

Submission to Extreme Weather Inquiry

To whom it may concern

I am writing to request that we as a nation re-evaluate our strategies in dealing with climate change and allow the Australian Public to embrace our democratic rights to decide the future of this country and hopefully avoid ecological collapse. There is a very real need to discuss the possibility of a Climate Referendum which encompasses agro-ecology, food sovereignty, reduction of emissions, renewable energy and implement a Task Force to review and report on the very real impacts of Climate change to the economy, the ecosystem and communities.

It is vital that prior to the Referendum the Australian Public be informed of the reality of Climate Change which has been acknowledged by scientists to be anthropomorphic in nature. It is imperative to combat the disinformation regarding climate change by those in support of their own short-term greed and political agenda, thus obstructing and delaying solutions to the problem which will surely come at a great cost to human lives and the environment.

We need to take strategic action immediately to avoid the impending ecological crisis that has been roughly predicted to occur in 2043 when a global increase in carbon emissions reaches the one trillion metric ton - the equivalent of a global increase of 2 degrees Celsius.

The UN interplanetary Panel on Climate Change has urged governments to sign on to staying below 2 Degrees Celsius, anymore than this will leave us to the reality of dealing with apocalyptic ecological conditions.

Dr. Jim Hansen, one of the world's leading climatologists has stated that "once we approach 2 degree Celsius we will have started a process that is out of humanity's control." (It has been suggested that we not exceed carbon emissions of 750 million metric tons). Hansen and colleagues published a paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences in 2012 which warned that "an important change is the emergence of a category of summertime extremely hot outliers, more than three standard deviations warmer than the climatology of the 1951- 1980 base period." We are currently experiencing in Australia a heatwave so severe that a new colour has been added to the Bureau of Meteorology's temperature maps. This is an example of the severe weather conditions foretold by climatologists as a direct consequence of anthropomorphic climate change.

It is only in the public sector that climate denial is continuing, aided by media, politicians, shareholders etc with vested interests in coal, gas, mining expansion etc. If there is a global agreement on deep reductions in greenhouse emissions, how much of their profits will decline? We not only need to confront and challenge the powerful influence and interests of Rinehart, Murdoch etc, we also need to be educated in regards to ethical investments which do not impact detrimentally on the environment and our high carbon consumption per capita which has surpassed that of the U.S.

The impacts of climate change on the economy are now becoming evident and have been calculated in a report entitled 'Climate Vulnerability Monitor' to be more than \$1.2 trillion. However, the destruction of the environment, to infrastructure and the devastating loss of life which will occur due to increased fire-storms, typhoons, hurricanes, sea-level rise is a cost which cannot be solely weighed economically.

I am asking that a Referendum on Climate Change be put forward so that we may, as informed Australians, make choices and employ strategies which will avoid ecological collapse.

Yours faithfully,
Jodie Wiggins