

8 February 2009

SUBMISSION on the EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME Review

To the Emissions Trading Scheme Review Committee

Introduction

This submission is from Neil Henderson
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I am a 52 year old very scientifically literate farmer, having topped Gisborne Boy's High School in Chemistry and Physics in my seventh form year. I live with my wife and three children out past "the black stump" west of Gisborne in the remote Whakarau Valley, on the 404 hectare farm carved out of the bush by my grandfather.

I wish to appear before the committee to speak to my submission.

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Summary

I wish to make the following comments:

- The central/benchmark projections being used for international agreements for climate change are very uncertain, and contain a high level of risk.
- Some of the data presented by the IPCC is presented in a misleading manner.
- Combating climate change will be a very costly exercise for a possibility of a nil return.
- The need to combat climate change relies on an underlying assumption that a warmer climate is worse than our present climate. I strongly disagree with this assumption.
- Other countries are significantly softening their stand on climate change targets.
- Therefore:
 - New Zealand needs to repeal the existing Emissions Trading Scheme and Climate Change legislation.

- New Zealand needs to withdraw from its Kyoto obligations
- New Zealand needs to take a lead position to educate the world about the truth of Anthropological Global Warming (AGW).
- New Zealand needs to put in the utmost effort to ensure there is no replacement for Kyoto.

Specific Comments

Part I

I wish to raise the following matters under term of reference 5:

Consider the impact on the New Zealand economy and New Zealand households of any climate change policies, having regard to the weak state of the economy, the need to safeguard New Zealand's international competitiveness, the position of trade-exposed industries, and the actions of competing countries.

1. Costs to agriculture

The current emissions trading legislation, when it is fully implemented, will cost my farm almost \$32,000pa at the standard costing of \$25/tonne CO₂. However through last year, until the cost of carbon crashed along with the price of almost everything else, the price was always over \$40/tonne. At that price the cost to our farm would be just over \$51,000pa. Our economic farm surplus (EFS) in 2008 was \$57,500. The EFS is the money left after meeting farm running expenses, and is available for debt servicing, capital expenditure, and return on capital. This clearly makes our farming operation totally uneconomic. I would further point out that our EFS is 38% above the Gisborne average.

There has been a suggestion that we could aim for a 50% reduction by 2050. The cost of this to us would be \$30,000 at a price of \$47/tonne, which was the price of carbon at one stage in 2008. This would still leave too little for debt servicing etc, especially on an average farm. In addition, I would point out that the above figures are only for livestock emissions. On top of this is the carbon cost of energy used on farm, the flow on effects of transport costs for inputs onto the farm and outputs off the farm, the costs of applying fertiliser, the manufacture of that fertiliser etc.

2. Locking land up in forestry

It will be pointed out that I can plant forestry to neutralise my carbon costs. True. But how many people have thought through the long term implications of this? It is totally unsustainable in the long term. If I take land out to plant pines, I would have to drop stock numbers to compensate, which would have a negative impact on the above EFS, short term. I could balance my carbon liability by planting 13% of the farm in pines, and then intensifying operations on the balance and only reducing stock numbers by 10%. However this will only work for the time the forest is growing, which is deemed to be 28 years. So after 28 years my forest will no longer be soaking up carbon, and I will face a carbon liability of \$46,000 on my remaining livestock, at \$40/tonne CO₂, necessitating another forest being needed. Eventually my whole farm will be locked up in pines that cannot be cut unless someone pays the carbon cost back which equates to over \$24,000/hectare at \$40/tonne CO₂! Do we want New Zealand to be a country where the sole industry is forestry?

3. Effect on households

Costings I have heard being promoted by public service employees are too conservative. As above in Part I, (2), they are based on unrealistic prices for CO₂. They also tend to look at direct costs only, namely the increase to the consumer of fuel and electricity. But again, also as outlined in Part I, (2), above, there is the flow-on effect of everything else in the economy; the cost of harvesting and transporting the food, the cost of manufacturing machinery to harvest and process the food etc. I have seen figures suggesting the price of a car will rise by 25% at a carbon price of \$25/tonne. One can assume a carbon price of \$40/tonne will mean a rise of 40%. One can also assume the price of machinery, tractors, trucks etc. will rise by somewhat similar amounts. What does this mean to the average household budget? Obviously significantly greater costs than the rise in price of fuel and electricity that they experience directly. The inflationary effect will be quite significant.

4. The need to safeguard New Zealand's international competitiveness.

One of the main defenses we hear in justification of the need for climate change measures are the threat of tariffs/trade barriers if we do not instigate them. How real is this threat? In the Wairere Ram Breeders' newsletter, a snippet which I believe originated in a travel magazine, reads;
UK retailer Marks and Spencers has introduced packaging with aeroplanes on it, to warn customers that the food has been airfreighted. Sales of those products have increased, because customers know how fresh they are!

A survey released in November 2008, of 12,000 people across eleven countries, conducted by the financial institution HSBC and a number of

environmental groups such as the Earthwatch Institute, shows a drop in numbers willing to make sacrifices to combat climate change.

Only 47% would change their lifestyle to reduce carbon emissions, down from 58% a year earlier.

Only 20% would spend money to reduce climate change, down from 28% a year earlier.

Only 27% want their governments to participate in Kyoto-style international agreements to reduce emissions.

It is obvious that a large percentage of consumers couldn't care less about carbon footprints. The dropping levels of support would suggest an increasing number of people are becoming enlightened to the reality of climate change. With all due respect, the problem of tariffs and trade barriers lies in the lap of the politicians. We need to take these consumers onside with us and educate the politicians to the truths about climate change. There is more detail on these truths under later terms of reference.

5. The position of trade-exposed industries.

As evidenced by the quote above, it would appear NZ will not get any premiums for being carbon neutral, and certainly not enough to cover the cost of carbon in our farming operations. New Zealand is a very small country. We have no hope of competing against the large nations if they do not impose similar carbon restrictions on production. While President Barak Obama is making positive noises of action in his euphoria of being elected, others facing the task of re-election in the current world economic crisis, such as German Chancellor Angela Merkel, are rapidly backing away from taking action on climate change. See Part V, (1). We are too small to be the world leader, or even to go with Australia. We should not do anything until/unless the world does something. In the meantime, as mentioned above in Part I, (4), we should continue to educate the world on the truth of climate change.

6. The actions of competing countries.

New Zealand is the first country to include agriculture in its ETS. It is true that others may act by 2012 when it first starts to take effect. But, since agriculture is such a major part of our economy, shouldn't we wait to see what action others are taking before jeopardising our major industry? World agricultural leaders meeting in Australia last year couldn't believe we would be so stupid as to lead the race! Living as far as we do from most of our markets is a big enough handicap to trade. Why do we want to add on extra costs in the form of paying for the carbon released in the production of those goods? All it will achieve is to allow other countries which have less carbon

efficient agricultural industries than ours, but no ETS, to increase their output at our expense, and at the expense of more carbon being produced!

Part II

I wish to raise the following matters under term of reference 6:

Examine the relative merits of a mitigation or adaptation approach to climate change in New Zealand.

1. Increasing atmospheric levels of CO₂ grows more grass

Carbon dioxide, also known as CO₂, is an essential component for all plant growth. Just as adding fertiliser to the soil increases plant growth, so adding CO₂ to the atmosphere increases plant growth. Some glass house growers already practice this. They seal their glasshouses and pump in extra CO₂ to boost growth rates and/or yields. In a world of finite land resources for growing food, for an ever increasing population, the prospect of producing more food from the same area due to higher levels of CO₂ must be considered a very positive outcome. Yet here we are proposing to limit CO₂ to 1990 levels. It is simply insane! This is one of the truths alluded to in Part I, (4), that needs to be put in front of the general populace.

2. Higher temperatures increase plant growth rates.

The largest constraint to production on our farm, along with the majority of farms in New Zealand, and indeed a large part of the world, is our winter grass growth rate. Our production is limited to the number of stock we can carry through the winter. Those farms with suitable contour conserve hay and silage or grow a fodder crop to help carry stock over the winter. Those like us who have a farm that is too steep to crop are restricted in our production by what grass we can grow through the winter. If our winters were warmer we would grow more grass, which in turn would increase the amount of stock we could farm through the winter, leading to higher production of food for a hungry world. So it is clear a warmer climate would be beneficial. So why do we want to stop the climate from warming, if indeed it is? This is another of the truths, alluded to in Part I, (4).

3. Farmers cope with constant climate change.

There are very significant variations in the temperatures and rainfall amounts from one year to the next. For example, August 2008 was 1-1.5° colder than the long term average over the whole of New Zealand. Simple logic suggests it is therefore possible that another August could quite

conceivably be 1-1.5° warmer than usual, and further logic suggests that August one year could, therefore, possibly be 2-3° warmer or colder than the previous August. Thus the variation from one year to the next could be as much as the IPCC has in its worst case scenario for fifty years. It would be much simpler to cope with a slow steady rise in temperature than the sometimes major fluctuations between years, or even sometimes within a year. Rainfall fluctuations are even more dramatic. On our farm the total rainfall for January to March 1983 was 65.5 mm. The same period in 1985 was 516.5 mm, and in 1988 when we had Cyclone Bola it was 870 mm. The average is 330 mm. The story of farming is the story of adapting to/coping with what the climate dishes up. Absolute extreme events such as Cyclone Bola or the drought of 1983 do cause strains on the system, necessitating assistance from central government, but slow global warming would not come into this category.

4. Farmers believe mitigation/adaptation is best.

In November 2007, when some conservative rumblings of likely costs of an ETS were becoming available, I polled all 35 farmers at a meeting I attended. (This meeting was not convened to discuss climate change, so the results should not be distorted.) I put the following statement to the farmers, individually;

*The cost to Agriculture of actions to control the climate by reducing greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide) is **likely/unlikely** to be greater than the cost to Agriculture of taking no action and living with the effects of climate change.*

I asked them to choose one of five options;

very likely, likely, don't know, unlikely, and very unlikely.

Every single person said they believed the cost to Agriculture of actions to control the climate by reducing greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide) was **very likely** to be greater than the cost to Agriculture of taking no action and living with the effects of climate change.

This is not at all surprising to me in the light of Part II, (3). We could adapt relatively easily.

5. A warmer climate is beneficial to humans.

Subconsciously, almost everyone knows this. Those who can afford it get away to the tropical resorts such as Bali and the Gold Coast to escape the rigours of winter. More people die of cold-related disorders than from heat-related issues. The death rate rises in the winter as cold conditions drag people's immune systems down. A major irony in the negotiation process that generated support for the current ETS legislation was that while that

legislation was designed to cream billions of dollars out of the economy to help reduce temperatures, one of the support clauses involved pumping one billion dollars into the economy to insulate houses to help people keep warm! Again, why don't we just let the climate warm up to a more comfortable level?

Do a bit of lateral thinking about our past. While we don't have actual temperature data from the Middle Ages and the Roman era, because the thermometer was only invented in the early 1600s, we do know the temperatures in those times were warmer than today. Grapes grew in Northern England. The Vikings farmed livestock outdoors on green pastures in Greenland. That wouldn't, per chance, be the reason it is called Greenland? Both these eras were, without a shadow of doubt, the most prosperous times in recent history. Only in the last hundred years or so, with vastly superior technology, have we been able to eclipse the achievements of those times. Look at all the construction undertaken by the Romans, and again during the Middle Ages. By today's standards the equipment at their disposal was primitive. The work was achieved by a vast army of manual slave labour. These slaves had to eat. So behind the scenes another army of peasants was growing food, and still more were distributing it. Times were obviously benevolent to human existence. Time and effort was obviously not being used on restoring infrastructure destroyed by storms. Widespread crop failure due to drought or flood was not occurring. This is another of the truths alluded to in Part I, (4).

Part III

I wish to raise the following matters under term of reference 6:

Identify the central/benchmark projections which are being used as the motivation for international agreements to combat climate change; and consider the uncertainties and risks surrounding these projections.

1. The central issue of "climate change".

The IPCC is constituted under the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC). It defines climate change as "*a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.*"

As I have demonstrated in Part II, (3) & (5), the climate changes in both the short and long term. The above definition clearly affirms this. Actions on

climate change matters are only supposed to address climate change over and above what is natural. This is where action by the IPCC has misled the public.

Example 1. The “Mann Hockey Stick” (Fig 1), published in the IPCC 2001 Third Assessment Report, and immortalised by Al Gore in his DVD “The Inconvenient Truth” tends to flatten historical temperature data, and exaggerate current trends. For comparison, a more conventional assessment of temperature over the past thousand years is shown (Fig 2). Ironically, the IPCC printed this graph in their Second Assessment Report in 1995/96.

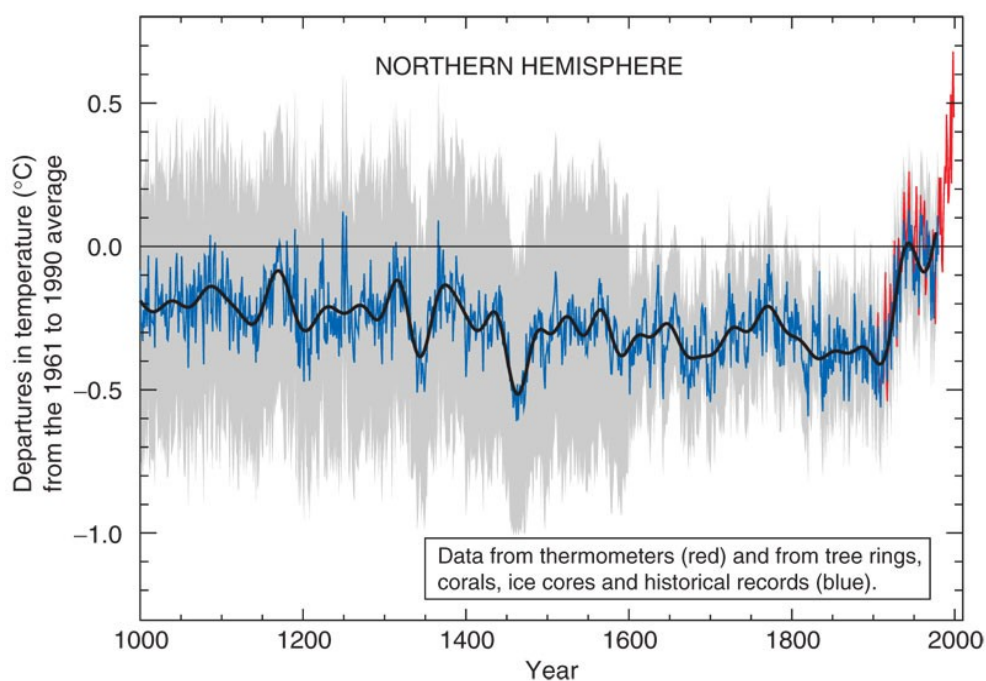


Fig. 1

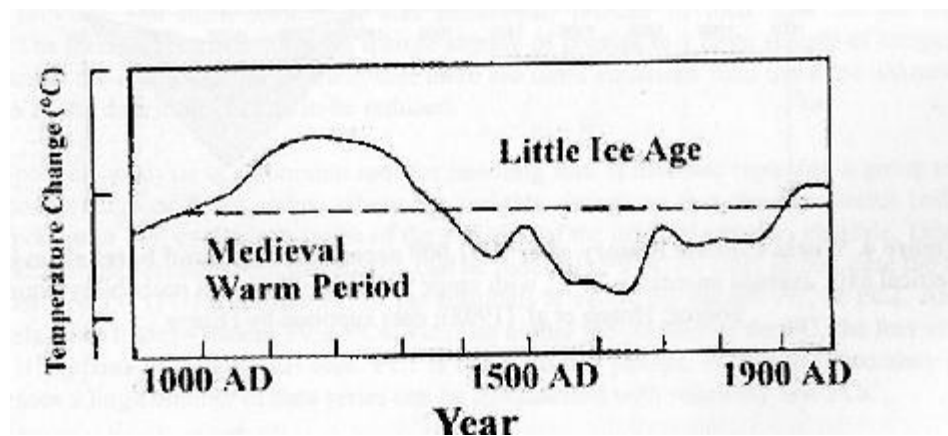


Fig. 2

I concede the now largely discredited “Mann Hockey Stick” has been removed from the Fourth Assessment Report, but it is still in Al Gore’s movie, being shown to countless thousands of school children, “indoctrinating” them with its falsities. It is also being seen by others. It tends to put a picture in people’s minds that the climate used to be constant, and makes them “receptive” to the notion that any climate change is human induced. Thus when a month is warmer than average, or when the Arctic ice melts etc, it is “proof” of human induced global warming.

Example 2. The following table (Fig 3) appears in the IPCC Working Group I Fourth Assessment Report.

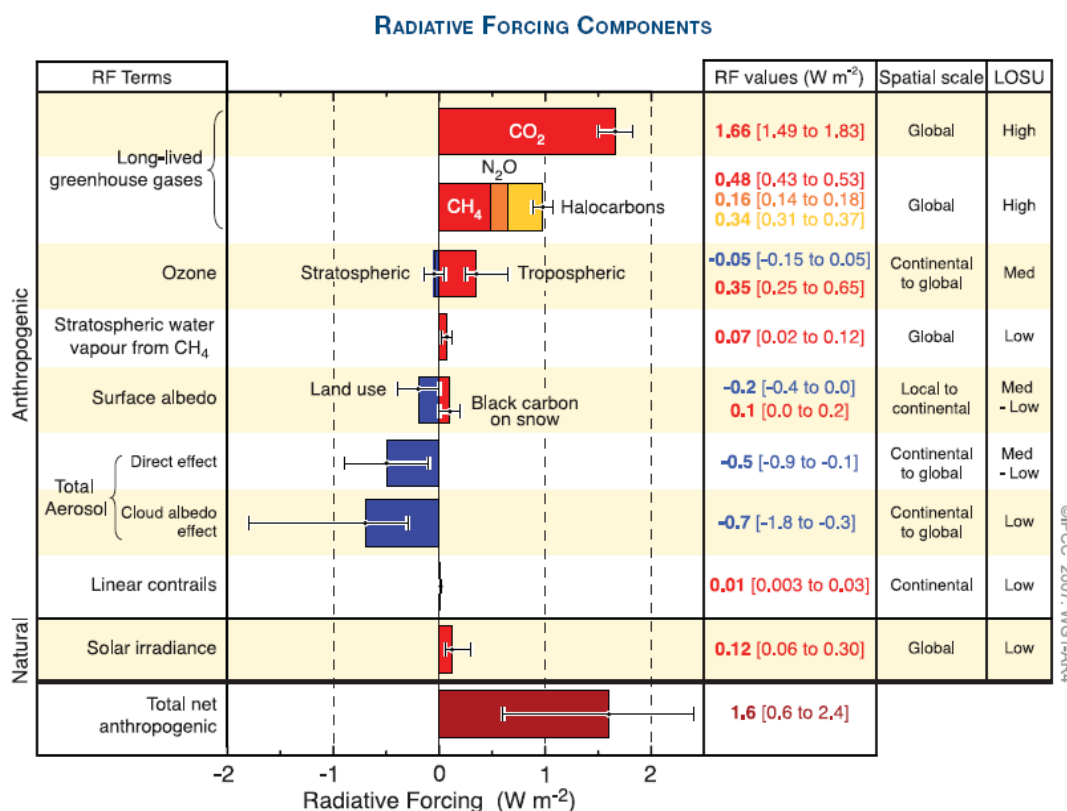


Fig. 3

On first glance this table would appear to show that CO₂ is the major greenhouse gas. The main heading, “Radiative Forcing Compounds” (global warming), carries no apparent qualifiers. Look at the smaller type down the left hand side. It mainly shows “Anthropogenic” (human) radiative forcing. But there is one little bit of “Natural” radiative forcing. It appears to suggest it shows all radiative forcing. But it most certainly does not. See Part III, (3) to find out more about what the greenhouse gases are. This is very misleading. I

have personally seen an example of this graph being used by a business commentator, who speaks to international audiences, to show that CO₂ is the most important greenhouse gas! There was no way I could shift him from his error. He just kept resounding with words to the effect “There’s the graph. There’s the proof. You are wrong in your assertions.” The question that springs to my mind is whether this is a deliberate ploy or shonky workmanship on the part of those who drew the graph. Either way reflects very badly on the IPCC credentials.

Example 3. In October 2008 Rajendra Pachauri gave an address at the University of NSW. He showed the following graph (Fig. 4).

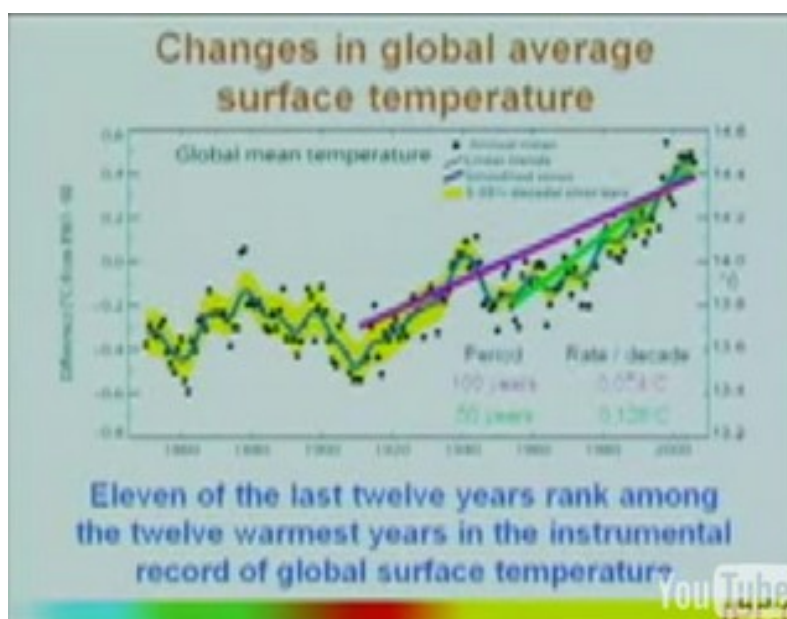
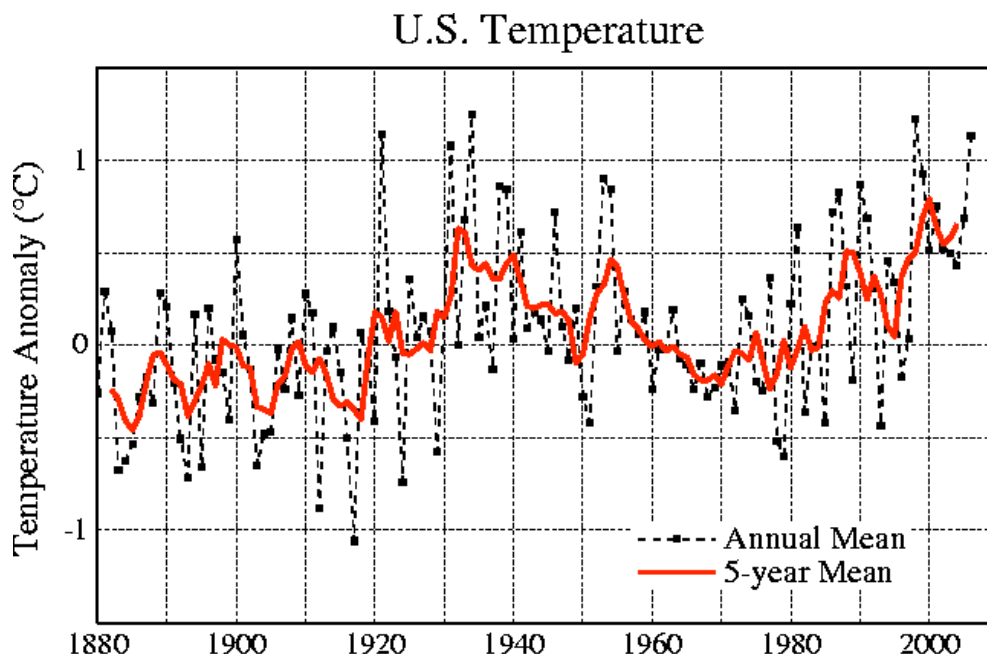


Fig. 4

He said “if you draw a line through the last hundred years of observations, you will get something like this as a fit...” (presumably referring to the purple line) “...However if you look at the last fifty years, then you get a line which is much steeper” (presumably referring to the green line) “...almost twice as steep as the total hundred year period.....So I’d like to emphasise the fact that we are at a stage where warming is taking place at a much faster rate...” How convenient of him to draw the fifty year line just past a sudden drop, but put the hundred year line across it. A fifty year line just prior to that drop around 1940 would be steeper than the fifty year line he shows! I wonder how deliberate this piece of misleading information is.

2. The uncertainty of climate change projections.

The supposed sudden drop of temperature around 1940 in Fig.4 raises interesting questions. All other graphs I have seen, whether global or continental, look similar to the one shown below (Fig. 5) for the US. They show a steady decline in temperature for around four decades, not a sudden drop, then a rise as in Fig. 4. The graph in Fig. 5 ties in with what we were taught in school in the 1970's.



Because we had been in a long temperature slide, scientists were “certain” we were heading for an ice age, and this is what we were taught. Governments were planning strategies to cope with a cooling world. With hindsight, we can see the projections in the 1970's were wrong. Why should we trust them to be right this time? Indeed the last ten years have shown no temperature increase, and the last year or two have been colder, leading some scientists to extrapolate a cooling period for the decade ahead, just as others extrapolate a warming period based on the data of the 1990's. The truth of the matter is that we will not know for sure whether the next decade will be warmer or cooler until we have lived through it. But what is obvious from past experience is that temperatures will rise and temperatures will fall.

3. The major greenhouse gases.

In Part III, (1) I have given the FCCC definition of climate change. The major targets of climate change policies are greenhouse gases. Whenever we hear of “Kyoto” we only ever hear of three main greenhouse gases: carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. The graph in Fig. 3 also suggests this is the case, but as I said in Part III, (1), Example 2, this graph does not show all the greenhouse gases. There is another. It is water vapour. It is far more important than all other greenhouse gases combined. Depending on how it is calculated it provides *at least* 65%. Most calculations put it much higher, up at around 90%. Because the gases “overlap” in their effects with one gas being able to “step up” its effect if another is removed, it is possible to prove that water vapour alone could provide up to 95% of the current greenhouse effect. If we further allow for greenhouse gases produced from natural sources such as volcanoes, wild animals, fish in the sea, methane from wetlands etc, the total human content of the greenhouse effect is likely to be less than one percent of the total greenhouse effect. Using the most conservative figure of 65%, to draw a bar on the graph in Fig. 3 to represent water vapour at the same scale as the Anthropogenic CO₂ would require a bar that is 1.5 metres long. If other factors, such as the “overlap” effects listed above, are considered it would need to be nearly ten metres long! It is hard to understand how anyone can believe that reducing part of the small human piece could have a significant effect on the climate.

4. The use of emotion as motivation.

I do not know where the idea started, but I am amazed how often I hear the phrase “carbon dioxide pollution”, or something to that effect. When I put the phrase in Google I came up with about 2,820,000 responses!! A significant number were pointing out the obvious absurdity of the phrase. But even if almost half fit that category, that still leaves close to 1.5 million responses of people saying carbon dioxide is pollution. One user of the phrase is the Natural Resources Defense Council, which is considered America’s most effective environmental action organisation. It has said “*Coal burning power plants are the largest US source of CO₂ pollution*” and, “*Though Americans make up just four percent of the world’s population, we produce 25% of the CO₂ pollution.*”

Another example comes from the World Wildlife Fund, which has a headline reading “*Historic bill to limit CO₂ pollution.*” The most striking example must come from our neighbours, the Australians, who are calling their ETS legislation “The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme”.

CO₂ is an essential component of life. Without CO₂ we would all be dead! It is the “air” plants breathe in the same way oxygen is the “air” humans and

animals breathe. I have yet to hear someone call oxygen “pollution”. There appears to be a belief that CO₂ produced by animals and natural processes is not pollution, but CO₂ produced by man burning fossil fuels is. I can assure you CO₂ is CO₂. A plant cannot tell whether a molecule of CO₂ came from an animal’s breath or that it came from a coal fired power station, in just the same way we cannot tell whether the oxygen molecule we breathe came from a plant or from a human controlled chemical reaction.

There is almost universal acceptance that pollution is bad. So by clever manipulation of the general population with this emotive phrase, “carbon dioxide pollution”, much support has been gathered in favour of the need to do something about CO₂ emissions. For example, last year when I was tackling one of our national farming leaders about his organisation’s stand on climate change, and explaining the benefits to farmers of increased CO₂ (see Part II, (1) above), he admitted to not being very scientifically minded, but said that surely I believed we needed to do something about the atmospheric pollution in places like Beijeng. I agree. But the pollution you see and smell in Beijeng or any other smog ridden city is NOT CO₂. CO₂ is colourless. You cannot see it. CO₂ is odourless. You cannot smell it. Ironically the main component of most smog is actually minute particles of carbon that has not completely combusted to CO₂. But in the minds of many people, CO₂ is smog, and smog is pollution. That CO₂ is not pollution is another of the truths mentioned in Part I, (4) that needs to be promoted.

Furthermore, stop and think about the origins of the carbon in fossil fuel. Where did it come from? It all comes from organic matter. It was all once plant and animal tissue. Where did this fossilised plant and animal tissue get its carbon from? It came from the atmosphere, in exactly the same way as the carbon in the so-called environmentally friendly biofuels. It has just been out of circulation for longer. When we burn fossil fuels, we are just returning the carbon back to its origin in the atmosphere. We are NOT polluting. Finally, remember Part II, (1), which showed more CO₂ is beneficial for plants. Something that is beneficial cannot be called pollution. So there is no way CO₂ can be called pollution. Talking about “carbon dioxide pollution” is deceitfully appealing to people’s emotions to gain a response.

Part IV

I wish to raise the following matters under term of reference 7:

Consider the case for increasing resources devoted to New Zealand-specific climate change research.

1. Use of resources to research the benefits of climate change.

To date it would appear that almost all, if not all, research has been devoted to eliminating or mitigating climate change. Why is so little research being done on the benefits of a warmer climate? Why don't we spend money on quantifying the benefits to agriculture of higher levels of CO₂ mentioned in Part II, (1)? Why don't we devote research to quantifying the benefits to agriculture and/or society of a warmer climate as mentioned in Part II, (2)?

2. Use of resources for unbiased research into causes of climate change.

Most research seems to be devoted to 'proving' human activity is causing climate change. The resources to fund such research appears to almost limitless. Those seeking research resources to investigate alternative reasons for climate change are reduced to begging. The political climate has deemed it to be politically incorrect to support the idea that climate change may have other causes. But true science is about the quest for the truth. It is not about political correctness. New Zealand should not be ashamed to show a world lead in funding research to help attain a more balanced understanding of the drivers of climate change.

Part V

I wish to raise the following matters under term of reference 2:

Consider the prospects for an international agreement on climate change post Kyoto 1, and the form such an agreement might take.

1. Changes in Europe.

The Wall Street Journal, in its December 15 2008 issue reports dwindling support for climate change measures. The possible reasons are varied: The economic crisis has pushed the priority of focus to saving the economy and jobs.

The failure to reduce emissions has also bought a realisation of the enormity, or even the impossibility of the task.

Ongoing massive subsidies for renewable energy projects have caused a political backlash.

The unexpected cooling of the last few years has raised questions about the accuracy of projections of global warming.

The results have seen 10,000 workers protesting outside the European Parliament. In the 1990s, as Germany's Environment Minister, Angela Merkel was a leader in implementing Europe's Kyoto policy. In 2007, at the G-8 summit in Heiligendamm, she was hailed as Europe's climate saviour. Now she has abandoned the green policies because of the huge costs of the EU's original climate plans. Now Europe has an effective target of a 4% reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2020, down from 20% by 2020. Germany's industry has been granted an exemption from the Emissions Trading Scheme. Other countries, such as Poland, are also demanding exemptions etc.

These events must severely threaten the chances of a post Kyoto deal. If the targets are very low, the whole concept of emissions reduction becomes a farce. There is either a problem that needs hitting or there is not a problem. If a river in flood is threatening to overtop a section of its banks you either sand bag the whole length under threat, or none. Sandbagging half is useless.

2. Changes in the United States.

The election of President Barak Obama has seen a higher profile in that nation for climate change matters. But behind the scenes opposition is growing. People will not want increased financial burdens in the current credit crisis. The government is also receiving pressure from the science community against action. In early 2008 over 31,000 United States scientists signed a petition calling on the US government to reject Kyoto and any other similar proposals. 9,000 of these scientists hold PhDs. This is fifteen times the number working for the IPCC who hold PhDs. In December 2008 a US Senate report of more than 200 pages was released. It was signed by over 650 scientists who spoke out against the concept of man-made global warming. Some of these scientists work for, or have worked for, the IPCC.

3. Changes in Australia.

The change of government in Australia has also seen them apparently become more proactive about moving towards an emissions trading scheme. But again, as in the US, opposition is there. David Evans is an example. He spent six years working in the Australian Greenhouse Office. He developed a carbon accounting model that measures Australia's compliance with Kyoto. He started the job believing in CO₂ as the cause of global warming. But as he has viewed new evidence emerging, he has changed his mind, and does not believe CO₂ is the main cause of recent global warming. He has told the

Labour government “[It] is about to deliberately wreck the economy in order to reduce carbon emissions. If the reasons later turn out to be bogus, the electorate is not going to re-elect a Labour government for a long time. When it comes to light that the carbon scare was known to be bogus in 2008, the ALP is going to be regarded as criminally negligent or ideologically stupid for not having seen through it.”

Part VI

I wish to raise the following matter under term of reference 10:

Consider the timing of introduction of any New Zealand measures, with particular reference to the outcome of the December 2009 Copenhagen meeting, the position of the United States, and the timetable for decisions and their implementation of the Australian government.

1. Timing of introduction.

Because of the uncertainty of the shape and extent of any post Kyoto agreement, and the similar uncertainty of the actions of the major nations and unions, as outlined in Part V, I believe it to be very unwise for such a small country as New Zealand to set anything in place in such uncertain times. I believe it would be economic suicide to impose an ETS on our economy while only a few others, particularly among the major powers, do.

Recommendations

Like David Evans in Part V, (3) above, I once believed that global warming due to anthropogenic greenhouse gases was a real issue. But over time I have come to realise I was wrong, and I now believe that the recent period of warming was due to other factors outside of human influence. However, I have approached the writing of this submission from the so-called popular point of view that greenhouse gases produced by human activity are producing significant climate change in the form of a rapidly warming climate. I have shown that even if this is the case, which I doubt, it is not necessarily a bad thing. A warmer climate gives a longer growing season allowing more food to be grown on the same area, and also is beneficial to humanity as a whole. Similarly, I have shown that a higher level of CO₂ in the atmosphere also allows more growth. Therefore our major industry, agriculture, will benefit from global warming, whatever the cause. I have shown that natural variation in climate from one season to the next can be more significant than fifty years’ long term trends. Adapting to these short term

changes is more difficult than meeting the long term slow change. I have shown that the current ETS legislation is totally unaffordable, and that all farmers in my community that I surveyed believe it is better to adapt to climate change rather than try and control the climate.

I have shown that there are huge uncertainties and risks around the projections of the IPCC. There is much more in there that I believe could, and should, be raised before this committee. But I would hope that what I have raised would be enough to sow seeds of doubt in the minds of anyone who is being at all objective about the process of reviewing the ETS. I believe that anyone who is serious about the wellbeing of New Zealand as a nation and its economic welfare would be willing to look further into this matter. I strongly recommend the following websites to you; www.climatescience.org.nz and

www.climatescienceinternational.org

From the former I would recommend “Layman’s guide to ‘global warming’ hoax”, shown in the box at the top right corner of the website.

From the scroll down list I would recommend; “Ruminant animals not Kyoto villains” and “Dr. Vincent Gray updates ‘global warming scam’ paper”. Dr. Gray is an expert reviewer with the IPCC.

From the latter website I would recommend “Manhattan Declaration” and “Prof. Carter’s climate overview”, both of which are shown in the box on the left of the website titled “of special interest”.

From the scroll down list I would also recommend “Massive U.S. Senate report now available: hundreds of scientists speak out to counter Anthropogenic GHG climate scare”. This is mentioned in Part V, (2) above.

I have shown that the current economic climate, coupled with the growing uncertainties of the IPCC’s projections, are causing an increasing reluctance in other countries to take action on climate change initiatives.

I believe an ETS in any form would be an extravagant and totally unnecessary luxury even in prosperous times. To introduce one in the current global economic climate would be insane. Therefore I have no hesitation in recommending, in the strongest manner possible, that:

- New Zealand needs to repeal the existing Emissions Trading Scheme and Climate Change legislation.
- New Zealand needs to withdraw from its Kyoto obligations
- New Zealand needs to take a lead position to educate the world about the truth of Anthropological Global Warming (AGW).
- New Zealand needs to put in the utmost effort to ensure there is no replacement for Kyoto.

