

11 April 2023

Dear IPA Members,

I would like to start my End of Financial letter to you with a quote from the Governor of Florida, Ron DeSantis:

Full Spectrum Freedom [means] freedom for you not to be constrained by government, but also, freedom to live your life without having the pathologies of the Left imposed upon you from all the other institutions in society.

That was how Governor DeSantis recently described his governing philosophy and approach.

He went on to establish that recognising the challenges that our societies face means recognising that our fight is no longer just about limited government, but against all of the institutions which are seeking to impose a divisive cultural hegemony on the rest of the nation, be it big corporates, the bureaucracy, big tech, or international organisations.

Exactly!

What Governor DeSantis argues about the USA applies equally to Australia.

We are currently living through a new era of immense division and cultural totalitarianism, which has descended across our nation.

Millions of Australians are now too frightened to speak out, for fear of retribution, intimidation, and harassment by the woke mob.

The false narrative that Australia is a structurally and irredeemably racist nation has been used as a vicious cudgel to silence the millions of Australians who believe Australia is a great nation and a force for good in the world.

It seems like the ruling class of our nation, comprised of the political elites, big corporates, big tech, academia, and major civic organisations, is breaking away from the rest of our society, and impose an alien set of values on the nation.

It is critical to understand that the stakes cannot be any higher for our nation and its future. The cultural cold war we are in is being fought by two sides with mutually exclusive views.

The woke revolutionaries believe in identity politics, real Australians like you and me believe in individual liberty; they believe in group rights, we believe in equality before the law; they

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believe in corporatism and big government, we believe in free enterprise stemming from small business; they believe in internationalism, we believe in domestic democratic sovereignty; they believe in the government-corporate-media censorship complex, we believe in freedom of speech; they believe in worship of the new state religion of wokeism with its own flags, rituals, and sacraments, we believe in religious tolerance and freedom.

It is no longer enough to see government as the sole constraint on our freedoms and way of life. As Governor DeSantis argues, ‘You have to recognize that threats to freedom are more than just whether someone is going to come in and raise your taxes or pass a bad piece of legislation. In Florida, we are fighting full spectrum. I think more conservatives right now across the country are realizing we need to fight full spectrum.’

I am writing this 2023 End of Financial Year letter to you as IPA Deputy Executive Director to update you on **Australia: Our Future** program – a significant program undertaken by the IPA recently that places real Australians at the heart of IPA research.

I will also discuss IPA research on the Voice to Parliament by adding a few more points that were made by the IPA’s Director of Legal Rights Program John Storey in his letter.

I hope that it will inspire you to join the IPA in defending our full spectrum freedom by making a tax deductible donation to our 2023 End of Financial Year Appeal.

Taking our message directly to Real Australians

One of the ways in which the IPA is taking our message of egalitarianism, democracy, tolerance, and fairness to everyday Australians is through regional tours conducted through the IPA’s **Australia: Our Future** program. It is called ‘our’ future because we want the future of Australia to be defined by **Real Australians**.

I define Real Australians as people who live by their labour and enterprise as against the laptop class that have come to colonise decision-making in Australia’s business and politics.

It is one of the most important and exciting initiatives that the IPA has established in my eight years at this organisation.

To date, we have embarked on five tours visiting 35 locations across regional and rural parts of Queensland and New South Wales, where the focus has primarily been on the regional/urban divide, best demonstrated through reckless and destructive emission policies such as net zero by 2050.

The first tour saw the IPA team headed to North Queensland. I, along with members of the IPA research and communications team, travelled through Cairns, Townsville, Ayre, Proserpine, Bowen, Rockhampton, Mackay, and Gladstone.

The second tour was through the Lake Macquarie and Hunter region, where we visited Newcastle, the Eraring and Vales Point power stations.

The third tour started in Kingaroy in south-west Queensland and finished in Toowoomba with the team stopping at Miles, Chinchille, Dalby, Warwick and Roma along the way. The fourth had us touring the New England area of New South Wales, where we based ourselves in

Tamworth and visited communities in Muswellbrook in the Upper Hunter, Narrabri, Boggabri, Scone, Gunnedah, and Uralla.

For our most recent trip, we trekked up to the Central Tablelands starting in Dubbo and working our way east to Mudgee, Ulan (where we visited the open cut coal mine), Bathurst, and Orange.

The IPA is planning four more regional trips for the remainder of this calendar year, to visit further 35 locations, through regional Western Australia, South Australia, and Victoria, where the focus will turn to the Voice to Parliament.

I am pleased to report that the IPA has been very well received in regional communities. The key feedback I received from local families and workers and business groups we met with is that regional Australia is being taken for granted by city-based politicians on both sides.

These are our farmers, miners, truckers, and manufacturing workers who put food on our tables and keep the lights on. They produce, transport, and export critical supplies which earns revenue that is reinvested in social services, benefitting every Australian. Yet it is this productive class of Australians that are preyed upon by the political and corporate elites.

The IPA released two new research reports during our two most recent tours. The first is *An analysis of the employment consequences of a net zero emissions target in New South Wales* which established that the election policies on emissions reductions in NSW from both major parties will put more than 138,000 jobs at risk across the state. The report also established:

- Of the jobs threatened by NSW's net zero policies, 67 per cent are located in rural and regional parts of the state.
- The top ten NSW Legislative Assembly seats with the most jobs at risk are in rural or regional areas.
- The heaviest job losses would occur in the agricultural (63,765 jobs), coal mining (20,960 jobs), primary metal and metal product manufacturing (15,136 jobs), and electricity supply (14,704 jobs) sectors.

The report analysed the potential job losses by each electorate and found that up to 25 per cent of all jobs in the Upper Hunter would be put at risk, or approximately 10,000 jobs.

The second report shared the results of polling we undertook of local communities in Bathurst, Orange, Dubbo, and the Upper Hunter. The poll of 1,095 voters across these four communities found:

- **72 per cent agreed** with the proposition that '*city-based members of parliament take regional New South Wales for granted*'.
- **Barely one in four** agreed that the major political parties in NSW represent and understand the interests and concerns of their local community.
- **Just one in three** believe politicians when they say green jobs will replace the mining and agriculture jobs that will be lost, thanks to the major parties' emission reductions policies.

I wanted to share some observations with you from these regional trips which illustrate how corporate, bureaucratic and political elites – identified by Governor DeSantis as denying

ordinary citizens a voice in decision-making in the US – are doing much the same thing in the regional Australia:

1. Regional Australians are taken advantage of by politicians who say one thing to get elected, but then take their marching orders from city-based politicians. I have found that, in reality, the job of many regional and rural MPs is to keep Australians in the bush quiet while they face the brunt of poor policy by the governing elites in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, and Canberra. This means that regional Australians are often without adequate political representation.
2. The major industry associations have sold our nation and our regional communities out. The National Farmers Federation, for example, no longer represents real farmers, but is just the mouthpiece for wealthy Pitt Street farmers. Almost no other organisation has more directly contradicted the interests of those they purport to represent than the NFF. In NSW, some 16,500 jobs in agriculture have been destroyed over the past decade alone, yet the NFF continues to assert that net zero will create jobs and will be a positive for farmers.
3. The local media is receptive to genuine local interest stories. Most journalists are sympathetic to the left, but not all. We have been very warmly received by local journalists, who care about their communities, and have given us a fair go when it comes to telling our story and perspective. It goes to show that good and relevant work, based on evidence and facts and delivered with relevant context, still garners media interest.

Our objective has been to give voice to the voiceless regional communities by communicating key research. On each trip we release a new research report assessing the state of the region we are in and how policies – especially in relation to climate and energy – and damaging regional communities.

The local media has been very receptive, including the ABC.

To give you an indication of our reach, on the most recent two trips through regional NSW, IPA research and analysis reached 670,000 Australians in regional NSW. This means that throughout the two weeks of these two trips, 670,000 individuals read, engaged with, watched, or listened to IPA research in print, on radio, on television, or on social media.

We have forged strong relationships with local papers and this will continue to be a big part of our communications future. All up, we were covered in 110 local papers across regional Australia. The list is too long to write out in this letter but I want you to have some kind of concept of the coverage.

We reached everywhere from the *Broome Advertiser*, to the *Daily Liberal* in Dubbo, to the *Townsville Bulletin*, to the *Moree Champion*, the *Mudgee Guardian*, the *Pilbara News*, the *Inverell Times*, the *Singleton Argus*, and the *Transcontinental Port Augusta*.

The Voice to Parliament

The concept of Full Spectrum Freedom applies equally to the Voice to Parliament – every elite institution in our society is pushing for it, while denying real Australians a voice in the

debate. I will put it simply. The Voice to Parliament would end Australian democracy as we know it by creating a constitutionally enshrined race-based body that gives one group of Australians extra political and legal rights based on their race. In doing so, it will extinguish the fundamental democratic principle of one person, one vote. Indigenous Australians would get two votes at every federal election, while rest of us would get just one.

The IPA's Director of Legal Rights Program John Storey has already written to you regarding the IPA's extensive research on the Voice to Parliament. I will summarise the main conclusions of the research:

- The Voice will create separate rights for Australians based on their race.
- The Voice will have a veto power, and it will be able to terminate decisions taken by parliament and the government of the day.
- The Voice will lead to decades of litigation through High Court activism.
- The Voice will be involved in every major decision of government because Indigenous Australians are Australians, and so are affected by everything from tax, to welfare, to defense, to infrastructure.
- The Voice will violate the sacred democratic principle of one person one vote.
- The Voice will not improve outcomes for Indigenous Australians in remote communities, because it will be another Canberra-based bureaucracy which is removed from day-to-day realities in the bush.
- The Voice will lead to the allocation of critical social and economic resources being based on race, rather than need, which is what is happening in New Zealand.

All of this amounts to an immediate and direct refutation of the victory of the 1967 Referendum, in which more than 90 per cent of the voting public agreed to change our Constitution to remove references to race, making us more whole and equal as a nation. It is a measure of how things have changed that in 1967 it was considered racist to oppose *removing* references to race in the Constitution, whereas in 2023, it is considered racist to oppose *adding* references to race in the Constitution.

As Senior Fellow of the IPA John Roskam astutely identified in his discussion with Peta Credlin on Sky News on 9 June 2022:

It [the Voice] is permanently going to divide Australians according to their skin colour, race, and background. This is an absolute reversal of the 1967 referendum which enshrined racial equality in the constitution. What concerns me is that there is so little debate. People are intimidated and threatened. The idea that you can't speak in favour of racial equality is a very sad statement of the condition that Australia is in now.

The Voice is not only a threat to our democracy, but also to our way of life. As the IPA's Director of Research, Morgan Begg, established in his authoritative monograph *One Voice: Racial Equality in the Australian Constitution*:

Australia is a successful multi-racial and multi-ethnic society precisely because its citizens have an underlying set of shared values. These values – freedom, tolerance, egalitarianism, fairness, and democracy – bring Australians together and have made Australia the great country it is today. But Australians are being asked to endorse a radical change that runs contrary to these values...the Voice is an affront to the basic

principle that every Australian gets the same say over the future of the country, and that each Australians' voice matters equally.

Yet every significant institution of our society – the political class, big corporates, universities, bureaucracy, government agencies and taxpayer funded NGOs – have already thrown their weight behind the Voice. And they are being abetted by big tech companies, which is censoring individual voices against the Voice.

The Future

As I mentioned at the top of my letter, thanks to your support, we will be continuing our regional tours in the second half of the year, reaching communities from the Pilbara to Launceston. We also have ambitions to expand, next year, into the suburbs and outer suburbs, with a special emphasis on migrant outreach.

Whether it is in the suburbs or the regions, mainstream Australians, who believe Australia is a good country worth celebrating, who work hard, and want a better life for themselves and their families, are at risk of being ignored and forgotten by the governing elites of our nation.

What we will continue to do is to communicate the basic truths about the Australian way of life that the major institutions of our society either ignore or actively denigrate. We believe Australia is a great country with good people who want to work hard, treat each other equally, live freely, raise families, and serve the community. These are the timeless values which define what it means to be an Australian, and that have attracted millions of new arrivals to our shores.

And we must always remember that those who denigrate our way of life are a tiny minority who do not represent the ideals of the mainstream.

The heartland of Australia is not in the corporate boardrooms on Collins Street in Melbourne, the Parliamentary Triangle in Canberra, or in the commercial headquarters of the banks in Martin Place in Sydney. The heartland of Australia is with the mainstream Australians living in the suburbs and regions of our great nation.

There are many, many more Australians who think as we do. We know that the overwhelming majority of Australians believe freedom of speech is an important Australian value. They believe Australia day is on 26 January and is a day of celebrating. They are proud of our culture and history. And they believe in the central democratic value of racial equality.

It has always been the role of the IPA to communicate these basic truths to the Australian people. The first edition of the *IPA Review*, which is the landmark quarterly publication of the IPA, was published over 70 years ago in 1949. Much of the research and analysis published in the 1940s and 1950s could just as easily have been written yesterday.

An essay titled *A National Pride* published in the January-February 1952 edition, for example, argued “perhaps many of our troubles would disappear, many of our problems be overcome, if we had a firm unshakable sense of national pride, a faith in Australia’s greatness, a confident belief in her destiny.”

The essay asserted that “ruinous” and “fierce group loyalties” were dividing Australians. Too

many were pushing “their own particular barrows at the expense of the real interests of the Australian nation” and were indulging in “activities detrimental to the welfare as a whole.” It is almost as if that essay was talking about the Voice to Parliament.

Now, in our 80th year, it again falls to the IPA to be the champion of our freedoms and our way of life, and to fight back – which we do with our research, our analysis, and our communication to the public and policy makers.

As daunting as it may seem, the Voice to Parliament represents an enormous opportunity for Australians. A repudiation of the Voice at the ballot box later this year would not only reaffirm our shared commitment to equality. It would be a complete and total repudiation of the divisive governing agenda of our broken institutions, and sclerotic political system. And it is where the endeavour to take back the country from the elites begins – this is what Full Spectrum Freedom is all about.

And thanks to your support, the IPA will continue to lead the debate, just as we have for the past 80 years.

I am hoping you will continue to support our work by making a tax deductible donation to 2023 IPA End of Financial Year Appeal by returning the donation slip in this letter or online by visiting ipa.org.au/eofy. You can also call our office on 03 9600 4744 and speak with Claire Peter-Budge to make a donation over the phone.

Thank you for your support.



Daniel Wild
Deputy Executive Director