

**From:** Hello - Climate Commission  
**Sent:** Friday, 30 April 2021 4:57 pm  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Hello - Climate Commission  
**Subject:** RE: Listen to Happer. He is a whole lot smarter than Renwick.

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Thanks for the email – your comments have been noted.

Ngā mihi



**Communications & Engagement Team**

**E:** [hello@climatecommission.govt.nz](mailto:hello@climatecommission.govt.nz)

**W:** [climatecommission.govt.nz](http://climatecommission.govt.nz)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 30 April 2021 11:21 am  
**To:** Hello - Climate Commission <Hello@climatecommission.govt.nz>; David Seymour <david.seymour@parliament.govt.nz>; Simon Court <Simon.Court@act.org.nz>; Nicole McKee <Nicole.McKee@act.org.nz>; Simon Bridges <simon.bridges@national.org.nz>; National Leader's Office <NLO@parliament.govt.nz>; Rod Carr <Roderick.Carr@climatecommission.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Listen to Happer. He is a whole lot smarter than Renwick.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlMpjh\\_7-bw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlMpjh_7-bw)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 7 May 2021 9:02 am  
**Subject:** Still believe CO2 is a problem?

Document 2

I suggest you read this then:

<https://electroverse.net/physicist-william-happer-there-is-no-climate-emergency/>

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This email has been checked for viruses by AVG.

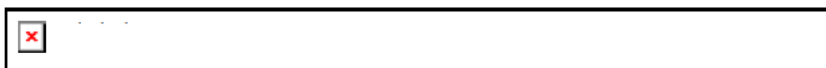
<https://www.avg.com>

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 1 July 2022 6:59 am  
**To:** Hello - Climate Commission  
**Cc:** The GREEN Party; Eugenie SAGE MP; Scott SIMPSON - MP  
**Subject:** Fwd: WV v. EPA: A Huge Win at the Supreme Court

Document 3

----- Forwarded message -----

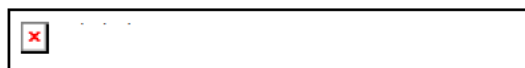
From: **CO2 Coalition** <[info@co2coalition.org](mailto:info@co2coalition.org)>  
Date: Fri, Jul 1, 2022 at 2:35 AM  
Subject: WV v. EPA: A Huge Win at the Supreme Court  
To: <all those greedy alarmists who do not like CO2 - wake up>



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## Supreme Court rules against overreach by EPA

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### EPA loses - America Wins

In what is likely the most damaging setback ever dealt to those advocating for overzealous enforcement actions against greenhouse gas emissions, the Supreme Court of the United States [ruled in favor of constitutional limitations on unelected regulators.](#)

This morning SCOTUS ruled in favor of the plaintiff states in WV v. EPA. This was an important “separation of powers” case. Over 20 states allege EPA improperly used very narrow statutory language as the basis for a national CO2 cap-and-trade program.

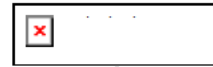
The constitutional principle of separation of powers requires that only Congress—through legislation—is authorized to decide major policy issues, not federal agencies. The related legal “Major Question Doctrine” holds that federal agencies must have a clear authorization from Congress before exercising new and significant regulatory power.

According to the ruling written by Chief Justice John Roberts: "But the only interpretive question before us, and the only one we answer, is more narrow: whether the "best system of emission reduction" identified by EPA in the Clean Power Plan was within the authority granted to the Agency in Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act. For the reasons given, the answer is no."

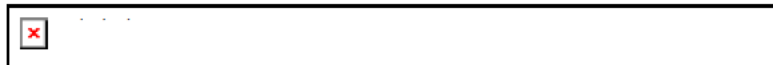
This is why we fight.

---

**Statement on the ruling by CO2 Coalition Chair William Happer:**



*"The decision is a very welcome reaffirmation of the Constitutional rights of citizens of the United States. Untouched is the question of whether the Constitution allows Congress to make scientifically incorrect decisions by majority vote, for example: that carbon dioxide, a beneficial gas that is essential to life on Earth, is a pollutant."*

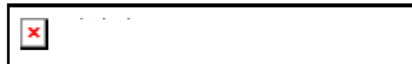


*"To take a single step beyond the boundaries specially drawn around the powers of Congress is to take possession of a boundless field of power, no longer susceptible to definition." --Thomas Jefferson*

**CO2 Coalition**

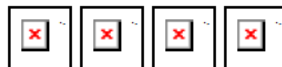
1621 North Kent Street, Suite 603

Arlington, Virginia 22209 or donate on-line [here](#)



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CO2 Coalition | 1621 N Kent St, Suite 603, Arlington, VA 22209

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Sent by [info@co2coalition.org](mailto:info@co2coalition.org) powered by

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 1 August 2022 10:30 am  
**To:** ETS Trading - permanent forests  
**Cc:** Hello - Climate Commission; James SHAW; Stuart NASH MP  
**Subject:** Managing Exotic Afforestation Incentives' The Warming in U.S. for at Least 17 Years According to Rarely Referenced Urban Heat-Free Database

Document 4

Hon James Shaw and Hon Stuart Nash,  
c/o MBIE  
Dear Ministers and others,  
Here is some more feedback for your consideration please.

The article below needs to be read and considered along with your previous 'modeling data' that I believe is helping you justify the misinformation being used to write policies that will never work. Including the ERP and ETS.

If you will not stop and cancel the policies related to the emissions saga and repeal the amended Zero Carbo Act, then at the very least delay your decisions and investigate the information before you.

Please also note that information from NOAA adds credence for its good standing in climate work.

Yours sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

PS bold type by me.

**This article by Chris Morrison and published in the Daily Sceptic 31 July 2022**

"There has been no temperature warming for at least 17 years across the United States, according to results from a rarely referenced dataset that was designed to remove all urban heat distortions. The dataset, compiled by the Natural Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the U.S., shows oscillating temperature changes, but very little evidence to indicate a warming trend. In fact, the above graph clearly shows the United States to be cooler in May 2022 compared to May 2005.

The information is contained in the latest survey of all NOAA's weather stations by the U.S. meteorologist Anthony Watts. The data is compiled from a select group of 114 stations across the country that have been specifically sited away from urban development. Called the U.S. Climate Reference Network (USCRN), NOAA started it in 2005 and noted that it was aiming for "superior accuracy and continuity in places that land use will not likely impact during the next five decades". Representative pictures of the weather stations, as seen in this 2013 science paper, show there is no sign of any urban development. In his latest survey of U.S. "Corrupted Climate Stations", Anthony Watts notes the existence of USCRN, adding: **"It is free of localised heat biases by design, but the data it produces is never mentioned in monthly or yearly climate reports published by NOAA for public consumption."**

The USCRN disclosures are the latest evidence suggesting global warming started to run out of steam over 20 years ago. Local temperature measurements by the U.K. Met Office show that the average temperature across the U.K. fell to 9.17°C in the 2010s, compared to 9.31°C in the 2000s. Meanwhile, global datasets run by NOAA, the Met Office and NASA continue to show substantial warming since 2000, helped by regular 'adjustments' that mostly warm the recent record and depress earlier readings. As a result, surface global datasets show an increasing disconnect from accurate

satellite and meteorological balloon records, both of which point to a lengthy pause from about 1998-2012, and a current one that has lasted almost eight years. The only significant temperature rise during this period occurred around 2016, and was caused by a powerful, and natural, El Nino oscillation.

**State-funded weather services around the world have become increasingly politicised in recent years, and they offer strong support for the command-and-control Net Zero project. With global warming currently dying on its feet, they have increasingly turned to the promotion of what used to be called 'bad' weather, but has now been re-branded as 'extreme'. Datasets that continue to show some warmth are used to proclaim records, and promote the political view that one-off events are caused by man-made climate change, i.e., burning fossil fuel. Having bet the ranch on global warming, any suggestion that the current warming phase, seen countless times in the paleoclimatic record, is pausing, or even stopping, is a major blow to the elite backers of the trillion-dollar Net Zero project. Without warming, the need for Net Zero, and the economic and societal devastation it will cause, disappears.**

Specific mention of NOAA's urban heatless data – showing the absence of domestic warming for at least 17 years – was missing from its recent 2021 climate report. North America was said to have had its seventh warmest year on record, with nine of the 10 warmest years having occurred since 2001.

These 'official' U.S. temperatures and records arise from a much larger set of weather stations across the country that have been criticised for incorporating massive heat inputs due to being sited in urban areas. Anthony Watts has drawn attention to this problem in the past. His latest nationwide study "follows up widespread corruption and heat biases found at NOAA stations in 2009, and the heat bias distortion problem is even worse now".

Describing the U.S. surface temperature record as "fatally flawed", Watts found about 96% of U.S. temperature stations failed to meet what NOAA itself considered to be acceptable and uncorrupted placement standards. Watts defines 'corruption' as caused by the localised effects of urbanisation, producing heat bias because of a close proximity to asphalt, machinery, and other heat-producing, heat-trapping, or heat-accentuating objects. According to Watts, data that had not been corrupted by faulty placement showed a rate of warming in the U.S. "reduced by almost a half compared to all stations".

As we noted recently, atmospheric scientists Professors William Happer and Richard Lindzen are unimpressed with NOAA and NASA's more conventional temperature collecting activities. They told a U.S. government inquiry that for several decades "NASA and NOAA have been fabricating temperature data to argue that rising CO2 levels have led to the hottest year on record". They described what they identified as false and manipulated data as an "egregious violation of scientific method".

Watts notes that the corruption of data "strongly undermines the legitimacy and the magnitude of the official consensus on long-term climate warming trends in the United States".

Using urban heat-affected data is now a regular feature of reporting the so-called climate emergency by both the Met Office in the U.K. and the BBC. The four highest temperatures of around 40° C during the recent heatwave were claimed by three airports, including Heathrow, and a measuring device in Kew Gardens next to the giant 16,000 pane greenhouse, known as the Palm House. Within a few days, the BBC was reporting that a group called World Weather Attribution said the high temperatures were "basically impossible" without climate change. Dr. Friederike Otto of the green billionaire-funded Grantham Institute at Imperial College claimed the temperatures were up to 4° C higher as a result of human climate change.

The BBC did not query the near instant verdict, reporting that the academics had used "complex mathematical models" to come to their conclusion.

**There is no scientific evidence that proves conclusively single event weather is related to humans changing the climate by burning fossil fuel.** The heatwave in Britain, and parts of Europe, had a logical meteorological explanation that also saw below average temperatures on either side of the localised event. Such explanations for 'extreme'

weather are little more than opinions, and, one can argue, highly political ones. And of course, the 4oC warming attributed to humans in the heatwave is around the figure often quoted for the contribution of urban heat.

Chris Morrison is the Daily Sceptic's Environment Editor

E&OE

**From:** Sam King  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 September 2022 3:41 pm  
**To:** Grant Blackwell; Felicia Kolonjari; Phil Wiles; Hello - Climate Commission  
**Cc:** Fran Lovell  
**Subject:** RE: Question please

Document 5

I m happy with Grant's version of the response

Thanks all

Sam

---

**From:** Grant Blackwell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 September 2022 3:27 pm  
**To:** Felicia Kolonjari [REDACTED] Phil Wiles  
[REDACTED] Hello - Climate Commission <Hello@climatecommission.govt.nz>; Sam King  
[REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Fran Lovell [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Question please

This looks pretty good Phil.

I've suggested a couple of small tweaks to the text. I think our quality assurance criteria of relying on information that has gone through a formal peer-review process (whether that is a scientific journal or robust internal processes) is the first and key thing we rely upon. There is no evidence that this manuscript has gone through any such process.

Keen to hear Sam and Marcus/Fran's thoughts on the response, and then we can look to get it back out to [REDACTED]

Ngā mihi  
Grant

---

Kia Ora [REDACTED]

*Thanks for your email below.*

*The article you've sent us a link to **relates to** one part (e.g. absorption across different wavelengths) of **the broader** the climate system. ~~which is one part of a much broader climate system.~~*

*We keep an eye on new research as it becomes available. ~~While we have a range of expertise within the Commission to assess research,~~ We focus on peer reviewed publications to ensure the quality of evidence considered - particularly for this type of area. The article that you have asked about does not appear to have been peer reviewed, and we have not reviewed it either.*



*The IPCC Assessment Reports provide an expert summary of the thousands of papers (mostly peer reviewed) that are published on the climate system. The climate models that the IPCC draw on (e.g. the CMIP ensembles) models are aware of saturation effects and take them into account.*

Thanks,

---

**From:** Felicia Kolonjari [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 September 2022 2:33 pm  
**To:** Phil Wiles [REDACTED] Grant Blackwell  
[REDACTED] Hello - Climate Commission <[Hello@climatecommission.govt.nz](mailto:Hello@climatecommission.govt.nz)>; Sam King [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Fran Lovell [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Question please

Looks good to me.  
Felicia

---

**From:** Phil Wiles [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 September 2022 2:29 pm  
**To:** Felicia Kolonjari [REDACTED] Grant Blackwell  
[REDACTED]; Hello - Climate Commission [REDACTED] Sam King [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Fran Lovell [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Question please

Agree Felicia,

Although we have to be a bit careful that not all of our sources are peer reviewed (as you've suggested below using the word 'focus'). However, you would expect articles on this type of topic to have gone through the peer review process...

I've collated the below into a draft. Any thoughts? Good to go?

Phil.

Kia Ora [REDACTED]

Thanks for your email below.

The article you've sent us a link to describes one part of the climate system (e.g. absorption across different wavelengths), which is one part of a much broader climate system.

We keep an eye on new research as it becomes available. While we have a range of expertise within the Commission to assess research, we focus on peer reviewed publications to ensure the quality of evidence considered - particularly for this type of area. The article that you have asked about does not appear to have been peer reviewed and we have not reviewed it either.

The IPCC Assessment Reports provide an expert summary of the thousands of papers (mostly peer reviewed) that are published on the climate system. The climate models that the IPCC draw on (e.g. the CMIP ensembles) models are aware of saturation effects and take them into account.

Thanks,  
XX

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**From:** Felicia Kolonjari [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 September 2022 2:03 pm  
**To:** Phil Wiles [REDACTED]; Grant Blackwell [REDACTED]; Hello - Climate Commission <[Hello@climatecommission.govt.nz](mailto:Hello@climatecommission.govt.nz)>; Sam King [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Question please

Hi all,

I've had a look through the paper and I sincerely doubt it has even been submitted anywhere. The way the paper is laid out and the leaps in arguments made wouldn't get past a first cut review in any journal.

In any case, it's important that our scientific evidence base is founded in the peer review process. Since the link we were asked about is clearly not a peer-reviewed publication, I suggest we respond with the following:

*"To ensure the quality of evidence considered by the Commission, we focus on peer reviewed publications. The article that you have asked about does not appear in the peer review literature so we have not reviewed it."*

Thanks,  
Felicia

---

**From:** Phil Wiles [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 September 2022 1:55 pm  
**To:** Felicia Kolonjari [REDACTED]; Grant Blackwell [REDACTED]; Hello - Climate Commission <[Hello@climatecommission.govt.nz](mailto:Hello@climatecommission.govt.nz)>; Sam King [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Question please

Cc'ing in Sam.

Phil Wiles | Principal Analyst  
Climate Change Commission  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Felicia Kolonjari [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 16, 2022 13:07  
**To:** Grant Blackwell [REDACTED]; Phil Wiles [REDACTED]; Hello - Climate Commission <[Hello@climatecommission.govt.nz](mailto:Hello@climatecommission.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Question please

At first glance, I noted it was posted on arxiv back in March 2021 and I can't find a more recent version. This suggests to me that it didn't pass peer review. It's possible that it's still under revision but unlikely given the time frame.

But I'll have a look at the paper.

Felicia

---

**From:** Grant Blackwell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 September 2022 11:57 am  
**To:** Phil Wiles [REDACTED]; Hello - Climate Commission  
<[Hello@climatecommission.govt.nz](mailto:Hello@climatecommission.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** Felicia Kolonjari [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Question please

Tēnā koutou

The paper appears to have had no peer review and is not actually published in a journal, and my initial checked suggests their conclusions may be questionable. Felicia, would you be able to have a quick look at the paper and let us know your assessment?

I think your general approach is the right one Phil, and we will just need to work through the best way to frame our response. I suggest we see if you have any comments Felicia, and then work out a plan to draft the response.

Ngā mihi  
Grant

---

**From:** Phil Wiles [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 15 September 2022 4:04 pm  
**To:** Hello - Climate Commission <[Hello@climatecommission.govt.nz](mailto:Hello@climatecommission.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** Grant Blackwell [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Question please

[REDACTED]

Not sure whether we want to reply or not. It doesn't look like the paper has been peer reviewed to me (am I missing something Grant?).

If we do, then I think it'd be along the lines of:

- This paper is a good example of one part of the climate system – in particular GHG forcing, but there are other important areas such as feedback effects, etc.
- We keep an eye on new scientific literature – however don't have specific expertise in this area to cast judgement on this paper
- It doesn't appear that this paper has been reviewed by other people who have deep expertise in this area.
- The IPCC Assessment Reports provide an expert summary of the thousands of papers that are published on the climate system
- The climate models that the IPCC draw on (e.g. the CMIP ensembles) models are aware of saturation effects and take them into account

Your thoughts Grant and Engagement?

Phil.

---

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 15 September 2022 11:47 am  
To: Hello - Climate Commission <[Hello@climatecommission.govt.nz](mailto:Hello@climatecommission.govt.nz)>  
Cc: Phil Wiles [REDACTED]  
Subject: Question please

Good morning

I have a question about a published paper.

Has the Commission reviewed this paper:

<https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Relative-Potency-of-Greenhouse-Molecules-Wijngaarden-Happer/ec8693b25bdb14a61a6aa31b5ab05928b9fdd498>

How does its finding accord with the Commission's position and if it does not where is it incorrect, please?

Thank you

[REDACTED]

**From:** Phil Wiles  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 September 2022 4:29 pm  
**To:** [REDACTED] Hello - Climate Commission  
**Subject:** RE: Question please

Thanks for your email [REDACTED],

The article you sent us relates to one part of the broader the climate system (i.e. absorption across different wavelengths).

We keep an eye on new research as it becomes available. However, we focus on peer reviewed publications to ensure the quality of evidence considered - particularly for this type of area. This article does not appear to have been peer reviewed, and we have not reviewed it either.

The IPCC Assessment Reports provide an expert summary of the thousands of papers (mostly peer reviewed) that are published on the climate system. The climate models that the IPCC draw on (e.g. the CMIP model ensembles) are aware of saturation effects and take them into account.

Phil.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 15 September 2022 11:47 am  
**To:** Hello - Climate Commission <Hello@climatecommission.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Phil Wiles [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Question please

Good morning

I have a question about a published paper.

Has the Commission reviewed this paper:

<https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Relative-Potency-of-Greenhouse-Molecules-Wijngaarden-Happer/ec8693b25bdb14a61a6aa31b5ab05928b9fdd498>

How does its finding accord with the Commission's position and if it does not where is it incorrect, please?

Thank you

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 December 2022 3:26 pm  
**To:** TDC Councillors All 2022  
**Cc:** President LGNZ; LGNZ Media centre; Grace HALL; Stuart Smith; Gareth GREEN; Scott SIMPSON - MP; Hello - Climate Commission  
**Subject:** Fwd: Carbon Taxes and a Test

Document 6

Dear Councillors,

As you are aware the cost of carbon credits is increasing to the extent TDC will be paying at least \$3 million this financial year. The current rate at \$83 per carbon credit is higher than included in the TDC budget.

Please continue and lobby LGNZ and Government to stop this needless tax that will not benefit your ratepayers with anything.

Every effort by you will help.

You can also include the argument of RCP2.6 to help the cause. This new model is suggesting just 0.03 degrees C per year until 2100. When in fact the actual global temperatures are decreasing, not increasing. The RCP projections will soon be proved wrong again!

There is now no warming that needs control of emissions.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** CO2 Coalition <[newsletter@co2coalition.org](mailto:newsletter@co2coalition.org)>  
**Date:** Wed, 14 Dec 2022, 08:50  
**Subject:** Carbon Taxes and a Test  
**To:** [REDACTED]



[View in Browser](#)

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**Why carbon taxes are a bad idea...  
And a test for you**

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☐

The Global Warming Policy Foundation recently published a paper which argued in favor of carbon taxes as the economically optimal way to address global warming. CO<sub>2</sub> Coalition Chairman Dr. Will Happer and Director Dr. Bruce Everett take exception to this analysis:

Why carbon taxes are a bad idea. The authors conclude that CO<sub>2</sub> has:

- no negative impact on human and animal health
- a substantial positive impact on plant growth and crop yields
- positive impacts from the modest warming observed so far
- no empirical support for net damages, which remain a prediction, not an observation.

Read their entire rebuttal here.

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### A Test for You

There were two extended periods of warming in the 20th century: 1910-45 and then 1976-98. Bear in mind that the earlier warming was necessarily 100% natural while the latter is alleged to have been caused primarily by our sins of emission.

**Which is which? (same scale)**

*Answer below*

☐

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### Quote of the Week

"No one is educated who knows only one side of an argument."

John Adams

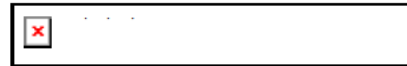
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☐

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## CO<sub>2</sub> Coalition

1621 North Kent Street, Suite 603  
Arlington, Virginia 22209



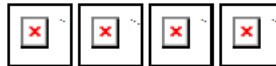
*Gregory Wrightstone*

Executive Director  
CO2 Coalition

Senior Advisor Gordon Tomb,  
Will Happer & Greg Wrightstone  
in front of Einstein's home  
in Princeton, NJ



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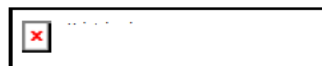


CO2 Coalition | 1621 N Kent St, Suite 603, Arlington, VA 22209

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**From:** Media - Climate Commission <Media@climatecommission.govt.nz>

Document 7

**Sent:** Friday, 30 June 2023 1:26 pm

**To:** [REDACTED]@theensign.co.nz>

**Subject:** RE: Media Inquiry (The Ensign, Gore)

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Here is the Commission's response to your questions, **to be attributed to Climate Change Commission Chief Scientist Grant Blackwell:**

At the Climate Change Commission, we base our assessment of the causes and impacts of climate change on the established peer-reviewed scientific literature, and the consensus of the world's scientific community.

The [consensus of the world's climate scientists](#) is that the Earth is warming due to greenhouse gas emissions and humans are primarily responsible. The Climate Change Commission is satisfied that the body of evidence for this is clear and unequivocal.

Here in New Zealand, Cyclone Gabrielle and other extreme weather events have reminded us that the impacts of climate change are here and now. Science tells us these events will only become more frequent as the world warms.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has summarised the science and are clear that to limit global warming to 1.5°C, global long-lived gas emissions need to reach net zero by 2050, while global biogenic methane emissions will need to reduce by 24-47% from 2010 levels by 2050.

In New Zealand, agriculture accounts for 91% of biogenic methane emissions and 94% of nitrous oxide emissions within Aotearoa New Zealand. There is no question that we need to take action to reduce biogenic methane emissions.

[Research from the New Zealand Agricultural Gas Greenhouse Research Centre](#) shows that biogenic methane emissions have been the largest contribution to global warming from New Zealand since 1840, aside from deforestation.

Biogenic methane may only stay in the atmosphere for a couple of decades – compared with hundreds of years for long-lived greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide – but science shows that methane has a much stronger warming effect while it is in the atmosphere.

As well as contributing to increasing global temperatures, much of the energy trapped by methane goes into the world's oceans, where the impacts on marine species, ocean currents and sea level rise will take decades or centuries to play out.

The targets we have in New Zealand, set under the Climate Change Response Act, reflect the different nature of these gases. The biogenic methane target is a reduction to 10% below 2017 levels by 2030 and putting Aotearoa New Zealand on a path towards a 24-47% reduction by 2050 and beyond.

To transition to a low emissions future, we need change across all sectors. For agriculture, the Government has proposed implementing an emissions pricing system to help the sector to transition to low emissions farming.

Alongside a broader policy package, pricing must deliver the emissions reductions needed for agriculture to contribute to meeting the emissions reduction targets set for our country. A farmer-focused and cost-effective pricing system is the best way to deliver that because it will provide incentives for farmers to reduce methane in the way that best suits them and their farm.

Many farmers have already started moving to lower emissions practices on farm. The sector has made progress towards measuring and reporting on-farm agricultural emissions, and making sure farms have plans in place to manage their emissions.

The Commission has also recommended that the Government improve regulatory regimes, develop a targeted research and development plan, and invest in infrastructure to support low-emissions land uses.

<ENDS>

Marcus Stickley (he/him)  
Principal Communications Advisor

  
W climatecommission.govt.nz

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@theensign.co.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 29 June 2023 3:21 pm

To: Media - Climate Commission <Media@climatecommission.govt.nz>

Subject: Re: Media Inquiry (The Ensign, Gore)

Kia Ora Marcus,

Thanks for the response.

There is a bit of grace in the time, any time Friday is fine at this stage so I hope that helps.

I'm looking to talk to another scientist just to get comment at this stage.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
Cadet Reporter

The Ensign

P: 022 010 0898

On 29/06/2023 3:14 p.m., Media - Climate Commission wrote:

> Kia ora [REDACTED]

> Thanks for your questions.

>

> I'll come back to you with a response as soon as possible, however midday tomorrow is going to be tight.

>

> In the meantime, here is an explainer on the role of methane on the

> Climate Change Commission website:

> <https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/get-involved/new-content-page/th>

> e-role-of-methane/

>

> Are you talking to other scientists for your story?

>

> Marcus Stickley (he/him)

> Principal Communications Advisor

> [REDACTED]

> W climatecommission.govt.nz

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: [REDACTED]@theensign.co.nz>

> Sent: Thursday, 29 June 2023 2:49 pm

> To: Media - Climate Commission<Media@climatecommission.govt.nz>

> Subject: Media Inquiry (The Ensign, Gore)

>

> Kia Ora,

> I'm [REDACTED] A reporter for The Ensign newspaper in Gore, Southland.

> I am doing a story about a climate change presentation that occurred here on Tuesday.

> Essentially Dr Tom Sheahen of America presented a talk in Gore about how 'Methane is the irrelevant greenhouse gas' and claimed that there is no climate emergency. He claimed research from William Van Wijngaarden and William Happer was the only correct facts and was being ignored.

>

> I wanted to ask a few questions about climate change.  
> Would you be able to get these answered please?  
>  
> 1. Do you think farmers have a role to play in climate change? What is this role?  
>  
> 2. Are we in a climate emergency? If so, what has caused it?  
>  
> 3. Are you aware of research from William Van Wijngaarden and William Happer? If so, what are your opinions on it?  
>  
> 4. Does methane have a large effect of climate change? How so?  
>  
> 5. What are the effects that agriculture in New Zealand has on the greenhouse gas effect? Are the effects worrying?  
>  
> Please get back to me by 12pm Friday June 30.  
>  
> Kind regards,  
> [REDACTED]  
>  
> --  
> [REDACTED]  
> Cadet Reporter  
> The Ensign  
> P: [REDACTED]  
>  
>  
>

[UNCLASSIFIED]

[UNCLASSIFIED]

**From:** Matthew Smith  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 July 2023 10:34 am  
**To:** Sam King  
**Cc:** Felicia Kolonjari  
**Subject:** Tom Sheahen talking points  
**Attachments:** Tom Sheahens video notes final.docx

Document 9

Hi Sam

Here are the notes/talking points on the presentation by Tom Sheahen. He doesn't really have one overarching thing that he's wrong about. He rather just tries to present an aura of scientific authority without actually explaining very much and then presents many inaccurate things in building a narrative. So rather than go through claim by claim, we've identified his main claims and approaches to how we does things, and how to best respond, as well as some background info in support. I did a first draft and Felicia has reviewed and added to it.

Let me know if that's useful

Cheers

Matt



Matthew Smith (he/him) | **Principal Analyst**

[Redacted]

E

[Redacted]

W [climatecommission.govt.nz](https://climatecommission.govt.nz)

## Dr Tom Sheahen

Points raised in presentation by Dr Tom Sheahen at Invercargill meeting as shown in video [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Guah\\_YN2Pi0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Guah_YN2Pi0), published 27 June 2023

There has been significant interest on social media (particularly Groundswell's facebook page).

Dr. Shearan has also been on [The Country Full Show: Thursday, November 24, 2022 - NZ Herald](#) (his interview starts at 1approx. 4 mins). He calls himself a climate sceptic in the interview. His claims are absolutely absurd and have been disproven numerous times.

Argues that methane and nitrous oxide do not contribute significantly to the greenhouse effect.

And that GWP is totally wrong

Key approaches in the presentation included:

- False idea of how precise things can be. Pretends that things are simple and knowable and certain.
- Imagines that the energy balance of earth is very hard to model, and that this has only recently been solved
- He explains quantum mechanics in an effort to demonstrate his knowledge and expertise.
- Uses the uncertainty and variability in real life climate models to invalidate their results.
- Claims that CO<sub>2</sub> has already reached saturation so any more emitted makes no difference.
- Claims that water vapour is responsible for the majority of the greenhouse effect
- Paints the IPCC as well-meaning but incompetent dunces, who unfortunately made a series of fundamental errors.
- Supported by a corrupt scientific establishment who block with the truth from getting out via "peer review."

## Response:

Dr. Sheahen is a climate change denier and leads an organization in the United States that actively promotes and distributes disinformation on climate change (the Science and Environmental Policy Project).

It's simply not credible to argue that thousands of climate scientists, every national meteorological organisation and every national institute of science have collaborated in a cover up for over 30 years.

To be robust, science must be reproducible. It must address issues raised by other analysis. And the presentation did nothing to rebut decades of actual research.

Water vapour is a *result* of a warming atmosphere, more than a cause. As the atmosphere warms, it holds more moisture. This water vapour does then amplify the warming caused by other greenhouse gases, but as it condenses out of the atmosphere as rain or snow, does not cause it on its own.<sup>1</sup> The increasingly intense precipitation events we are seeing around the world is a result of warming leading to intensification of the water cycle.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://climate.nasa.gov/explore/ask-nasa-climate/3143/steamy-relationships-how-atmospheric-water-vapor-amplifies-earths-greenhouse-effect>

Dr. Sheahen focused on Happer's research that was submitted to the EPA under the Trump era to try and roll back regulations on fossil methane. It was supported by oil and gas industry lobby groups.<sup>2</sup> It never passed peer review at a reputable journal.

From Science.org about it: The paper's claims largely have been known since the 1960s, said Andrew Dessler, a climate scientist at Texas A&M University who reviewed the research. He said the calculations appeared to be correct, but that they were presented in a misleading way. For example, some of the data that tracks the climate forcing potential of methane was presented in annual amounts, which appear small, but are quite significant if viewed through the century. Nothing in the paper, he said, disproves the conclusions of mainstream climate science, and he said it is a "bullshit statement" to claim that the paper's conclusions are just following facts and should lead to one policy outcome.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.science.org/content/article/unpublished-paper-former-white-house-climate-adviser-calls-methane-irrelevant-climate>