

THE CARBON DIOXIDE CLIMATE MYTH

“Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is a pollutant”

WRONG

Because CO₂ is a trace gas on which plants and life on planet Earth depend.

- During the Devonian Period CO₂ declined from about **0.40%** of the atmosphere, that is 4,000 parts per million (ppm), as marine life absorbed CO₂. The skeletal remains and shells formed massive limestone deposits. The ocean was not acid otherwise the limestone would have dissolved.

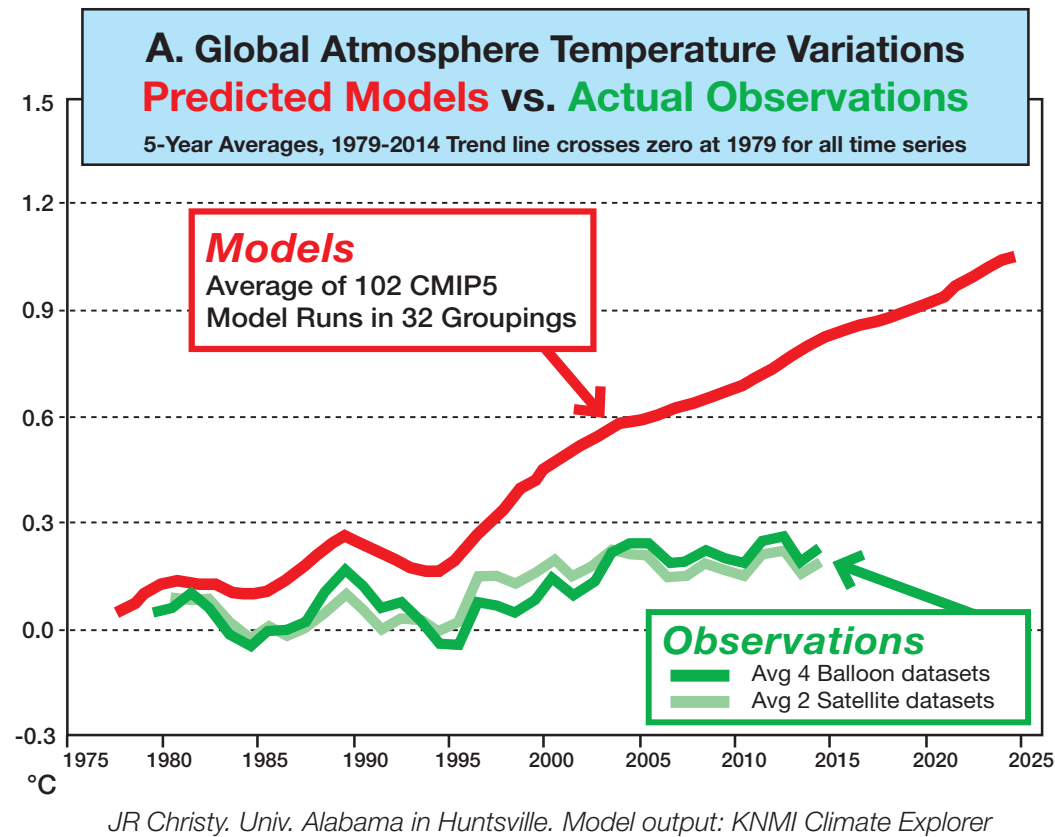
- The Carboniferous Period commenced when atmospheric CO₂ was about **0.15%** (1,500 ppm). It was a very good time for life on Earth. Vegetation flourished, captured energy from the Sun and absorbed CO₂, an essential plant nutrient. Plants decayed and formed abundant fossil fuels.

- The current level of CO₂ is **0.04%** (414 ppm) and near record low for plant growth. Much of CO₂ emissions are captured by vegetation which leaves the atmosphere increasing by only 2 ppm per annum. **The annual increase of CO₂ of 2 ppm per annum would take 540 years from the current level to reach the initial level when life flourished.** Already, satellites have detected a greening of the planet. Power stations also release the energy captured by vegetation to generate electricity.

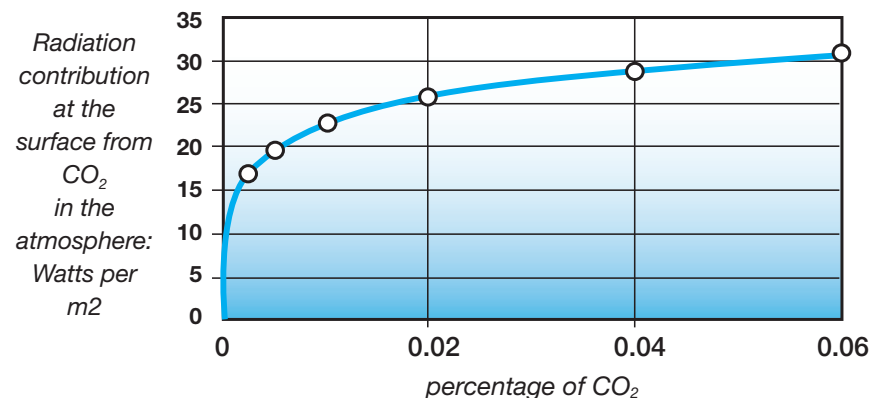
- Factors influencing climate and sea level include El Niños and La Niñas, sunspot cycles including the Little Ice Age,

hot desert wind, fluctuating warm Arctic Ocean currents, thermal heating below Antarctic ice, volcanos, regional events, ocean evaporative cooling from 70% of the Earth's surface, shifting tectonic plates, clouds and the gradual recovery of temperature and sea level after the Ice Age, **when the sea level fell 164 metres.** None of these events are caused by CO₂.

- Increments of CO₂ concentrations bring diminishing increases in its greenhouse effect. Results derived from the MODTRANS model accepted by science (see graph B) shows the relationship continues to decline with higher CO₂ levels as the greenhouse effect approaches saturation. The declining greenhouse effect is relevant as to why the average forecast of climate



B. Declining Greenhouse Effect of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)



model predictions with higher CO₂ has failed compared with actual temperature observations (see graph A).

When CO₂ was captured by plants that formed fossil fuels, plant life on Earth flourished. This fact, coupled with the declining greenhouse effect of higher CO₂ provides evidence that the threat of climate catastrophe caused by the return of CO₂ is a myth.

Conclusion

- The evidence confirms fossil fuels can be used without concern to generate electricity for reliable and low cost power. China is building coal fired stations every three years equivalent to Australia's total capacity. Worldwide over 1,000 fossil fuel power stations are being planned or under construction. Also 62 nuclear reactors are under construction and 418 are operating in 38 countries.
- There is an urgent need to ensure competitive industry, national security and relief for households from escalating power prices. Australia should consider following other countries by extending the life of existing fossil fuel plants, building new high energy efficient plants and adopting the latest designs of nuclear reactors.