

## **Open Letter Regarding Interim Climate Change Review**

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Dear Sir

### **Interim Climate Change Review – Management of Risk**

Whilst the above Review correctly recognises that risk associated with Climate Change is global in nature and that Australia's contribution (by way of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions) is relatively trivial, it fails to provide any advice to government regarding how economic and physical security is to be assured for the inhabitants of Australia should the consequences of Climate Change come to be realised.

The Review appears to focus on mitigation of risk primarily through participation in the development of an agreement amongst significant CO<sub>2</sub> emitting nations to reduce their emissions. There is simply no history of independent nations making, and adhering to, agreements of the type envisaged and consequently the probability of this mitigation strategy reducing the risk must be taken to be very small. In addition, and in the unlikely event that an agreement was reached, it is doubtful that Australia would have the degree of control over its operation required to provide adequate assurance for the inhabitants of Australia.

The Review also appears to focus on reduction of emissions from activities taking place within Australia. Clearly, in global terms, efforts within Australia to reduce emissions cannot be regarded as a serious risk mitigation strategy since Australia is recognised, also in the Review, as being a relatively trivial emitter.

Not surprisingly given the nature of the risk, the Review nominates no proven and practical risk mitigation strategy which Australia may rely upon to provide reasonable assurance to the inhabitants of this country regarding economic and physical security. Typically, in such a situation, good risk management practice calls for the development of contingency plans to be implemented should the anticipated consequences arise. The nature of these plans should, in my opinion, be your on-going business and advice should ultimately be provided to government regarding those areas and activities in which plans should be further developed and implemented.

Efforts to reduce emissions from activities within Australia must be regarded as symbolic and must be seen by both government and the public as being so. Consequently, the present focus upon this in the media and elsewhere needs to be changed in favour of directing attention towards the real risks confronting the inhabitants of this country and of the need to plan to overcome the consequences of these risks should they arise. The Review should, in my opinion, contribute, in it's final report to that change of focus.

It is my opinion that any final report which fails to focus government and public opinion on the need to plan against the realisation of credible Climate Change consequences, will have failed to deliver that which is needed by the inhabitants of Australia.

Yours faithfully

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