

Reflections on the Global Warming Debate

[A revised version of an address delivered at the ACT Caucus Room, Wellington, NZ on 26 April 2007]

Ray Evans

It is noteworthy that despite the expenditure of many hundreds of billions of dollars in promoting anthropogenism (faith in anthropogenic carbon dioxide as the controlling agent for the world's climate) there are many people, including many important political leaders and eminent scientists, who refuse to accept the doctrine. Three such examples are:

Czech President Vaclav Klaus:

'Global warming is a false myth and every serious person and scientist says so.'
Hospodárské Noviny, 12 February 2007

Andrew Bolt, influential columnist in the Melbourne *Herald-Sun*, commenting on the reporting of global warming and the scares being run on it:

'No sane person believes this rubbish.' Channel 10, 15 April 2007

Ian Plimer, Professor of Geology, University of Adelaide:

'When meteorologists can change the weather then we can start to think about humans changing climate.' AAP, 12 April 2005

My first task is to show that what Vaclav Klaus, Andrew Bolt, and Ian Plimer (amongst many others) are telling us is correct. The second, more difficult, is to try to discern how we have got to a position in the Western world where the majority of political, business and media elites are telling us that the world is in grave danger from anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide. In response to this deafening chorus of gloomy superstition, the Howard Government in Australia is moving rapidly towards the establishment of a carbon emissions trading system which will seriously erode our international competitiveness, and establish a vested interest of the kind we endured during 80 years of economically debilitating protectionism.

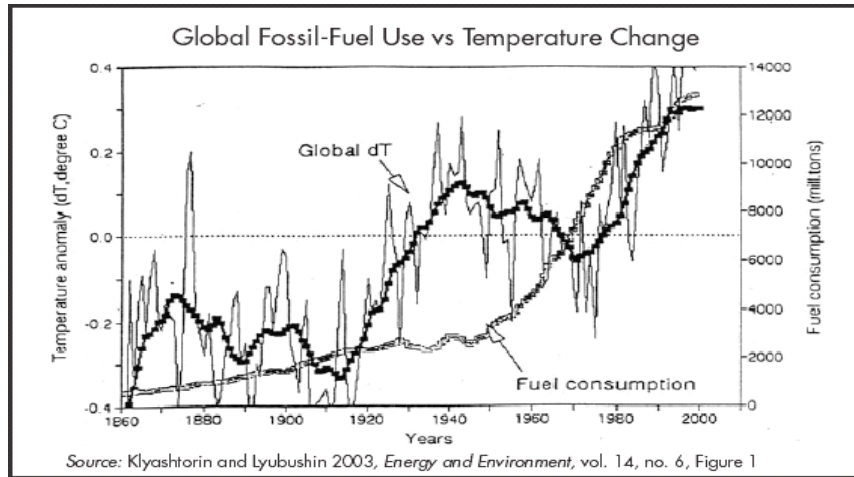
The argument that anthropogenic carbon dioxide controls global temperatures can be shown, with two or three graphs, to be without substance.

The first graph provides an estimate of global fossil fuel consumption since 1860 plotted against a graph of widely accepted global temperature variation from the same period. It should be noted that there is still on-going controversy over temperature measurements and the averaging of them to give a 'global estimate'. But it is very widely accepted that, in the twentieth century, temperatures increased from about 1905 until 1942 by about 0.4 degrees C, then cooled until 1976 by 0.2 degrees C, and have since warmed by 0.4 degrees C, giving an 0.6 degree increase for the twentieth century.

Since 1976 (the year of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation), surface temperatures have increased, but curiously, the satellite measurements taken since 1979 show hardly any temperature increase in the lower troposphere—precisely where greenhouse theory requires increasing temperatures to be manifest. (It is slightly positive in the northern hemisphere and almost as negative in the southern hemisphere.)

It is for this twenty-five year period that anthropogenic carbon dioxide and surface temperatures are aligned. But only for this period.

Fossil Fuel vs Temperature



Fossil fuel v global temperature anomaly

It may be that the temperature curve is not very accurate, and it may be that the calculations of fossil fuel consumption as a proxy for anthropogenic CO₂ are similarly subject to errors. But the conclusion is inescapable. The temperature curve tracks fossil fuel consumption for only twenty-five years out of 140 years. Anthropogenists, such as John Mitchell OBE FRS, Chief Scientist at the UK Met Office, claim that whatever might have been the case in the past (as shown by the Vostok Ice Cores), because atmospheric CO₂ concentrations are now 30 per cent up on a century ago, everything has changed.

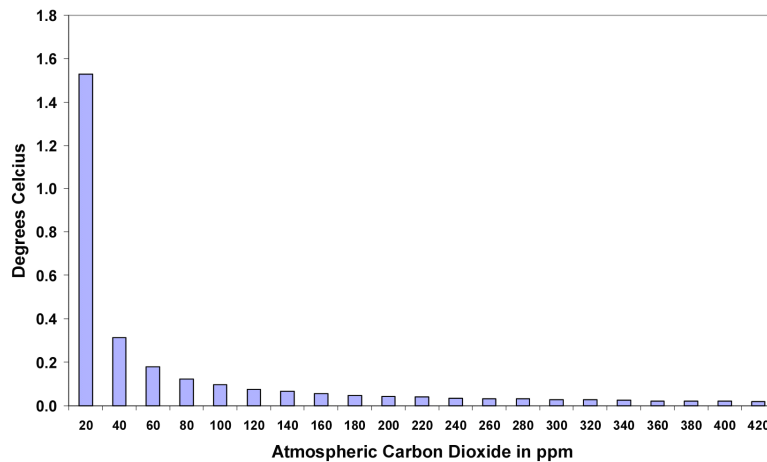
But the radiation properties of CO₂ in the atmosphere are such that increasing concentrations have less and less effect on the radiation balance.

This effect is known as the 'saturation effect' and occurs because the carbon dioxide molecule resonates at 15 microns, thus influencing the Steffan-Boltzmann radiation curve, which governs earth's radiation to space, only at that wavelength.

Once atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide exceed 200 ppmv (they are currently 380 ppmv) additional increments of CO₂ have an exponentially diminishing impact on the radiation balance.

Although not shown in this curve, a doubling of atmospheric CO₂ from 400 to 800 ppmv will result (other things not changing) in a temperature increase of less than 0.8 degrees C, a temperature increase which still gives us a cooler world than that of the Mediaeval Warm Period.

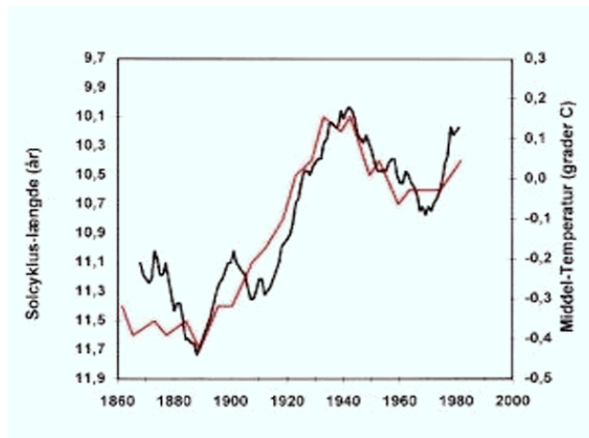
The Warming Effect of Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide



Temperature Impact of atmospheric CO₂

So, if anthropogenic CO₂ is not the all-powerful climate control lever in which the anthropogenists believe, where can we find some other explanation for the climate experience of the last century, or of the last millennium, or of the last 500,000 years?

Solar cycle length v temp anomalies



Solar length v global temperatures

In recent years there has been a resurgence of interest in solar influences on our climate, and NASA has a division which is wholly concerned with research into solar behaviour and its impact on satellite communications. As a consequence, much more is known about sunspot cycles and the astrophysics associated with them. One curve which is representative of many, (reproduced above) plots smoothed length of the solar cycle against global temperature anomalies.

The connection between sunspots and climate was given a substantial boost last year when a Danish group replicated the cloud-forming capacity of cosmic rays in a large chamber filled with atmospheric gas. Solar activity provides a magnetic shield which surrounds the earth and blocks cosmic radiation. This magnetic shield varies greatly in its intensity and during the sunspot minima of the Dalton (1795-1820) and Maunder (1685-1715) decades, the earth would have experienced intense cosmic ray bombardment.

Increasingly, then, it would seem to a disinterested observer that the sun does indeed have a strong influence on climate which, on the face of it, is an unsurprising hypothesis. [For more detail about the scientific dimensions to the climate change debate, see my *Nine Facts about Climate Change*, published in November last year, and available for download at the Lavoisier Website: <http://www.lavoisier.com.au>.]

Many billions of dollars have been spent in the last 20 years on climate science. Most of this money has been devoted to providing scientific support for the anthropogenist cause. Just as huge sums were spent during the 'thirties and then during the Cold War in promoting communism as 'scientific socialism', so anthropogenism is promoted as the only true climatology, and sceptics are labelled 'deniers', an epithet meant to induce the same sort of fear that the label 'counter-revolutionary' once used to generate. The word 'denier' was chosen as a method of identifying anti-anthropogenists with holocaust deniers. Even more frequent is the attempt to identify anti-anthropogenists with the cause of smoking. I'm sometimes tempted to ask those who use this ploy if they can name the political leader who first took up the anti-smoking cause with particular fervour. His name was Adolf Hitler and his green credentials, which were substantial, are now discreetly buried in pages of scholarly histories of the Nazi movement.

So the advances in our understanding of the forces which produce climatic change have mostly come from outside the lavishly funded world of official climate science, at least in the English-speaking world. The universities in Australia have been almost entirely suborned, and our CSIRO was an early partner in a Faustian bargain with the government of the day in which Graham Richardson was Environment Minister. The CSIRO Division of Atmospheric Studies was bought with a new building and the largest, fastest computer which money could then buy. The Australian Bureau of Meteorology, under John Zillman, tried to sit on the fence for quite some time, but under his successor, Geoff Love, it is now firmly in the anthropogenist camp.

John Howard established the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO) in 1998 as part of a deal with the Australian Democrats to get the votes required in the Senate to pass the GST legislation. Its first head was a Canadian, Gwen Andrews, who very reasonably assumed that her job was to promote anthropogenism and she appointed staff who assumed the same. It would have been difficult for her to do anything else, since no global warming sceptic would have sought to work for the AGO. Since then, the AGO has spent many hundreds of millions of dollars in promoting anthropogenism. It has commissioned many studies from consultancies and universities, and the intellectual corruption which accompanies that sort of spending power has had its impact on the climate of opinion in Australia.

A recent example of intellectual corruption at the highest levels of Australian business was manifest when the *Sydney Morning Herald* teamed up with WWF to promote 'Earth Hour' on Saturday 31 March last. The idea was that, at 7:30 pm, everyone in Sydney should turn off their lights and shut down their TVs, and so on, in order to save the planet for an hour.

The publicity invested in promoting this symbolic act was enormous. The *SMH* appeared on the Friday before on green paper. The big end of town turned off its corporate logos on the big office towers, and the Opera House and Harbour Bridge turned off their lights, but no-one else took any notice. Sporting fixtures under night lights continued uninterrupted.

A memo to all Fairfax staff is attached as an appendix. It is signed by:

Phil McLean, Group Executive Editor
Alan Oakley, Editor, Sydney Morning Herald
James Hooke, Managing Director, NSW

What is important in this context is that the senior management of one of Australia's most important media companies, Fairfax Ltd, publisher of the *Melbourne Age*, the *SMH* and the *Australian Financial Review*, sees no difficulty in enlisting all Fairfax staff in the prosecution of a cause which has been described by Cardinal George Pell as a manifestation of 'pagan emptiness'. The Cardinal went on to say that fears about nature have led to 'hysterical and extreme claims about global warming', adding: 'In the past, pagans sacrificed animals and even humans in vain attempts to placate capricious and cruel gods. Today they demand a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions'.

The Fairfax Board would have agreed to this extraordinary display of partisanship.

A characteristic example of *SMH* proselytizing is the following: Elizabeth Farrelly, who writes on planning, architecture and aesthetics for the *SMH* wrote last year—

Climate change has become a moral issue. Maybe *the* moral issue. If, as is arguable, morality is no more (or less) than a herd survival code, we might reasonably see all wars as the discordant death rattles of opposing fundamentalisms, soon to be replaced by some clean new enviro-religion. This new faith will make sacraments of rainwater, commandments of cycling and recycling, and prophets of Y well, there's the rub. (20 July 2006)

Business organizations in Australia have joined in the chorus. The BCA was at first skeptical, then neutral, and has now joined the anthropogenist cause. For example, Michael Chaney, BCA President, writing in *The Australian* on 18 April 2007:

Climate change and the development of a long-term strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are complex challenges facing Australia's economy and will be the subject of significant debate in the election campaign. Yet the issue does not lend itself to quick fixes or simplistic political posturing.

As the BCA standards make clear, lasting solutions require a balance between protecting Australia's economic strengths and achieving sustainable cuts in greenhouse gas emissions at both industry and community levels. The BCA's reform standards also call for politicians to commit to a broad reform of federal-state relations. Many of the challenges and opportunities faced by Australia, including in areas such as infrastructure, health and business regulation, require improved co-operation between federal and state governments.

In the UK, the situation is in some ways much worse. The Royal Society of London, England's premier scientific society, sent a letter to Exxon-Mobil in September 2006 asking that the energy giant stop funding organizations which have 'misrepresented the science of climate change by outright denial of the evidence'.

In the letter, Bob Ward, the official spokesman of the Royal Society said,

It is now more crucial than ever that we have a debate which is properly informed by the science. For people to be still producing information that misleads people about climate change is unhelpful. The next IPCC report should give people the final push that they need to take action and we can't have people trying to undermine it.

The two major political parties in the UK, Labour and Conservative, compete with each other in green symbolism. David Cameron, the new Tory Leader, has installed a windmill on the roof of his home in Notting Hill and rode to work on a bicycle at least once, followed by his official car carrying his briefcase.

But the UK's Channel 4 commissioned and broadcast an outstanding documentary *The Great Global Warming Swindle* on 7 March last. Since then, over 4 million copies have been downloaded from the Internet. It has been announced that the ABC will show *Swindle* on 12 July, and a panel of scientists is being assembled to comment on it after the broadcast.

There has been a chorus of denunciation from the anthropogenist camp over the ABC's decision. The ABC's science editor, Robyn Williams, denounced it, and George Monbiot of the London *Guardian* was brought in by the *SMH* to add imperial weight to the chorus of disapproval.

So we have a situation in which the elite classes of the West—political, commercial, and particularly intellectual—have abandoned reason and embraced superstition. Nigel Lawson's comment in his 1 November 2006 Lecture to the Centre for Policy Studies entitled 'The Economics and Politics of Climate Change—An Appeal to Reason' is particularly apposite here. He concluded with these words:

But the third danger is even more profound. Today we are very conscious of the threat we face from the supreme intolerance of Islamic fundamentalism. It could not be a worse time to abandon our traditions of reason and tolerance, and to embrace the irrationality and intolerance of eco-fundamentalism, where reasoned questioning of its mantras is regarded as a form of blasphemy. There is no greater threat to the people of this planet than the retreat from reason we see all around us today.

How can we explain this corruption of institutions and traditions across such a wide swathe of the Western world?

The decline of Christianity, and the rise of Environmentalism as a substitute religion—the two things happened simultaneously—have much to do with it. Two books, published within a year of each other, were portents of these developments. Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* was published in 1962 and Bishop John Robinson's *Honest to God* in 1963. The former is now credited with responsibility for millions of deaths from malaria—the consequence of banning DDT by the US EPA with world-wide consequences. The latter is blamed for emptying the churches of the UK, Australia, Canada, I presume NZ, but not the US.

The Environmentalist movement became very rich and powerful during the 'seventies. Greenpeace, for example, became rich on the back of its 'Save the Whale' campaign. It has been responsible for the ban on whaling, the Basel Convention banning trade in so-called hazardous wastes, and has been a major player in the global warming campaign. It tried to ban chlorine during the 'seventies but that was strongly and successfully opposed by the chemical industry. It has received huge sums from governments in Europe, notably the German government and also

the EC itself. WWF, which plays ‘good cop’ to Greenpeace’s ‘bad cop’ also receives major subventions from European governments. These two bodies can be regarded as instruments of European foreign policy.

It has been calculated that American environmentalist groups receive about \$750 million per annum in donations and grants of various kinds. The major foundations such as Ford and Rockefeller are huge benefactors. The Pew Foundation is a notorious example of green funding.

So there is huge money behind the global warming campaign. In Australia, the Poola Foundation (Tom Kantor Fund) donated \$10 million to establish the Climate Institute, a body which then promoted Tim Flannery’s book *The Weather Makers*. Tim Flannery was subsequently chosen as Australian of the Year for 2006. His book has been helpful to the sceptics’ cause since it displays considerable scientific ignorance, for example, on the impact of temperature change on the spread of malaria:

In the near future, global warming will grant access to the malarial parasite and its vector the Anopheles mosquito to those high mountain valleys where they will find tens of thousands of people without any resistance to the disease. (page 177)

So money is one explanation for what has happened. But that only moves the question back a little. How did so much money become available?

I think the answer is a religious one. Piety is a constant. The current generation, particularly the elites, may see themselves as secular and beyond the need for religion. That is a fantasy. Mankind and womankind have a religious gene in their DNA. Environmentalism provides meaning and purpose in life for many people with lots of time on their hands and plenty of money. Many years ago, I went to a weekend love-in at the Sydney Quarantine Station on North Head where the issue was global warming, then in its infancy as a hot button issue. I was staggered at the preponderance of unattached, middle-aged, embittered women, driving expensive cars, and mostly divorced. They were very keen on catastrophe, you could sense it in the air, and so global warming, brought on by our own sinfulness, was tailor-made for them.

So the debate on global warming has all the characteristics of a religious feud. And the history of the Reformation tells us that such feuds can be very destructive indeed. The Thirty Years War 1618-1648 culminating in the Treaty of Westphalia, led to the deaths of one-third of the German-speaking peoples of Central Europe.

The irony about global warming is that it is a religious creed based on a scientific hypothesis, and thus subject to the prospect of falsification. Such falsification, however, will destroy many thousands of well-paying jobs and a large number of political and intellectual reputations.

The astrophysicists from NASA and elsewhere are predicting very quiet sunspot cycles during the next 25 years. Within the next five to ten years the predictions of a new Dalton Minimum or even a Maunder Minimum will be put to the test. The Dalton Minimum was 1800–1820; the time of the Napoleonic Wars. The Maunder Minimum was from 1685 to 1715. Both were periods of very low temperatures and high precipitation. This will become one of the great experiments in the history of Western science. If we are indeed about to enter into a 20-30 year period of unusually low temperatures and heavy rains, driven by very low sunspot activity, we will look back nostalgically at the global warming hysteria of the early twenty-first century, and wish it had been fulfilled.

Appendix

From: Staff Notices
To: All_Fairfax_Staff

Sent: Thursday, 22 March 2007 9:06 AM
Subject: EARTH HOUR - A MESSAGE TO ALL STAFF

When the lights of Sydney are turned off for one hour at 7.30pm on Saturday, March 31, we should take a moment to reflect, with pride, on the role Fairfax Media has played in Earth Hour.

For the past eight months, the Earth Hour working group has been meeting every Tuesday on Level 19 at Darling Park to plan this bold event.

Every strand of our business - management, editorial, online, commercial, marketing and production - has been involved in the planning process.

The scale of Earth Hour is now vast...

* More than 900 companies - from Telstra to McDonalds - have committed to turning off their lights. Each day, about 25 businesses are signing up.

* More than 25,000 individuals have pledged their support. Our target is 50,000.

* More than 4000 schools in NSW have received an Earth Hour classroom kit. Students for the next 12 weeks will learn about the environment under the Earth Hour banner.

* A marketing campaign with an estimated value of \$3 million is now underway. We have formed partnerships with Channel 9, Austereo, ABC and several outdoor media companies.

Earth Hour is an awareness campaign. To borrow an old marketing tag-line from *The Sydney Morning Herald*, we wanted to start a conversation about the environment with our readers. We wanted to connect our readers, in a compelling way, to the issue of climate change and global warming.

Earth Hour has enabled us to do that. It has also enabled us to take a leadership position, both editorially and commercially, in the rapidly-growing ``green space''. *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Sun-Herald*, Fairfax Community Newspapers and Fairfax Digital have all contributed in bringing Earth Hour to life. Our thanks also to our partner WWF-Australia.

To all those involved, take a bow - you should be proud.

Please [**click here**](#) to preview our special Earth Hour magazine, which will be in the Sydney Morning Herald tomorrow.

Phil McLean
Group Executive Editor

Alan Oakley
Editor,
Sydney Morning Herald

James Hooke
Managing Director,
NSW