

RESPONSE TO GREENS SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE OF CARBON TRADING

There is no argument that the present financial meltdown is a serious challenge to the government. Much suffering is being generated by this event, and much needs to be done to solve the crisis. However, although this problematic economic situation and its attendant pain will last for some years, the system will recover, and it won't be the cause of a massive die-off of humanity.

On the other hand Climate Change is an even more challenging situation, which if not solved by rational and effective strategies, has the potential of causing not just discomfort and suffering, but indeed the deaths of millions of people worldwide and the utter destruction of many, if not global economic systems, way beyond what is presently happening.

Climate Change is now definite scientific fact, made all the worse by the reality that climate events are occurring at a much faster and more intense rate than even the best of models had previously predicted.

We only have a relatively brief window of opportunity within which to at least try to stabilize this devastating situation. That window of opportunity, if ignored or squandered, will have the repercussion of sentencing billions of people to miseries we can barely comprehend at this point, as well as become the direct cause of deaths beyond what even our worst wars have caused.

It is therefore with increasing horror, anger and disillusionment that I see a government in power, whose platform of election promises were strongly orientated towards a substantial and effective response to Climate Change, now betray those promises by instigating utterly ineffectual "solutions" via the present carbon emissions trading scheme, and only proving that they are actually "sleeping with the enemy."

What are they thinking? The problem can never be solved by pussy-footing around the issue that the coal and oil industries – and our reliance on them! - are a fundamental and primary component of the problem. To support such polluters in any shape or form, will only seal our collective human fate. The naive belief by the polluters themselves that carbon sequestration will somehow solve the problem..... in the future..... is like believing in the "tooth fairy," and allowing the wolves to guard the chicken coop.

Far too many independent and non-coal/oil sponsored researchers and experts have already strongly stated that carbon sequestration is still too theoretical; will take years to perfect – (precious time we simply don't have); will be massively expensive, and is equally likely to create an entire swathe of new and dangerous ecological problems.

A recent Sydney Morning Herald article (Ben Chubby's article "Green Power at hand for little cost: experts" -20.3.09) highlights the fact that a real, workable, effective strategy to deal with Climate Change can be instigated right now, for a fraction of the present "economic stimulus packages," let alone what it would cost to continue research in the arena of carbon sequestration. The latter, in the end is nothing more than a blatant and delusional "jobs for the club boys" approach to what is not just a matter of temporary suffering, but an issue which has to do with the very survival of this planet and all its inhabitants.

At present, the economic meltdown is being used by the government as an excuse for not attending to the much more serious Climate Change situation facing us all. Behind cries of further economic woes if we re-direct efforts towards instigating the crucial new greener technologies, the government seems blind to the incredibly synchronous and beneficial opportunities that these two serious challenges in fact provide us.

Climate Change is not going to go away. Yes, its effects don't seem to be as dramatic as the daily shenanigans on the Stock Market, but its long term effects will be far more devastating than any Stock Market crash – or even a depression.

The entire paradigm of energy production, economic management and how we have so rapaciously and unethically lived in the past, have to undergo a fundamental shift. Anything less will only seal our fate – locally and globally. The economic meltdown didn't happen for no reason, just as Climate change isn't happening for no reason. In both cases they are directly related to how we Westerners especially, have chosen to live our lives in very wanton, unethical, selfish, non-caring, irresponsible and destructive ways.

Yet, both these immense dilemmas facing humanity today could be so productively transformed for the better, by now choosing to make fundamentally different choices. There is an urgent need to stop focusing on how these two challenges are supposedly mutually exclusive in their solutions.

Instead, we desperately need to choose to look beyond the square; look at these situations in completely lateral ways - to solutions which already exist!! - thereby allowing us to see how these two immense problems precisely also provide the resolution for each other.

But for this perspective to become visible, we do need to fundamentally change the paradigm. We also need real guts and leadership from government. Nothing less will work. Anything else will become mere band-aid "solutions," only guaranteeing the very fates we are so desperately trying to avoid.

If you think we are presently suffering, what do you think we are sentencing future generations to, by our present dithering and lack of significant and effectual instigation of strategies now?

STOP THE DENIAL AND WAKE UP FOR GOD'S SAKE! THE LAST 80 YEAR'S PARTY OF ENDULGENCE AND SQUANDER IS SURELY OVER!

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