

Dear Members of Clean Energy Finance Corporation,

The writer has a science background and has taken an interest in developments with global warming for a quarter of a century. I respect the disciplines of the world's eminent scientists as I expect members of the corporation also should.

While I was not involved in Climate Science during my work life I did study at length Organic Chemistry which deals with the chemistry of carbon, in particular aliphatic and aromatic compounds.

What concerns me is that it appears very few politicians are aware of the gravity of the situation with global warming and that probably is because they do not have even a basic understanding of carbon chemistry or they would.

The simple fact of the matter is the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere is now at 397 ppm, up from about 250-280ppm pre Industrial Revolution times. The planet is indeed sick just as you would be were you to have double the amount of a trace element in your body. Unfortunately this extra CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere which amounts to billions of tonnes is there to stay for not just decades but hundreds of years. In simple terms CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases but mainly CO<sub>2</sub> acts as a blanket if you like and actually traps the sun's rays warming the planet.

Even accepting possible or mooted remedies at face value the situation now is that no matter what man does the planet will continue to warm.

One of the biggest concerns I have is the way politicians flippantly inform the masses that gas is a cleaner proposition than coal fired power. Wrong. Taking everything into account from the time of drilling up to the combustion of LNG (methane) or LPG (propane/butane) is a worse proposition. There is however another factor to consider and that is another branch of Climate Change Science and that is Global Dimming. Google 'Global Dimming' and see for yourselves the effect the combustion of coal has on the atmosphere versus the combustion of gas. You should if you don't understand this, make an effort to do so because this gas madness could well spell the end of life on the planet and not in centuries but decades.

It is high time the politicians stopped listening to the technical people connected with the fossil fuel industry because sadly they are all looking after their own interests. We have a government scientist, Professor Ian Chubb and I believe Professor David Karoly is a member of the commission. These are the people who should be dictating the action Australia and the rest of the world should be taking.

Surely we should be following the lead of other countries who are developing Wind and Solar energy. For example in Spain, the Torresol Gemasolar plant (near Seville), which consists of thousands of mirrors reflecting solar radiation onto a collection tower filled with molten salt, produces 110GWh/year (19.9mw) and has enough storage capacity to dispatch electricity for up to 15 hours after dark. Furthermore, this technology has a 'capacity factor' of 75 per cent, which is higher than that of a NSW black coal-fired electricity plant.

Why is it that the masses are being told otherwise? I would hope that the Commission would suggest to the government that they embark on an education campaign to alert the electorate as to the problem we're facing if we don't lift our game.

It is high time that the government began governing for the people and not those who make a fortune out of the coal and gas in the ground and to whom they are beholden. I heard Robert Kennedy Jnr, Environmental Lawyer of note say on Jim Lehrer's show that as soon as the political parties accepted donations from the wealthy miners they were beholden to those miners. I have read Guy Pearse' book 'High and Dry' telling us what goes on between the politicians and the fossil fuel lobby or Lavoisier group.

I believe we deparately need some people in high places to be as forthright as Robert Kennedy Jnr and Guy Pearse.

It is my belief that the people of Australia were they to be informed of the gravity of the situation regarding global warming and it's consequences, they would be prepared to forego any compensation as a result of the Carbon Tax. Furthermore I think they would be prepared to see the entire ten billion dollars channeled towards renewable development in Australia. I say this because my wife anl because of unfortunate circumstances are forced to live on the pension. I know people are very well off in this country because we do reasonably well on the pension.

Sincerely,

Ray Astbury