

## Speech: The Great Race Debate

The Brief from Queensland University of Technology, pre-conference event to 'Symposium Unifying Antiracism Research and Action'

*"The event is titled '**The Greatest Race Debate**' and is essentially using the pretence of a debate to call out the absurdity of what constitutes race conversations in this country. There are no teams as such, but everyone is to give their best 'worst' takes on race debates in this country courageously, intellectually and of course humorously in a 5-7 min monologue."*

*"Sick and tired of hearing about racism?  
Think conversations about race are divisive?  
Had a gutful of people playing the race card?"*

*Well join us for a race debate like never before! We pit some of the nation's leading 'racism connoisseurs' to give us their best worst takes on race conversations in the colony. It's a no holds barred, race to the bottom take on how far we've really come as a nation, from the suite to the street and the senate floor. From the nation that brought you the architecture of apartheid, off shore detention, emergency interventions and the mythology of terra nullius and throwing children overboard – of course we will bring you the greatest race debate ever!*

*Adjudicated by none other than the activist masquerading as an artist Richard Bell, who doesn't see colour, but will tone police like no other, he might just toss a coin to decide the winner."*

### Speech

*Opening track: Scott Morrison's uke version of 'April Sun in Cuba'*

I want to start by apologising to Peter Dutton, Scott Morrison, to Christian Zionists. I'm really sorry to all of you for being the wrong kind of Jew for you and not recognising you as the antiracist heroes you really are.

You should be up on this stage, not me.

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For those who've been paying any attention, you'll have seen that Peter Dutton has taken the throne as Australia's chief anti-antisemitism warrior.

Jews were the only group who got a "[special mention](#)" in his Christmas Valedictory Speech.

[Last year, he mentioned Jews in 66 media releases](#) he put out, double the mentions of any other group. Even Christians only got 8 mentions.

Amongst a very real and pretty scary spate of antisemitic attacks, it's tempting to think Dutton has found a heart.

But the reality is that for Dutton and his ilk, Jews are just the perfect avatars to use to peddle racism, Islamophobia and anti-immigrant sentiment, or as Historian Dr Max Kaiser says, we've become the "[super-Western canaries in the coal mine for civilisational decline](#)".

Dutton loves talking about how we've contributed to "the Australian way of life", and about antisemitism as the fight for "[civilisation itself](#)". [Last week he warned](#), "it's the Jews today, who is it tomorrow? ... Catholics ... Protestants ... atheists ... are they the target of the next hate crimes?".

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To better understand, I present you with 'Dutton's Jew'. 'Dutton's Jew' has really helpfully provided him with a human shield to talk about some of his favourite topics – hating on migrants by [invoking Jews and the Holocaust when arguing against taking in Palestinian refugees](#), protecting everyday Aussies from left-wing [anti-war protesters](#) and of course [opposition to international law](#) and bolstering support for [Israel as it commits a genocide](#). His party no longer needs to defend 'the [right to be bigots](#)', because 'Dutton's Jew' can do this for him.

Dutton isn't alone in his low-key obsession with Jews as [stand-ins for Western civilisation](#). Right-wing populists around the globe are doing the same.

Dutch right-wing Islamophobe, Geert Wilders, loves using Jews to rally against "[multicultural scum](#)".

Trump now leads the anti-antisemitism fight in the US against "[radical left thugs](#)", "[the mass importation of antisemitism](#)" and "[radical Islam](#)".

Christian Zionists do the same. [In short, these guys want all Jews to move to Israel to bring on the second coming of Jesus Christ](#), which will kill us along with all the other 'unrighteous' – which is totally not a creepy or antisemitic idea.

In Australia, these guys hold rallies, called 'Never again is Now', which host famous musicians and anti-racists like Scott Morrison who's track we just heard, along with [a motley crew of Islamophobic, Transphobic, and anti-immigration bigots](#).

Their co-founder, Pastor Mark Leach, is pretty clear that the fight against antisemitism is about fighting ["the radical left and radical Islam"](#) who hate "the Judeo-Christian worldview we all share". We'll just ignore that they [fraternise with neo-fascists](#), who don't love the Judeo part of Judeo-Christian.

But it's not just the far-right. Dutton and his ilk are setting the tone for the discussion of antisemitism across the political spectrum.

The ALP has appointed an antisemitism envoy who uses her position to [quash anti-war protestors](#) and lobby for [law and order crackdowns](#). And Albo appears to be caving to Dutton's demands when it comes to responding to antisemitism.

It's only fair to say here that 'Dutton's Jew' isn't his own invention, it's a product of Israel and its lobbyists. Right-wing Zionist institutions, who are willing to side with basically anyone who supports Israel down into the moral abyss, [strategically conflate Jewish identity with the state of Israel](#) so that they can silence Palestinian voices by labelling them antisemitic.

And Dutton and the LNP are sensitive alright. See, they need all Jews to be 'Dutton's Jew', all of us uniformly in support of Israel, and uniformly threatened by Islam and migration.

So it's very inconvenient for them when they have to confront the growing number of us who are refusing to toe the party line.

[Trump is pretty honest about the Jews](#) he likes and doesn't, saying that Jews who vote for Democrats "hate their religion" and "should be ashamed of themselves" .

**[Slide]**

Dutton and the LNP are also pretty clear about the Jews they like and don't. When Dr Elizabeth Strakosch I gave evidence last year to a Macarthyist Senate Inquiry into antisemitism, two LNP Senators, Paul Scarr and Sarah Henderson, [did not like that we were invited](#). Scarr, who has previously had to [apologise for making antisemitic comments in Parliament](#), and who has [attended the creepy Christian Zionist rallies](#) I mentioned, started shouting at us for not giving him a personal experience of antisemitism that was to his liking. Sarah Henderson, who conveniently sees ["no issue"](#) with Islamophobia, demanded to prosecute us, including asking whether we condemn the "Swatch Sticker".

It seems we just weren't being sensitive enough to what antisemitism means to Peter Dutton and the LNP!

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For the far-right, 'Dutton's Jew' isn't about Jews, fighting racism, or even antisemitism for that matter. Amongst a very real rise in antisemitic incidents, 'Dutton's Jew' is actually pretty bad for Jews themselves.

Flattening any group into a single archetype, and silencing any member who displays individuality, breeds racism.

But not only that, this idea of Jews as political footballs to be used by the elite ruling class has a long history. Anti-Jewish conspiracies have historically provided elites with a shock absorber, to prevent popular rage reaching the kings, queens and tsars.

In the present day, the elite don't tell tales of Jewish devils pitted against pure Christians, they tell tales of 'Dutton's Jew' on the front lines of the fight against other racial groups who threaten 'Western Judeo-Christian values'. Jews are still 'the other', we're not expected to have solidarity across racial lines, and our safety is still at the whims of a ruling class.

And because none of this is actually about Jews or Jewish safety, Dutton can still feed into racist discourse by arguing that [immigration has created a housing crisis](#), he can still be part of a political party which has consistently faced scandals for [alleged links to white supremacists](#). Trump can still see ["very fine people"](#) in those chanting 'Jews will not replace us', and [entertain neo-Nazis and Holocaust deniers](#) at Mar-a-Lago for dinner.

[Musk can do what looks and smells like a Seig Heil at that inauguration and right-wing Zionist groups will come to his defence.](#)

It's why none of these antisemitism warriors would really care that neo-Nazis are making whacko conspiracies about left-wing Jews like me and our connections to the global cabal of Jewish Marxist academics – I wish they'd pass on the cabal's digits though.

It's honestly getting a bit hard to tell the difference between the harassment we get from right-wing Zionist anti-antisemitism warriors and neo-Nazis. So I guess all that to say, that while you take the crown Dutton, Trump and the far-right, for completely capturing our national conversation on racism, I might just stick to being a bad Jew with neo-Nazis as my enemies rather than friends.