

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
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Parliament House
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A private submission from Hinton John Lowe

18 January 2013

I respectfully ask the Committee to address the irresponsibility and wrongs of the prevalent distortion and deception of the public by a significant number of community opinion leaders which is leading to a false sense of security and apathy, and consequent inaction, about the now urgent matter of addressing imminent catastrophic events and more gradual devastation of the environment which are now reliably predicted to result from changes in our climate.

Evidently there is a very high risk that large proportions of our population will suffer great damage, including injury, disease, loss of assets and so poverty, as a result of the anticipated events and changes.

It has been the only reasonable prediction for a long time to make, given the preponderance of the relevant science. However, many persons who enjoy the privilege of access to the public ear and reading eye – especially some notable politicians and journalists – have cravenly misrepresented this situation of authoritative evidence and prediction over many years. It appears that doing so has often been a reprehensible exercise of culpable willful ignorance, negligence, or even more iniquitous self-serving posturing, whether for political, professional, or financial gain.

The cost has been delay and obstruction of the education, planning and action which will be necessary for a reasonable reduction of the risk of impacts of the predicted calamities.

It is the responsibility of governments and parliaments to protect its peoples from calamities such as we must now expect. Those who are persisting in their opposition and obstruction of initiatives to address the causes and prepare for the consequences should be recognised and denounced in the findings of this Senate Enquiry.

Signed:
Hinton John Lowe