

## Anthropogenic Global Warming – Back to Basics

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### See the Light – CO<sub>2</sub>'s Alright!

#### Introduction:

“All” the discussion these days about what causes global warming centres around the effect, or non-effect, anthropogenic carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) supposedly is having on the world's climate. Any discussion of whether it can realistically do this has been lost. It is down to absurd statements like:

“Polar bears will become extinct in the next 30-40 years, due to global warming”;

“The mating cycle of squirrels in Hyde Park is now a month earlier, due to global warming”.

Reminds me of my youth when, for a laugh, I used to add the words “in bed” to Readers Digest titles.

It is time to stop looking at all the things that are attributed, without any real proof, to man-made global warming.

It is time to look at anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> and see if it could realistically be the cause of all these disasters.

#### So let's go back to basics and look at the Greenhouse Gases and the role of man-made CO<sub>2</sub>:

##### Question 1: What is the major Greenhouse Gas?

Ask people in the street if they believe in man-made global warming. If they say yes then ask them “What is the major greenhouse gas?” From my surveys the answers in order will be:

“I don't know, methane then CO<sub>2</sub>.” Maybe 1 in a 100 will say water vapour.

Answer: Water vapour and the clouds that form from it. Approximate percentages are:

Water vapour and clouds	95%
CO <sub>2</sub>	4%
Other	1%

Water vapour is now ignored by much of the scientific community because the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is not interested in water vapour and publicly doesn't mention its role. This was made clear by Michael Mann (the infamous Hockey Stick man) who in the IPCC's Third Assessment report stated, “*The role of water vapour as a greenhouse gas to be very misleading as water vapour cannot be controlled by humans*”. As controlling what humans do is a major plank of the IPCC water vapour was not included in their promotional list of greenhouses gases that affect earth's climate.

##### Question 2: How much of that CO<sub>2</sub> is man-made?

Again from my surveys the answers varied vary from 5% to 90% but mostly “No idea”.

Answer: About 3.0%

The 3.3% is a reasonable figure, even to the IPCC. Based on a 1995 IPCC report it stated “*Some 90 billion tonnes of carbon, as CO<sub>2</sub> annually circulates between the earth's oceans and the atmosphere and another 60 billion tonnes goes from vegetation and the soil into the atmosphere. Man-made emissions account for only 5 to 6 billion tonnes.*” From these figures the IPCC report concluded that “*Natural CO<sub>2</sub> accounted for more than 95% of all atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>*”.

By combining these two facts together results in man-made CO<sub>2</sub> amounting to about 1/900 or 0.111% of the total greenhouse gases. (A figure commonly used is 0.113%) That's a pretty minute amount. See Figure I.

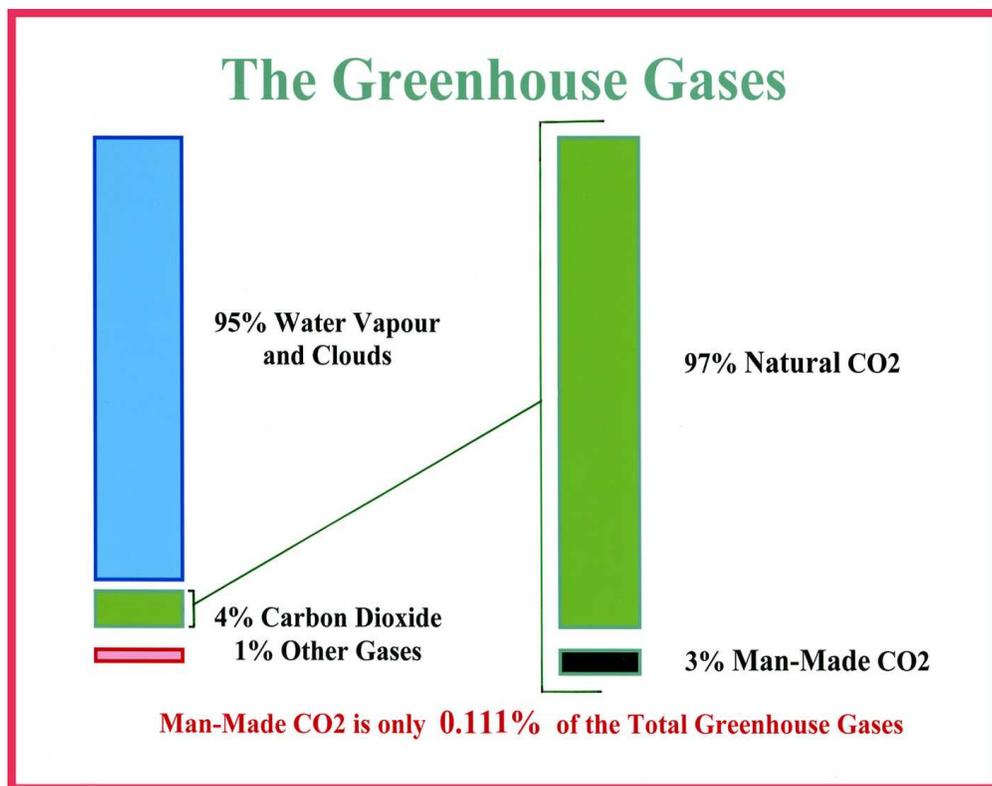


Figure I

Let's put that into an understandable perspective by using a couple of simple examples:

- **Example I - Scotch and Water:**

If the man-made CO<sub>2</sub> was the contents of one of those little one shot liquor bottles you get on a plane you would have to mix it with four, 9 litre buckets of water to obtain a ratio of 1/900.

Not only that I would have to drink 12 of those buckets in less than an hour to reach .05 in the booze bus. I think most of us would probably have drowned first. See Figure II.



Figure II

- **Example II - An Increase in Salary:**

You are on a salary of \$100,000 per year. Your boss calls you in and gives you a \$111 raise and tells you to go out and change your world with it. Good luck – unless you're Warren Buffett.

**Yep, anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> does have an impact on our climate but it is hard to see how it has any minor, let alone any major impact.**

**Some Other facts about CO<sub>2</sub>:**

So although it is such a small amount maybe man-made CO<sub>2</sub> has some magic properties. It doesn't.

CO<sub>2</sub> is a colourless, odourless, non-toxic gas, which is not a catalyst. Man-made and natural CO<sub>2</sub> are the same. It is not a pollutant (in spite of what the US Supreme Court says!)

It is also one of the major components of all life on earth – without it no life would exist and yet the warmers want us to bury the stuff! That's about as sensible as pouring Grange down the sink!

- **CO<sub>2</sub> and its ability to absorb infrared radiation:**

Water vapour is actually a more powerful greenhouse gas than CO<sub>2</sub>, not only because there is more of it, but because it can absorb a wider range of infrared wavelengths than CO<sub>2</sub> and it tends to be lower in the troposphere and so has first crack at the infrared rays. See figure III.

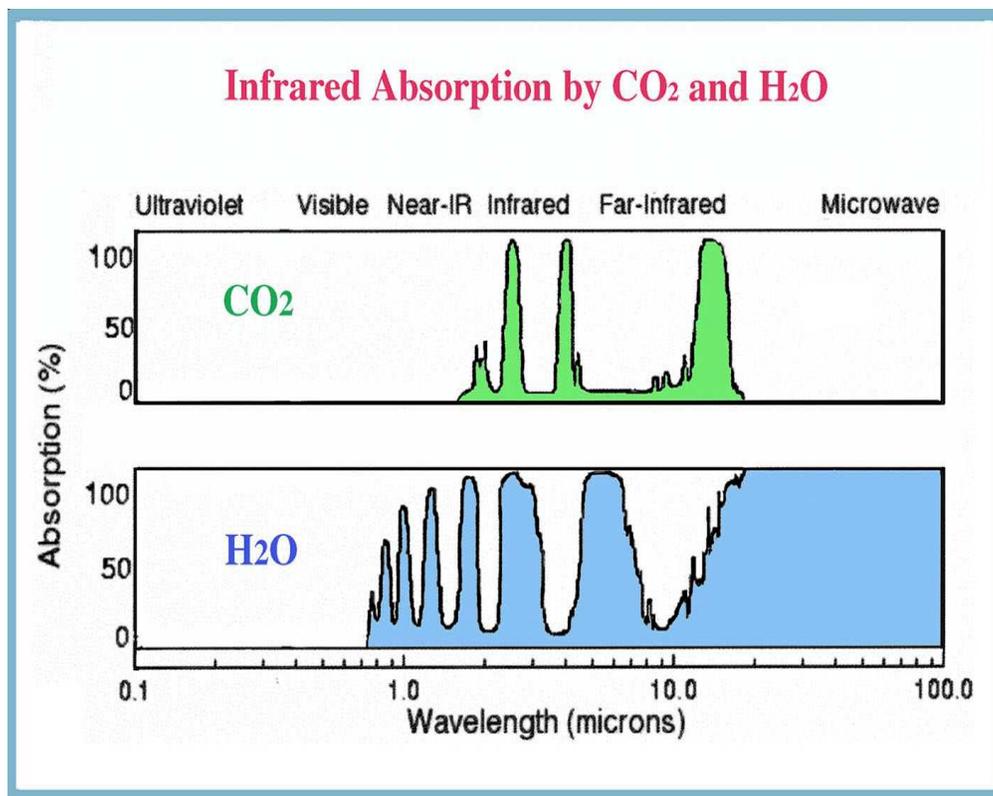


Figure III

- **Logarithmic Absorption:**

Infrared absorption by CO<sub>2</sub> is also logarithmic. That means the first bit absorbs a lot and the more you add the less effect it has. A good way to explain this logarithmic effect is to compare it to a painting a wall. After one coat there are still missed spots; after two it's nearly covered and after the third, adding additional coats is a waste of time and paint. See Figure IV.

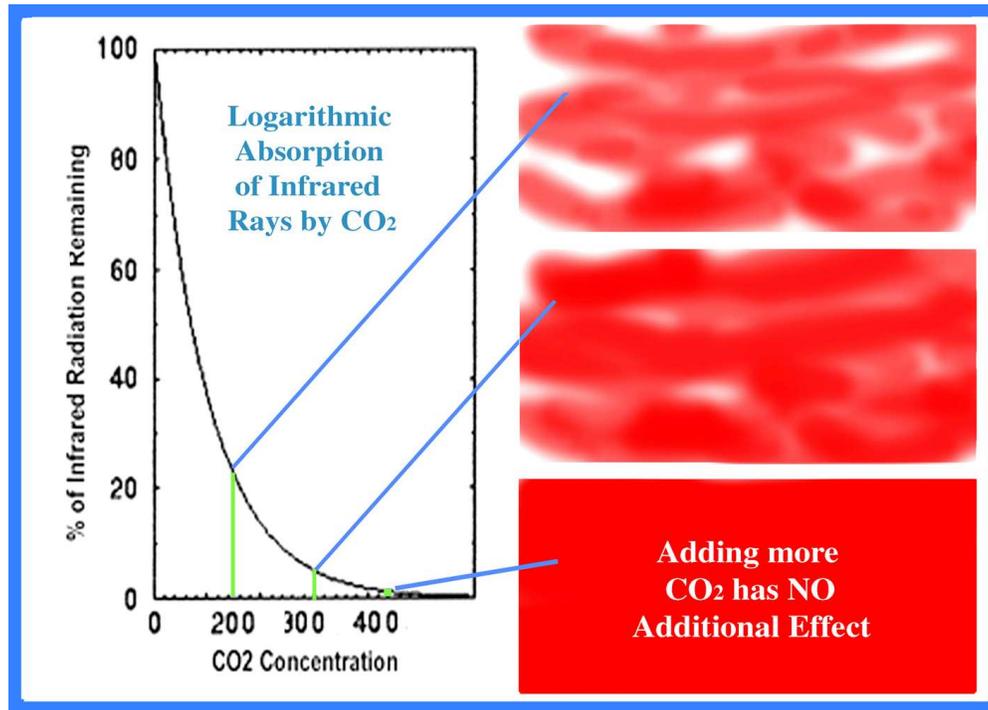


Figure IV

- **Putting a Baby to Sleep:**

Think of a sunlit room with a baby in it who is crying and won't go to sleep unless it is dark. The room's window has 10 blinds, one behind the other. When you pull the first one down it does a pretty good job, but the baby keeps crying. By the time you get to the third or fourth blind down the room is as dark as it's going to get and the baby has gone to sleep. Lowering the last six blinds make no difference whatsoever.

**Currently there are already more than “3 coats of paint” or “five blinds” of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere.**

- **CO<sub>2</sub>'s Half Life:**

From experiments carried out using carbon dating techniques, it has been found that CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere only has a half life of about 10 years. This means that after 10 years only 50% of that “batch” of CO<sub>2</sub> remains; after 20 years 25% and after 100 years it's down to only 0.01%.

The comment that the CO<sub>2</sub> released at the start of the Industrial Revolution is still in the atmosphere is a furphy.

**You may then ask the question “If that little amount of CO<sub>2</sub> can supposedly have such a huge effect on the climate why doesn't the other 96.7% cause untold havoc?”**

Good question. Unfortunately I don't have a good answer.

I could go on with more CO<sub>2</sub> facts but hopefully that is enough to at least make you wonder, as it did me, how could this minute, benign, piddly little amount of one of life's essential ingredients, be responsible for the theoretical chaos that is being attributed to it, particularly when there are so many other factors that can, and do, influence our climate.

- **Earth's Optimum Temperature:**

We are constantly being told that earth's temperature is going to rise by a degree or three by 2100 and this will be catastrophic. So what is Earth's average temperature? Currently the average given is about 15C

(59F), although coming up with an average world temperature is about as meaningful as averaging all the numbers in a telephone book.

Let's look at a couple of places where life survives and thrives in climatic extremes; Marble Bar in WA and Bettles in Alaska USA. See Figure VI.

	Marble Bar	Bettles	
Highest Temp	49.2	33.9	
Lowest Temp	1.1	-56.7	
Annual Average Temp	27.6	-5.6	A difference of 33.2C (58.2F)
<b>Average Daily Temp Oct-April</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>-20.4</b>	<b>A difference of 52.5C (94.5F)</b>

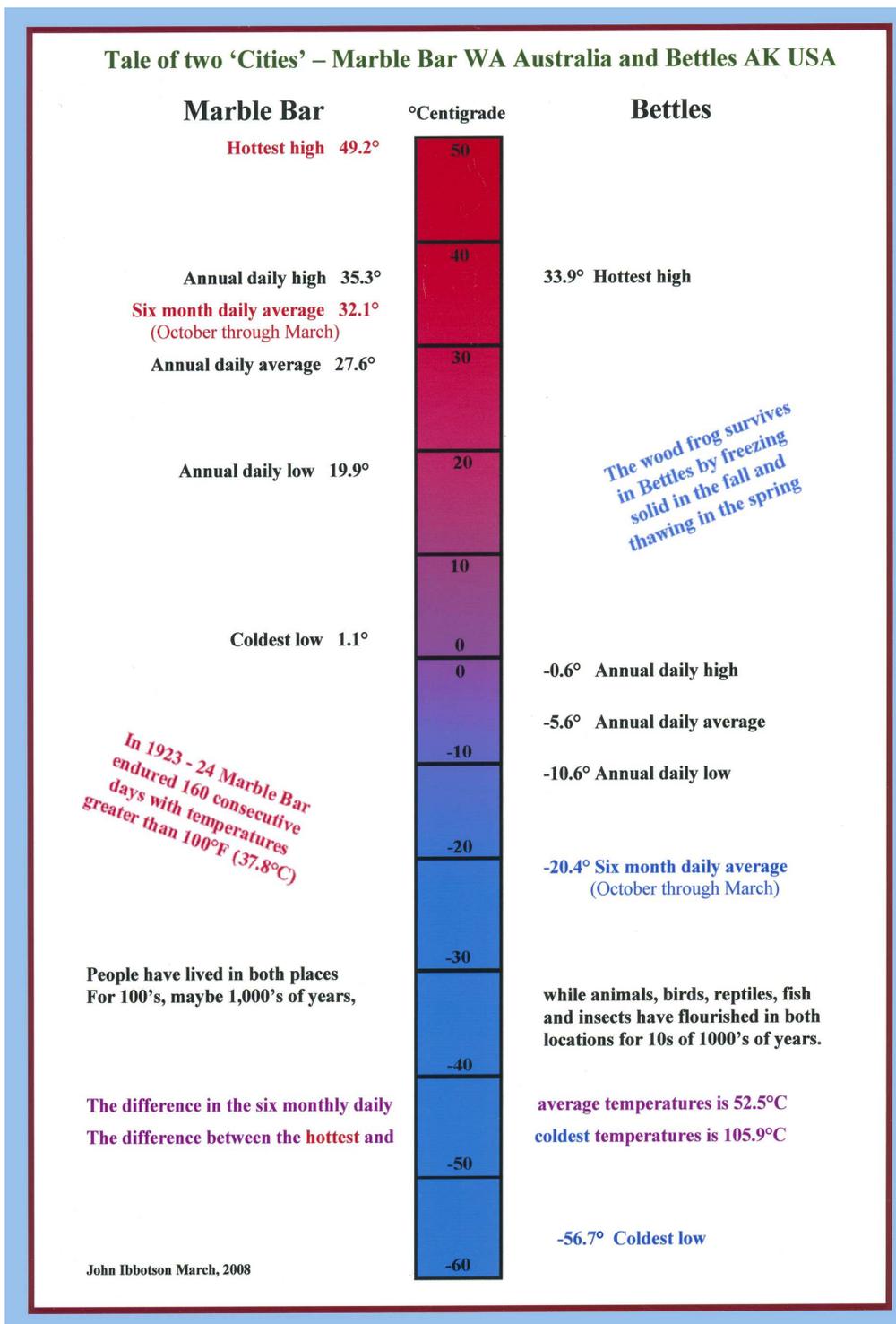


Figure VI

And in 1923-24 Marble Bar had 160 consecutive days of over 37.7C or 100F.  
So much for Europe's 2003 hot week.

So what is Earth's optimum temperature? Nobody really knows but unbiased scientists generally agree that, based on today's temperatures, whatever they are, warmer is preferable to cooler.

**Manipulation of Facts:**

In addition to the relevant facts about CO<sub>2</sub> being ignored by 'scientists' and the media there are other ways the 'Warmers' distort facts so that the public are left with an incorrect picture.

- **Photos do lie:**

To photograph CO<sub>2</sub> you have to use infrared film or infrared filters. As a result 99.9% (?) of the photos you see in articles are not of CO<sub>2</sub>. Most are ironically, water vapour coming out of power station cooling towers or smoke from industrial chimneys. See Figure V.

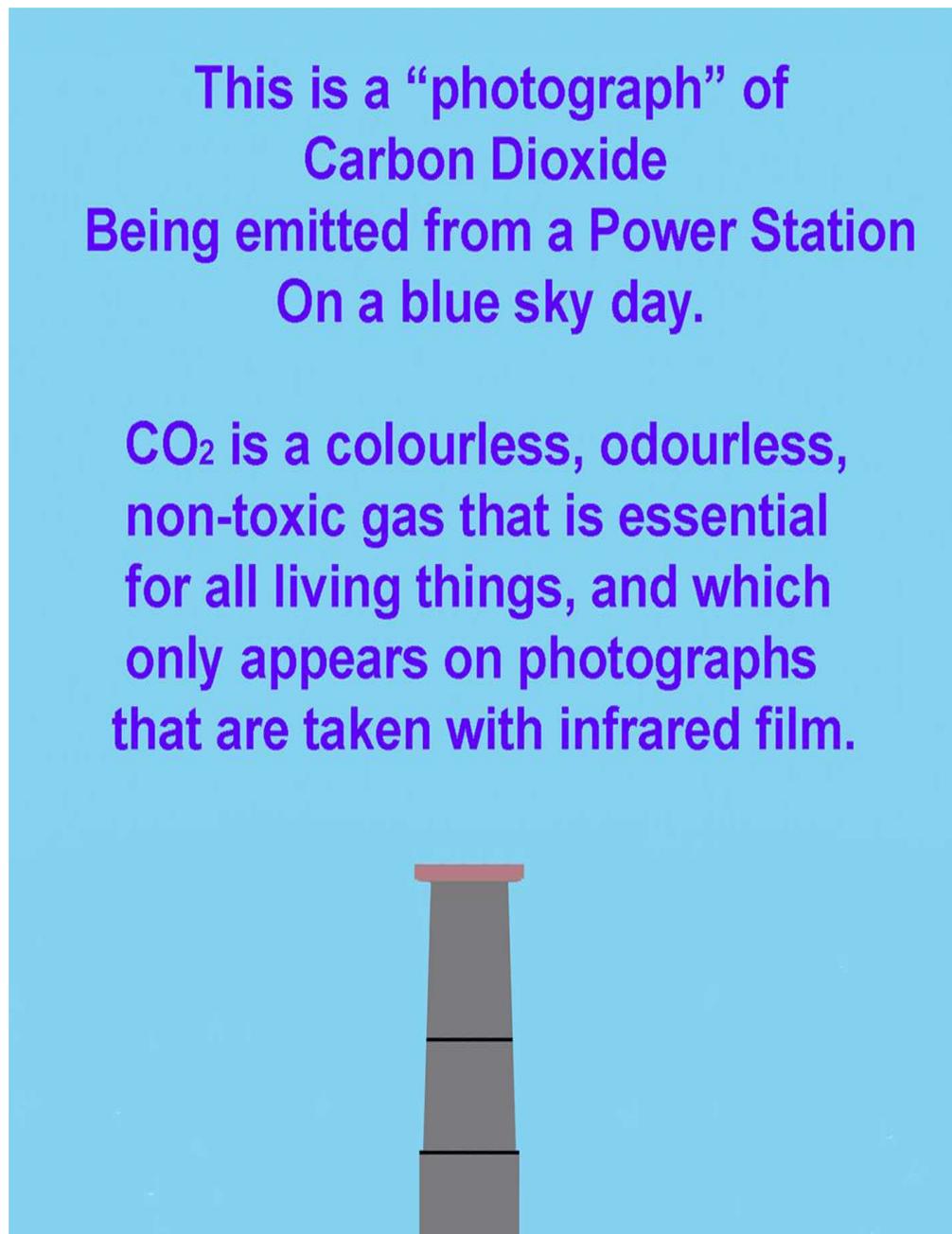


Figure V

- **Judicious Selection of Data:**

When Tim Flannery, for example, was asked on an ABC program from Wagga Wagga, how much effect CO<sub>2</sub> had on global warming, he replied “*That it was responsible for 80% of the effect*”.

This is a “correct” figure on the basis that water vapour is ignored, and all the CO<sub>2</sub>, both natural and man-made is included. But based on what I’ve just documented Tim’s figure was a 72,000% exaggeration!

- **Judicious Omission of Data:**

An example of this is an oft quoted figure that if the temperature increased 2.0C in England, an estimated additional 2,000 people would die of heat related problems each summer. What is not quoted is that, in winter an estimated 20,000 would NOT die of cold related problems. Which is better?

- **Exaggeration:**

Al Gore in his movie “*An Inconvenient Truth*” said “*The oceans would rise by 5m by 2100.*”

Tim Flannery, Our Australian of the Year upped the anti when he stated in a Bulletin article

“*We have only a decade or so to avert a rise in the oceans of 25m. Picture an 8 story building by the beach and then imagine waves washing over its roof. That’s what 25m looks like.*”

Not to be outdone Robyn Williams the host of the ABC’s Science Program predicted the “*Seas levels would increase by 100m by the end of the century!*” At a metre a year the beach boxes on Brighton Beach should already be under water.

The IPCC has dropped their 2100 figure from 3.00m to 0.50m - 0.85m and measurements since 2000 show they have only risen by a few mm, or in places actually dropped.

- **CO<sub>2</sub> is a wonderful, free fertiliser:**

The extra 50ppm added to the atmosphere in the last 50 years, irrespective of its source, has increased green growth and crop productivity by an estimated 15%. It is also added by farmers to their greenhouses, to levels as high as 1,400ppm, to increase produce productivity and reduce water requirements. **This positive factor tends to get ignored....**

### **Conclusion:**

When the basic facts are laid out on how miniscule anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> is, even within the Greenhouse Gases, and how it’s impact is misrepresented, then it becomes (or should become) blindingly clear that man-made CO<sub>2</sub>, is not the primary controller of our climate.

### **It is the ultimate incarnation of “The Mouse That Roared.”**

And not surprisingly when this information is presented to a group who are interested in hearing both sides of the story (and there are many in this category) they tend to find it far more sensible and believable than what they have heard to date from the IPCC and its minions.