

I live in Coffs Harbour. We own a small 50 acre hobby farm where we breed beef cattle. I am a GP working in local youth mental health service.

I am deeply concerned for the future of our planet for my 3 children.

I have observed our fruit trees flowering twice a year. I have observed an increase in the number of floods on our farm over the last 12 years we have been there.

Last year we had a mini tornado that destroyed a 100 year old wooden silo on our property as well as uprooting a 150 foot high 2m diameter flooded gum in a paddock.

Neighbours who have lived in the location for 80 years and 3 generations say they have never seen anything like it.

I understand how hard it is in government when you only look to the next 3 years, and to make unpopular decisions that we need to survive may risk your future in power. It is a bit like having to discipline a toddler, never fun for the parent but the consequences of not making the right decisions are totally devastating.

I don't know how you can sell to the general simple sheep- like community that all want TVs in every bedroom, 24 hour airconditioning, new computers annually, new cars regularly that they all have to go without something, they all have to lower their standard of living to save this great planet of ours. You cannot eat and drink coal and money.

I am fearful for the social unrest that will plague us all (and is already starting to be seen in other countries) once the perfect storm of peak oil, climate change and population overgrowth hit us. At the end of the day we are still firstly animals and when you have nothing, no food or water you will fight brutally for survival.

I wish you luck in tackling the difficulties facing us. With the right brains I think it is perhaps possible. They said plain packaging would never come, that the tobacco companies were too big, but here it is.

We need to change our model of perpetual materialistic growth and start putting a value on the terms sustainable, community, social capital, and dare I say happiness.

When I listen to the scientists I am despondant and think that there is no hope (short of a good avian flu that wipes out 50% of the earths population over a 6 month period)

I am not really sure what to ask of you, but please please please use your power and influence to try to bring about investment in sustainable energies, alternatives to oil, biodiversity, preservation of old growth forests, reduction in pollution and unnecessary plastics, and a society that isn't built on the stock market of gamblers and the holy grail of growth.

Thanks

Nicola Murray