Mobilising Australia

CLIMATE CHANGE

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CLIMATE CHANGE

Australia, as a middle power and economy, is driven by world events. Probably the most significant economic development over the last 35 years has been the shift away from fossil fuels and towards renewable energy. As such, a review of one of the fundamental parts of the Australian economy, the industrial base, cannot be conducted in isolation and must be undertaken within the context of the strategic influences that shape the nation. Chief among these is the vexed issue of climate change.

Weather events and climate change have always been a bogeyman lurking in the shadows of mankind's fears, and rightly so. Floods, droughts, fires, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, ice ages, meteor strikes, earthquakes and extreme weather all add to the pantheon of potential catastrophic events. Man has, however, learned to live with these natural events and has adapted as necessary to survive.

Only a few decades ago, a new ice age was the popular disaster hypothesis. Today, a potential ice age has morphed into catastrophic anthropogenic climate change due to global warming.

Climate change is driven by the hypothesis that atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions are rising to potentially catastrophic levels due to the burning of fossil fuels, particularly oil, coal, and gas. This has led governments around the world, including Australia, to enact policies intended to phase out fossil fuels, particularly coal power stations, and replace them with renewable energy sources, notably wind turbines and solar panels.

The economic impact of these changes has been dramatic. Prices for electricity and gas heating have gradually increased, putting significant pressure on affordability for families, commerce, and industry. A major factor in Australia's declining productivity has been the rising prices of electricity and gas, a direct consequence of climate change policies.

Fossil Fuels

Modern humans have existed for about 300,000 years, and for 99.99% of that time have been sustained by wood fires. Life was short and brutal. It is only in the last few hundred years, arguably starting with the Industrial Revolution around 1750, that fossil fuels, in the form of coal, gas, and oil, have enabled this eternal pattern to be transformed into the way of life we take for granted today.

Most people flick a switch and expect the light to come on, or the heater or air conditioner to work. They also assume that a multitude of industries, all dependent on electricity, will provide employment, manufacture the appliances essential to our comfort and lifestyle, and produce the medicines and medical technologies that safeguard our health.

Fossil fuels are the very foundation of modern society. The World's and Australia's prosperity have been underpinned by cheap, reliable electricity and heating

from abundant coal, gas and oil reserves. More recently, nuclear energy has provided almost unlimited emissions-free power.

Only 35 years ago, Australia had some of the cheapest electricity and gas in the world, providing a significant competitive advantage for industry and a comfortable standard of living for the nation. Today, however, crippling electricity and gas prices are a major factor in the nation's deindustrialisation and the cost-of-living crisis, and are now threatening the Australian way of life.

Global energy demand grew by 2.2% in 2024 (IEA, 2025), nearly double the average annual growth rate of 1.3% from 2013 to 2023. ***Electricity consumption alone surged by 4.3%,*** marking the highest annual increase outside of the post-COVID rebound. Non-OECD countries dominate both the share and annual growth rates. Fossil fuels continue to underpin the power system.

Australia's current standard of living is directly related to the burning of fossil fuels.

To fully assess what happened to fossil fuels, we must examine how Australia was swept into the vortex of climate-change ideology. The following approach has been adopted to unravel the answer.

- The UN Framework – IPCC, UNFCCC.
- The Science – CO2, Sea Levels, Temperature and accuracy of predictions.
- The Global response.
- The Australian response.

The UN Framework

So where did this new hypothesis start? Arguably, it began to take shape in the mid-1800s and gradually gained momentum. By 1988, a "consensus" that human-caused emissions, particularly CO2, were warming the planet to potentially dangerous levels had become fashionable. This prompted the United Nations (UN) to establish the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2025).

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The IPCC is the scientific authority on climate change. It is an independent body founded under the auspices of the World Meteorological Organisation and the United Nations Environment Program. The IPCC is best known for its assessment reports, which include a synthesis report with summaries for policymakers and contributions from three Working Groups. These reports are widely regarded as the most credible sources of scientific information on climate change.

The IPCC's stated role is to assess, on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis, the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to understanding the risk of human-induced climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation. IPCC reports are intended to be neutral with

respect to policy and to address the scientific, technical, and socio-economic factors relevant to the objective assessment of the application of particular policies.

Note that the IPCC's focus is on human-induced climate change. This does not exclude natural causes; however, it implies that they are of lesser importance and urgency.

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

The UNFCCC, established in 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit, is the political framework mandated to facilitate international cooperation to combat climate change and its impacts (UNFCCC, 1992).

The specific goal of the UNFCCC is to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations "at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human-induced) interference with the climate system."

It states that "such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened, and to enable economic development to proceed sustainably." Its intent is to bind member states to act in the interests of human safety, ***even in the face of scientific uncertainty.***

Investigating Climate Change

Appreciating the Situation

The military of all Western nations has a process known as "Appreciating the Situation," or "Appreciation" for short (Military). This process provides military commanders with a structured way to make the correct decision amid the "Fog of War".

It is applicable, however, to virtually any situation – military or civil – that requires a decision when many factors must be weighed, a multitude of data or facts analysed, and various options considered to determine the best solution. A wartime scenario, of course, tends to focus the mind wonderfully, which only heightens the need for a logical, disciplined process through which commanders can make sound tactical or strategic decisions under extreme time pressure and rapidly evolving circumstances.

The process is relatively simple, structured and logical. It starts with an outline of the situation, establishes an aim, identifies the critical facts that affect the aim, draws deductions from those facts, outlines all possible options, and then selects the best option that meets the aim.

It is a decision-making approach that has stood the test of time, simply because it works.

Situating the Appreciation

There is, however, a common trap: the human element of the process. All humans have inherent biases and prejudices that, unless identified and actively resisted, will subconsciously steer actions towards the bias. Other human weaknesses also bias the process. These include the human desire to seek approval from an audience,

prior conditioning to toe the party line with politically correct conclusions, or simply consciously tailoring the outcome to justify a specific course of action based on a "gut feel" or intuition.

The effect of this bias is that impartiality is weakened, arguments that support your "gut feel" are amplified, and logical objections and inconvenient truths are diminished or ignored. The end result is that the wrong decision is often made.

This entirely human aberration is known as ***Situating the Appreciation.***

The UN is Guilty of – Situating the Appreciation

The UN's directions to the UNFCCC and the IPCC on climate change are a classic case of situating the appreciation. Instead of commissioning an even-handed, unbiased investigation into all drivers of climate change, both natural forces and human influence, the UN disregarded natural influences and relied on its "gut feel" when formulating the Charter of the IPCC.

The UN is the ultimate international body, with the mandate to make decisions in the best collective interests of mankind. Climate change is also touted as a potentially existential event for mankind. Given this profound responsibility and the grave consequences of getting decisions about climate change wrong, for the UN to deliberately eschew an unbiased investigation and attempt to manipulate the outcome of climate change investigations towards the catastrophic anthropogenic climate change conclusion can only be described as a gross dereliction of duty.

This deliberate focus on human-induced climate change and greenhouse gases, particularly CO2, has prevented a more balanced investigation that would have included the many natural factors that influence global climate. It has also infused the review process with an evangelical fervour and created an ideology that is now more akin to a religious cult than to a serious scientific endeavour.

The baseline for any UN-sanctioned discussion about climate change is therefore premised on an unproven assumption that human-caused greenhouse gases, principally CO2, will lead to dangerous interference with the Earth's climate.

Another unfortunate but predictable consequence has been the creation of a climate-change industry that feeds on the enormous funding provided by governments of all persuasions. There is now a virtuous or vicious circle, depending on your view, involving the UN, national and state governments, politicians, bureaucrats, scientific and academic institutes, industry, journalists and other vested interests, all intent on making a comfortable living from the funding flowing from climate-change policies. Therefore, opposing this feeding frenzy is inherently dangerous and invites a vicious reaction. Don't get between a dog and its bone!

Notably, the IPCC has never unequivocally stated that humans are causing catastrophic climate change and has always carefully qualified its predictions to allow plausible deniability if required. Similarly, the IPCC has been circumspect about the relationship between the frequency of extreme weather events and rising temperatures.

The IPCC and UNFCCC climate change campaign also conveniently makes catastrophic predictions for the distant future, the veracity of which cannot be verified for a long time.

It is now possible, however, to compare the predictions made in the IPCC FAR in 1990 with actual observations from 1990 to 2026. This comparison will then confirm the accuracy of the original IPCC predictions.

If the IPCC's predictions have been accurate, their claims will have been validated. If their predictions have been inaccurate, the dramatic mitigation measures implemented to date have not been justified. In addition, the IPCC's predictions should be treated with caution, if not scepticism, and should not be used as the scientific basis for planning the future Australian power system.

The three physical climate changes that have been the subject of so much noise over the last 36 years are the projected global increases in CO2 levels, sea levels and temperatures. These are addressed separately, with a focus on the actual changes that have occurred since 1990.

The Science

Global CO2 Levels

Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas (GHG), along with methane, nitrous oxide, fluorinated gases, ozone, and water vapour. However, CO2 is the most emitted GHG by humans, mainly from burning fossil fuels, cement production, and deforestation. This makes CO2 a significant driver of long-term warming, even though other gases are more potent in the short term. CO2 can remain in the atmosphere for many years.

CO2 was, at least initially, the IPCC's primary focus. After the FAR's release in 1990, media attention and predictions of long-term catastrophic effects sparked widespread public concern verging on hysteria. This was a precursor to the "COVID" panic.

Since 1990, however, counter-arguments against the harmful effects of CO2 have matured, and as a result, there is little discussion of atmospheric CO2 levels today. Climate change arguments now avoid reference to CO2 levels, which are rather esoteric, and instead focus on more emotive weather events such as floods, droughts and hurricanes, and on images of polar bears or coral reefs. This emotive approach makes for excellent journalistic headlines, unhindered by any detailed consideration of the facts. It is intended to influence short-term public opinion and to sustain the momentum of catastrophic climate change. Having sustained the hysteria, it is then quickly overtaken and forgotten in the relentless 24-hour news cycle.

CO2 data

At the start of the Industrial Revolution, around 1850, atmospheric CO2 levels were about 250 ppm. In 2025, the level is about 422 ppm. A large share of this increase can be attributed to the burning of fossil fuels.

CO2 is plant food, a fact recognised by the horticultural industry, which increases CO2 levels in greenhouses to promote plant growth. According to NASA, satellite observations indicate that rising CO2 levels have had the effect of greening the planet. Over geological time frames, current CO2 levels are near record lows and not far above the level at which plants die of CO2 starvation.

Over geological time frames, evidence suggests a correlation between CO2 levels and temperature rise. However, the extent of this correlation is increasingly disputed. Similarly, estimates of the manmade CO2 level in the atmosphere range from 3% to 40% of total annual emissions. Whatever the level, suggesting that the manmade contribution is more important than that from natural sources is illogical.

The IPCC FAR 1990 CO2 Predictions. (see Table 1)

The IPCC predicted "an effective doubling of CO2 in the atmosphere between 1990 and 2025 to 2050".

Comparing the IPCC prediction against actual observations shows:

- The 1990 level was 353 ppm. If doubled, then 706 ppm in 2050. This is about 6 ppm/yr.

- At 6 ppm/yr, then for 2025 should be 563 ppm – a change of 210 ppm.
- The 2025 level is 422 ppm – a change of 68 ppm. This is about 2ppm/yr.

The IPCC prediction for CO2 levels in 2025 was overestimated by about 300%

Analysis of the current CO2 level is revealing:

- Current global level: 422 ppm 0.04% of the atmosphere.
- Ratio of man-made vs natural levels of CO2: 3% man-made - 97% natural.
- Man-made CO2: 12 ppm 0.0012% of atm.
- Australian emissions are about 1% of global emissions:
- Australian emissions: 0.12 ppm 0.000012% of atm.

Irrespective of the ratio of man-made to natural CO2 levels, the conclusion is that Australian emissions are vanishingly small, almost unmeasurable, and effectively irrelevant to the global picture. What Australia does to mitigate emissions will have a practical "Net Zero" effect on global emissions.

It has been suggested that Australian mainland vegetation and continental shelf plant forms absorb about 10 times the amount of CO2 released, meaning Australia is already at "Net Zero". Australia is a CO2 sink, not a CO2 source.

Australia contributes about 1% of global emissions. China and India together account for about 40% of global emissions.

Global Sea Level

Catastrophic global sea-level rise due to global warming is another of the IPCC's predictions. Sea levels have always fluctuated. This occurs on geological timescales, particularly during ice ages, due to weather events such as storms, and daily due to tidal influences. No doubt, past global warming has also contributed to this phenomenon.

As temperatures increase, there will be a corresponding rise in sea level; however, this will occur over a sufficiently long period of time that will allow mankind to adapt, as has been the case in the past.

The IPCC FAR 1990 Sea Level Rise Predictions (see Table 1)

The IPCC predicted that "Under the business-as-usual emissions scenario, an average rate of global mean sea level rise of about 6 cm per decade is expected over the next century (with an uncertainty range of 3 – 10 cm per decade), mainly due to thermal expansion of the oceans and the melting of some land ice. The predicted rise is about 20 cm by 2030, and 65 cm by 2100. Over the same period (100 years), global sea level has increased by 10 to 20 cm. These increases have not been smooth with time, nor uniform over the globe".

Sea Level Data

Measuring sea-level rise is complicated by concurrent land subsidence. There will be significant regional variations due to many factors.

20,000 years ago, about 2 km of ice covered New York, and average temperatures and sea levels were much lower. Sea levels have been rising on average ever since.

The IPCC predictions were:

- Estimated over the last 100 years (1890-1990), a rise of 100-200 mm over 100 yrs (1-2 mm/year).
- A sea-level rise of about 0.3-0.5 m (300-500mm) by 2050. (5-8 mm/yr).
- A mean sea level rise of 6cm/dec (6 mm/yr)
- A rise by 2030 of 20cm (200 mm) / decade. (5 mm/yr)
- A rise of 65cm by 2100 = 650 mm / 110 yrs. (6 mm/yr)
- An uncertainty range of 3-10 cm/decade (3-10 mm/yr)

Actual observations in 2025 put the sea-level rise at about 1.5-1.8 mm/year (say 2 mm/yr).

If the IPCC 6 mm/yr figure is used, then their predictions are about 300% above observations.

If the IPCC 3-10 mm/yr range is used, their predictions are between 50% under observations – to 800% above observations.

Conservatively, the IPCC prediction for 2025 is a minimum of 300% above observations

Global Temperature

Catastrophic global temperature rise due to global warming is another of the IPCC's predictions. Temperatures have always fluctuated dramatically on a geological time scale, due to orbital variations, the seasons, latitude and day and night.

In the past, mankind has demonstrated a great capacity to adapt to different temperatures, and today, technological advances in heating and cooling have greatly improved this capacity to tolerate extreme temperatures.

IPCC FAR 1990 Temperature Rise Predictions (see Table 1)

Predicted that under a "business as usual" (BAU) scenario, global mean temperature would increase by about 0.3 °C per decade during the 21st century, with an uncertainty range of 0.2 to 0.5 °C per decade.

"Global mean surface air temperature had increased by 0.3 to 0.6 °C/decade over the last 100 years, broadly consistent with the prediction of climate models, but also of the same magnitude as natural climate variability. This is greater than that seen over the past 10,000 years.

This will result in a likely increase in the global mean temperature of about 1°C above the present value by 2025 (about 2°C above that in the pre-industrial period), and 3°C above today's value before 2100 (about 4°C above pre-industrial). The rise will not be steady because of other factors".

The actual temperature increases from 1990 to 2025.

- Over the past 35 years, global temperature has risen by about 0.2 °C.
- Global temperature in 1990 was about 13.9 °C - in 2025 it was about 15.1 °C - close to the 0.3 °C per decade increase predicted.
- Predicted an increase of global mean temperature in the range of 1.5°C to 4.5°C (by 2100?). The calculated increase is 2.25 °C

The IPCC temperature prediction for 2025 is reasonably consistent with observations.

Accuracy of Predictions

The original IPCC FAR, released in 1990 and now 35 years old, made predictions about CO2 levels, global temperature rise, global sea level rise, and many other observations. The accuracy of these predictions can now be compared with today's observations.

The comparison shows that for the IPCC FAR 1990 predictions:

- **The increase in temperature - is reasonably consistent with observations in 2025.**
- **The increase in the CO2 level - is about 300% above observations in 2025.**
- **The increase in sea level - is about 300% above observations in 2025.**

This comparison clearly shows that the IPCC's predictions for CO2 and sea levels have been overestimated.

The reason is that computer models, with their inherent biases, have been the basis for future climate projections. In addition, predictions have always concerned events (sea levels, temperatures, extreme weather) sufficiently far into the future (25, 50, 100 years) that they are impossible to prove or disprove, yet are dramatic enough to cause public alarm.

The predictions made in the IPCC FAR 1990 for sea level and CO2 are inaccurate. Over time, the IPCC has recognised this over-estimation and has backpedaled in later reports to more conservative positions. The fact remains, however, that they are in the business of selling catastrophic anthropogenic climate change, and it is not in their interests to headline conservative projections. In their reports, they always provide a range of scenarios, the more extreme of which appear in tabloid headlines. Invariably, real-world observations fall at the bottom of, or even below, the uncertainty range of their scenarios.

Based on this comparison between real-world observations and the IPCC FAR 1990 predictions, it is reasonable to conclude that the catastrophic anthropogenic climate change scenario should no longer be a driver of decisions regarding Australia's future power system.

Most of the IPCC's past predictions have been overstated, and its future predictions should be treated with equal scepticism.

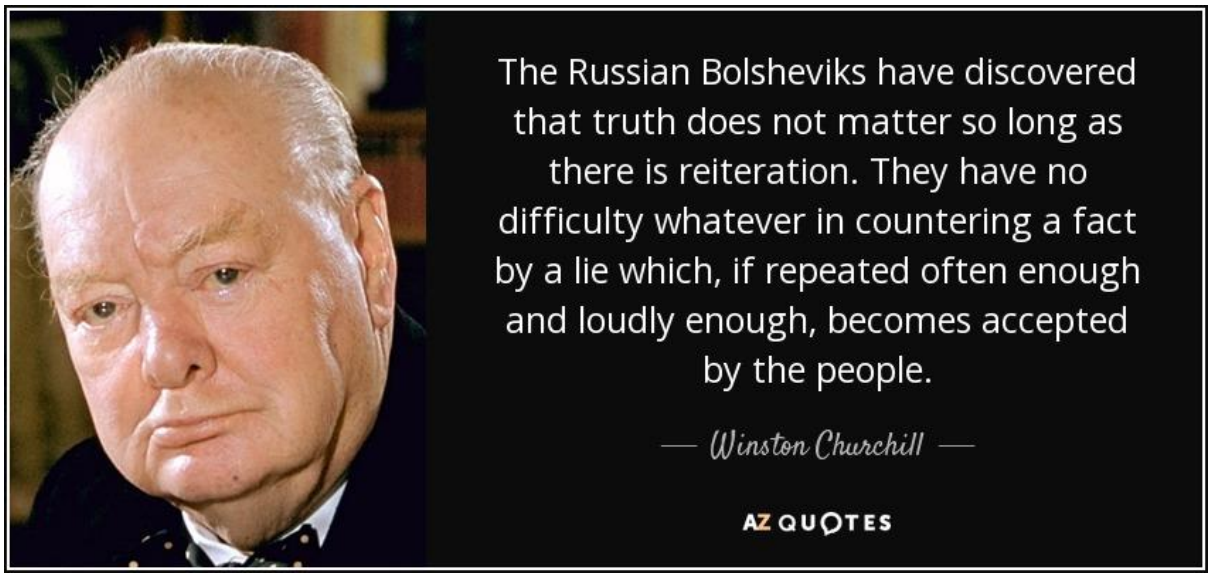
The catastrophic bogeyman theory, if not discredited, remains unproven and should, at a minimum, be treated with scepticism. The time has also come to discard the current, fashionable mitigation strategy based on IPCC models and move towards an adaptation strategy that the nation can afford.

The IPCC FAR 1990 projections overstate real-world observations. The catastrophic climate change scenarios should be treated with scepticism - and should no longer be considered as a scientific basis for the structure of the Australian power system.

Observations versus IPCC Predictions. Table 1.

Data	Rate of Increase	1750	1890	1990	2025	2050	2100
CO2 Level ppm Actual	2 ppm/yr	280		353	422	472	
IPCC FAR Pred inc/yr	6 ppm/yr			353	563	706	
IPCC Overestimate					308%		
Actual CO2 long-term average	about 2 ppm/yr.						
Global Temp Actual °C				13.9	15.1		
IPCC Pred Temp Rise °C	0.3 °C/decade			13.9	15.1	15.85	17.4
IPCC Uncertainty °C	0.2-0.5 °C/decade			13.9	14.6	15.8	
	0.2-0.5 °C/decade			13.9	15.7	16.35	
IPCC Overestimate					4%		
Temp long-term average	About 0.3 °C/decade						
Sea Level Rise Actual mm/yr	1.5-1.8 mm/yr Use 2mm/yr			0	70	120	220
IPCC predicted rise/yr	200 mm by 2030 300-500 mm by 2050 1000 mm by 2100			0		300 - 500	1000
IPCC Est of last 100 years	100-200mm 1-2mm/yr		-100 -200	0			
IPCC predicted rise/yr	6 mm/yr 3-10 mm/yr range			0	210	360	660
IPCC over pred rise/yr					300%	300%	300%
Sea level rise long term av mm/yr	About 2 mm/yr						

Climate Change Propaganda



Winston Churchill got it right.

Propaganda is the art and science of spreading misinformation. It aims to sway public opinion and can take the form of facts, arguments, rumours, half-truths, or outright lies. It is inherently biased and intended to mislead.

The language of climate change is awash with mantras intended to promote the cause and denigrate the opposition. Some of these mantras and their logical responses are outlined below. Asking difficult questions about climate change immediately invites accusations of misinformation, being a climate denier, or being a right-wing crackpot!

The marketing of climate change has moved from a cottage industry to an industrial scale, worthy of George Orwell's 1984 novel, in which the manipulation of facts and truth has become an art form. Nudge tactics to condition the audience towards renewable energy and away from fossil fuels are now an intrinsic component of many climate change reports, studies, media and activist publications.

The mantra of "the science is settled" is intended to stifle contrary views and to perpetuate a global gravy train. Science is always evolving, and the term "the science is settled"- must be considered the ultimate scientific oxymoron.

The Mantra	The logical response
Wind and solar power are free.	**If so**, there is no further need for subsidies to support free power. **If not**, then what is the cost?
Subsidies are required to foster renewables during the transition phase.	**If so,** then declare the cost of subsidies to date and the total cost of subsidies required to achieve the promised cheap electricity. **If so,** subsidies are required to transition from cheap electricity to expensive electricity – this is illogical.
Wind and solar power are the cheapest forms of power.	**If so**, there is no further need for subsidies to support the cheapest form of power. **If so**, why have consumer electricity costs increased fourfold over the last 10 years? **If not**, then what is the cost?
The science is settled.	**If so,** there is no further need for government grants to investigate climate change, renewable power, or Net Zero. **If not**, then we have plenty of time to adapt. By definition, science is never settled, and the mantra "the science is settled" is the ultimate scientific oxymoron.
Coal and gas are destroying the planet.	**If so**, why is Australia one of the World's largest exporters of coal, gas and uranium ore? **If so**, Australia is apparently happy for other countries to destroy the planet, as long as we make a dollar from the transaction. **If so**, why do other countries ignore Net Zero or pay it only lip service? **If not,** then we should opt for the cheapest power based on coal and gas.
We must strive to achieve net zero to save the planet.	**If so,** why have the major emitters walked away from Net Zero, and why do most of the others pay only lip service to it? **If not**, then we must revert to power policies that promote Australia's future rather than endanger it.
Nuclear power is too dangerous and expensive.	**If so**, why is the rest of the world opting for nuclear power? **If so,** why are there at least 444 nuclear reactors worldwide? **If so**, why have we opted for nuclear-powered submarines that will be based in or near our capital cities? **If not,** why does Australia not adopt the only viable emissions-free baseload power source?

Climate Change Summary

In retrospect, the following conclusions can be made with reasonable confidence.

- The climate has been changing for 4.5 billion years and is not going to stop any time soon.
- The UN, IPCC and Climate Change Science either ignore or downplay natural climate change. Instead, they emphasise the hypothesis of "catastrophic anthropogenic climate change", attributed to rising CO2 levels.
- Human activity has contributed to climate change; however, the extent of the impact is increasingly disputed.
- The IPCC FAR, released in 1990, made catastrophic predictions about global levels of CO2, temperature, and sea level, and about consequential effects such as drought, floods, and other weather events – predictions so dramatic they triggered a global reaction verging on hysteria.
- The IPCC projections have always concerned events (sea level, temperature rise, extreme weather events) sufficiently far into the future (25, 50, 100 years) that they have been impossible to either prove or disprove, yet sufficiently dramatic to cause public alarm.
- It also initiated what can best be described as a crusade to replace fossil fuels, primarily coal and gas, with energy from renewable sources, mainly solar and wind. The arguments for change were grounded in the "precautionary principle" and mitigation rather than adaptation.
- The FAR claims were not seriously contested at the time, partly because of their long-time horizon extending to the year 2100. Over time, however, the counter-arguments matured. Today, 36 years after the release of the FAR, it is possible to compare the predictions made in 1990 with real-world observations in 2026.
- A comparison between what was predicted in 1990 and actual observations in 2025 clearly shows that the IPCC predictions for CO2 levels and sea-level rise have been significantly overestimated by about 300%; however, the temperature rise prediction is reasonably accurate to date. In addition, many predicted consequential climate events, such as droughts, floods, and fires, have not occurred.
- The catastrophic anthropogenic climate change scenario has been greatly exaggerated and does not justify replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy for electricity generation.
- Similarly, IPCC forecasts for the future, all phrased in the now-familiar catastrophic language, should be treated with equal scepticism. Once bitten, twice shy.

- The reasons for this overestimation have been reliance on computer models and assumptions that were probably deliberately biased in favour of the “catastrophic” man-made climate change scenario.

- The science is not settled, and mitigation strategies that promote the removal of the cheapest forms of power, coal and gas, are not justified. Today, it is more appropriate to adopt a ‘wait and see’ approach combined with an adaptive strategy.

- The IPCC catastrophic climate change scenario should no longer be considered as a scientific basis for the structure of the Australian power system.

Catastrophic anthropogenic climate change - remains an unproven hypothesis - based on computer models - about something that might happen - in the distant future - and for which there is sufficient time to adapt.

“Prediction is very difficult - especially if it’s about the future.”
Niels Bohr

World Reaction

A review of global action to mitigate carbon emissions and achieve meaningful climate outcomes shows that, despite extensive rhetoric and posturing, there has been no real progress in reducing emissions. Global emissions continue to rise. The major emitters – China, the US, India, and Russia – which together account for 59% of global emissions, have effectively walked away from genuine emissions reductions. Most other countries now offer only lip service to emissions cuts.

The question must then be asked: if the major emitters are unwilling to reduce emissions for economic reasons, why should Australia – almost alone in the world – commit to abandoning fossil fuels, thereby impoverishing the nation and placing itself at economic and strategic risk?

The world's response to climate change is central to reducing global carbon emissions. Since 1990, every year, except during the COVID interruption, has seen an increase in global emissions. Australia contributes about 1% of the global total and can do little to change the global level of CO2. Reducing the other 99% requires the rest of the planet to do its fair share for the rest of the century. This is not happening. There are several reasons for this intransigence.

Firstly, the majority of nations claim to be developing or underdeveloped countries under the Paris Agreement and use this to justify minimising their emissions-reduction commitments.

Secondly, the major emitters, China (34%), the US (12%), India (8%) and Russia (5%), have all walked away from any commitment that restricts the development of their own economies and are not cutting emissions. Together, these nations account for 59% of global emissions.

Most other developed nations, such as those in the EU, Canada, Japan, and Korea, although initially alarmed, are now sceptical and pay only lip service to the idea of reductions.

On the basis of the global response alone, there is no justification for the rejection of fossil fuels and the blind pursuit of renewable power.

World Data

- The climate has been changing for about 4.5 billion years and will continue to do so, whether or not humans are present.
- For the past 2000 years, global economic development has been glacial. In the past 250 years, since the Industrial Revolution, fossil fuels in the form of coal, oil and gas have supercharged development, health, living standards and longevity.
- Fossil fuels are essential to modern life.

- Power demand is higher now than at any time in human history as nations strive to advance their economies and standards of living.
- Since 1990, despite all the global pledges to cut fossil fuel use, the world burned more coal, oil and gas in 2025 than ever before.
- Climate change has been hijacked by political parties for short-term gain.
- Spain and Portugal, renewable power evangelist nations, have the highest installed wind and solar capacity in Europe. In 2024, they suffered a catastrophic power outage, plunging 60 million people into chaos and darkness. They were saved by an umbilical power link to France, which generates 70% of its electricity from nuclear energy.
- The claim that renewable power would lower electricity prices has been proven incorrect.
- No country with significant installed renewable power has cheap electricity.
- What is happening in Australia has also failed elsewhere. Germany, Britain, Canada and California are now reversing their renewable policies and reverting to coal, gas and nuclear.
- Deaths from climate-related events have declined by 97% over the past century. More people die from cold than from heat.
- Unbelievably, the UK and Denmark burn vast quantities of wood chips imported from North America and call them renewable power! Where are the environmentalists?

US

The US accounts for about 12% of global emissions, according to the US Department of Energy.

The US is also one of the world's largest consumers of electricity and has 99 nuclear reactors, the most of any country.

The US under President Trump has walked away from the hypothesis of catastrophic anthropogenic climate change, has withdrawn from the Paris Accord, has set aside Net Zero targets, and has stopped funding the climate change gravy train.

In July 2025, the US Department of Energy published a report titled A Critical Review of Impacts of Greenhouse Gas Emissions on the US Climate (DOE 2025). The report refutes many of the exaggerated claims of climate alarmists and is now one of the foundational documents for the US position on climate change.

The Trump administration has introduced a broad suite of policies that move away from renewable power and towards fossil fuels, as a driver of reindustrialisation in the US. As a result, the US is now a net exporter of oil and gas, rather than an importer.

Some of these policy settings are below.

- Encourage power exploration and production on federal lands and waters.
- Become a leading producer and processor of non-fuel minerals, including rare-earth minerals.
- Ensuring reliable power is readily accessible in every state and territory of the US.
- Eliminate the electric vehicle (EV) mandate.
- Review all government agency actions that impeded the development of domestic power generation.
- Stop all funding for green power in any form.
- Aim for power dominance.
- Aim for mineral dominance.

The US has the world's largest economy, and its pragmatic approach to power is one reason it holds that position. It is also leading the world away from renewable energy and back towards fossil fuels, with increased use of nuclear energy.

It is the model that Australia should follow and will eventually adopt.

Russia

Russia contributes about 5% of global emissions (Zagoruichyk, 2022).

Russia's approach to power generation is a blend of environmental necessity, economic pragmatism, and geopolitical strategy. Russia treats climate policy and renewable energy as tools to advance its strategic interests. Russia's power sector is central to its economy and foreign policy, and any significant change is unlikely.

Russia approved a new Climate Doctrine in October 2023, signalling a formal commitment to ecological security and sustainable development. Although the doctrine sets broad goals, it lacks binding enforcement mechanisms. Russia has also pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2030 relative to 1990 levels. However, this target is modest and permits continued reliance on fossil fuels, especially natural gas, which accounts for much of Russia's export income.

Russia's focus at present is the war with Ukraine, and all other agendas are on the back burner until the war is resolved. The war's economic impact on Russia has also been devastating and will take many years to repair. Coal, gas, oil and fossil fuels in all their guises will be central to economic recovery and will be prioritised over renewable energy for the foreseeable future.

India

India contributes about 8% of global emissions (Timperley, 2019).

India's focus is on economic development, with climate change and renewable energy considered secondary. India has claimed developing nation status under the Paris Accord and has used it to avoid emissions constraints.

Fossil fuels dominate the energy mix, with coal accounting for about 64%. Both coal and gas use are rising as industry expands and the population grows. Nuclear power is also expanding, with about 22 reactors in operation and many more in planning.

India's climate policy in 2025 shows strong momentum in renewable energy but remains constrained by continued reliance on fossil fuels, especially coal. Wind and solar penetration has increased dramatically. India is now the third-largest global generator of wind and solar power.

India is rapidly emerging as a broad-based, high-tech, complex economy. It has a strong IT sector and is now preferred as a global manufacturing location over China. A pragmatic approach to energy needs, environmental imperatives for improved air quality, and a focus on urban renewal are pushing India towards a nuclear energy strategy as an affordable, emissions-free solution. Coal and gas, however, remain the cheapest options in the near term.

China

China accounts for about 35% of global emissions and is the world's largest emitter (Liu et al., 2023).

- China consumes about 58% of the world's coal.
- Most of China's power comes from burning coal, and it starts construction of 2 new coal-fired power generators every week. It is building more coal-powered stations each year than the entire Australian power grid has stations.
- China has also installed large-scale wind and solar arrays, which account for about 13% of total generation.
- Nuclear power accounts for 5% of total generation. China has 58 nuclear reactors, 28 under construction, and plans to build 118 more by 2035.
- China has claimed developing-nation status and has thus avoided the emissions-reduction provisions of the Paris Accord. This has enabled China to use coal-fired power stations without restriction.
- China is often cited as leading the world in adopting renewable power. This is indeed the case, as they are now the leading global manufacturers and exporters of wind and solar equipment. Perversely, they have achieved this by burning Australian coal, which we demonise, to boost their own manufacturing industries.
- The world's confected outrage over climate change has been an economic boon for China, enabling it to corner the market in solar panels, wind turbines and batteries. It is a great economic model for China.

World Reaction Summary

- A review of global action to reduce carbon emissions and slow climate change shows that there has been much rhetoric and posturing, but no progress in reducing emissions.
- Global emissions continue to rise each year, except during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The major emitters that, between them, contribute 59% of global emissions, namely China, the US, India and Russia, have walked away from efforts to reduce emissions.
- It can be concluded that the major emitters have no intention of reducing their reliance on fossil fuels, as these fuels are fundamental to their economic and strategic strength.

The question must then be asked. If the major emitters have not willingly opted to reduce emissions primarily for economic reasons, why should Australia, almost alone in the world, willingly move away from fossil fuels and, by doing so, condemn the nation to ever-increasing power bills, deindustrialisation and power poverty, leading to economic decline and strategic weakness?

The world's largest emitters have rejected climate change and moved away from renewable energy. Australia must do the same.

Australian Reaction

The Australian response to climate change has been dramatic. It has followed the lead of several other nations, including Germany, the UK and Spain, and has embarked on a crusade against fossil fuels, opting for renewable power on a national scale.

The response has been multifaceted, encompassing federal and state governments, extensive legislation, massive public funding and subsidies, new bureaucracies, complicit academic institutions, and opportunistic private enterprise building wind, solar and transmission lines.

When the IPCC FAR was released in 1990, Australia enjoyed cheap electricity and gas, giving the nation a comparative energy advantage for local manufacturing. Then, about 80% of electricity came from coal, 10% from gas, and the rest from hydro. In 2025, wind and solar provide about 30% of electricity requirements, gas about 10%, and coal about 50%. Over the same period, electricity prices have roughly doubled in real terms and are now about twice those in the US.

Based on the FAR, successive Australian governments decided to phase out fossil-fuel-based electricity generation and gas heating, replacing them with free “renewable energy”, mainly wind and solar.

Why did Australian governments allow themselves to be seduced by what is now, in retrospect, best described as a modern-day variation of the Flat Earth Theory? Again, there are many layers to the answer; however, the short answer is affluence and 80 years of relative security since WW2.

Australia’s current prosperity has largely been driven by the good fortune of sitting on vast reserves of coal, iron ore, gas and many other minerals, the export of which has made Australia one of the World’s richest nations. This affluence, however, is fragile, as it is based on overreliance on the export of mineral resources, mainly to China, rather than on the output of a broad-based, complex, resilient, and sustainable economy. It is worth noting, however, that Australia is not alone in its folly, as much of the Western World has been similarly seduced.

Affluence has also proven to be a double-edged sword. The medical conditions associated with affluence are well documented. Equally disruptive, however, are the societal aberrations enabled by both national affluence and the long-term absence of existential threats, such as war, natural disasters, and economic crises.

Australia has been seduced by the apparent Goldilocks state of the economy and a relatively benign geopolitical outlook in our region, and is in denial that it could ever end. It has forsaken the conservative values and policies of the past that underpinned our current standard of living and, in turn, would have laid the foundation for future prosperity for our children and grandchildren.

Australian politics is also in turmoil. Long-term Labour governments are now dominated by a new generation of hard-left socialists, with no effective conservative opposition. This ideological dominance has prompted rejection of Old-World economic realities and the embrace of left-wing political agendas that can survive only

on public funding. The most destructive of these has been the hypothesis of catastrophic anthropogenic climate change.

Power Security

Australia's current standard of living has been built on the burning of its abundant coal and gas reserves and their export. Australia has enjoyed energy security in the past; however, it has now squandered this advantage. Perversely, the economies of the rest of the world reap cheap energy benefits from our exports of coal, gas and uranium ore, whilst Australia ignores these opportunities on ideological grounds. You couldn't make this up!

Australia has benefited greatly in the past from some of the cheapest electricity and gas in the world. Similarly, tomorrow's prosperity is entirely dependent on the continuation of affordable, reliable 24/7 base-load electricity and gas for both consumers and industry. Australia cannot achieve national security without energy security. To suggest otherwise is to deny history, economics and logic.

Australia is an energy superpower in coal, gas and uranium, so if logic prevails, the nation must capitalise on this good fortune. The Australian Government has, in the past, pursued a policy of minimal interference in the power industry; however, with the emergence of the climate "crisis", this has changed. Pragmatism, not ideology or wishful thinking, must be the mantra for tomorrow's thinking.

Electricity is Australia's life support system.

Relevant Data

It is now 36 years since the release of the IPCC FAR, and the results of the Australian experiment with renewable energy are clear.

- In 2026, Australia still gets about 90% of its energy from fossil fuels. In 2006, the figure was about 94%. After hundreds of billions spent on renewables, there has been a 4% improvement.

- In the 2022 Australian federal election campaign, Labor famously promised that its renewable energy policies would cut household electricity bills by $275. Over the subsequent 3 years, electricity bills rose by about $1000.

- In September 2016, South Australia experienced an electricity disruption that left some parts of the state without power for almost a week. Salvation came only through an umbilical power link to Victoria. The SA government, ideologically driven, imported 9 massive diesel generators for $600 million to provide emergency backup, which guzzled fossil fuel. This price was not factored into the cost of the renewable power system; however, SA taxpayers will ultimately foot the bill.

- Offshore wind farms have been promoted by Labor state governments as a future replacement for coal-fired baseload power. In practice, however, offshore wind has proven prohibitively expensive and has been hampered by Australia's regulatory, environmental, and financial barriers to entry. Projects are now being cancelled with increasing frequency and are unlikely to proceed to construction.

- Victoria aims to source 95% of its electricity from renewables by 2035, an impossible target.

- Spending on climate change and net zero in the 2024 federal budget was about $9 billion annually, up from $600 million a decade earlier. The full cost of federal and state funding and subsidies for renewable energy is closely guarded and not publicly released.

- Labor governments are now panicking as the need for coal-fired power stations becomes apparent, and they are taking both open and covert measures to keep them running into the future

- Synthetic fertilisers based on oil and gas are essential for agricultural production to feed the planet. This has become painfully obvious as a result of the latest oil supply crisis caused by the Middle East conflict. .

- Synthetic fertilisers based on oil and gas are essential for agricultural production to feed the planet. This has become painfully obvious as a result of the latest oil supply crisis resulting from the Middle East conflict.

Inconvenient facts about the climate change debate are ignored.
The debate runs on faith, not reason.

Legislation and Reports

Labor governments have been assiduous in creating a legislative framework that not only promotes renewables and the removal of fossil fuels but also seeks to prevent any reversal of the process. The legislation includes the following and is being augmented as quickly as the numerous ideologically committed bureaucratic bodies dedicated to renewables can conspire.

The Climate Change Act 2022. Sets a government-wide target to reduce Australia's emissions by 43% below 2005 levels by 2030 and to net zero by 2050. It has a significant influence over the interpretation of other legislation and the duties of ministers and regulators under administrative law.

The Safeguard Mechanism. Mandates that large projects and facilities reduce their emissions or purchase carbon credits to continue operating. This is a tax on heavy industry.

Future Made in Australia. This policy mandates extensive government subsidisation of the renewables sector to compensate for the diminished role of other critical industries under net-zero policies.

Renewable Energy Target (RET). The RET aims to deliver 33,000 GWh of renewable electricity annually from 2020 to 2030. To achieve this target, there are 2 major schemes:

- **Large-scale Renewable Energy Target (LRET).** Supports wind farms, solar plants, and other utility-scale projects. This is a major direct subsidy that creates artificial demand for electricity from wind and solar companies and transfers money from electricity consumers to renewable power operators.

- **Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES).** Incentivises rooftop solar, solar water heaters, and small wind systems.

Future Gas Strategy. Labor Governments have belatedly recognised the value and need for gas, and the Future Gas Strategy confirms that natural gas will remain essential through 2050 and beyond, while supporting energy security, affordability, and the net-zero transition.

The New Vehicle Efficiency Standard. Intended to force the transition from internal combustion engines to electric vehicles.

Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS). The CIS is a federal subsidy that guarantees long-term income for renewable energy and dispatchable storage projects (such as batteries), reducing investor risk and accelerating deployment. It aims to support 26 GW of renewable generation and 14 GW of dispatchable capacity by 2030 – enough to power every home on Australia's main grids and meet peak loads for 13 million households.

Integrated System Plan (ISP). The ISP is the Labor strategy to decarbonise the electricity grid by 2050, prioritising renewables, storage, and transmission upgrades while phasing out coal. Developed by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), the ISP guides the transformation of the National Electricity Market (NEM).

GenCost Report (GCR). Produced by the CSIRO under AEMO directives, the 2024–25 GenCost Report contends that wind and solar, backed by storage, remain the lowest-cost new-build electricity generation technologies in Australia, while small modular nuclear reactors (SMRs) are the most expensive. The report has been widely discredited, but it provides the ISP with the intended scientific cover.

Levelised Cost of Electricity (LCOE). The accounting method used by the CSIRO in its annual GenCost Reports to estimate the average electricity price a new generating asset must achieve over its operating life to break even. It has been discredited and is heavily biased towards renewables.

National Adaption Plan. Australia's first NAP, released in September 2025, outlines a coordinated national response to escalating climate risks, prioritising resilience across infrastructure, ecosystems, health, and vulnerable communities. The NAP is paired with the National Climate Risk Assessment (NCRA). It marks the ***"prioritise***

and plan" phase of Australia's climate adaptation cycle, shifting from reactive responses to proactive, system-wide resilience strategies.

National Climate Risk Assessment. The NCRA, released in September 2025, identifies 63 nationally significant risks across eight systems and eleven regions, warning that climate hazards will intensify and compound by mid-century. The NCRA models climate risks under three warming scenarios: +1.5°C, +2°C, and +3°C above pre-industrial levels. It uses five risk levels: low, moderate, high, very high, and severe. It claims that without strong action, Australia is projected to reach +2.7°C by 2100, triggering cascading hazards.

Carbon Adjustment Border Mechanism. Australia is now assessing a CABM to prevent carbon leakage and protect domestic industries, with final recommendations expected in late 2025. A CABM would impose tariffs on imported goods according to their carbon intensity, ensuring that foreign producers face carbon costs comparable to those of domestic producers. It aims to prevent carbon leakage, where companies shift production to countries with weaker climate policies, undermining global emissions efforts.

Stakeholders

Australian governments, particularly the Labor Party, have established numerous agencies to guide and implement climate change policy. Other scientific bodies, such as the CSIRO and Australian universities that rely heavily on public funding, also champion renewable energy. They are all heavily biased towards renewable energy and typically exclude or minimise fossil fuels.

The climate change industry now has its own momentum, embedded in payrolls, subsidies, budgets, contracts and careers. When you want to know what is happening in public life, follow the money. The multi-headed serpent of Greek mythology, the Hydra, now has a modern equivalent in the climate change industry.

President Trump's approach to dismantling the climate change industry has been to starve it of funding and deregulation. Proof of this is that NASA is now going back to the moon rather than indulging in climate change.

Some of the bureaucracies created to champion the cause of climate change are listed below.

- **Department of Climate Change, Energy and Water.**
- **Climate Change Authority.**
- **Clean Energy Finance Corporation.**
- **Clean Energy Regulator.**
- **Clean Power Council.**
- **National Power Market**
- **Emissions Reduction Fund.**
- **Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO).** The brief of the AEMO is to deliver Labor's legislated climate targets.
- **CSIRO.**
- **Australian Power Regulator.**

- **Environment Defenders Office.** Funded by the federal Labor government, it has become the mouthpiece for activist lawfare groups opposed to coal, gas and nuclear power generation.
- **Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA).** Australia's leading public funder of clean energy innovation is intended to accelerate the shift to Net Zero through strategic investments in renewables, storage, hydrogen, and electrification.

The multi-headed serpent of Greek Mythology, the Hydra, now has a modern equivalent – Australia's climate change bureaucracy.

Australian Reaction Summary

- Australia has embraced the climate change ideology with a fervour reminiscent of a religious cult. A virtuous circle of government, lavish public funding and subsidies, complicit academia, and opportunistic industry has created a climate change industry that has now developed its own momentum.
- Climate change and renewable energy are now supported by a labyrinth of legislation and bureaucratic agencies. The ideology has been institutionalised at the federal and state levels.
- Global emissions have continued to rise each year, except during the COVID-19 pandemic. It can be concluded that the major emitters have no intention of

reducing their reliance on fossil fuels, as these fuels are fundamental to their economic and strategic strength.

- Australian emissions are currently moderately below 1990 levels. The current trajectory is consistent with a gradual decline but is insufficient to meet net-zero aspirations without acceleration.
- As a direct consequence of climate change policies, electricity and gas prices have risen significantly. This has seriously affected the competitiveness of Australian industry. Heavy industries, such as steel and aluminium smelters, must now rely on public subsidies to survive.

The question must now be asked. If the major emitters have not willingly opted to reduce emissions primarily for economic reasons, why should Australia, almost alone in the world, willingly move away from fossil fuels and, by doing so, condemn the nation to ever-increasing power bills, deindustrialisation and power poverty, leading to economic decline and strategic weakness?

The world's largest emitters have rejected climate change and moved away from renewable energy. Australia must do the same.

Proposals

The following proposals on climate change are made.

Scientific basis of climate change.

- Catastrophic anthropogenic climate change - remains an unproven hypothesis - based on computer models - about something that might happen - in the distant future - and for which there is sufficient time to adapt.
- The science is not settled, and mitigation strategies that promote the removal of the cheapest forms of power, coal and gas, are unjustified. Today, it is more appropriate to adopt a 'wait-and-see' approach combined with an adaptive strategy.
- ***The IPCC's catastrophic climate change scenario should no longer be considered a scientific basis for the structure of the Australian power system.***

Global reaction.

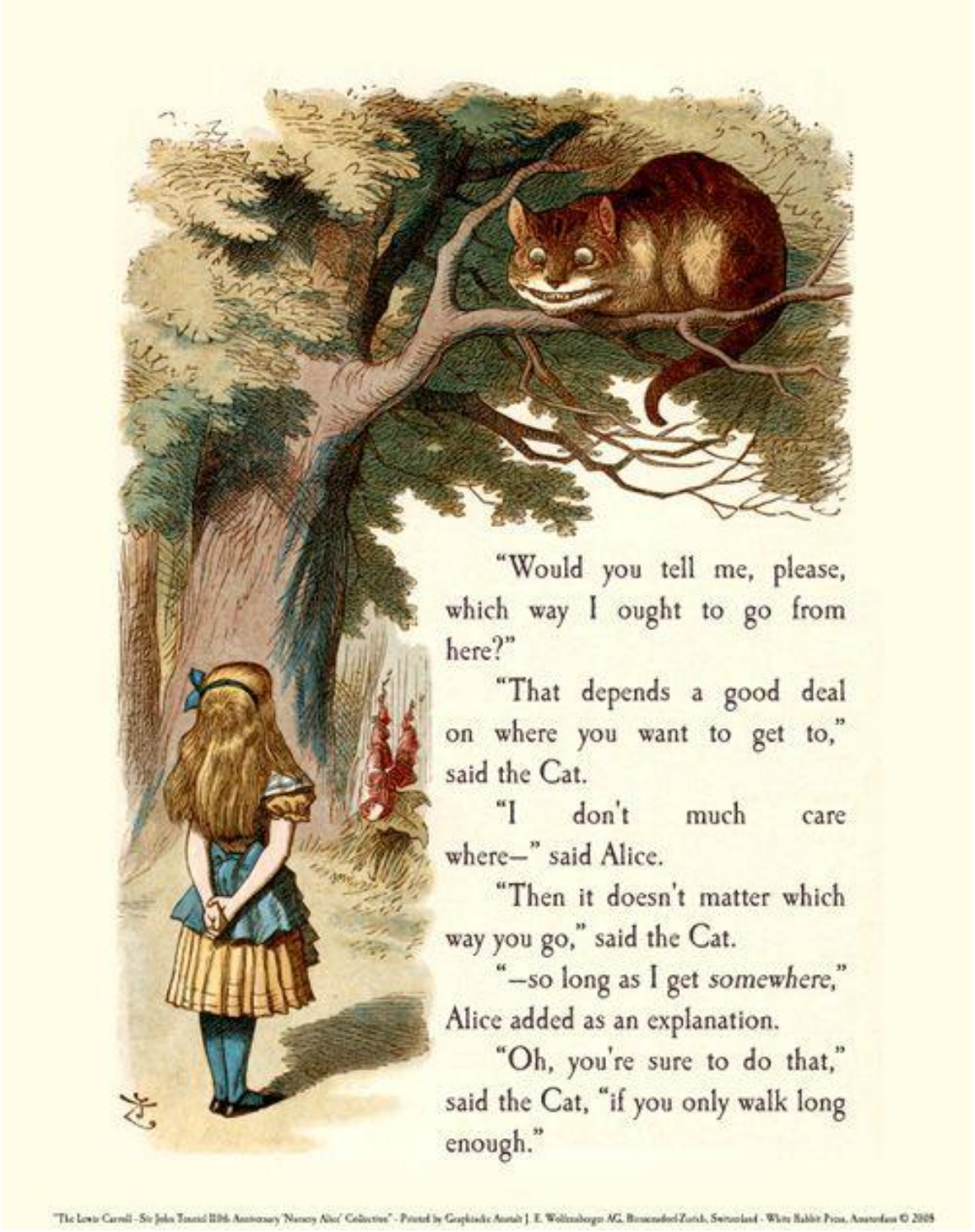
- The major emitters, namely China, the US, India and Russia, which together contribute nearly 60% of global emissions, have walked away from emission reductions.
- It can be concluded that the major emitters have no intention of reducing their reliance on fossil fuels, as these fuels are fundamental to their economic and strategic strength.
- ***Given these circumstances, the only rational decision for Australia is to follow the global lead.***

Australian Reaction.

- As a direct consequence of climate change policies, electricity and gas prices have risen significantly. This has seriously affected the competitiveness of Australian industry. Heavy industries, such as steel and aluminium smelters, must now rely on public subsidies to survive.
- Given that the science does not support catastrophic climate change, that the major emitters, particularly the US, are moving away from emissions reductions, and that Australian efforts to minimise emissions can have no discernible effect on global emissions, Australia will condemn itself to ever-increasing power bills, deindustrialisation and power poverty, leading to economic decline and strategic weakness, if the nation continues on its present course.
- ***In the nation's best interests, Australia must reject the hypothesis of climate change, the Paris Agreement and Net Zero targets.***

The last Word

The last word belongs to Lewis Carroll and his “Alice in Wonderland” - Alice is lost in the forest, meets the Cheshire Cat and asks for directions. It is a perfect analogy for Australia’s present lack of a national vision, strategic planning, and purposeful direction. We are indeed at a crossroads in Australian history.



The Author

This paper draws on the author's experience in the Australian Regular Army and Reserve, as well as his industry experience across manufacturing and major defence and construction projects throughout Australia and overseas. He holds academic qualifications in Electrical and Systems Engineering, Management, and Operations Research. He is retired and lives in Melbourne.

It follows the theme of previous papers, which outline Australia's current economic and defence vulnerabilities and their potential consequences. It will also be followed by several other papers focusing on rebuilding the Australian industrial base, with particular emphasis on manufacturing and the Australian Defence Force.

He is a passionate Australian who wishes to see Australia remain on the right side of history.

Photo Credits

Front Cover: Polar Bears
Winston Churchill: AZ Quotes.
The Hydra: Commons
The Final Word, Lewis Carroll, Alice in Wonderland.

End Notes

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