

“Carbon Sense”

***The key role of Carbon in the cycle of life,
as a source of food and energy
and in the atmosphere.***

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*“Men go mad in herds,
but they recover their senses slowly and one by one”.*

Unknown author.

Part 1 – Executive Summary

Part 2 – Discussion

1. Carbon - the Building Block of Life

Rex Connor once said:

“Life is an equation in hydrocarbons”.

It may be the most sensible thing he ever said.

Carbon is the key building block for all life on earth. When combined with hydrogen and oxygen (the elements of water), it forms the carbohydrates and fats that provide the fuel and energy reserves for all plants and animals. Add nitrogen to these compounds and we get the proteins that form the flesh and muscle of all living things. Meanwhile, over the long history of the earth, decomposition of organic matter and digestion of natural carbon compounds has produced the solid, liquid and gaseous hydrocarbons that fuel our world.

Carbon dioxide is an invisible, odourless, non-toxic, gaseous form of carbon and is the chief nutrient for maintaining sustainable life on earth. It is not a dangerous poison to be feared and locked away – it is the essential ingredient in the cycle of life.

2. Carbon Dioxide – the Master Recycler

At the base of the pyramid of life are the decomposers – those minute life forms in the soils and waters of the earth including bacteria, fungi, earth worms, microbes and algae. These tiny plants and animals absorb and recycle nutrients from the atmosphere, rocks, soil, water and decomposing organic matter.

Living beside and in partnership with the decomposers are the main producers of all the raw materials of life, the plants. The most important of these to man are the pastures and grasses on land and the algae and plankton in the sea. These magical life forms take carbon dioxide and water from the atmosphere, energy from the sun, minerals from the soil and organic compounds from the friendly little critters that live in symbiosis with them. This factory of life produces the proteins and carbohydrates which sustain all insects, herbivores, predators and parasites further up the food chain. Man perches precariously at the top of this food pyramid.

Without pastures, grasses, plankton and algae, all herbivores and carnivores would die. Without carbon dioxide, all plants would die.

Carbon links them all, and carbon dioxide is the chief vehicle for recycling carbon throughout the

pyramid of life. It is not a pollutant in the atmosphere – it belongs there and is the gas of life.

(There is always the exception: there are a few very tough life forms that thrive at great depth in the oceans around volcanic vents which emit hot, acidic water and gases laden with heavy metals. These tough critters depend on sulphur and are outside the carbon chain that links all other life on earth. They will not be concerned by variations in surface temperatures or carbon dioxide levels.)

3. Earth's Atmospheric Shield

Life on earth would not be possible without the protection of our shield of atmospheric gases. This shield insulates us from excessive heat and cold, filters dangerous radiation from space and dilutes and dissipates pollutants such as smoke from bush fires, hot noxious gases from volcanoes and man's pollution. It also redistributes water, heat and organic matter and provides the breath of life for all animals and plants on earth.

Carbon dioxide has always played a key role in life processes on earth, but the carbon dioxide content of the atmosphere has been changing dramatically for the whole of Earth's history (and well before man burnt his first bit of coal, or drove his first Model T Ford). Earth is now wearing its third atmospheric shield.

Earth's original atmosphere was dominated by the simplest elements, hydrogen and helium.

Volcanic emissions of steam, carbon dioxide and ammonia led to the "Second Atmosphere" which was primarily carbon dioxide, water vapour, hydrogen and some nitrogen. The occasional passing comet may also have dosed our atmosphere with methane.

The first primitive bacteria started utilising the carbon dioxide and enriching the atmosphere with the oxygen they produced as their waste product. More life developed in this rich soup of carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen, and more oxygen emissions were added to the atmosphere.

Carbon dioxide dissolves in water and oceans have always played a major role in determining carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere. The formation of large coral reefs, oysters and sea shells and the deposition of thick beds of limestone, dolomite and magnesite removed vast quantities of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. More oxygen was generated by the developing world of plants,

including oceanic algae. Animals followed to live on the plants, and these two life forms now form a self correcting web of life tending to stabilise the oxygen and carbon dioxide components of the air.

Today's atmosphere (our third shield) comprises the following gases (on a dry air basis):

- Nitrogen 78%
- Oxygen 21%
- All other gases (mainly Argon) 1%

The carbon dioxide content is too small to even rate a mention at this scale – it is just 0.038% of the atmosphere when it is dry.

But the atmosphere is seldom dry and usually contains a significant content of water vapour (1%-5%). At 3% moisture, this would dilute the carbon dioxide content to just 0.0369% - just one part in 2700. If the atmosphere was represented by a pile of one dollar coins 7 metres high (2 stories), carbon dioxide would be represented by JUST ONE COIN. Even if carbon dioxide in the atmosphere doubled to two coins, they would still be hard to find.

The above figures are approximations as the air is a mixture whose composition varies from place to place and time to time depending on the weather and local additions and subtractions.

Man's activities are estimated to account for no more than 5% of carbon dioxide emissions – a minuscule addition to the vast atmosphere. The other + 95% of carbon dioxide emissions comes from oceans, volcanoes, mound springs, gas seeps and vents, swamps, wild life, bush fires, insects and rotting natural vegetation (where do you think all those autumn leaves go?). Many of these natural sources also emit methane, another "greenhouse" gas.

Our atmosphere is a self correcting soup of life wherein carbon dioxide emissions encourage plant growth, and that plant growth emits oxygen which sustains all animals. The whole cycle speeds up with high levels of temperature, moisture and carbon dioxide, and slows down as any of these falls.

Defining atmospheric carbon dioxide as a pollutant makes no more sense than defining atmospheric oxygen as a pollutant. Plants absorb carbon dioxide and emit oxygen; animals absorb oxygen and emit carbon dioxide – both are essential gases of life. In atmospheric concentrations, neither poses the slightest threat to animal or plant life or health, and both play essential roles for all living things.

4. *The Greenhouse Gases*

Today's media & public hysteria about carbon dioxide concerns its claimed danger as a Greenhouse gas.

"Greenhouse gas" is the inappropriate but colourful name given to those gases that absorb some heat escaping from earth and radiate some of it back to the surface. A real greenhouse has a glass roof that totally prevents near surface heated air from rising and dissipating its heat by convection into the cold upper atmosphere. Earth's atmosphere is not a greenhouse. Our atmosphere does not have a glass roof and it uses convection to redistribute heat very quickly (just watch hot air rising in a thunderhead, cold hail falling in a storm, or an eagle soaring the thermals in a clear blue sky).

The ocean is more like a real greenhouse, with a definite roof that reflects internal radiation, prevents convection and thus hinders dissipation of heat to the atmosphere above. This is consistent with observations that, during some past climatic changes, ocean temperatures rose dramatically.

Earth's atmospheric shield does produce natural greenhouse effects – otherwise we would fry by day and freeze at night. However, the contribution of man's emissions to an enhanced greenhouse effect is minuscule. The other factors affecting surface temperature are so large that they overwhelm the enhanced Greenhouse effect from man's emissions of carbon dioxide.

The Greenhouse effect of carbon dioxide does not increase in proportion to the increase in CO₂ content – it is logarithmic, not proportional. The first 20 ppm of CO₂ has more effect on surface temperature than the next 400 ppm. At current levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere, the effect of even a doubling of CO₂ content has negligible effect on surface temperature.

Carbon dioxide is not even the chief greenhouse gas – water vapour is. It acts similarly and for every unit of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, there are between 25 and 100 units of water. Other “Greenhouse Gases” are methane and ozone.

Usually when “Global Warming” gets a run on TV, the film archive department digs up a picture of a power station with a couple of huge towers belching white vapour into a clear blue sky. Most people believe this is the dreaded carbon dioxide. It is not. Carbon dioxide is colourless – you cannot see it or smell it. What every power station emits from these stacks is water vapour – they are called “cooling towers” and the cooling agent is water, some of which evaporates to form visible fog.

Water vapour is a far more effective agent for insulating the earth and preserving its warmth than carbon dioxide. Should we therefore cap and tax the emission of steam from every kettle and boiler, and ban the hydrogen car because of their emission of that other dreaded greenhouse gas, water vapour?

Every coal power station, every combustion engine, every gas appliance, every rotting log, every breathing human and every live animal emits both water vapour and carbon dioxide. Defining carbon dioxide as an atmospheric pollutant would be as stupid as defining water vapour as a pollutant. Neither are atmospheric pollutants – they are the normal, essential and variable components of the gaseous shield which protects and sustains all life on earth, and recycles the essentials of life - water and organic matter.

5. *The Secret Ingredients of Rain*

It is always a source of wonder to farmers what magic is wrought on a parched paddock by a shower of rain.

One day, it is a dry and dusty landscape with brown stalks of pasture and wilted weeds. But just hours after as little as 10mm of rain you can see a green tinge everywhere. Even trees and bushes spark up. In a week, the hills are draped with a carpet of brilliant green (as long as the local temperature is warm enough!). The results are always far more spectacular than ten times as much water applied by artificial irrigation.

The obvious gift from rain is water, but what makes rain water more effective than irrigation water? What are the secret ingredients of rain? The most important are the minor amounts of key atmospheric gases dissolved in the water droplets and being recycled to mother earth via rain, hail and snow. The important gases which are distributed back to earth via precipitation are:

- ozone (reacts with water to form hydrogen peroxide),
- carbon dioxide (reacts with water to form carbonic acid)
- oxides of nitrogen and sulphur (react with water forming nitric and sulphuric acid),

Traces of these so-called “villains of the sky” are the secret ingredients of rain that paint the hills green.

“But what about acid rain?” the hecklers cry.

Concentrated acid in rain will kill plants, and no one should have the right to cause that. Volcanoes should also be banned – they can produce lethal quantities of sulphuric, nitric and hydrochloric acid, or suffocating concentrations of carbon dioxide.

But in minor concentrations, all trace elements from burning coal or wood, or belched from volcanoes can be beneficial to plants. Almost anything on earth can be a poison, a pollutant or a nutrient - it depends on the dose, and where it is released. Even arsenic and cyanide are included in some health supplements and deliver benefits to some people. No one can live in pure oxygen, pure carbon dioxide, pure nitrogen, or pure water, but all are perfectly safe in all likely atmospheric concentrations.

The difference between nutrition and pollution is dilution. The vast atmosphere has a large capacity to dilute, dissipate and recycle.

6. *Natural Greenhouse Gas Extraction Processes*

The atmosphere is a mixture of gases, and the various components of the mixture act differently.

The main greenhouse gas, water vapour, is continually removed via condensation into clouds and falls to earth as rain, hail and snow. The very formation of clouds changes greatly the heat balance on earth by reflecting solar energy, and this process is more variable and more significant for global warming than all of the carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. Should an increase in water vapour or changing winds result in increased precipitation in the high latitudes in winter, this will quickly accumulate as extra snow cover which will reflect solar heat back into space. (However, smoky bush fires and burning dirty rubbish can coat snow with soot, thus negating snow's reflective effect).

Carbon dioxide is heavier than most other gases in the atmosphere and it tends to sink towards the earth's surface, much of which is ocean. As it contacts the ocean surface, particularly when seas are rough and cold, carbon dioxide dissolves in the water and is absorbed by the "grasses" of the ocean – algae and plankton. Marine animals eat these plants. Large quantities of carbon dioxide are also removed from the water to create the body armour for marine creatures such as corals, oysters and all the beautiful sea shells. Some also goes into the skeletons of marine vertebrates ranging from whales to sardines. Huge quantities are removed by the deposition of beds of limestone, dolomite or magnesite.

The carbon dioxide that reaches the land surface also gets absorbed by plants and moisture and plays a similarly valuable role in fertilising soil and encouraging the growth of all land plants.

Rain also dissolves carbon dioxide producing a weak acid that helps to decompose rock to replace eroded soils.

Forests are often touted as the great carbon dioxide extractors. They do extract carbon as they become established and grow, but mature forests, like any stable sustainable natural system, merely recycle the same gases. Old trees die, termites eat the wood and emit carbon dioxide, and new trees take it up again.

National parks emit heaps of carbon as they burn, and then take it up slowly as they regrow. There is no net extraction over the long run. (If we were serious about the urgent need to reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, the best way to use forests to remove carbon dioxide is to remove mature trees by logging and build houses with the timber. Careful logging will provide space for new trees to grow in the forest and extract still more carbon.)

Carbon dioxide and water vapour are continually being removed or recycled by these great natural sinks. If there is a significant increase in these greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, plants will grow more vigorously on land and sea to remove them.

Man "fixes" carbon extracted from the air in construction timber, food stocks and human bodies, both alive and dead.

All life on earth (except some primitive bacteria) evolved in the presence of carbon dioxide – they can cope with it. In fact, all life depends on carbon dioxide and the web of life acts as a carbon dioxide regulator, extracting more if it becomes abundant, and emitting more should it become scarce.

Any attempt to construct a balance sheet for all of these natural additions and extractions of greenhouse gases is only a wild guess - only a government economist with a big computer in a windowless room would attempt it.

Wild guesses are no basis for justifying a massive assault on man's emissions of carbon dioxide.

7. Is there "Global Warming"?

"Global temperature" cannot be measured with any certainty – it is defined and calculated.

Earth's temperature varies from hour to hour, from month to month, from year to year, from place to place, from century to century and differently over land or oceans, over tropics or the poles, over cities or forests, in the ocean deep or in the stratosphere, over bitumen or grass, and at the surface or in the upper atmosphere. Even at the same instant, earth's surface temperature could vary from 50 deg C on a summer day in the Sahara to minus 50 deg C on the same winter day in Antarctica.

Which single figure best represents “global temperature” and who do we trust to calculate it? It is a matter of observations, weightings, assumptions and calculations. As the UN has shown, even the mighty can be caught out doctoring the figures to suit their argument.

It is easier to measure trends in particular places.

Gabriel Fahrenheit invented the modern thermometer in 1714. Since then, some places have long continuous temperature records taken at the same time and place. Even in those records, things that affect temperature may change. Most old weather recording stations are in places where people live. As population rises, land gets cleared, bitumen is laid and air conditioners start pumping the heat into or out of buildings. A slight change in location can bias the readings. For another example, here on our property, the thermometer is on a south-facing back landing, in the shade. That thermometer almost never registers zero even on a cold winter morning. But if for some reason the recording station was shifted to a similar position, but just 100m down the hill towards the cold flats, it would register many zeros each winter. Even cattle and sheep know that – they camp in the warm spots on the top of the hills.

Thus even small changes in local factors can mean that the record of near-surface temperature is distorted and may need “adjustment factors” to identify if there is really a changed trend in underlying “global temperature” at that spot.

Over long periods of time, careful logging of ocean sediments, ice cores or tree rings can provide valuable evidence of variations in temperature. These records show that earth has had a very chequered history with quite dramatic changes in temperature and atmospheric composition long before man’s emissions of carbon dioxide started.

They also show that it is not true to say that today’s temperature is extreme. Even in historical times temperatures have been warmer than today – for example when grapes were grown in England and the Vikings maintained farming communities on Greenland (this is how a land, now covered with ice, got to be called “Greenland”).

And there are many well recognised reasons for some places to show cooling or warming trends. One or more of the oceans may be in a warming trend for decades because of massive volcanic activity along the mid-ocean trench or other reasons. Changes in ocean currents can then affect nearby land. Different factors may be at work over land. For example, variations in cosmic radiation, caused by cycles in activity on the sun, could cause some land masses to be experiencing more extremes of temperature because of the loss of the moderating effect of clouds.

How do we “average” all of these places and factors to come up with a single figure for earth’s temperature which has sufficient credibility to justify massive interventions to “cool” economic activity in the western world while transferring business to booming un-capped economies, and discouraging the economic aspirations of the third world?

8. *How “Global Warming” became “Gorebal Climate Change”.*

In the early days of the global warming era, prophecies read something like this: “Global temperatures are at record levels, rising fast and our models show that by 2007 (insert your own date here), the Arctic ice sheet will melt, polar bears will become extinct, and rising sea levels will cause the flooding of Tuvalu and other low lying oceanic Islands”.

These early prophets broke the First Law of Forecasting:

“Give em a forecast, or give em a date, but don’t give em both”.

The passage of time and some diligent research into temperature trends left these forecasts looking stupid. The crisis came when Al Gore gave a big address on global warming as blizzards swept down from the Arctic to freeze states from Manitoba to Mississippi. Global warming rallies were disrupted and crops destroyed by unprecedented snow falls. The solution? A new forecast: “Man made carbon dioxide will cause *climate change*.”

Climate is always changing, so this forecast is always being confirmed. Every storm, cyclone, drought, blizzard or heat wave can be cited as proof, and every commentator now knows who to blame - "Man made Carbon dioxide". Al learned his lesson and "Climate Change" became the new forecast that never fails.

("I have a friend who lives near Al Gore's Phoenix home, and it snowed there this winter - never did in the last 100 years." Ken Shock May 2007.

As Bob Prechter says: "Sometime in the next two decades, we can look forward to Al Gore, wrapped in a parka, in mid-summer, talking about global warming".)

9. But What about the Glaciers?

Often when global warming makes yet another appearance on TV, the story is accompanied by a picture of a dramatic lump of ice "calving" off the edge of an ice sheet, or the end of a melting glacier. (This is usually followed by a picture of a lone polar bear on a small floating ice floe.)

Glaciers are never still – all are moving rivers of ice. But every river eventually empties into the sea.

Snow accumulates at the head of the glacier, packs into ice in the channel, and slowly slides downhill to the sea. Somewhere, it either meets the sea, or summer warmth melts the end of the glacier before it reaches the sea. The glacier advances and retreats every season.

Where a glacier reaches the sea, the end starts to float in the sea water, breaks off dramatically and floats off, to the warm applause of the waiting TV crews.

None of this proves global warming – it is the natural process that occurs in every glacier and ice sheet. Glaciers are always advancing or retreating, and there are different trends in different places, usually depending on proximity to warm ocean currents or winds. To prove warming or cooling we need to look at what happens over a long period of time.

10. The Lost Squadron

In 1942, a group of British fighter planes was escorting two Boeing B17 bombers from Canada to Britain, passing over Greenland, but heavy fog and bad weather forced them to turn back. They got lost in the storm and were forced by declining fuel to belly land on the Greenland Ice sheet. The airmen walked out and were saved, but all the planes stayed there, collecting snow and ice.

Forty years later, a group of Americans decided to recover and restore some of these planes, but the planes had disappeared. They were eventually located with an aerial magnetometer. A shaft was sunk with steam through the ice to reach and eventually recover one plane, in 1988. "Glacier Girl" is now in a museum in Kentucky. That plane was covered by 268 feet of ice – buried at the rate of over 5 feet per year. Maybe the plane sank a little into the ice, but a significant coverage must represent accumulating snow. Men involved in the recovery said they noticed, as they came back each year, that snow and ice was accumulating. (This is not surprising. Greenland recorded the highest temperature of the century in the 1930's).

There are similar experiences from Antarctica. The Byrd experimental station got buried deeper and deeper each year, and researchers had to dig tunnels to get inside when they returned each year. Eventually the weight of ice started to crack the walls, so a new station was built some 15 metres above the old one. Several other Antarctic Research Stations have been similarly buried by accumulating snow, as was a transmission line built in the 1960's.

This is not to say that polar ice does not melt. There is now melting around the edges where warm oceans impact the ice, and on the warmer Antarctic Peninsula. When the Greenland Ice sheet melted about 1200 AD during the Medieval Warm period, ice also melted from Iceland and other places in the Arctic.

Sea levels are linked to ice sheets – most of the water in the world is either in ice or oceans, with lesser amounts in lakes, rivers, ground water or the atmosphere.

There are two things that cause rising sea levels – melting of ice caps and glaciers, or thermal expansion of the water in the oceans. If all ice

sheets and glaciers were melting, as the public is led to believe, sea levels would be rising all over the world. There is no evidence of significant rises, despite the fact that there is some evidence that sea water temperatures are rising in some oceans. (Land is not always stable, and there is always some land somewhere in the world rising or falling - some reported sea level "rises" are more truly called "land subsidence".)

Many long term records show that temperatures all over the world have been generally increasing since the depth of the little Ice Age in 1600 AD, well before man's emissions of carbon dioxide started. That trend continues, with dips, to recent times. Going back further, things were significantly warmer in the Medieval Warm Period than now (peaking around 1200 AD).

And polar bears survived.

11. The World is a Moving Picture, not a Still Life.

Those who advocate drastic state intervention to control carbon dioxide seem to believe that there is something sacred about maintaining current climatic conditions on earth.

Even if man had the power to control the climate (which he clearly does not), which Emperor on Earth makes the final decision on where Earth's temperature is to be fixed for ever more? Whose opinions are sought when coming to this decision? And on what basis is it to be judged?

In the whole long life of the earth, surface temperatures have never stood still – they are always rising or falling, and trends can last for years or centuries. We may well be in a warming trend now, but man did not cause it and cannot change it.

This reality exists, whether or not politicians accept it.

We may as well get used to it.

12. Does Carbon Dioxide cause Global warming?

Undoubtedly the greenhouse gases play a part in maintaining surface warmth of the Earth, but there is no evidence that man-made carbon dioxide is a significant cause of global warming.

Close examination of past records shows that temperature tends to rise BEFORE carbon dioxide content rises, sometimes centuries earlier. It would thus make more sense to suggest that rising temperature causes an increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide. It is more likely that temperature changes are related to other factors over which man has no control such as cycles within the solar system, sun spots, magnetic variations or reversals, or periodic episodes of vulcanism. It is high time that the people promoting the Global Warming industry started reading a bit of geological history.

If rising temperature causes increased carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere, and not the other way around, it would be very foolish to embark on extremely costly measures designed to force an artificial reduction of man-caused emissions of carbon dioxide. The costs to the community will be swift and immense – there will be ZERO benefits

There is also doubt about some atmospheric carbon dioxide levels derived from analysis of ice cores. Actual atmospheric analyses done during the twentieth century suggest that carbon dioxide levels were higher in the 1940's than in the 1960's, despite big increases in emissions of carbon dioxide.

13. Big Bangs and Hot Flows

Volcanoes emit unmeasured volumes of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Some erupt explosively, other just emit unbelievable quantities of lava under the sea or onto the land.

When Tambora volcano erupted in 1815, over 100 cubic km of dust, ash and gas was ejected. It so darkened the sky that crops failed all over the world, there were food riots in France and Britain, muddy snow fell in Europe and rivers froze during summer in New England. 1816 was called "The year without a summer".

When Krakatau erupted in 1883, it sent ash and greenhouse gases to a height of 80 km. The explosion was heard over 7,000 km away and the Tsunami was noticed in the English Channel. The sky was dark for days and weather was affected for five years.

When Mount Pinatubo exploded in the Philippines in July 1991 it sent a cloud of invisible greenhouse gases and visible dust and ash into the stratosphere. This cloud circled the earth for three weeks and its dust haze could be seen for two years. Other famous volcanoes include Mount St Helens, Mount Etna, Vesuvius, Mount Pelee, Rabaul, Yellowstone, Kilauea and Ruapehu.

Some volcanoes explode, other spew hot lava. Basalt lavas are often ejected from long rift volcanoes, 80% of which occur beneath the ocean. The evidence left by some surface ones is staggering. In the Deccan Traps in India, lava has covered over half a million square km of land (one sixth of India) to a depth of up 2.5 km. Imagine the heat transferred from the earth's molten core to the surface by that eruption.

14. Pots on the Stove

Oceans are the unexplored new frontier, and surprises are being uncovered regularly.

Every major ocean (Pacific, Atlantic, Indian and Arctic) is divided by a mid-ocean ridge – a massive chain of volcanic mountains and rifts which periodically eject huge volumes of hot molten basalt. This is like putting pots on the stove – the water warms up.

At any one time there are about 20 active volcanoes erupting on the surface, but many more beneath the seas, especially along these mid ocean ridges where an estimated 80% of all lava is ejected. NASA estimates there are one million sub-sea volcanoes, “several thousand” of which are active. (More recent estimates put the number of volcanoes on earth at *THREE MILLION*.)

Increased undersea vulcanism is being reported now in the Indian, Pacific, Atlantic, Arctic and Antarctic Oceans and off Norway in the North Sea. Reports are starting to come in of unusual ocean warming and of warming of deep sea waters. New underwater volcanic peaks are a growing hazard to submarines.

Hot molten lavas and emissions of hot gases such as sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, methane, steam and carbon dioxide raise the temperature of the oceans, and add their hot gases to the atmosphere. (Scientists exploring the sea floor in the Mariana Trench recently found bubbles of carbon dioxide being released into the sea floor and floating towards the surface).

Even in areas with no active volcanoes, the oceanic basins have just a thin layer of rock over the hot molten core beneath. The pots of water are close to the fire. Any increase in tectonism is likely to bring new heat into the stove below.

Oceans emit carbon dioxide in huge but unmeasured quantities when heated, and volcanoes are just the agents to do the heating. This warm ocean water and the volcanic emissions (including carbon dioxide) then heat the air above. Presto – we have both surface temperature and carbon dioxide levels rising, just like the IPCC predicts. There is a small problem – the rising temperature came first, so carbon dioxide did not cause it.

To adapt an old saying:

“Carbon dioxide causes global warming like wet roads cause rain”.

Warming seas supply more water vapour for increased rain and snow, and also drive ocean currents, power weather phenomenon like El Nino and provide extra energy for typhoons, hurricanes and cyclones.

Should the volcanic era quieten down, the ocean will slowly cool, absorb carbon dioxide, and things are re-balanced.

These two unmeasurable factors, oceans and volcanoes, are largely ignored in the models of the climate boffins, but are far more influential than man's activities. Cycles of vulcanism seem to be related to cycles in the solar system and also coincide with shifts in climate, ocean warming and magnetic reversals.

Oceans are the heavyweight sluggers in the Greenhouse gas stakes – they drive it more than they are driven by it. Volcanoes huff and puff a lot but still land many king hits. Often, these two bruisers combine to have a huge effect on world emissions and temperature.

Man is the featherweight.

15. Mound Springs, Gas Vents and “Will o the Wisps”.

Man is going to be punished for causing increases in another greenhouse gas – methane. But again, nature leave us far behind.

There are huge deposits of methane on the continental shelves, in places like the Black Sea, and being emitted by volcanic eruptions. Mound springs and artesian waters have been emitting water and natural gases for millions of years, and there are thousands of gas vents, especially in the Middle East, emitting unmeasured quantities of methane and other gases. Swamps also generate methane from rotting vegetation. (Some believe the Min Min lights are somehow related to methane emissions.)

16. What about the Sun and Clouds?

The smallest child at school could tell you it is the sun that produces the heat of the day. He could also tell you it will be cooler on a cloudy day.

The brightest kid in class could tell you that days are hotter when the sun is directly overhead, but as the midday sun appears lower in the sky, the days will grow shorter and cooler. And any country kid could tell you that clouds will keep things warmer at night.

The sun also affects surface temperature directly as its output of radiant heat varies in well recognised cycles like the 11 year sunspot cycle (the important influence of the sun spot cycle on weather was discovered many years ago by that famed private weather forecaster, Inigo Jones).

The earth’s magic water and heat recycling process is the stabiliser that moderates and corrects the temperature effects of sun, greenhouse, and heat loss to space. It also confounds all the weather models that computer-man has yet devised.

As water in oceans, lakes, dams, rivers and soil is heated by the sun, it evaporates, absorbing heat from the surface and transferring it to the atmosphere. This moisture (and its latent heat) is moved around by the atmospheric convection currents and the rotation of the earth which create winds, storms, cyclones, hurricanes and typhoons. As the warm moist air rises, it cools and water vapour condenses into clouds. This does two things – clouds intercept sunlight to reduce surface warming, and the water vapour gives up its latent heat as it condenses, producing more energy for convection which takes the air even higher to transfer its heat to cooler levels of the high atmosphere. If it goes high enough, the water drops turn into hail stones or snow. If snow covers the ground, it reflects solar heat.

Where there is a continuous supply of warm moist air at the surface (for example over the Coral Sea or the Caribbean in summer) the whole system can develop into a cyclone or hurricane, where surface heat and moisture is transferred to the upper atmosphere at a violently rapid rate.

The fundamental assumption in Greenhouse computer models is that heat keeps arriving from the sun, is trapped by greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and therefore surface temperature must keep rising until we all fry. Such a story is not logical, it ignores past climate history, and it has proved unable to forecast future trends with any accuracy.

The weather and climate processes are far more than a simplistic greenhouse model and current computer models have no hope of getting all these factors right.

Writing a model to predict the earth’s temperature which does not have a major role for the sun, the oceans, volcanoes and clouds is like writing a book on tides without mentioning the moon, or drawing a map of Australia that omits the big island.

17. “It’s probably a cycle”.

The daily rotation of the earth produces predictable daily variation in temperature.

The monthly lunar cycle produces predictable effects on tides in the ocean and the atmosphere, and affects the weather.

The earth circles the sun in one year, giving the predictable pattern of seasonal temperatures.

The larger planets affect the sun, producing the 11 year cycle of sun spots that produces predictable waxing and waning of heat output from the sun.

And the solar system rotates around the galaxy producing cycles of warm periods and ice ages.

But, according to the climate boffins in the UN, it is not natural cycles but the industry of modern man that controls global climate.

Computer climate models have dominated the climate debate for too long. It is time to look at what lessons can be learned from geological history, astronomy, physics and from a study of cycles in the solar system and the galaxy. It would also help to apply a dose of common sense.

Much has already been learned, if people care to look. There is abundant evidence that cycles in the solar system involving sun, moon, earth, other planets and the galaxy are strongly correlated with changes in earth's weather, cloud formation, temperature, cosmic radiation, gravity, magnetism and tides in the oceans and the atmosphere.

Correlation does not prove cause, but lack of correlation does prove that variations in the levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere do not cause surface temperature variations.

There is no evidence that man-made carbon dioxide is the dominant factor controlling global temperature – just a theory which is true, but largely irrelevant.

(Scientists have recently discovered that Mars is warming. If global warming is man-made, does this mean there are men on Mars?)

18. Is Global Warming a bad thing?

Scientists seem to agree that global temperatures may have risen on average, by some fraction of a degree over the last century. Big deal – on some days here at Rosevale, temperature on our back landing can vary from five degrees to twenty five degrees over 24 hours. And on some frosty mornings our dog thinks a bit of global warming would be a very good thing.

Even if the water vapour and carbon dioxide produced by man did cause some slight warming of the earth, is this a problem? Eons of geological history show that a warm, moist, carbon-rich atmosphere encourages all life on earth. These periods are referred to as “Golden Ages”. The cold barren periods are those to be feared – they get called “The Dark Ages”. And periodically, the cold periods turn into Ice Ages and are often accompanied by massive extinctions and loss of life. (All the millions of Siberian mammoths killed in the latest big extinction on earth are buried in – ICE.)

Most people prefer warm climates and look forward to summer. They do not flock to Alaska, Archangel or Antarctica for winter – they head for Bermuda, the Black Sea or Bali. All over the world, the human race is migrating towards the sun belts – Florida, the Riviera, and Capricornia – very few volunteer for Siberia. President Putin voiced what many Russians must think – “a bit of warmth would be welcome here”.

Moreover, a bit of warmth would vastly increase the land suitable for growing food and fibres. On the other hand, a slight cooling would take much of the farmlands of Canada, Northern Eurasia and New Zealand out of production, and parts of Tasmania and Victoria may have to convert from producing wheat and dairy products to farming caribou or reindeer.

Studies of long term climate cycles show that these are probably related to various solar cycles, and the next major cycle is likely to take us into a cold period, maybe an Ice Age. Should man's activities manage to create a slight increase in moisture and warmth, this is likely to be blessed by future generations.

Man's production of carbon dioxide and water is merely returning to the atmosphere the gases of life that were extracted by the great forests of the Permian and other eras that formed our coal and petroleum deposits. Returning some of these gases to the atmosphere can only return earth to the humid verdant conditions that prevailed in those Greenhouse Periods of earth's history.

Humanity has more to fear from the long, cold, barren Icehouse eras than any extension of the current warm fertile Greenhouse era.

19. Feeding the World

All food production on earth relies ultimately on plant growth. Anyone who tends plants will tell you that they need three essentials for rapid growth – moisture, warmth and carbon dioxide. So nurserymen put their plants in big warm sheds, install water sprays and . . . pump in carbon dioxide. And in the Philippines, they light small fires under their mango trees to give them a boost when flowering and fruiting.

Whenever man burns *ANY* hydrocarbon, not just coal, he produces *BOTH* carbon dioxide and water vapour, and *BOTH* go into the atmosphere - they are the Siamese twins of the hydrocarbon world. Thus *IF* man is increasing carbon dioxide levels, he *MUST* also be increasing levels of water vapour in our atmosphere.

The Australian continent, more than any other, suffers from recurrent drought and declining organic content of our soils. Man's emissions of the greenhouse twins can only help to correct both of these serious deficiencies.

Only someone ignorant of the atmospheric cycles of life would consider nonsense like wasting valuable energy resources to capture and bury a valuable organic resource like carbon dioxide in huge carbon cemeteries (referred to in greenhouse-speak as "carbon geo-sequestration").

Every plant that grows on land or water sequesters carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. To starve the plants at great cost by artificial burial and sterilisation of carbon resources is *NOT* a sustainable or sensible policy.

20. Populating the Oceans

Additional atmospheric carbon dioxide would also encourage life in the oceans. Plankton is the grass of the seas, and like the grasses of the land, it is the key platform at the base of the oceanic food chain.

Fertilising currently unpopulated parts of the oceans to encourage the growth of plankton and their associated fish resources may be practical and could be a far more sensible policy for removing carbon dioxide than burying it in carbon cemeteries.

Carbon dioxide is a natural resource for humanity rather than a dangerous menace to be imprisoned and buried alive in an unmarked grave.

21. Sustainable Farming

The leafy-suburb people with clean fingernails and shiny new cars are always lecturing farmers to adopt "sustainable" farming practices. It is the new buzz word that everyone uses but few understand.

To fully adopt sustainable farming would require city dwellers to return every bit of mineral and organic material to our soils. No more sewerage plants dumping fertiliser into the ocean – they must return weekly buckets of night soil to our pastures.

Waste water can no longer be dumped quietly into the ocean, and there can be no more bodies buried in Toowong cemetery. Those valuable resources of minerals and hydrocarbons must come back – all timber, wool, cotton, and food scraps must come back to rejoin the cycle of life. And Grannie must be buried under the big fig tree on Western Ridge.

All that allows the current totally unsustainable modern life cycle of our cities to continue are the mines and fertiliser companies that return minerals to our depleted soils and the hydrocarbon power plants, large and small, fixed and mobile that replace some of the lost carbon and water vapour into our atmosphere.

Until the cities are fully replacing all the resources that they currently drain from our farms, they should stop lecturing and legislating farmers on sustainable practices and leave the atmosphere to recirculate some of the gaseous emissions of water and carbon dioxide. A bit of sulphur and nitrogen would also be appreciated. Our farms need them all.

22. Combustion of Carbon Fuels

Bush fires have been producing carbon dioxide emissions by combustion of carbon fuels ever since forests, grass and lightning appeared on the earth.

Cave man learned to extract energy for warmth and cooking by open air combustion of wood, coal, bitumen and animal dung.

Medieval Man discovered how to extract motive energy for ploughing and personal transport from hay burning horses and bullocks.

Inventive Man discovered how to extract concentrated stationary energy by combustion of carbon products in the steam engine. This ushered in the Industrial Revolution, which allowed the abolition of famine in the western world and supported a growing and more prosperous urban population.

Modern man discovered the internal combustion engine which proved more efficient in extracting energy from liquid hydrocarbons in compact portable engines. This allowed the development of vehicle and air transport.

For the whole of this time, humans and animals have been extracting energy from carbon fuels via slow burning internal combustion in stomachs and paunches.

All of these methods of extracting energy utilise similar chemically similar and related carbon fuels and all produce emissions consisting mainly of water vapour and carbon dioxide (with some methane through the rear exhaust).

There is nothing “unnatural” about internal or external combustion nor are their emission products an unusual component of the atmosphere.

23. Alternate Energy Sources

Coal powers most of our cities and oil powers most of our vehicles. Without these two power sources, the urban populations are not viable. That is a reality. Anyone who talks about closing coal mines or abolishing the internal combustion engine must produce realistic alternative energy sources or alternative life styles.

The only alternative sources of energy to produce and transport the food needed by the modern world are solar, wind, hydro, gas, ethanol, geothermal, hydrogen and nuclear.

To evaluate these fully would take more time than we have here, but a few comments are relevant.

Solar is the darling of the beautiful people – so clean, so quiet, so politically correct and non-polluting. There are three major problems, at least two of which no amount of research can solve.

Firstly, solar energy arrives in a very diffuse form, so to provide significant base load energy we would need to cover whole landscapes of land to collect significant energy.

Secondly, solar panels only work when the sun is shining. Who powers the grid during the cloudy days and the long cold nights? (“Batteries” is the glib answer. When I was a kid, we had a bank of 16 big lead accumulators beside the diesel generator in the dairy, but Dad still had to crank up the diesel generator on wash and iron days. In the solar powered city, who cranks up the engine for extra power for the heaters and toasters in a million homes on a cold cloudy morning?)

Thirdly, a careful audit of total energy required to produce all the materials needed in a solar panel collector compared to their lifetime output shows they are very inefficient and usually only survive on subsidies. Research may solve this problem.

Growing plants offer the only sustainable method of collecting solar energy, and humans are already heavily dependent on just two brands of collectors, both from the same Maker – grasses and plankton.

Wind power can contribute in special locations, but even farmers are abandoning windmills in favour of diesel powered pumps. Why? In times of drought, weather patterns are dominated by a series of slow moving zones of high air pressure which bring sunny blue skies and no wind for days. Cattle can die of thirst waiting for the wind to blow. Wind also supplies a limited amount of power per acre of land, so to supply significant power, the countryside must be blighted by metallic forests of these unsightly and dangerous whirling scythes.

Hydro power makes sense in suitable locations, but such locations are rare. And any new hydro development will be opposed when the usual mob finds the usual barriers to any development – an endangered frog, a sacred tree or a shoal of migrating fish.

What about “Clean” gas – surely that is the new hope?

Every combustible fuel including wood, dung, natural gas, coal seam gas, oil, diesel, petrol, coal and ethanol contains carbon and hydrogen. Burning every one of them produces two gases every time – water vapour and carbon dioxide. Gases and lighter oils have a greater ratio of hydrogen to carbon than heavy oils and coal. So gas produces more water vapour and less carbon dioxide than coal, but **BOTH** are greenhouse gases.

We are told that Queensland is going to outlaw electric stoves, whose carbon dioxide is generally produced from coal in remote bush locations and quickly diffused into the atmosphere in a tall stack. Instead we will have the carbon dioxide produced in every house on every street. Carbon dioxide is heavier than air and in quiet locations away from the wind it can accumulate to suffocating concentrations – who wants an invisible ghost in the cellar? Using a gas appliance with all the doors and windows closed tightly can produce that deadly cousin of carbon dioxide – carbon monoxide. This gas kills. It is far better to leave all the combustion emissions at the power station in the bush. That way, no monoxide is produced and all dioxide can be widely dispersed into the open atmosphere.

And who pays for all the redundant coal power stations, power lines, combustion engines and electrical appliances declared obsolete on the nod of a born-again-green-politician?

The logic of producing ethanol from grain or sugar cane does not stack up. We use motor fuel to cultivate, fertilise, harvest and transport food stuffs so we can use more energy to turn that food into . . . more motor fuel! This whole process will at the same time push up the price of grain and sugar used to produce much of human and animal foods. (US corn prices, boosted by the demand from subsidised ethanol plants, have doubled in the last year. Think what that will do to the price of your morning cornflakes.) As one American critic of ethanol says:

“If one compares a cornfield with a prairie (natural grassland), the conclusion is that a prairie runs on sunlight, while a cornfield runs on fossil fuels”.

Growing grains and sugar cane are useful and important industries. If using them to make ethanol can compete on an equal footing with all other sources of energy, it will develop. But taxpayers’ funds should not be used to subsidise ethanol while pushing up food costs for human and animal feed.

Geothermal will probably make some contributions to our energy supply in favoured locations, but there is zero chance it can replace enough coal and petroleum to allow a cut of even 20% in greenhouse gases by 2020.

The dreamers, of course, will blithely announce “the hydrogen economy”. But hydrogen does not flow from oil wells and cannot be drained from coal mines – it has to be extracted from water or coal. Such extraction takes large amounts of energy. Sounds like the ethanol caper all over again.

That leaves the unspeakable one, nuclear power. This is the only feasible alternative to carbon fuels to power our cities, trains and factories in the near future. The Carbon Coalition is not promoting nuclear power, but those who vilify carbon fuels are doing just that. But, nuclear power is outlawed in Australia (double vetoed in Queensland) so further discussion is pointless here.

The conclusion is inescapable. There is no chance of reducing carbon dioxide emissions in Australia in less than a generation unless we embrace nuclear power, or accept a savage cut in living standards.

On a world scale, no significant reduction is likely unless there is a reduction in world population.

These realities exist, even if no one recognises them.

24. Australia’s Output of CO2 is Irrelevant to Global Warming.

Carbon Dioxide forms about 0.04% of the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide emissions attributable to human activities in Australia are about 1.4% of total world emissions from human activities. No one knows what Nature’s carbon dioxide balance sheet looks like, but let’s assume that nature is in balance, and man’s emissions represent 100% of net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Even if human emissions caused atmospheric carbon

dioxide to double in a year, Australia's contribution would represent an addition to the total atmosphere of 0.00056%.

Does anyone truly think this would melt the icecaps or have any measurable effect on world climate?

25. "But we need Statistics to manage Emissions Trading".

All over the world, greedy merchant banks and sharp commodity traders are salivating over the prospect that every business in the land may soon become a customer wanting to buy or sell artificial creations called "Carbon Credits". (Enron lobbied heavily for Kyoto, dazzled by the profit potential of emissions trading, and Westpac bought Enron's Carbon emissions trading business.)

And tax collectors can't wait for the carbon taxes to start rolling in.

This enormous electronic industry will be a huge generator of costs and corruption for every productive business, with no real benefits whatsoever for anyone except mega-profits for smart bankers and traders. In the hydrocarbon industry, the biggest innovations in the land will be the stories told about emissions, offsets and reductions – whole research departments will be devoted to their concoction.

(John Mikklesen, writing in the Gladstone Observer 16th June 2007 described "offsets" well: "That's a bit like beating up your wife, then making a donation to the local women's refuge.")

The most likely visible result of all this pretend industry will be to cover millions of acres of productive farmland with a sterile monoculture of woody-weed eucalypts (all called "offsets" in the green balance sheets). As this crop of weeds grows, it will extract valuable water and carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and minerals and water from the ground. Once it matures it will just sit there, producing nothing of value to humans – old trees will die and new trees will grow, with no net extraction of carbon dioxide.

Some enlightened future generation, or the hungry hordes from abroad, will clear the woody weeds, return the trapped carbon to the cycle of life, and use the land to produce useful grass and crops again.

To enable or encourage the creation of such a wasteful pseudo-industry is no justification for collecting National Pollutant Inventory statistics on carbon dioxide.

Imagine how the statistics monster could develop:

First they would merely require annual reports from coal mines, oil wells and power stations (there are not many votes to lose there).

Then they would expand their reporting demands to factories, planes, trucks and trains.

Finally, Big Nanny will intrude into homes and farms. She will be checking the exhaust fumes from the family Holden, and new regulations will insist that all cattle are fitted with EEM's (electronic emission meters). These meters will be integrated with the electronic tags already required under NLIS (National Livestock Identification Scheme). Sheep will be probably be exempted from EEM's for 2 years but a deemed emission rate will be mandated and the appropriate emissions tax added to the sheep levy.

NLIS cards for humans (with optional EEM's) will become compulsory once the considerable problems with the livestock NLIS system are ironed out.

Anything that deters or delays such costly stupidity is a benefit to future generations of humanity.

26. Adapt or Die.

Every person alive today descends from a long line of survivors stretching back to the beginnings of life. Our ancestors survived massive climate change - floods of Biblical dimensions, storms more violent than Katrina, volcanism to dwarf Krakatau, Saharan droughts, seas that evaporated and then flooded back and flourishing greenhouse forests followed by glacial ages of ice.

Many species and individuals died in the ages of chaos but our ancestors adapted and survived. They went on to thrive in the occasional warm,

moist, calm periods like today. (Incidentally, polar bears also managed to adapt and survive periods warmer than today.)

High levels of carbon dioxide, warming seas, pole reversals and rapid extinction of many species have all been periodic visitors to earth well before man became a dominant species. We are now living in one of the benign but short warm periods.

It is an impossible dream to believe that the whole human race, acting in concert, have the practical means or the political will to do anything that causes significant change to future temperatures in the atmosphere.

No matter what happens, mankind must do what every one of his ancestors did – adapt to whatever nature throws at us.

Our ability to adapt will be reduced should we be so foolish as to waste human resources on pointless exercises such as artificial Carbon Sequestration, Carbon Taxes, Emissions Caps or Emissions Trading.

27. But Isn't the Science all Settled?

The global warming lobby would like the world to believe that:

- The earth's temperature is now at an extreme high and rising fast.
- The cause of this is mainly emissions of man-made carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.
- We can reduce carbon dioxide emissions without great costs or disruptions; in fact there could be benefits.
- There is no time to debate this – we must act urgently.
- All informed scientists and all reasonable people accept all of the above. There is no dissent apart from a few ignorant people with vested interests who are still in denial.

I believe the evidence shows that every one of the above statements is false. There is a wealth of evidence should people wish to look.

28. Keeping the Myth Alive - Vested Interests and Hidden Agendas

There is an army of people with a big vested interest in maintaining the rage about the villain carbon.

First there are the favoured academics and scientists. Rivers of money are flowing to every boffin who can mention “Global Warming” in his application for a research grant.

Then there are the plane loads of peripatetic politicians and public servants off to Rio, Kyoto or Oslo for the annual talk fests on “The Greenhouse Problem”. This is a gravy train that never stops.

Also riding the Global Warming tiger are those political extremists who see the public panic about Global Warming as a heaven sent opportunity to achieve their hidden agenda which supports increased government control over every aspect of our lives.

Then there are the giant corporations developing their models for price predicting, derivative plays, futures trading and insurance hedging in the lucrative carbon emissions trading market.

On the international scene, countries like France, with a large nuclear power industry, will benefit from the imposition of carbon taxes in countries like Australia and the US, which are heavily dependent on coal for electricity. And who believes that China, which is currently opening coal fired power stations at the rate of two or three per month, is going to effectively cripple their growth with carbon caps and taxes?

With curbs or taxes on carbon, the cost disadvantage of making things in Australia will widen. Is Australia prepared to export the rest of its depleted manufacturing industry and all future mineral and food processing plants to China? That route will put more carbon dioxide into the earth's atmosphere, while destroying jobs in Australia.

Then of course there are the politicians who see the electoral appeal of pandering to a concerned electorate whose heads they have filled with fear.

Add the media barons selling news about yet another even scarier climate forecast.

And the canny nuclear industry, saying very little but greatly relieved at getting out of the firing line for a while, and preparing to benefit hugely from the crippling of its carbon competitor with caps and taxes.

Finally, the entrepreneurs and ideologues of the environmental movement are mining the rich lode of donations from guilt ridden millionaires and suburban missionaries seeking a meaningful cause.

Jack Lang once said "Put your money on self interest, you always know it is trying".

Jack's timeless advice helps to explain how a flimsy theory about a minor natural gas in the atmosphere has developed into an aggressive, intolerant and all-consuming new religion.

It also identifies those likely to be responsible for "Keeping the Myth Alive".

29. Carbon Credits + Carbon Taxes = Corruption + Red Tape

In a real market, the people with the biggest interest in the matter (buyer and seller) come together. Neither will deal unless they believe that deal is the best they can get at the time. If one party is cheated, he never deals there again, and the seller is punished. This close supervision is never present in artificial markets where one party is well informed and keenly interested in the outcome, and the other is a distant, probably cynical bureaucracy. The conditions which ensure maximum corruption in any market are:

- There must be benefits and penalties administered by some distant central authority with insufficient incentive, knowledge or resources to keep the system honest.
- Benefits and penalties should accrue for intangibles or transactions which are unable to be checked until after the benefits have been handed out.

- Corruption is magnified if beneficiaries are small in number, big and competent, and the ultimate victims are large numbers of tax payers or consumers.
- Corruption is even worse if victims are in rich western countries and beneficiaries are in distant provinces of the developing world.
- The "Corruption Potential Index" should be doubled if the scheme is administered by the UN or any other international bureaucracy.
- Corruption is increased if the system is controlled by very detailed complex rules, and if justification reports or audits are commissioned by and paid for by beneficiaries.

The carbon credits market in Europe has already illustrated the corruption which will be the inevitable companion of any government scheme of national or international wealth transfer.

Examples include:

- Credits were paid for fictitious reductions.
- Large profits accrued quickly for carbon emitters who were given too many credits.
- There were perverse consequences – it became profitable to produce more of a chemical classed as a "Greenhouse Gas" and then burn it to gain carbon credits. The pollutants produced by this process were not classed as "Greenhouse Gases" and thus could be released, unchecked. However, the final pollutants were a far greater danger in the atmosphere than the original one, but the polluter was paid to produce more.

Naturally, once the media reveals the rorts, the authorities will tighten up the rules. And who do they consult on workable rules? - the big operators in the "industry" of course. Soon the rules are used to keep out competition, and a cosy atmosphere of mutual trust develops between beneficiaries and regulators. All paperwork will be correct, but the

cost to the community of taxes and red tape costs will be huge.

The benefits will prove illusory.

30. *The Failures of Forecasting*

We are continually getting warnings something like this: "The latest climate forecasts from the International Committee on something or other show that temperatures in Kickatinalong are likely to rise 1.35 degrees by April Fool's Day in 2050, and this will cause a dramatic fall in the production of goats' milk".

I have spent many years reading, preparing and watching the outcome of various forecasts. I learned very early:

"He who lives by the crystal ball ends up eating ground glass."

Yet we are being asked to accept immediate, far reaching and largely irreversible increases in the cost of energy, food and taxes, on the sole basis of the outputs of some computer forecasts of global temperatures over the next century, done by people unable to forecast the weather for the next long weekend. And now we have government economists who cannot forecast next week's oil price recommending what should be legislated as a long term fixed price for carbon emissions.

All such forecasts should be written in pencil, and politicians who act on them should keep their bags packed.

31. *By their words you should know them.*

"To capture the public imagination, we have to offer up some scary scenarios, make simplified dramatic statements and little mention of any doubts one might have. Each of us has to decide the right balance between being effective, and being honest." –

Leading greenhouse advocate, Dr Stephen Schneider (in interview for "Discover" Magazine, Oct 1989)

32. *The Forgotten People*

The costs to maintain the massive Global Warming Industry are already huge (\$2 billion per year). If it can convince venal politicians to impose carbon taxes, caps on carbon dioxide, emissions trading and subsidies for covering the world with solar panels, windmills, woody weeds and ethanol plants, the real costs for the forgotten people will be huge.

Who are the forgotten people?

They are the consumers and families who rely on low cost abundant coal for electric power and on petroleum products for transportation. Were they faced with declining access to these two products, many consumers would starve in their cold, dark cities.

I can remember when our farm got its first 32 volt diesel power plant. What magic to replace the old kero lamp with the flick of a switch, and replace our bag-sided water cooled Coolgardie safe with a gleaming fridge that would keep milk cold and fresh for days. Who gives us the right to deny that chance to millions of other human beings now aspiring to the better quality of life offered when the power lines first come past the door?

Also forgotten are the owners and shareholders of the directly threatened coal, oil and power industries. Their wealth will be secretly eroded directly by taxes and indirectly by market effects on costs and prices. The rising costs and taxes will then feed directly into basic industries like steel making and the manufacture of coke, cement, plastics and chemicals.

But the damage will not stop there. Transport, travel, tourism, agriculture and fishing will be hit next. There will be climate change levies on air tickets and carbon offset taxes on your electricity account. The use of oil powered cars, trucks, trains, tractors, planes and ships will be frowned on, taxed or rationed. The growing circles of damage will affect anything from the little grey Fergie to D10 dozers, from the farm ute to road trains, from Toyota mini-buses to diesel locomotives and from fishing tinnies to ocean liners and bulk carriers. Burning wood in pot bellied stoves and burn-off of dead pasture will be hanging offences.

Busy bodies and doblers will report offenders, and hidden TV cameras will expose and convict the anti-social offenders every night. Big Nanny will be replaced by Big Brother with a Big Stick.

The hidden victims also include those scientists and public employees who question the dominant dogma. These have already faced intimidation, demotion or loss of funding.

The Global Warming industry in their air conditioned offices and private jets has no sympathy for those millions of ordinary people employed by these key industries of a modern world.

Leaders of the “kill carbon” mob, such as economist and ex-banker Stern in Britain, have demanded a 25% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2050. Vote seeking politicians in Australia are already promising 20% by 2020 (or is it 50% by 2050?). The UN bureaucracy, the International Panel on Climate Change, struggling to retain leadership of the stampede they have started, has urged a 60% reduction by 2050. Then G8 (the eight once-rich nations) wanting to appear reasonable, agreed recently “to give serious consideration” to cuts of 50% by 2050. The Greens Party in Australia trumped that with a goal of 80% by 2050 (you spin the wheel, and it comes up with a number).

(Personally, I like “20% by 2020” which has a nice alliterative appeal, which is as good a basis as all the others.)

However, as there will be no effective restrictions on places like India and China, this implies much larger reductions in the western world. And with population growth, the per capita reduction will be far more again.

These figures are scary for thinking people.

Unless we embark on a massive crash program to build nuclear power stations, this goal is not achievable without draconian cuts in the use of hydrocarbons – petrol, diesel, oil, gas and coal. But millions of people depend on abundant energy and cheap transportation to produce and deliver food to the cities every day. Ruthless cuts in energy usage must mean poverty and deprivation for many of them.

All this is based on faulty science, and fanned by key extremists in the environmental movement, vote seeking politicians, carbon trading speculators and a media which prefers sensationalism to boring facts.

Carbon emissions can only be lowered by reducing economic growth, prosperity and employment.

It will be a huge and guaranteed cost for a very dubious cause.

33. “But we must conserve Energy and save the Environment”.

The high prices for coal and petroleum have focussed the minds of every consumer on how to minimise carbon energy costs. This will encourage energy conservation and the development of alternative energy sources. All this is useful and beneficial. But nothing the government can do will assist this natural market process. Subsidies always encourage overuse and waste, and taxes always result in lower production and higher prices for the taxed product.

There is no doubt that mankind has and will continue to change his environment, mainly by the spread of cities and urban areas. This degradation is worst in poorer areas of the world (for example, where burning animal dung in open cooking fires is the main energy source). Importing poverty into rich countries and stopping economic growth in poorer countries will make pollution worse, not better.

There are many reasons to support energy conservation and cleaning up the environment, but global warming is not one of them.

The fundamental environmental problems are population and poverty, not carbon dioxide.

34. Carbon Dioxide is NOT a pollutant

Incredible as it sounds, there are some people proposing that carbon dioxide be included in a list of pollutants to be reported in the National Pollutant Inventory.

This is equivalent to putting up “Wanted Dead or Alive” pictures of Mother Teresa on the wall of every police station in the land.

Carbon Dioxide is NOT a pollutant – it is the life blood of the living world.

Man’s output of carbon dioxide is not a significant factor in setting global temperatures and nothing he can do will have a noticeable effect on them.

Viv Forbes

June2007* * * * *
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Note: This paper aims to provide an understandable summary of some key elements of the Greenhouse Debate. It is not a scientific research paper. Should anyone be interested in sourcing the scientific evidence and papers underpinning its main themes, it can be provide if requested.

Disclosure of Interest: The author is a geologist, grass farmer and missionary for maintaining healthy soils, pastures, animals and people. He lives with his wife Judy on a farm in Queensland, Australia. He has qualifications in applied science and financial analysis and has spent all of his life (in government service and industry, employee and self employed) in the great primary industries which have always been the chief generators of new wealth for Australians – mining and agriculture. His mining experience covers work at the great Mount Isa Mine as well as in exploration and production of coal, oil and gas. In farming, he breeds cattle and meat sheep and advocates family farming with an emphasis on natural and sustainable methods of caring for the soil and pastures to produce healthy animals and food. Currently he earns income from breeding cattle and sheep and contract consulting work in the infrastructure and coal industries. He can be contacted at info@carbon-sense.com.

No one paid him or prompted him to produce this article; in fact friends warned him it could affect his livelihood adversely. He was stirred into action by a wholly stupid proposal by a cabal of state governments to include Carbon Dioxide in the National Pollutant Inventory. The rage grew from there as the scale of the unfolding Global Warming Scandal became obvious.

35. Further Reading and Web Sites:

The Atmosphere

www.co2science.org

<http://www.co2science.org/scripts/CO2ScienceB2C/Index.jsp>

Climate Change

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<http://www.warwickhughes.com/agri/pastandfuture2.pdf>

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BBC, A 75 minute documentary titled "The Great Global Warming Swindle":

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XttV2C6B8pU>

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Robert

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The Heartland Institute:
<http://www.heartland.org/Article.cfm?artId=21222>

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17997788/site/newsweek/>

<http://members.iinet.net.au/%7Eglrnc/2007%2005-03%20AusIMM%20corrected.pdf>

<http://members.iinet.net.au/%7Eglrnc/World%20Economics%20-%20Stern%20Review,%20Part%201.pdf>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMQH5aa5O0s>

<http://video.google.co.uk/videoplay?docid=4499562022478442170&q>

Emissions Trading:

Participants in the State Government's greenhouse gas emissions trading scheme rewarded when their emissions have increased.

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