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OMB No. 1124-0001; Expires July 31, 2023

U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530

Registration Statement
Pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended

I--REGISTRANT

1. Name of Registrant

Mr. John Eric Wissler

2. Registration Number (To be assigned by the FARA Unit)

7012

3. Primary Business Address

6310 Maryview Street, Alexandria, VA 22310

4. If the registrant is an individual, furnish the following information:

(a) Residence address(es)

(b) Nationality UNITED STATES

(c) Year of birth 1956

(d) Present citizenship UNITED STATES

(e) If present citizenship not acquired by birth, state when, where and how acquired

(f) Occupation Consultant

5. If the registrant is not an individual, furnish the following information:

(a) Type of organization: Committee ☐ Association ☐ Partnership ☐ Voluntary group ☐
Corporation ☐ Other *(specify)* _____

(b) Date and place of organization

(c) Name of responsible individual
(e.g., officer, director or partner)

(d) Other business address(es), if any, including
locations of branch or local offices

(e) If a membership organization, provide number of members

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(f) List all partners, officers, directors or persons performing the functions of an officer or director of the registrant.

Name	Residence Address	Citizenship	Position

(g) Which of the above named persons renders services directly in furtherance of the interests of any of the foreign principals?

Name	Foreign Principal(s)	Services

(h) Describe the nature of the registrant's regular business or activity.

(i) Give a complete description of the ownership and control structure of the registrant.

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6. List all individuals, other than those listed in Item 5(g), who render services or will render services to the registrant directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal(s) in other than a clerical, secretarial, or in a related or similar capacity.

Name	Residence Address	Foreign Principal(s)	Services

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/06/2021 3:44:56 PM

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II--FOREIGN PRINCIPAL

7. List every foreign principal[1] for whom the registrant is acting or has agreed to act.

Foreign Principal	Foreign Principal Address
Andrew Cowan	Level 14 NT House, 22 Mitchell Street DArwin NT 08, GPO Box 4396 Darwin NT, Northern Territory AUSTRALIA 0801

III--ACTIVITIES

8. In addition to the activities described in any Exhibit B to this statement, will the registrant engage or is the registrant engaging now in activity or rendering services on its own behalf which benefits any or all of its foreign principals?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, describe fully.

Foreign Principal	Activities/Services

IV--FINANCIAL INFORMATION

9. (a) **RECEIPTS-MONIES**

During the period beginning 60 days prior to the date of the registrant's obligation to register[2] under FARA, has the registrant received from any foreign principal named in Item 7 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal, any contributions, income, or money either as compensation, or for disbursement or otherwise?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each such foreign principal an account of such monies.[3]

Foreign Principal	Date Received	From Whom	Purpose	Amount
Andrew Cowan	08/09/2021	Northern Territory Government	Services during the Month of July 2021. Services for August 2021 have not yet been reimbursed.	$ 3,158.94

$ 3,158.94

1 The term "foreign principal," as defined in Section 1(b) of the Act, includes a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization, foreign individual and, for the purpose of registration, an organization or an individual any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization or foreign individual.

2 An agent must register within 10 days of becoming an agent, and before acting as such.

3 A registrant is required to file an Exhibit D if he collects or receives contributions, loans, monies, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fundraising campaign. There is no printed form for this exhibit. (See Rule 201(e), 28 C.F.R. § 5.201(e)).

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/06/2021 3:44:56 PM

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(b) **RECEIPTS-THINGS OF VALUE**

During the period beginning 60 days prior to the date of the registrant's obligation to register[4] under FARA, has the registrant received anything of value[5] other than money, from any foreign principal named in Item 7 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Foreign Principal	Date Received	From Whom	Purpose	Thing of Value

10. (a) **DISBURSEMENTS-MONIES**

During the period beginning 60 days prior to the date of the registrant's obligation to register[6] under FARA, has the registrant disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Item 7 of this statement or transmitted monies to any such foreign principal?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each such foreign principal named including monies transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

Foreign Principal	Date	Recipient	Purpose	Amount

(b) **DISBURSEMENTS-THINGS OF VALUE**

During the period beginning 60 days prior to the date of the registrant's obligation to register[7] under FARA, has the registrant disposed of any thing of value[8] other than money in furtherance of or in connection with its activities on behalf of any foreign principal named in Item 7 of this statement? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Foreign Principal	Date	Recipient	Purpose	Thing of Value

(c) **DISBURSEMENTS-POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

During the period beginning 60 days prior to the date of the registrant's obligation to register[9] under FARA, has the registrant (or any short form registrant) made any contribution of money or other thing of value from its own funds and on its own behalf in connection with an election to any political office or in connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus held to select candidates for any political office? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Donor	Political Organization/Candidate	Method	Amount/Thing of Value

4, 6, 7 and 9 See Footnote 2, on page 3.

5 and 8 Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest-free loans, expense-free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks", and the like.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/06/2021 3:44:56 PM

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V--INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS[10]

11. Prior to the time of filing this statement,[11] has the registrant prepared, disseminated, or caused to be disseminated, any informational materials on behalf of any foreign principal listed in Item 7 of this statement?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, identify each foreign principal and attach the informational materials.

Foreign Principal	Informational Materials Attached	Type
See Appendix for Response		

12. (a) Will the activities of the registrant on behalf of any foreign principal include the preparation or dissemination of informational materials?

Yes ☒ No ☐

(b) If yes, identify each foreign principal and respond to the remaining items in this section.

Andrew Cowan

13. Has a budget been established or specified sum of money allocated to finance the registrant's activities in preparing or disseminating informational materials? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, identify each foreign principal, and specify the period of time and the amount.

Foreign Principal	Period of Time	Amount

14. Will any individuals or organizations, including public relations firms or publicity agents, participate in the preparation or dissemination of such informational materials?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the names and addresses of such individuals or organizations.

Name	Address	Foreign Principal(s)

15. Activities in preparing or disseminating informational materials will include the use of the following:

☐ Magazine or newspaper ☐ Advertising campaigns ☐ Press releases ☐ Pamphlets or other publications
☒ Lectures or speeches ☐ Radio or TV broadcasts ☐ Motion picture films ☐ Letters or telegrams
☐ Email
☐ Website URL(s): _____
☐ Social Media website URL(s): _____
☒ Other *(specify)* _____

10 The term informational materials includes any oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including that published by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, electronic communications, or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or otherwise. Informational materials disseminated by an agent of a foreign principal as part of an activity in itself exempt from registration, or an activity which by itself would not require registration, need not be filed pursuant to Section 4(b) of the Act.

11 See Footnote 2, on page 3.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/06/2021 3:44:56 PM

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16. Informational materials will be disseminated among the following groups:

- ☐ Public officials
- ☒ Legislators
- ☒ Government agencies
- ☐ Newspapers
- ☒ Editors
- ☐ Civic groups or associations
- ☐ Libraries
- ☐ Educational groups
- ☐ Nationality groups
- ☐ Other *(specify)* _____

17. Indicate the language to be used in the informational materials:

- ☒ English
- ☐ Other *(specify)* _____

VI--EXHIBITS AND ATTACHMENTS

18. (a) The following described exhibits shall be filed with a Registration Statement:

Exhibit A- This exhibit, which is filed on Form NSD-3, sets forth the information required to be disclosed concerning each foreign principal named in Item 6.

Exhibit B- This exhibit, which is filed on Form NSD-4, sets forth the information concerning the agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal.

(b) An Exhibit C shall be filed when applicable. This exhibit, for which no printed form is provided, consists of a true copy of the charter, articles of incorporation, association, constitution, and bylaws of a registrant that is an organization. A waiver of the requirement to file an Exhibit C may be obtained for good cause shown upon written application to the Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530. (See Rule 201(c) and (d)).

(c) An Exhibit D shall be filed when applicable. This exhibit, for which no printed form is provided, sets forth an account of money collected or received as a result of a fundraising campaign and transmitted for a foreign principal. (See Rule 201 (e)).

VII--EXECUTION

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, and subject to the penalties of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and 22 U.S.C. § 618, the undersigned swears or affirms under penalty of perjury that he/she has read the information set forth in this statement filed pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.*, that he/she is familiar with the contents thereof, and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.

Date	Printed Name	Signature [12]
09/06/2021	John E Wissler	/s/John E Wissler
09/06/2021	John E Wissler	/s/John E Wissler
09/06/2021	John E Wissler	/s/John E Wissler
09/06/2021	John E Wissler	/s/John E Wissler

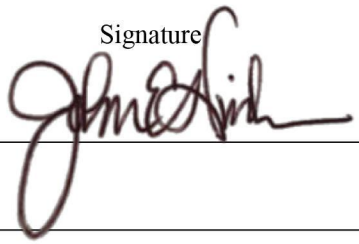
12 This statement shall be signed by the individual agent, if the registrant is an individual, or by a majority of those partners, officers, directors or persons performing similar functions, if the registrant is an organization, except that the organization can, by power of attorney, authorize one or more individuals to execute this statement on its behalf.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/06/2021 3:44:56 PM

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EXECUTION

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Date	Printed Name	Signature
		

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/06/2021 3:44:56 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/06/2021 3:44:56 PM

Appendix
Response to Item 11

Item 11: Prior to the time of filing this statement, has the registrant prepared, disseminated, or caused to be disseminated, any informational materials on behalf of any foreign principal listed in Item 7 of this statement? If yes, identify each foreign principal and attach the informational materials.

Foreign Principal	Informational Materials Attached	Type
Andrew Cowan	Yes	Lectures or speeches; Other (Potential Article for Publication. Article was not published.)

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/06/2021 3:44:56 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/06/2021 3:44:56 PM

THE STRATEGIC VALUE OF THE NORTH – THE CHANGING DEFINITION OF STRATEGIC GEOGRAPHY

Wikipedia defines Strategic Geography as those aspects of geography concerned with the "control of, or access to, and spatial areas that affect the security and prosperity of nations. Spatial areas that concern strategic geography change with human needs and development..." The importance of strategic geography has never been more important and the rapidly changing "spatial areas" that make up strategic geography have placed the North of Australia as the locus of opportunity in shaping a peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific. This rapid pace of change and the timing of critical events in the Indo-Pacific have created a strategic inflection point for the Australian North.

The rapidly accelerating aggressive dynamic of Chinese influence throughout the Indo-Pacific and the significant advances in the technologies that support the security and prosperity of nations have created a rapidly changing definition, or perhaps better stated, a rapidly changing composition of strategic geography. While the traditional three dimensional view of geography as air, land, and sea still applies, all definitions, and thus strategic orientation, must now be expanded to include space and cyberspace as well as the traditional dimensions. Viewed through this lens, all elements of national power (diplomatic, informational, military, and economic) can be placed at risk by an increasingly aggressive China. Thus, the combination of an aggressive China and the rapidity of change creates the very real opportunity for a strategic vulnerability for like-minded nations in the Indo-Pacific. Senior leaders in both the United States and China have commented on the ever increasing escalation of tensions. During the Commander of U.S. Indo Pacific Command, Admiral Phil Davidson's, testimony before the United States Senate on 9 March 16, 2021, he identified the extant possibility of Chinese aggression in Taiwan within the next six years. Similarly, as reported in the 15 March 2021 Wall Street Journal, General Xu Qiliang, China's senior military leader "warned the National People's Congress that China faces a "Thucydides trap" and needs to step up its military spending and preparedness. (The phrase refers to the ancient Greek historian's belief that Sparta's fear of rising Athenian power led to the Peloponnesian War.) Satellite imagery showing major expansions of Chinese military facilities near Taiwan, Vietnam, India and the South China Sea suggests that Gen. Xu's advice is already being heeded."

The increasing pace of technological change combined with the increasing aggressiveness in China's actions at home and abroad across all elements of national power, have garnered concerns by the United States as well as allies and partners across the region and around the world. The unprecedented March 16, 2021 meeting of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (referred to as the Quad) between the highest leaders of Australia, India, Japan and the United States marked an historic commitment in the words of those national leaders to "strengthen our quest for a region that is open and free, …to partner to address the challenges presented by new technologies and collaborate to set the norms and standards that govern the innovations of the future." In addition to the Quad, France and Germany have committed military assets to join in ongoing quest to strengthen alliances and partnerships in the region and check Chinese ambitions for regional dominance. Additionally, the United Kingdom in their recent "Integrated Review 2021" provided a significant commentary on global geostrategic challenges, identifying China as their biggest state-based threat. A position made more remarkable given their proximity to Russia and their strong support of NATO.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/06/2021 3:44:56 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/06/2021 3:44:56 PM

At the intersection of all of this activity is the Australian North. As Alan Dupont stated in his 13 March 2021 article in the Australian, "In an historic geopolitical shift, Australia is emerging as a key alliance hub and partner for the US in Asia as the Biden administration moves to reshape and strengthen its military to meet China's growing challenge." This geopolitical shift is driven by Australia's capability to effectively train, sustain, and coordinate allied and partner nation military forces far enough away from direct Chinese influence, but close enough to impact Chinese actions in the region. Growing state of the art ranges; port facilities; growing high-speed, reduced latency, secure communications; ever increasing cyber capabilities and partnerships; a growing space capability; and a growing industrial base make the Australian North a key piece of the strategic geography of the Indo-Pacific.

Training ranges that tie into existing US and other allied and partner capabilities will improve the ability of all like-minded partners to sharpen their ability to conduct combined operations in all five domains: air, land, sea, space, and cyberspace, and control actions and opportunities in regional competition short of conflict. Improved maritime support capabilities and port facilities, as well as a supporting industrial base, will better support surface and subsurface, manned and unmanned platforms in training for, and projecting, naval power and controlling vital sea lanes across the region if or when required. Redundant, protected, highspeed communications and associated data centers will support the vast amount of data processing capabilities required to process information into refined intelligence, and simultaneously provide maintenance support to the latest air, land and sea based platforms to include state of the art aircraft, unmanned ground and aerial systems and ground combat vehicles. Additionally, these improved and redundant communications backbones will provide the development of live, virtual, and constructive training that will revolutionize allied and partner capabilities across the region. Finally, a growing space capability will provide for partnered efforts in the space domain and highlight the growing partnerships in space across the region. The sum of these capabilities will provide options as the US studies its basing options and future commitments to the Indo-Pacific as outlined in the ongoing Pacific Deterrence Initiative, as well as support other ally and partner interests in shared development in these domains.

In the end, the North of Australia provides an ideal hedge against the strategic vulnerabilities of not only Australia, but of all nations committed to a peaceful and prosperous region. By investing now in the political relationships essential to building on the existing physical geography and expanding the understanding of how the physical geography has grown rapidly with technological and ideological change into a strategic opportunity, investments in the North will provide a hedge against the susceptibility of vital elements of national power to the will of an ever increasingly aggressive China. There is no doubt we are in an unparalleled period of change. The definition of strategic geography is changing as rapidly as the technology, human needs, and development in the region that affect every element of nation power for all like-minded nations across the region. Charles Darwin said "It is not the strongest species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the ones most responsive to change." In this time of dynamic change, it is, in Rugby terms, time to "go for the gap" and capitalize on the opportunities provided by the North's strategic geography. Realizing the strategic opportunities presented by the North may not last long, but failing to capitalize will have long lasting impacts for individual nations and across the region.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/06/2021 3:44:56 PM

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