

Anthropocene Warming: responsible risk management

1.5°C ... **OR** ... +5.8°C > +6.4°C > +7.8°C > ... + **Methane!**

The Anthropocene is ‘our’ extinction event, the 6th great extinction. We have done nothing. This has now become the Anthropocene Global Warming. We are still doing (almost) nothing.

For decimillenia, wiser civilisations than ours have adopted responsible sustainable planetary management. Today, we need a planet-wide awareness of what we have done – and what we can do. **A global awakening can enable a total transformation**, making the planet a much more pleasant place to live, for all, while radically reducing the risk of global warming.

We need to understand the level of risk we are really facing (see below) – then explore what we can do (see following: [“Alternative Paradigms in Planetary Management”](#)).

RISK MANAGEMENT is an obligation in all government and corporate activity.

Risk = Likelihood x Consequence

Faced with extreme risk of catastrophic outcome, even if far from certain, we need total national focus on meeting the challenge:

+8°C global warming (IPCC “high confidence” – see next page)

would have “**Beyond Catastrophic**” consequences.

RISK ASSESSMENT therefore is **EXTREME**

with “Unlikely” (see Matrix below). Possibly also with “Very Unlikely”.

Risk Assessment Matrix		CONSEQUENCE				
		MINOR	MAJOR	SEVERE	CRITICAL	CATASTROPHIC
LIKELIHOOD		A	B	C	D	E
ALMOST CERTAIN	5	Low	Moderate	Significant	Extreme	Extreme
LIKELY	4	Low	Low	Moderate	Significant	Extreme
POSSIBLE	3	Negligible	Low	Moderate	Significant	Extreme
UNLIKELY	2	Negligible	Negligible	Low	Moderate	Significant
VERY UNLIKELY	1	Negligible	Negligible	Low	Moderate	Moderate

It seems no one in public life is confronting the real issue.

We need a public commitment to action – by government, corporations and media

explaining clearly the urgency demanded

moving from ‘business as usual’ to responding without delay to the greatest danger ever to confront the human species.

There is a legal obligation under Federal and State law for risk management!

And an absolute obligation to our grandchildren – and their grandchildren.

IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change): 1st report in 1990, 6th report in 2018/19 (1,000s of scientists, *with consensus from every participating government*. “Summary for Policymakers” is subject to **line-by-line approval** by delegates from all (120) **participating governments**.”

2001 3rd report: “it is at least **90% certain that temperatures will** continue to rise, with average global surface temperature projected to **increase by** between 1.4° and **5.8°C above 1990 levels by 2100**.”

2007 4th report: temperature increase **up to 6.4°C**.

2014 5th report: increase by 2100 of **up to 7.8°C**, with **“high confidence”**: IPCC 2014 Summary for Policymakers p. 8:

http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/wg3/ipcc_wg3_ar5_summary-for-policymakers.pdf

Note: the IPCC reports do NOT examine the effect of methane – or other positive feedback loops. Methane release is critical: see “*Futurecide*” on www.earthsight.org (New Articles).

With positive feedback loops, the standard linear progression no longer applies. The curve tends to exponential, meaning increasingly rapid growth. Only ‘**qualitative**’ growth can continue indefinitely.

All levels of government need to **prioritise radical drawdown of CO²**. **Balancing fees** for emissions **with rebates** for reducing emissions (**‘feebate’**) can facilitate this process. [See <http://arctic-news.blogspot.com> > scroll down right-hand menu to “*Climate Plan*”].

The **Commonwealth Government** needs to **grant an immediate “Voice to Government” for indigenous Australia** – giving advice, not just on indigenous affairs, but on the future of the planet: **“What are the successful decimillennial values that can guarantee there will be a future?”**

Our society’s emphasis on “Quantity” needs to be replaced by a focus on “Quality” in all areas: people, planet, peace, education, culture, health.

See www.earthsight.org for more details of ‘the problem’.

See www.creativediscussion.org for a possible way to move towards ‘a solution’.

William Plain

Emeritus Professor

Email: plain@earthsight.org