

Finance & Expenditure Select Committee

**Climate Change Response (Moderated Emissions Trading Scheme)
Amendment Bill**

SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION BY T. J. DUNLEAVY

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(Due for presentation, Select Committee Room No 3, Tues, 20 October 2009 at 5.10 p.m.)

I suspect that some of you are asking yourselves, what's this 80 year old former lobbyist for the wine industry doing here speaking against emissions trading? Especially when he is opposing a measure sponsored by the National Party which he has supported all his life, and for whom he stood as a candidate in Napier in 1969? In fact, wasn't he once national convenor of Bluegreens, working with Nick Smith? Well, yes actually, I was with Bluegreens until about 2004 when I began to realise that while the Bluegreens claimed to embrace as one of its five principles:

* Good science is essential to quality environmental decision making

it could be set aside for the sake of political power, especially "good science" in issues to do with climate variation.

So, when early in 2006 at a wine industry conference I heard someone talk about how global warming would affect the location of vineyards in New Zealand, I thought as editor of the industry's official magazine I'd better investigate. This led me to the late Professor Augie Auer, the American scientist who had come here years earlier to be our Chief Government Meteorologist, and later the weatherman on TV3. Augie told me bluntly: "Terry, it's all hooey," and explained why. I can still remember his final words on the topic: "Don't worry, Terry, good science will win in the end, but it won't happen probably until it starts to hit people in the pocket."

One thing led to another and we established the New Zealand Climate Science Coalition with me as its secretary. I found that I had joined the ranks of those labelled by Greenpeace as "deniers", but that there were many more of us than there were of those who are variously called "alarmists" or "warmists".

I learned also that there's no such thing as a "consensus", and that scientific integrity is not determined by a show of hands. I learned also that the science of climate is anything but settled; in fact, the more we get to know the more we realise that we have still yet to learn.

I've been warned that this Select Committee doesn't want to hear about the science, which I find incredible. Everything in this Bill depends of you accepting that what you've been told about science is absolutely correct, by people who, you are assured

by the Minister, know what they're talking about: the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the IPCC.

But, how good is IPCC's science.

You don't need to be a scientist to spot the holes in this one. Please look at my Appendix No. 1. It is table 2.11 from page 201, Chapter 2 of IPCC Working Group No. 1's most recent report, the Fourth Assessment, known as AR4. The column headed LOSU, stands for Level of Scientific Understanding. Note that only one, LLGHGs (which stands for Long Lived Greenhouse Gases) has a high LOSU. But does it?

On the next page attached is para **2.8.5.2 Long-Lived Greenhouse Gases**

Which ends up saying:

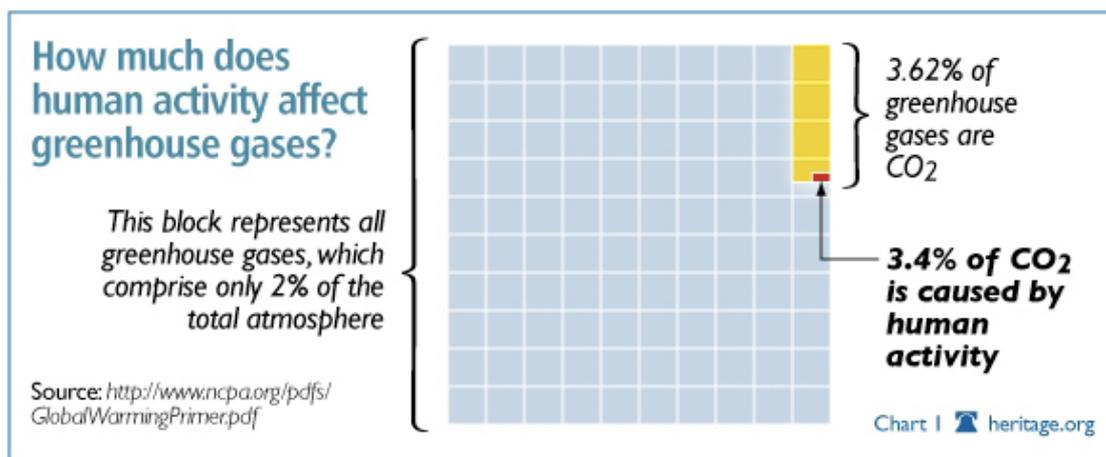
Overall there is medium confidence that the observed changes in the combined LLGHG changes have an efficacy close to 1.0 (within 10%), but there are not enough studies to constrain the efficacies for individual species.

If that means a **high** level of scientific understanding, what does that say about all the others items rated medium or low? The science underpinning IPCC climate models is remarkably uncertain and their output simply cannot be trusted.

Let's just get a few things straight:

Leave aside for a moment the question of whether human or animal emissions of carbon dioxide and methane have any appreciable effect on climate variation:

Look at the figure on page 2: CO2 is that tiny red rectangle in this figure.



New Zealand's share is 0.2%. Do the maths: 0.2% of 3.4% of 3.62% of 2%. It comes to 0.0000492 of 1%. For that miniscule contribution of CO₂ emissions we propose to undermine the primary industries on which we depend for our economic well being. But, note also, as reported in this latest issue of *Time* magazine: The latest G-8 summit held in Italy in July declared quote there is urgent need for decisive action to free humankind from hunger unquote. *Time* quotes Kostas Stamoulis, of FAO as

saying the resources being committed to farming quote is putting-your-money-where-your-mouth-is kind of money unquote.

But not in New Zealand, Mr Stamoulis, we know better, we're planning to penalise our farmers, ours is taking-farmers-money-and-giving-to-emissions-traders kind of money. That 0.0000492 of 1% of CO2 is more important than the efficiency of New Zealand farmers in helping to feed a hungry world.

New topic: Yesterday, the Australian Opposition announced that it will support and amended version of the Rudd Govt's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, provided that agricultural emissions are exempted altogether, and that there is an offset scheme for carbon sequestration in soils and vegetation, much like is proposed in this Bill for forestry.

So now it looks like we'll have Australia joining India, China and America rejecting emissions controls to their farms.

Why do I mention India, China and America? India has some 30% of the world's cattle, at 230 million head, China has 130 million and US 98 million. Keep these figures in mind compared with New Zealand's 9.7 million according to the latest MAF statistics, when you get to the clauses under which the government wants to penalise our farmers, while India China and US utterly reject any such notion, And then there are sheep. Heading the list are: China 143.8 m (1st), Australia 99.3 m (2nd), India 61.8 m (3rd). New Zealand is 6th with 45m.

All of this while our Minister Nick Smith is boasting, **boasting!**, about New Zealand becoming the first country in the world to impose emissions controls on our farms. Where is Shane Ardern and his tractor when we need him?

The present National led government must be pretty certain that singling out New Zealand farmers as the only farmers in the world to be penalised will have a noticeable effect on the global climate, or even our own climate for that matter after the past couple of winters we've had to shiver through. Do they really want to make it colder still?

But hang on! It's supposed to be getting warmer, not colder. This IPCC science that Nick Smith is so fond of quoting has been telling us that its computer modelling has been projecting (note that word **projecting**, IPCC doesn't make predictions, it only makes **projections** and **scenarios**); these IPCC scenarios in the four Assessment Reports so far projected continuing warming in line with the continuing increase of CO2 in the atmosphere.

Well, the CO₂ has continued to rise, from 350 ppm in the 1940s to around 387 ppm today (the equivalent of 37 cents in \$1000 – huge, isn't it!), but something happened on the way to the meteorological observatories – the warming stopped in 2002.

What's going on? Not warming, for sure. We know that the computers themselves can't be wrong, so it must be the models programmed into them. Wouldn't it make sense to stop and check before we race ahead with this costly legislation. Especially when you read what the whistle blowers at Treasury say of the Regulatory Impact Statement in the preamble to this very Bill.

Is it really acceptable for this Select Committee, and the Parliament, to proceed with an RIS that will not allow you to make informed decisions?

Doesn't it worry you that there is a total lack of contestability in the scientific advice being provided to the government on climate issues?

There isn't enough time for me to quote from an article I have written for a new magazine, *Gauntlet*, attached here as Appendix 3. It's only 1014 words, and explains why the Government and yourselves are being fed the IPCC line and nothing but the IPCC line.

Appendix No 4 to this supplementary submission is a copy of a recent article by Professor David Henderson in the *Economic Bulletin of the American Institute for Economic Research*. It's seven pages long, but you should take the time to read it, because it is a damning indictment of the IPCC process, and also because it outlines sound reasons why a carbon tax is preferable to the emissions trading system envisaged in this Bill.

In all conscience, can you be so certain of the "science" you have been fed that you will take the responsibility for committing New Zealand to such horrendous costs, when, according to the Minister of Finance, we already face 20 years of fiscal recovery?

Doesn't it worry you that even one well qualified New Zealand climate scientist, Dr Chris de Freitas, says in para 1.2 of our Coalition's principal submission:

The US federal government has spent 80 billion US dollars on climate research on the assumption that human caused rise of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is a problem. Despite this, no one has yet found even a shred of objective scientific evidence that humans are causing damaging global climate change.

Not even a shred of objective scientific evidence! Doesn't that send even a cautionary signal.

And, why the rush? According to Nick Smith, it's so we can have something to put on the table at the COP meeting in Copenhagen in December. If that is so, we're likely to be on our own. Those of you who have been following the news of what's happening in the rest of the world will know that all the major players are hanging back, and have accepted the certainty that all that will emerge from Copenhagen will be agreement to further talks. There will be no agreed successor to the Kyoto Protocol. Key players like the US, and our neighbour Australia are hanging back to see what emerges from Copenhagen. What do we know that they don't?

Now Bjorn Lomborg agrees, 3 days ago:

“A sense of panic is setting in among many campaigners for drastic cuts in global carbon emissions. It is becoming obvious that the highly trumpeted meeting set for Copenhagen this December will not deliver a binding international treaty that will make a significant difference to global warming.”

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,26210623-5013480,00.html>

So what can we take to Copenhagen? Look at our Coalition's suggestions in Section 6 of our primary submission, where we suggest that Prime Minister John Key extends the scope of the global alliance he introduced when he addressed the General Assembly of United Nations in New York recently to a Global Alliance for Agricultural Adaptation to Climate Change. That's an initiative which New Zealand is well placed to lead, one in which we can offer the world benefits worth a million and more times more than our 0.0000492 of 1% of emissions of CO₂.

Finally, what to do about the existing Act? Repeal it forthwith, and leave this Bill in the pipeline until we get it right. Post-Copenhagen the picture will be a lot clearer, and the climate won't change much in six months or so.
