

SUBMISSION ON EMISSIONS TARGETS

1 Introduction

I do not believe that emphasising anthropogenic global warming is going to “save the planet”. Saying that carbon dioxide causes global warming is like saying that cancer causes smoking. Evidence from 600 million years of climate change, rather than the changes in a pitifully short 200 years, show that temperature cooling precedes increased atmospheric CO₂, and should be the knowledge basis for moving forward.

2 Where did this hysteria about anthropogenic global warming arise?

When one considers that the Kyoto protocol was engineered by the strange bedfellows of Greenpeace, and disgraced Enron executive, the felon Ken Lay, to meet their very different ends, it is not surprising that the science about global warming is in no way settled. See the Wall St Journal:
<http://www.wsj.com/articles/climate-science-is-not-settled-1411143565>

- 2.2 Consider that the last major climate conference at Lima, in December 2014, had the biggest carbon footprint of any UN climate meeting measured to date – 50,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide - one and a half times the norm, due not only to the carbon cost of jetting so many people there, but more tellingly because **the whole conference was powered by diesel generators**. It is gratuitous of the ‘zero carbon’ lobby to point the finger at New Zealand. New Zealand should push for these conferences to be held using teleconferencing. The cost of so called anti CO₂ lobbyists jetting around the world on a regular basis while achieving no consensus, let alone change, is immoral and dishonest.

3 Why vilify CO₂ – it is only one greenhouse gas

- 3.1 Carbon dioxide is in fact the gas of life; without it as the radical ‘carbon zero’ proponents suggest we should be moving towards, every living thing would be dead in a very short space of time. The nuclear winter type scenarios following major volcanic events give proof to this over the centuries. Krakatoa in particular during the 1400s refers. CO₂ feeds every green plant, thus producing food for every animal and in the process releasing oxygen, essential for animal respiration, into the atmosphere. We all learned that at school in third form science!
- 3.2 A recent report on measuring global vegetation growth notes that data from remote sensing devices show significant increases in annual vegetation growth during the last three decades. They also report that CO₂ fertilization is more important than climate variation in determining the magnitude of the vegetation growth. “The *CO₂ fertilization effect* of the carbon dioxide emitted to the atmosphere by mankind's burning of fossil fuels, such as coal, gas and oil, is beginning to assume its vaulted position of being a tremendous

boon to the biosphere. . . .”

Source: <http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2013/oct/8oct2013a1.html>

- 3.3 So many of the measuring points recording the supposed heating of the environment have been found to be situated quite deliberately beside outlets of air-conditioning units on big buildings. A corrupt practice? Not apparently if you want to prove that global warming is caused by other agents!

4 Reducing our use of non renewable resources is a better goal

- 4.1 Apart from the emissions of CO₂ there are much better reasons for leaving as much coal and oil in the ground, such as leaving something for future generations; oil in particular should only be used for lubricants, not for motive force; and certainly not for making, plastics and other synthetic products made from fossil fuels, which can be produced from plants, as they have been for most of human evolution.

5 If the idea of CO₂ reduction is however *inevitably required* due to the misguided scaremongering of so-called global warning alarmists, how to do it?

5.1 Get rid of sheep

The best and quickest way New Zealand could possibly dramatically reduce its current minute contribution to CO₂ emissions would be to get rid of all the sheep, which belch out huge amounts of CO₂. Of course that would bankrupt much of the farming sector and take out one of our biggest income earners.

- 5.2 That or fast track the recent scientific advances in making sheep belch less!

5.3 Get rid of wind farms – a much better idea

Getting rid of industrial wind farms, and replacing them with a system of domestic solar generation that could be fed back into the grid, would provide, taking Meridian Energy's figures, 342 megawatts of electricity per annum, for each million roofs involved (at just 2.5 kw generation capacity per roof), and in this way would drastically **reduce reliance on fossil fuels**. This takes no account of the savings from dumping industrial wind projects. The sun comes up every day, unlike the wind which is largely unpredictable

5.4 Why are Wind Farms no way carbon neutral or efficient ?

Wind is the only carbon-free component of industrial wind farming. Carbon utilisation and production occurs variously during the exportation of NZ's iron sands to China; and again when the Chinese make and export steel to Scandinavia; again when the turbine components are fabricated; and finally when the wind towers and blades are then shipped back around the world - all in diesel powered ships. Add to that the carbon displacement which occurs due to the excavations on the sites for these huge towers, plus the concrete used. Alone, the installation of wind turbines displaces a further 1,000 tonnes of CO₂ to the atmosphere PER TURBINE. It takes 11 –16 years to amortise the carbon costs of a wind turbine – about half their useful life.

If wind is so efficient why aren't container ships using it as their motive force? As David Bellamy says: "To call wind farms carbon neutral beggars belief".

5.5 **Wind is no way the best renewable energy source.**

Wind is a very inefficient and expensive short term technology. Hydro or geothermal power are far more long lived and efficient, let alone more reliable sources of electricity generation. Each of these really renewable technologies is far more carbon neutral than wind power, over their life spans.

And why nowhere in the world has one thermal power station ever been decommissioned due to wind farms? Because industrial wind power requires a constant source of thermal generation to be available and constantly idling, so that fluctuations in the frequency of wind can be backed up within 17 seconds, to avoid the whole grid frequency becoming unstable and dropping out. So the combined stupidity of phasing out thermal power stations and building more wind farms places a cumulative risk of major blackouts or brown outs and **does not reduce carbon emissions in any way**. Thermal power stations would be used far less if the more reliable options of hydro and and geothermal generators were promoted over wind power.

5.6 **Go solar to heat domestic hot water**

As most New Zealanders would probably not want to see destitute sheep farmers lining up for the dole, the best and most carbon efficient savings could be made by the support for domestic solar generation, not only photovoltaic but also for water heating. **The use of electricity to heat hot water should be abandoned immediately** in favour of solar hot water collectors which the EECA estimate would reduce domestic electricity usage by 25 –50% of current use. New Zealand is one of the biggest per capita users of domestic electricity due solely to the way we heat domestic hot water and keep it hot in storage tanks until needed.

5.7 **Get rid of lawns and large concrete areas around homes**

Instead, encourage food foresting, vege gardening and keeping of chickens, on even small sections. Develop rented gardening allotments as happens in Europe for those with no access to grow their own food from gardens around their homes. This could be organised by local bodies. Big Food goes hand in hand with Big Pharma and Big Oil. Huge savings and better health outcomes could be achieved in such a CO2 saving/utilising society.

5.8 **Electric vehicles – trains trucks and cars**

When the whole main trunk railway line in the North Island is electrified, why on earth are diesel powered locomotives still in use? A much better way to utilise the excess electricity from a currently flat demand market. A natural El Nino weather pattern and **not anthropogenic global warming**, is fuelling the current **short term** 2.1% rise in electricity demand, In New Zealand, due to the effects of drought in particular on large dairying operations.

A major thrust towards a national network of charging points for electric or hybrid cars and trucks is another urgent matter if carbon emissions are to be reduced and fossil fuels stretched out longer. Education of the public to use their vehicles less, and to drive more efficiently would add to that saving.

6 Conclusion

- 6.1 I am not concerned with the level of percentages of savings in carbon emissions. Introducing the actions above, which are known to reduce the carbon footprint, but more importantly save fossil fuels for future generations, would shout New Zealand's commitment to rational use of scarce resources, and would much speak louder than dogmatic figures with nothing else happening. The distortions caused by a carbon tax are counterproductive to long term sustainability. Carbon has almost no value now as a result of trying to manipulate its 'cost'.
- 6.2 Plucking arbitrary percentages in reductions out of the air is stupid and meaningless. We need to walk the talk and not just talk the talk, as the CO2 scaremongers seem only to do, as they jet around the world to their endless and fruitless talk-fests.
- 6.3.1 And globally, **stop coastal developments** and relocate endangered communities if you want to stop the human tragedy caused when settlements or cities are flooded by the process of planet warming, however caused.
- 6.4 There are opportunities as well as challenges caused by a warmer planet, in particular the greater ability to grow food for the world's hungry people, who don't give a toss about whether or not New Zealand sets arbitrary targets for carbon emissions. Leave that to the Americans and Chinese. They are the big emitters; they should be the ones making immediate and drastic changes in their carbon gobbling ways. But we could and should do the things above to sustain our non renewable resources for future generations.
- 6.5.1 We should not be encouraging the profligate American and Chinese economies by being in regional trade treaties with them.

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