

The impacts of global warming are unfortunately now too well documented to really need listing. Like the rest of the world, Australia is experiencing increased and more extreme climate events. Flood and especially fire have been intensified and our coastlines stand a high probability of drastic change. Our agricultural practices are also being adversely affected.

None of this is surprising as numerous peer-reviewed scientific publications across the world have warned of the dire consequences of human-caused climate change for a long time now. It is not the knowledge about what is happening (and that shall continue to happen) that is needed but the political will to take steps to decrease the ongoing warming of our planet. The interests of a few - represented by big business - are more importance than widespread species extinctions and the lives of many.

It is time the reality of what is happening is acknowledged by practical action. NO NEW COAL MINES SHOULD BE OPENED AND THOSE ALREADY EXISTENT SHOULD BE SCALED BACK. DEFORESTATION AND THE LOGGING OF OLD GROWTH FORESTS SHOULD ALSO STOP AND NO TIMBER FROM RAINFORESTS ACROSS THE WORLD SHOULD BE IMPORTED. INSTEAD OF SUBSIDIZING THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY, THE RENEWABLE ENERGY INDUSTRY, ESPECIALLY SOLAR, SHOULD BE SUBSIDIZED. ALL THESE ACTIONS WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY SLOW AUSTRALIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL WARMING.

However I have no doubt that none of these practical actions shall be taken. I watched the ABC news the other night - approximately equal time was given to a resident of Alice Springs who basically denied climate change by saying "it was hot even when I was younger" as to Prof. Karoly ,an internationally recognised climate scientist. Indeed the resident was given the last word! By the time any meaningful political action is taken it will be too late - a threshold from which there is no return shall have been crossed. All I can say is "Thank God I have no kids".

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