

4.18 Comments on Land Court case Exhibit 51 – Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority’s Strategic Assessment Report, 2014

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) report provides no empirical evidence of human causation of global or regional climate change yet repeatedly implies damage from human causation and warns of severe damage in the future.

It contradicts empirical evidence.

Professor Hoegh-Guldberg has worked for GBRMPA. Its report cites and relies upon a total of 40 references that he has authored or edited. More than half the titles of those references mention ‘climate change’, ‘carbon dioxide’ or ‘ocean pH’ (“acidification”).

In circular attribution, GBRMPA relies on Professor Hoegh-Guldberg’s unsubstantiated claims and he relies for credibility on the GBRMPA.

Prominent among the GBRMPA report’s references is the UN IPCC Working Group One report that seems to be crucial in the GBRMPA’s climate claims. This extends the circular attribution to Professor Hoegh-Guldberg—GBRMPA—UN IPCC.

Further, A/Prof Malte Meinshausen is co-author of the Land Court case’s Exhibit 33 and author of Exhibit 35. He is a contributing author to the UN IPCC’s Working Group One Chapter 1 from which Exhibit 50 is taken. That exhibit forms a crucial part of Professor Hoegh-Guldberg’s testimony yet relies on schematics, not evidence. Chapter 1 contradicts empirical evidence.

This extends the circular attribution to Professor Hoegh-Guldberg—GBRMPA—UN IPCC—A/Prof Malte Meinshausen with all deriving credibility from others in the co-dependent circle. Yet none has empirical evidence of human causation.

Instead of circular endorsements through each other’s references, there is a need to return to empirical evidence and to understanding the logic necessary to establish causation of climate variability.

The GBRMPA’s assessment states, quote: “*The northern third of the Great Barrier Reef Region is in good condition, but inshore areas below Cooktown are in decline.*” One would think that ‘perilous’ *global* warming and climate change would be damaging all sections of the reef including offshore and northern, not just the central and southern.

The fact though is that there is no process change (ie, exceptional variation) in global temperatures or climate. Nor is there any process change (ie, exceptional variation) in any climate drivers or factors. There is only ongoing inherent natural variation superimposed on cyclical variation and seasonal variation. This is explained in the accompanying Section 4.4.

The GBRMPA report’s disclaimer makes for interesting reflection: Disclaimer
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The GBRMPA's 2014 Assessment Report's section 5.2.2 'Climate Change' being pages 5–4 to 5–8 accompany. Please note its reliance on the UN IPCC's claims and UN IPCC qualitative descriptions of confidence and its complete lack of evidence for its assumption that human production of carbon dioxide causes global climate variability. The GBRMPA report's section 5.2.2 entitled *Climate Change*, being the report's pages 5–4 to 5–8, is available through this link: <http://elibrary.qbrmpa.gov.au/jspui/handle/11017/2861>

Corals have lived on Earth for 500 million years and have been through far greater climate variability and variability in atmospheric carbon dioxide levels than have occurred in recent times.

During the last 20,000 years the Great Barrier Reef itself has negotiated a rise in sea level of as much as 120 metres and then a further 60 metres. Interestingly, these facts are easily and publicly available and at least one source credits GBRMPA with providing this information.

Clearly, as there is no evidence of climate change, much less human causation, the GBRMPA's report raises serious questions about the GBRMPA. It makes broad, speculative, false and misleading claims contradicting empirical evidence.

Experienced and respected marine biologist Walter Starck's recent article raises serious questions about GBRMPA's lack of empirical evidence and contradiction of empirical evidence. His article is available here: <http://quadrant.org.au/opinion/doomed-planet/2015/09/fishy-tales-great-barrier-reef/> **His article's last four paragraphs are particularly enlightening.**

Another of his articles entitled *It's the science, not the reef, that is being polluted* raises serious issues about GBRMPA and is available at: <http://www.onlineopinion.com.au/print.asp?article=16659>

Biological oceanographer Alan Longhurst with 50 years experience was apparently originally swept up in the assumption that carbon dioxide from human activity affects global climate. After more careful examination of the science he is now sceptical of his initial belief. His concerns are detailed in his newly released book raising serious doubts and issues. Although not comprehensive it does show the effect of starting to objectively question initial beliefs that rely only on assumptions. Pages 1-9 and *Section 11.2 Conclusions*, pages 236-239 accompany. His book is available at: <https://curryja.files.wordpress.com/2015/09/longhurst-clean.pdf> He confirms Professor Carter and co-authors identifying the prominence of decadal atmospheric-ocean interaction cycles proven to control climate.

Please note that Alan Longhurst does not include assessment of satellite temperature measurements that are the most accurate measure of global atmospheric temperature. Nor does he consider weather balloon radiosondes temperature measurements, the other accurate measure of global atmospheric temperature. Instead, he relies only on ground-based measures of atmospheric temperatures and correctly acknowledges some of their serious deficiencies that many scientists have documented publicly and credibly. For example, see *CSIROh!* Appendices 4 and 7 that accompany.

The GBRMPA's report liberally uses words and phrases such as "could", "potential to impact", "may affect", "suggest", "projections", "predictions", "it is thought" in ways that tend to convey the illusion of certainty. The GBRMPA implies that cyclones are caused or at least worsened by human production of carbon dioxide although there has been no statistical change in cyclone severity or frequency. The incidence of cyclones and higher intensity cyclones

are both lower now than 40 years ago. A of 0.1 variation in pH levels appears to be a matter of concern to GBRMP yet is much less than inherent natural variability. It is not of any concern to experienced experts from the fields of marine biologist, geology and palaeoclimatology.

Despite there being no empirical evidence that human production of carbon dioxide affects global climate, GBRMPA claims impacts of such effects. Nonetheless, politically the GBRMPA 2014 Assessment Report and its 2014 Program Report would be highly effective in justifying funding to GBRMPA.