

Email exchanges between Bryan Leyland and the Climate Commission during April/May 2020.

It started with a polite request that they provide convincing evidence that man-made greenhouse gases cause dangerous global warming:

From: Bryan Leyland <bryanleyland@mac.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 22 April 2020 11:09 am
To: Enquiries - Climate Commission <enquiries@climatecommission.govt.nz>
Subject: Climate change

Dear Sir/Mdm,

I, and my friends, have been trying to find convincing evidence (based on observational data) rather than computer programs that man-made greenhouse gases cause dangerous global warming. We have not been able to find it.

The fact that your Commission has been established, would indicate that this information is available to you and the government. Without it, there is no reason to be worried about the hypothesis that mankind has – or will – caused dangerous global warming.

I would also like to know whether or not the Commission will be taking note of Article 2 of the Paris Agreement that prohibits any action that would reduce agricultural productivity. Quite obviously, many of the policies promoted under “carbon zero” do just that.

Finally, will you be taking account of the fact that many of the policies proposed under “carbon zero” will increase worldwide emissions?

Kind regards,

Bryan Leyland

The Climate Commission responded:

On 30/04/2020, at 10:00 AM, Enquiries - Climate Commission <enquiries@climatecommission.govt.nz> wrote:

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora Bryan

Thank you for your emails and questions. Please find answers below.

The Climate Change Commission bases its assessment of the causes and impacts of climate change on the established peer-reviewed scientific literature, and the consensus of the world’s scientific community. The Commission is satisfied that the body of evidence of human-driven increases in global energy content is clear and unequivocal.

With respect to your questions relating to issues the Commission may consider, the Climate Change Response Act requires the Commission to consider a wide range of factors when developing its advice. In relation to the Commission’s advice on emissions budgets, these include New Zealand’s obligations under international agreements including the Paris Agreement, the real or potential implications of land-use change, and

that emissions budgets must be set with a view to contributing to the global effort to reduce emissions.

Kind regards

Maggie

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION

Engagement & Communications Team
E enquiries@climatecommission.govt.nz
W climatecommission.govt.nz

Bryan Leyland replied pointing out that there were problems with their response:

From: Bryan Leyland <bryanleyland@mac.com>

Sent: Friday, 1 May 2020 4:40 pm

To: Enquiries - Climate Commission <enquiries@climatecommission.govt.nz>

Cc: james.shaw@parliament.govt.nz

Subject: Re: [UNCLASSIFIED] Climate change

Dear Maggie,

Thank you for responding to my email.

I'm sorry to say that you have not really answered either of my questions.

You quote "... the consensus of the world's scientific community...". The fact is that science is settled on the basis of evidence from observations of the natural world not consensus. Consensus rules in politics: evidence rules in science. As it is a scientific matter, consensus should not even enter into the discussion. Many – maybe most – of the leading scientific discoveries were made by people who went against the consensus. These people include Galileo, Einstein, Newton, Semmelweis (childbirth infections) Wegner (continental drift) and, of course, Charles Darwin. If consensus had ruled in science, we would still be stuck in the dark ages. Remember that no amount of consensus will stop an apple falling from a tree and the sighting of a single black swan destroyed the consensus that all swans were white. Evidence rules!

You also say that the decision is based "...on the established peer-reviewed scientific literature...". My group has formally asked the Royal Society of New Zealand, Prof James Renwick and the IPCC to provide references to scientific literature that demonstrates beyond reasonable doubt that man-made greenhouse gases cause dangerous global warming. All three groups were unable to do so. I have documentary evidence of this if you would like to see it. My group has also established a NZ\$10,000 prize for anyone who can provide this information. (www.climatescience.org.nz) Nobody has come anywhere near

providing the evidence needed. Other people around the world have done the same thing with the same results.

Finally, you state that “the body of evidence of human driven increases in global energy content is clear and unequivocal.” That is as it may be. As my query was about whether or not man-made greenhouse gases cause dangerous global warming, substituting “global energy content” – whatever that may be – does not respond to my query. Nobody understands how the climate works. If they did, the computer models would be able to predict El Niño events.

As you appear to be confident that the evidence exists, please send us specific references that provide the evidence that I have requested. Please note that the IPCC technical reports do not provide this evidence because they make it clear that there are many uncertainties in key factors used in the climate models that “project” (not predict) dangerous global warming into the future. (Also see below,)

If you fail to respond to this I and my friends can only assume that the Climate Commission does not have the evidence in its possession or is unable to provide a specific reference.

Regarding your third paragraph, nothing in it provides any specific evidence that the Climate Commission will try to make sure that New Zealand abides by its obligations under the Paris Agreement. So will the Climate Commission do its best to ensure that New Zealand abides by the agreement or simply give it some consideration?

If you fail to respond to this, I will assume that the Paris Agreement will be largely ignored – which is what is happening right now.

As I’m sure you realise, if the evidence claimed to support dangerous man-made global warming does not exist, the Climate Commission should be disbanded immediately and all effort and expenditure put into “climate change” should be abandoned forthwith.

Finally, let me assure you that we do believe that the climate changes – quite naturally.

Kind regards,

Bryan Leyland

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1. “... the rate of warming over the past 15 years (1998–2012; 0.05 [–0.05 to 0.15] °C per decade) ... is smaller than the rate calculated since 1951 (1951–2012; 0.12 [0.08 to 0.14] °C per decade).” [SPM, page 3, section B.1, bullet point 3, and in full Synthesis Report on page SYR-6]

>>The world has not warmed as fast as we predicted and we don't know why.

2. “... an analysis of the full suite of CMIP5 historical simulations (...) reveals that 111 out of 114 realisations show a GMST trend over 1998–2012 that is higher than the

entire HadCRUT4 trend ensemble" [WGI contribution, chapter 9, text box 9.2, page 769, and in full Synthesis Report on page SYR-8]

>> 97% of the model runs over estimated the actual temperature rise.

3. "There may also be a contribution from forcing inadequacies and, **in some models, an overestimate of the response to increasing greenhouse gas** and other anthropogenic forcing (dominated by the effects of aerosols)." [SPM, section D.1, page 13, bullet point 2, and full Synthesis Report on page SYR-8]

>> It is possible that we have overestimated the climate forcing factor and other key factors – the numbers that drive our predictions of dangerous global warming.

4. "This difference between simulated [i.e. model output] and observed trends **could be caused by some combination of (a) internal climate variability, (b) missing or incorrect radiative forcing and (c) model response error**". [WGI contribution, chapter 9, text box 9.2, page 769]

>> We really don't know why the climate models got it so wrong.

>> Comments added by Bryan Leyland

I am reminded of this quote by Galileo: *"In questions of science, the authority of a thousand is not worth the humble reasoning of a single individual."*

The Climate Commission responded confirming their belief in consensus and "appeals to authority":

On 8/05/2020, at 11:04 AM, Enquiries - Climate Commission

enquiries@climatecommission.govt.nz wrote:

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Bryan

Thank you for your further email. Please find our reply below.

A key part of the establishment of scientific knowledge and any scientific consensus is the continual testing, refining or rejecting of hypotheses and theories based on new data and information. Indeed, this is a key strength of the IPCC process, where conclusions and scientific understanding are continually updated as new evidence is reviewed and incorporated, and the uncertainty around the conclusions is refined accordingly.

On the basis of this process, the consensus of the world's climate scientists is that the earth is warming and humans are primarily responsible. For a range of statements of that scientific agreement, see <https://climate.nasa.gov/scientific-consensus/>.

Regarding your question as to what observational evidence of anthropogenic climate change the Commission will draw upon, I would again point you to the work of the IPCC as the primary source, for example the chapters and technical summaries associated with Assessment Report 5 (<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/syr/>).

If you feel you have any evidence that would increase understanding of the causes and impacts of climate change, which has not already been considered by the world's scientific community, then can I suggest you submit that evidence for peer-review and publication so they may do so.

Finally, you asked whether the Commission will try to make sure New Zealand abides by its obligations under the Paris Agreement. As you may be aware, under the Climate Change Response Act (The Act), the Minister for Climate Change has the responsibility to set emissions budgets and produce emissions reduction plans. It is the Commission's role to provide independent advice to the Minister to help them in that task.

The Act requires that emissions budgets are set “with a view to meeting the 2050 target and contributing to the global effort under the Paris Agreement to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels” (S5W Climate Change Response Act). The Commission will develop its advice to the Minister in line with that requirement.

Kind regards

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION	Engagement & Communications Team E enquiries@climatecommission.govt.nz W climatecommission.govt.nz
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Bryan Leyland again pointed out that scientifically acceptable evidence based on observational data was needed:

10 May:

Dear Maggie,

Thank you for your comprehensive and courteous response.

What you are relying on is “argument from authority”. According to Carl Sagan (a very prominent scientist) “One of the greatest commandments of science is: “Mistrust argument from authority.”... Too many such arguments have proved too painfully wrong. Authorities must prove their contentions like everybody else.”

Your NASA reference relies on consensus and also states “Climate warming trends over the past century are extremely likely due to human activities.” What does “extremely likely” mean? If they had scientific evidence based on observations of the real world surely they would have quoted it? We would certainly agree that the world has been warming as it was emerging from a cold dip around 1910 and the previous little ice age. But, like the Commission, we are unable to find any credible evidence based on observational data that shows a significant man-made influence.

The IPCC reference you gave refers to AR5. The footnote to my previous email demonstrates that this too, does not provide any convincing evidence of man-made global warming. Instead, it points out that there are major uncertainties in key factors used in the climate models that, alone, predict dangerous global warming into the future. So AR5 does not provide any scientifically convincing evidence of a significant man-made influence.

I would point out that our evidence on the “causes and impacts of climate change” simply consists of pointing to the incontrovertible evidence that, for billions of years, the climate has changed quite naturally: we contend that it continues to do so. The plot of Central England temperatures given below demonstrates that natural climate change has been recorded as happening since 1650. Historical records show the existence of ice ages and various warming periods – Bronze Age, Roman and mediaeval – that could not have had an anthropogenic cause.

The plot of recent temperatures compared with the Southern Oscillation Index (also provided below) shows that most of the recent fluctuation in temperatures correlate closely with the Southern Oscillation Index with a four month delay. While correlation does not

prove cause and effect it does make it more difficult to argue that, somewhere in the data, there is a significant and incontrovertible anthropogenic effect.

I reiterate: those who believe that there is also a major anthropogenic effect need to produce scientific evidence based on observational data that man-made greenhouse gases cause dangerous global warming. As I pointed out previously, so far nobody in the world seems to have done so.

Regarding your comments on the Paris Agreement I conclude that the Climate Commission does not have any firm commitment to emphasise the need to meet Article 2 of the Agreement. Your response is consistent with a focus on meeting “climate zero” aspirations by, among other things, trying to reduce agricultural emissions of methane and ignoring the damaging effect on agricultural productivity.

My conclusion is that the Climate Commission does not have any scientifically acceptable evidence that man-made greenhouse gases cause dangerous global warming. I also conclude that it will not (and maybe cannot) take any strong action to ensure that New Zealand abides by its obligations under the Paris Agreement.

It appears that billions of dollars will be squandered based on unsupported beliefs that:

- man-made greenhouse gases cause dangerous global warming;
- action by New Zealand can change the world's climate;
- reducing New Zealand’s agricultural output will decrease, rather than increase, world emissions of greenhouse gases;
- meeting “carbon zero” is more important than abiding by the Paris Agreement.

Which, when you think about it, is quite remarkable.

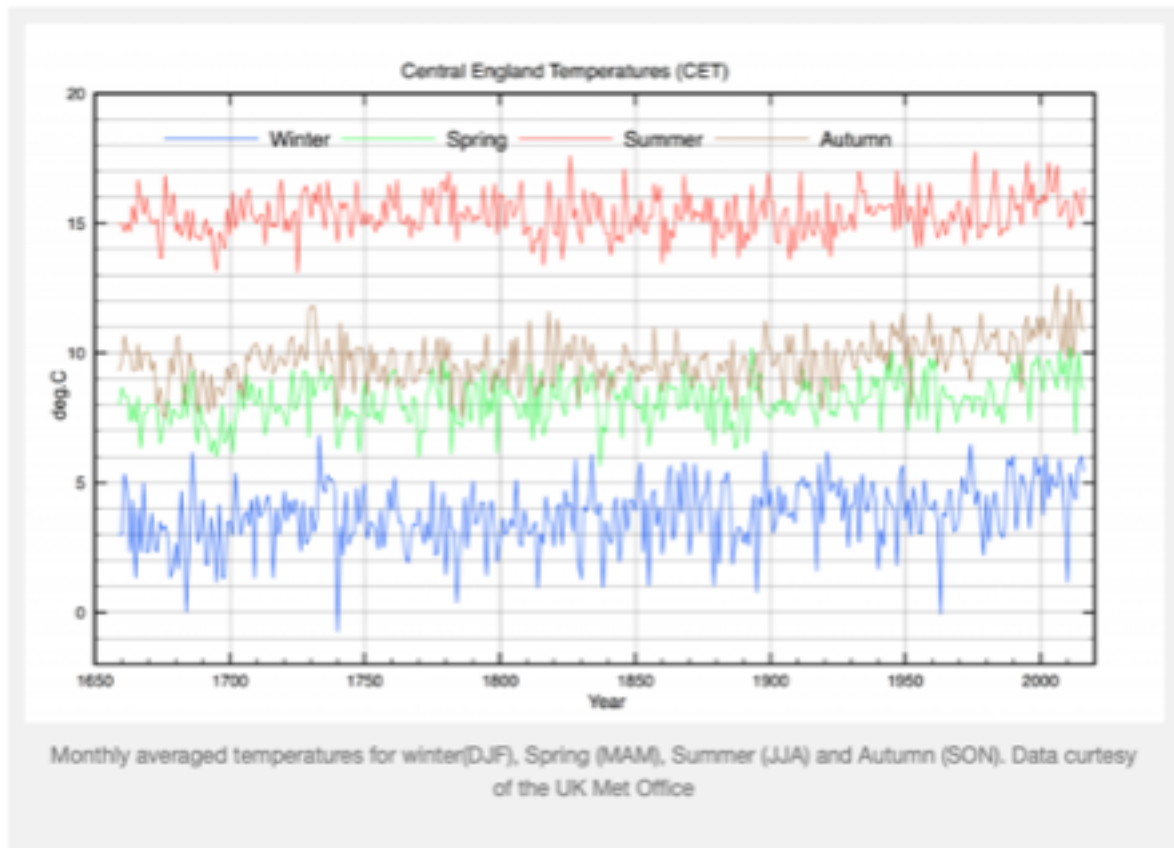
Kind regards,

Bryan Leyland

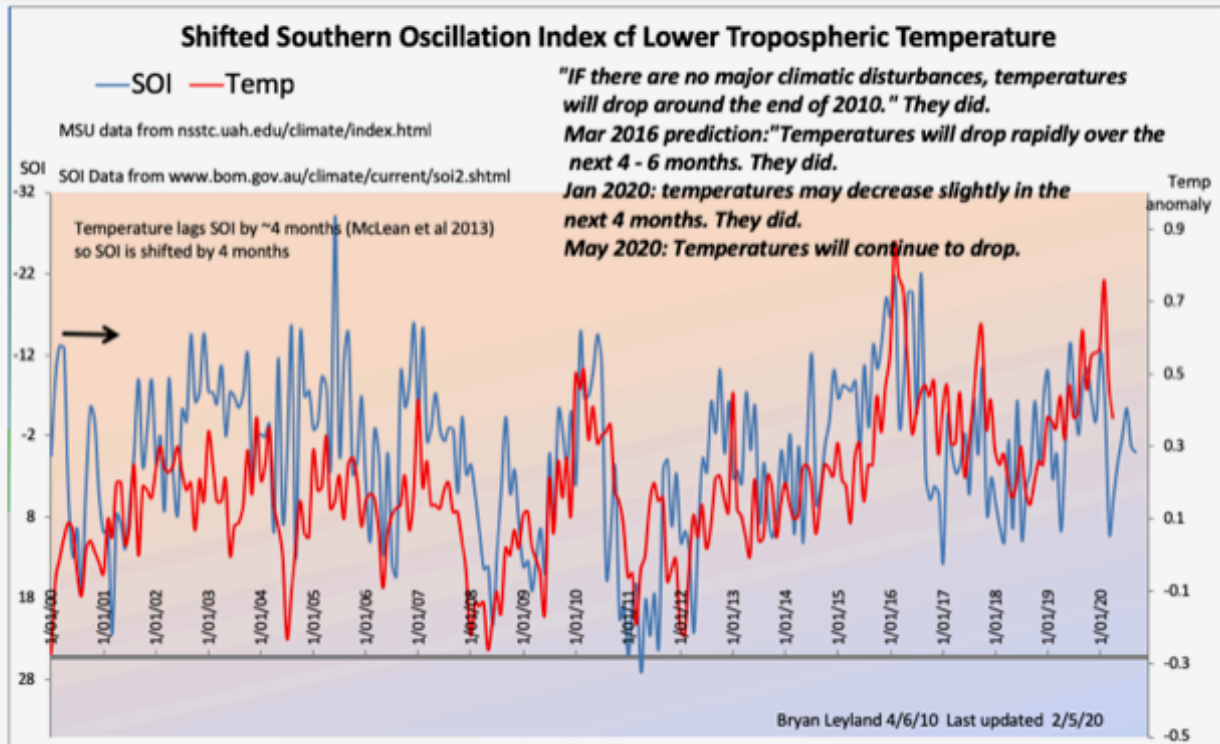
Central England Temperatures 1659-2016

Posted on January 28, 2017 by Clive Best

There has been no change in UK average temperatures in summer(JJA) or in Spring(MAM) for the last 367 years. The two hottest summers were 1826 (17.6C) and 1976(17.8C). I remember 1976 as the perfect summer with two months of continuous sunshine, causing a severe drought. The two coldest winters were 1740 (-0.73C) and 1963 (-0.07C). 1963 was the perfect time to be a small child aged 10, sledging every weekend. These extremes have not been exceeded for the last 40 years.



<http://clivebest.com/blog/?p=7603>



It was obvious that the engagement and Communications Team did not have the evidence requested, Bryan Leyland then wrote directly to the chairperson of the Climate Commission:

From: Bryan Leyland <bryanleyland@mac.com>

Sent: Wednesday, 20 May 2020 3:14 pm

To: Enquiries - Climate Commission <enquiries@climatecommission.govt.nz>

Subject: For the attention of Rod Carr

Dear Mr Carr,

I recently had an email exchange with "Maggie" of the Engagement and Communications team of the Climate Commission.

My objective was to find out if the Climate Commission was in possession of convincing evidence based on observational data that man-made greenhouse gases caused dangerous global warming. I also wanted to find out whether or not the Climate Commission was taking New Zealand's obligations under Article 2 of the Paris Agreement seriously.

Maggie responded with a reference to IPCC reports which, when you read them closely, indicate that there are major uncertainties in the value of critical factors fed into the climate models – which, themselves, do not constitute evidence anyway. I would also add that when we formally requested this information from the IPCC itself, it could not provide any convincing evidence. Maggie also presented arguments based on "consensus" and "appeals to authority" which do not provide convincing evidence based on observational data.

Her response on the Paris agreement was vague.

As I am sure you realise, if, as it appears, there is no convincing evidence that man-made greenhouse gases cause dangerous global warming you should so inform the Government and recommend that the Commission should be abolished.

I therefore appeal to you to provide me with convincing evidence based on observational data that man-made greenhouse gases cause dangerous global warming. If you cannot do so, I expect you to recommend to the government that the Commission should be abolished.

For your information, my last email - so far unanswered - to Maggie is attached.

Kind regards,

Bryan Leyland MSc, DistFEngNZ, FIMechE, FIEE(rtd), MRSNZ.

Rod Carr responded pointing out that he supported responses of his team. So, it would appear, he too it is not in possession of convincing evidence:

26 May:

Dear Mr Leyland

Thank you for email.

The role of the Climate Change Commission is to provide advice to the government on reducing New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions, including our obligations under international agreements. As you are aware, the Commission believes the established peer-reviewed scientific literature relating to the causes and impacts of climate change.

I understand the staff at the Commission have provided you with links to this information, in particular, the work of the IPCC and I support their previous responses to your questions.

There will be a formal public consultation process on the drafts of our advice and you will have the opportunity to share your views as part of that process.

Regards
Rod Carr

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION	Rod Carr Chair, Climate Change Commission W climatecommission.govt.nz
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Finally, the Engagement and Communications Team effectively confirmed that they had no convincing evidence:

27 May

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora Byran

Thank you for your email.

We have noted the content and your comments, and refer you to our previous responses.

Kind regards

**CLIMATE
CHANGE
COMMISSION**

Engagement & Communications Team

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