

The Protocol: Managing Relations with NGOs **Gary Johns and John Roskam**

The Federal Government has released the IPA's report on how relationships between the Government and NGOs could be better organised and made more accessible to the public.



On everything from globalisation to genetically-modified food, there is hardly an issue on which NGOs do not have a position. Once NGOs (non-government organizations) focussed on philanthropy and voluntary work. Increasingly NGOs are moving out of the realm of charity and welfare and into the realm of politics. The Left, which has suffered massive defeats after the fall of communism and the spread of liberal democracy and free-market economics, regards NGOs as the means whereby it can again become relevant. Not content to merely voice an opinion, NGOs are now demanding a say in the process of government itself.

Traditional methods of government decision-making through parliamentary representatives are being challenged by NGOs arrogating to themselves the mandate to determine policy. Ever since the rise of modern democracy, interest groups have played an important role. But interest groups have always been recognised for what they were by definition—self-interested groups acting for a particular interest. What is new is that many NGOs are claiming they are not self-

interested, but are acting in the interests of 'the community' or 'stakeholders', or 'civil society'. (The extent to which these claims are true are rarely tested.) The rise of NGOs is a worldwide phenomenon and this country has not been immune. In Australia and internationally the IPA has for some time been at the forefront of analysis and debate about this phenomenon.

As a result of its groundbreaking work in the area, the IPA was last year awarded a research contract by the Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership through Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services to study the interactions between government and NGOs, and then make appropriate recommendations.

The authors of the study, Gary Johns and John Roskam, researched the relationship of NGOs with seven government departments. They found that the incidence of NGOs gaining a privileged position with government was widespread, particularly in relation to access to information and the ability to represent their views directly to ministers and senior public servants. Members of the general public have no such rights. There is almost no reporting of government/NGO relationships and transparency is almost non-existent. Furthermore, there are no, or very few requirements on NGOs to substantiate their claims that they are 'representative'.

To overcome these problems the study recommended that a 'Protocol' be established that NGOs would be required to satisfy

prior to them entering into relationships with government. The Protocol would require that information about the NGO—such as its legal status and operating status, the nature of its expertise, its membership, and its accountability to its membership—be disclosed. It was also recommended that the government establish a website to make such information accessible to the public.

The response of Kay Patterson, the Minister for Family and Community Services, to the study has been positive. The Minister said that as a result of the study the Australian Government would consider the most effective ways of ensuring the transparency of the relationship between government and NGOs.

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IPA Events around Australia

Brisbane Canberra and Perth

The IPA with the Centre for Public, International and Comparative Law,

Faculty of Business, Economics and Law, University of Queensland

The Corporation: Public Enemy or Public Good?

Professor Richard A. Epstein from the University of Chicago
at a Dinner and Lecture in Brisbane on 9 August 2004



The Honourable Mr Justice McPherson, Court of Appeal, Queensland, and Professor Suri Ratnapala, Director, Centre for Public, International and Comparative Law, University of Queensland.

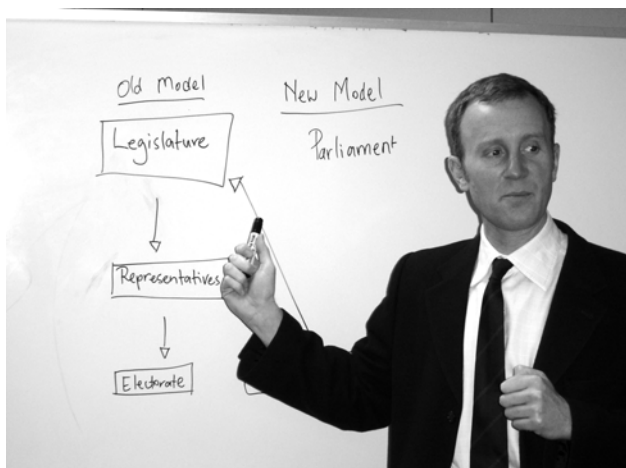


Professor Richard Epstein, Chicago University. Justice McPherson and Gary Johns, IPA Senior Fellow

IPA Canberra Seminar

The new power of NGOs: The rise of NGOs and the fall of Parliament?

Dr Gary Johns and Mr John Roskam
Parliament House, on 11 August, 2004



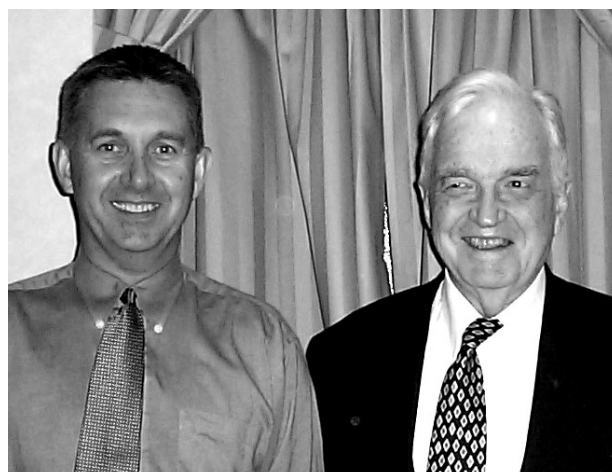
John Roskam, IPA Senior Fellow, answering questions on NGOs

6th Harold Clough Lecture and Luncheon

One Image, Two Pictures

Ken Phillips

The Western Australian Club, Perth
6 April 2004



Ken Phillips, IR Consultant, with Hal Clough, IPA Councillor, in Perth

The premier annual event of the Institute of Public Affairs

CD Kemp Lecture and Dinner

in honour of the IPA's founder

THE HON JOHN HOWARD MP

PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA

The Australian Club, Melbourne, on Wednesday 19 May 2004



George Warne, General Manager MIL, The Hon John Howard MP, and Bill Hetherington, Chairman, MIL



The Hon John Howard and Mike Nahan, Executive Director, IPA

“Iraq is caught in a complex and crucial contest of values and ideals.

It is a contest between the majority of Iraqis who want to establish a viable democracy and a violent and determined minority who want to install a new dictator or a Taliban-style regime in Iraq. It is a contest of will ...

Ultimately, it is a contest of conviction – whether the free world is prepared to protect and encourage democratic values.”

John Howard



Dr Colin Rubenstein, Chairman, AIJAC with Brian Loughnane, Federal Director, Liberal Party



Mrs Mary Urquhart and Jan McGuinness, Journalist



The Hon David Kemp, then Minister for the Environment

John Roskam joins the IPA



Dr John Roskam

John Roskam has joined the IPA as Research Fellow. He will be working on a range of issues including the quality of Australia's governance, federal/state relations, and economic and social policy for Victoria.

In addition to his position at the IPA, John teaches political theory at The University of Melbourne where he is completing a PhD on the philosophy of Robert Menzies and the Liberal Party.

He graduated with honours degrees in Law and Commerce from the University of Melbourne and completed articles at Minter Ellison working in defamation and media law. He has held positions as a senior adviser to Don Hayward, the Victorian Minister for Education in the Kennett Government, and as chief of staff to Dr David Kemp, the Federal Minister for Education, Employment, Training, and Youth Affairs. Following his time in government, John was the manager of corporate relations for Rio Tinto, which included time working in London. He was subsequently the Executive Director of the Canberra-based think-tank, the Menzies Research Centre. While at the Centre he co-authored, with Professor Brian Caldwell, *Australia's Educa-*

tion Choices, which advocated major reform to Australia's school systems including the introduction of vouchers.

John has been a regular contributor to the *IPA Review* and he has written extensively on public policy and politics with his articles appearing in all of the country's major newspapers.

He recently completed, with Gary Johns, a major report for the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services, *The Protocol: Managing Relations with NGOs*.

Environment Unit Jennifer Marohasy

In its first year the IPA Environment Unit has successfully challenged the accepted wisdom regarding the health of the Murray River. The COAG decision to move from endorsing a big flush of 1,500 giganlitres of water, to focusing on using up to 500 giganlitres for specific icon sites, was facilitated by Dr Marohasy exposing the lack of science underpinning the initial policy advice from key government scientists.

Through her fortnightly columns in the NSW rural weekly, *The Land*, Dr Marohasy has generated discussion on a range of issues from tree clearing to feral animal control as well as promoting the Backgrounder on bushfires by Jim and Aled Hoggett.

While water has proven exciting and rewarding, the GM debate and the effective banning of GM food crops by state governments, has been a great disappointment. The Bracks Government's decision to ban even field trials of GM canola shocked the university community that had previously considered the IPA warnings alarmist.

Recognizing the need to regroup on GM issues, while developing a capacity to comment on greenhouse

science issues, the Environment Unit has been fortunate to secure commitments from Dr David Tribe and Professor Bob Carter to help broaden capacity and expertise within the Environment Unit.

New Series of talks in Melbourne

The IPA began a new, regular series of public talks, called *The Melbourne Dialogues*. Held on the first Tuesday of each month, it features distinguished authors, politicians, commentators, and academics. The themes are on significant social, cultural and political issues of the day.

This new series follows on and builds upon our occasional IPA Dialogues. We have found a generous co-sponsor in *Mallesons Stephen Jaques*, who have not only offered to host the talks by providing a comfortable and spacious venue, but in catering with drinks and food before each event.

Support from IPA members, staff from *Mallesons* and the interested public has made this new series of talks a positive feature of Melbourne's calendar.

Past speakers

Speakers this year have been: **Kevin Donnelly**, *Why our Schools Are Failing*; **Keith Windschuttle**, *Language Wars*, **Janet Albrechtsen**, *The Glass Ceiling: a Case of Genuine Discrimination or Choice?* **Greg Sheridan**, *Australia, America and Asia in the Age of Terror*; **Dr Judith Brett** and **John Roskam**, *Liberals, Labor and the Australian Middle Class*.

Upcoming

Tuesday 5 October, **Sam Lipski**, on *Israelis and Palestinians—Is disengagement the answer?*

Tuesday 9th, **Phil Scanlan** on *Quo Vadis USA?*

To finish off the year, on Tuesday 7 December, **Patrick Moore**, Canadian Cofounder of Greenpeace, now Environmentalist, on *Whither the Environmental Movement?*

Full details on our Website

All the latest available items on our Website
www.ipa.org.au

Apart from listing our publications, the IPA website contains many non-published speeches and submissions by IPA staff members. There are also complete, up-to-date, copies of all published newspaper articles by IPA staff.

Recent submissions, speeches and on-line releases:

HV McKay Lecture 2004: Good, Safe, Banned - Professor Richard T Roush
The Sixth Harold Clough Lecture: *One Image, Two Pictures* - Ken Phillips
THE PROTOCOL: Managing Relations with NGOs - Gary Johns and John Roskam
Is There Market Power in Australian Electricity Generation? - Alan Moran
Outsourcing: Latest trends, costs, benefits and risks - Ken Phillips

IPA REVIEW for June 2004 is now available on line

**Annual H.V. McKay Dinner and Lecture
on Science and Technology
*Good, Safe, Banned***

PROFESSOR RICK ROUSH FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS
On Wednesday 25 August 2004 at the Australian Club Melbourne



Rick Roush, University of California, Davis, and
Dr David Tribe, University of Melbourne

***“Ignorance ain’t what you
don’t know, it’s what you do
know that ain’t correct.”***

**Rick Roush
quoting Will Rogers**



A group of PhD students from the University of Melbourne



Kerry Lonergan, Producer, ABC Landline,
and Jennifer Marohasy, IPA Senior Fellow

ipa EVENTS

CAPACITY TO MANAGE

Australian business and institutional culture is predominately one of acceptance of status quo underperformance. The Capacity to Manage Index says there is a better way. To look at an overview of the IPA's successful Index, how and why it came into existence, its methodology and some of its early outcomes, a half day seminar was held on 25 November 2003 in Melbourne. To comment on this exciting new diagnostic tool a range of speakers provided useful analysis: Prof Richard Mitchell, Director of the Centre for Employment and Labour Relations Law, Melbourne University; Mike Sullivan, Director of Organizational Development for the FMP Group (Bendix); Richard Marles, Assistant Secretary, Australian Council of Trade Unions; Mike Angwin, Consultant on Work Reform issues; and Ken Phillips, Head of the IPA Work Reform Unit and author of the Capacity to Manage Index.

HONESTY, NOT PROPAGANDA

'Today, I want to consider how it is that environmentalists get away with telling such big lies', exclaimed Jennifer Marohasy in her talk, *Fighting Ignorance with Evidence*, to the '2004 Combined Annual General Meeting and Conference of Property Rights Australia' in Roma on 14 February. She concluded that there is a growing awareness, particularly in rural and regional Australia, that science in the context of environment is being abandoned for propaganda. 'Let us, together, fight ignorance with evidence.'

GAS ACCESS

'The IPA is much impressed by the quality of analysis and the conclusions drawn by the Productivity Commission in its Review of the Gas Access Regime', said Alan Moran in IPA's response to the Productivity Commission's Draft Review of the Gas Access Regime in March 2004. 'We regard this

analysis as further assisting the improved understanding of the arrangements necessary to ensure a competitive, low cost supply industry driven by the need profitably to meet consumer needs'. The full response is on the IPA Website.

THE MURRAY

The simple message that the Murray River is dying has been repeated over and over in the Australian media. But what do the actual data look like? Dr Jennifer Marohasy was expounding on her recent Background Paper, *Myth & the Murray. Measuring the real state of the river environment* at an IPA Dialogue on 16 March. Based on rigorous work, she concluded that if we agree that the objective is a healthy river environment rather than a natural environment, there will be a need to separate the myths from the reality and to start applying the scientific method in a disciplined way.

MALARIA

Environmental ideology ought to have no place in the determination of malaria control strategies. Developing countries need to be able to use whatever technologies are appropriate to their levels of development. So said Dr Roger Bate, Visiting Fellow, American Enterprise Institute, at an IPA Dialogue, *AIDS and Malaria: The Mismanagement of Disease in The Third World*, on 18 March. Roger concluded that the anti-DDT eco-imperialism actively pursued by the WHO, Global Fund and USAID shuts off a number of development options for these countries, keeping them poor and unhealthy.

GM BREAKFAST

Some of you may already know that GM fish & chips are an Australian staple. For those of you who don't, or who don't know how this came to be, there is a secret. So started Jennifer Marohasy in an address to the State Council Conference of the NSW Liberal Party, Sunday Breakfast, in Queanbeyan on 4 April. Entitled *Choosing GM for Breakfast*,

Jennifer suggested, in conclusion, that it was a good thing to eat GM breakfasts, because when you do, there are environmental benefits, including reduced use of pesticide.

TWO IMAGES

Free market systems are fragile because they are no more than thin lines of commonly-held ideas running through our collective minds, opened Ken Phillips, in the 6th Harold Clough Lecture and Luncheon on 6 April 2004 in Perth. The topic, *One Image, Two Pictures: Industrial Relations In Australia*, drew on the idea that whilst there are two pictures, we in Australia have been culturally trained since the time of Federation to see only one picture, the workers versus bosses arguments. The task is that we must also see and address industrial relations within the context of a free market defense.

REGULATORY TEST

Alan Moran made a submission, *Competition Benefits from Electricity Interconnectors*, to the ACCC's Review of the Regulatory Test for Network Augmentation in April. The full paper is available on the IPA Website.

HOW REPRESENTATIVE?

Beginning in the 1970s, governments in the liberal democracies sought to better inform their electorate of decisions, and had begun to open their deliberative processes to the electorate. Advocacy groups took advantage of the tendency toward participatory democracy by organizing themselves as the voice of the people. However, the sum of NGO opinion does not constitute public opinion. So warned Gary Johns at a seminar sponsored by the IPA and the Centre for Public, International and Comparative Law, University of Queensland on 28 April: *Who Gets To Play Politics?*

SCHOOL OUT

Whether measured by staff morale, student absenteeism and lack of interest, the exodus of parents from the government system, falling standards or the politically correct nature of the curriculum, the reality is that our education system is in crisis. So said Dr Kevin Donnelly at the launch of the first of the IPA Melbourne Dialogues on 4 May on

the topic *Why Our Schools Are Failing*. It was also the Melbourne launch by asndrewe Bolt of donnelly's book of the same name.

BE RESPONSIBLE

Corporations that want to work with NGOs should make sure that NGOs share the values of the corporation. Gary Johns was talking at a debate with Oxfam put on by the Australian Institute of Company Directors' 2004 Conference at Port Douglas on 7 May: *Corporate Social Responsibility or Civil Society Regulation?*

WATER

Water is the issue upper-most in the minds of farmers, politicians environmentalists and the public. Dr Marohasy was invited to speak on *Water* at University & Schools Club Salon Evening in Sydney on 11 May. She touched on the themes developed in her IPA Backgrounder, *Myth and the Murray*. There was keen interest and many questions from those who attended as they encountered ideas not readily available elsewhere.

GREEN FARMERS

Green groups have farming in their sights! Having closed down the native timber industry and mining exploration, they have now turned their attention to the sector that manages 70 per cent of the country's land. Mike Nahan was talking to Victoria Farmers' Federation Regional Conference on 13 May. He said these groups have the aim of extracting Man from the land and letting it revert back to Nature.

IRAQ

Iraq is caught in a complex and crucial contest of values and ideals, said John Howard, opening his talk, *Iraq: The Importance of Seeing it Through*, at the Annual CD Kemp Lecture in Melbourne on 19 May [see page 3]. Mr Howard saw that our involvement was ultimately a test of character and leadership.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

National uniformity in OHS regulation should be established as a matter of priority, said Gary Johns, outlining what the Productivity

Commission had in mind with its Report on National Frameworks for Workers' Compensation and Occupational Health and Safety. Gary was giving the keynote address at the Australian Self-Insurance Summit, *Developing A National Framework For Workers Compensation In Australia* on 31 May.

LANGUAGE WARS

Some might think *gender* has gained its current acceptance because it is a more polite term. Keith Windschuttle, in the second Melbourne Dialogue, *Language Wars*, on 1 June, was explaining how political activists saw that if *sex* was redefined as *gender* then sex roles could become arbitrary and changeable, and not based on biology. With many other examples, Keith explained how the Left has successfully imposed its brand of authoritarianism through speech codes, anti-racial vilification and anti-discrimination laws.

GLASS CEILING

For time-warped feminists, it's angst-fest time as they pore over the numbers asking why aren't more women making it to the top. Janet Albrechtsen was ironically outlining how feminism's winter of discontent is here, yet again. She was giving the third of the Melbourne Dialogues held at Mallesons on 6 July, *The Glass Ceiling: a case of genuine discrimination or choice?* Janet concluded that women's preferences for part-time work, or just less work, or different work than men, with its inevitable consequences for promotion and pay, is a choice, not the result of patriarchal oppression.

POVERTY IN OZ

For too long, the social welfare lobby has exaggerated the extent of poverty in Australia and blamed the claimed rise in poverty on capitalism system. In truth, democratic capitalism has proven to be the most effective system in reducing poverty and, thanks to rapid economic growth spawned by micro-economic reform, poverty has declined markedly in Australia over the last decade. Mike Nahan was addressing the Melbourne Rotary Club, *Poverty in Australia*, on 2 August. Poverty nonetheless re-

mains a problem, but one that is concentrated in a small group with the main causes being social and cultural in nature.

PROPERTY RIGHTS

Water scarcity and supply variability have been, and continue to be, prominent features of public policy debate in Australia. Over the past decade, the focus of this debate has shifted toward the prospect of using markets to ensure greater efficiency in the use of water, particularly in irrigated agriculture. An IPA Conference, *Establishing Australian Water Markets*, was held in Melbourne on 9 August to discuss these issues. It considered the formation of Australian water markets by concentrating on the building blocks of any market: property rights. Keynote speaker was Prof. Richard Epstein, University of Chicago. Thanks go to Prof. Jeff Bennett (ANU) who helped organize the conference

FRIEND OR ENEMY

A well attended and highly appreciated Speech and Dinner, *The Corporation: Public Enemy or Public Good?*, with Professor Richard A. Epstein University of Chicago, and jointly sponsored by the Centre for Public, International and Comparative Law, Faculty of Business, Economics and Law, University of Queensland, took place in Brisbane on 9 August.

NEW POWER

Dr Gary Johns and Mr John Roskam spoke at a special IPA Seminar, *The new power of NGOs: The rise of NGOs and the fall of Parliament?*, in the Senate Alcove, Parliament House, Canberra, on 11 August. Senator Brett Mason chaired the proceedings.

BRASH COMMENTS

At a Special Dialogue in Melbourne on 20 August, Dr Don Brash, Leader of the New Zealand National Party, spoke on *The New Racism*. He outlined the problems in New Zealand concerning Maori issues, and gave some insight into opposition thinking about economics and strategic relations in New Zealand.



A selection of press clippings and media events

10.1.04 *Herald Sun* Homing in on levies **Mike Nahan**
12.1.04 *ABC Radio* Discusses environment with **Jennifer Marohasy**
15.1.04 *BRW* The truth is not so charitable **Gary Johns**
19.1.04 *The Australian* No need for misplaced protection **Mike Nahan**
22.1.04 *AFR* Casual alternative wrongly demonised **Ken Phillips**
27.1.04 *Herald Sun* The best trade-off **Mike Nahan**
2.2.04 *The West Australian* Chardonnay policy for beer drinkers **Mike Nahan**
4.2.04 *The Australian* Integration gives head start to life chances **Gary Johns**
5.2.04 *The Land* Putting Murray River where its mouth is **Jennifer Marohasy**
6.2.04 *AFR* Workers' future debated behind IRC's closed doors **Ken Phillips**
7.2.04 *Herald Sun* Union needs scrutiny **Mike Nahan**
10.2.04 *Herald Sun* A deal for our future **Alan Moran**
11.2.04 *The Age* Sceptics, the environment needs you **Jennifer Marohasy**
11.2.04 *The West Australian* Change in selling rules looks good for buyers **Mike Nahan**
19.2.04 *The Land* Weeding out the GM... **Jennifer Marohasy**
21.2.04 *Herald Sun* Hitching a ride with India **Mike Nahan**
23.2.04 *AFR* A hidden trap in the politics of power **Alan Moran**
23.2.04 *EU Reporter* NGO Protocols **Gary Johns**
26.2.04 *The Australian* Elderly will be free to choose **Mike Nahan**
1.3.04 *AFR* Victorians are travelling in the dark **Mike Nahan**
4.3.04 *The Land* Exploring the past... **Jennifer Marohasy**
8.3.04 *Herald Sun* Cut the tax on properties **Mike Nahan**
8.3.04 *On Line Opinion* India: a new economic greenhouse without

government red tape **Mike Nahan**
15.3.04 *ABC Radio National* Australia Talks Back, Sandy McHutcherson discusses US/Australia Free Trade Treaty **Alan Moran**
18.3.04 *The Land* Let's be clear on native veg clearing rates **Jennifer Marohasy**
20.3.04 *Herald Sun* Brave the new biotech world **Mike Nahan**
25.3.04 *ABC Background Briefing* NGO's discussed with **Gary Johns**
29.3.04 *Herald Sun* Bracks sowing GM seeds of doubt **Jennifer Marohasy**
30.3.04 *Truth about Trade & Technology (US Publication)* Australia: Bracks Sowing GM Seeds of Doubt **Jennifer Marohasy**
31.3.04 *AFR* Time to get into party spirit **John Roskam**
1.4.04 *The West Australian* WA takes a commercial risk in shunning GM **Jennifer Marohasy**
1.4.04 *The Land* More salt for Murray's hypothetical wounds **Jennifer Marohasy**
3.4.04 *Herald Sun* Grants system 'perverse' **Mike Nahan**
6.4.04 *SBS* Insight Programme, Jenny Brockie discusses terrorism with **John Roskam**
7.4.04 *AFR* Futility of an anti-sweatshop campaign **Ken Phillips**
15.4.04 *National Post* Tasmania's devil is in the details **Mike Nahan**
15.4.04 *The Land* Murray River scientists caught playing politics **Jennifer Marohasy**
19.4.04 *Herald Sun* Unions start to use influence **Mike Nahan**
19.4.04 *AFR* Japanese retreat is a great loss ... **Ken Phillips**
28.4.04 *Weekly Times* Water grab a mixed blessing **Alan Moran**
29.4.04 *The Land* Respect my right ... **Jennifer Marohasy**
March, 04 *Ethical Corporation Magazine* Should companies engage with anti-business NGOs? **Don D'Cruz**
12.5.04 *The Australian* Howard goes with flow on Murray **Jennifer Marohasy**
15.5.04 *Herald Sun* Punitive taxes hurt us all **Mike Nahan**
20.5.04 *The Age* A test of values, character and leadership [CD Kemp Dinner] **John Howard**
25.5.04 *AFR* Flaws in anti-FTA stand **Alan Moran**
27.5.04 *The Land* Challenging beliefs on dryland salinity **Jennifer Marohasy**
29.5.04 *Herald Sun* Training system needs reform **Mike Nahan**

7.6.04 *AFR* Water reform starts with de facto rights **Alan Moran**
10.6.04 *The Land* Bush burns as greens grumble **Jennifer Marohasy**
12.6.04 *Herald Sun* A gloomy celebration **Mike Nahan**
12.6.04 *The Age* When 'charity' really means 'lobbyist' **Gary Johns**
21.6.04 *The Land* Model in new Peter principle **Jennifer Marohasy**
24.6.04 *AFR* Infrastructure reform has paid dividend **Mike Nahan**
25.6.04 *AFR* Tap resources ... **Jennifer Marohasy**
26.6.04 *Herald Sun* Power plays welcome **Alan Moran**
29.6.04 *AFR* Super, a fact of employment **Ken Phillips**
13.7.04 *AFR* Let the market fix a price **Alan Moran**
21.7.04 *AFR* The strange return of an industrial club **Ken Phillips**
22.7.04 *The Land* Dry land meets world demand **Jennifer Marohasy**
24.7.04 *Herald Sun* Renew drive for growth **Mike Nahan**
7.8.04 *Herald Sun* Workers of the future **Mike Nahan**
11.8.04 *AFR* Bold reform is just a few risks away **Roskam, Nahan, Moran**
19.8.04 *The Land* Will climate warming really turn off the tap? **Jennifer Marohasy**
21.8.04 *Herald Sun* This 'innovation' is a charade **Mike Nahan**
24.8.04 *AFR* Long on flaws, short on fixes **Alan Moran**

in TOUCH

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