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Mike Martin (Letters, 4 May – reproduced below) manages to miss the main point at issue - which is that the government’s Multi-Party Committee on Climate Change (MCCC) has been briefed with quite inadequate, not to mention partial, scientific advice.

That carbon dioxide has increased by 18 ppm between the years 2000 and 2009 is not under challenge. Rather the two key questions are: what proportion of that carbon dioxide increase resulted from human emissions, and what increase in temperature has occurred as a result of those emissions?

On the second question, it is notable that global average temperature has decreased by about 0.05 deg. C since 2001 despite the carbon dioxide increase. These facts are surely of some significance for the deliberations of the MCCC, which apparently remains innocent of knowledge of them.

*Bob Carter, Institute for Public Affairs*

*Annandale Qld*

**Moore's climate paper limitations** (AFR letter, 4 May)

Des Moore claims that a paper by himself, Bob Carter, Bill Kininmonth, David Evans and Stewart Franks finds that scientific adviser Will Steffen's presentation to the federal government Climate Change Committee was "rife with errors or misrepresentations ..."("Windsor's alternative plan", Letters, May 2 – reproduced below).

There is much to criticise in Moore et al's paper, but let me home in on just one example of the kind of argument that it uses.

The paper tries to dismiss the significance of increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration by stating (page 20) that:

*"The increase in carbon dioxide concentration [in the atmosphere] from 2000 to 2009 was only 18 ppm [parts per million]. Therefore no rapid increase in the rate of accumulation is occurring".*

Over the past 800,000 years, up until 1900, concentration varied from 172 to 300 ppm, say on average, 275 ppm as it was during the 18th century.

An increase of 18 ppm, or 7 per cent, in a decade is rapid in anyone's language. At that rate, over 140 years the concentration will double.

In fact this process is under way. Concentration as measured at Mauna Loa, Hawaii, on April 24 was 393 ppm, up 19 ppm from 10 years ago and far above any level ever attained in 800,000 years.

No rapid increase? Moore apparently has his own definition of "rapid".

*Mike Martin*

*Newtown NSW*

**Windsor’s alternative plan** (Letter published in AFR, 2 May)

You report that independent Tony Windsor has challenged BHP and industry leaders to propose an alternative climate change policy than the government’s proposed carbon tax (“Windsor takes hard line on tax”, April 29).

I suggest that Windsor and other members of the multi-party Climate Change Committee first examine the analysis - sent to that committee on 26 April by four independent scientists and an economist - of the now publicly available presentation made to the committee by scientific adviser, Will Steffen.

That presentation is shown to be rife with errors or misinterpretations of data and the analysts refer to many peer-reviewed assessments rejecting the dangerous warming thesis used by Steffen.

They conclude that the uncertainties of the science provide no basis for the urgent implementation of emissions reduction policies but rather the preparation of policies able to adapt to climate events and hazards as they occur.

*Des Moore, Institute for Private Enterprise*

*South Yarra Vic*