

“Two Fatal Flaws.”

A Submission from:

The Carbon Sense Coalition
www.carbon-sense.com

to the

Australian Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change

in response to the Exposure Draft of the:

“Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Bill 2009

8 April 2009

Our future in the hands of the UN.

“A United Nations document on "climate change" that will be distributed to a major environmental conclave next week envisions a huge reordering of the world economy, likely involving trillions of dollars in wealth transfer, millions of job losses and gains, new taxes, industrial relocations, new tariffs and subsidies, and complicated payments for greenhouse gas abatement schemes and carbon taxes - all under the supervision of the world body.”

George Russell, Fox News, 27 March 2009
Reported in CCNet 48/2009

Submissions due by Wednesday 8 April 2009 to: climate.sen@aph.gov.au

1. *The Terms of Reference*

The main terms of reference for this Bill ignore all of the important unanswered questions:

- They promote the fallacy that carbon dioxide is a pollutant (it is not).
- They assume there are climate, energy, economic or environmental benefits of so called “low emission technologies” (there are not).
- They assume there will be a fair global agreement on controlling and taxing the consumption of carbon energy (this is highly unlikely).
- They assume there are benefits in subsidising “green collar jobs” (benefits for recipients, no benefits for consumers as a whole).
- They totally ignore the question of the one feasible low emission power source - nuclear power.

Moreover, the terms of reference totally ignore the two main questions that every Senator should ask before voting for this Bill:

1. Has there been an independent assessment of whether science supports the view that man’s production of carbon dioxide is having a significant and deleterious effect on earth’s climate?
2. Has there been an independent cost-benefit analysis of this Bill, done to the standard required by ASIC for any Australian corporation wishing to raise large amounts of money from the public?

These are ***The Two Fatal Flaws of the Cap-n-Tax Bill.***

Because of the above deficiencies in the terms of reference, most of this submission covers:

Reference (f) Any related matter

2. ***“The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Bill” - an Orwellian Lie.***

This Bill is not about carbon – carbon is a pure natural element found in nature either as soft graphite, which is the black stuff in your pencil, or as the beautiful gem, diamond, the hardest mineral on the planet.

This Bill is clearly *NOT* about **carbon** (graphite or diamonds).

The so called “carbon fuels” we burn are overwhelmingly natural organic hydro-carbons. When burnt, all hydro-carbons produce mainly the two totally harmless natural gases, water vapour and carbon dioxide.

Obsolete furnaces, dirty boilers and open fires can create real “carbon pollution” by releasing black sooty un-burnt carbon particles, but these are seldom produced in well designed boilers. Any that are produced can be easily caught and removed in the pollution control devices in modern power stations and furnaces. Burning of any natural hydrocarbon fuel will produce ash and some smoke, and can also produce other real pollutants such as oxides of sulphur and nitrogen and metallic compounds. These are all “pollution” and should be prevented from burdening our atmosphere.

But this Bill is *NOT* about real “pollution”.

This Bill is overwhelmingly about man’s production of **carbon dioxide**.

Carbon dioxide is a colourless non-toxic natural gas produced by burning any hydrocarbon fuel including wood, biomass, natural gas, coal, oil, ethanol or candles. It is also produced in the lungs of all animals, including the 6.8 billion humans on the globe.

To a lesser extent this Bill is also about man-made methane emissions, mainly escaping gases from coal mines, rotting waste products and domestic animals. Methane does not stay forever in the atmosphere but soon oxidises to benign CO₂.

So again this Bill is really not talking about carbon or pollution – it is about capping and taxing man’s production of carbon dioxide, the one measure that, more than any other, determines his standard of living.

The main effect of the Cap-n-Tax Bill will be raising government revenue. It will tax the poorest consumers of food and energy most heavily, but the income protected sector on the government payroll will be untouched. As they swan off to their monthly climate conference in hardship locations such as Rio, Kyoto, Bali, Brussels and Copenhagen their carbon footprint will not decline. And climate change will continue regardless of their endless communiqués.

The Cap-n-Tax Bill is a tax on consumption. We already have one – it is called the Goods and Services Tax.

One is enough. We do not need another.

The Essential Goal

"It is crystal clear that the answer is for the United States and other rich nations to change their lifestyles and their methods of production and consumption. We do not see any real evidence that they have grasped that issue properly yet."

*Surya Sethi, Indian Climate Change Negotiator, talking to Roger Harrabin, BBC News, 3 April 2009
Reported by CCnet 53/2009.*

Deceptive Advertising

“The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Bill” is grossly misnamed. It should be called “The Carbon Dioxide Cap and Tax Scheme Bill” or “The Cap-n-Tax Bill” for short. Its aim is to reduce our total consumption of all carbon fuels and animal foods, which can only be done in the short term (ie within the term of almost every current Member of Parliament) by reducing our per capita standard of living, or by reducing population.

The whole basis for the Bill rests on one flimsy theory and a lot of unproven computer models. The Senate must look at this theory and the performance of the models before gambling Australia’s future jobs and prosperity on a Will-o-the-Wisp theory and a few speculative models.

3. Two fatal flaws – the science and the economics

The Cap-n-Tax Bill as presented and defended has two fatal flaws which should prevent any diligent Senator from supporting it:

- Firstly the science is suspect. There has been no independent enquiry into the scientific evidence supporting the idea that capping man's production of carbon dioxide will have any beneficial effects on world climate. It is the clear responsibility of the House of Review to ensure such an independent enquiry is held before saddling Australia with a bill that could end up being more complex and more costly than both the income tax and the GST.
- Secondly, there is no report by independent experts into the likely costs and benefits. No private company would dare launch a prospectus with such financial impact without supporting cost-benefit reports and risk assessments. The economic deficiencies of this Bill have been fully outlined in our companion submission to the Senate Select Committee on Economics, "Scrap the Cap-n-Tax" which can be found at:

<http://carbon-sense.com/2009/03/25/cap-n-tax/>

This previous submission and the current one should be read together as an overall assessment of the two fatal flaws of the Cap-n-Tax Bill – the science and the economics.

4. The Theory of Man-made Global Warming

Let's reduce the Theory of Man-made Global Warming to its essential core of beliefs which are:

- The twentieth century has seen unusual global warming.
- The content of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is also rising to unusual levels.
- The rising levels of the so called Greenhouse Gases (GHG), carbon dioxide and methane, are the main causes of the rising temperatures.
- This increase in GHG levels is caused mainly by man's activities such as the burning of carbon based fuels (coal, oil and gas), and by bodily emissions from man's domesticated animals (for some reason human emissions are not talked about in genteel society).
- Unless man's production of GHG is reduced, global warming will reach a tipping point, leading to dangerous runaway heating.
- Many other factors are already being affected by man-made global warming, including rising sea levels, melting ice caps, threats to coral reefs, spread of disease and extreme weather events such as droughts and floods.
- Government caps and taxes can be used to reduce production of GHG and thus reduce global warming.
- The benefits of government action to reduce man's emissions of GHG clearly exceed the costs.
- Finally, there is side issue highlighted by the name of the proposed Act: "The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Bill", which snidely suggests that carbon dioxide is a pollutant.

Reduced to its bare essentials, the Cap-n-Tax Bill assumes:

1. Production of carbon dioxide, and to a lesser extent methane, caused by man's activities is likely to cause a global warming catastrophe.
2. It is urgent that the Australian government take action to force Australians to reduce production of carbon dioxide and methane.
3. The benefits of the proposed Bill exceed the costs.

The Senate Climate Change committee should look carefully at the likelihood that these statements and assumptions are true.

5. Was there anything unusual about the twentieth century warming?

We need to get a sense of perspective. Climate is always changing – that is what climate does, it changes - warming, cooling, freezing and warming again.

“One page of history is worth
a volume of logic.”

Oliver Wendell Holmes

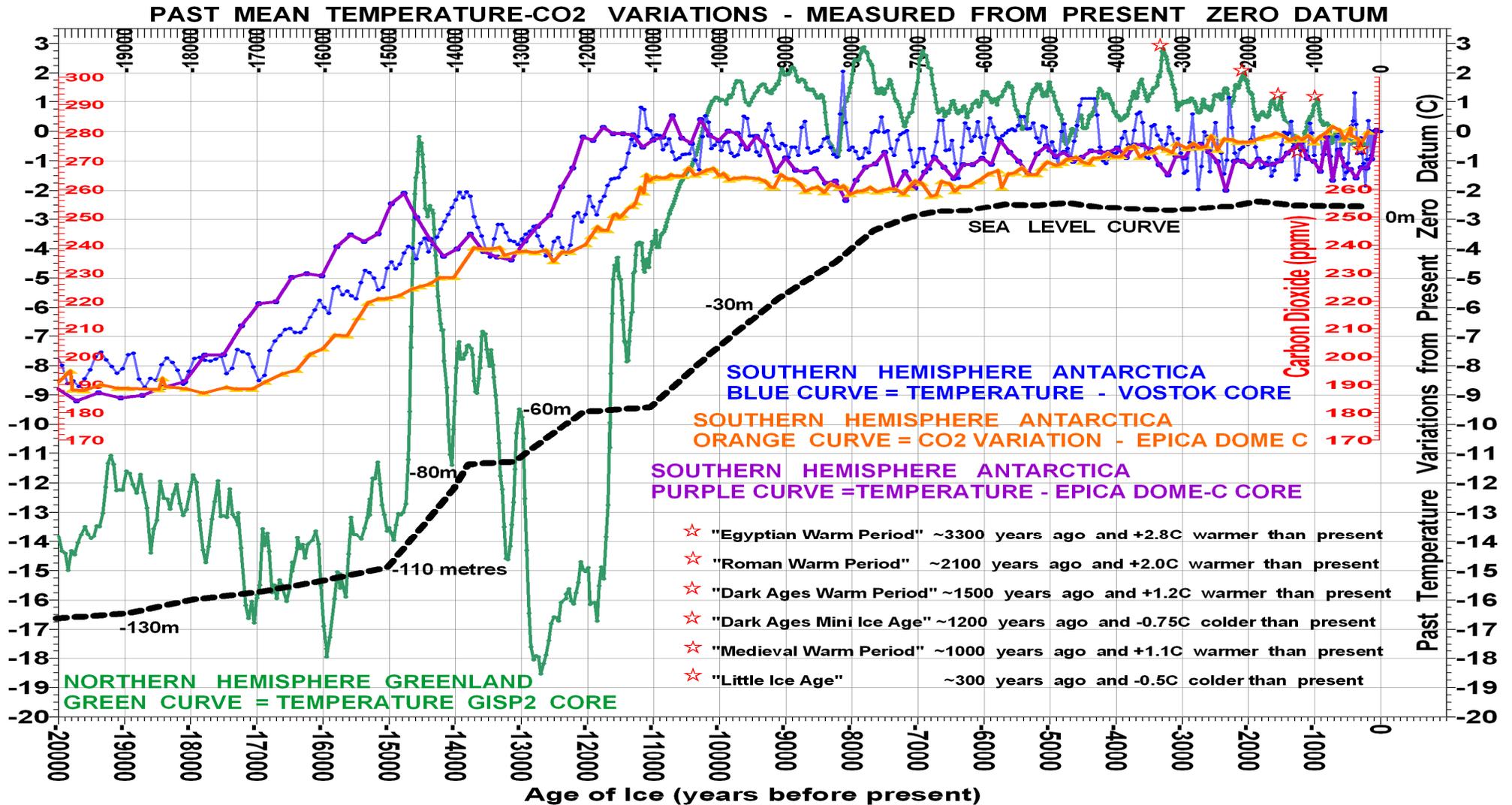
However the fact that climate is changing proves nothing about the cause. If a glacier is retreating the cause could be either a reduction in snowfall, increased atmospheric temperature, hot winds, increased solar radiation or underground heating related to subsurface volcanic or igneous activity. The fact of glacier retreat, or an ice sheet breaking up proves NOTHING WHATSOEVER about whether or not this is related to man's production of carbon dioxide. The massive ice sheets and glaciers of the last Ice Age started retreating and breaking up 15,000 years ago, long before the first coal was burnt in the first steam engine.

Figure 1 (below) puts recent climate changes in perspective.

This Figure shows some of what we know about climate changes on earth since the last big ice age. It was compiled by Guy LeBlanc Smith, a retired CSIRO Principal Research Scientist (geosciences - sedimentology). To read an article by Dr LeBlanc Smith see:

<http://carbon-sense.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/09/dispelling-delusions.pdf>

Figure 1.



Graphic Compilation: G. LeBlanc Smith, 2008, Rock Knowledge Services Pty Ltd, www.rockknowledge.com.au

DATA CITATION: Monnin, E., et al., 2004. EPICA Dome C Ice Core High Resolution Holocene and Transition CO2 Data. IGBP PAGES/World Data Center for Paleoclimatology Data Contribution Series # 2004-055. NOAA/NGDC Paleoclimatology Program, Boulder CO, USA.

DATA CITATION: Alley, R.B., 2004. GISP2 Ice Core Temperature and Accumulation Data. IGBP PAGES/World Data Center for Paleoclimatology Data Contribution Series #2004-013. NOAA/NGDC Paleoclimatology Program, Boulder CO, USA.

DATA CITATION: Fleming, K., Johnson, P., Zwartz, D., Yokoyama, Y., Lambeck, K., Chappell, J., 1998. Refining the eustatic sea-level curve since the Last Glacial Maximum using far- and intermediate-field sites. Earth and Planetary Science Letters 163, 327-342.

DATA CITATION: Jouzel, J., et al. 2004. EPICA Dome C Ice Cores Deuterium Data. IGBP PAGES/World Data Center for Paleoclimatology Data Contribution Series # 2004-038. NOAA/NGDC Paleoclimatology Program, Boulder CO, USA.

DATA CITATION: Petit, J.R., et al., 2001, Vostok Ice Core Data for 420,000 Years. IGBP PAGES/World Data Center for Paleoclimatology Data Contribution Series #2001-076. NOAA/NGDC Paleoclimatology Program, Boulder CO, USA.

The recent climate history of the earth as summarised in Figure 1 shows:

- 20,000 years ago earth was gripped in a mantle of ice. It started emerging from the ice about 17,000 years ago, had a relapse for about 1,500 years, and finally started warming significantly about 11,500 years ago. By 9,000 years ago, average temperature was higher than it is at present. As a result of the warming, sea levels, temperatures and CO₂ levels all rose dramatically. Man's production of CO₂ had nothing whatsoever to do with these dramatic climate changes.
- For the last 10,000 years, earth's climate has been relatively stable, and today's temperature is about the average for this period.
- Carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere have been rising steadily for about 7,000 years. Man had nothing to do with most of this rise, so it must be natural – mainly degassing of the oceans, volcanic emissions and the ebb and flow between oxygen and carbon dioxide from various life forms. (The oceans hold an enormous storehouse of CO₂ and release this slowly **after** temperatures rise.)
- Sea levels rose dramatically by about 100 metres over 8,000 years as earth temperatures rose and the ice sheets melted. This period of very rapidly rising temperatures and melting ice produced an average rate of sea level rise of 1.25 metres per century. But for the last 7,000 years sea levels have been relatively stable. There is nothing unusual or alarming about current changes in sea levels. However, despite numerous measurements showing largely stable sea levels, Al Gore warns about rises of 6 metres by 2100 – this is what Christopher Booker described recently as “the greatest lie ever told”.
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/5067351/Rise-of-sea-levels-is-the-greatest-lie-ever-told.html>
- There have been several periods over the last 9,000 years when earth's temperatures were higher than today. All of these periods were times of progress and plenty for the human race and all life on earth. The regular ice ages, however, extinguished much life and caused famine, hardship and forced migration for survivors.
- There is no example in this or any previous climate era where, despite levels of CO₂ far higher than in recent times, temperatures reached a run-away point that threatened life. This suggests that there are natural heat stabilisers that prevent the earth from warming much above current levels.
- Right now, the earth is still emerging from the Little Ice Age which bottomed out in about AD1700. This was a terrible time for life on earth with aggressive glacier advance, famine, starvation and plagues. Naturally the recent temperature trend is up, or we would still be in the Little Ice Age or worse, and many of us would not be here. Yet the temperature now is still well below the temperatures of the Medieval Warm Period and several other recent warm eras. Warm eras and frigid eras will come and go as they always have no matter what alarmist media releases are issued weekly by IPCC, the World Wildlife Fund, Oxfam or Greenpeace.

Earth temperatures for the last 2,000 years are shown below in Figure 2.

Figure 2.

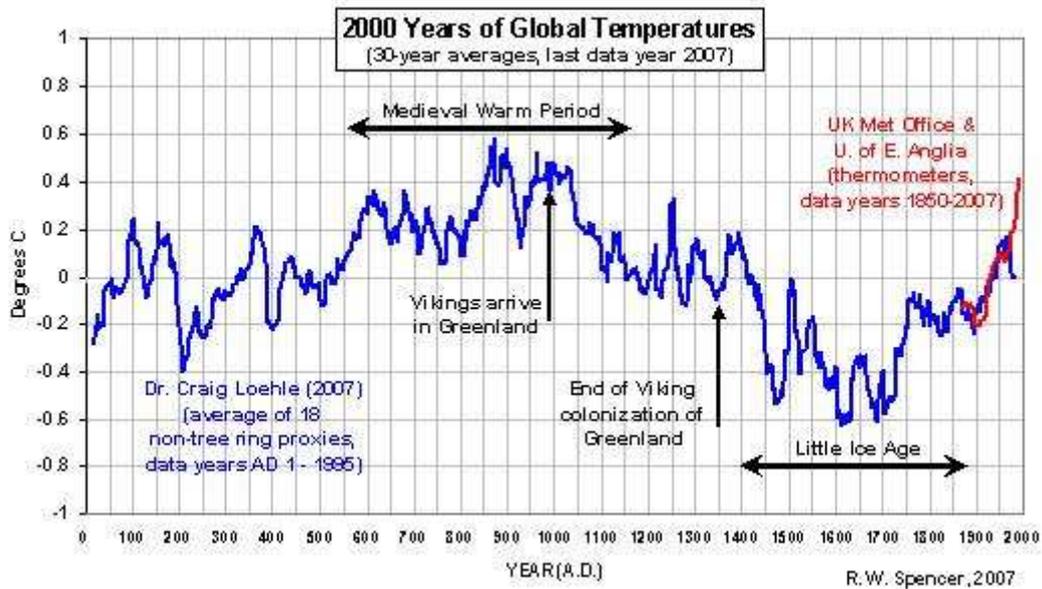


Fig.2. Global average temperature reconstruction based upon 18 temperature proxies for the period 1 A.D. to 1995, combined with the thermometer-based dataset from the UK Met Office and University of East Anglia, covering the period 1850 to 2000. Note that for both datasets each data point represents a 30-year average. This figure is taken with acknowledgement from Roy Spencer's very informative article entitled "Global Warming and Nature's Thermostat". Note also, as Roy Spencer says, this graph does not purport to be a forecast. For more reports by Dr Spencer see: www.drroyspencer.com

It is very clear that current levels and trends in temperature and CO₂ are not unusual, not alarming, and probably had very little to do with man's production of carbon dioxide.

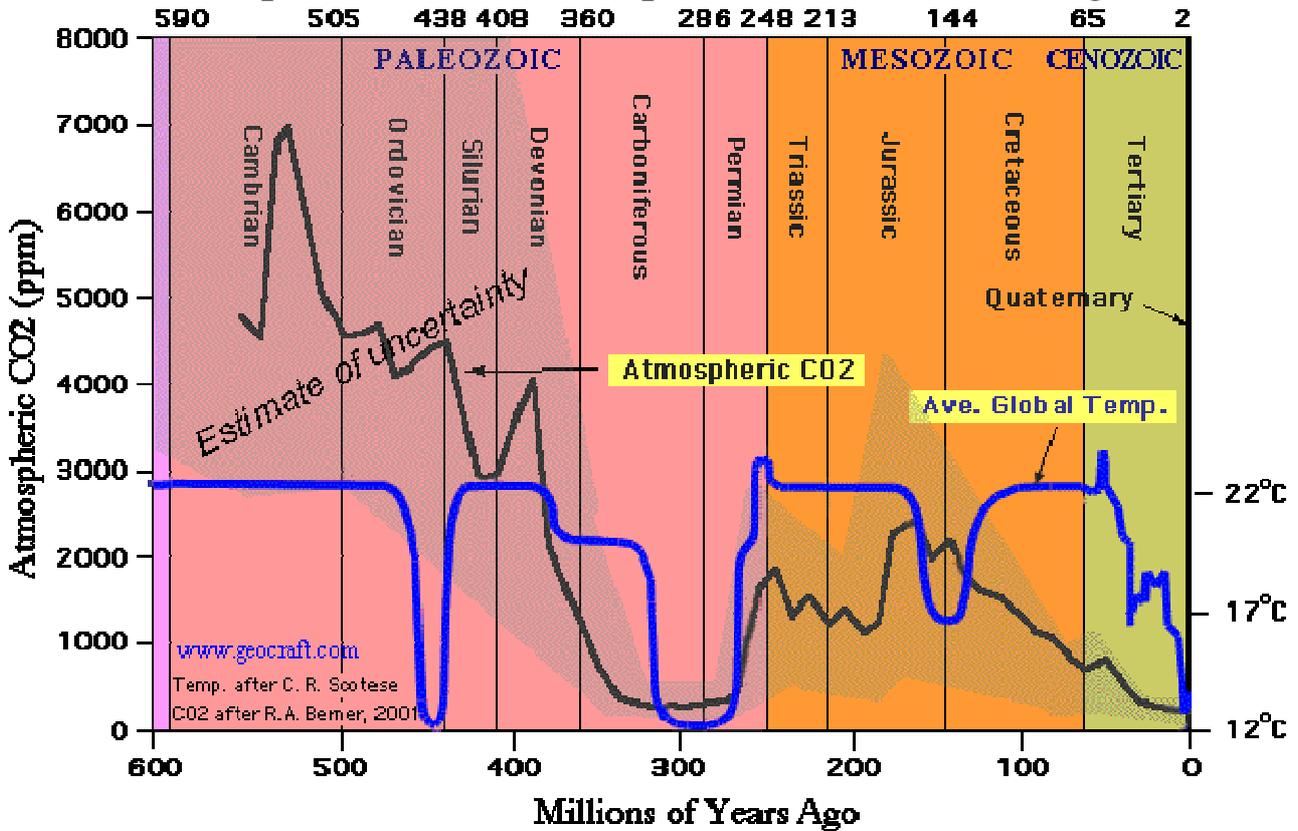
6. Is the current content of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere extreme, or of concern?

Climate has always changed since the beginning of the earth. The record of these changes is written in the sedimentary rock layers, in the fossil record, in stalactites, in ice cores, in tree rings, in the layers in the ice sheets and even in ancient texts or paintings. The story that emerges is the same as that concerning the last 20,000 years – there is NOTHING unusual or extreme about today's temperature or CO₂ levels – it has all happened before.

It is also clear that life developed and flourished on earth mainly during times when CO₂ levels were about 4 times as high as they are today. The only times when CO₂ was as low as today was during the Carboniferous Era when the great coal forests were probably removing vast quantities of CO₂ from the atmosphere. Today's CO₂ levels are in fact just above the levels at which plants start to starve from lack of CO₂ (plant growth largely stops at 200 ppm).

Figure 3

Global Temperature and Atmospheric CO₂ over Geologic Time



Late Carboniferous to Early Permian time (315 mya -- 270 mya) is the only time period in the last 600 million years when both atmospheric CO₂ and temperatures were as low as they are today.

Source: www.geocraft.com/WVFossils/Carboniferous_climate.html

Temperature after C.R. Scotese <http://www.scotese.com/climate.htm>

CO₂ after R.A. Berner, 2001 (GEOCARB III)

7. Are “Greenhouse Gases” causing rising world temperatures?

The whole global warming theory rests on the belief that certain gases, mainly carbon dioxide, act like a “roof” to trap heat within the atmosphere. Like “carbon pollution” this too is based on false foundations.

A real greenhouse has a fixed glass roof that prevents the heated air from rising. That prevents convection from taking the heated air aloft where its heat is dissipated into the upper atmosphere or radiated to space. The earth has no such roof. Convection is allowed to function fully. There is no proof whatsoever that the tiny trace of CO₂ in the atmosphere causes a major or even a measurable effect on temperature via its radiation properties (for every 2,500 gas molecules in the atmosphere, there is just one of carbon dioxide).

The Greenhouse Gas Warming Theory also largely ignores the huge part played by water in all of its forms to stabilise earth's temperature:

- 70% the earth's surface is water. Should increased radiation from the sun or anywhere else warm this water, evaporation will increase. This is a powerful force for transferring heat from the oceans to the atmosphere. As the warm moist air rises, it cools, the moisture condenses, releases its heat and falls to the surface again somewhere, providing more surface cooling. Some of the heat released aloft may find its way back to the surface via radiation from clouds, but much is lost to space in the same way.
- Some of the large quantity of water taken into the atmosphere by the sun's heat forms clouds, which play a far greater role than could a trace quantity of invisible carbon dioxide gas. Generally clouds have a cooling effect as they reflect the sun's heat. This effect is reversed at night as clouds tend to reflect and retain escaping surface heat. Overall, the daytime cooling is greater than heat retention at night, so more clouds produce more cooling.
- Increased evaporation often results in heavier snowfalls. If the winter snow is so heavy that it does not all melt in summer, this albedo effect (surface reflection of the sun's heat, especially from white surfaces like snow) can have a very large cooling effect.
- The restless oceans themselves are huge controllers of weather and climate. Farmers and weather forecasters do not watch avidly for the daily, weekly or monthly announcements of the carbon dioxide content of the air. They watch the Pacific Oscillation Index, the convection currents and pressure gradients in the atmosphere, and the moon's tidal effects on the oceans and the atmosphere. On a longer time scale they watch the sun spot cycles.
- Water vapour is also a so-called greenhouse gas, and far more abundant and effective than carbon dioxide. Its effectiveness is demonstrated in desert regions at night. The very low water content of the air (and lack of clouds) allows rapid cooling at night which ever-present carbon dioxide is powerless to stop. Water vapour in the air also helps to keep coastal areas warmer at night whereas drier inland areas cool quickly despite the CO₂ in both areas.

Water vapour is a major component of the emissions from every power station or engine powered by hydrocarbons such as petrol, diesel, fuel oil, natural gas, brown coal or black coal. It is also the visible vapour shown regularly on TV as an example of power station "pollution". Should we thus have a "Water Pollution Reduction Scheme" to cap and tax water vapour released from power stations? It makes as much sense as the carbon dioxide Cap-n-Tax Bill.

It is impossible to conduct experiments in the atmosphere that hold all these important variables constant while varying the CO₂ content. Therefore there is no proof of the global warming theory.

As DuPree Moore says in CCNet 51/2009:

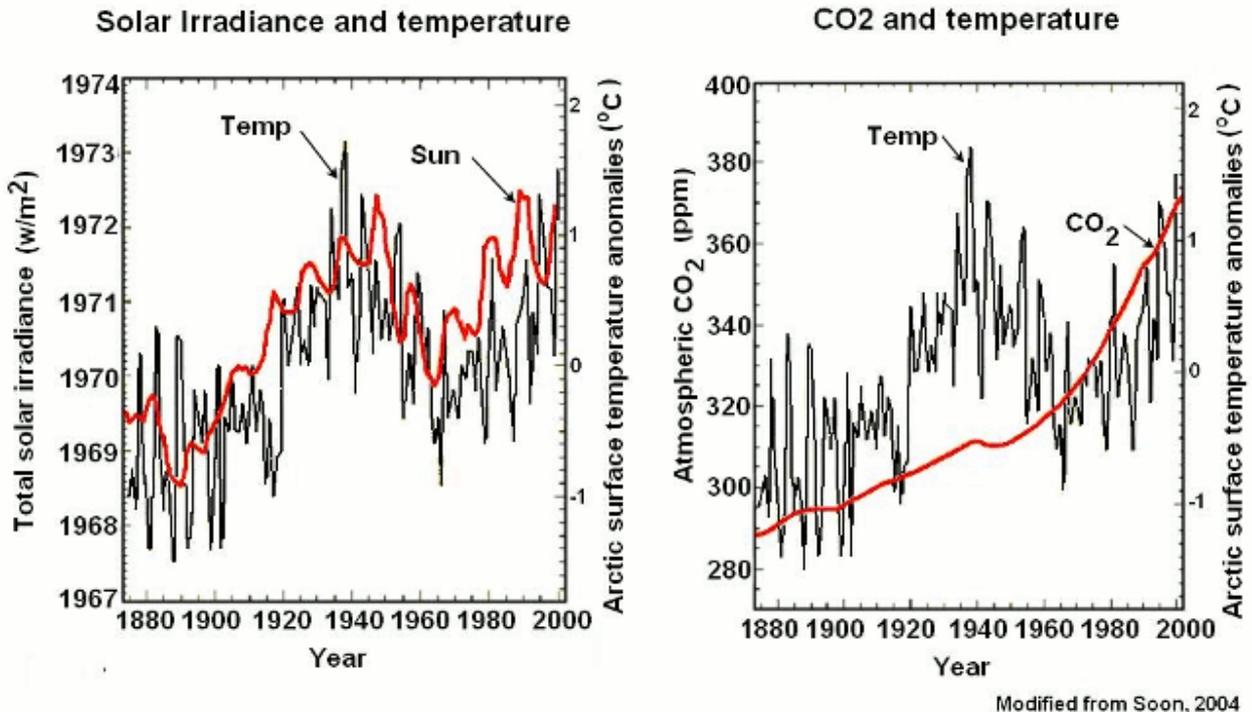
"The only evidence we have or can have is the historical climate record. That record shows no causal correlation between CO₂ and temperature. The statement is true on every time scale - millennia, centuries, or decades. For five of the last seven decades, temperature has decreased while CO₂ increased. Most of the warming for the 20th century occurred before 1940; most of the increase in CO₂ occurred after 1940. A well-trained 12-year-old could win this debate."

Here is a record of both CO₂ and earth's temperature over the past century:

Figure 4.

NO Correlation between CO₂ & Global Climate.

Excellent Correlation between Solar Variations and Global Climate.



These graphs appeared in a paper delivered by Don Easterbrook to the recent Heartland Conference in New York attended by sceptical scientists and observers from all over the world:

http://www.heartland.org/bin/media/newyork09/PowerPoint/Don_Easterbrook.ppt

The above graphs make it clear where most of the explanation for fluctuations in temperature probably lies.

Correlation does not prove causation, but lack of correlation does disprove causation. And in this regard Don Easterbrook says:

"96% of global warming periods in the past 500 years have no correlation with CO₂".

8. Are man's activities the main contributors to greenhouse gases in the atmosphere?

Nature releases large but unmeasured quantities of carbon dioxide from the vast reservoirs dissolved in the rivers, lakes, seas and oceans, from erupting volcanoes on land and beneath the oceans, from rotting vegetation and swamps, from fires lit by lightning and from natural gas (methane) seeps. Any estimates of natural emissions of CO₂ are little better than wild guesses.

There are also very large and unmeasured natural emissions of methane from huge natural deposits of methane hydrate beneath the seas, from gas seeps on land and beneath the seas and from oceans, swamps, volcanoes, termites and wild grazing animals.

Animal emissions have probably not changed much since the vast herds of bison, wildebeests, caribou, reindeer, antelope, wild pigs, sheep, goats and other wild animals were replaced by domesticated cattle, sheep, goats and pigs. There is no reason to even consider their effect on climate or CO₂/methane in the atmosphere. They have always been putting it there and grasses, scrub, trees, crops, algae and the oceans have always been removing it. It is a never ending recycling of carbon compounds on which all life depends.

No one has been able to estimate the total contribution of nature to the carbon dioxide and methane in earth's atmosphere, but the following will give a clue:

1. Vegetation and soils probably contain about 2,300 billion tonnes (bt) of carbon and emit about 120 bt of carbon in carbon dioxide every year. The biosphere absorbs CO₂ in summer as plants grow and emits much of it again next winter as the leaves die, fall and rot.
2. Oceans probably contain about 38,000 bt of carbon and exchange about 100 bt every year as surface temperatures and currents change.
3. Compared to the above, man's production of CO₂ and methane is just 7 bt per year. (This estimate is probably skewed in the alarmist direction because it includes grazing animals but does not deduct extractions by the plants they eat.) Moreover man's production of CO₂ and methane can be estimated much more accurately than can nature's diverse and irregular emissions. This is because we can count power stations, coal mines, oil refineries and grazing stock. But it is hard to know what the thousands of undersea volcanoes are doing. We also have difficulty metering gaseous outputs from erupting land volcanoes – we just stand well away and watch in awe as the gas and ash clouds mount to the stratosphere.



Mt. St. Helens, located about 50 miles north of Portland, Oregon. In 1980, the mountain literally blew its top and in one day, lost more than 1,000 feet of elevation.

Photo: USGS from: <http://blog.wired.com/wiredscience/2009/03/volcanopics.html>

4. On the shores of the Caspian Sea, in Azerbaijan, there are hundreds of mud volcanoes, many emitting methane and water almost continuously. Alan Judd reports:

"There are about 1,000 mud volcanoes on land and 5,500 offshore — mostly in deep water. Activity varies between gentle emissions and violent eruptions accompanied by the release of enormous volumes of gas — mainly (85%+) methane and carbon dioxide. Global gas emissions are provisionally estimated to exceed 27 billion cubic metres per year, of which more than 23 billion (15.8 Tg) is methane."

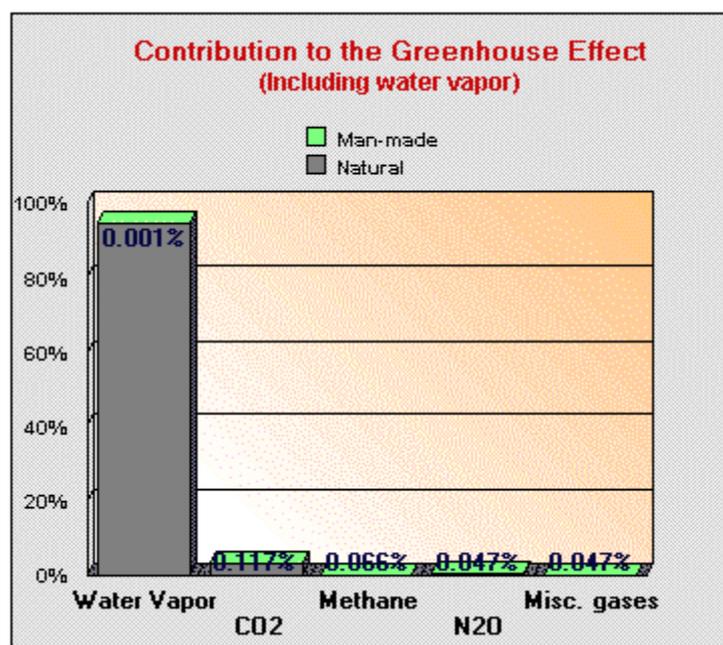
5. "About 1,000 methane seepages have been recorded from the bottom of the Black Sea. A colossal volume of methane is held in solution in the cold deep waters of the Black Sea".
6. A fault zone in Turkey shows evidence of methane leakage over a length of over 2,000 km.
7. The Great Artesian Basin in Australia has thousands of natural mound springs, which have flowed water, and probably gases such as CO₂, methane and rotten egg gas (H₂S) for thousands of years.
8. Volcanoes on land and beneath the sea emit large and unmeasurable quantities of CO₂ and methane, plus various oxides of sulphur and nitrogen.

Sources of the above:

- 1, 2, 3 - from: Evans, Ray, 2008, "Thank God for Carbon", p7. The Lavoisier Group.
- 4, 5, 6 – from Endersbee, Lance, 2005 "A Voyage of Discovery".
- 4 quote from Judd, Alan, 2003 "Mud Volcanoes, Geodynamics and Seismicity", NATO Advanced Research Workshop on Mud Volcanism, Geodynamics and Seismicity Baku, Azerbaijan.

Because of the great difficulty in measuring man's contribution to the annual addition of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere, there are few credible estimates. Here is one:

Figure 5.



Source:- http://www.geocraft.com/WVFossils/greenhouse_data.html

By:- [Monte Hieb](mailto:mhieb79@geocraft.com) (mhieb79@geocraft.com)

Last revised: January 10, 2003

9. Is earth climate likely to reach a global warming “tipping point” which will devastate life on earth?

There is no evidence anywhere (except in unsubstantiated computer models of the climate) that indicate any reason for concern that earth is an unstable system with no capacity to stabilise or correct for variations in temperature or CO₂. However, there is abundant evidence from geological history that earth does have climate stabilisers (negative feedbacks) that prevent warming crises. If the climate system was prone to irrecoverable instability, it would have happened long ago. Figure 3 shows that earth has cooled from higher temperatures and far higher levels of CO₂ than exist at present.

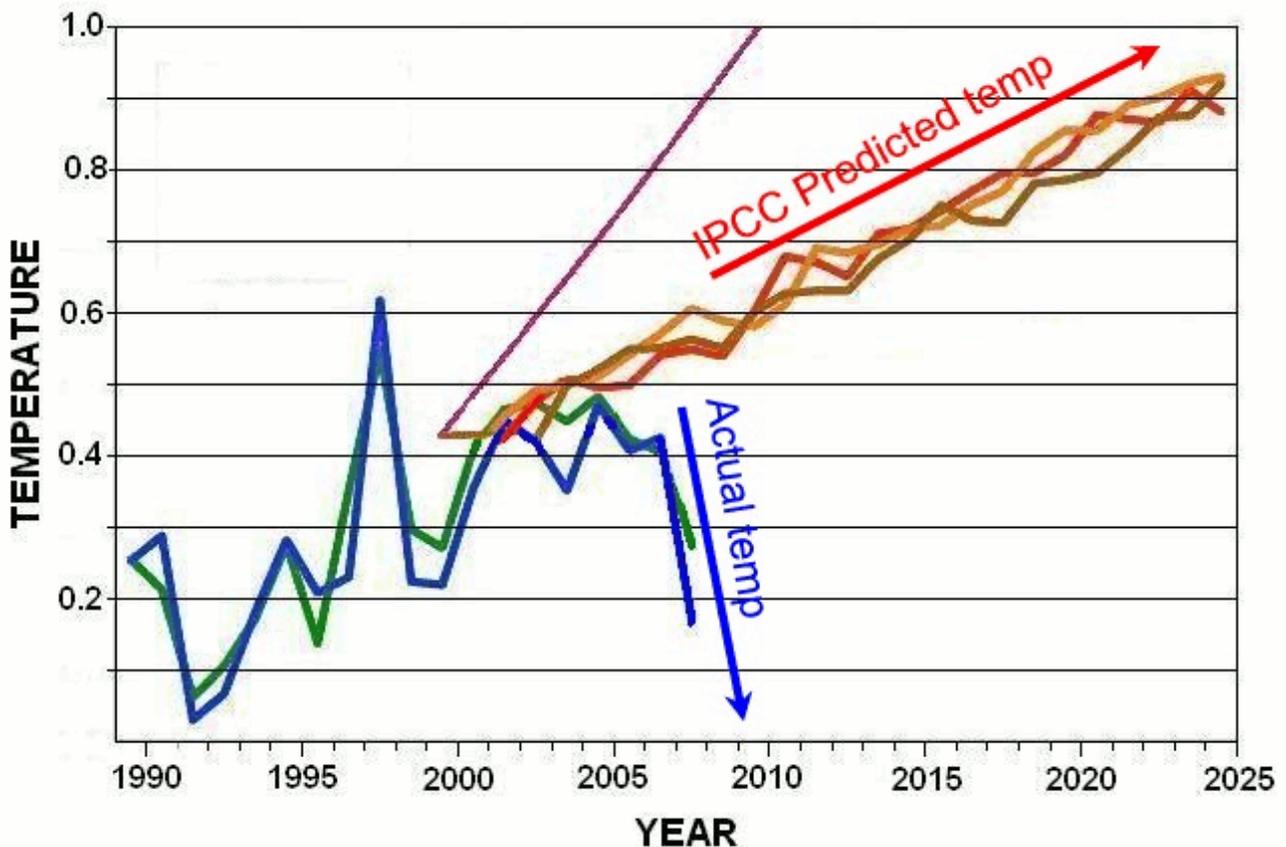
“To the consternation of global warming proponents, the Late Ordovician Period was also an Ice Age while at the same time CO₂ concentrations then were nearly 12 times higher than today-- 4400 ppm.”

Source: www.geocraft.com/WVFossils/Carboniferous_climate.html

The only places which show evidence of runaway global warming are the discredited computer models, trend projections and forecasts of the IPCC. For example:

Figure 6.

IPCC Model Predictions vs Actual Temperature



(The purple line is an extension of the latest warming trend that ended in about 1998. Like all trends, that one came to a sudden halt.)

Source: A paper delivered by Don Easterbrook to the recent Heartland Conference:

http://www.heartland.org/bin/media/newyork09/PowerPoint/Don_Easterbrook.ppt

10. Is it likely that the Cap-n-Tax Bill will reduce earth's temperature by any measurable amount?

The small theoretical calculation below indicates that cutting Australian production of greenhouse gases (GHG) will have no effect whatsoever on global temperatures:

- The whole of the 20th Century produced global warming of about 0.6°C.
- Let's assume, generously, that 50% of this rise was due to increasing GHG.
- Even Al Gore acknowledges that water vapour produces 95% of whatever warming effect there may be in the greenhouse gases (US Senate testimony). Therefore, at a maximum, rising GHG could have caused an increase of 5% of 50% of 0.6°C or 0.015°C, a rise so minute it would be unmeasurable on any ordinary thermometer.
- However, there is more.
- Assume, very generously, that humans caused 100% of the increase in GHG last century.

Australia contributed about 1.5% of the human contribution.

Therefore during a whole century of rising industrialisation and energy consumption, Australian production of GHG may have contributed to a rise in global temperatures of: 1.5% of 5% of 50% of 0.6°C, or nothing that anyone could notice or measure. That is a gauge of the maximum effect we could expect from the Cap-n-Tax Bill on earth's temperature.

11. Is carbon dioxide a pollutant or a beneficial natural gas of life?

Carbon dioxide is the essential feedstock for all life on earth. All plants feed off this aerial fertiliser and all animals are dependent on plants. Plants cannot distinguish between CO₂ that was emitted by a human lung, or belched out by a volcano, or arose from rotting vegetation, or emerged from a wood fire or a coke oven – every source is gratefully accepted and every increase in CO₂ improves plant growth.

Carbon Dioxide - so important, so little of it.

“The fundamental reason why carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is critically important to biology is that there is so little of it. A field of corn growing in full sunlight in the middle of the day uses up all the carbon dioxide within a meter of the ground in about five minutes. If the air were not constantly stirred by convection currents and winds, the corn would stop growing..”

Freeman Dyson, (2007) Professor of Physics, Princeton University

For more details on the beneficial properties of carbon dioxide see:

<http://www.nzcp.com/soapbox.htm#RobertC>

And: Evans, Ray, 2008, “Thank God for Carbon”, The Lavoisier Group.

It is thus surely a bit of Orwellian dishonesty to label this harmless, colourless, essential food for all life a “pollutant”. Those who propose to bury it or otherwise try to remove it from the bio-sphere must have a death wish for all life including our own.

Those who falsely and mischievously label carbon dioxide as a pollutant are condemning humans as well. Human lungs today take in 0.038% of CO₂ in every inhalation, but every exhalation has about 3.6% CO₂. Human lungs are thus responsible for increasing CO₂ “pollution” levels by 100 times. On this basis, crowded nightclubs and the Members Bar in Parliament House should be labelled as “toxic sites”.

“Carbon Dioxide Pollution” - THE BIG LIE.

“Make the lie big, make it simple, keep saying it, and eventually they will believe it.”

Adolf Hitler

12. Are the benefits of the Cap-n-Tax Bill likely to exceed the costs?

The government is relying on reports such as those by Stern and Garnaut to justify proceeding with this Bill. There is a large and consistent bias in both of these reports:

- Scare stories of drought, floods, hurricanes, heat waves, fires, disease, species extinction and coral destruction are continually proffered as reasons for immediate action. However on close and rational examination, there is no evidence that rising levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere are the cause of, or will increase, any of these problems.
- Many costs of global warming are detailed but few benefits are even considered. Many people will consider warming, if it occurs, to be beneficial. The growing season for plants and crops will increase; plant species will expand their growing range into areas that were previously too cold; frosts will be less severe, snow storms and blizzards will be less destructive and less frequent; energy bills for heating will be reduced; overall evaporation from the oceans will increase, thus providing for an increase in world precipitation; ice bound sea lanes and mountain passes may be opened again; farmlands frozen for centuries will become arable again; and the threat of surging glaciers will be removed from some mountain villages.

Just a glance at a world map of population densities shows what climate most people prefer – they tend to crowd towards the warmth of equatorial areas – despite the modern worship of ice sheets and polar bears, few people choose to live in the frigid zones.

- There are very considerable benefits to result from an increase in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Plant growth everywhere, on land and in the oceans, will increase. Most people would prefer a green, verdant, bounteous earth to a frozen wasteland. Increased CO₂ also increases the ability of plants to cope with drought, cold or heat, thus allowing increased food production without needing more water, more land or more fertiliser. These are the considerable benefits of allowing the CO₂ content of the atmosphere to rise towards the optimum level for life (probably about 1,500 ppm of CO₂).

- Finally, as explained in our companion submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Economics, both Stern and Garnaut use discount rates that effectively sacrifice the wealth and assets of all of the current generation for dubious benefits that may accrue to some of the people in some future generation, many decades ahead. Such sacrifice is a matter for individual choice, not government enforcement.

This Cap-n-Tax Bill will also force all consumers and many shareholders to contribute massive funds to government officials who will consume a significant part of it and redirect the rest to favoured causes and consumers.

Were a private company to propose raising such large funds from the public, it would be required to prepare a detailed prospectus outlining independent reports on the likely costs, benefits and risks for shareholders. No less should be required for this proposal which aims to conscript huge funds from every consumer.

At a time when governments everywhere are insisting on more transparency and higher standards of financial disclosure, they should set a higher standard for what could turn into the biggest financial upheaval Australia has ever seen.

It is not the job of commentators such as us to provide a full cost benefit analysis and economic justification for this proposal. We rely on the Senate House of Review to insist such justification be prepared to ASIC standards and released to the public for comment.

“Still Counting the Costs”.

“When President Obama released his budget plan three weeks ago, it included a whopping \$1.6 trillion in new taxes including a \$646 billion cap and trade tax.

“But it turns out the Administration's budget did not reveal the entire truth.

“A top White House aide told Senate staffers that the cap and trade tax would be much higher than the initially reported \$646 billion. In fact, Jason Furman, the deputy director of the National Economic Council, told Senate staffers the tax would cost American taxpayers between \$1.3 trillion and \$1.9 trillion.” *(Just a minor estimating error of about 250%).*

Institute for Energy Research, 19 March 2009. Reported in CNet 45/2009
<http://www.instituteforenergyresearch.org/2009/03/19/the-size-of-president-obamas-massive-energy-tax-grows/>

13. Should the Senate pass the Cap-n-tax Bill?

The Cap-n-Tax Bill can only be supported if there is some basis to the theory of man-made Global warming. To assess this needs a logical sequence of questions to be answered and decision points to be passed.

To assist in this process, we have prepared the following decision tree:

Figure 7, although light-hearted, conveys some serious messages:

- Firstly, if the answer to ANY ONE of the boxed questions is “NO”, there is no justification for Australia rushing ahead with its Cap-n-Tax Bill.
- Secondly, it is unlikely that any even handed and informed observer of the Global Warming arguments could answer “Yes” to many of the above boxed questions.
- Finally, the Cap-n-Tax Maze can also be used to indicate the risks that premature introduction of the Bill will prove to have been a very costly mistake. Even if it were conceded that there was a 60% chance that EACH ONE of the above questions has a yes answer, there is only a 5% chance that all questions will have a “Yes” answer. (In reality, we believe that NONE of the boxed questions is likely to have a “Yes” answer, so the chances of all questions being “Yes” are far too low for even politicians to bet the house on.)

14. Conclusions.

This brief review, and extensive reading and research by members and supporters of the Carbon Sense Coalition, leads us to the following conclusions:

1. This enquiry itself is deficient in that the terms of reference largely ignore the two fatal flaws of the Cap-n-Tax Bill.

Firstly, there is no Independent Scientific Review into whether there is justification for the belief that massive cuts in man's production of carbon dioxide will have a meaningful effect on global warming. Just because the IPCC and other interested bodies make increasingly shrill claims each month does not mean there is any basis to them. There is clearly no scientific basis for selecting targets such as 20%, 40%, 50% or 90% by 2020, 2050 or “100% by the next dreamtime”.

Secondly, there is no competent independent Economic Impact Statement containing a full assessment of costs and benefits of the Cap-n-Tax Bill. At a time when governments everywhere are insisting on more transparency and higher standards of financial disclosure, they should set a higher standard before forcing Australia to make such a huge and risky financial investment on such a flimsy scientific basis.

A prospectus which virtually says “Trust us and the IPCC” is not good enough.

2. The Bill stands condemned from the title page on for deceptive advertising. It is not about “carbon” or about “pollution” – it is mainly about using a complex of energy taxes and quotas to introduce a consumption tax on energy and food as well as using international agreements to equalise world living standards and to bribe the green voting blocks.
3. There is no evidence that cutting man's production of carbon dioxide will have beneficial climate effects. But there is a large body of evidence that shows that current levels of temperature and carbon dioxide are in no way extreme or concerning. Climate is always changing, and will continue to do so no matter what humans do.

Man thinks he is a heavy hitter, but “Nature bats last”.

4. There are many benefits for life on earth if the atmosphere is warmer and contains more aerial plant food, carbon dioxide. These benefits are never considered in the alarmist balance sheet of costs and benefits. It is the cold, dry, carbon deficient eras we have to fear.
5. A decision tree listing the conditions precedent for justification of the Cap-n-tax Bill shows clearly that it is unlikely that the Senate could justify passing this Bill (see Figure 7). Even a very optimistic assessment shows that passage of such a bill would be very risky.
6. Finally, as Fred Singer reports in his summary of the voluminous and authoritative report by the Non-government International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC):

“Nature – Not Human Activity – Rules the Climate”

http://www.sepp.org/publications/NIPCC_final.pdf

Note: This submission should be read in conjunction with its companion submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Economics, entitled “Scrap the Cap-n-Tax”.

<http://carbon-sense.com/2009/03/25/cap-n-tax/>

Recommendations.

1. The Senate must reject the “Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Bill” on the basis of its “Two Fatal Flaws” – the science and the economics. It is not supported by independent scientific assessment, nor does it present any credible cost benefit analysis.

Moreover, at a time when politicians are calling for better financial disclosure and discipline, this Bill is alarming in its deceptive advertising, shows contempt for good practice by omitting independent expert reports, and stands condemned for failure to disclose the numerous vested interests supporting its claims.

2. The Bill should also be rejected for promoting the risky and repugnant idea that Australia can or should lead the world into universal acceptance of a massive program of wealth distribution administered by bodies such as the United Nations.

This shows a lack of appreciation of the fact that popular opinion all over the world is turning strongly against the global warming hysteria, and many significant industrial nations such as China, India, Brazil and Russia are motivated solely by what they see will promote their own national interest and industrial strength.

3. Finally the Bill should be rejected because of the naivety of people who tell us that a nation which generates 90% of its electricity from coal, and which also prohibits nuclear power, can maintain energy supplies for its people while cutting per capita production of carbon dioxide by 30% over the next decade or so. This cannot be done without either significant cuts in living standards or reduced population.
4. However, the Carbon Sense Coalition supports every initiative to reduce pollution of land, air or water. We also support energy conservation, and oppose any subsidies that encourage waste and overuse of any energy type.

However neither of these worthy goals have anything to do with the effect of carbon dioxide on global warming. Unproven climate scares should not be used to promote secret agendas to introduce massive new consumption taxes on top of the rash of taxes already there such as Goods and Services Tax, Income Tax, Payroll Tax, Coal and Oil Royalties, petrol excise, vehicle and stock levies and so on.

The Carbon Sense Coalition is happy to appear before the Standing Committee to answer questions, provide explanations or produce more evidence for any of the claims made.

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Chairman

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This submission was prepared by individual members of the Carbon Sense Coalition on their own initiative with no inducements or policy directions from any other groups. Many Coalition members are tax payers, shareholders and consumers in interests likely to be affected by this Scheme. They declare a vested interest in ensuring that the backbone industries of Australia are not savaged by this ill timed and poorly designed initiative. They fear for the costs and capacity of the future electricity generating system and for the future for real jobs for their kids and grandkids.