

Climate Change (National Framework for Adaptation and Mitigation) Bill 2020 and Climate Change (National Framework for Adaptation and Mitigation) (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2020

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Act on Climate: what can “I” (me! this reader!) do to make a difference?

For two decades now, we have lived on some 3 hectares of land overlooking a small country town. When we arrived, it was hillside grassland, green in winter and brown in summer, bluestone and limestone substrata with a modest layer of soil. For pleasure, and with a sense of duty to previous occupants, we, a retired couple, have planted trees, laid out paths, succeeded in developing quite a large and attractive garden.

At times, very occasionally, it seems I am somehow aware of the people who lived here over 100,000 years (how many generations?), built what we would call houses and gardens, and cared for the extensive slopes down to the creek and the hills beyond.

If, in a small part of our single lifetime, we could do so much for this piece of hillside, what would naturally have been achieved, generation after generation, in one continuous movement of careful resource and land management over decimillennia, ever perfecting family and society, law and ceremony (see www.earthsight.org New Articles: “Decimillennial Australia”).

While writing this, I walked up and looked out again, at the garden of 250 years ago. And then I realised I should also look at the landscape 250 years into the future. I couldn’t see: but I realised it could be occupied, built up, with houses and people; or it could be a hot barren desolate landscape, without life. Which one?

I feel we are somehow in the middle, between the past and the future – and responsible. We are responsible for the home of the 100,000 years of care and community. “I” am also responsible for the future, for there being a future – like every other of ‘the-seven-billion’, each one uniquely, totally, singly responsible: “I”/“me”. Will there be another 100,000 years of community, or the ravages of a planet slowly, or rapidly, turning into a simulacrum of Venus?

I don’t need to go into the science or the media-led belief-systems now, this writer’s analysis of ‘best science’ and ‘essential observation’ is easily accessible on www.earthsight.org (see New Articles: “I am Earthsight”). Here, together with the attentive reader, I am inviting quiet reflection on two possible worlds, and “my” responsibility to confront the ‘risk’ our collective actions have engendered.

The risk of fire and flood we prepare for, as carefully as possible. The risk of a pandemic, we seemed to ignore – though perhaps no longer. The risk of war, we strangely seem to welcome. The impact of a major extinction event, the Anthropocene, which we are already part of, we largely turn a blind eye to, accepting it as the inevitable price of consumer society.

But complete personal, social, even planetary annihilation, in the lifetime of most people living today with the RISK of a temperature rise of as much as +7.8°C by 2100 (IPCC 2014 p.8: https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/ipcc_wg3_ar5_summary-for-policymakers.pdf) would be 'beyond catastrophic', and even as 'very unlikely' would give a level of risk of 'extreme'.

Obviously, this is the ultimate case of the need for the 'precautionary principle', realising that 'doing nothing is a decision in itself', and doing only what is 'politically possible' carries the risk of denying future generations the right to exist.

How can "I", this reader, involve "'my" colleagues in an exploration of 'alternatives'? The challenge facing our civilisation, our species, requires something new, something totally different. This calls for creativity, and the key to creativity is 'insight': see www.creativediscussion.org ("Home Page" and then Contents > "Wisdom in Planetary Leadership").

"I" feel I really want to do something, to contribute to finding solutions for the most urgent issue of this parliament, of this century, of this species. But how?

"I" need new ideas, in my own mental space; "I" need to communicate them to a wide audience; "I" need to get good ideas back from the many people 'out there' who hear mine. Is this possible? Without 'selling', convincing, arguing, advancing the interests of "my" 'organisation', whatever it is – just being open to new ideas, attentive to 'flash of insight', listening to the ideas of others, silently, non-judgementally. Aware that insight is creativity, and creativity can save the planet – and "my" grandchildren.

Thanks for reading this far. Now please go back and follow the links: this submission is quite short, the linked articles are quite short – we owe it to our grandchildren.

Importantly, experiment with Creative Discussion, set up a small discussion group with friends, colleagues or family. Introduce Creative Discussion into your organisation, in meetings, among staff members (perhaps a 'Creative Discussion lunch').

"Small group sharing of insight can change the pattern of human intelligence."

Spend some time researching www.earthsight.org and www.creativediscussion.org. I think quite a few interesting 'insights' will appear. Remember, an insight is your idea, it does not come from what you are reading or who you are listening to.

"Insight is the sudden irruption into the mind of a fully formed understanding, it is a lighting up of the mind, the creation of new pathways in the brain, even the formation of new brain cells. With insight comes action. With insight a situation is seen in a new way, it is fundamentally different, and appropriate action follows of its own accord. Insight creates a new situation." (www.creativediscussion.org > "The Awakeness Paradigm")