

Climate Change (Emissions Trading and Renewable Preference) Bill

Submission by

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Forecasts of global warming are not scientific and should not be used for policy making

I am a forecasting researcher who has published a peer-reviewed journal article describing my audit of the methods used by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to make forecasts about global temperatures over the 21st Century (Green and Armstrong 2007). I do not claim to be an expert on climate, but I do claim that forecasts of dangerous manmade global warming are not scientific. In the absence of scientific forecasts, there is no more reason to believe that global average temperatures will increase over the 21st Century than there is to believe that they will decrease. It would therefore be irresponsible to take forecasts of global warming into consideration when formulating public policy.

My co-author, University of Pennsylvania Professor J. Scott Armstrong, and I independently assessed the procedures that were used by the IPCC to predict global warming against scientific (evidence-based) forecasting principles.

The forecasting principles are the summarisation of more than half-a-century of scientific research on forecasting in many fields. The work of summarizing the research was done by 39 authors and 123 reviewers for Professor Armstrong's 2001 book *Principles of Forecasting*. The principles are also available on the internet at forecastingprinciples.com.

The IPCC authors' seemed to be unaware of forecasting principles. The IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report provided sufficient information for us to make judgments on whether their procedures followed forecasting principles for just 89 out of 140 principles. Of the 89, the IPCC procedures violated 72 principles or 81%. Some individual principles that were violated are so important that violation of any one of them alone invalidates the IPCC's forecasts. With the cost of taking action on the basis of invalid forecasts so high in this situation, there is no good reason why efforts to forecast climate should not follow all relevant principles.

I oppose the Bill's imposition of unjustified costs on the people of New Zealand and wish to appear before the select committee to give evidence that the Bill is based on invalid climate forecasts.

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References

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- Green, K. C. and Armstrong, J. S. (2007), Global warming: forecasts by scientists versus scientific forecasts. *Energy and Environment*, 18, 997-1021. Available in full text from publicpolicyforecasting.com