

Hello, we have a property in northern NSW that is experiencing difficulties due to climate change and I am extremely concerned that little seems to be happening to really ensure people realise this is real and that each and everyone of us needs to act NOW. We have had little rain since June 2012 and the extreme heat (several days above 40 under our carport) have meant our water supplies (no town water access) are much diminished and we are watching plants die.

We have the technology to make major changes now eg our house is well prepared for the heat and possible fires. We insulated the roof with wool, added whirlygigs, coated the roof with insulcoat (which took 30 degrees out of the roof cavity), added pelmeted curtains with fire proof backing and so if we close the house up when the temperature starts to rise we stay mid 20s when it's over 40s outside - without the use of airconditioning. We tell as many as we can and they are amazed and yet our building regulations still see houses being built with solid north facing walls and tiny eaves which almost ensure the need for airconditioning. Why is this not changing?

We are also distressed at the push for more coal mines and coal seam gas. We are not in a CSG area thankfully but we cannot believe such industries are being encouraged when they clearly add to the problems of climate change. We added solar panels in 2001 - before major subsidies - and we did it to ensure we could pump water in the case of a bushfire. Everyone in bushfire prone areas should have solar panels to ensure power supply in the case of a fire and this could be subsidised surely as saving houses would do much to alleviate the grief and cost of their loss.

Much is being talked of regarding bushfire plans and this is good, but some practical local courses might also help and an understanding of when and why houses burn and which houses are more at risk. Having read several books I am well prepared but many are not.

We know climate change is real and that it is affecting us. Please do more to ensure changes happen and happen quickly. We fear for the future for our grand children.

Thanks for listening

Cheryl Dooley & Garrie Cooper.