

Skipping Sceptics

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Dear Sir,

Would you thank Mike Steketee for an interesting layman's take on Climate (Weekend Australian Jan 3-4 2008, p16). Perhaps he could speak with some BC (before computers) geologists, as we try not to confuse climate change with global warming or cooling on minute (to us) time scales. Most of us are aware that man's carbon dioxide emissions are very slight as compared with natural levels recently and minute in a geological historical perspective.

As he perceptively reported, atmospheric CO2 increases often have followed temperature rises (by several hundreds of years). So man's emissions should not be blamed for causing such rises and then adopted by economists and politicians as reasons for imposing more taxes. The time frame used in his article, from the end of a relatively long period of minimum temperatures to the present, is a very brief snapshot creating an illusion of constantly rising temperatures even though temperatures have not yet reached those of the times of the Romans in Great Britain.

He might also be made conscious that many BC geologists hold or have held pilot's licences, to gain which they had to pass exams in things like saturated adiabatic lapse rates, cloud formation and violent winds, so even though they are not listed on any web sites as meteorologists, they do have much more than a passing knowledge of the physics and history of the earth's atmosphere and weather patterns. Commercial and Senior Commercial licence holders have even greater relevant knowledge which is unlikely to be flagged by groups such as the Oregon Institute of Science and Medicine to which he refers. One must be careful in assuming knowledge and experience levels solely from formal and announced qualifications, mustn't one?

Yours faithfully,

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