



A CONSTRUCTIVE CONVERSATION - PRESENTATION

Engaging with Eurobodalla
Shire Council on our climate
crisis – 19/11/2019.



DIRECTIONAL CRISIS - FUTURE - PROOFING

“Global warming is too serious for the world any longer to ignore its danger or split into opposing factions on it.” Tony Blair (2005) – 19 years ago.

WHY I'M HERE - MY APPROACH

Why I'm here

- ❖ I'm a concerned citizen of Australia, a local rate-payer, & here to engage with my Council.
- ❖ I'm a green conservative, with a 'can do' attitude, using my democratic right to be heard.
- ❖ I'm not usually 'an activist' - but a brief story of an activity I was involved in 1990s.

We need a way forward

- ❖ I'm NOT here to 'point fingers' / 'blame' (an extravagant waste of time / part of the current local, State & Federal problem).
- ❖ I AM here to work towards changing the cover picture to one of SMART and EFFECTIVE collaboration - working together to 'mine' effective sustainable development.
 - ✓ 'Good' collaboration is premised on honest listening and inviting 'our collective wisdom'.
- ❖ My vision - This Council 'leads the way' in working across ideologies & divisions to assure our wellbeing, as a local community, that IS dependent on the health of the natural world around us, which is depleted / struggling locally.

A WAY FORWARD - GREEN CONSERVATISM

WHAT – ‘progressive’ +

- ❖ Progressive (Kant quote from the middle ages?), plus a love of place and heritage.
- ❖ Sustainable employment & ongoing economic development WITH effective environmental safe-guarding / protection.

CHAMPIONS (examples) – Government Leaders

- ❖ FP Roosevelt; FPM Margaret Thatcher (1988) quote; FPM Cameron, FPM May & Ch Angela Merkle.
- ❖ FPM Malcolm Frazer (1970/80s), who enacted significant environmental protection laws, & FPM Turnbull who championed Paul Garnaut’s Climate Review.

International Business

- ❖ Governor of the Bank of England (2015) warned the insurance market of their exposure to climate change risks, noting time

was running out to effectively face & resist global warming.

UK – current: “Bright Blue” (green.brightblue.org.uk) a green conservative think-tank to create conservative policy / support for measures that address climate change. ++

Australia – A current direction crisis

- ❖ Denial, unwarranted scepticism, in-action.
- ✓ “I used to be skeptical of global warming, but now I’m absolutely convinced that the world is spiraling out of control. CO2 is like a bushfire that gets bigger and bigger every year.” Richard Branson (2015)
- ❖ HOPE: Sense will out & the EXPERTS ARE harnessed.
- ✓ Many strengths - Weston Allen & Paul Garnaut on employment opportunities in renewable energy for example - in scope is Australia as a ‘power-house of renewables.

EUROBODALLA SHIRE COUNCIL – GOOD THINGS

But recent climate crisis facts

Motion CI McGinlay – 13/08/19

- ❖ i) To acknowledge & declare a climate emergency here; ii) to re-view/evaluate all plans/strategies etc for risk of localised detrimental impacts on climate change, & iii) develop an effective community consultation mechanism on climate change.

The response of Council

- ❖ i) Nil acknowledgement / declaration, wording amended to “address variable and changing climate”, ii) & iii) rejected also.
- ❖ Counter motion outlining good current work by Council (eg emissions targets, electric cars) with a ‘business as usual’ emphasis (usual ongoing briefings noted) & community engagement + education as a 6th ‘opportunity’.

Summation

Other points of reference

- ❖ Council IS doing good things but the hasty (insular) rejection of this Motion is VERY disappointing, given climate crisis impacts ARE around us to see. BUT this IS retrievable & it’s CRITICAL that we do.
- ❖ The BIG gap in Council’s ‘green efforts’ is NOT balancing economic development with ‘care for country’ – it’s a taken for granted commodity to use (up) - an attitude that under-pins climate change.
- ❖ This CRITICAL ‘gap’ is evident in Council’s new rural development strategy. A deeply concerning document that carries, & disregards, significant negative impacts to our already struggling environment. (The strategy also had questionable community consultation, including minimal Aboriginal input

REVISIT THE OPPORTUNITY & 'MINE' A PROGRESSIVE WAY FORWARD - DEMONSTRATING LEADERSHIP/ACCOUNTABILITY

- ❖ Solutions not impasse / **TIMELY** acknowledgement + action not denial.
- ❖ Green conservatism as a responsible approach combining development with environmental protection & restoration
- ✓ Genuine collaborative principles used.
- ❖ Council leading the way: what are the local facts / face them / generate effective re-dress (not blame or disinformation – as can occur).
- ✓ Empower community to take their role (consideration of issues / options & decisions). **PLUS** respect Aboriginal biocultural knowledge & history.
- ✓ Develop a comprehensive risk & viability assessment (all current & planned policies, strategies & actions) across operations, environment, community, development & the local economy.
- ✓ Identify a plan of priorities & opportunities with a suite of actions to tackle the issues effectively. Include an environmental strategy & climate change policy.
- ✓ Form / participate in a network of Shires, tiers of Government, scientists, local experts etc to **FOCUS** & share information on new explorations on 'what IS working' in this green economic development paradigm.
- ✓ Develop an advocacy plan to encourage State and Federal Governments to do more to combat climate change.

AND

**“It’s going to take a lot of love” (the song)
& I’m serious about that 😊**



WALL OF FIRE LAST WEEK IN N. NSW

“If 97% of climate scientists agreeing that climate-warming trends over the past century are due to human activity isn’t compelling data, I don’t know what is. (Richard Branson)



“WE SIMPLY CANNOT DAMAGE THE ENVIRONMENT THE WAY WE HAVE BEEN, WE NEED AN URGENT STEP CHANGE IN THE WAY WE THINK & ACT IN ORDER TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE”. SADIQ KHAN, MAYOR OF LONDON (23/05/2019)

This is our time, this is our ‘watch’ & we are all accountable for what we do or don’t do.
PLEASE ‘seize the day’ & TAKE this opportunity
THANK YOU