Global warming: 10 reasons to be sceptical

Referenced version of an article published in the Dominion Post on 5 March 2015 entitled "Hypothetical global warming: scepticism needed"

We are constantly told that man-made carbon dioxide has caused global warming that will bring doom and disaster in a few years. These predictions are largely based on the output of computer models, rather than observations of what is happening in the real world. Always remember the parental advice: "Believe nothing of what you hear and half of what you see". One should always be sceptical and, in science, nothing is more important.

Here are 10 reasons why the public should be cautious of the hypothesis that man-made carbon dioxide causes dangerous global warming.

1. The five internationally accepted temperature records – three surface and two satellite – show that the world has not experienced any significant warning over the last 18 years even though atmospheric carbon dioxide increased by 10%. Claims that 2014 was the warmest year don't mention that the increase in temperature was a miniscule 0.02° and the more accurate satellite records show that it was not the warmest year.

   111 of the IPCC's 114 climate model runs failed to predict this lack of warming. In most branches of science, when the theoretical predictions do not line up with the observations, the hypothesis is abandoned. In climate science, the observations are discounted or ignored. We can now be confident that man-made carbon dioxide does not cause dangerous global warming and that the predictions of computer models of the climate are worthless. (1)

2. Global sea ice area is well above the 1979 – 2013 average. In the Arctic it is close to average extent and in the Antarctic it is at the highest level since 1979. Once again, there is a large disparity between the computer based predictions of ever increasing loss of sea ice and reality. (2)

3. Sea levels are rising steadily at between 1 and 3 mm per year as they have done for the last 100 years. According to satellite measurements it rose at 4.1 mm per year from 1996 to 2006 but only 2.75 mm per year from 2006 to 2014. In New Zealand, tectonic movements have a far greater influence on sea levels. (3)

4. Polar bear populations have increased from about 5000 to 25,000 since hunting was restricted in 1970. A population that can recover that quickly in spite of 700 per year still being hunted can hardly be threatened. Various experts claim that the population is now increasing, steady, or decreasing. Take your pick. (4)

5. Coral atolls are not disappearing beneath rising oceans. The highly accurate tide gauge at Tuvalu shows that sea level rise is minimal. Tuvalu certainly does have problems, but they are not due to rapidly rising sea levels. 15,000 years ago sea levels were rising at 3 m per century and coral atolls and the Great Barrier reef survived this rapid rise thus proving that they can cope with rapid sea level rise. (5)

6. Glaciers are retreating in some areas and advancing in others but we do know that 5000 years ago the European Alps had less ice than now and the Canadian tree line lay further north. It has all happened before! (6)

7. Historical records show that the world was warmer during the Middle Ages Warm Period. This is supported by many peer-reviewed papers and recent records from fossil giant clams in the Pacific Ocean. Warming in the Bronze, Roman and Middle Ages Warm periods led to prosperity and progress. (7)

8. Ocean “acidification” is supposed to be a dire threat to marine life. In fact, the ocean is alkaline and is at no more risk of becoming acidic than you would get from putting a teaspoonful of sulphuric acid into a bucket of caustic soda. Recent analysis indicates that the ocean has become more alkaline since 1910 and that there are quite large fluctuations in the short term. (8)

9. Plants cannot grow without carbon dioxide and the increased levels of carbon dioxide have boosted plant growth worldwide by 11%without the need for additional water. The agricultural benefit to the world is valued at trillions of dollars. Modern greenhouses burn natural gas to double the carbon dioxide concentration and hence increase production by 40%. (10)

10. Droughts, floods and cyclones are often claimed to have increased because of global warming. But an IPCC study shows that the frequency of droughts has hardly changed and cyclones have declined. (9)

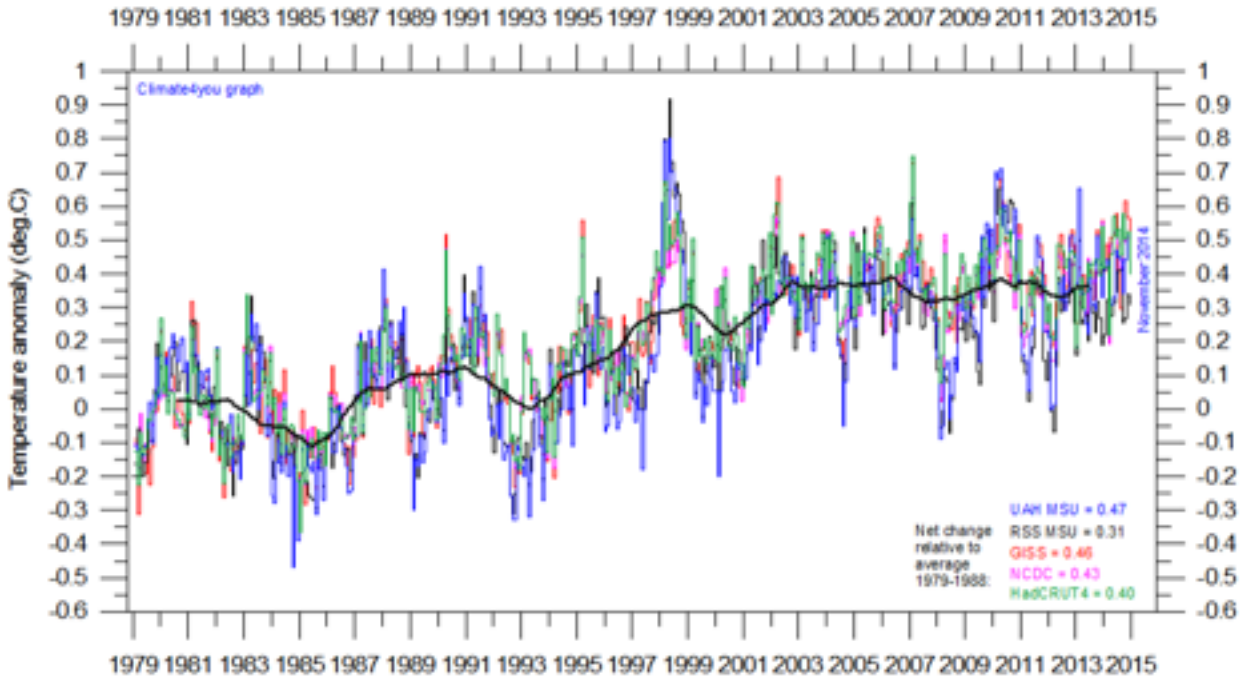
What can we expect in the future? The only honest answer is that nobody knows. The British Meteorological Office has predicted that the present lack of warming will continue until 2018 at least. Scientists who study natural climate cycles and the effect of the sun and sunspot cycles on the climate believe that there is a high probability that the world has – or soon will – enter a cooling cycle. If this happens and history repeats itself, we will be faced with famine, disease and war.

Most mainstream climate scientists agree that 2° of warming would not be harmful so let us hope that temperatures stay constant – which is most unlikely – or warm enough to get us back into the situation during the Middle Ages Warm Period.

The obvious conclusion is that the science is not settled. As Dr Pachauri, Chairman of the IPCC, stated in a recent interview, open debate is needed.(11)

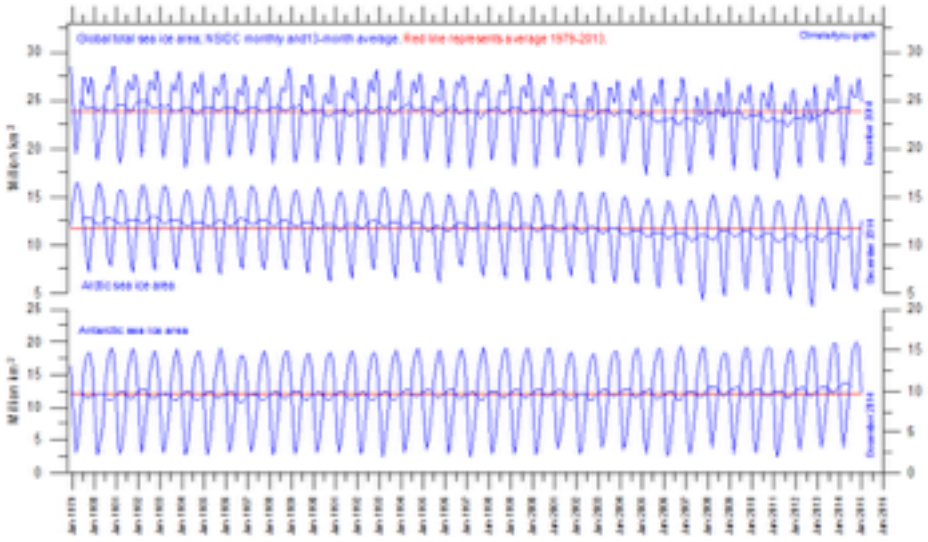
The media needs to start encouraging intelligent, evidence-based debate between all those with an interest in current and future climate trends.

(1) http://www.drroyspencer.com/2014/02/95-of-climate-models-agree-the-observations-must-be-wrong/



Superimposed plot of all five global monthly temperature estimates shown above. As the base period differs for the different temperature estimates, they have all been normalised by comparing to the average value of their initial 120 months (10 years) from January 1979 to December 1988. The heavy black line represents the simple running 37 month (c. 3 year) mean of the average of all five temperature records. The numbers shown in the lower right corner represent the temperature anomaly relative to the above average. See also the diagram below. Values are rounded off to the nearest two decimals, even though some of the original data series come

(2) climate4you.com



Graphs showing monthly Antarctic, Arctic and global sea ice extent since November 1978. The area covered by sea ice is defined as having at least 15% sea ice cover. Thin blue lines show monthly values, and thick blue lines show the simple running 13 month average. The red lines show the 1979-2013 average. Data kindly provided by the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC). Last month shown: December 2014. Latest figure update: 4 January 2015.

(3) http://sealevel.colorado.edu

(4) http://www.ibtimes.com/polar-bear-population-higher-20th-century-something-fishy-about-extinction-fears-821075

(5) http://www.bom.gov.au/pacific/projects/pslm/index.shtml

(6) http://www.lpc.uottawa.ca/publications/pdfs/NQue_Snapshots.pdf http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.co.nz/2013/07/paper-finds-alps-were-nearly-ice-free.html

(7) http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/05/hottest-year-ever-giant-clam-reveals-middle-ages-were-warmer-than-today/

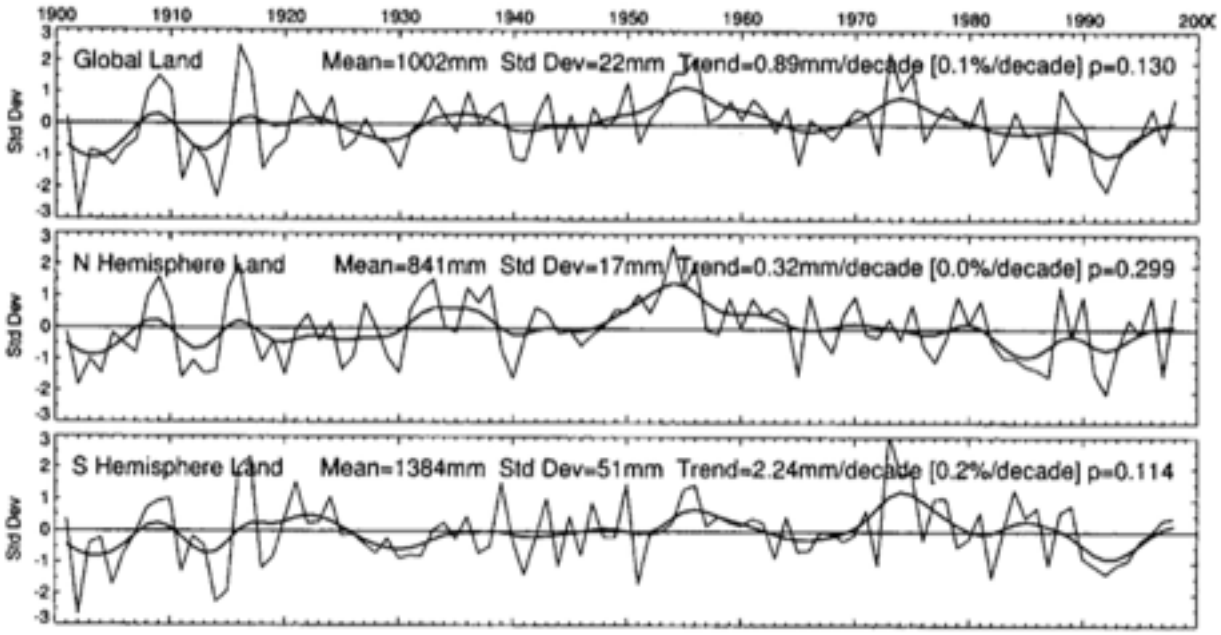
(8) http://www.breitbart.com/london/2014/12/23/noaagate-how-ocean-acidification-could-turn-out-to-be-the-biggest-con-since-michael-manns-hockey-stick/

(9)
Statements from the IPCC AR5 WGI Chapter 2 on extremes.

- “Overall, the most robust global changes in climate extremes are seen in measures of daily temperature, including to some extent, heat waves. Precipitation extremes also appear to be increasing, but there is large spatial variability"
- "There is limited evidence of changes in extremes associated with other climate variables since the mid-20th century”
- “Current datasets indicate no significant observed trends in global tropical cyclone frequency over the past century … No robust trends in annual numbers of tropical storms, hurricanes and major hurricanes counts have been identified over the past 100 years in the North Atlantic basin”
- “In summary, there continues to be a lack of evidence and thus low confidence regarding the sign of trend in the magnitude and/or frequency of floods on a global scale”
- “In summary, there is low confidence in observed trends in small-scale severe weather phenomena such as hail and thunderstorms because of historical data inhomogeneities and inadequacies in monitoring systems”
- “In summary, the current assessment concludes that there is not enough evidence at present to suggest more than low confidence in a global-scale observed trend in drought or dryness (lack of rainfall) since the middle of the 20th century due to lack of direct observations, geographical inconsistencies in the trends, and dependencies of inferred trends on the index choice. Based on updated studies, AR4 conclusions regarding global increasing trends in drought since the 1970s were probably overstated. However, it is likely that the frequency and intensity of drought has increased in the Mediterranean and West Africa and decreased in central North America and north-west Australia since 1950”
- “In summary, confidence in large scale changes in the intensity of extreme extratropical cyclones since 1900 is low”.

Farming, Fishing, Forestry, and Hunting in an Era of Changing Climate: Hearing Before the

Figure 14.[129]

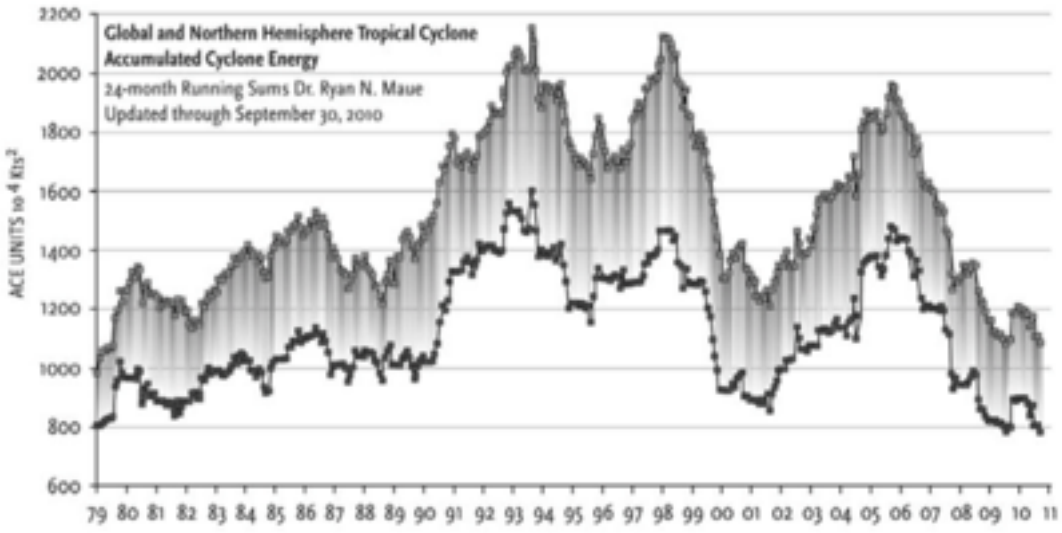


Graph: Precipitation for the globe and both hemispheres for the Twentieth Century (from Figure 3 of New et al. (2001). p-values indicate that none of these trends are statistically significant.

Subcomm. on Green Jobs and the New Economy of the S. Comm. on Env't and Pub. Works, 113th Cong. 2 (2014) (testimony of Dr. David R. Legates).

Ryan Maue, *Global Tropical Cyclone Activity Update*, POLICLIMATE, http://www.coaps.fsu.edu/~maue/tropical (last visited Sept. 2, 2014).

Figure 18.[136]



Graph: Global and Northern Hemisphere tropical cyclone energy 1979 to 2010.

(10) [77] Farming, Fishing, Forestry, and Hunting in an Era of Changing Climate: Hearing Before the Subcomm. on Green Jobs and the New Economy of the S. Comm. on Env't and Pub. Works, 113th Cong. 5 (2014) (responses to questions for the record of Dr. David R. Legates).

[78] Id. at 4 (Figure provided by Dr. Sherwood Idso, President, Ctr. for the Study of Carbon Dioxide and Global Change).

Figure 6. [78]

Picture: Dr. Sherwood Idso showing the effect of carbon dioxide on spruce trees under different atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations.

(11) http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nothing-off-limits-in-climate-debate/story-e6frg6n6-1226583112134