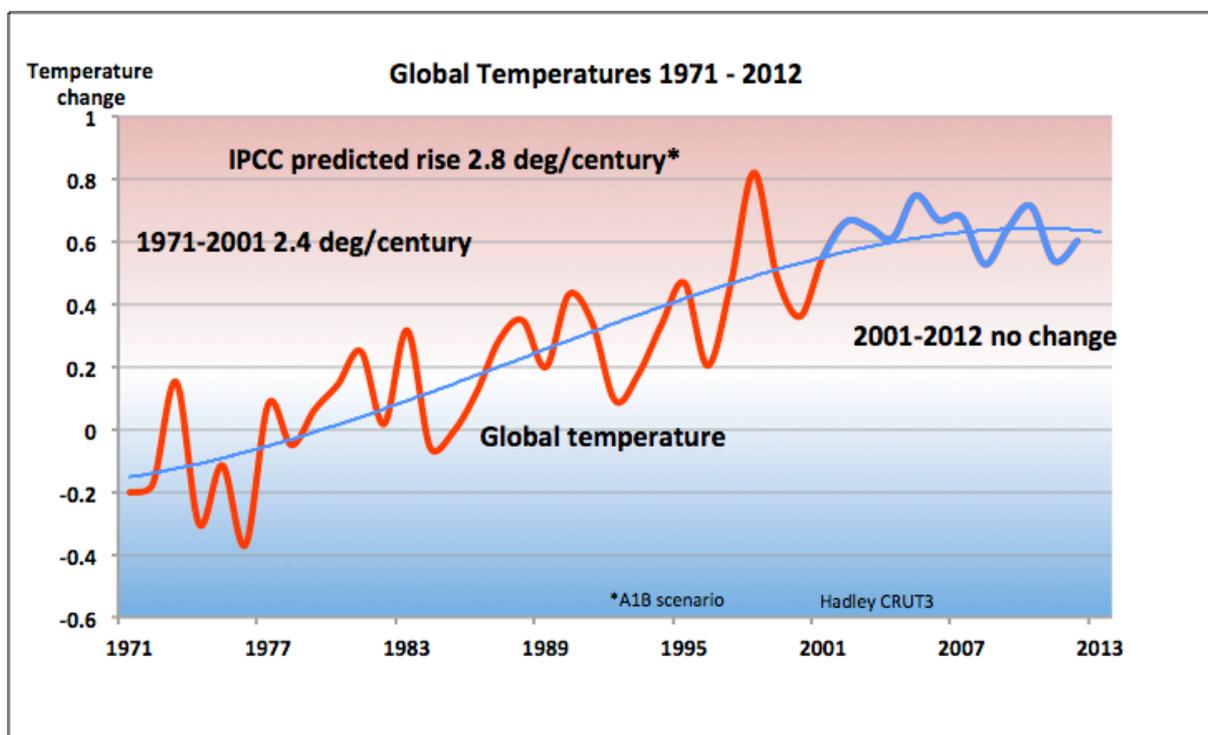


## What is happening to the climate?

The conference in Doha is based on a widespread belief that an increase in carbon dioxide concentrations has caused the world to warm steadily. We are constantly told that this warming will continue and it will be disastrous. Before we accept this we need to analyse the recent temperature records and the history of past climatic changes.

Reports from the the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predict a steady increase in temperature ranging from 2° to 6° per century caused by increasing concentrations of carbon dioxide and other man-made greenhouse gases. They are wrong: all 5 leading temperature records—both surface and satellite—show that temperatures over the last 16 years have been essentially constant. As the chart below shows, temperature record from the Hadley Centre in the UK shows a slight cooling over the last 10 years and an insignificant amount of warming over the last 16 years. The simplest explanation is that carbon dioxide does not cause dangerous warming. The complicated explanation is that a huge unpredicted and unknown phenomena is suppressing greenhouse gas caused warming.



CO2 driven warming must happen immediately because there is no mechanism that could delay the effect. People who believe that dangerous man-made global warming is happening claim that the lack of warming is due to a “natural effect”. If the climate models the IPCC relies on were any good they would have predicted it. The IPCC have also said “... the long-term prediction of future climate states is not possible.” That pretty much says it all.

It is highly probable that the climate has natural cycles and that we are just over the peak of a cycle and, as indicated by the chart, are at the beginning of a decline. Nicola Scafetta, a research scientist at Duke University in the USA, has analysed past climatic cycles and made a model based on these cycles that has accurately replicated temperature changes over the last hundred years and predicts that cooling is imminent. Don Easterbrook at Western

Washington University in the USA and many other scientists have carried out similar analyses with similar results. These studies have been ignored by the IPCC.

Studies of sunspot cycles also strongly support imminent global cooling. They show that a long sunspot cycle is always followed by cooling. The last cycle lasted 12.5 years and the previous one 9.5 years. We could have about 1° of cooling over the next 10-20 years and, if history repeats itself, it would cause famine and disease.

Dr Jim Renwick and Dr David Wratt, of NIWA who are lead authors for the IPCC have corresponded with me and appear to accept that the world has not warmed for more than 10 years. It appears they do not know why the world is failing to warm as predicted by the model predictions. Jim has an “expectation” that warming will resume “within decades”. Yet they still tell the government that man-made global warming is real and dangerous. Instead of simply admitting that the world has not warmed as predicted and trying to find out what is wrong with their computer-based climate models, they divert the discussion to other effects that, they claim, demonstrate warming. But if the temperature records say that temperatures are steady, global warming cannot be happening! Records also show that deaths due to extreme weather are declining, there has been little change in droughts over the past 60 years, floods are not getting worse, sea level rise has flattened off, many Himalayan glaciers are growing and coral reefs are thriving in water with temperatures and acidification levels well above predicted limits. In fact, the climate is less extreme than it was 100 years ago.

The only rational conclusion is that there is no convincing evidence supporting the hypothesis that man-made carbon dioxide causes dangerous global warming. Carbon dioxide is a beneficial gas that promotes plant growth and has reduced desertification. In spite of this, trillions of dollars have been squandered on renewable energy, emissions trading schemes and carbon trading schemes. Policies that subsidise renewable energy have substantially increased the price of electricity in many countries while the push for biofuels has increased the cost of food. The biggest impact has been in poor countries. The money would have bailed out Greece and Spain with plenty to spare or, better still, it could have been used to provide electricity and clean water for millions of people in developing countries.

Policies based on the belief that CO<sub>2</sub> causes dangerous global warming have had huge negative affects on people and economies and have diverted attention from the real environmental and other problems faced by many people all over the world.

Bryan is a founder member of the New Zealand Climate Science Coalition and an electrical engineer with expertise in computer modelling. He and his wife are part owners of a hydro station that earns windfall profits from the Emissions Trading Scheme.

800 words

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