AGENDA 21: POLITICIANS SHUTTING THE DEBATE DOWN

Response of the Shadow Minister for Climate Action, Environment and Heritage To Agenda 21

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SYNOPSIS

This paper is about <u>Agenda 21</u> and its implementation in Australia. Its primary purpose is to examine the implementation process and assess its democratic foundations and whether the politicians have permitted Australians to make an informed democratic choice. Claims by Greg Hunt, the **Shadow Minister for Climate Action, Environment and Heritage** that Agenda 21 is a *20 year old, dead, non-binding declaration* which he *had never heard of until 1 year ago*, are tested and compared to the facts as established from extensive government documentation.

Using extensive cited documentation, combined with personal correspondence documented in the Appendix, the following fundamental facts have been established.

- 1. Agenda 21 and associated imported sustainability programs are shown to have been implemented extensively and pervasively, and by both major political parties and by all 3 levels of Government in every state of Australia for nearly 20 years. AG21 has penetrated from Canberra to local communities everywhere. It shapes our legal system, our economic system, our environmental system, our political system, and even the education of our children. It is not possible to imagine a more massive political policy, yet it is consistently excluded from the electoral agenda and the official policies of all major parties. Agenda 21 is the most massive far reaching political policy in the history of Australian Federation yet it is being enforced upon us, and our democratic right to choose has been consistently denied by both major political parties.
- 2. The evidence indicates the consistent political refusal to publicly declare AG21 policy has been deliberate. All major parties have shown a consistent determination to implement Agenda 21 as undeclared or covert policy. As a result, community ignorance about AG21 and its implications are widespread. This refusal to inform Australians and enable them to make an informed electoral choice constitutes a deliberate attack on democracy and the freedom to choose.
- 3. Although pervasively embedded into government (undeclared) policy at all levels, when directly questioned about AG21 our elected 'representatives' go to extraordinary lengths to either avoid the subject or pretend it is not being implemented. From all my enquiries, not one politician or bureaucrat eagerly responded by openly detailing the many 'advantages' of AG21, or the ways in which the tentacles of AG21 are being implemented through the various government departments. Implementation of Agenda 21 is based upon a failure to accurately and truthfully inform Australians. It is based upon deception and trashing of democracy.

Since the facts are perfectly clear, the questions must be answered: Why does the **Shadow Minister for Climate Action, Environment and Heritage** feel the need to deny implementation of a policy far bigger than any other policy, a policy which has been implemented throughout Australia for 20 years? When will the Shadow Minister, the Liberal Party, and all our elected 'representatives', reveal the truth? When will they restore democracy and enable Australians to make an informed choice? And how does the Liberal Party propose to protect national sovereignty,

human rights, and property rights, while at the same time surrendering control to foreign agencies?

Although I have given the **Shadow Minister for Climate Action, Environment and Heritage** every opportunity to explain his position, and the position of the Liberal Party, as yet (March 2013), he has failed to respond to the issues I have raised. He has yet to express any concern whatsoever about the denial of democratic rights implicit in the implementation of AG21. **His decision that it is best to remain silent rather than explain is highly incriminating and, in my view, further consolidates the attack on truth and democracy.**

This is a massive scandal and it is why our politicians are desperately trying to shut the debate down. It is a scandal that dwarfs even the CO2 tax and climate change.

The Shadow Minister for Climate Action, Environment and Heritage has claimed ignorance about AG21, a claim he can no longer make. But yet he continues to refuse to answer my questions about the Liberal Party's AG21 policy at the next election. Why?

A 'PLANET SAVING' PROGRAM WHICH IS SIMPLY TOO GOOD TO PUBLICISE

In recent decades Australians have been increasingly sold out by their political 'representatives' who now increasingly represent big business and global political organisations such as the UN rather than Australian citizens. Nowhere is this better exemplified than the implementation of the UN Agenda
21 program which has been implemented by both major parties for twenty years without giving Australians a democratic choice. AG21 is an 'embedded' policy and therefore there is no need to declare it to voters or give them a democratic choice. And the mainstream media, predominantly controlled by global interests, also remains complicit in this mass deception.

One person who is at the forefront of Australian politics and should be well informed about bipartisan 'environmental' initiatives such as AG 21, is Greg Hunt, currently the **Shadow Minister for Climate Action, Environment and Heritage.** Between 1994 and 1998, *Greg worked as a senior adviser* to the then Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Downer. In 2004 he became Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Environment and Heritage and in January 2007 was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs. After the November 2007 Federal election, Greg was appointed Shadow Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Urban Water, a role that brought together the great interests of his time in parliament. In September 2008 his role was expanded to include all water responsibilities. In December 2009 Greg's role was expanded once more when he was appointed Shadow Minister for Climate Action, Environment and Heritage.

Greg has clearly been well situated, over a long period of time, to observe the implementation of AG21 first hand. The following account details Greg's inability to respond, or deliberate determination not to respond, to simple questions about the implementation of AG21.

In my correspondence with Greg Hunt I asked the following questions with his partial responses in blue below (see Appendix A for full details).

1. When your government warned in their <u>2006 State Of the Environment (SOE) report</u> that councils around Australia were exceeding their legislative authority in implementing Agenda 21, what steps did you or the Liberal party take to prevent this?

Did you lobby the state parties? Did you or the party follow this up? What action was taken? Do you still agree with this assessment?

2. So what will your Agenda 21 policy be should you win government? Will you be seeking to work with the Premiers to discipline Councils which are implementing Agenda 21? Or will you be more proactive and encourage Premiers to introduce legislation banning Agenda 21, as is occurring overseas?

To summarise.

Fact 1

Agenda 21 is being implemented nationwide by state governments and councils. Do you deny this?

Fact 2

Though you claim that "I had never heard of it raised once during the entire period of the Howard Government in the party room or in ministerial discussions" in fact it was included in the 2006 State Of the Environment (SOE) report under your watch. Do you deny this?

Fact 3

Since the <u>continuing implementation of AG21</u> is a simple fact, this raises serious questions about who is taking political responsibility for this since the electorate has never been given a democratic choice and politicians, like yourself, deny knowledge of it even though bureaucrats under their portfolio are implementing it (as is clearly evidenced from enclosed) Do you deny this? Part of the problem of course was the decision by successive governments that Australia needed an imported sustainability program, one that was designed by a foreign agency and was monitored by the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD and part of UN). Of course, governments, such as the Howard government, were required to send annual implementation reports to the CSD.

Response from Greg Hunt.

"There is nothing to ban. It is a 20 year old non binding declaration.

I can honestly tell you that I had never heard of it raised once during the entire period of the Howard Government in the party room or in ministerial discussions.....

For the final time i had never heard of the issue, heard it raised by Ministers, MP's or constituents until 19 years after the thing was apparently signed...... Given that for the first 19 years the issue appears to have escaped both of our attention can I respectfully suggest that the discovery of a dead, irrelevant declaration 19 years after the fact may cause everyone to be calm..... I will respectfully draw this engagement to a conclusion and encourage you from here to approach State based Governments as we have no powers over local Governments."

So according to Greg, AG21 is a "20 year old non binding declaration", it is a "dead, irrelevant declaration" and he has "never heard of the issue, heard it raised by Ministers, MP's or constituents until 19 years after the thing was apparently signed." Greg then advised me he no longer wished to discuss it saying he wished to "draw this engagement to a conclusion".

In my subsequent unanswered response I drew Greg's attention to the Government's web site:

If you look on the Government's web site

http://www.environment.gov.au/about/international/uncsd/index.html#agenda21 you will see "Australia's commitment to Agenda 21 is reflected in a strong national response to meet our obligations under this international agreement."

I then asked Greg: "Is this what you mean by a dead irrelevant declaration?"

So although the Government states it is implementing AG 21 with a "strong national response to meet our obligations under this international agreement", according to Greg "it is a 20 year old non-binding declaration" or "dead agreement" which he has never heard of until recently. Where on earth has he been? Greg's blatant denial of both our "strong national response" and our "obligations", even after 20 years of implementation throughout Australia, is indeed alarming.

As Greg should also be aware, Agenda 21 is the cornerstone (1, 2, 3, 4) of the Commonwealth Government's *National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development* which states:

"the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 provide a broad framework for global sustainable development."

As pointed out by <u>Bayside Council's 2003 submission</u> into the Commonwealth Government's <u>Inquiry</u> into Sustainable Cities 2025:

"Australia's National Strategy for ESD provides a national framework for the implementation of Agenda 21. The National Strategy fulfils the obligation Australia entered into in Rio De Janeiro to implement Agenda 21."

<u>Bayside Council</u> further emphasised the importance of implementation of AG21 at state and local council level:

"Victoria does not have a separate ESD or sustainability statement. There are, however, a series of statutory and non-statutory tools and programs that implement the National Strategy, and Australia's obligations under Agenda 21, at a State level. State environment protection policies, Flora and Fauna Guarantee Action Statements and the Victorian Planning Policy are examples of the statutory (legal) tools...... LA 21 provides the context for all the operations of a local authority. It is not a discrete program which sits alongside strategies for waste management, parks and gardens, transport planning and community services. Rather, the vision of sustainability and the goals and targets of LA 21 should set the direction for all of the activities of local authorities. In this sense, it is an umbrella program, a strategic long term framework for directing action towards sustainable development."

Two years later, in 2005, Victoria introduced their Victorian Local Sustainability Accord.

Further, Australia was required to report to the <u>United Nations CSD</u> every year with comprehensive reports regarding Australia's implementation of this so-called or supposed "dead" "non-binding" AG21 agreement (5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13). For instance, in 1996, when Greg was working as senior advisor to Alexander Downer, the Australian government obediently issued their report to the UN regarding implementation of AG21:

Australia's report to the UNCSD – 1996 Implementation of Agenda 21 Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories, 1996 ISBN 0 6422 4868 0

About this Report

What is a national report?

Countries report to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in response to a decision of the first CSD meeting, held in June 1993, to request all countries to provide annual voluntary information. National reports focus on national measures to give effect to the commitments to Agenda 21 entered into at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992.

The commission further decided that the information to be provided by countries in 1994, 1995 and 1996 should concentrate on those issues scheduled for discussion at the CSD's meetings in those years. Together, these three reports will form a comprehensive national response to Agenda 21. The CSD uses national reports to measure, in broad terms, international progress towards the implementation of Agenda 21. It also tries to develop a database of priorities, approaches and impediments which could be relevant to developing further international responses to issues of sustainability.

How Was This Report Written?

The preparation of this report was overseen by an editorial committee composed of the following members:

National (Commonwealth Government) members:

- the Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories (convenor);
- the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet;
- the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- the Department of Primary Industries and Energy; and
- the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).

The final report was approved by the following Ministers:

- the Minister for the Environment, Senator the Hon Robert Hill;
- the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Alexander Downer MP;
- the Minister for Primary Industries and Energy, the Hon John Anderson MP; and
- the Minister for Resources and Energy, Senator the Hon Warwick Parer.

So, under Greg's watch as senior advisor to Alexander Downer, Alexander Downer approved the annual report relating to implementation of the "dead" AG21 agreement which Greg now claims he had never heard of. But similar reports were issued every year (5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14). So this 'dead' 'non-binding agreement' continued to be implemented for 20 years in line with the Government's "international agreement".

To underline the astounding degree to which Greg is apparently unaware (or unwilling to admit?) of the workings of government when it comes to AG21 it is only necessary to check the enormous resources devoted to complying with the United Nations implementation and reporting requirements (9):

Please find attached the national information provided by your Government to the CSD in 1998. Kindly update as appropriate.

Part I

UNCSD - NATIONAL LEVEL COORDINATION STRUCTURE OF AGENDA 21 ACTIONS (Fact Sheet - CSD 1999)

1. Key National Sustainable Development Coordination Mechanism(s) (e.g, Councils, Commissions, Inter-Ministerial Working Groups).

Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Working Groups

The principle of sustainable development is now broadly accepted and built into the working programs of the key bodies of national governance which bring together the National and State governments. An example of these key bodies are Ministerial Councils, including:

Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC)

Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand (ARMCANZ)

Australian and New Zealand Minerals and Energy Council (ANZMEC)

Ministerial Council on Forestry, Fisheries and Aquaculture (MCFFA)

Australian Transport Council

2. Membership/Composition/Chairperson

2a. List of ministries and government agencies involved:

Agencies involved in COAG are:

Commonwealth Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
New South Wales Cabinet Office
Victorian Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Queensland Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Western Australian Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet
South Australian Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Tasmanian Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Northern Territory Department of the Chief Minister
Australian Capital Territory Chief minister's Department

Other Ministries that contribute to other coordination mechanisms such as the Ministerial Councils include:

Australian Greenhouse Office

Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Heritage

Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

New South Wales Environment Protection Authority

New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service

New South Wales Department of Land and Water Conservation

New South Wales Fisheries

New South Wales State Forests

Victorian Environment Protection Agency

Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment

Queensland Department of Natural Resources

Queensland Department of Primary Industries

Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage

Western Australian Department of Environmental Protection

Western Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management

Western Australian Fisheries

South Australian Department of Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs

South Australian Department of Primary Industries and Resources
Tasmanian Department of the Primary Industries, Water and Environment
Northern Territory Department of Lands, Planning and Environment
Northern Territory Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
Australian Capital Territory Department of Urban Services

2b. Names of para-statal bodies and institutions involved, as well as participation of academic and private sectors:

A range of groups may be consulted on an issues basis, including:

Association of Australian Ports and Marine Authorities Inc., Australian Local Government Association, National Academies Forum, National Environmental Law Association, Royal Australian Planning Institute, Australian Business Chamber, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Australian Industry Greenhouse Network, Sustainable Technologies Australia, Australian Chamber of Manufacturers, Australian Institute of Petroleum Ltd, Minerals Council of Australia, National Association of Forest Industries, National Farmers' Federation, Plastics and Chemicals Industries Association, Business Council of Australia, The Institution of Engineers, Australia, Pulp and Paper Manufacturers Federation of Australia, Environment Management Industry Association of Australia, Waste Management Association of Australia, Australian Seafood Industry Council, Recfish Australia, Australian Automobile Association, Australian Coal Association, Australian Gas Association, Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association Ltd., Electricity Supply Association of Australia, Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries, Metal trades industry Association, Road Transport Forum, Tourism Council Australia

2c. Names of non-governmental organisations:

A number of non-government organisations are consulted on an issues basis, including:

Australian Council for Overseas Aid, Australian Conservation Foundation, Greenpeace Australia, World Wide Fund for Nature, OzChild, Australian Council of Social Services, Australian Council of National Trustees, Australian Marine Conservation Society, Australian National Parks Council, Humane Society International, Clean Up Australia Ltd., Keep Australia Beautiful Association, Birds Australia, National Toxics Network, Urban Ecology Australia Inc., Ecological Society of Australia, Environs Australia, Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales, Queensland Conservation Council, Conservation Council of South Australia, Conservation Council of Western Australia, Tasmanian Conservation Trust Inc., The Environment Centre Northern Territory, CONSERAC, Victorian National Parks Association

Among the United Nations questions subserviently answered by the Australian government regarding the implementation of Agenda 21 are the following (9):

Please respond below with either a yes, no, or in process:

National Decision-Making Structure

Does your country have:

- 1. National Sustainable Development Coordination Body: Yes.
- 2. National Sustainable Development Policy: Yes.

National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development http://www.erin.gov.au/epcg/esd/nsesd/index.html

- 3. National Agenda 21/other strategy for sustainable development: Yes.
- 4. Local/Regional Agenda(s) 21: Yes
- 5. Environmental Impact Assessment Law: Yes.

Australian EIA Network http://www.erin.gov.au/net/eianet.html

6. Major Groups involved in Sustainable Development Decision-Making: Yes.

National Instruments and Programmes

Does your country have:

1. Sustainable Development or Environmental education incorporated into school curricula: Yes. Australian Environmental Education Network http://www.environment.gov.au/education/education.html

And the UN also requires to know of course, the various ways in which energy and land use are being controlled and restricted by AG21 (9):

Policies, Programmes, and Legislation

Does your country have either a policy, programme, and/or legislation consistent with Agenda 21 in: **4. Land Use Planning: Yes.**

National Strategy for Ecological Sustainable Development

http://www.erin.gov.au/epcg/esd/nsesd/index.html

Regional Forest Agreements http://www.rfa.gov.au

Natural Heritage Trust. http://www.nht.gov.au

National Wilderness Inventory.

http://www.environment.gov.au/portfolio/ahc/nwi/source/t_2.htm#nwi

Best Practice in Environmental Management in Mining booklets.

http://www.environment.gov.au/ssg/pubs/mining_booklets.html

National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity

http://www.environment.gov.au/portfolio/esd/biodiv/strategy/contents.html

National Land and Water Resources Audit http://www. nlwra.gov.au

17. Energy: Yes.

'Safeguarding the Future: Australia's Response to Climate Change'.

http://www.environment.gov.au/portfolio/esd/climate/pmstate.html

Sustainable Energy Policy for Australia Green Paper.

http://www.dpie.gov.au/resources.energy/energy/greenpaper/greenpaper.html

Australian Greenhouse Office. http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/markets

Australian and New Zealand Minerals and Energy Council (ANZMEC).

http://www.dpie.gov.au/anzmec

Minerals & Petroleum, Resources Policy Statement

http://www.dpie.gov.au/resources.energy/policy/

statement_2feb98/index.html

Implementation of Agenda 21 around the world, as noted above, has been monitored by the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) annually for 10 years (15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20), the CSD being comprised of member states, including despotic dictators, who have been overseeing Australia's compliance! The CSD is now being dissolved however, to be replaced by a high level political forum (21) to be established in 2013, as described in the Rio+20 document, The Future We Want (sections 84-86). ECOSOC will become responsible for sustainability & Agenda 21. The Australian government approves of these changes.

All of this astounding subservience to the UN, funded by tax payers, is proceeding without the democratic approval of the Australian people, and apparently, without the knowledge of Greg Hunt.

But it gets worse since Greg Hunt claims "we have no powers over local Governments." Greg failed to mention the 1998 Commonwealth Government report, <u>Environmental indicators for national state</u> <u>of the environment reporting – Local and Community Uses</u>, which draws attention to the role of councils in Agenda 21:

"The Commonwealth State of the Environment Reporting system supports the National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development and helps Australia meet its international obligations, such as those under Agenda 21 and the OECD environmental performance reviews....... Local Authorities play a vital role in drawing the community attention to environmental indicators. The first step would be for LGAs to start to use indicators and report on them in their annual reports. This would be valuable in assisting the development of an Agenda 21 style of local authority management (Galloway 1997)."

Greg also is apparently unaware of former Minister for Environment Robert Hill's endorsement of the Commonwealth's Local Agenda 21 guide for councils. According to the Minister:

"In 1992, the United Nations released a ground-breaking action plan for sustainable development called Agenda 21. Agenda 21 is a blueprint that sets out actions we can all take to contribute to global sustainability in the 21st century. It recognises that most environmental challenges have their roots in local activities and therefore encourages Local Governments to promote local environmental, economic and social sustainability by translating the principles of sustainable development into strategies that are meaningful to local communities. This process is called Local Agenda 21 (LA21). The importance of LA21 was recognised in June 1997 by APEC Ministers for Sustainable Development when they set an APEC-wide target of doubling the number of Councils with LA21s by 2003. At the time there were approximately 61 councils in Australia with LA21 programs in place. The importance of local ESD has been further recognised by Environment ministers from all Australian jurisdictions (meeting as the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC)) when they agreed to encourage the implementation of LA21 in their own jurisdictions in order to meet the APEC LA21 target in Australia. In July 1999 ANZECC Ministers agreed to encourage LA21 in their jurisdictions through an ANZECC LA21 Achievement Award. The award will promote LA21 by recognising best practice and raising the profile of LA21 amongst Local Government.

Since the Pathways to Sustainability Conference in June 1997 and the release of the Newcastle Declaration, we have seen the growth of Local Agenda 21 initiatives and the LA21 movement in Australia. Moving ahead on sustainable development is not an easy task but it is essential to secure Australia's future. Australia needs leadership on sustainable development and many Australian Local Governments are providing that leadership...We are now starting to see strong synergies in Australia between LA21 and other sustainable development issues like greenhouse gas emission reduction, integrated coastal management*, biodiversity conservation* and the objectives of the Natural Heritage Trust."

*Note: both these 'initiatives' are being used in Australia to control land use and effectively steal private property rights.

Apparently, according to Greg Hunt, Robert Hill was endorsing a manual for a "dead" program targeting local councils when Greg points out himself that we have no powers over local Governments. Robert Hill could certainly have benefited from Greg's advice!

Agenda 21 is even dictating standards of sustainable tourism with <u>Green Globe 21</u> (22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27). Joe Hockey, then Minister for Tourism, awarding the first Green Globe certification in the world in 2002 (23), but then Greg must have been unaware of this also.

GREG, ICLEI, & COUNCILS

Implementation of Agenda 21 or Local Agenda 21 (LA21) at the local council level is promoted by ICLEI, the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, the name now being changed to Local Governments for Sustainability. In fact, Section 7.21 of Agenda 21, specifically recommends

involvement with ICLEI. According to Maurice Strong in the <u>Local Agenda 21 Planning Guide</u>, "The task of mobilizing & technically supporting Local Agenda 21 planning in these communities has been led by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) & national associations of local government." <u>ICLEI supports</u> the "Cities for Climate Protection Campaign & the Local Agenda 21 Initiative."

The UN Tentacles of ICLEI in Local Councils

ICLEI "will continue connecting cities and local governments to the United Nations and other international bodies" and ICLEI will "serve as a global entry point for cities and local governments to engage with the United Nations and international and national policy processes" and will "pursue more radical solutions." ICLEI will "Advocate direct access to climate finance and other funds by local governments and an inversion of climate finance mechanisms to enable the implementation of needs-driven local development."

<u>ICLEI will</u> promote "Management of global environmental goods" such as" Climate, Biodiversity, Water, Food." In other words, ICLEI intends to convert them to controllable tradeable commodities. <u>ICLEI will</u> promote "Municipal planning and management" or, in other words, they will help councils control land use.

<u>ICLEI will</u> promote Local Agenda 21, that is, ICLEI will continue to assist councils to undemocratically implement foreign UN monitored sustainability programs.

Given this background of ICLEI and their importance in promoting AG21 at the local government level, it is indeed interesting to note that Greg has been an active participant in this process.

In <u>2005 Greg Hunt presented an ICLEI certificate to Penrith City Council</u>, another council which has incorporated AG21 into their <u>sustainability strategy</u>, for their participation in the <u>ICLEI Cities For Climate Protection</u> program. According to <u>Jackie Greenow</u>, <u>Mayor of Penrith</u>:

"Council's joining of the Cities for Climate Protection Plus Program (CCP Plus), and its piloting of the CCP Plus Organisational Review, was formally recognised by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) at the Local Government Managers Association National Congress in Canberra on Monday, 23 May 2005. This recognition acknowledges the commitment of Penrith City Council, and the contributions to these valuable programs by the Council staff involved.

The certificate recognising Council's participation was presented by the Honourable Greg Hunt MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Environment and Heritage, and Maria Simonelli, Executive Manager ICLEI Australia/New Zealand.As a partner with ICLEI and several other local, state and federal agencies in Australia and

New Zealand (the 'Alliance'), Council is assisting in the development of international sustainability guidelines for public agencies. We are also working with ICLEI to integrate Council's adopted United Nations Environmental Program principles into the Strategic Plan, and develop sustainability performance measures for the City, and for Council as an organisation."

Of course, all this is carried out undemocratically, even the presenter of the above award being apparently kept unaware of the sovereignty and freedom threatening aspects of enforcing undemocratic imported UN sustainability programs. In spite of this, Greg has long been active in environmental programs for councils through his involvement as Executive Director of South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA), formerly the Western Port Greenhouse Alliance (WPGA). Apparently "ICLEI Members in Australia are part of the Planet Savers Program" which was administered by Greg through his role in SECCCA and WPGA:

"Greg Hunt, Executive Officer for WPGA said, "We've been running Planet Savers for a number of

years now. This year the response and enthusiasm of the staff and students is incredible."

SECCCA comprises the eight south eastern Victorian councils, Bayside, Kingston, Frankston, Mornington Peninsula, Casey, Cardinia, Bass Coast, & Baw Baw. Of these 8 councils, Bayside (28, 29), and Baw Baw (30, 31) have openly incorporated Agenda 21 into their local plans and strategies while Bass Coast, Cardinia and Frankston, are members of ICLEI. Of the remaining 3 councils, Kingston (32) and Mornington Peninsula (33, 34), have adopted the ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) program while Casey Council is a participant in the ICLEI program, Cities for Safe and Healthy Communities (35). All 8 councils either admit their plans are based upon AG21, or else they are directly involved with the AG21 promoting organisation, ICLEI. As noted by Baw Baw Council in Appendix 2 of their Climate Change Strategy, their Local Agenda 21 initiatives are monitored by the United Nations CSD. But did Baw Baw council (and all the other councils around Australia) advise ratepayers that they had decided to surrender control to a foreign agency? Or was this an undemocratic decision which was simply enforced local constituents?

The electorate that Greg Hunt represents in federal parliament includes or is near all these council areas.

Greg Hunt also addressed the <u>ICLEI Local Government Leadership Forums in Melbourne and Hobart in 2009</u> and the <u>ICLEI Local Adaptation Pathways Program Forum Report</u> in June 2011.

Bearing in mind that the Federal Government, State Governments, and local councils around Australia, all admit they have been implementing AG21 for a decade or more, it is absolutely astonishing that Greg should liken it to a "green left conspiracy":

"Can I ask if you honestly think that John Howard was involved in some global Government Green left conspiracy?"

It should be noted that the word "conspiracy" is commonly used by people wanting to discredit or deflect questions. Interesting that Greg would ask such a question when he has just recently discovered his colleagues have apparently been concealing AG21 from him for nearly 20 years! There are many more important questions such as:

- Why are politicians undemocratically forcing imported sustainability programs upon Australian citizens while at the same time attempting to shut the debate down by pretending it is not happening?
- Why is it so important to politicians that the people be prevented from having a democratic say regarding AG21?
- What is the Liberal Party's AG21 policy for the upcoming election?
- Will they be banning imported sustainability programs such as AG21?
- Will they be giving residents a democratic choice or simply opting to continue implementing this program covertly and undemocratically?
- What actions will Greg take now that he knows the truth?
- How should politicians be penalised for the deceptive and undemocratic implementation of foreign sustainability programs such as AG21?

CONCLUSION

Extensive government documentation, and documentation from councils around Australia, confirms that AG21 is being implemented nationwide and this is being done without giving Australians a democratic choice. To deny this is to deny reality. Claims by Greg Hunt that AG21 is a non-binding dead agreement clearly contradict testimony by his own political party, as well as councils and bureaucrats. Greg, for some reason, is simply denying the truth, denying the facts.

Although I replied to Greg Hunt on 22nd December, and gave him every opportunity to explain, as yet (March 2013), he has failed to respond to the issues I raised. This is in spite of the fact that I cited well documented evidence from government sources (including his former government) confirming the extensive government resources used to comply with the implementation requirements of AG21 (see Appendix A). His decision that it is best to remain silent rather than explain is highly incriminating and in my opinion further consolidates the attack on truth and democracy.

If we are to believe Greg's claim of his complete lack of awareness of AG21 then the extreme level of incompetence that this would necessarily involve would immediately disqualify him from suitability for parliamentary office. Of course, should this be the case, then Greg, now his ignorance has been rectified, would be itching at the bit to now put things right by banning AG21. But alas, seems not to be the case. He has so far completely refused to answer any of my questions about the Liberal Party's AG21 policy at the next election.

APPENDIX A

Correspondence With Greg Hunt, Shadow Minister for Climate Action, Environment and Heritage

Unanswered email of 22/12/2012

Hi Greg,

Unfortunately, though you prefer to " draw this engagement to a conclusion", this matter is just emerging and will be a factor at the next election. Australians are looking for politicians with a commitment to Australia, not a commitment to importing everything, including UN sustainability programs. But Australians are also looking for a commitment to democracy, truth and political integrity, not backroom deals and covert undeclared policies in which they have no say. Ignoring these matters will fracture the conservative vote and encourage new parties.

I find it interesting that you mentioned global government and global conspiracy in regard to Agenda 21. I did not mention these terms or make this connection although of course I acknowledge an awareness of discussions about this, including discussions in the Federal parliament. I also acknowledge statements from the UN to the effect that the limitations of state sovereignty are restricting their global governance aspirations. I also acknowledge the simple fact that the independence and sovereignty of Australia has been progressively reduced over the past 2 decades by various political mechanisms. Are all these changes accidental or deliberate? You would know the answer to this better than I would. Suffice to say that successive governments conspicuously avoid arresting this process by strengthening our sovereignty and independence. What is your policy? More of the same? Or would you adopt a policy of strengthening Australia's sovereignty and independence?

Your question "Can I ask if you honestly think that John Howard was involved in some global Government Green left conspiracy" is curious and irrelevant. I find it interesting that you prefer to waste time with such a question and avoid all the real issues I raised. You seem to be more concerned about what you label 'conspiracies' than about the nationwide implementation of AG21 to which I referred. You seem more concerned with conspiracies than the warning your government issued about councils exceeding their legislative authority. And you expressed no concern whatsoever that according to legal experts AG21 is being used to destroy the traditional anthropocentric values of our legal system(see previous encl), even though, being a lawyer, you would be well aware of this. Are these legal experts all wrong?

When you describe AG21 as a "dead, irrelevant declaration", are you suggesting our laws are not being rewritten to endorse the ecocentric principles of AG21 as legal experts claim? And are you suggesting AG21 is not currently being implemented around Australia? And are you suggesting that your government was wrong when they acknowledged in their 2006 SOE report that AG21 is being introduced by councils?

If you look on the government's web site

http://www.environment.gov.au/about/international/uncsd/index.html#agenda21 you will see "Australia's commitment to Agenda 21 is reflected in a strong national response to meet our obligations under this international agreement." Is this what you mean by a dead irrelevant declaration?

You mentioned John Howard. As you must be aware, the Howard government complied with the dictates of the UN that they must send regular implementation reports to the UN to confirm the details of implementation ($\underline{1}$, $\underline{2}$, $\underline{3}$, $\underline{4}$, $\underline{5}$, $\underline{6}$, $\underline{7}$). Of course this was done undemocratically with no declared policy Australians could vote on.

These reports of course involved huge government resources and involved a huge number of bureaucrats and politicians as you can see here (8):

How Was This Report Written?

The preparation of this report was overseen by an editorial committee composed of the following members:

National (Commonwealth Government) members:

- the Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories (convenor);
- the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet;
- the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- the Department of Primary Industries and Energy; and
- the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).

State and Local Government members:

- a representative of the Government of the State of Victoria, nominated by the Intergovernmental Committee for Ecologically Sustainable Development to represent all States and Territories; and
- the Australian Local Government Association.

Non-government organisation members:

- the Australian Conservation Foundation;
- the Australian Council for Overseas Aid; and
- the Business Council of Australia.

Initial drafts of each chapter of the report were prepared by a Commonwealth Government department or agency with the relevant domestic responsibility. These drafts were provided to the editorial committee, all State, Territory and Local Government members of the Intergovernmental Committee for Ecologically Sustainable Development, and to approximately twenty non-government organisations (NGOs) with interests in the subject matter of the reports. Comments and suggestions from all groups were referred to the editorial committee and the report was finalised on the basis of the committee's recommendations.

The editorial committee took the view that, wherever possible, NGO suggestions on matters of fact or emphasis should be reflected in the body of the report. Where comments critical of government policy could not be accommodated in the official response to the CSD guidelines, text reflecting the comments provided by NGOs was agreed by the editorial committee and included in the report as an identified NGO comment.

The report was drafted prior to the March 1996 Federal election which brought about a change of government. It has been approved by the new Government as a document describing policies and programs which were in effect prior to or as at the end of 1995.

The final report was approved by the following Ministers:

- the Minister for the Environment, Senator the Hon Robert Hill;
- the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Alexander Downer MP;
- the Minister for Primary Industries and Energy, the Hon John Anderson MP; and
- the Minister for Resources and Energy, Senator the Hon Warwick Parer.

And again here (9):

UNCSD - NATIONAL LEVEL COORDINATION STRUCTURE OF AGENDA 21 ACTIONS

(Fact Sheet - CSD 1999)

1. Key National Sustainable Development Coordination Mechanism(s) (e.g, Councils, Commissions,

Inter-Ministerial Working Groups).

Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Working Groups

The principle of sustainable development is now broadly accepted and built into the working programs of the

key bodies of national governance which bring together the National and State governments. An example of

these key bodies are Ministerial Councils, including:

Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC)

Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand (ARMCANZ)

Australian and New Zealand Minerals and Energy Council (ANZMEC)

Ministerial Council on Forestry, Fisheries and Aquaculture (MCFFA)

Australian Transport Council

2. Membership/Composition/Chairperson

2a. List of ministries and government agencies involved:

Agencies involved in COAG are:

Commonwealth Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

New South Wales Cabinet Office

Victorian Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Queensland Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Western Australian Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet

South Australian Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Tasmanian Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Northern Territory Department of the Chief Minister

Australian Capital Territory Chief minister's Department

Other Ministries that contribute to other coordination mechanisms such as the Ministerial Councils include:

Australian Greenhouse Office

Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Heritage

Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

New South Wales Environment Protection Authority

New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service

New South Wales Department of Land and Water Conservation

New South Wales Fisheries

New South Wales State Forests

Victorian Environment Protection Agency

Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment

Queensland Department of Natural Resources

Queensland Department of Primary Industries

Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage

Western Australian Department of Environmental Protection

Western Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management

Western Australian Fisheries

South Australian Department of Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs

South Australian Department of Primary Industries and Resources

Tasmanian Department of the Primary Industries, Water and Environment

Northern Territory Department of Lands, Planning and Environment

Northern Territory Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries

Australian Capital Territory Department of Urban Services

2b. Names of para-statal bodies and institutions involved, as well as participation of academic and

private sectors:

A range of groups may be consulted on an issues basis, including:

Association of Australian Ports and Marine Authorities Inc.

Australian Local Government Association

National Academies Forum

National Environmental Law Association

Royal Australian Planning Institute

Australian Business Chamber

Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Australian Industry Greenhouse Network

Sustainable Technologies Australia

Australian Chamber of Manufacturers

Australian Institute of Petroleum Ltd

Minerals Council of Australia

National Association of Forest Industries

National Farmers' Federation

Plastics and Chemicals Industries Association

AGENDA 21: POLITICIANS SHUTTING THE DEBATE DOWN

AGENDA 2

Business Council of Australia

The Institution of Engineers, Australia

Pulp and Paper Manufacturers Federation of Australia

Environment Management Industry Association of Australia

Waste Management Association of Australia

Australian Seafood Industry Council

Recfish Australia

Australian Automobile Association

Australian Coal Association

Australian Gas Association

Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association Ltd.

Electricity Supply Association of Australia

Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries

Metal trades industry Association

Road Transport Forum

Tourism Council Australia

2c. Names of non-governmental organisations:

A number of non-government organisations are consulted on an issues basis, including:

Australian Council for Overseas Aid

Australian Conservation Foundation

Greenpeace Australia

World Wide Fund for Nature

OzChild

Australian Council of Social Services

Australian Council of National Trustees

Australian Marine Conservation Society

Australian National Parks Council

Humane Society International

Clean Up Australia Ltd.

AGENDA 21: POLITICIANS SHUTTING THE DEBATE DOWN

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Keep Australia Beautiful Association

Birds Australia

National Toxics Network

Urban Ecology Australia Inc.

Ecological Society of Australia

Environs Australia

Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales

Queensland Conservation Council

Conservation Council of South Australia

Conservation Council of Western Australia

Tasmanian Conservation Trust Inc.

The Environment Centre Northern Territory

CONSERAC

Victorian National Parks Association

3. Mandate/role of above mechanism/council:

COAG's objectives include increasing cooperation among governments in the national interest, and

consultation on major whole-of-government issues arising from Ministerial Council deliberations and on major

initiatives of one government which impact on other governments. Groups such as ANZECC, ANZMEC,

ARMCANZ, MCFFA report to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG).

When considering intergovernmental matters which have implications beyond the areas of responsibility of

Ministers on a Council, liaison between Ministerial Councils is carried out through the respective Chairs, to

ensure that relevant factors are taken into account. Chairs of Ministerial Councils may then report to Heads of

Government on issues which have major cross-portfolio or whole-of-government implications.

Submitted by

Name: Andrew Ross Signature:

Title: Director, Intergovernment Unit Date:

Ministry/Office: Environment Australia

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Your claims that AG21 is a non-binding dead agreement (and you are unaware of the above) clearly contradict testimony by your own political party and your own colleagues. You are, for some reason, simply denying the truth, denying the facts.

But it gets worse since you claim "we have no powers over local Governments." I notice you failed to mention former Minister for Environment Robert Hill's endorsement of the Commonwealth's Local Agenda 21 guide for councils. According to the Minister:

In 1992, the United Nations released a ground-breaking action plan for sustainable development called Agenda 21. Agenda 21 is a blueprint that sets out actions we can all take to contribute to global sustainability in the 21st century. It recognises that most environmental challenges have their roots in local activities and therefore encourages Local Governments to promote local environmental, economic and social sustainability by translating the principles of sustainable development into strategies that are meaningful to local communities. This process is called Local Agenda 21 (LA21).

The importance of LA21 was recognised in June 1997 by APEC Ministers for Sustainable

Development when they set an APEC-wide target of doubling the number of Councils with

LA21s by 2003. At the time there were approximately 61 councils in Australia with LA21

programs in place.

The importance of local ESD has been further recognised by Environment ministers from all Australian jurisdictions (meeting as the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC)) when they agreed to encourage the implementation of LA21 in their own jurisdictions in order to meet the APEC LA21 target in Australia. In July 1999 ANZECC Ministers agreed to encourage LA21 in their jurisdictions through an ANZECC LA21 Achievement Award. The award will promote LA21 by recognising best practice and raising the profile of LA21 amongst Local Government.

Since the Pathways to Sustainability Conference in June 1997 and the release of the Newcastle Declaration, we have seen the growth of Local Agenda 21 initiatives and the LA21 movement in Australia. Moving ahead on sustainable development is not an easy task but it is essential to secure Australia's future. Australia needs leadership on sustainable development and many Australian Local Governments are providing that leadership...

We are now starting to see strong synergies in Australia between LA21 and other

sustainable development issues like greenhouse gas emission reduction, integrated coastal management, biodiversity conservation and the objectives of the Natural Heritage Trust."

Are you suggesting that Robert Hill was also unaware AG21 is "dead"?

Let us be serious Greg. We both know AG21 is being implemented nationwide and this is being done without giving Australians a democratic choice. To deny this is to deny reality and suggest you are incompetent and unintelligent which I do not believe is so.

So let us move on.

Instead of constantly denying reality and arguing in the negative, what positive policies will you bring to the election to restore democracy and counter AG21. In the interests of Australian citizens, will you follow the American lead and ban all imported sustainability programs such as AG21?

Are you prepared to take positive action, or merely continue arguing and pretending reality is not happening?

I have been very patient and given you every opportunity only to have you insult my intelligence by denying simple facts.

Isn't Australia more important to you than that?

Regards

Graham Williamson

----Original Message-----

From: Hunt, Greg (MP) [mailto:Greg.Hunt.MP@aph.gov.au]

Sent: Friday, 21 December 2012 8:30 PM

To: Graham

Subject: Re: Mitigation strategy

For the final time i had never heard of the issue, heard it raised by Ministers, MP's pr constituents until 19 years after the ing was apparently signed. Given that you are int he same position we a subject to the same degree of knowledge.

Can I ask if you honestly think that John Howard was involved in some global Government Green left conspiracy? Given that for the first 19 years the issue appears to have escaped both of our attention can I respectfully suggest that the discovery of a dead, irrelevant declaration 19 years after the fact may cause everyone to be calm.

I respect your views and encourage you to find and approach any councils directly and to attend Council meetings to announce and denounce any actions which you believe are part of a global conspiracy.

I genuinely respect your rights on this front.

I will respectfully draw this engagement to a conclusion and encourage you from here to approach State based Governments as we have no powers over local Governments.

Sent from my iPad

On 21/12/2012, at 6:54 PM, "Graham" < grahamhw@iprimus.com.au> wrote:

Hi Greg,

My interest has gradually increased over the past 12 months as I have learned more about it. You can see the summarised results of 12 months research enclosed.

While I of course respect what you have said, it is very much at odds with reality as is evidenced by enclosed. Councils right around Australia are implementing Agenda 21 with the assistance of state governments. This is a simple fact. As you can see, state governments have even incorporated AG into the school curriculum. And your government has acknowledged councils continue to introduce it without legislative authority.

The fact that there is such extensive nationwide implementation of this program without politicians prepared to accept responsibility is an enormous problem in itself and raises serious questions. The fact that it is being implemented without being a binding agreement raises even more questions as to why this is so. As you no doubt realise however, experts have pointed out(including human rights commission) that non binding international agreements commonly end up being incorporated into state laws.

To summarise.

Fact 1

Agenda 21 is being implemented nationwide by state governments and councils. (see encl) Do you deny this?

Fact 2

Though you claim that I had never heard of it raised once during the entire period of the Howard Government in the party room or in ministerial discussions" in fact it was included in 2006 SOE report under your watch. Do you deny this?

Fact 3

Since the continuing implementation of AG21 is a simple fact, this raises serious questions about who is taking political responsibility for this since the electorate has never been given a democratic choice and politicians, like yourself, deny knowledge of it even though bureaucrats under their portfolio are implementing it (as is clearly evidenced from enclosed) Do you deny this? Part of the problem of course was the decision by successive governments that Australia needed an imported sustainability program, one that was designed by a foreign agency and was monitored by the CSD(part of UN). Of course, governments, such as the Howard government, were required to send annual implementation reports to the CSD.

You seem to be denying all this is happening and the politicians, bureaucrats, and other experts cited in the enclosed are all mistaken or not telling the truth. Is this correct?

Australians are very concerned about what is happening to this great country and when hundreds of politicians, bureaucrats and other experts say AG21 is being implemented and yet no current politician is prepared to accept responsibility or even give the people a choice, it reflects very poorly

upon the credibility of politicians. The clear impression is created that politicians are not to be trusted and I think you deserve the opportunity to correct this.

It will not be corrected by denial of the facts. You are after all, asking me to believe you had absolutely no idea about implementation of AG21 around Australia and even the warning in your government's 2006 SOE report.

Of course you are all busy with so many issues to attend to. You are however aware of it now.

What will your policy be regarding AG21?

Regards

Graham Williamson

From: Hunt, Greg (MP) [mailto:Greg.Hunt.MP@aph.gov.au]

Sent: Friday, 21 December 2012 5:59 PM

To: Graham

Subject: Re: Mitigation strategy

There is nothing to ban. It is a 20 year old non binding declaration.

Councils can use any number of excuses to justify their actions. The only thing that matters is whether it is within the State alas which control them.

I would also be interested to know at what point in the last 20 years yu formed the conclusion that this declaration was a gross threat.

I can honestly tell you that I had never heard of it raised once during the entire period of the Howard Government in the party room or in ministerial discussions.

Sent from my iPad

On 21/12/2012, at 5:44 PM, "Graham"

grahamhw@iprimus.com.au<mailto:grahamhw@iprimus.com.au>> wrote:

Hi Greg,

Thanks for that.

So what will your Agenda 21 policy be should you win government? Will you be seeking to work with the Premiers to discipline Councils which are implementing Agenda 21? Or will you be more proactive and encourage Premiers to introduce legislation banning Agenda 21, as is occurring overseas?

Regards

Graham Williamson

From: Hunt, Greg (MP) [mailto:Greg.Hunt.MP@aph.gov.au]

Sent: Friday, 21 December 2012 4:32 PM

To: Graham

Subject: Re: Mitigation strategy

Councils should not misuse a 20 year old agreement.

Sent from my iPad

On 21/12/2012, at 1:17 PM, "Graham"

grahamhw@iprimus.com.au<mailto:grahamhw@iprimus.com.au>> wrote:

Hi Greg,

Thanks for that.

And what about the warning issued by your government in the 2006 SOE report regarding councils exceeding their legislative authority by implementing Agenda 21? Did you or the party follow this up? What action was taken? Do you still agree with this assessment?

Regards

Graham Williamson

From: Hunt, Greg (MP) [mailto:Greg.Hunt.MP@aph.gov.au]

Sent: Friday, 21 December 2012 10:06 AM

To: Graham

Subject: Re: Mitigation strategy

No we do not endorse a per capita budget.

Sent from my iPad

On 21/12/2012, at 9:00 AM, "Graham"

grahamhw@iprimus.com.au<mailto:grahamhw@iprimus.com.au>> wrote:

Hi Greg,

As per enclosed, do you endorse the per capita approach to emissions (see encl)?

One other thing, when your government warned in their 2006 SOE report that councils around Australia were exceeding their legislative authority in implementing Agenda 21, what steps did you or the Liberal party take to prevent this? Did you lobby the state parties?

May I wish you and your family a safe Christmas and wonderful New Year.

Regards

Graham Williamson