

Scientists say we must act now on climate change.

Failure is not an option!

Climatic changes are happening much faster than earlier scientific reports predicted. Indeed, 2,500 of the world's top climate experts now agree that the rate of climate change will continue to accelerate unless we act meaningfully at once. In fact, many top climate experts say we've now actually stepped across a climatic threshold from which there is no return.

In other words, because we've left it too late to avert considerable wide spread human suffering and the tragic loss of countless lives, we can now only hope to minimise the pain.

With 20 percent of the estimated 300 million species on this planet already destroyed by man we are continuing to kill off the biosphere (on which we too depend) at an alarming rate and if we don't halt the environmental madness, we too will perish, because after all, whether we like it or not, we are just animals who's survival depends upon all the other creatures who make up the complex web of life.

Combating Global Warming Requires a Worldwide Call to Arms

This view, expressed in "Climate Change; Your Liferaft to Prosperity and Survival" (see: <http://www.upthem.org/books>)

has since been echoed by David Spratt and co-author Philip Sutton in their excellent scientific work, "Climate Code Red."

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"Serious climate change impacts are already happening, more rapidly and at lower global temperature increases than projected. As the USA's most eminent climate scientist, James Hansen, told 15,000 of his colleagues at a conference in December 2007, significant climate 'tipping points' have already been passed. These include large ice-sheet disintegration, significant sea level rises of up to five metres this century, and devastating species loss. The Arctic will soon be free of summer sea-ice - a century ahead of projections by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - and the Greenland ice sheet is in imminent danger.

The tipping point for the loss of the Arctic sea-ice was around two decades ago, when temperatures were about 0.3°C lower than at present. Climate Code Red shows that further temperature increases of 2 degrees are effectively already in the system. Even a temperature increase cap of 2-2.4°C, which is proposed within the United Nations framework (and is far below what most governments are prepared to aim for), would take the planet's climate beyond the temperature range of the last million years.

"David Spratt and Philip Sutton show that the unofficial projected speed of climate change - with temperature increases greater than 0.3°C per decade, and a consequent rapid shifting of climatic zones - will result in most ecosystems failing to adapt, causing the extinction of many species. The oceans will become more acidic, endangering much marine life.

"The dangers we all face are already much greater than the headlines indicate. According to climate scientists such as James Hansen, it is no longer a case of how much more we can 'safely' emit, but whether we can stop emissions and produce a deliberate cooling before the earth's climate system reaches a runaway trajectory that is beyond any hope of human restoration.

"These imperatives are incompatible with 'politics as usual' and 'business as usual'. Climate Code Red argues there is an urgent need for all of us to recognise that we face a sustainability emergency requiring a clear break from the politics of failure-inducing compromise. Even scientifically moderate goals (such as reducing emissions by 25-40 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020) now require immoderate rates of technical and social change that are only achievable by shifting formally to an emergency footing.

Spratt and Sutton believe we now need to think the unthinkable, because the case for emergency action is not so much a radical idea as an indispensable course we must embark upon if we are to return to a safe-climate planet."

So bad is the climate crisis, that Spratt and Sutton assert the entire world needs to place itself on a war footing and actually implement measures to not only halt CO2 emissions but begin cooling the planet!

While the pain of industry bankruptcies, mortgage foreclosures and job loss is very real in the hardships inflicted upon those most affected, we cannot afford to drop the ball when it comes to climate change. Indeed, the suffering we are now experiencing as a consequence of corporate greed, and the undoubted lack of appropriate checks and balances on lending, will seem insignificant compared with the prognosis of many of the world's top scientists, should we fail to heed their warnings.

Labor needs to lead the way, not cave-in and desert the people of Australia. Mister Russ, please show leadership to the rest of the world and keep your election promises. No! Do even better than that, lead a global wide call to arms and act by example.

Alan Greenhalgh

Author: Climate Change; Your Liferaft to Prosperity and Survival

<http://www.upthem.org>