

Mark Zirnsak

From: John Gunson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 25 July 2020 2:43 PM
To: Mark Zirnsak
Subject: Re: Consultation Paper ; Living in Harmony with Creation.
Attachments: Climate change consultation paper_WEB VERSION.pdf

Hi Mark,

Some observations on the Climate Change paper I meant to send some time ago.

1. It is certainly a detailed and very thorough analysis. Well done.
2. Use of much theological language. If I understand David Merritt's response aright (objecting to much of the language) it is difficult to know how much of this is necessary or not. While many "progressives" would have trouble with a lot of orthodox theology we need to recognise that probably most existing members of congregations are not progressive, and indeed range across a wide theological spectrum. Therefore I suspect that the theological justifications would not offend most, and may indeed be essential for those conservative Christians who unfortunately may not be persuaded on the quite persuasive scientific evidence alone.
3. The sheer size of the paper. I guess it goes without saying that the shorter the document the more likely it is to be read, including the Exec. summary.
For the already converted (to climate action) they won't need the paper at all, but will be happy to endorse and support it and appropriate action.
For the unconverted/skeptics they probably won't read it or be persuaded even if they do. What that means I'm not sure, but probably a much shorter summary, with the option to read the full report where necessary.
4. Additions to the report. Need to include more than recommendations re coal/fossil fuels.

e.g. As renewables can much the quickest bridge the gap from coal to renewables, then gas as a transition fuel has no justification.
Research and development of a hydrogen industry.
Transport. Early shift to electric vehicles (including charging stations, etc).
A rapid exit from native forest harvesting. Australia has lost a huge percentage of its forest cover and the biodiversity that it contains. Also it is the great absorber of carbon and is the lungs of the planet. Need for more incentives to green Australia, and action to conserve our dwindling water supplies.
Waste management and the circular economy.

The paper talks of Australia needing to do its "fair share" of climate action. This needs to be greatly strengthened.
We need to be reminded (and especially Gov't) that we are the worst emitters on a per capita basis, and that in a crisis one doesn't just do a fair share, but helps put the bushfire out on our (world) neighbours' property as well. No one turns their hose off while their neighbour's house is burning and announces that we have done our fair share.
5. The content of the letter to Gov't's (hopefully plural) is not spelt out, but this needs much strengthening as per above comments.

Hope these comments may be useful, but much appreciate all you do.