

The Climate Change Commission has neither clothes nor evidence

by Bryan Leyland*

The Climate Change Commission was set up in December last year pursuant to the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Act 2019.

The Commission claims: “We provide independent, evidence-based advice to Government to help Aotearoa New Zealand transition to a low-emissions and climate-resilient economy.”

The key piece of evidence underpinning the whole debate is whether or not observational data confirming that man-made greenhouse gases cause dangerous global warming actually exists. If the Commission cannot provide this, it should be disbanded immediately.

The New Zealand Climate Science Coalition, a voluntary group of independents who challenge claims of unnatural global warming, have been searching for this evidence for several years and even offered a \$10,000 prize for it to no avail so we decided to formally ask the Commission to provide it. The Commission’s “Engagement and Communications Team” responded that they relied upon the consensus views of climate scientists. We pointed out that consensus is irrelevant in science and that many major scientific discoveries have been made by people who were arguing against the consensus. They responded that all the major scientific institutions in the world agreed. If there is a “consensus argument”, none of those institutions have provided any scientifically acceptable evidence to back up their statements.

The Commission’s team also referred us to the IPCC AR5 report and the NASA website. We pointed out that the IPCC technical reports state that there are major uncertainties in the key factors fed into the computer models as the only justifications for predictions that man-made greenhouse gases cause dangerous global warming.

We also pointed out that NASA also relies on consensus and states “Climate warming trends over the past century are extremely likely due to human activities.” What does “extremely likely” mean? If NASA had scientific evidence

based on observations of the real world why didn't they produce it? We would certainly agree that the world has been warming while emerging from a cold dip around 1910 and the previous Little Ice Age that ended around 1850. But we are unable to find any credible evidence based on observational data that shows a significant man-made influence.

The Climate Commission then said that we should publish a paper refuting man-made warming in a peer-reviewed journal. Which is tantamount to saying "We don't have any evidence but if you can't prove it is a lie, then it must be true". This is nonsense. It is up to them to provide evidence based on observational data that temperatures are outside historical limits and that it is caused by real and dangerous man-made warming.

It seems that they can't.

Since the above exchanges, a letter has been written to Dr Rod Carr, chairman of the Commission asking him if he can provide the evidence that we cannot get from his "Engagement and Communications Team" and also saying that if he is unable to do so, he should write to the government stating that the Commission should be disbanded. A response has not yet been received.

When I asked Dr Carr, for scientifically convincing evidence that man-made greenhouse gases caused dangerous global warming he responded that he and the Commission relied on consensus views. Obviously, he is not aware that science is determined by observations of the natural world rather than by majority vote.

We note that the Climate Commission is not alone in its inability to provide convincing evidence. When formally asked to do so, none of the Royal Societies of New Zealand and the UK, Prof James Renwick, and the IPCC itself have been unable to cite observed evidence of unnatural or unprecedented warming.

Billions of our dollars are being spent "fighting climate change" even though the organisation tasked with providing "evidence-based advice" cannot provide any convincing evidence based on observational data. Not only that: billions of dollars being squandered and our agriculture industry is being seriously damaged because of an unsupported belief that man-made global warming is real and dangerous. Truly, the Emperor has no clothes!

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