

**AN INQUIRY**  
**INTO GLOBAL WARMING AND CARBON EMISSIONS FROM HUMAN**  
**ACTIVITIES:**  
**REALITY, OR SHOULD WE SIMPLY MOVE ON FROM ANY FALSE ASSUMPTION**



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## **ABSTRACT**

*“Nobody believes a weather prediction 7 days ahead but now we are asked to reorder our economy based on climate predictions 100 years hence.”*

*[Dr Jay Lehr Ph.D]*

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## **EXPOSITION OF THE PAPER**

Man-made global warming and carbon emissions was once an intellectual scientific debate, however it has now sadly become a common household dinner party conversation. The commercialization of such serious matters is primarily attributed to the fiasco of dubious media coverages and propaganda materials blanketing our society. These media forms emanate from so called environmental zealots or global warming alarmists. They gain undue influence by exploiting the gullibility of many ordinary people. Since when have monumental debates on the fate of the global economy and environment come down to a vote of popularity? This hardly sounds like science but rather a growing fan base. One may ask, maybe its time to start focusing on the facts and figures of which economic policies should be based upon rather than heresy. The economic severity of the Rudd Government's proposed Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) is vast, but what is more concerning is the fallacies which forms the cornerstone of these proposed economic policies. The following paper aims to demystify and presents facts through a summary of arguments against man-made global warming. These arguments were presented during the 2009 Australian Climate Science Coalition Luncheon.

## **A BRIEF BACKGROUND**

The Australian Climate Science Coalition Luncheon, held on August 10, 2009 in Perth, Western Australia featured two highly qualified guest speakers. The first guest speaker, Dr Jay Lehr from the Heartland Institute, holds a Ph.D from the University of Arizona where he extensively researched Ground Water Hydrology. He is also a Geological Engineer from Princeton University and a US Navy Civil Engineer. Dr Lehr has published 19 books and 900 journal articles. Dr Lehr has a combined five decades of expertise in Agricultural Economics, Agronomy, Environmental Science and Business Administration. The second guest speaker, Professor Robert Carter is a Research Professor at James Cook University and the

University of Adelaide. He is a Paleontologist, Marine Geologist and Environmental Scientist. His experience spans 30 years and he holds degrees from the University of Otago and the University of Cambridge. These gentlemen have such impressive qualifications it would be absurd not to take note of their arguments.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ON DR JAY LEHR**

### *The Science:*

Carbon dioxide is not a pollutant but an essential building block of life. Without carbon dioxide life would not exist as we know it. Such is its chemistry; it allows crops to flourish and our precious rainforests the nourishments to increase in density. Talk to any global warming alarmist and the inconvenient truth is undeniable. Carbon dioxide has actually increased the biomass of the Amazon Rainforest by two tons per acre each year [Lehr, 2009b]. The extensive ecosystem that relies on the Amazon Rainforest are thriving and feeding on this carbon dioxide. The life giving properties of carbon dioxide span through the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods where the average carbon dioxide concentration was 1800ppm, five times higher than today's level. Maybe we should congratulate Al Gore for his efforts to save the rainforests, his mega mansion uses 20 times more energy than a single household, now that's the inconvenient truth [Lehr, 2009b].

Most scientist would agree, climate and climate change is a tautology. Climate by definition means the change of weather. It is thus logical that climate is subjected to cycles of global warming and freezing plotted since the inception of Earth. Undeniable evidence demonstrates that during the 400 years from 800AD to 1200AD, global temperatures were seven to nine degrees Fahrenheit warmer than today's levels. This is a period of time which environmental zealots conveniently glaze over. "Why?" some may ask. Perhaps it's an irregularity that does not coincide with propagandist material that we are expected to digest?

This Medieval Warming Period was the golden years. Areas of London and vineyards across Europe yielded masses of grapes and Vikings planted crops across the Greenland landscape, thus lending to great wealth and prosperity in the agricultural industry. Further emphasizing the definition of climate meaning change in weather, this Medieval Warming Period is juxtaposed with the mini ice-age in 1700AD [Lehr, 2009b]. This is perfectly correlated with fluctuations in solar activity and clearly predates any use of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas by mankind.

The dynamic nature of climate is volatile and independent of man. Such is the arrogance to suggest that man has the ability to control the Earth's climate is laughable. The National Aeronautic and Space Agency (NASA) conducted a study that revealed, to the shame of all global warming alarmists, that perhaps controlling global warming is potentially outside of their capabilities. The study concluded that Mars, Pluto, Jupiter and Titan experienced similar warming patterns coinciding with that of the Earth [Lehr, 2009a and Lehr, 2009b]. NASA describes this climatic event through various cycles of the sun, sun spots and also bursts of solar radiation causing a celestial heating amongst planets within our solar system. No amount of economic policy and taxes by the Rudd Government will be able to change this outcome. Is this perhaps one gigantic governmental swindle or an attempt by some climate scientists for more government funding courtesy of the taxpayer?

*"Climate scientists need there to be a problem as they have a vested interest to create panic and hysteria because then funding will flow to climate science."*

[Spencer, 2008]

### *The insignificance of human activity to climate change*

There is an extensive collection of facts which outlines that mankind has an insignificant impact on the climate of the Earth. Firstly the greenhouse gas envelope surrounding our planet constitutes of 78% nitrogen and 21% oxygen. The remaining 1% of atmospheric gases consists of 0.9% argon, 0.038% carbon dioxide and finally traces of ozone, methane, helium, neon and xenon. This envelope keeps us alive and without it, the suns thermal radiation would reflect back into space. The total mass of the atmosphere is approximately 5 quadrillion metric tons. Of this figure 0.038% consists of carbon dioxide which equates to 1.9 trillion metric tons. Shockingly, of the 1.9 trillion metric tons, human activity only contributes to a total of 3.225% with the remaining 96.775% being via natural process [Michaels, 1998 and Singer, 2001]. The insignificant impact that human activity has on climate change is equivalent to the width of a strand of hair over the length of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. For such insignificant numbers does it make sense to punish the global economy with economic growth stifling policies, especially whilst the oceans release the majority of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere [Lehr, 2009b]? Perhaps the Rudd Government will start taxing the oceans as well.

### *Global Warming or Global Governance?*

Many of us enjoy and value the right to freedom, free choice and consumer preference in our everyday consumptions. The issue of global warming however seems to becoming one of global governance. If policies suggesting that carbon should be monitored, controlled and taxed then we are allowing the most invasive kind of bureaucratic meddling, effectively signing our right to freedom away. Such is the invasiveness that even the cars we drive, our holiday destination of choice, a leisurely boat cruise, right down to the food we eat will be scrutinized by bureaucrats charged with the task to calculate and measure carbon emissions.

As proved earlier, human activities have had an insignificant impact on climate change, in addition to various phases of the sun and sun spots all of which are completely out of control by humans. However, despite this, should we have to be punished by global governance for factors completely out of our control? These are crucial points to consider before we marry into our families a 'carbon cop' [Lehr, 2009a].

### *Increasing Poverty*

Global warming is a gargantuan industry with large government spending that has multiple government and legislation failures. Firstly with any carbon policy or ETS there are numerous parties that benefit enormously; some climate scientists receive and squander billions of dollars in government funding and financiers trading carbon permits on stock exchanges around the world create speculative price bubbles whilst profiting along the way [Lehr, 2009a and Lehr, 2009b]. Paradoxically by supporting such policies the global environment is more likely to be damaged by misguided attempts to reduce carbon emissions. By supporting an ETS we are denying third world economies the right to utilize their natural resources and converge towards a path of economic development [Lehr, 2009a]. Consequently these economies will continue to suffer from poverty, disease and low life expectancy. The best way to reduce poverty is via increasing investments into capital per capita and entrepreneurial activities. This is summarized concisely by Ludwig Von Mises:

*"The standard of living of the common man is highest in those countries which have the greatest number of wealthy entrepreneurs"*

[Von Mises, 1974]

As many environmental zealots continue their rhetoric, preaching about the future generations, our priorities should be focused on improving the lives of people alive today. These future generations bear no closer relationship to us, than those now



living in developing countries whose lives we disdain to save. Perhaps it's a lot easier worrying about future generations than trying to fix present day problems [Lehr, 2009b].

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ON PROFESSOR ROBERT CARTER**

### *Dynamic Climate Systems*

With the overwhelming arguments put forward by Dr Lehr, Professor Carter presented a number of recommendations. Firstly, weather and climate is always changing and are meteorological events that are generally distinguished through time frames [Carter, 2009 and Carter, 2008]. Climate processes are dynamic, non-linear and a manifestation of heat transfers and distributions throughout two sources, the oceans and the atmosphere. In past times, natural disasters are exactly that, they are natural responses from dynamic climatic systems. Thus, far from being unusual, climate change is a climatological hazard; a hazard that the Earth has experienced since its fiery inception [Carter, 2009].

### *Plan B: A Plan for Adaptation*

Professor Carter suggests that dealing with climate change should be a matter of risk appraisal and preparedness. Occasionally paths will cross and natural climate change will cause damage. Some of the future changes that climate models predict are cooling trends, warming trends and extreme weather events [Carter, 2009]. The solution to this dynamic and unique climate of Earth is not to implement an ETS or meaningless taxes, coincidentally governments' favourite policy for any problem, but to adopt a contingency plan. Plan B, is such a contingency implemented by the New Zealand Government titled "GeoNet". This provides authorities and the public with accurate information and evidence about hazards such as tsunami's, earthquakes, floods and volcanic activity [Carter, 2009].

Climate change is as much geological as it is a meteorological issue. Thus climate change policies should be handled as per other geological hazards. This is to monitor potential climatic events and having a civil defense response plan to deal with climate events as they eventuate. We must abandon the rhetoric to '*stop climate change*' from propagandists. Plan B is a plan of adaptation, a plan for change without illusionary and naturally unachievable goals to *stop climate change*, a dynamic system that will accompany us for the rest of our lives and the life of planet Earth [Carter, 2009].

## CONCLUSION

For those people who still believe that humans can control and even stop global warming it is an absurd task as made clear with the numerous facts and figures discussed in the executive summaries of Dr Lehr and Professor Carter. What's more important is to never lose sight of the real issues. Instead of stopping something we cannot humanly change, maybe it's time to focus our efforts and resources towards contingency plans to prepare people for unexpected climatic events. More importantly, as a global community, our efforts are more fruitful in preventing widespread extreme poverty. Global warming or global deception; the time has come to consider the facts and figures and simply move on from any false assumptions.

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