

Debunking Climate Myths – Some Points to Ponder

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Professor Ian Plimer drew a standing-room only crowd at this week's Excellence in Mining and Exploration talk-fest at Sydney's Hilton Hotel.

He denounced as "myths" widely held but baseless ideas that human activity is causing climate warming in his presentation: "Emissions Trading — Why bother?"

Plimer is Professor of Mining Geology at the University of Adelaide and emeritus Professor of Earth Sciences at Melbourne University.

While he is no denier that the earth's climate changes over periodic cycles, he insists that what humans add to the phenomenon is miniscule.

"Volcanoes are the major source of carbon dioxide, and 85 percent of volcanic activity is beneath the sea. What humans add is almost nothing," he told his audience of mining executives and investors.

He produced graphs of scientific studies showing levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere over the past 500 million years were now close to an all-time low. That long ago, the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere amounted to around 7000 parts per million, or 25 times the level of today.

Moreover, he insisted, carbon dioxide is not the main greenhouse gas. "It's water vapour; water vapour in the atmosphere provides 96 percent of the greenhouse effect, raising air temperature from -18deg.C to 15deg C," he said. Of the remaining 4 percent, man-made emissions account for just 0.001 percent, naturally occurring carbon dioxide 0.117 percent, methane 0.066 percent, nitrous oxide 0.047 percent and miscellaneous gases the rest. He added: "The one thing that has NOT influenced global climate over time is carbon dioxide."

The major factors in climate change are cyclical and largely beyond our control, including:

- Tectonic activity (volcanoes and gas emitting earthquakes in the earth's crust) that occur at variable intervals
- Galactic activity over a 143 million year cycle as the sun with its solar system travels through the galaxy at 26km a second, passing through a bombardment of variable dosages of cosmic rays from galactic spirals
- Orbital activity due to the "wobble" of the sun, the earth's elliptical passage around it and the earth's tilt of its axis, at cycles identified as occurring at intervals of 100,000 years, 41,000 years and 23,000 years

- Solar activity including the “wobble” and a cycle of sun spot and solar flares at intensities of 1500 years, 200 years and 11 years.

He offered some bleak comfort with the observation: “Humans have adapted to live from ice sheets to mountains to tropics and have survived far warmer and colder climates. Cooling has always stressed life on Earth.”

The great Pleistocene ice age lasted from 110,000 years to 14,700 years ago. There followed four cycles of global warming interrupted by cooling through to the Minoan warming of 3500-3200 years ago when early civilisation flourished. That was followed by Bronze Age cooling (3200-2500 years ago), the Roman warming (500BC to 535AD, when grapes were grown at Hadrian’s wall on the Scots border with Roman England) then a cooling cycle from 535-900AD when the world slipped into the Dark Ages.

A Medieval warming cycle emerged from 900-1300AD, then the Little Ice Age (1300-1850AD) and today the current warming cycle.

While denouncing Federal Environmental Minister Penny Wong for her dependence on “fraudulent science” in a recent speech, Prof. Plimer added, if Australia wants to change climate it must: stop bacteria doing what bacteria do; stop plate tectonics and continental movement, stop orbital changes to the earth, stop variations in energy released from the sun, stop the orbit of the solar system through the galaxy and stop supernoval eruptions.

“And when there is success with these natural processes,” he added, “we must persuade China and India to stay poor.”

Otherwise, Australia is on a multi-billion dollar populist political decision with NO comprehensive scientific due diligence