

## Zero Carbon Bill Submission

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## Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

I am a politically active resident of Wairarapa having led the opposition to forced amalgamation of local government and successfully deferred some poor decisions by the Regional Council. I'm a development consultant applying an integrated four capitals model to development in Wairarapa.

I describe myself as a pragmatic climate change sceptic. While I accept there has been a very small increase in global average temperatures, I do not accept that it is anywhere near the problem that climate catastrophists are making out.

I'm sure staff at the Ministry for the Environment haven't had much, if any, contact with people like me who dispute the climate change catastrophist narrative and I'm guessing that we are classified as 'climate change deniers'. I don't accept that label – it is wrong on the facts and offensive to the Jewish people, degrading the importance and impact of The Shoah.

As a result I'm sure most of my submission will be ignored. However, I feel strongly enough about the dishonesty and alarmism surrounding climate change that I cannot just accept the imposition of the Zero Carbon Bill in its suggested form.

## Climate Change is NOT a Problem

There are many reasons why I do not accept that so called climate change is a problem.

### The Climate Models Don't Work

The CMIP5 climate model projections compared with actual data show that the models are wrong and the divergence from reality is getting worse. Concurrent with the divergence from reality, the alarmist rhetoric has become more overheated. Climate catastrophe projections have been being made since the late 1980s and all have failed to materialise whether polar bear extinctions or the inundation of the Maldives or widespread famine.

### Climate 'Scientists' Tell Lies

Climate scientists have told lies to promote the alarmism from Mann's Hockey Stick to the 97% consensus 'meme'. If there really is a major problem with climate change then the facts should speak for themselves and not need 'sexing up' in a form of noble cause corruption.

Interestingly a favourite author of the alarmists, Mark Lynas, who suggested we are heading to a warming in excess of six degrees was also an alarmist with respect to GMOs. After re-examining the science and history of GMOs, Lynas has had a change of heart and now supports GMOs. I expect that when Lynas gets around to re-examining the dodgy science and ignorance of history that marks out 'climate science' he'll have to write a retraction on climate change as well.

## Humans Do Better When It's Warm

It is an undeniable fact that humans do much better economically, socially, environmentally, and culturally when the climate is warm. From the Minoan Warm Period to the Roman Warm Period to the Medieval Warm Period, human civilisation has thrived when it was warm and declined or collapse when it got cold.

To quote from *Science* in June 2018:

*Around 2,200 B.C, agricultural societies around the world experienced an abrupt cooling and a critical mega-drought [that] forced the collapse of civilizations in Egypt, Greece, Syria, Palestine, Mesopotamia, the Indus Valley, and the Yangtze River Valley ...*

The Bronze Age collapse around 1177BCE also happened when the climate got colder. Likewise for Rome in the 5<sup>th</sup> century.

And the Medieval Warm Period is why Europe is littered with cathedrals built from the economic surpluses caused by the productive food producers working in a benign climate.

## Of Course It's Getting Warmer – we are coming out of the Little Ice Age

Today's climate is recovering from the Little Ice Age when the Thames froze over regularly so it is not surprising that the temperature has risen a little since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

## The Ministerial Message is Full of Alarmist Half-truths

It is disturbing that the discussion document on the mooted Zero Carbon Bill should commence with a string of alarmist half-truths from the Minister.

Not even the IPCC in Assessment Report 5 accept that the frequency and severity of storms is increasing in the Pacific nor do they accept that the frequency will continue to increase in any significant way with increases in carbon dioxide levels.

The insurance companies are using climate change to re-draw the underlying basis of the insurance contract from a wide collective sharing of risk to narrow risk pricing. By accepting the argument that the insurance companies agree that climate change is happening, the Greens are allowing their irrational fears to override what should be scrutiny of corrupt insurance companies redrawing the fundamental basis of insurance for their own profit.

The Minister's idea that the 'upgraded' economy will be better paid is denied by the economic modelling in the discussion document. For a low paid economy like New Zealand to make deliberate policy choices that ensure that growth will be substantially less under the ZCB is not a path to a better paid economy.

The Minister suggests that investment has been held back by a lack of a clear position on climate change and uncertainty about the direction of the economy. He says that the ZCB will provide certainty and a stable policy environment. This certainty and stability would have been provided much more simply if the Minister had not insisted on the changing of the policy

settings on the exploration for fossil fuels, unilaterally, without Cabinet oversight, without consultation with affected businesses and without considering the role of natural gas as a transition fuel.

## The UK is NOT an Exemplar

The idea that the United Kingdom's Climate Change Act and its associated policy and implementation actions provides an exemplar for New Zealand is simply mistaken. The UK had a completely different emissions profile to New Zealand as they embarked on this change. Since then the UK has delegated its industrial emissions to China and created a high priced and unstable energy network to meet its domestic electricity needs. New Zealand does not have the ability to delegate our major emissions producers to China but we could end up with the huge energy poverty issue that will follow here if we blindly follow the UK's lead. To cap off the madness of the UK model, old growth forest is cut down in the USA, the wood is shipped across the Atlantic and burned in the re-purposed DRAX coal fired power station. There is no way this is a wise idea.

## The Paris Agreement and Green Climate Fund is in Disarray

The Paris Agreement, without the participation of the United States of America, is in trouble. The Green Climate Fund is in turmoil with the USA refusing to pay \$US2 billion and the UK's contribution having devalued with currency movements. New Zealand must be cautious about acting ahead of other parties to the Paris Agreement as this will further handicap our economy with respect to our economic competitors.

## The Westpac Report is Dodgy

The Westpac New Zealand study provides no basis for action. It compares the cost of acting on the basis of alarmist nonsense now against the cost of acting later if the alarmists are right. What it doesn't take into account is if we don't act now and the climate alarmists are wrong, as is likely, then not acting will be the cheapest path.

## The 3<sup>rd</sup> Industrial Revolution Won't be hastened by a Massive Government Bureaucracy

It is undeniable that a transition to the 3<sup>rd</sup> industrial revolution is taking place. The idea that the setting up of a massive policy making government bureaucracy will facilitate the transition to the new industrial revolution is simply incoherent.

The only redeeming feature of the mooted Zero Carbon Act is that it might remove the Minister's power to make further ill-considered, poorly thought through, and unscientific decisions. However the best way to get to this desideratum is to withdraw the legislation in its entirety.

## A Better Way to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Industrial Revolution

The Government, if it were serious about encouraging the transition to the 3<sup>rd</sup> industrial revolution, would:

- Cancel the Budget Responsibility Rules. They unnecessarily constrain government action that would make a difference.
- Forget about the idea that the setting up of a massive policy making government bureaucracy will improve the environment and don't proceed with the ZCB
- Cancel the ban on fossil fuel exploration. Over time a 3<sup>rd</sup> industrial revolution energy network will supersede all coal, most oil except for chemical feedstocks and leave us burning hydrogen based natural gas only.
- Use the massive untapped borrowing capacity of NZ to build the:
  - 21<sup>st</sup> century energy network including gas fired baseload generation
  - 21<sup>st</sup> century integrated logistics network including smart roads, autonomous vehicles, electric and hybrid vehicles, and high speed trains
  - 21<sup>st</sup> century three waters infrastructure with embedded sensors and communications capability to link with the Internet of Things
  - 21<sup>st</sup> century ultra-fast, high capacity broadband infrastructure nationwide
  - 21<sup>st</sup> century Internet of Things (IoT)
- This renewal of infrastructure to facilitate and underpin the 3<sup>rd</sup> industrial revolution will create massive employment (even for the bureaucrats that won't get a sinecure in the Climate Commission), bring New Zealand's creaking infrastructure up to date, and unleash strong, continuing, integrated development.