


1. **It is inevitable** that global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will continue to rise despite the Kyoto proposals, and whatever is agreed at Paris this December, because the current pattern of industrial development will not result in any effective decline in CO<sub>2</sub> production due to market resilience.
2. **It is inevitable**, therefore, that the world's climate will continue to warm, probably at an increasing rate, so that the goals of not allowing global average temperatures to rise above pre-industrial levels will not be achieved. The most plausible of the IPCC models, working on the assumption of little change in CO<sub>2</sub> emission levels, invoke temperature rises of at least 4° C globally.
3. Current data suggests that **it will be inevitable** that the recently documented rises in the temperature of the world's oceans will continue to higher levels. This, combined with acidification, will result in major changes in the large ocean currents with effects that have not yet been properly assessed by climate scientists because the changes are so recent.
4. New Zealand, because of its geographic position, is a country whose weather is peculiarly dominated by massive air movements and adjacent oceanic temperatures. Its latitudinal range and span between semi-tropical and peri-Antarctic climates means it is particularly vulnerable to violent weather systems. As the adjacent ocean temperatures rise **it is inevitable** that there will be an increased frequency of storms reaching New Zealand and an increased intensity of those storms.
5. New Zealand's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are miniscule on a global scale and **it is inevitable** that they will remain proportionately so.

The above assessment of the current world situation is submitted by a retired ecological scientist, with many years previous experience in research and research administration in DSIR & DOC. Having been retired for nearly 20 years I have had the time to keep intellectually abreast of IPCC and other research publications related to climatic change. While not claiming to be fully aware of all the voluminous literature, I feel I have been able to assess the most significant developments in this field.

My submission to Climate Change Contribution Consultation is :

- A. It is bureaucratically tempting and nationally self-satisfying for New Zealand to become involved in international conventions and agreements regarding climate change.
- B. But realistic and impartial evaluation of our actual significance in any world agreements suggests that it is now most appropriate for this country to sever itself from any previous commitments on climate change and to take a completely neutral stance. New Zealand should opt out of all international agreements related to climatic change.
- C. At the same time, there must be national schemes to prepare New Zealand for the effects of climate change, in particular increased storm frequency and sea level rise.
- D. The following actions should be taken under urgency:
  - i. The government should establish a major reserve fund (similar to the GSF) to be available for future use to manage physical consequences of climatic change.
  - ii. The government should constitute in law a permanent advisory panel to establish a national priority statement for infrastructure development to ameliorate future climate effects.
  - iii. This panel should revise the national priority statement at not less than five year intervals in the light of climate changes as they occur.

  
Richard Sadleir, Ph.D

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