

## **Attachment 6**

### **The Savage Economic Burden of Policies Contradicting the Science**

#### **Climate and related energy policies are highly regressive burdens on the poor**

Savage increases in energy costs due to subsidies offsetting the high cost and low efficiency of solar and wind energy are a highly regressive and cruel tax on the poor. With Australia's median income just \$51,000 - around \$45,000 after tax - the average **additional** cost of \$1,300 per household per year is an impossible burden. Where is the fairness, the care, the humanity in this unfounded and unsustainable impost?

Communities and families cannot afford this burden.

Meanwhile billionaires benefit from billions of dollars in annual subsidies for solar and wind power. This is an immense transfer of wealth from the poor to the rich without scientific justification.

The lack of a scientific basis for climate and energy policies and indeed their contradiction of empirical scientific data has led to expensive white elephants like Snowy 2 project with its immense cost blowouts and its inescapable absurdity of increased carbon dioxide intensity.

Communities and families cannot afford this needless burden.

#### **Climate and energy policies reversing 140 years of unprecedented human progress**

The use of hydrocarbon fuels – gas, coal, oil - and the much later addition of nuclear energy have led to unprecedented and rapid human progress in just 170 years. This has happened three times: first in Europe and North America, then in China and now in India.

It is due to these fuels' inherent high energy density enabling low unit cost of energy.

The relentless decrease in unit costs of energy from 1850 to the 1990's caused huge increases in productivity that led in turn to previously unimaginable and unforeseen improvements in material prosperity. This produced startling increases in human life expectancy with safer, more secure, easier, more comfortable, abundant and fairer lifestyles with higher standards of material well-being, education, entertainment, travel and choice combined with greater understanding, respect and care for our planet and for our natural environment. All in just 170 years.

The recent use though of low energy density electricity sources such as solar and wind with their very low energy density and huge consumption of resources per unit of energy combined with unscientific energy policies has reversed the previous relentless reduction in energy unit costs and instead trebled energy prices. This is reversing human progress and causing needless suffering worldwide. Additionally, it is imposing a massive challenge to the environment concerning the disposal of used and non-recyclable solar panels, wind turbine blades and batteries.

Respected economist and regulatory expert Dr Alan Moran has provided a report on the economic consequences of climate change policies and associated energy policies. That report's executive summary is in Attachment 9 - The Hidden Cost of Climate Policies and Renewables. Dr Moran's full report cannot be sensibly refuted since it merely compiles costs from state and federal government budget papers and agency reports.