investigated any claims of misconduct by Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg and John Cook, and has found them to be baseless.

In your latest letter, you have made claims that:

- Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg is a member of Greenpeace and the Science Advisory Panel of WWF and has been funded personally by these organisations for more than 20 years,
- he has made false claims under oath in Queensland's Land Court,
- Greenpeace has a public strategy to destroy Australian industry, and that the University supports said strategy, and
- that the IPCC cannot be trusted on science.

Let me explain why your claims are misguided and incorrect.

First, it is not unusual that in a large organisation, such as The University of Queensland (UQ), one would expect to find many staff members with links to organisations such as Greenpeace, which relies on 2.9 million individual supporters, and WWF with over 5 million supporters. The University also has a vast number of productive linkages to industry, civil society and the public at large. Providing scientific advice to public, private and government organizations is very much encouraged at UQ given the importance of expert knowledge within debates like that of anthropogenic climate change. In this regard, it is very important that NGOs get the best scientific advice possible, and this is an important role for public research universities such as UQ. Indeed, Professor Hoegh-Guldberg has worked with Rio Tinto, NOAA, Australian and US governments, NASA, WWF, and a range of companies as part of the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (Commonwealth Bank, BHP, and others).

Professor Hoegh-Guldberg is not a staff member of Greenpeace. He is also not a member of WWF's Science Advisory Panel. In this regard, you may be confusing his short-term role as a scientific advisor to the WWF Climate Witness Project in 2009 with membership. In this capacity, Professor Hoegh-Guldberg provided scientific advice on the impact of climate change on the Great Barrier Reef free-of-charge. This is not unusual. I encourage staff to engage with a range of government

and non-government organisations to provide advice as one would want from our universities.

Second, I fail to find anything unscientific, unfounded, or even misleading in Professor Hoegh-Guldberg's role as an expert witness to the Queensland Land Court. As reported, he provided expert input into the public process associated with the court case based on his capacity as one of the leading experts on climate change and its effect on coral reefs. Again, I emphasize the importance that UQ places in having its academic experts actively involved in discussions such as those surrounding climate change and implications for ecosystems and industry in Australia.

Third, I note that you have extrapolated the lobbying and communications proposal described in the document "Funding proposal for the Australian anti-coal movement", into destroying an industry. The University has no knowledge of, nor provides any support for, a strategy for destroying any industry. To the contrary, we are national and international leaders in research and development across a range of industries. Further, there is no evidence to link Professor Hoegh-Guldberg to this movement.

Fourth, you mention the paper by Legates et al. (2013) that is a response to Bedford and Cook (2013) which was a response to the earlier Legates et al. (2013), which was a response to Bedford (2010). Bedford and Cook, in the spirit of academic discourse and professionalism, responded very substantially to the claims of the first Legates et al. (2013). While you may not agree with some of the positions taken within this evidence-based debate, this is a normal part of the cut and thrust of professional academic argument that UQ stands behind.

Fifth, and with respect to your broader claims about the lack of empirical evidence that informs the science of climate change and your demand for specific references, we can point you in the direction of the latest assessment report (AR5) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (www.ipcc.ch) Working Group 1, *Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis*. After an extensive process of reviewing the available scientific literature, the IPCC has clearly concluded that the majority of peer-reviewed scientific literature supports the existence of anthropogenic climate change. We recommend that you write to the IPCC secretariat if you have any concerns about the scientific consensus that they have formed as a part of their rigorous process.

Finally, your claims of perjury, misrepresentation and fabrication are unsubstantiated by the material that you claim as evidence. While you have made many criticisms of Professor Hoegh-Guldberg and John Cook, you have not provided credible or actionable evidence. I remind you that UQ has taken a rigorous internal review of the scholarship of Professor Hoegh-Guldberg and John Cook, as well as the Denial101 MOOC having been subject to feedback from a panel comprising internal and external experts, and both processes have given us confidence in the contribution that these staff are offering scientific inquiry. I believe that Professor Hoegh-Guldberg and John Cook have been patient with your misrepresentation of their characters and careers and suggest that you respect their academic freedom.

Thank you again for communicating with the University on these matters.

Regards,

Peter

Professor Peter Høj
Vice-Chancellor and President
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From: Malcolm Roberts [mailto:malcolmr@conscious.com.au]
Sent: Friday, 29 May 2015 11:18 AM
To: UQ VC OFFICE; UQ VC OFFICE
Cc: Pyne Christopher; Prentice Jane; Abbott Tony; Abbott Tony; Robb Andrew; Bishop Bronwyn; Morrison Scott; Truss Warren; Christensen George; Hawke Alex; Nikolic Andrew; Kelly Craig; Cobb John; Simpkins Luke; Jensen Dennis; Wyatt Ken; Day Bob; Leyonhjelm David; Bernardi Cory; Canavan Matthew; Abetz Eric; Brandis George; Macdonald Ian; Heffernan Bill; Scullion Nigel; Sinodinos Arthur; Xenophon Nick; Lambie Jacqui; Lazarus Glenn
Subject: D14/10464 : Fwd: Taxpayer funding of University of Queensland aiding Greenpeace?

Dear Max and Professor Høj:

As a courtesy for your information.

Regards,

Malcolm Roberts

04 1964 2379

Begin forwarded message:

From: Malcolm Roberts <malcolmr@conscious.com.au>
Subject: Taxpayer funding of University of Queensland aiding Greenpeace?
Date: 27 May 2015 6:24:18 pm AEST
To: Pyne Christopher <C.Pyne.MP@aph.gov.au>
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Dear Mr. Pyne:

The attached letter and its enclosure were posted to you this evening.

It seems taxpayer funding of the University of Queensland from which I graduated is supporting a senior member of university staff who is actively engaged in supporting Greenpeace implementing its publicly declared strategy of destroying a prominent Australian and Queensland industry. The staff member has been reported to have made false claims under oath or affirmation in court with those claims contradicting empirical scientific evidence. My letter and its enclosure explain.

I will be pleased to assist you, your staff and any of the MPs copied.

Regards,

Malcolm Roberts

BE (Hons, Queensland), MBA (Chicago)
Fellow AICD & ASQ (USA, Aust), MAIM, MAusIMM, MAME (USA), MIMM
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