

Aside from being a crude cash grab, the proposed carbon dioxide tax is proposed so that Australia (small and remote as it is) may become a leader on carbon for other nations to follow.

Just one problem... nobody follows the example of a hypocrite. We sell 300Mt of carbon (coal) to the world every year and a stack of LNG. Ever noticed the queue of ships off Newcastle? Add uranium and you might as well say exporting energy in forms unacceptable to the Labor Party is what Australia does for a living.

Australia has a feeble moral chin, so why bet our living where the reward of influence will not be had?

A growing number of Australians have the red light flashing on their bullshit detector. With a world unlikely to follow Australian hypocrisy, there can be no reward for the pain Australian families will be asked to carry.

But the colossal dumbness is that our nation does not have another job to go to. We need to retool our entire economy to support such an economic cringe away from our current path of shining economic prosperity. And we have to want to do this over a very sustained period. Australia's 'job' as an energy supplier distinguishes it from every other nation that has adopted a carbon tax.

So, why not defer for a decade to give us a chance? In that decade the temperature may remain flat as the last decade of data predicts, or we may even cool, then we will look like a smart country and not a self-destructive oaf playing with a false moral chin.

Julian Malnic
Chairman of the Sydney Mining Club
Executive Chairman
Direct Nickel