

CLIMATE AND ENERGY

CLIMATE HISTORY

- Over 400 million years carbon dioxide (CO₂) declined from 7,000 parts per million (ppm) to the present level of 411ppm which is near a record low. When life flourished on Earth 300 million years ago plants captured CO₂ then decayed and formed fossil fuels.
- **Science requires evidence, however, over the period there is no evidence that CO₂ has caused a global “climate extinction” event. Use of fossil fuel returns CO₂ for plants to use again for abundant plant growth experienced before the CO₂ was first captured.**
- Satellites have recorded a greening of the planet with improved CO₂ levels. Australia, however, is not contributing because it has been estimated for every tonne of CO₂ emitted 2.3 tonnes are absorbed by vegetation.
- The Earth is experiencing an Interglacial Warm Period following the last Ice Age 30,000 years ago, when 30% of land was covered by ice causing the sea level to fall 125 metres. Sunspot cycles, El Nino and La Nina events, hot desert winds, cyclones and shifting warm and cold ocean currents, very large erupting volcanoes and meteorites, are the principal agents moderating climate. **These events are determined by nature, not CO₂, or human activity.**

ENERGY POLICY

- A \$7 billion a year subsidy for intermittent renewables with priority access to market are leading to early closure of Australia’s remaining coal fired stations. At the same time, power costs have moved from the lowest to near the highest in the world and higher power costs and uncertain reliability are now forecast.
- Currently 345 coal fired power stations with an operating life of at least 50 years (as opposed to renewables like solar panels, which have a life of about 20 years and are subsequently regarded as toxic waste) are now being built, with 202 in China. Also, over 2,440 operating stations worldwide including 1,032 operating in China are returning CO₂ to the atmosphere. If the volume of CO₂ were doubled by 2050, this would still be a fraction of the level when fossil fuels were first formed and life was not threatened.
- **Australia must take into account that other countries have selected and are continuing to use and build coal fired power stations and nuclear plants. Their aim being to achieve the lowest cost and reliable power to support world competitive industry including strong defence, jobs and lower household power costs.**