

# Sharma Chameleon

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<https://www.crikey.com.au/2018/10/19/tips-and-rumours-dave-sharma/>

*What's going on with Dave Sharma's robo calls? Elsewhere, what the hell are the Katter's Australian Party even doing in Wentworth, and we are happy to confirm that there is no beef between Tom Ballard and Gina Rinehart.*

From the *Crikey* grapevine, the latest tips and rumours...

**Why, you old Sharma.** It's well known Liberal candidate for Wentworth Dave Sharma was a former diplomat. But what else lurks in his past? Quite possibly, a connection to the most disgraceful spy scandal in recent Australian history and our most immoral foreign policy decision. [According to his CV](#), Sharma was a legal adviser to former foreign affairs minister and stock photo caricature Alexander Downer from 2004-06. This was the period covering Australia's illegal spying on Timor-Leste and its attempts to blackmail the Timor-Leste government into complying with Australia's demands around access for Woodside — [the beneficiary of Australia's entire regional foreign policy](#) — to "Timor Gap" petroleum reserves. Did Sharma play any role in either of these shameful events? As legal adviser to Adelaide's own Boy Mulcaster (and later Woodside consultant) Lex Downer, it's hard to see how he couldn't have.

Of course, who should Sharma have hosted almost immediately on arrival to his gig as ambassador to Jerusalem in 2013? Why, [a delegation from Woodside](#). At least he would have felt at home.