

Letter to the Editor (Australian Newspaper)

16 December 2008

Dear Ed,

University preached perfection to me, but it took a practical contractor (true story, let's call him Col from Collinsville - his real name is Fred), to teach one of the great lessons of life - 'Who pays?'

Perfection has a price, and someone's idea of perfection can differ from another's. Who pays for the difference?

All people who enjoy, or endure, life on Earth today, are alive because of whatever our forebears did, all we can do is to work towards providing a better environment for us and our descendants. Like it or not, coal has given the Earth's populace breathing space to live on a sometimes hospitable, sometimes inhospitable planet (the snowstorms currently sweeping the USA and Europe are better coped with using power from reliable coal-fired power stations than solar panels). Using the talents and tools we have inherited, 'the sky is the limit' as to what we can achieve to improve the human condition. A byproduct of the use of coal, carbon dioxide is not a pollutant, it is the breath of life for all plants. The magic combination of sunlight and carbon dioxide through photosynthesis gives us oxygen and food. But the fools on the hill have declared war on one of mankind's greatest allies.

When the fools on the hill who make the rules prostitute themselves on the altar of the lowest common denominator of buying votes by sacrificing truth, surely it's time to challenge them and their slogans designed to frighten the children and intimidate their parents. Where is the proof that the Great Barrier Reef is under threat from human activities? Nothing mankind is doing will raise the sea levels.

But having committed to the path, they press on - but at what cost? WHO PAYS? Any compensation they promise comes from the taxes extracted from the pockets of the real fools who accept this nonsense.

Regards,

John McRobert

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