

Deborah Jones
Editor
Review
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Dear Deborah

Wow! Three letters condemning Jane Fraser and her mention of Prof Ian Plimer (WE Aust 27-28) - none in support. All three correspondents are besotted with the witch-hunt against a beneficial trace gas called carbon dioxide which happens to be at a historical low level in the atmosphere, but without which, plant life would suffocate. Carbon dioxide in the quantities generated by mankind, is nothing compared to carbon dioxide released naturally by warmer oceans (try heating a bottle of soda water) and surface releases in Earth's more visible burps. Oceans are made warmer by increased activity of hundreds of thousands of sub-sea volcanic vents, triggered in the process of solar and cosmic cycles. Plants, the source of the food we need, depend on carbon dioxide and sunlight for photosynthesis. Particulate matter which blocks out sunlight is true pollution, and the difference between Mt Pinatubo and Loy Yang (which has been described as Australia's dirtiest power station, but which is in fact a model of modern technology, having scrubbed particulate matter and other nasties from its smokeless stacks) is chalk and cheese. The so-called 'war on carbon' is all smoke and mirrors, and as Jane would say, 'Put that in your pipe'.

Regards
John McRobert