

Submission to Senate Economics Committee Inquiry in to the exposure drafts of the legislation to implement the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme

The Fair Farming Association

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**Carbon Trading
Fundamental Science Principles Lacking**

The hypothesis that global warming is driven by anthropogenic carbon dioxide has been accepted and used by Governments to justify proposed control measures that will be detrimental to employment and economic growth.

It is a fundamental requirement in the development of scientific understanding that hypotheses must be supported by observed facts and must have predictive power.

Observations

The global warming hypothesis can be tested against the following observations:

- In the late Ordovician period, some 450 million years ago, carbon dioxide concentrations were nearly twelve times higher than today. This period did not however suffer from global warming. It was an ice age.
- During the last 500,000 years the end of each ice age has seen temperatures rising and remaining some 800 years ahead of the rise of carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere
- The Medieval Warm Period and the Little Ice Age, both world-wide in impact, are temperature variations unconnected with changing levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide.
- Two major periods of falling temperature have occurred since 1880. In recent years the temperature has reached a plateau while man-made emissions continued to grow.
- The Great Pacific Climate Shift of 1977 was a major change in the sea surface temperature of the Eastern Pacific Ocean with a 0.5⁰C temperature increase. There was no sudden increase in carbon dioxide at this time to explain the event.
- The random occurrence of El Nino events that cause major changes in temperature, levels of carbon dioxide and the composition of the carbon dioxide identified by specific isotope markers.

- Most recently NASA satellite measurements of water vapour present in the atmosphere are a factor of three times more than that predicted by climate models. This greatly reduces the temperature sensitivity to changes in levels of carbon dioxide.

There are therefore a number of pre-historical, historical and contemporary observations that contradict the global warming hypothesis.

The instances listed above point to the great natural variability of the climate. There is an issue of separating climate trends from climate variability. Thus, hurricanes, floods, heat waves, record snowfalls and the changing areas of ice sheets, may be no more than global or regional variability.

Complex computer programs are unable to explain the above observations, which contradict the anthropogenic carbon dioxide hypothesis.

Energy Sources Affecting Climate

There are two sources of energy affecting climate, the sun and oceans:

- The sun is the ultimate source of energy for the surface of the earth. Sunspot activity may be relevant for the varying contribution of energy from the sun.
- The oceans, covering 70% of the surface of the earth, are a secondary store of energy derived from the sun. Deep sea water, some 90% of the ocean by volume, is cold with a temperature of the order of 1°C. The oceans act as a regulator of temperature changes. Changing ocean currents, including upwelling deep water currents, can therefore have a significant impact on local or world temperature.

The oceans also provide another important regulatory function. Sea water contains 139,000 billion tones of carbon dioxide, an estimated 93% of the world's carbon dioxide. It is the major store of carbon dioxide for the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide is absorbed with decreasing temperature and released with increasing temperature. Thus changes in ocean temperature will have a significant effect on atmospheric carbon dioxide.

The oceans are slightly alkaline and buffered. This means that any attempted change in alkalinity, such as an input of carbon dioxide is resisted; that is the ocean retains its alkalinity

Any global warming would be expected to drive carbon dioxide from the oceans. This would presumably strengthen the alkaline buffering of the oceans. This appears to be the reverse of the present claims that the oceans are at risk.

The present state of knowledge is not sufficient to understand the timing and impact of the oceans on climate. That is also true of the mechanisms that connect solar variability to the atmosphere.

Conclusion

Given the random behaviour of the atmosphere it is not possible to forecast future temperature variations within any useful bounds for policy makers.

The global warming hypothesis is not supported by observed scientific facts. At stake is the huge cost of a carbon trading program estimated to be AU\$280 billion over 20 years with a carbon dioxide tax of AU\$25 per tonne. A cost that should be measured by public benefit alternatives.

Farming provides essential food for a growing population and the impost of a carbon trading penalty would threaten the adequacy of future food supplies. Given the lack of a sound basis, a carbon tax on farming would represent an unjust impost.

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