
NEWS

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AUSTRALIA RISKS ECONOMIC RUIN IF CLIMATE CHANGE

DEBATE IS NOT DRIVEN BY SCIENCE

The Australian economy risked total collapse unless the country's chief decision-makers embraced basic science as part of the climate change debate, one of the world's most controversial global warming sceptics warned today.

Delivering the 35th annual Essington Lewis Memorial Lecture – one of the most prestigious lectures on the South Australian resources industry calendar – in Adelaide today, Professor Ian Plimer feared the country would become an economic backwater if scientific due diligence was not part of making vital policy decisions on climate change.

“My greatest fear is this country's lights will go out and the rest of the world will think no-one is home – and they will be right,” Professor Plimer warned.

“Australia will go broke and will become the laughing stock of the world if our political leaders keep making decisions on climate change based on ideology rather than on science,” he said.

“This country is heading down a very dangerous path of self-destruction if these people continue on their current path of ignorance, and ignore scientific due diligence when making such important decisions about the future of this country.

“Australia faces the very real risk of losing everything our forefathers busted their guts for over the past 200 years, if something is not done to address the current imbalance in the climate change argument.

“People have accused me of over-reacting and over-exaggerating my views on the topic, but they are playing the man and not the ball.

“I have not heard one of them base their opinion on science or intellect – and that is what needs to be debated.

“Our past is the key to the present, and science does not operate by consensus, bullying, authority, government decree, fads or fashion, personal beliefs and/or vested interests.”

Professor of Mining Geology at the University of Adelaide, Professor Plimer is the author of *Heaven + Earth – Global Warming: The Missing Science*, arguably the most controversial book published in Australia, possibly the world, on climate change.

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Widely debated by his opponents and with a rapidly growing group of supporters, Professor Plimer's best-selling book explores the longer term history of the planet and promotes the view that the "average person is being conned about global warming".

He has just returned from giving a series of lectures in Europe, North America and the Middle East on his climate change views.

Professor Plimer believes Australia's global warming "doomsayers" were holding back the country from reaching its true potential via a two-pronged scare campaign.

"Australia has the potential to rule the world with its vast uranium resources, which it will continue to supply in increasing volumes to other countries around the world who are embracing clean, green nuclear energy," he said.

"It's no secret, the more energy a country uses, the richer it becomes.

"Yet in Australia we are told nuclear energy is dangerous, and that climate change is human induced and dangerous.

"So on top of everything else it needs to contend with, the mining industry is now confronted by a new age of irrationality.

"If something isn't done, and done quickly about the issue, Australians run the risk of returning to the primitive living conditions of the 19th Century in the not too distant future."

About the Essington Lewis Memorial Lecture

The Essington Lewis Memorial Lecture is named in honour of the one of the founding fathers of the Australian resources sector, and former Chief Executive and Chairman of BHP.

Professor Plimer's free lecture, titled ***Education, Energy and Change***, will be presented from 6pm today at the Allan Scott Auditorium on the University of South Australia's City West Campus, and is organised by the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (Adelaide branch).

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