

Submission to Ministry for the Environment on New Zealand's post-2020 climate change target

The following is an oral submission I made at a public meeting held at Wellington Girls College.

I am not talking to the discussion document because it represents a justification for the government doing absolutely nothing and sets out reasons why this government should not do anything to address Greenhouse emissions.

In short, it is **a disgrace**.

The following sets out the facts of the predicament that faces humanity as a whole as well as the people and government of this country

SUBMISSION

We need to start off, not by seeking solutions, but with a true and accurate assessment of the problem.

This needs to happen **URGENTLY** We are told that unless we reduce greenhouse gases we will face a dire situation **BY THE END OF THIS CENTURY**. This is not the actual situation. It is far more dire than that [the fact is that } Measurements by scientists in the Arctic (and now the Antarctic) are proving the computer-based IPCC models are far too conservative – in fact **incorrect**

We just need to look at what 's happening in the Arctic to see this.

Changes are happening almost in real time.

The reports coming out are more and more dire.

In short, the Arctic ice is melting and more rapidly that most of us realise.

We're in real danger of having a **Blue Sea event** in the next year or so – or at least, by 2020 -

where there's no ice during part of the year.

- much earlier than predictions by the IPCC reports, that are talking about the end of the century.

When this happens we'll see a **rapid warming** of the earth's atmosphere and oceans.

Heat is absorbed, rather than reflected, by the sea ice.

This is called a **positive reinforcing feedback** - The hotter its gets the faster it gets hotter.

These feedbacks are often described as something that **COULD** happen in the distant future, safely beyond our lifetimes.

They are not. I could talk about positive feedbacks-

- such as the release of methane from hydrates in the ocean or as a result of melting of the permafrost
- Or, the Amazon which is in drought, turning from a heat sink into a source of carbon

But I don't have time for that **The last point I would like to make** is this -

All of this has happened – increasing extreme weather events, a warming ocean, and increase in sea level rise

And this has happened with a **.85C rise in temperature** The atmosphere now has a concentration of **over 400 ppm CO₂**.

If you take into account other greenhouse gasses such as methane you have a total concentration **of 480 ppm**.

The last time that happened we had dinosaurs, and we had the **Permian extinction**.

There is a 20 – 40 lag time between releasing greenhouse gasses and when we feel the effects with an increase of temperature.

What we are experiencing now, is **not** what we are doing **now**, but what we did **20-40 years ago**.

That means that with 400 ppm of CO₂ we already have further warming factored in, **irrespective of what we do**

if ever the world's leaders DID decide to do something.

Confirmation of this came in a Guardian article just the other day in which internal documents of Royal Dutch Shell **acknowledged a global temperature rise of 4C**

This is the company that Barack Obama has just given the go-ahead to, to drill for oil in a melting Arctic.

In their own documents they are ASSUMING a 4C increase in global temperatures.

So, who are you going to believe?

The more pessimistic have stated that 4 -6C is simply not survivable.

These people **have been proven right** as every single report that comes out, almost on a weekly basis backs them up.

The IPCC with their computer-based projections of change within the next 100 years **are being proven wrong**

– and yet that is what we are being fed.

It is time to come clean and stop sweeping reality under the carpet and acknowledge that what we have now is **ABRUPT** climate change – **NOW**, not in the future.

I have been watching this for 25 years and don't believe any more that there is time to turn the ship around.

But I could be proven wrong

and this country (with a bit more vision) **could stand with its Pacific cousins** who are already reaping the effects of abrupt climate change, along with other small nations of the world, rather than with the rich nations that are taking us into ecocide.

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