

Double Glaze Matters

MAY 2018

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Mass Mobilisation

Front Line Action on Coal are organizing a mass mobilisation in capital cities all around Australia in late June. The theme is "No New Coal". We are still working out exactly what we are doing in Melbourne, but if you are interested in being involved, please get back to me

Araluen Solar Panels

Energy This Month = .9 Mwh = \$200

Total Energy = 27 Mwh = \$5,500

A Climate Emergency

Several weeks ago I attended a talk by Ian Dunlop followed by a one day conference. The theme of the talk and the conference was the need to declare a Climate Emergency. This concept has been around for a while, but by the end of the weekend I was convinced.

Ian used to be the head of the coal council in Australia, but left the "Dark Side" to become a strong spokesman for the environmental movement. He had lots of slides that showed basically that we are in real trouble

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Climate Emergency(cont)

But what does a Climate Emergency mean? Well, it occurs when we reach a point where the problem is so severe that normal approaches will no longer suffice. Effectively, we need to go on to a war footing.

The Paris conference agreed that we must keep temperature increases under 2 degrees and ideally under 1.5 degrees. Temperatures have already increased 1.2 degrees. If we stopped all emissions immediately, the world would still heat to 1.5 degrees because the earth takes a while to "warm up".

The more concerning fact is that some of the "feedback loops" are cutting in. The permafrost in Siberia contains trapped methane from rotting vegetation. It is starting to melt, releasing the methane, which will drive Climate Change even if we stop emitting.

Also the North Atlantic Current which moderates Europe's weather has slowed 15%. This is believed to be caused by the North Pole warming more rapidly than the equator. It isn't clear whether it will continue slowing

Super impose on this the fact that there has been minimal progress in reducing emissions. Promised reductions at Paris were never large enough and most are not being achieved. This means that

while the consensus was that we needed to reduce emissions to zero by 2050, now we must reduce them even faster. There is a good argument that it now needs to be 2030

Looking at Australia, we reduced emissions from 150 Mt in 2006 to 133 MT in 2013 (10% reduction) since then we have increased to 137 MT (3% increase)

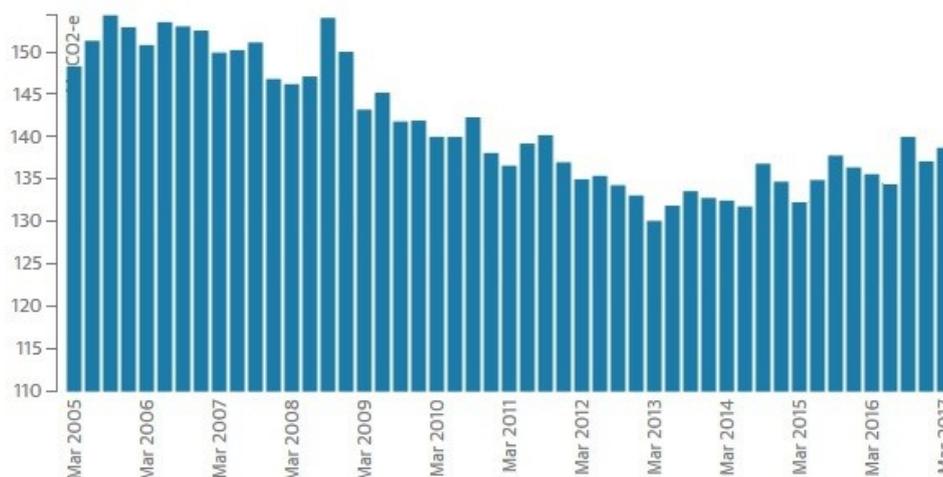
So, the climate is in trouble and our efforts are going backwards. We need to declare a Climate Emergency.

What would that mean? Effectively we go onto a war footing to fight Climate Change. No longer is it "Can we afford it" but rather "Can we do it"

While it is our federal government that we must change, I am working with a local group and starting small by convincing Banyule Council to join several other councils world wide to declare an Emergency.

If we can get a majority of Councils agreeing, maybe higher levels of government will join in.

Note: The recent federal budget had no initiatives to address Climate Change, and the Labour response wasn't much better.



Australia's Annual Greenhouse Emissions in MT of CO2 equivalent