

Ideology adds heat to the debate on climate change

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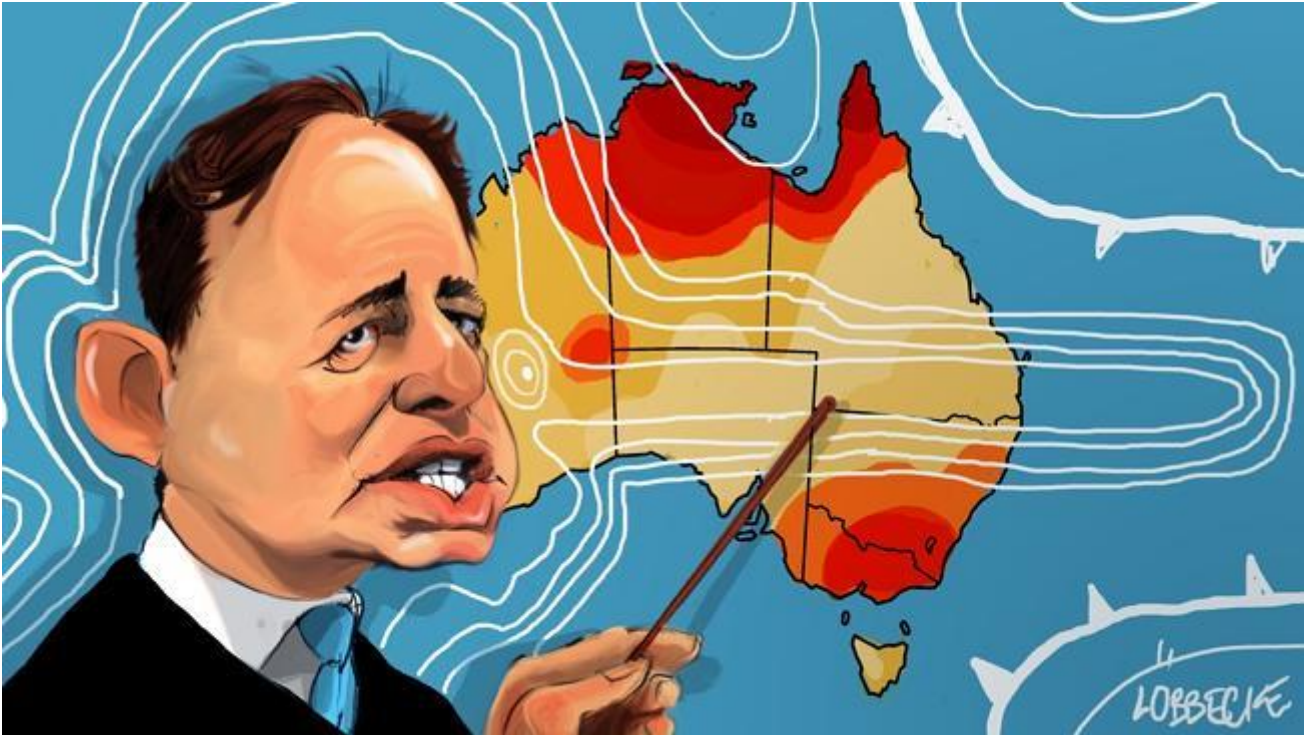


Illustration: Eric Lobbecke *Source:* TheAustralian

For the true believer, it is too awful to even consider that the Australian Bureau of Meteorology could be exaggerating global warming by adjusting figures. This doesn't mean, though, that it's not true.

In fact, under Prime Minister Tony Abbott, a panel of eminent statisticians was formed to investigate these claims detailed in *The Australian* newspaper in August and September last year.

The panel did acknowledge in its first report that the bureau homogenised the temperature data: that it adjusted figures. The same report also concluded it was unclear whether these adjustments resulted in an overall increase or decrease in the warming trend.

No conclusions could be drawn because the panel did not work through a single example of homogenisation, not even for Rutherglen. Rutherglen, in northeastern Victoria, is an agricultural research station with a continuous minimum temperature record unaffected by equipment changes or documented site moves but where the bureau nevertheless adjusted the temperatures.

This had the effect of turning a temperature time series without a statistically significant trend into global warming of almost 2C a century.

According to media reports last week, a thorough investigation of the bureau's methodology was prevented because of intervention by Environment Minister Greg Hunt. He apparently argued in cabinet that the credibility of the institution was paramount — that it was important the public had trust in the bureau's data and forecasts, so the public knew to heed warnings of bushfires and cyclones.

Hunt defends the bureau because it has a critical role to play in providing the community with reliable weather forecasts.

This is indeed one of its core responsibilities. It would be better able to perform this function, however, if it used proper techniques for quality control of temperature data and the best available techniques for forecasting rainfall.

There has been no improvement in its seasonal rainfall forecasts for two decades because it uses general circulation models. These are primarily tools for demonstrating global warming, with dubious, if any, skill at actually forecasting weather or climate.

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Consider, for example, the millennium drought and the flooding rains that followed in 2010.

Back in 2007 and 2008, David Jones, then and still the manager of climate monitoring and prediction at the Bureau of Meteorology, wrote that climate change was so rampant in Australia, “*We don’t need meteorological data to see it*”, and that the drought, caused by climate change, was a sign of the “*hot and dry future*” that we all collectively faced.

Then the drought broke, as usual in Australia, with flooding rains.

But the bureau was incapable of forecasting an exceptionally wet summer because such an event was contrary to how senior management at the bureau perceived our climate future.

So, despite warning signs evident in sea surface temperature patterns across the Pacific through 2010, Brisbane’s Wivenhoe dam, originally built for flood mitigation, was allowed to fill through the spring of 2010, and kept full in advance of the torrential rains in January 2011.

The resulting catastrophic flooding of Brisbane is now recognised as a “*dam release flood*”, and the subject of a class-action lawsuit by Brisbane residents against the Queensland government.

Indeed, despite an increasing investment in supercomputers, there is ample evidence ideology is trumping rational decision-making at the bureau on key issues that really matter, such as the prediction of drought and flood cycles. Because most journalists and politicians desperately want to believe the bureau knows best, they turn away from the truth and ignore the facts.

News Corp Australia journalist Anthony Sharwood got it completely wrong in his weekend article defending the bureau’s homogenisation of the temperature record. I tried to explain to him on the phone last Thursday how the bureau didn’t actually do what it said when it homogenised temperature time series for places such as Rutherglen.

Sharwood kept coming back to the issue of “*motivations*”. He kept asking me why on earth the bureau would want to mislead the Australian public.

I should have kept with the methodology, but I suggested he read what Jones had to say in the Climategate emails. Instead of considering the

content of the emails that I mentioned, however, Sharwood wrote in his article that, “*Climategate was blown out of proportion*” and “*independent investigations cleared the researchers of any form of wrongdoing*”.

Nevertheless, the content of the Climategate emails includes quite a lot about homogenisation, & the scientists’ motivations. For example, there is an email thread in which Phil Jones (University of East Anglia) and Tom Wigley (University of Adelaide) discuss the need to get rid of a blip in global temperatures around 1940-44. **Specifically, Wigley suggested they reduce ocean temperatures by an arbitrary 0.15C. These are exactly the types of arbitrary adjustments made throughout the historical temperature record for Australia: adjustments made independently of any of the purported acceptable reasons for making adjustments, including site moves and equipment changes.**

Sharwood incorrectly wrote in his article: “*Most weather stations have moved to cooler areas (ie, areas away from the urban heat island effect). So if scientists are trying to make the data reflect warmer temperatures, they’re even dumber than the sceptics think.*”

In fact, many (not most) weather stations have moved from post offices to airports, which have hotter, not cooler, daytime temperatures. Furthermore, the urban heat island creeps into the official temperature record for Australia not because of site moves but because the record at places such as Cape Otway lighthouse is adjusted to make it similar to the record in built-up areas such as Melbourne, which clearly are affected by the urban heat island.

I know this sounds absurd. It is absurd, and it is also true. Indeed, a core problem with the methodology the bureau uses is its reliance on “*comparative sites*” to make adjustments to data at other places. I detail the Cape Otway lighthouse example in a recent paper published in the journal *Atmospheric Research*, volume 166.

It is so obvious that there is an urgent need for a proper, thorough and independent review of operations at the bureau. But it would appear our politicians and many mainstream media are set against the idea.

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Evidently they are too conventional in their thinking to consider such an important Australian institution could now be ruled by ideology.

Jennifer Marohasy is a senior fellow at the Institute of Public Affairs



(Click on Jennifer for an interview about this.)

Comments

Margaret 46 minutes ago

Another reason not to vote for the Liberals - when they leap to protect the very institutions which are doing everything they can to destroy them. Is it suicidal? Or are they so naive that they think this will help them?

ian 55 minutes ago

The BOM is pretty hopeless. We use the BOM site only to look at the weather radar, but we use Windwillie or Seabreeze for our weather [wind strength/direction/waves/precipitation] forecasts. And, as Jennifer says, it has not made ANY improvements in weather forecasting over the last 20 years. Not that that is surprising, as the models are wrong, and it has been well known for many years that it is not possible to predict the weather by more than a week, due to the chaotic nature of weather patterns. The BOM, with its expensive supercomputers, would like us to believe that it can predict future climate changes. And our useless journalists go along with them.

Felicity 22 minutes ago

@ian Mostly they can't even predict 24 hours in advance, let alone a week!

John 1 hour ago

Marohasy:

'The same report also concluded it was unclear whether these adjustments resulted in an overall increase or decrease in the warming trend.'

Actual Report:

'There is a clear trend increase in both the raw and homogenised temperature data, and the temperature patterns exhibited in a variety of other datasets have a similar character. It is not currently possible to determine whether these improvements will be reflected in an increased or decreased warming trend that has been broadly observed across a range of different datasets.'

Jennifer 37 minutes ago

@John Yep. "[N]ot currently possible to determine whether these improvements [adjustments] will be reflected in an increase or decrease warming trend...". As I wrote.

In fact, the adjustments [so-called improvements] overwhelmingly have the affect of cooling the past, so the present appears relatively warmer. I've worked that out.

Also, it's obvious that if you start back at the beginning of the Australian temp record, use stations with high quality data (only making adjustments for equipment changes) and resist putting a straight line through the data, the first part of the temp record to 1950 shows cooling (statistically significant), and then from 1950 there is warming (also statistically significant). This does not accord with global warming theory, given the consistent increase in CO₂, the temp record should show consistent and mild warming.

The Australian historical temp record, at least for SE Australia, actually shows quite dramatic cooling, and then as dramatic warming.

Jen Marohasy

coolio 22 minutes ago

@Jennifer @John

No Jennifer, please read the Technical Advisory report more closely. The 'improvements' are not the data 'adjustments', but the Forum's recommendations!

'The Forum considers that its own recommendations will deliver improvements to the management and communication of the ACORN-SAT dataset. There is a clear trend increase in both the raw and homogenised temperature data, and the temperature patterns exhibited in a variety of other datasets have a similar character. It is not currently possible to

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determine whether these improvements will be reflected in an increased or decreased warming trend that has been broadly observed across a range of different datasets.

You have confused and misrepresented the underlined point.

Shannon 1 hour ago

Why is temperature the only variable ever discussed in Climate Change/Global Warming? Does anyone ever take corresponding humidity measurements and atmospheric pressure readings into account when they're identifying warming or cooling trends?

Anyone who has studied thermo-mechanics would understand the fallacy of relying on "air" temperature alone.

ian 1 hour ago

@Shannon Yep, look at the weather balloon statistics. But do not ask the climatechange brigade about them-they don't want to know

Vince 1 hour ago

Except for the gullible and dogmatic alarmists, we all know that we have previously had long periods of global cooling and warming.

Except for the gullible and dogmatic alarmists, we all know that "extreme weather events" are less than in previous decades.

Except for the gullible and dogmatic alarmists, we all know that sea levels have been rising steadily by minute amounts since the earth evolved

Except for the gullible and dogmatic alarmists, we all know that the IPCC has been fudging figures with false models for insidious reasons.

Except for the gullible and dogmatic alarmists, we all know that BOM has been manipulating data to align with political / IPCC mission of alarmism.

So the real question is:

How much is Malcolm and each of his political climate change accomplices/assassins going to be personally enriched by this climate change scam, through cosyng up with RET lobbyist organisations + RET corporations + banks + derivative traders?

Raymond 1 hour ago

In 1912 most people believed that the RMS Titanic was unsinkable. In 2015 most people believe that output from today's supercomputers is unquestionably correct. How many years of unfulfilled predictions will it take for this climate change fetish to end?

P 1 hour ago

@Raymond

GI-GO

Phillip 1 hour ago

On Rutherglen from the Bureau:

"Rutherglen: the major adjustments in minimum temperature data are in 1966 and 1974. Both were detected through comparisons with neighbours. The nature of the change is consistent with the site moving from a location near the main experimental farm buildings (which are on a small hill) to its current location on low-lying flat ground (minimum temperatures are normally higher on slopes than on flat ground or in valley bottoms)."

So all this nonsense from the IPA is just that, utter nonsense.

ian 1 hour ago

@Phillip Except, young Phil, there is no record of the Rutherglen station being moved....So all this nonsense from the IPA is ...absolutely correct. Go and check the figures, but I would suggest you do not rely on the BOM for your rubbery figures.

Mind you, they are just so frustrated that the world refuses to warm in spite of record CO₂ emissions that to push their agenda the poor dears have no other option.

Wake up GREG HUNT !!!

It's costing us a fortune !!!

Vince 1 hour ago

@jim Greg is one of them from the dark side.

Brian 2 hours ago

The Rutherglen data set would seem to be the baseline for honesty in this matter. As an agricultural research centre one can assume that readings were taken by people with significant exposure to the need for accuracy and who, particularly prior to the global warming

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argument, had no axe to grind. Importantly, since there has been no change to either equipment or location and there has been no urban heat influence, the data set provides a reliable indication of actual temperature variations in the area. Certainly there would be no justification whatsoever for any modification to the data set. The baseline data shows neither a warming or a cooling trend. So why did the BOM adjust the data to show warming? This single example is proof positive that there is something rotten within the BOM. Incidentally, the Norwegian Met Bureau provides short and long term weather predictions for localities worldwide. Having compared the results from them and from the BOM over the past 6 months it is evident that the Norwegians were more accurate, so perhaps the trust issue is not as important as Mr Hunt seems to think.

Robyn 2 hours ago

Actually the Rutherglen station is in the Chiltern valley, about 6ks from Rutherglen. Temperature variations occur over that distance and setting up another weather station right in the town would provide more accurate data or at least an opportunity to make comparisons. They had to do it for Albury and Wodonga.

Ken 2 hours ago

The world's hottest temperature used to be in Libya. In 2012, that record was rejected, and the world record defaulted to Death Valley in the US, recorded at 56.7C in 1913. It has never been topped despite an asphalt car park being built beside it, adding radiated heat. The climate industry does not like the world record temperature being more than 100 years old. That's why you don't hear much about it. It turns out though that the long standing weather station at Furnace Creek is not the hottest place in Death Valley. A few years back the NASA Ames Research Center placed another new temperature gauge in a known hotter location, Badwater. I wonder why. How long do you reckon the headlines will run when they successfully manufacture a new world record?

joshua 2 hours ago

Average temperature data over decades is much more informative than a single datum, which is why data sets are used to measure climate, not when or where the single highest temp recording was taken

Eli 1 hour ago

@joshua Spot on, Joshua.

John 1 hour ago

@joshua

weather versus climate will always confuse some.

Ken 1 hour ago

@joshua Yes, and the alarmists use the ignorance of the general public to their advantage. They understand the effect of manufacturing, then using a record temperature for propaganda purposes. This is just another tool in their bag, along with fiddling temperature sets. Their cleverest tool though, is to recognise that due to short term weather variations, every adult who has ever lived on earth has probably at some stage thought "This weather is different to what it used to be", and then blame it on global warming. Even the IPCC admits that there haven't been more cyclones, droughts, floods etc. recently, but all these events are hyped up in the news with the desired result.

Anthony 2 hours ago

Nevertheless, it is not true. The data are reliable. Yet again Marohasy has no case. Move on.

Mick 2 hours ago

@Anthony Anthony argues his case: "Youse all just shaddup!"

Barry 2 hours ago

@Mick @Anthony No point in arguing a case here, Mick. No one is interested in changing their preconceived notions, only in defending them.

jim 2 hours ago

@Anthony "The data are reliable."

Yes, the DATA are reliable, just not the fakery at the bakery that they do.

coolio 17 minutes ago

@jim @Anthony

"fakery at the bakery"

nice one! except for there is no fakery.

Barry 2 hours ago

Superficially plausible article, but only for a little while. Then one starts to wonder exactly

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what the 'rainfall' and drought-breaking predictions have to do with temperature measurement and statistical trend analysis. Pretty soon one realises that Dr Marohasy is constructing a solid looking argument which doesn't actually have anything approaching a solid basis.

jim 1 hour ago

@Barry When the Wivenhoe Dam caused the precise disaster it was specifically designed to prevent, mainly due to bad BoM forecasts because they conflicted with warmist ideology, Jennifer shows just how seriously in need of an audit this mob are.

jeff 3 hours ago

Let me get this right! Abbott appoints a panel of experts to investigate whether or not the BoM was fiddling with data to support global warming. Greg Hunt then stops an investigation of methodology used by the BoM to determine global warming reality. And the reason? So that the BoM retained some credibility with the public! What? Are the lunatics now running the asylum?

Either the BoM get our attention by their accurate representation of the facts regarding temperature, rainfall (the El Nino they have been predicting for 3 years) and projections of future weather, or they need to go off somewhere else and get a proper job. Wouldn't you like KPI's like these guys have? Doesn't matter how wrong they get it or whether or not they make up fairytales about global warming by fiddling the figures, they still get to keep their jobs. What a joke!

Vince 1 hour ago

@jeff I can accurately predict that BOM statistics, based on BOM forecasting history, will be 50% correct 50% of the time.

Alex 3 hours ago

This article really backs up the headline.

Pat. 3 hours ago

I've recently been to Alaska. The glaciers there are mountainous. All those climate change "experts" must have forgotten to instruct the glaciers to melt.

joshua 2 hours ago

@Pat. A quick google image search will show some pretty convince "then and now" photos of Alaskan Glaciers. "I have seen them, they are big. Ergo global warming is a scam" doesn't really hold up as an argument I'm afraid

Adam 2 hours ago

I have been to Glacier Bay in Alaska and one of the glaciers there has shrunk by around 100 kms most of which occurred over 100 years ago.

So climate was already changing well before we ever knew about it!

P 1 hour ago

@joshua

Glaciers have been in decline (on average) since the last Ice Age.

Louise 1 hour ago

@P @joshua They grew during the Little Ice Age, often encroaching on villages. They started receding at the end of The Little Ice Age, circa 1850. Human CO₂ started increasing post WW2, 100 years later.

Brett 3 hours ago

Oh yes the conspiracy of the Australian BOM and every other BOM in the developed world, and the work of climate scientists throughout the planet, and the governments of all persuasions are all in the amazing conspiracy to hoodwink people that the planet is warming and that it's due to some communist plot presumably.

Scratch hard enough behind these so-called skeptics and you'll find an ideologically driven organisation frequently funded by the coal and oil industry. Oh ah there we are, the IPA with their secret funding sources. You can be quite sure that they are well funded by the companies that have most to gain from confusing people about global warming.

This ongoing flat earth coverage by the Australian makes it a laughing stock to thinking Australians.

TERENCE 3 hours ago

@Brett

"You can be quite sure that they are well funded by the companies..."

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As Margaret Thatcher famously said "Name one."

ian 2 hours ago

@Brett The problem, Brett, is that these climate scientists, and people of goodwill like yourself, are sceptical of everything EXCEPT their own deeply held beliefs, which they never even think to question. Actually calling it climate science, is incorrect, it is "climate studies", as it is even less of a science than psychology.

joshua 2 hours ago

@ian @Brett The problem, Ian is that people who claim to know better than all of the national governments, climate research centers, NASA, the CSIRO and just about every other scientific community have yet to show me any convincing evidence that this global conspiracy exists. If it does, it should be easily brought down by looking at the data. Which is yet to happen (barring blog posts in the crazier corners of the interwebs).

Surely if AGW was false, a government or research team somewhere could do their own original research to falsify it. Why hasn't it happened?

Jennifer 2 hours ago

@joshua @ian @Brett I've been spending a lot of time with the raw temperature data, only for Australia, and especially the south east. Sometimes there is a need to make adjustments to series, when there has been an equipment change, usually pre-1910 data. I use basic quality control techniques, without reference to comparative stations/nearby sites. The data, for SE Australia, clearly shows statistically significant cooling from 1890 to 1950, then statistically significant warming. Overall though, there is no trend i.e. no warming if you start the record back in 1890, that is for SE Australia. I've three papers currently being peer-reviewed. I'm hoping to get another one through this system, soon. That is the best I can do.

joshua 2 hours ago

@Jennifer @joshua @ian @Brett All of the data sets I have seen show fairly flat temp averages between 1880/90 to 1950, with significant warming since 1950 or so. What you are suggesting is that the data from prior to 1950 has been manipulated selectively - that should

be pretty easy to prove - I look forward to your papers

j-Cherna 2 hours ago

@joshua It hasn't happened because of vested interests in the \$Billions involved - apart from the individuals promulgating the consensus to ensure monetary gain; we would then need to look at all the Governments who were conned into introducing carbon taxing/pricing, Such Governments would be hard pressed to return the taxes and compensate people for the unnecessary increases in electricity and cost of living ... The more Governments being conned the less likely, but more costly the admission they got it so badly wrong.

joshua 2 hours ago

@j-Cherna @joshua classic RWNJ - just keep blaming the communist conspiracy. And there aren't \$trillions to be made if AGW was to be disproved?

Roger 1 hour ago

@joshua @ian @Brett "Surely if AGW was false, a government or research team somewhere could do their own original research to falsify it. Why hasn't it happened?"

Not a case of proving AGW is false but more a case of proving Catastrophic Anthropogenic Global Warming which is what many scientists are skeptical about now. You are aware of course that this is the year a generation reaching adulthood at 18 has experienced no measurable global warming in their lifetime, despite the computer models? If you're skeptical about CAGW then naturally you question the dogmatic policy prescriptions that are clearly based on ideology.

As for asking the question as to why taxpayer funded bureaucratic science institutions can't question let alone falsify their own research, that's like asking why the folk at the ABC can't reform from within and become more representative of Australian political views. Yes I know, it's up to we critics to prove they aren't.

joshua 1 hour ago

@Roger @joshua @ian @Brett The evidence for AGW has been presented, and is overwhelming. If you have other, better data/analysis, I'm all ears.

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Tom 34 minutes ago

@joshua @Roger @ian @Brett Joshua, just where is that evidence??? I have been looking at every bit of evidence that comes along, but have only seen example after example after example of where "the science" has got it spectacularly wrong. I am still unaware of any, any, evidence that "the science" may be right.

j-Cherna 2 hours ago

@Brett actually it's the other way around - not companies driving the agenda but shonky scientists who claim a consensus on global warming to secure their salaries, tenure and lifestyles. Especially so as the IPCC has acknowledged that there has been no global warming for 18 years (they conveniently leave the door open by calling it a pause).

Jennifer 2 hours ago

@Brett I'm an empiricist, that's the extent of my ideology. You are correct that the Bureau uses the same techniques as those used by met offices around the World, they all use 'comparative stations' to make adjustments which help generate a global warming trend. It's not proper QA. It needs an overhaul.

Vince 1 hour ago

@Jennifer @Brett I judge the weather by what we've experienced every year for the past couple of decades. From experience our communities have been actually cooling. Go figure.

Anthony 3 hours ago

It seems to make no sense to measure temperature, i.e. something it is, and then change it to something it was not, and call this process 'homogenisation'.

Why has the BOM 'homogenised' its own data?

If there is a compelling logic behind this process we would all like to see it explained.

Murray 3 hours ago

There is no SCIENCE, when it comes to "Global Warming caused by increased levels of CO₂". This was/is an old hypothesis that has been dusted off and used to scare the populace into parting with their "hard earned" via increased taxation and electricity costs.

Their "science" is reliant on computer models that have failed for the past twenty years to track reality. Weather/ Climate is "chaotic" and

computers run lineally dependent on the data input. Poor data in, poor data out (or crap in, crap out; TA was right on the money). The models are proven failures and should be consigned to the trash can.

There is no climate change caused by Carbon Dioxide, well nothing that can be measured to certify within any sort of margin of Error.

Stuart 3 hours ago

Yeah. And those 'weather' satellites they keep launching are really broadcasting secret mind control beams. Put on your tin foil hats everyone!!

ian 2 hours ago

@Stuart Actually , those weather satellites don't show the warming that the BOM assures us is currently taking place. And The ARGO BUOYS, which were released into the World's oceans to great fanfare some years back, which would finally give us accurate statistics on the "warming of the oceans", had to have their raw numbers "corrected" up to match the older, inaccurate data, to try to preserve the myth of increasing ocean warming!

Phillip 14 minutes ago

@ian @Stuart The early ARGO deployment was subject to problems with their maladjusted measurement devices. Once that was fixed, the ongoing ocean warming was correctly measured

Alex 4 hours ago

Jennifer, Wivenhoe dam was not filled and kept filled for months. The 100% level that it officially sat at is less than half its overall capacity. The 100% level simply refers to how much of the capacity was reserved for drinking water. It can contain a level up to 225%, with all that extra reserved for flood mitigation. The flood was a dam release flood, but that was because the flood mitigation reserve filled up. The arguments and discussion over management were to determine if there was a better way to manage it, and could some of that reserve have been released earlier.

Jennifer 2 hours ago

@Alex If the Wivenhoe Dam had been properly managed, and if the Bureau had properly considered the strength of the developing La Nina through 2010, not a single home would have flooded in Brisbane in January 2011. This

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will come out when the sorry saga eventually makes it into court.

jayess 2 hours ago

@Alex You are stating the bleeding obvious. The point is that water was not released earlier because the dumb politicians were persuaded to hang on to the water, having been told by prats like Flannery that there would be no adequate rainfall in the future to fill the dams again.

Louise 1 hour ago

@jayess @Alex I wonder also if the fact that the water had a dollar value was a factor in not opening the flood gates sooner.

Drove past there a couple of days ago - dam was nicely full and we've just had a big dumping of rain with big storm cells, right in the catchment area, about an hour ago....but "our dams will never be full again" according to Flim Flam....

The_Real_Cal 4 hours ago

That Greg Hunt would prevent a thorough investigation is a disgrace. And here I was thinking that it was Labor Gov'ts that treated the public like mugs.

ian 4 hours ago

Great article Jennifer , thank you. Now, can some journalist who is actually "investigative". actually get up our Hon Mr Hunt?

Douglas 4 hours ago

This self-sustaining smear on a fragile accidental planet which by good fortune will continue to sustain it for some fraction of intergalactic time, thinks it can actually influence its eventual demise?

Raymond N 4 hours ago

If it were not BoM but the VW Group, the green contingent would be all over the fudging. Yet they are not because this fudge suits the cause.

Gary 4 hours ago

Why is it that no-one would think it credible for a mining company to write their own environmental report and state that the science was closed and no discussion or negotiation would be entered into? Why is it that no-one would think it credible for a nuclear power

station company to write their own environmental report and state that the science was closed and no discussion or negotiation would be entered into? Why then is it acceptable that paid-for-comment scientists (many of whom have no climate or environmental training at all) are allowed to make exaggerated, spurious claims regarding climate and the environment, and then pass this off as 'closed-science' (not that there is such a thing as closed science) with no room for discussion or negotiation? When these clowns decide to start talking common sense, I'll listen. When they start talking about lowering POLLUTION, not carbon gasses I'll listen. When they start talking about increasing recycling and REAL renewable energy sources that actually work better than clean coal, I'll listen.

barry 3 hours ago

@Gary Oh, Gary, You are writing such incontestable "common sense" that I'm heartened that your views will be given wide exposure. I surely hope so & congratulations on such a compelling & valid post.

Raymond N 4 hours ago

New science - if the facts don't support your theory and consequent Grants and empire building, change the facts.

Phillip 5 hours ago

They've tried in on for NZ temps, Global temps, Australian temps, US temps and failed miserably at every turn. About time these nobodies of climate put their cue in the rack and retired to their coal mines!

Paul 5 hours ago

Sadly, the opportunity to reform the BOM has been lost. There's no way Turnbull is going to go against his adoring luvvie friends and do it.

Michelle 5 hours ago

Was complaining the other day about the inaccuracies of the forecasting of weather these days in the media and via internet etc.. remembering the good old Fahrenheit days that the forecast seemed only ever to be out by a couple of degrees.

The person I complained to said her husband was a meteorologist - she said that all forecasts since 1979 had been relied on by data from

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satellite not from the old ground weather stations and weather balloons.

Not sure how reliable the information was but I wouldn't be surprised if she was correct.

Chris 5 hours ago

Greg Hunt has demonstrated repeatedly he will act for the approval of the 'love media', not for honesty or transparency.

This is active cover-up.

Publish the raw data. Audit the adjustments. If there is scientific wrongdoing such as concealing raw data or influencing policy with 'adjustments' to data for ideological reasons, the damage should be recovered from the wrongdoers.

BARRY 5 hours ago

Just publish raw, then adjusted, and why - so SIMPLE.

Jeffrey 5 hours ago

There's not just one government-funded institution ruled by ideology, political correctness and denial of reality; just talk to any public servant and you'll soon discover they all are.

Jean 4 hours ago

@Jeffrey Totally agree! Having worked in govt funded institutions for over 45 years...

Noel 6 hours ago

Jennifer, putting aside the question of reviewing BOM methodologies, does research and analysis suggest that there has been an increase in atmospheric temperature which correlates to CO₂ levels?

ian 4 hours ago

@Noel Noel, the short answer is no, not for almost 20 years. It is just that the believers in the global warming religion can NEVER admit that their belief is misplaced.

Clive 4 hours ago

@Noel Clive Temperatures have not increased for 18 years. There have been three warm phases since records began: 1860-1880, 1910 - 1940 and 1975 -2000. The rate of increase in all three phases was the same 0.16C per decade. Answer by University of East Anglia to question in House of Lords.

Mick 4 hours ago

@Noel Yes there has.

Studies of ice cores proved that CO₂ increases followed temp increases by about 800 years.

That's correlation, but doesn't support CO₂ being a driver of temp.

In fact, the opposite.

Phillip 4 minutes ago

@Mick @Noel Failed hypothesis numero 1001. This pattern only exists in the initial deglaciation phase of ice ages that is induced by variations in solar radiation and the physical variations of the Milankovitch cycles. For the balance of the ice age cycle CO₂ drives temperature.

Jennifer 3 hours ago

@Noel I've spent the last 6 months looking in a lot of detail at temp trends for the SE of Australia. Overall, we have statistically significant cooling to about 1950, then statistically significant warming to the present. If you take the entire period from 1890 to the present, there is no trend. Overall, not correlation with CO₂ levels. Indeed, the warming over the last 60 years is in the order of 2 degree per century for the state of Victoria, which is too high, given carbon dioxide levels.

joshua 6 hours ago

For years, one particularly nefarious organisation that has been feeding us all "evidence" that has been manipulated and twisted beyond recognition. Those leftist, unscientific nut-jobs at NASA need to be brought down a peg or two by someone who knows what they are talking about, like Andrew Bolt #sarcasm

P 4 hours ago

@joshua

Sarcasm? I thought you were talking about Hanson & a few fellow activist nut cases?

ian 4 hours ago

@joshua Ah, Josh, you would be referring to NASA_GISS. The NASA that the rest of us mere mortals think about, the one with the real scientists and the astronauts, has absolutely nothing to do with NASA_GISS, and in fact have complained many times about the non-

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scientific nonsense emanating from that stinking edifice.

joshua 3 hours ago

@ian @joshua I suppose the CRUTEM and NCDC analyses are also non-scientific nonsense? Pray tell, where is the real science? Blogs don't count.

Gary 4 hours ago

@joshua Or indeed anyone not being PAID to produce a foregone conclusion - paid for in advance by a Government with a vested interest in exaggerated claims as a viable new tax base. #rightbackatyou

Mick 6 hours ago

Let's put this in a context most people would understand -

If a public company noted in its annual report that it had made adjustments to its actual trading figures, and the notations simply stated that such adjustments were made, but no rationale or basis was provided, the external auditors would query and qualify the company's accounts.

This analogy I believe accurately reflects the situation with BoM's adjustments to recorded temp data.

Where are the auditors?

Mark 6 hours ago

Just like professional learners who rely on the public teat for succour, these scientists gathering data to bolster the gwt are subject to the weaknesses of the flesh: they have money, power, influence and above all status to defend and guard and they are not above doing so by deception. The global sickness infecting people connected with climate change theory is quite insidious. As some correspondents have claimed, our schools are treating these theories as scientific fact and that the consequences are dire and imminent...this I have witnessed in person and as a supply teacher.

Of course children will soak up this nonsense and regurgitate it like good little learners, but as far as understanding it they haven't the foggiest. Neither do the teachers, in fact how many people could explain the theory of global warming and climate change? Not many I will wager. This is pure and utter humbug, coming from power-hungry, controlling government

authorities and aided and abetted by a compliant media...the trouble is, the theory is falling all over the shop and its proponents are having to make things up on the fly. Now that is quack science. Time to put some real pressure on these parasites and call them to account. I for one have had a gut full of their sanctimonious bulldust.

Lawrence 5 hours ago

@Mark You mention a "compliant media" which I would dispute. The media is not compliant, rather they are complicit in the deception. One need not be a scientist to know when we are being misled. A prediction given with 95% certainty is realised as being completely wrong and yet the guru is given a pass and his/her critics are castigated and derided. Prominent scientists in related fields; solar, geology and statistics, are so feared that they are barred from universities just in case the brain dead are given another point of view. When has the media made mention of the fact there has been no warming in the past 18 years while the computers promised significant warming? When has the media reported the historic high ice extent around Antarctica while speaking of the disappearing Arctic that refuses to follow the script?

The media is really a greater problem than the data fiddling scientists because the media report the scare by the BoM but never question the basis and the facts.

PR 6 hours ago

Excellent article.

However, the climate change industry is a multi trillion dollar industry. Finding that the BOM had to "adjust" the data to get the "correct" answers because nature wasn't "co-operating" would threaten the livelihood of thousands of Australians currently relying on subsidies and handouts.

Hunt's action has just aggravated the BOM's reputation problem.

j-Cherna 7 hours ago

In essence the MET needs to supply data ONLY - then leave the interpretation of that data to others. It's its prime function! Had the MET, and Chief Scientist (Tim Flannery) stayed out of the debate the consensus that our dams would never fill would have been avoided, and the

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despair that followed the Brisbane floods would/could have been avoided.

It is a strange phenomenon that Climate Change science brings out irrational assessments such as “denier”, “alarmist”, and “heretic” for/from otherwise rational people.

In true science there is condemnation of any scientist that massages data to fit to a theory and yet it has happened involving accusations made of our very own MET. It goes further - in genuine science there is not such thing as a consensus as all matters in science are at ALL times available for review - yet leading scientists in the world will claim, as far as climate change is concerned, a consensus - shame on them for doing so as they've abandoned their principles. And if they do it for money, tenure or maintaining their lifestyles all the more shame on them.

As a scientist, albeit retired, I look at the confusion of data in an obviously complicated science of climate change, with anomalies, conflicting data, volumes of theory - some based on fact and some based on fiction, and end up drawing on Occam's Razor which is a line of reasoning that says the simplest answer is often correct. The simplest answer being, that since the IPCC admits to no warming for 18 years, that what we are observing is nature flexing the unpredictability of its muscles and NOT climate change.

If man wants to alter nature be prepared for disappointment.

B 7 hours ago

WOW!!!

Peter C 7 hours ago

Thanks for this excellent and detailed article.

It is obvious that the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) cannot be believed as it has been captured by the Left as have everything else including 97% of the media - including The Australian - and the Coalition which is now Lefty.

If Greg Hunt wanted us to believe the BOM he should have helped ensure the investigation into the BOM proceeded. Instead it appears Hunt has fallen of treacherous Lefty Turnbull's crawling, smooth talking and no substance ways.

To illustrate my point of how our futures are being very seriously damaged by the Left, including the BOM:-

There was an excellent cartoon yesterday showing two garbage bins. One has Greens printed on it and the other Liberals with a puzzled chap nearby with his back to these bins and his vote paper dragging on the ground. He apparently considers like me there is no one worth voting for now.

Lawrence 5 hours ago

@Peter C Vote Nationals. And a message for the Nats; stand a candidate in every Liberal seat that voted against Abbott.

Christine 7 hours ago

If the author will not subject herself to any scrutiny at all then it significantly undermines your credibility if you won't publish comments such as my last which sought to add some balance to the discussion.

Lawrence 5 hours ago

@Christine This author is 100% transparent and has been ever since she has been writing for the Australian and before that the Land.

As for scrutiny why does Greg Hunt shield the BoM from scrutiny? I thought Turnbull was all about transparency and consultation but not when it comes to Climate Change it seems.

wayne 7 hours ago

Hunt is WRONG!

As a minimum the BOM should be required to publish raw data alongside its stitch up.

We have NO CONFIDENCE in the BOM at this time. We did when it was raw data and they made the occasional mistake.

Peter Mervyn 7 hours ago

This year alone, as of last week, there have been 29 published scientific studies that all demonstrate how solar activity has been responsible for changes to earth's climate. 29 studies showing correlation with the sun!

Empirical evidence and experimental evidence have also confirmed the validity of Henrik Svensmark's cosmic ray/solar/cloud theory that demonstrates weather and climate are largely influenced by cloud variations.

How many people are aware of this?

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Well, it's never mentioned because the IPCC was only set up to assess anthropogenic global warming at the exclusion of the overwhelming body of scientific literature on natural climate variability.

Greg Hunt & Co only believes in IPCC reports. Yet how can such reports be credible when the IPCC (since it was set up in late 1988) has never ever cited even one paper that supports its supposition that carbon dioxide from human activity is causing dangerous global warming and is the key driver of climate change? Check the reports for yourself.

The truth is that governments around the world are basing climate policy on false data, which is also the reason why economic reports by the likes of Britain's Nicholas Stern and Australia's Ross Garnaut have been exposed for their many flaws and incorrect assumptions.

joshua 6 hours ago

@Peter Mervyn source please?

ian 4 hours ago

@joshua @Peter Mervyn Josh, do your own research online! The problem, for a true believer like yourself, is that you will have to visit some real sceptic sites, rather than that idiot Cook's *Skeptical Science* site, which is no such thing. I would suggest the Idso brothers CO₂Science, or WUWT, or Jo Nova. Then, just follow the links to the original papers. Simple.

The_Real_Cal 4 hours ago

@Peter Mervyn The SUN? How could anyone in their right mind think the Sun could be responsible for heat? Heresy!

P 3 hours ago

@The_Real_Cal

Actually- some are changing their minds.

After careers of pooh-poohing any solar influence on changing climates, UK Met & others have decided that the missing warming/heat (after ocean heat was ruled out) that the models insist on has been off-set by solar cooling...but will come back in spades Some Time Real Soon Now.

Wayne 7 hours ago

The BOM's homogenization arguments are fine in theory but they don't seem to bear much

relation to the actuality of the adjustments that have been made around the world.

Take, for example, the Urban Heat Island effect. This is where weather stations, over time, have become surrounded by buildings or other heat sources and which therefore record hotter temperatures than they used to. You'd expect, as a result of this, that recent (ie late 20th century) raw temperature readings from urban areas would be adjusted downwards in order to make them more accurate. Rarely though, is this the case.

More usually, the adjustments appear to have been made in the other direction, so that the late twentieth century readings are made hotter still – while the early twentieth century readings have been adjusted to make them look cooler.

Hmmmm ... is that really science?

Wayne 7 hours ago

66% of all climate temperatures are not based on real temperatures (raw temperature data) but are instead based on modelled temperatures.

We are all aware of the fallacy of Mann's "hockey stick" based on flawed modelling. We are also aware that the IPCC have been caught out exaggerating temperature changes to suit their climate stance.

There is plenty of data on why homogenization is not good science and why it can be (and is) used to distort data. This data and its scientific papers can be found in journals such as *"Theoretical and Applied Climatology"*

See also articles such as: *"Important study on temperature adjustments: 'homogenization can lead to a significant overestimate of rising trends of surface air temperature.'*" by Anthony Watts 29 Jan 2014.

And *"Forget Climategate: This global warming scandal is much bigger"* by James Delingpole on 13th January 2015.

The BOM is a tax payer funded organisation that relies on public money.

You would think that they would do better!

P 3 hours ago

@Wayne

Paid agents of Big Oil!

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Jennifer 8 hours ago

We want all the raw data from inception. Or has this been destroyed? That is not science, as East Anglia found out. Where is the raw data? Also this needs to be in hard copy as electronic data can be easily changed, erased. Science is the loser in this, losing all credibility.

Margaret 8 hours ago

The fundamental problem is that AGW "believers" have no sense of true scale. Both time scale and cosmic size scale dwarf any human activities; making all but real, incorruptible scientists simply vessels of human arrogance.

j-Cherna 6 hours ago

@Margaret The inability to grasp scale is best illustrated by looking at the volumetric composition of gases in the atmosphere. Of which carbon dioxide occupies 0.04% (or more accurately 0.038%) which INCLUDES the man made carbon dioxide (which on its own is 0.0004% which is to all extents an purposes not measurable to any degree of accuracy taking into account statistical instrument error).

The science of consensus has gone mad that a quantity of 0.0004% of a gas can cause catastrophic events as claimed by the alarmists.

Fact remains that the IPCC has acknowledged that there has been no global warming for 18 years (they conveniently leave the door open by calling it a pause). Yet the alarmists clamour about uncontrolled warming ...

jayess 2 hours ago

@Margaret Isn't it amusing how the alarmists rabbit on about the hottest "on record". Records stretching all of 180 odd years? Pathetic.

Matthew 8 hours ago

The climate has changed for 100's of years. The climate continues to change. The climate change religion had been promoted by governments so they can tax scared believers. It would appear many government institutions promote this folly and hide any evidence to the contrary. Group think at work. It would be interesting if just 1 prediction from the scare mongers came true. Maybe then one could believe them!!

Lindsay 8 hours ago

Jennifer PLEASE keep up the good work. They must be made to come clean. Anthony (Ant) Sherwood's article is so poor no further discussion in necessary.

My problem with BOM is their unreliability in predicting weather. They are good at tracking weather events, but not predicting day to day weather.

Years ago as a motorcycling commuter I devoured weather forecasts so as to determine which protective clothing to wear/take, wet weather overalls or leather. In the end I discovered looking out the window was more reliable. They are no better 40 years later.

Surely with their centuries of records, super computers and experience they can do better. However, it now seems their debacle with the Rutherglen, etc. records may point to a reason for their poor performance

Gerard 8 hours ago

Is it the intention of the bureau of meteorology to homogenize (fudge) temperature data into the shape of a hockey stick?

Barbara 8 hours ago

Watkin Tench who first recorded dead bats falling from the sky in 1788, along with heat-stricken, flocks of parrots, knew that this country was a land of vast variables and recorded it. However, Recorders of climate information today have become just like the ABC, now trying to create Artificial Stereotyping of data, to suit the story they wish to tell. This country deserves better. Minister Hunt must not try to justify supporting the reputations of this groupthink homogenization of data, by suggesting the Public needs to believe in the credibility, by keeping it intact. because of notification of fire and drought, warnings etc. The investigation must be open and ongoing! Truth demands it and it is an insult to all in this country to offer less.. Thank you for your informative article Jennifer!

Carole 7 hours ago

@Barbara I myself [Carole] witnessed in the late 1950s dead parrots falling from the sky when I lived in the Mallee in Victoria. The temperature at the time was 108 F which was quite normal for the summer there. Then not

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many days after we had flooding rain which undermined our rain water-tank and it fell over and spilled all the precious stored rain water onto the already saturated ground! Yes Dorothea Mackellar back in 1908 was quite right we are a land of drought and flooding rain! Let's never forget it, tell our children and our grandchildren that that's the way it is here in Oz so they won't be fooled into believing 'the sky is falling' rubbish.

Gerry 8 hours ago

Every day we have a warming and cooling cycle, can be up to 20 degrees difference

Every year we have a warming and cooling cycle, can be up to 20 degrees difference

What is the next cycle?

John 8 hours ago

Fudging is used in modelling all the time - unfortunately the modelling for Global Warming has been shown to be consistently wrong. In other words, the so-called experts do not understand the global climate sufficiently to predict the future adequately. But the whole fabrication moves forward as a fait accompli which should be very concerning for all of humanity.

Jason 8 hours ago

Why is an LNP government acting in this manner to protect what are questionable practices? Surely we now have an administrative decision not to investigate which is capable of appeal in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal?

Right! said Fred 7 hours ago

@Jason I can't really say why the previous PM didn't act but the current one is a true believer.

Margaret 9 hours ago

Why can't the BOM measure and show all the raw data from the original weather stations alongside all its modern method "homogenised" data so that we can see for ourselves how the 2 types of data differ. The possibility that "massaging" the figures to fit an agenda is truly dismaying, although not beyond belief when considered together with all the other manipulation and scaremongering which has taken place to promote the AGW belief system.

Margaret of Perth

Terry 9 hours ago

Margaret, because it would give the game away!

Bob 8 hours ago

@Margaret, that is a very, very good question. Data is handled via Excel spreadsheets, and to make both the raw and adjusted data available on BOM website, would be extremely trivial exercise.

How do we make them to provide that? We pay their salaries, after all...

Mick 7 hours ago

@Margaret Marohasy and collaborators have already done this work and published it on their various websites and blogs.

This work is the basis for their questions to the BoM asking why? and how? many of the adjustments to actual records were done so inconsistently.

The BoM has never come clean on their rationale and methodology, which is what independent scientists are scathing about.

And rightly so.

Sandra 9 hours ago

The purpose of the "climate change" scare is to terrify the world's population into believing they need totalitarian communist style control of the world, implemented by countries conceding their power to the UN.

Terence 8 hours ago

@Sandra

And they seek the redistribution of wealth and resources from the first world to the third world - places like the islands in the South Pacific (we need money - we're sinking!) and places like Africa where despots run their countries into the ground or into the hands of Daesh affiliates. And there is the goal of the UN requiring ever more money so they can hire more bureaucrats who like to strut the world stage and pontificate and talk about the weather until the cows come home. People like our very own Rudd.

Terence M2

Michael 9 hours ago

It is bad enough that someone who writes for a living can't understand simple English. Because let's face it the phrase - hide the decline - means

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just that. There is no hidden meaning or between the lines interpretation. It is a statement of deception. But the real concern is that a minister of state can so proudly proclaim passion for a disproven intellectual theory. A government minister who dismisses considered argument and reason for a personal crusade has no place in government and should be removed from his position. And if his party had any respect at all for due process it would expel him. Sadly, it will be a cold day in hell that comes first.

P 9 hours ago

@Michael

Damning enough but the *'Read Me Harry'* file was the clincher.

John 9 hours ago

If Minister Hunt thinks keeping the numbers secret will protect the weather bureau from repetitional damage he is far too late. The whole East Anglia mess, thoroughly investigated by the University itself, is a major indictment of the loss of scientific rigour in science. How can anyone place any trust in a group of academics who only publish one another's work? How can we rely on the opaque system of peer review? Just who are the peers?

Minister Hunt is now being captured by his department and it will always put reputation before anything less important, like doing their jobs properly and the public good.

Christine 8 hours ago

@John If the numbers are "secret" then how did the author get hold of them? They are not secret.

Mick 7 hours ago

@Christine @John No they're not. But what has been kept secret is why and how they were changed.

If the rationale and methodology for changing original record data are not forthcoming from BoM when asked, any rational adult would ask - "what's going on? - what is there to hide?"

Stephen 9 hours ago

More fudgy logic from a Climate contrarian

John 9 hours ago

@Stephen I'm sorry but I cannot find one example of 'fuzzy logic' in the article. It is a

compilation of facts drawn to a logical conclusion. Facts and logic are fundamental to good science, which on this issue has long since been discarded by politics and its own form of reality - perception.

Ben 9 hours ago

@Stephen Is that the best you have? She articulates what reasonable thinking people see is wrong with the GW religion in relation to our "professional" climate watchers.

Your blindness and bomb throwing put you in the camp of the flat earth acolytes.

nigel 9 hours ago

@Stephen

Another alarmist unable to mount a rational counter argument.

Roger 8 hours ago

@Stephen The IPCC recently admitted all their figures for the carbon content of coal being burned in China were too high by 40%. (BBC news website). This error made all their predictions and figures for CO₂ too high for the world by 10%. Is this fuzzy logic?

Thomas 9 hours ago

Reading the comments on this piece, it would appear that the Australian Bureau of Meteorology is the most powerful public sector institution on the planet.

All the governments in the developed and developing world have climate change policies and government departments to implement them. The global insurance industry recognises climate change as risk and has factored that risk into its premiums. Major corporations such as GE have established large businesses in the renewable energy space.

Apparently all this is based on the basis of 'false data' presented by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology.

This paper is the only major media outlet, apart from Fox News in the USA, that gives climate change deniers any coverage.

It is about time that this nonsense is ended and the debate moves on to discuss what can be done to address the problem rather than denying that it exists.

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Terry 9 hours ago

Thomas, please detail the science that convinces you that anthropogenic CO₂ can lead to catastrophic global warming.

Thomas 8 hours ago

@Terry The evidence can be found on the Australian Department of Environment's web site and the equivalent web sites in the UK, USA, European and other governments.

It can be also found on scientific organisation like the Royal Society and NASA. You will also find it on corporations' web sites like GE.

In short, it can be found everywhere except in this paper and Fox News in the USA.

Chris 8 hours ago

@Thomas @Terry Oh dear, Thomas. Confusing "fact" with "projection". These sites are not "evidence", any more so than the hockey stick was.

P 8 hours ago

@Thomas

Self-referencing.

Terry 8 hours ago

Thomas, in other words you cannot detail the scientific proof.

Chris 8 hours ago

@Thomas The planet is warming - fact. How to respond to that is the question.

It appears to be blindingly obvious that de-carbonising energy production, steel making, life on earth as we know it, will not make any significant progress but cost trillions of dollars. The most recent IPCC report makes sobering reading for the alarmists. Herding cats is easier than herding nations whose self-interest is not going to be bent to Western environmentalist's dictates. So why not pursue Bjorn Lomborg's suggestion - mitigation. Adaptation is a much stronger human trait than subservience.

Thomas 8 hours ago

@Chris @Thomas Lomborg accepts that there is anthropocentric global warming.

I suspect that most of the people that comment and 'like' on this piece do not believe that anthropocentric global warming is occurring.

It is very disappointing that this paper encourages them to maintain these views. It is unique to Australia and the Fox News audience in the USA.

JJ 7 hours ago

Pay me too Thomas; and I will truly believe anything you say : I just need funding: As for your conspiracy of Fox etc; I thought you guys dismissed any such ideas:

Just like any deviation from your groupthink orthodoxy is heresy

P 8 hours ago

@Chris

IPCC AR5 scenarios are not too bad - pity the most drastic & unlikely are seized upon by the Alarmists as gospel.

IPCC also confirms the 'pause' in T rise...soon to be 20 years' worth.

wayne 7 hours ago

@Chris @Thomas I thought that we were meant to be entering into a mini ice age, at least in the northern hemisphere according to some in the UK BOM.

Ray 5 hours ago

@Thomas If I was an insurance company I would definitely take advantage of a scam like AGW to raise my premiums & laugh all the way to the bank. I can guarantee Thomas does not make major decisions for the insurance industry, & taking the examples of his logic provided above, I can see why.

Peter 9 hours ago

Don Aitken writes a blog under his own name and in his latest posting writes: "there is uncertainty in all temperature data, wherever they come from. There are two principal sources of uncertainty, measurement error and statistical error, and virtually no one ever points them out on their graphs (these ones too). Briggs comments —*"The end result is to make temperature guesses appear smooth and uncomplicated, which is an illusion. That illusion makes it easier for (actually measured) temperatures in modern times to appear more variable. And that makes it easier to appear that we are hotter now, even if we're not"*.

At the end of his blog he draws attention to changing terminology: 'climate change

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proponents' and 'climate change doubters' and is clearly of the view that the science of climate change is not settled.

The IPA, Maurice Newman etc. would concur with this view; or perhaps go even further.

Des 9 hours ago

To those who subscribe to the AGW belief, I have only one question....if global warming is caused by CO₂ emissions from coal-fired power stations and motor vehicles, how many of these did it take to cause the end of the last Ice Age about 15,000 years ago?

Matthew 9 hours ago

Climate is one of those causes that allows a lot of empty-headed Westerners to feel altruistic and a sense of civic engagement without lifting a finger. Then it went nakedly political and even spiritual for some. Disappointing that some Oz writers are still stuck in the intellectual laziness that made it all possible.

Bob 9 hours ago

If in every 10,000 molecules of air there are 3 molecules of CO₂, we are just fine; if there are 4 of them, we are all going to die. That's what the Global Warming scare boils down to, really. Hard to believe in it, but some people do.

Roderick 9 hours ago

CO₂ comprises just 0.038% of the Earth's atmosphere. Man-made CO₂ is just 3% of that 0.038%, and Australia's contribution to that 3% is just 1.5% at the most.

So 1.5% of 3% of 0.038% amounts to...

Bob 8 hours ago

@Roderick,

Thanks for that. Concentration of 0.038% actually means that the Earth's atmosphere contains 3.8 parts of CO₂ in every 10,000 parts of air. Of that, world humankind contribution is 0.114 parts (e.g. 3%, remaining 3.686 parts are natural CO₂). Australian contribution is 0.00171 parts of CO₂ per 10,000 parts of air (1.5% of 0.114). That should give us some perspective and made the problem easier to picture.

Stuart 9 hours ago

No organisation, including the BOM is above scrutiny. The issue is that anyone who dares apply normal review where climate change is

involved is ridiculed. A generation has now been taught at school not to question but to believe - except in traditional religion which is now banned.

Ian 9 hours ago

@Stuart It is the argument from authority position. Education from the 90s was never designed to teach students how to think, but merely how to conform.

Mervyn 9 hours ago

The real alarming aspect in this sordid affair is not whether Climate Change is or is not occurring, or that the figures have been homogenised by BOM, the alarming trend is that Minister Hunt, a Minister of the Crown, seems quite comfortable in the first instance to cover up information, to lie and be deceitful to the public at a level that is blatantly totalitarian - this is the Nanny State revisited.

There seems to be a very uncomfortable collection of these instances surfacing more and more each day, time to put an end to it all.

P 9 hours ago

@Mervyn

No different to suppressing information that would "...undermine public confidence in..." the Police force/government/legal system/courts etc. etc..

Whenever I hear that phrase my immediate thought is that perhaps any confidence is misplaced.

Bob 9 hours ago

AGW is a faith based religion. No science required.

Paul 9 hours ago

AGW - anthropogenic global warming.

Steve 9 hours ago

As I see it, the situation is: (1) The climate models have failed to correlate with actual temperatures (2) the link between atmospheric CO₂ and temperature has not been proven, in light of the current pause in temps (3) the AGW brigade has shown itself to be anti-science, insofar as they shamelessly 'cherry-pick' weather events and hold them up as evidence of AGW, studiously ignoring events which seem to disprove AGW (4) too many instances of fraud

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by scientists in the AGW camp (i.e. the hockey stick debacle, homogenisation of data, the tree-ring saga) have been uncovered, thus seriously damaging their credibility (5) the old adage 'follow the money' clearly shows that there is a very real danger that huge amounts of government funding available to climate studies which support AGW further compromise the credibility of AGW research (6) many of the loudest advocates for reducing human consumption, and thus CO₂ emissions, live in mansions and travel extensively by luxury personal jets - another blow to the credibility of the AGW movement.

In light of the above, it is completely understandable that many people are sceptical of this huge money-go-round.

Ralph 9 hours ago

As a civil engineer I have supported Greg Hunt's direct action process as a practical solution to actually reducing real emissions and taking out of play the financial manipulators we have seen in the rest of the world, but to hear that he is "protecting" manipulation of the BOM's data is beyond belief. It parallels the sacking of the staff member who carried out a study of the tide levels and found that the past and future sea level rises were being apparently grossly exaggerated. If this is an example of Malcolm Turnbull's clarity and openness then it seems we may well be back to the future and headed for the shonky cap and trade deals so loved by the rent seekers and merchant bankers.

If there is one trait that government needs in this fast paced time of data manipulation it is honesty and placing the facts before the public to judge for ourselves the truth or otherwise of an argument.

Steve 9 hours ago

@Ralph I agree, and Hunt's support of the BOM is probably another indication that the Turnbull Government plans to silence as many critics as possible by effectively 'buying their silence'. We have seen already that Turnbull has caved in to the ABC, so the re-election plan seems to be, surrender to our critics in order to stay ahead in the polls.

Sandra 10 hours ago

Climate change is the greatest farce imposed on the earth's surface since time began. Why

certain scientists and individuals would seek to hoodwink millions of people in the interests of this scam is unknown, but it must be fought and fought hard. The brainwashing of our children is probably the greatest tragedy in all this. I guess it's just another way in which the Left can impose its will on the world.

Greg 9 hours ago

@Sandra

It's also the greatest con since time began. 100's of Billions wasted and entrenched and creates millions of poor people due to a lack of efficient, cheap electricity (i.e. coal).

Matthew 10 hours ago

It's all Tony Abbott's fault! Oh wait...

Terry 10 hours ago

The ABC does 'it', so why not the ABOM?

Jacinta 10 hours ago

To ensure that the bureau is and remains accountable, we won't hold it to account!

Another great slogan.

Peter 10 hours ago

The global surface temperature database has been absolutely corrupted beyond repair. The only reliable record is the satellite record.

Jonathan 10 hours ago

Thank you, Jennifer. Politicians and the rent seekers have too much at stake in terms of money and ideology to let the facts get in the way of the giant scam of global warming/climate change.

Thomas 9 hours ago

@Jonathan You seem to use the term 'rent seekers' without knowing what it means.

Who are the 'rent seekers' in this issue and in what sense are they using their market position to make excessive profits?

@Thomas

You are denying that individuals/organisations that would meet popular definitions of 'rent seeker' exist in the AGW community or just hoping that Jonathon can't answer?

Scott 8 hours ago

Ahm, the whole renewables rent seeking industry perhaps.

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Roderick 9 hours ago

Global Warming (aka Climate Change - they never acknowledge the possibility of Global Cooling) has become a religion. The same people who attacked people like Tony Abbott for his faith in Christianity demand that we take on faith that Global Warming is real.

The way to tell the difference between those in on this fake religion and the "true believers" is to follow the money.

Just goes to prove the old adage of "Lies, Damned Lies & Statistics".

Gerard 10 hours ago

Climate change is a scientifically flawed term. Surely the correct expression is "climate cycle"? And, we are always in the middle of one.

Peter 10 hours ago

@Gerard Climate Change is an OK term. The question is whether the current apparent heating of our climate is caused by either or both human activity or a natural cycle.

P 9 hours ago

@Peter

Or if the human factor (AGW) is measurable & what effect it might have over & beyond non-human factors

MrSceptic 10 hours ago

I have recently returned from an ABARE conference in Hamilton where the BOM person bumbled his way through some catastrophe weather warnings. But the information on which he gave his predictions were ominous. He claimed that the Bureau had now moved from a statistical approach to a more dynamic modelling approach (whatever that means). Then he showed a graph of just how much in error the Bureau has been in error.

Robyn 10 hours ago

@MrSceptic No surprises in anything you have stated.

Obsidian 10 hours ago

Hopefully this is the last gasp on this topic. Notice that Marohasy can no longer quote Judith Curry, the darling of the science denialist crowd. Why? Because Curry has a) conceded the importance and correctness of homogenisation and b) agreed that it actually

makes almost no difference to the underlying trend.

Let it go, Jennifer. You are just making yourself look more ridiculous. And to 'The Australian'? Thanks for the laugh.

Ian 10 hours ago

Errr... Did Judith Curry used to be the darling of the alarmist crowd until she realised they were making stuff up?

Obsidian 9 hours ago

@Ian Us "alarmists" were sad to see her go...but we understood. She now has a big lab with lots of enthusiastic young scientists, generously funded by the fossil fuel industry.

Mick 10 hours ago

@Obsidian Changing the actual recorded temperature readings may be something that is legitimate in a few special cases.

These adjustments should be detailed and documented, and have consistent bases for such adjustments (why, how much, when, etc. etc..)

This information is what is being withheld by BoM.

Marohasy and other qualified scientists are just asking - why?

Obsidian 9 hours ago

@Mick @Obsidian Yes Mick, it is legitimate to ask "why?". What she isn't telling you is that the question was answered long ago, and it has nothing to do with exaggerating heating trends (see my original comment about Curry). What is not legitimate is to keep raising it in the way Marohasy does here, as some sort of evidence of ideological skullduggery - the sad fact being that even Marohasy knows it is a dead horse - but it is apparently one of the few left she has to beat on.

The internet is full of conspiracy bloggers of all types. It's nice of The Australian to occasionally give them a larger audience.

P 9 hours ago

@Obsidian

You are not, by chance, claiming that all who take issue with the AGW community are conspiracy nuts?

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Obsidian 8 hours ago

@P @Obsidian No, "P". Sorry if I gave that impression. I know a number of non-scientists and scientists who hold highly sceptical views on the topic, and whose views are not based on conspiracy theory. Neither are they based on a deep personal understanding of the science. (Generally they are based on the opinions of someone else whose views they trust, combined with some limited reading on the topic, and also combined with a certain hip-pocket reflex.)

My own view, as a scientist (but not a climate physicist), is that the evidence is very strongly in favour of what the climate physics and climate chemistry community have been saying for the past two decades. Which is that we are conducting a vast uncontrolled experiment with the atmosphere, which puts many ecosystems at grave risk, including ecosystems that we as humans depend on. We also have the means to do something about it. And I also feel that the conspiracy bloggers are doing everyone a huge dis-service. And despite my previous facetious comment about it being nice of the The Australian to continually give these people a platform, I actually think it is unconscionable, especially as they don't give people any reason to question it (by providing any real professional counter-advice from proper experts).

Mick 9 hours ago

@Obsidian @Mick From my reading of Marohasy and other scientists' questioning of the many BoM adjustments made to actual historical records (Rutherglen as just one example), plausible answers as to the rationale have never been supplied. Obfuscation and deflection were the tactics applied by BoM.

Ian 9 hours ago

@Mick @Obsidian And by Obsidian above.

Obsidian 8 hours ago

@Mick@Obsidian Have you checked out the bureau's website? It is all explained quite clearly. And fully supported by an independent investigation and a study by an ARC Centre for Excellence. The only obfuscation is what you see in the Marohasy blog.

ian 8 hours ago

@Obsidian @Mick An ARC Centre For Excellence. Self-titled. You are aware that every tin-pot dictatorship in the third world describes itself as The Peoples' Democratic Republic of Nowherestan. Your post normal science is aided and abetted by post normal language, or what we used to call 'newspeak'.

Mick 6 hours ago

@Obsidian @Mick What the BoM state is that original records data have been changed.

This does not 'explain' anything - it is just a statement that they have effected these changes.

Lo 9 hours ago

@Obsidian Could you specify the studies you're quoting please Obsidian?

Obsidian 8 hours ago

@Lo @Obsidian Lo, you could start by picking up any issue of Journal of Climate, Journal of Atmospheric Physics and Chemistry, or any of the dozens of related journals, from the past 20 years...

nigel 8 hours ago

@Obsidian @Lo

In response to a request to "specify the studies" Obsidian responds with "any issue... or any of the dozens..."

That is not specification.

Obsidian 7 hours ago

@nigel @Obsidian @Lo Nigel... nor had I quoted any studies.

Kathleen 8 hours ago

Smooth words Obsidian but you are just appealing to authority. Jennifer is just asking an authority and its master to explain something and all she gets is a deflection. After 61 years on this planet I don't accept slippery answers from anyone.

Bradley 6 hours ago

@Kathleen One two, oo upper cut, one to the kidney, oo he's down, 1 2 3 4..

Obsidian 5 hours ago

@Kathleen Kathleen, I will copy/paste in the crux of what I said:

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"...we are conducting a vast uncontrolled experiment with the atmosphere."

That is not in dispute. Actually, the legitimacy of the homogenisation process is not in dispute, either. Jennifer is not just "asking a question and getting a deflection". She is questioning a very sound scientific process, which, moreover, she knows perfectly well is very sound, and pretending to get a deflection for the purposes of supporting her conspiracy theory. I'm a year older than you. Maybe when you reach my age you'll be able to spot this sort of thing when you see it.

jayess 3 hours ago

@Obsidian @Kathleen In saying Jennifer is questioning a very sound scientific process you demonstrate your own interpretation of what she actually wrote regarding homogenisation which was "I tried to explain to him on the phone last Thursday how the bureau didn't actually do what it said when it homogenised temperature time series for places such as Rutherglen." I am a lot older than you. Maybe when you reach my age you'll be able to spot this sort of thing when you see it.

Obsidian 1 hour ago

@jayess @Obsidian @Kathleen Jayess, I hope I do reach your advanced age. And when I do, I hope not to start speaking in non sequiturs, which is what your first sentence is. I wasn't talking about Jennifer talking to some News Corp journalist. I was talking about Jennifer barking at the moon.

d 10 hours ago

Thank you for a honest refreshing article. I have no doubt that bureaucrats will change scientific data to suit their needs and to keep a "climate change' industry going. The waste of money, the scams, the blind leading the blind so as to be seen as enlightened, and the arrogance of man to think he controls so much in the planet including the weather. Thankfully there are some in the media who can see that the Emperor has no clothes! Haven't droughts and floods been part of the Australian landscape for centuries?

Mark2 10 hours ago

Jennifer who?

Jonathan 10 hours ago

@Mark2 Do some research. Jennifer is well known as an expert on these issues.

Peter 10 hours ago

@Jonathan @Mark2 And from the IPA so without any right-left bias whatsoever.

Steve 10 hours ago

@Mark2 Why does it matter who Jennifer is? Do you need to check her name on your lists of sceptics? Seriously though, surely it is the content of her article that you should judge, not her qualifications? If you have a rebuttal of the matters she presents, let's hear it. That's how debating works.

Lo 9 hours ago

@Steve @Mark2 It's basically how science works too.

John 10 hours ago

@Mark2 PhD in Biology.

Patrick 9 hours ago

@John @Mark2 Surely that PhD is equivalent to Tim Flannery's in Palaeontology?

Mike 9 hours ago

@Patrick I've got a diploma in Electronics and can understand just about everything else I read. And when I don't I just ask questions. And one thing I have understood well is no one can predict multiple variable dynamic systems - no one: not the IPCC, nor the BoM.

Alfonso 10 hours ago

Great article.

Finally, facts and not emotions!!

Why shouldn't the BOM be subject to scrutiny? It's a public body and should be made to account for any "predictions"!

Glenn 10 hours ago

Climate change has been going on for millions of years; it is only the loony left that believes they can change climate change.

Peter 10 hours ago

@Glenn And only the loony right who would deny the possibility that it might be climate change. Head in the sand is head in the sand, whether the heads are of the right or left.

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P 9 hours ago

@Peter

It might...too bad about the lack of significant T rise, failed predictions & lack of 'false' tests.

Mike 9 hours ago

@Peter no one is denying the climate changes - sceptics are just seeking some real world evidence that man-made CO₂ is contributing to the claimed prediction that CO₂ causes dangerous global warming. No one has tabled any - not the CSIRO, not the BoM, not the UNIPCC, not the Royal Society - no one - all they have are models and as every good scientist knows models are not evidence unless they can predict past measured results over a period of time that befits the problem - and the models don't. In the meantime activists, politicians and the rent seekers are all marketing the matter to their advantage - fools are they that listen and don't seek the evidence.

jayess 4 hours ago

@Peter @Glenn Many things can be considered possible, but not probable. There is a difference you know.

Ralph 9 hours ago

@Glenn King Canute comes to mind!

Kevin 10 hours ago

It is incontestable on the practical evidence that most Western and socialist government weather agencies have engaged in homogenization of observed temperature records. Investigations have shown that the effect of these adjustments has been to lower earlier 20th century temp records, raise late 20th and now 21st century records. The effect is to elevate the slope of the variables in global temperatures to show a rise that confirms with the man-made "global warming" theory. It is nothing less than an international fraud.

As a practising Catholic, I detect that the Pope's joining of the words "climate change" with his central message of concern for the world's poor and the waste of scare resources by unending consumerism, has drawn attention from the worlds leftist media. What disappoints me is that there is no condemnation - including from the Pope - of the trillions of dollars wasted by western governments, particularly the USA, over three decades on trying to prove this failed

man-made warming theory that could have been directed to assisting the World's poor.

Mick 9 hours ago

@Kevin Applying the same principles of correlation used by climate alarmists to 'prove' CO₂ drives temperatures should mean that now that the pope supports AGW they should also now accept the 'fact' of immaculate conception.

Michael 10 hours ago

Government agencies hold the keys to past temperature records, and they know who their paymaster is.

President Eisenhower warned about in his 1961 farewell address. As he stated: "*The prospect of the nation's scholars by Federal employment, project allocations, and the power of money is ever present — and is gravely to be regarded. Yet, in holding scientific research and discovery in respect, as we should, we must also be alert to equal and opposite danger that public policy could itself become the captive of scientific-technological elite.*"

Robyn 10 hours ago

@Michael An excellent comment Michael.

Glenn 10 hours ago

Abbott is/was correct...Man made Climate Change is "crap ". The climate has been, and always will, change. Man pollutes, which we can correct, but we do not control or change the climate. However, there is a LOT of money to be made insisting that we are, and a LOT of sheep that will believe anything. Most must have slept through their physics classes at school.

Morag 10 hours ago

@Glenn Believe me Glenn, the vast majority have never attended Physics classes at school, and neither have their teachers. It's the Yarts that rule, these days.

Mick 9 hours ago

@Glenn What Abbott actually said was - "*some of the science around climate change is crap*".

And if anyone cared to consider many of the 'scientific' papers submitted about climate change, it is obvious Abbott was absolutely correct.

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Ross 10 hours ago

Nah, this story is just a beat up, their ABC said as much over the weekend; answers to these questions for a review of BoM data will never see the light of day, CC really is the new world religion, have faith people, have faith!!

Adam 10 hours ago

It seems the "settled science" is what the models tell us. But if the models can't replicate the past, they can't predict the future.

Grahame 11 hours ago

BOM - waste of space

Peter 9 hours ago

@Grahame Yes, let's sell off BOM to the private sector, along with the ABC. Then sell off any Govt Depts dealing in science.

Ian 8 hours ago

@Peter @Grahame Peter, agreed. Any science organisation which relies on government funding eventually become corrupted by its continuing need for that funding.

jayess 4 hours ago

@Ian @Peter @Grahame I have to disagree with you there. A science organisation will become corrupted if the funding source will make a profit from its research. By contrast, at its peak some forty to fifty years ago, the CSIRO was a first class organisation and wholly government-funded.

Debra 11 hours ago

AGW=too many people on the planet!

Right! said Fred 10 hours ago

Oh so correct and so not PC

Lo 9 hours ago

@Debra In what way exactly? Are they standing too close together?

Peter 11 hours ago

Evolution, including human, has been driven and shaped by a changing climate. It is the barometer of the ebb and flow of life and a driver of success or failure of thousands of species. Some of the most successful animals simply died out because climate changed their environment and they did not or could not adapt. But the debate was shifted to

anthropomorphic driven change because if offered the ALP and the Greens a window to capture a new policy platform as well as opening the door to increased taxation revenue to cauterise the huge outflow of uncontrolled spending. This became a battleground for the Left to claim moral ground and all and any reasoned argument about the truth of climate change was derided and still is. The fact is damaging our power structure by undermining traditional coal production has left Australia poorer and the population without its advantage for a better future. For this we can thank Gillard and Rudd plus the Greens for grasping for power at our expense. It is tragic that even the BoM was dragged from its impartial role and is now exposed for its political tinkering with science.

Jeremy 11 hours ago

I think this is pretty simple. It's not about world UN government or other conspiracy theories. It's about plain old money!

The government and hyperactive lobby groups like the renewables industry stand to gain billions of dollars if people are scared that the world is warming.

Australia should be acknowledged as a world leader in the efficient use of energy. Instead we are punishing our fellow citizens with high energy costs that have ZERO net impact on the climate.

Keep it up Jennifer.

Peter 9 hours ago

@Jeremy

"The government and hyperactive lobby groups like the renewables industry stand to gain billions of dollars if people are scared that the world is warming. "

Whereas the fossil fuel industry and their hyperactive lobby groups stand to retain billions of dollars if people are scared that renewable energy structures cause sickness etc.

Quite simple really.

Mal 11 hours ago

Look, all scientist figures are 'fudged' because of the political connection to the departments that run them; they have to follow the money to get their funding - if the best bets are on

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following the G.W scare then that's where they lean, although once people started to cotton-on, to question, they changed their rhetoric to Climate Change - no more Global Warming. Just read the leaked e-mails from IPCC. Is it really conceivable to even the least intelligent punter that this claimed Climate Change trend is caused 97% by man?! That leaves natural bush-fires, the massive expanse of the oceans, volcanoes above & below the oceans, animals emissions AND solar activity etc. falling into a mere 3%. It's preposterous...UNLESS they fudge the figures to suit their persuasion. I just read with interest an article that claims there is still running water on Mars but that Mars was affected by "major climate change" over a billion years ago. So here are scientists swaying us to accept that CC can (by inference) kill a planet - trouble is Mars is further from the sun than we are. Then what was Mars' CC caused by - it wasn't 97% anthropomorphic I can guarantee you that! Like Patrick Moore (founder of Greenpeace) says - Climate Change is a constant from day one & we really have no idea what actually causes it, but there is no legitimate evidence that it is caused by man. Whether it is or it isn't NO scientist can truly say based on evidence thus far. It's ALL theory, (failed) modelling & conjecture.

Rick 11 hours ago

Abbott was holding public servants to account, but Turnbull decided to walk away from it.

Epic fail by Turnbull.

Sean 11 hours ago

@Rick Turnbull didn't really *fail*. He doesn't want to find anything wrong with the climate hype. He is a leftie and a true believer.

Brian 11 hours ago

Sadly, the naysayers are winning. Oh don't get me wrong, it is high time that the world was bought to account for the rubbish and pollution that we now have. But any thinking person would realise this is the greatest sleight of hand ever pulled. Packaging, throw away everything and the quest for faster and more powerful cars among a myriad of other things has and still is creating mountains of rubbish for the world to deal with. What we strive for on one hand becomes a problem on the other. The only losers are the man on the street.

Climate change.....yes, probably occurring, but natural. There is a growing list of institutions that have been discredited because of unreliable reporting, bodgie data and human manipulation of the true facts, starting with the so call be all and end all, the UN. Clean up the world by all means, but this almost irrational construction of a world on the brink is starting to wear a bit thin.

Bruce 11 hours ago

aka Sunray

Thank you Jennifer, for an informative, accurate and honest article, which will not be forthcoming from the World Government, through global warming phalanx. Sadly the "settled science" is not empirical science, just political science. I don't know how, but these criminal racketeers, including Hunt, need to be dragged kicking and screaming before a "sterilised" court.

john 11 hours ago

Fiddled records are not facts or useful data.

Richard 11 hours ago

The Gen X's who were brainwashed at school about climate change are now young to middle aged adults and too fixed in their beliefs to accept that science is now presenting us with new information that contradicts the strict relationship between CO₂ density and temperature. These inflexible belief systems are also leading to unquestioned homogenisation of BOM records.

It is time to throw out the consensus of belief and replace it with proper science. If BOM has nothing to hide; then why are they hiding all their methodology and refusing to be transparent or to engage in scientific debate and investigation. Greg Hunt should be ashamed.

john 9 hours ago

@Richard

Hunt is a fuzzy warmist and they are anti-science.

Hadyn 11 hours ago

Keep up the good work Jennifer. Data is data, whether the BOM likes it or not. Once homogenised, it is no longer data. And furthermore, it is certainly not a record of observations.

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john 9 hours ago

@Hadyn They got away with homogenising milk don't let them get away with homogenising weather records.

Louise 11 hours ago

Doesn't sound like an inquiry. Sounds like Hunt got a few handpicked people together for a presentation on how wonderful BOM are followed by lunch. If Hunt was more worried about protecting the reputation of BOM than making sure the methods they were using were beyond question, then it strongly suggests he was worried that a real audit would reveal damaging insights.

The argument that what they are doing is consistent with methods used overseas and therefore benchmark, is questionable if you read the Climategate emails. In these emails they were actually complaining about the quality of the Australian temp/data record and how when there were gaps they just filled in a number. Sharwood trying to say that this evidence is inadmissible because of the way it was acquired says something about the strong need to hide from the truth.

Thank you Dr Marohasy for your perseverance. The more they obfuscate and denigrate you and your work as a research scientist, the more it suggests you are hitting a nerve.

Gabe 11 hours ago

It would be scandalous if: "a thorough investigation of the bureau's methodology was prevented because of intervention by Environment Minister Greg Hunt. He apparently argued in cabinet that the credibility of the institution was paramount".

Yes, the credibility of the institution is paramount. A review of the data is now crucial to remove doubts and maintain credibility in both the Bureau and now, it would seem, even the minister.

Like King Canute, Greg Hunt must surely realise that the weather, like the tides, doesn't work by edict.

CRISP 12 hours ago

If BOM have nothing to hide, then simply publish on the web both the raw and adjusted data for all stations, then provide an explanation for each particular station as to why its

temperature was adjusted. Exact site locations must also be provided.

What have they to fear? The truth perhaps?

Peter 11 hours ago

@CRISP The statistical data both raw and adjusted would have to be public property. I would be interested in any reasons they may have for not disclosing it, in an accessible functional format.

Glenn 10 hours ago

@Peter @CRISP Maybe corruption, hey Peter

Christine 9 hours ago

@CRISP Indeed. Sunlight is a wonderful disinfectant.

Peter 12 hours ago

Changing the historical record is a pretty massive thing to do, especially when there is such a massive political campaign to justify global warming expenditure. The BOM data needs to be audited. Two separate teams.

JJ 12 hours ago

The politics are now settled. Anyone who doesn't toe the line is now a denier and , right wing rump. I say, get on board. It is clear that MT is clearing the deck, for a new impoverishment tax on CO₂. It will probably mean the net transfer of real, gouged and borrowed tax money from Australia to higher emissions countries like China, The progressive will, of course, intercept a significant proportion. You just need to find a way of joining this gravy train.

Andrew 12 hours ago

Well said Ms Marohasy. I am sure most Australians have no idea how important a role is played by the BOM in their everyday lives, but the simple day to day result wheels fell off for us bushies a decade ago, for reasons not known to us. Then we hear of Climategate!

Throw into that mix the Chicken Little theories of no more rain, no more South Australia and so on, you have a recipe for a lot of voting with our feet.

If they say it's raining.....we look out the window first.....which is perhaps what BOM should do a bit more of?

jayess 4 hours ago

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@Andrew BOM staff can't look out the window; mostly they are working in windowless air conditioned basements peering at their computer screens.

Rob 13 hours ago

Aha! The Aus trots out the IPA's tame biologist to tilt at that naughty BOM.

Still no space provided to the side of science, still no balance.

But I suppose it plays well to the base...

lindsay 12 hours ago

@Rob That's why you are here. Make your point and support BOM if you will or can

Rob 11 hours ago

I'm not a climate scientist, neither is the author. That was my point.

Address it, if you can.

John 10 hours ago

@Rob The author is a research scientist working on rainfall prediction. I'm sure that's climate science. It was this research that led to her finding the ambiguities in the BoM's temperature record.

Sean 10 hours ago

@Rob Neither is Tim Flannery, but I'll bet you accept his alarmist rubbish.

Sandra 9 hours ago

@Sean @Rob Is Tim Flannery still making money or is he in jail?

LAWRENCE 10 hours ago

@Rob Read Jennifer's website if you want to understand (and appreciate) her credentials

Sean 10 hours ago

@Rob I worked in a calibration lab for thirteen years and know enough about the treatment of data to know that the BoM and others on the climate-change bandwagon, are doing the diabolical. No matter what the field of science is, data is data. If the data is being corrupted, manipulated or massaged, you can forget the rest.

James 9 hours ago

@Sean @Rob Hi Sean. I think an interview of yourself by the Australian's journalists could be quite interesting!

Robert E 7 hours ago

Why don't you address her points and rebut them if you can.

Peter 13 hours ago

"...the panel did not work through a single example of homogenisation, not even for Rutherglen". That seems to say it all.

Dick 10 hours ago

@Peter And we all know that Rutherglen is the centre of climate science fudging.

Keith 15 hours ago

BOM will regain some credibility when they can accurately forecast the weather in two weeks' time.

Phillip 14 hours ago

@Keith Better still try the next day

Terrence 15 hours ago

When I hear that July, August, and maybe September are the hottest ever recorded, well 20 years ago I would have believed it, but now I have no idea what to believe. I find the pretty sad actually.

Ted 10 hours ago

Terence, My aging bones, and those of my wife and ALL of my friends tell us that this winter has been a cold one.

My electricity bill also reflects the fact that the heater has been running overtime during this period.

Dick 10 hours ago

@Ted Your ageing bones, and those of your wife and friends, do indeed tell you that this winter has been a cold one. Those same bones, thirty or forty years ago, would have thought that it had been a bracing winter, but not a particular cause for complaint.

Older people feel the cold more, Ted. That's why so many of them end up moving north in their retirement years.

Sean 9 hours ago

@Dick @Ted

There you go. And I thought it was a cold winter, especially when, for the first time, I saw frost on my roof. Thank you, Dick.

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Sandra 9 hours ago

@Dick @Ted Every night on the TV weather forecast, we are told that tomorrow's temperature will "feel like" something different to what it actually is. Is this scientific and is this even permissible since it's a guess? How scientific is this? What's more, we don't know who makes this guess - is it a 20 yr old or an arthritic 70 yr old? For me, this is when weather forecasting became stupid and a point at which to turn off the TV. The BoM has some explaining to do and mostly it involves treating people like fools.

Phillip 16 hours ago

Findings from the latest review panel.

"The Forum concludes that ACORN-SAT is a complex and well-maintained dataset....The Forum recognises that homogenisation plays an essential role in eliminating artificial non-climate systematic errors in temperature observations so that a meaningful and consistent set of records can be maintained over time. There is a need to adjust the historical temperature record to account for site changes, changes in measurement practices and identifiable errors in measurement. The Forum considers that the analyses conducted by the Bureau reflect good practice in addressing the problem of how to adjust the raw temperature series for systematic errors"

Additionally and importantly:

"In the opinion of the Forum members, unsolicited submissions received from the public did not offer a justification for contesting the overall need for homogenisation or the scientific integrity of the Bureau's climate records".

So please save us from any more of this scientific nonsense from the IPA, the previous peer review and the latest expert review all validate the BOM.

Frank 15 hours ago

@Phillip I see the words "peer" and "scientists" and ask: is this a consensus view?

Lincoln 15 hours ago

Jeez, you can be a political SCIENTIST that don't mean you know anything about weather patterns, and peer review has no credibility if

the reviewers are pre disposed to your IDEOLOGY!

You can defend this non-science all you like but when I was a kid it was called weather, then to go and spend 20millions on a super computer as the bureau did but not be happy with its failure to conform and then adjust the "variables" to suit your political agenda is not SCIENCE.

Island effect is the easiest way to MANIPULATE collected weather data, if the readings don't suit Gaia move the collection area to a more ideological suited area, then harass lightweight Hunt (I notice his portfolio didn't change so he's obviously protecting the bureau and providing Gaia Turnbull with the pseudoscience needed to protect the LNP from their ABC) into climate action ahead of Paris, where let's not forget the people still urinate in the streets, what a perfect place for AGW in the toilet!

Phillip 14 hours ago

@Lincoln BOM do not use UHI impacted sites in ACORN.

Jonas 16 hours ago

Is the raw unadjusted data still available for our temp stations? Or have they thrown it away, like the BOM's do overseas.

It would be good to see an Australian long term temp record using raw data. Sure it will have some errors and issues, but these errors will average out over time. In fact, due to urban heat island effects, this raw data will still have an upwards bias throughout the last 50 years. But it will no doubt be more accurate than what the BOM is giving us.

Lincoln 14 hours ago

The raw data is buried in the credibility grave with common sense, for surely if you're "tweaking" the raw data then it's not conforming to your spin.

Paul 16 hours ago

Honest men are getting few and far between, do any of you know any?

John 16 hours ago

Good article Jennifer. The only scientist in the Government, Dennis Jensen, should be more vocal in his scepticism of the Global Warming

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hoax, especially since he supported Turnbull over a fellow GW sceptic, Tony Abbott.

Gerry 17 hours ago

Jennifer,

great reporting, keep up the quest for the truth

Antonio 17 hours ago

As a volunteer reporter to BOM since 1968 it is impressed on us to meticulously measure and report rainfall.

It does bother me to know that the bureau massages the figures to be consistent with their ideology.

The day to day weather predictions are questionable, yet they confidently predict climate change! Really?

Antonio's Wife

Right! said Fred 17 hours ago

Mr Hunt, what part of "fudged figures" do you not have a problem with?

Chris 12 hours ago

@Right! said Fred For Hunt to intervene virtually says it all. They were fudging!