

ATTACHMENT 3

Correspondence with Senators and MPs Implying or Proclaiming Climate Alarm 24 July 2020

Senators and MPs who received my letter

‡ Senator Matt Canavan
* Trent Zimmerman MP
* Prime Minister Scott Morrison
Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce
Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese
Green's Leader Adam Bandt
Senator Larissa Waters
* Minister David Littleproud
Treasurer Josh Frydenberg
Minister Angus Taylor
* Karen Andrews MP
Zali Steggall, MP
Minister Greg Hunt
Mark Butler MP
Minister Simon Birmingham
Senator Jenny McAllister
Senator Penny Wong
Tony Burke MP
Tanya Plibersek MP

‡ All listed above received the same letter. This a copy addressed to Senator Matt Canavan.

* Denotes those that replied. Their replies are included on the following pages.

Trent Zimmerman was the only MP to attempt to provide what he thinks is "evidence". His letter shows he lacks understanding of what is scientific evidence of proof.

I replied to all of Trent Zimmerman's points that he raised in his response to my letter and he did not engage further.

Prime Minister Morrison and Minister Littleproud made no attempt to provide the scientific evidence and instead tried to do a sales pitch of their policies.

Karen Andrews showed she has no clue what I meant in my first letter while she and Scott Morrison cited names of organisations that have never provided the empirical scientific evidence proving cause-and-effect.



Senator Malcolm Roberts
One Nation Senator for Queensland

24 July 2020

Senator the Hon Matthew Canavan
PO Box 737
ROCKHAMPTON QLD 4700

Dear Senator Canavan

As a Senator for Queensland I am aware that constituents in my state and people across our nation have, for more than two decades, endured the burdens of high costs of living, unemployment and restricted lifestyles as a result of state and federal energy policies based on claims that human use of hydrocarbon fuels and animal livestock is a threat to climate.

Additionally, farmers and some coastal residents have lost their rights to use their land as a result of United Nations advocacy for Australian and state policies based on political claims of climate alarm.

You have made statements in parliament and in public calling for, or implicitly calling for action to cut the HUMAN production of carbon dioxide from farming livestock and particularly from the use of hydrocarbon fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas.

Consequently, on behalf of my constituents may I please request that you provide the specific location of the empirical scientific data within a causal framework proving that carbon dioxide from HUMAN activity is a danger, or pending danger, or threat and needs to be cut. Please also provide the specific scientific publication(s) title(s), authors' names and page numbers. My constituents and I expect that your political position, claims, calls and/or advocacy are based on a recognised scientific paper, report, book or other scientific publication containing the data and proving causation.

I hope that you agree that policies and political advocacy claimed to be based on science and costing our nation billions of dollars and eventually in the future trillions of dollars, need to be based on empirical data that proves carbon dioxide from HUMAN activity needs to be cut.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'M Roberts'.

Senator Malcolm Roberts
Senator for Queensland



TRENT ZIMMERMAN MP

Federal Member for North Sydney



29 July 2020

Senator Malcolm Roberts
One Nation Senator for Queensland
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Roberts

You recently wrote to me to demand that I provide reasons as to why I have been a voice for action on climate change within the government and the basis for my view that climate change as a result of human activity was occurring.

This I am happy to do by way of this open letter because climate change poses such enormous risks to our future but also, if we get our response right, opportunities for Australia including the people of Queensland you represent. Innovation and technology solutions, many of which are presented in the government's draft technology roadmap, will be central to our success, particularly as we emerge from COVID-19.

Senator, it is now three decades since we were warned about the impact of the greenhouse effect by that unlikely warrior for green extremism, Margaret Thatcher (who, by the way, was a scientist as well as a PM), in her early clarion call to the global community. The role of human created emissions in climate change is now widely recognised by the world's leading scientific minds and the governments they advise.

Scepticism is a good thing – most of humankind once thought the world was flat after all. But even if you thought that so many scientists were wrong or part of a global conspiracy to hoodwink us all, isn't what we are witnessing before our very own eyes in our weather patterns enough to make you pause for just a second and think that maybe they could be right?

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology's 2016 State of the Climate report shows that Australia's climate has warmed since national records began in 1910. Mean surface air temperature has increased by around 1.0°C since 1910. These findings are effectively identical with the averaged warming trends observed by NASA.

This increase in temperature coincides with an increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide, with the levels today being higher than at any point in the past 800,000 years; this was observed by NASA in a study of reconstructed ice cores from the last three glacial cycles.

The scientific consensus on this conclusion is overwhelming, with a peer reviewed survey published in 2013 finding that 97 per cent of experts in this field support the view that humans are causing the recent upward trend in global warming.

Level 10, 2 Elizabeth Plaza, North Sydney NSW 2060
PO Box 1107, North Sydney NSW 2059 Phone 02 9929 9822 Email trent.zimmerman.mp@daph.gov.au
Web trentzimmerman.com.au f @trentzimmerman @trentzimmermanmp

Human induced climate change poses risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth, particularly if temperatures rise beyond 2°C. These risks were examined empirically by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and included the potential for increases in drought, negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems, and increases in ocean acidity.

In our own backyard, changed and damaging weather events due to climate change have been on the rise, with the Forest Fire Danger Index indicating an increase in extreme fire weather and the length of the fire season since the 1970s. Alongside fires Australia also faces an increasing drying trend due to climate change, with the continental southeast seeing rainfall decrease by about 11 per cent since records began in 1900.

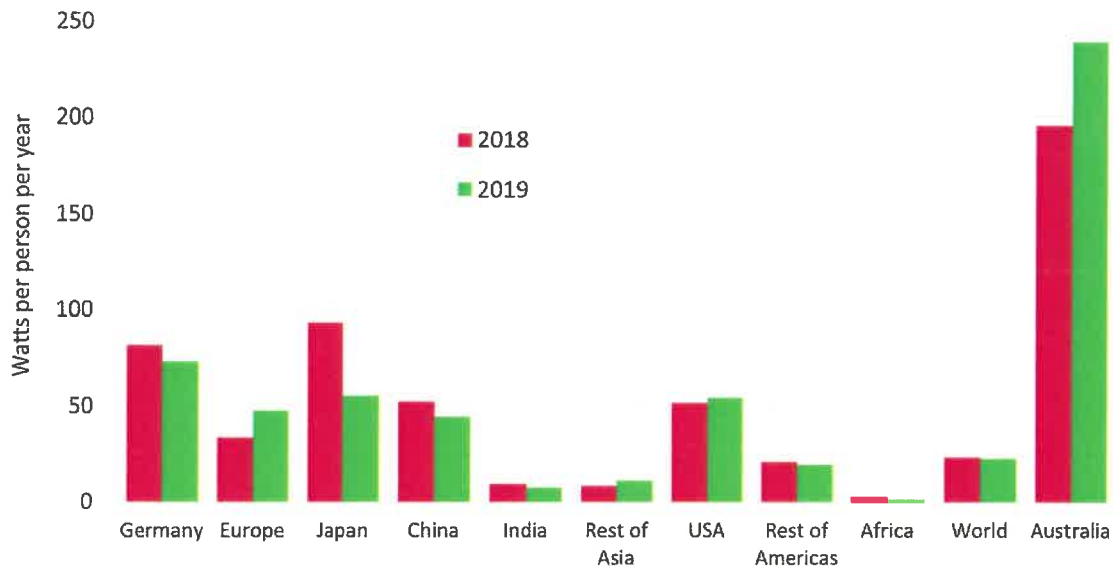
In your letter you mentioned the impact energy policy has had on our farmers. Agriculture is highly sensitive to weather extremes and variations in climate, as outlined by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. If the observed drying trend continues there is a substantial risk that agricultural yields will be negatively affected.

Whilst not mentioned in your letter I also feel it necessary to highlight the effects climate change will have on our First Nations People. In your own state, the coastal communities located within the Torres Strait are particularly vulnerable to the sea level rise and increasingly intense storm surges caused by the extreme weather events. Climate change will also impact Indigenous communities through changing traditional country, affecting the physical and mental well-being and cultural practices of these communities. These detrimental effects were observed by the Wet Tropics Cluster NRM groups, organised by the CSIRO.

I reject the view that sensible policies which aim to mitigate the negative effects of climate change are inherently disruptive to the economy and the welfare of Australians. Yes, there are radicals whose approach I completely disagree with, but they should not be the strawman for saying “do nothing”.

Renewable energy technology offers tremendous opportunities to Australia, including in your own state of Queensland, where 15 per cent of electricity is already generated by renewables. All the new wind farms, solar farms, pumped hydro energy storage systems and interstate high voltage transmissions are in regional areas, creating many new jobs. The Australian Bureau of Statistics recently estimated that 27,000 people are employed in the renewable energy industry.

Solar and wind account for nearly two thirds of global net new generation capacity additions. In Australia, the figure is 99 per cent because new solar and wind are cheaper than new coal or gas. **Australia is the global renewable energy pathfinder** and is deploying new renewable energy four times faster per capita than in Europe, the USA, Japan or China. **The combined value of Australia’s solar and wind industries is about \$8 billion per year** – that is big business. Snowy 2.0, Tasmania’s Battery of the Nation, the SA-NSW interconnector, Queensland’s Genex-Kidston pumped hydro and Copperstring and similar projects bring major regional benefits.



Deployment speed of renewable electricity capacity (IRENA)

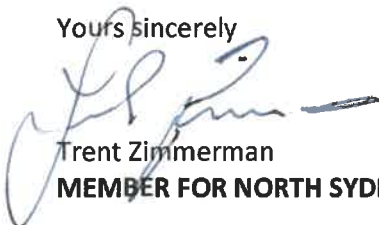
What is the effect of this new renewable energy uptake on prices? So far in 2020, the average wholesale electricity price in South Australia with 56 per cent renewable energy fraction (\$51/MWh) is below the price in Queensland with just 15 per cent renewable fraction (\$52/MWh). Increasing renewable energy fraction is correlated with declining electricity price.

The National Electricity Market has reached 25 per cent renewables, up from 16 per cent in 2017, and is tracking towards 35 per cent in 2023. Overall Greenhouse emissions in Australia are falling because of plunging emissions in the electricity sector. It is projected that the cost of solar and wind electricity in Australia will decline from today's \$45/WWh to \$30/WWh over the 2020s, leading to continued declining prices, declining emissions and tremendous economic opportunities including in Queensland.

Australia is harnessing the global shift towards renewables and low emission technologies and has become THE per capita world leader in deployment of solar and wind. Additionally, the Australian-developed PERC silicon solar cell is now being deployed globally at the same rate as net new coal, oil, gas and nuclear capacity combined, has achieved cumulative global module sales of A\$70 billion, and is mitigating 0.5 per cent of global emissions.

So yes Senator, I do believe the science does justify my concern about climate change. And equally, I believe the Australian and global communities have the capacity, the enterprise and the innovation to technologically chart a low carbon future. Rather than hanging on to the shibboleths of the past, we should embrace the vast potential of the future in a way that will make Australia even stronger.

Yours sincerely



Trent Zimmerman
MEMBER FOR NORTH SYDNEY



Senator Malcolm Roberts
One Nation Senator for Queensland

10 August 2020

Mr Trent Zimmerman MP
Federal Member for North Sydney
PO Box 1107
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059

Dear Mr Zimmerman

Thank you for your letter dated 29 July 2020 in reply to my letter dated 24 July 2020.

I acknowledge that you have rightly accepted the onus to provide the empirical scientific evidence for costly policies claimed to be based on science. Thank you.

Your letter though fails to provide what I requested, namely “the empirical scientific data within a causal framework proving that carbon dioxide from HUMAN activity is a danger, or pending danger, or threat and needs to be cut.”

The glossy, sole publication you cited provides no such data and no causal framework.

If you disagree, please provide what I requested: the specific location within that document of what you claim to be the empirical scientific data within a coherent logical framework proving causation.

I have been familiar with your cited publication since BOM-CSIRO published it in 2016. I wonder why you incorrectly labelled its source as the Bureau of Meteorology alone.

Secondly, your letter relies on many substitutes for science. Indeed, in one sentence you managed to present four substitutes instead of science, being: a claim of consensus; a flawed assumption about peer review; support of a view without data; and, an unfounded statement that contradicts reality and contradicts empirical data.

Let’s consider, for example, your reliance on consensus. It is the antithesis of science. Additionally, the so-called consensus you claim has been fabricated and is false. Legates et al (2015) shows that the supposed 97 per cent consensus is, in reality, a 0.3 per cent smattering.¹ Further, none of those 0.3% of authors has ever provided the empirical evidence for their claim. Legates et al (2013) provides more comment.²

¹ Legates DR, Soon W, Briggs WM, Monckton C, *Climate Consensus and ‘Misinformation’: A Rejoinder to Agnotology, Scientific Consensus, and the Teaching and Learning of Climate Change*, Sci & Educ (2015) 24:299–318 DOI 10.1007/s11191-013-9647-9. Legates is a leading climatologist, geologist and climate scientist, Soon is a leading astrophysicist and climate scientist, Briggs is a statistician.

² Legates DR, Soon W, Briggs WM, *Learning and Teaching Climate Science: The Perils of Consensus Knowledge Using Agnotology*, Sci & Educ (2013) 22:2007–2017 DOI 10.1007/s11191-013-9588-3.

In a future parliamentary session, I would be pleased to visit your office and explain these substitutes in detail and those listed in my next paragraph. Please advise if you would be open to such a meeting.

Your letter relies on many other substitutes instead of science, including: appeal to name/authority; unsubstantiated opinions; unfounded aspersions, smears and labels some of which seem subtly and cleverly implicit; false statements; false portrayals of temperatures; misrepresentation of facts; emotive opinions; colourful and persuasive use of buzzwords conveying grossly false statements; invalid and erroneous assumptions; bias that presents only one side of a situation; omission of relevant detail; ignoring electricity “market” drivers; and, claims that defy logic and reality.

In my experience, people use such tactics when they lack the empirical data and logical causal framework needed to establish causation and scientific justification. After all, if you had the justification you would have presented it and had no reason to use those substitutes.

Thirdly, your letter says, quote: “This increase in temperature coincides with an increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide” yet you do not mention that the longest ground-based atmospheric temperature trend in the last 150 years was the forty years of cooling from the 1930s to 1976 as the human production of carbon dioxide increased dramatically during World War 2 and the post war industrial and economic boom.

Nor do you mention that the greatest ever human production of carbon dioxide is occurring during the current industrial development of China and India, yet temperatures remained flat for 20 years from 1995 through 2015.

Coincidences are not scientific causation. Scientific claims must be coherent with all observations.

Are you aware that academics in 1974 cited the forty-year cooling trend to predict imminent catastrophic global freezing, blamed on humans using hydrocarbon fuels, being coal, gas and oil? Yet after formation of the UN’s climate body in 1988 some of those academics predicted imminent catastrophic global warming due to the use of those same hydrocarbon fuels. They further advocated taxes to be paid to the UN in the form of an emissions trading scheme, known as a carbon dioxide tax.

In 2013 I calculated that since the start of accurate atmospheric temperature measurements using weather balloon radiosondes in 1958, global atmospheric temperature cooled from 1958 to 1976, rose in 1976 as a result of the entirely natural Great Pacific Climate Shift and thereafter rose modestly until 1995 / 1998. Since 1998, every year apart from 2016 - which showed similar temperature to 1998 - has been cooler than in 1998. Both 1998 and 2016 are known scientifically to be due to natural El Nino events. The UN IPCC’s claimed greenhouse mechanism is a supposedly atmospheric effect purported to be warming Earth’s atmosphere. Yet in the 57 years of atmospheric temperature measurements from 1958 to 2013, temperatures showed no warming or had been cooling for 34 of those years. That’s 60 per cent with no warming. The current trend since 1995 is arguably 25 years of no warming or 21 years of no warming and then slight natural warming from 2016-2019.

Your letter shows no understanding of natural variation, natural cycles and their interactions.

Fourth, in assuming that warm periods are harmful you seem to ignore that earth’s past far warmer periods are scientifically labelled as ‘climate optimums’ and during those periods humans flourished.

Fifth, you refer to former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Although her beliefs are not empirical evidence, your inference needs to be corrected because you claimed that she initially warned of a climate impact. The reality is that I am advised that her own autobiography states, quote:

"By the end of my time as Prime Minister I was also becoming seriously concerned about the anticapitalist arguments which the campaigners against global warming were deploying". And, "So in a speech to scientists in 1990 I observed: whatever international action we agree on to deal with environmental problems, we must enable all our economies to grow and develop because without growth you cannot generate the wealth required to pay for the protection of the environment." She attacked former US Vice President Al Gore directly and argued that, quote: (the UN's) "Kyoto (agreement) was an anti-growth, anti-capitalist, anti-American project which no American leader alert to his country's national interests could have supported." It seems that Mrs Thatcher, like many scientists initially cursorily assumed climate was a problem and then on closer examination realised it is a politically motivated scam.

As a true conservative, Margaret Thatcher got the facts, stood up and corrected her mistake.

I am delighted that you chose to reply in the form of an open letter. Many people who know science will see that your statements reflect a lack of understanding of the basics of science.

People across Australia have lost confidence in the ability of politicians to make decisions based on science and data. Your letter validates their concerns. It reinforces that those promoting your climate and energy policies are not fit to be caretakers of the public purse and of the public well-being.

Caring for people requires making the effort to question claims and to base policies on empirical scientific data within a coherent logical causal framework proving causation.

I am still waiting for you to provide the empirical scientific data within a coherent causal framework proving that carbon dioxide from HUMAN activity is a danger, or pending danger, or threat and needs to be cut.

Yours sincerely



Senator Malcolm Roberts
Senator for Queensland

cc: Sydney Morning Herald
Alan Jones
Rowan Dean



PRIME MINISTER

Reference: MC20-119738

27 OCT 2020

Senator Malcolm Roberts
Senator for Queensland
GPO Box 228
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Senator

Thank you for your letter dated 24 July 2020, regarding your concerns about Australia's actions to mitigate climate change. I sincerely apologise for the delay in responding to you.

I appreciate you sharing your views with me. However, my Government accepts the findings of our scientific institutions on climate change. We take our advice on climate science from the scientists at the Bureau of Meteorology and the CSIRO, and from the Chief Scientist Dr Alan Finkel AO. These eminent individuals and organisations are world class and have made significant contributions to the body of scientific evidence that has established the climate is changing, primarily from increases in greenhouse gas emissions from human activities.

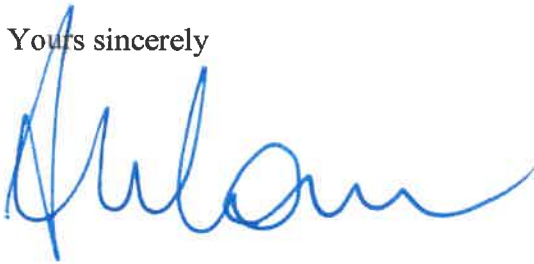
The integrity and robustness of scientific reports, papers, and syntheses are regularly subject to peer review, with open and transparent data. The review process necessitates several expert reviewers to establish the methods and data are rigorous and the conclusions are well-founded and evidence-based.

We are playing our part and meeting our commitments by helping business and households to adopt new, clean technologies – not by applying taxes that hurt jobs and the economy. We do not believe that we have to make an 'either/or' choice between the environment and jobs. We are taking action through practical policies that strengthen our economy and create jobs while also reducing emissions.

At the centre of our policies is a \$1.9 billion investment package in future technologies to lower emissions, back jobs now and into the future, cut costs for households and improve the reliability of our energy supply. The Government expects to invest over \$18 billion in low emissions technologies over the decade to 2030, helping to secure at least \$50 billion of total investment from the private sector and governments over the next ten years. The improvements in low emissions technologies unlocked by these investments will support over 130,000 jobs by 2030.

Thank you again for writing to me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Morrison', written in a cursive style.

SCOTT MORRISON



The Hon. David Littleproud MP
Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management
Deputy Leader of the Nationals
Federal Member for Maranoa

Ref: MC20-011424

06 OCT 2020

Senator Malcolm Roberts
Senator for Queensland
GPO Box 228
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Senator Roberts

Thank you for your correspondence of 24 July 2020 concerning climate change and farming. I appreciate the time you have taken to bring this matter to my attention.

Australia's farmers and agricultural communities have been adapting to a changing climate ever since they first tilled the soil. I have seen the devastating effects of more than 8 years of drought in my electorate, so I understand the impacts of a changing climate all too well.

My position has always been to get on with it and equip our farmers and communities with the tools to be able to adapt as best they can. As part of this, we have a responsibility to try and reduce our emissions and, where it makes sense, invest in renewable energy technologies and carbon abatement activities. Ultimately this will ensure we can help Australian agricultural businesses and communities prepare for the future.

The Australian Government is delivering a 'technology not taxes' approach, as set out in our Technology Investment Roadmap, to reduce emissions without imposing new costs on households, farmers or regional communities. For example, some initiatives specifically targeting the agricultural sector include:

- The \$5 billion Future Drought Fund, which supports initiatives that will improve the resilience of Australian farms and communities and help them prepare for droughts.
- Working through the Agriculture Minister's Forum, to establish a national approach and proposed a work program to support farmers and producers to build resilience and be prepared to thrive under changing climate conditions.
- Providing support through significant investments in research and development, the National Landcare Program, the Clean Energy Finance Corporation, the Climate Solutions Fund and through the Technology Investment Roadmap.

Thank you for raising this matter.

Yours sincerely

DAVID LITTLEPROUD MP



The Hon Karen Andrews MP

Minister for Industry, Science and Technology

MC20-051792

Senator Malcolm Roberts
Senator for Queensland
GPO Box 228
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Senator Roberts

Thank you for your letter of 24 July 2020 concerning climate science and scientific evidence related to human caused climate change.

I understand that you have previously been provided with data regarding climate science in briefings with CSIRO and data has also been tabled in response to Question on Notice 122 (Portfolio Question Number SI-123) as part of the 2019-20 Supplementary Budget Estimates.

In relation to your request for the location of the empirical scientific data associated with my statements, I would ask that you provide the details of the specific statements you would like data associated with to enable me to accurately respond.

I have always been an advocate for scientific solutions to address the many environmental challenges we face, rather than “restricted lifestyles” or “higher cost of living” being imposed.

Given the amendments made to the Administrative Arrangements Orders on 5 March 2020, the primary responsibility for the Government’s functions relating to climate science have transferred to the Agriculture, Water and the Environment portfolio. The Hon Sussan Ley MP, Minister for the Environment, has portfolio responsibilities for climate science and I have copied my response to Minister Ley.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Karen Andrews'.

Karen Andrews

12/8/2020

CC: The Hon Sussan Ley MP, Minister for the Environment