

Subject: Extreme Weather Events and Climate Change Education

To The Senate Committee,

Top climate scientists have been predicting for at least ten years that we could expect a great increase in extreme weather events due to climate change. As we have observed for those ten years this is EXACTLY what has been happening ! So they have been proven to have been TOTALLY correct. As yet, we have heard very little about this in the media - why hasn't the media acknowledged just how correct these predictions were ? To the contrary many erroneous and false (non- scientific views) have been presented and disseminated by the media. Professor Robert Manne has been especially critical of the Australian Newspaper in this regard. Manne cites numerous examples of wrong , misleading and misinformation presented and circulated by that newspaper. The Fingleton Enquiry into the media also pointed directly to these abuses and we are still waiting for the recommendations of that enquiry to be implemented which would involve far greater scrutiny of all material for public consumption and education and far greater sanctions for all transgressions of this public duty to tell the truth and give correct facts.

In this context and as a former high school teacher, I note that recently broadcaster Alan Jones has been fined and admonished for giving completely false Climate Data to the public. The board of ACMA found that Jones had told mainly ignorant and uneducated listeners that humans were only responsible for .004 of carbon emissions into the atmosphere. The true scientific figure is that man has contributed nearly 35% of all carbon in the atmosphere in the last 250 years. Jones was not once out, not twice out , not even 10 times out but over 30,000 times WRONG !!! If I had had been that wrong as a science teacher I should have immediately been called to the headmaster, admonished and given the sack!

What I am really saying here is that we need a thorough - going program to fully and properly educate the public on the connection between Global Warming, Climate Change and Extreme weather events. A full and comprehensive range of the latest up to date data from C.S.R.I.O. , B.O.M. , IPCC etc. etc. etc. needs to be continually given to the public so that they are fully informed and educated as to the TRUE science and the TRUE facts. This education needs to be government funded. As we can see we can in no way trust the media to do this job. So far they have mostly been involved in obscuring the truth and confusing people which in turn causes a lot of political equivocation and a delay in any real response and action. Big Tobacco tried and are still trying to do this by saying that the science is not yet settled on the connection between smoking and lung cancer...we now know how fallacious their selfish arguments are- they are certainly not concerned about true education and public health ! In terms of extreme weather events and global warming through proliferation of green house gasses and climate change - 90% of climate scientists are now 90% sure of these connections. The public need to be urgently educated and informed about all of this and this must be responsibly done by government via ongoing, thorough education programs. The self-interested media certainly cannot be trusted to accurately carry out this vital task of true and factual and scientific education. My fervent hope is that you can get moving on such a funded education program as soon as possible. Australia and indeed the planet cannot wait any longer.

Yours Truthfully and

Sincerely,

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