

From the desk of John Roskam, Executive Director

12 April 2010

Dear

An important new book from the Institute of Public Affairs
Climate Change: The Facts

I am pleased to provide you with a copy of *Climate Change: The Facts*, produced by the Institute of Public Affairs.

The book is a series of essays by some of the world's best scientists and economists on why we need an honest debate about climate change.

The Institute of Public Affairs is Australia's leading free market think tank. Since its foundation in 1943, the IPA has upheld the values of debate, enquiry, and vigorous scepticism.

These values help underpin a liberal democratic society that is free, and open, and tolerant of a diversity of opinions.

A carbon emissions trading scheme as proposed by the federal government has enormous economic and social consequences. This was acknowledged by Penny Wong, the Minister for Climate Change who last year said that responding to global warming 'requires the transformation of national economies...'

The IPA has taken the lead in addressing the economic and social costs of assumed human induced climate change and the various costs of measures that seek to prevent it. The IPA has demonstrated that in fact the costs of climate change are likely to be modest but that the costs of the measures to prevent climate change will be very considerable, particularly for Australia.

The IPA has also been skeptical about the evidence and the extent of global warming that might be due to human activity.

The claim that humans are the cause of harmful and potentially catastrophic global warming has been fashionable for a long time. No

reputable authority claims the science on the matter is 'settled'. Nonetheless, claims that warming is likely have been eagerly adopted by many interests. Some people have espoused 'global warming' as a means to make money, while others have adopted it as a new cause filling a void in the anti-capitalist ideology following the collapse of communism. The IPA is concerned by statements such as 'global warming is too important an issue for democracy'.

For many years the Institute of Public Affairs was alone among Australian public and private organisations brave enough to question the political and scientific 'consensus' on global warming. With the support of government, media, big business, unions, and academia all campaigned for a carbon emissions trading scheme and subsidies for wind and solar energy.

The IPA first published an article questioning the scientific case that human-induced global warming was taking place in the *IPA Review* in October 1989. 'Is there really a Greenhouse Effect' was written by Roger Braddock, the then Dean of Environmental Studies at Griffith University. (The article is available at www.ipa.org.au)

The IPA's Dr Alan Moran, the editor of *Climate Change: The Facts*, first wrote about the prohibitive costs of emissions trading schemes and other abatement regimes over twenty years ago.

Over the last two decades the IPA has published literally hundreds of articles and research papers, and made dozens of submissions on global warming. The IPA has maintained its skepticism regarding the science of climate change, and we have consistently warned of the prohibitive costs to the Australian economy of proposed measures to prevent global warming.

Among the scientists the IPA has hosted at dozens of events and lectures are Bob Carter, Ian Plimer, Garth Paltridge, Pat Michaels, and Bill Kininmonth. This is in addition to political scientists and economists such as the IPA's own Alan Moran and Tim Wilson, and others such as Sinclair Davidson, Alex Robson, Christopher Monckton, Richard Tol, Brian Fisher, Aynsley Kellow, and Nigel Lawson. (Many of these experts such as Kellow and Tol have been members of the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.)

The IPA sent one of its Research Fellows, Tim Wilson to last year's United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. He uncovered that more than 100 Commonwealth politicians and public servants were attending the meeting.

In November last year the IPA held a major conference analysing the economic impact of an ETS. Terry McCrann, of the *Herald Sun* wrote:

What was even more disturbing than the chilling evidence of the damage that would be done to Australia, was that we had to rely on a private think tank to provide a forum for this sort of analysis of the economic consequences.

Many of the speakers at that conference have contributed to *Climate Change: The Facts*.

The IPA has taken a principled position on global warming. This position has not been popular with some Australian companies that have been long-standing supporters of the IPA. Partly because of their vested commercial interests and partly because they didn't want to get the government 'offside', a number of Australia's largest companies stopped donating to the IPA, because of our stance on global warming.

I'm amused when I read about how supposedly climate change sceptics are funded by 'big oil' and the 'big carbon polluters'. The annual budget of the IPA is less than \$2 million. In fact less than half of our funding comes from corporate support, and only a small fraction of IPA funding comes from businesses with a commercial interest in the issue of global warming. By comparison, the Department of Climate Change has over 400 staff, and the Commonwealth government's spending on climate change policy is listed at over \$1 billion. And this figure excludes \$1.3 billion of funding to the CSIRO, a large part of which is directed towards promoting the concept of catastrophic human induced global warming.

Over the last few years I've been told dozens of times that if the IPA wants to 'stay relevant' it should simply accept the scientific 'consensus' and just endorse an emissions trading scheme. But, as is obvious, we refused to compromise our principles.

Even as recently as 4 May, 2009 almost everyone thought we were wasting our time when the IPA issued a media release calling for the ETS to be scrapped. Everyone thought the ETS was inevitable.

Alan Wood wrote this in *The Australian* on 8 May, 2009:

None has gone so far as the IPA in calling for the ETS to be scrapped in the absence of a comprehensive international agreement to reduce carbon emissions, and realistically there is not much chance of that.
[emphasis added]

The IPA has battled against the odds to ensure there was an alternative voice on global warming. We have been vindicated.

The numerous cover-ups, errors, and mistakes of those who believe in human induced catastrophic global warming has caused the public to question what it was told about climate change. The scientific fraud revealed by 'Climategate' has further shaken the confidence of the public in the so-called 'scientific consensus' of global warming.

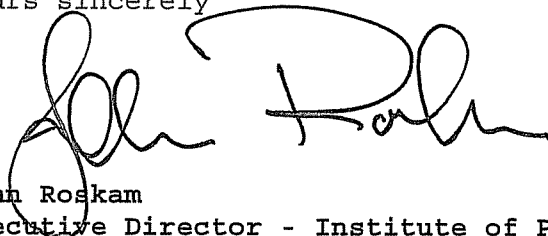
Clearly, 'the climate change debate' is changing. People are now less afraid to question the consequences of the climate change policies being pursued by governments.

This is an important development. It is a development that is good for the process of liberal democracy in Australia.

The Institute of Public Affairs is pleased our research on climate change over the last two decades has helped contribute to the shift in people's views.

If you have any questions about *Climate Change: The Facts*, or would like to know more about the IPA's research on global warming please contact me at the IPA office on 03 9600 4744 or on my mobile 0415 475 673.

Yours sincerely



John Roskam
Executive Director - Institute of Public Affairs

Enclosed

- *Climate Change: The Facts*
- An order form to obtain further copies of *Climate Change: The Facts*
- IPA Media Release, 4 May 2009 'ETS SHOULD BE SCRAPPED, NOT DELAYED SAYS FREE MARKET THINK TANK'
- *Herald Sun*, 11 November 2009 'Climate policy failure'

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