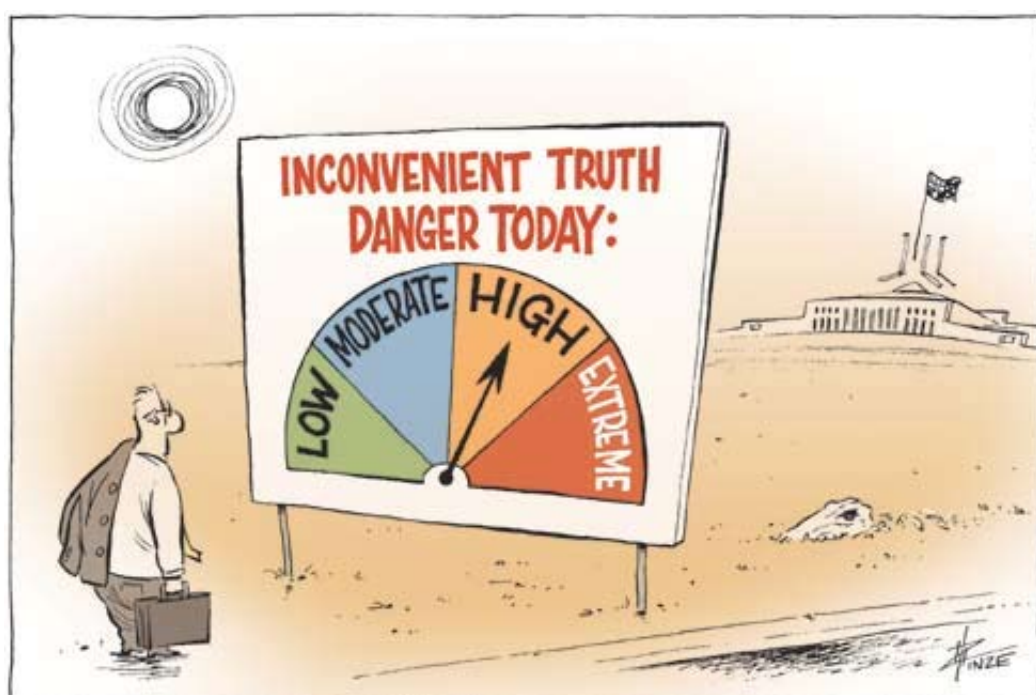


# CASPI: NEWS

Climate Adaptation - Science and Policy Initiative

August 2007



## Changing Climate

“Warming of the climate system is unequivocal”<sup>1</sup>

“Australia and the globe are experiencing rapid climate change. Since the middle of the 20th century, Australian temperatures have, on average, risen by about 1 °C with an increase in the frequency of heatwaves and a decrease in the numbers of frosts and cold days. Rainfall patterns have also changed - the northwest has seen an increase in rainfall over the last 50 years while much of eastern Australia and the far southwest have experienced a decline.”<sup>2</sup>

“As a result of reduced precipitation and increased evaporation, water security problems are projected to intensify by 2030 in southern and eastern

Australia”<sup>3</sup>

“Production from agriculture and forestry by 2030 is projected to decline over much of southern and eastern Australia ... due to increased drought and fire.”<sup>4</sup>

In 2006, the globally averaged mixing ratios of carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide reached new highs at 379.1ppm, and 319.2ppb. These are 35.4% and 18.2% greater than pre-industrial times, respectively.<sup>5</sup>

1. IPCC AR4 (2007) WGI Summary for Policymakers p5
2. <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/change/> (28/08/2007)
3. IPCC AR4 (2007) WGII Summary for Policymakers p13
4. IPCC AR4 (2007) WGII Summary for Policymakers p14
5. WMO Greenhouse Gas Bulletin No.2: 1 November 2006



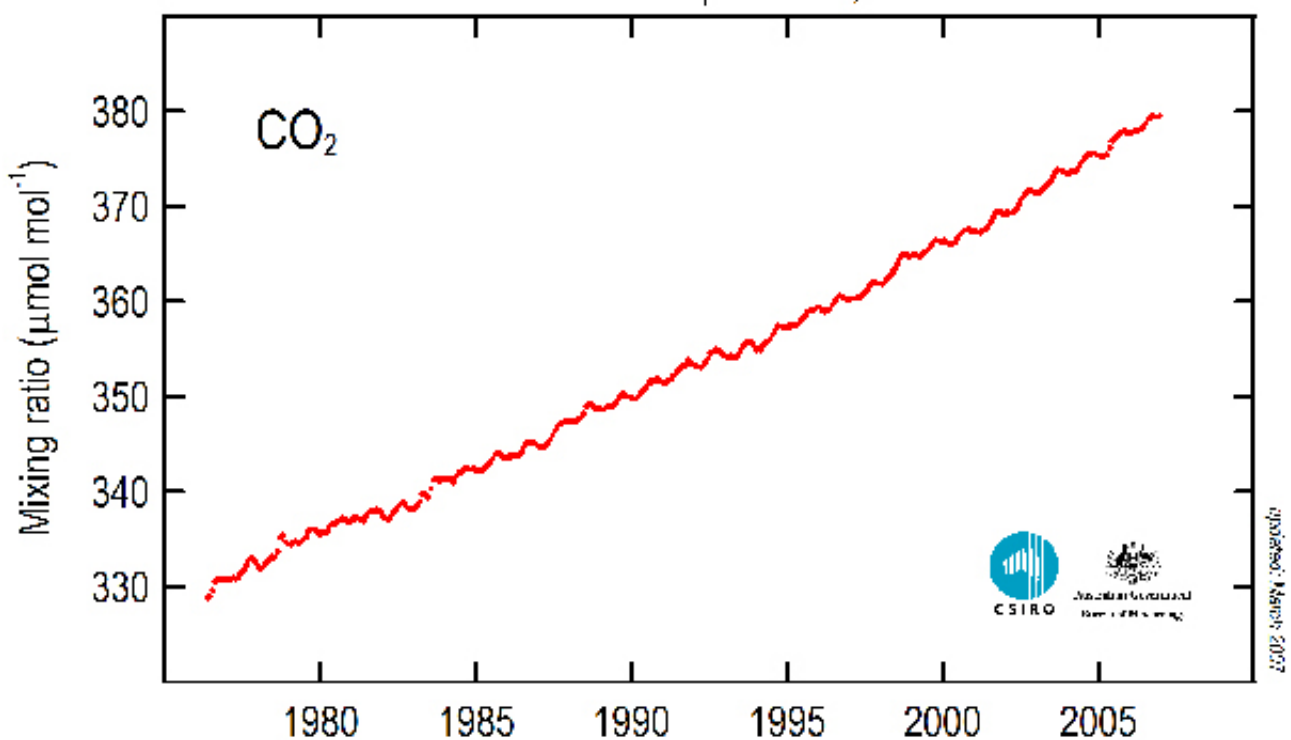
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# CASPI: NEWS

## Climate Adaptation - Science and Policy Initiative August 2007



Carbon dioxide at Cape Grim, Tasmania



Courtesy: CSIRO MAR <http://www.dar.csiro.au/capegrim/ghgasgraphs.html>

### Dispelling Myths Seminar

CASPI organised a very well attended lunch time seminar on August 17. Three presentations were made by climate researchers at the University of Melbourne.

Professor David Karoly, an internationally renowned climate scientist who has recently joined the School of Earth Sciences as a Federation Fellow, addressed the myths of climate change in an engaging discussion.

Professor Ian Enting, a Professorial Research Fellow in the ARC Centre of Excellence for Mathematics and Statistics of Complex Systems has extensive experience in modelling carbon cycles. He tackled the issue of greenhouse gas stabilisation targets.

Associate Professor Kevin Walsh, a Reader in Meteorology in the School of Earth Sciences has expertise in tropical cyclones, discussed their cause and the uncertain evidence on increasing intensity and frequency.

The slide shows and videos of the talks are available for viewing at <http://www.caspi.unimelb.edu.au/>



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# CASPI: NEWS

## Climate Adaptation - Science and Policy Initiative

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### Garnaut Review: The Science of Climate Change

CASPI has been commissioned to write a report for the Garnaut Review on the scientific basis of climate change. This 6 week project will be undertaken by CASPI with the assistance of Prof David Karoly.

The Garnaut Climate Change Review is an independent study by Professor Ross Garnaut, commissioned by Australia's State and Territory Governments in April this year. It will examine the impacts of climate change on the Australian economy, and recommend medium to long-term policies and policy frameworks to improve the prospects for sustainable prosperity.

The Review's final report is due on 30 September 2008, with a draft by 30 June 2008. More details at: [www.garnautreview.org.au](http://www.garnautreview.org.au)

### CCARF Bid News Update

Shortly after the completion of our EOI for the proposed Australian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation was sent to the Prime Minister (with the support of the Premier and the VCs of Melbourne, Monash and RMIT universities), the Federal Government created a formal process for the new centre. The Australian Greenhouse Office sent out invitations to organisations to bid for a research facility called the Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility. See their website for details: <http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/impacts/centre.html>

The University of Melbourne has partnered with the ANU, UNSW and Monash to submit a joint proposal. This is for the facility itself, out of which will emerge a number of network research projects for organisations to engage with. If the bid is successful, CASPI steering committee member Prof Snow Barlow will be a Deputy Director of the new Facility.

### Climate & Health Symposium

CASPI co-organised with the Macaughy Centre a symposium on "The Challenge of Climate Change for Health in Rural and Regional Victoria" to consider what will the impact of climate change be on the well-being of people in rural and regional Victoria. This all day event took place on August 22, with over 65 people from across the state present to listen to a range of speakers. It was supported by a \$10,000 grant from the Menzies Foundation.

The program allowed time for discussion and this was taken up with a lively and informative exchange of views. Rural Health and Climate Change proved to be a fruitful meeting ground.

The slide shows from this event are available for download at [www.caspi.unimelb.edu.au/events/e\\_hd.php](http://www.caspi.unimelb.edu.au/events/e_hd.php) and a CD recording of the event will be available soon. Symposium registrants will receive this free, otherwise it will be available for purchase from the Menzies Foundation ([www.menziesfoundation.org.au/](http://www.menziesfoundation.org.au/)).

### Human Rights and Climate Change Workshop

The Human Rights Forum (Faculty of Law) held a very stimulating exploratory workshop on issues relating to climate change and human rights on Thursday 23 August. A panel of six University academics gave brief (5 minute) informal presentations on work relating to this theme. A number of issues were raised that encouraged wide-ranging discussion on the human rights implications of climate change.



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### CASPI Brochure

A printed brochure describing CASPI has just been completed. Copies are available on request, and available for download from the website.

### Related Sites

AC SIS: [www.acsis.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.acsis.unimelb.edu.au)

VEIL: [www.ecoinnovationlab.com](http://www.ecoinnovationlab.com)  
[www.sustainablemelbourne.com](http://www.sustainablemelbourne.com)  
[www.sustainablecities.com](http://www.sustainablecities.com)



### Events

- \* 8 Aug - The greenhouse gas benefit of planting trees does not stop at carbon
- \* 17 Aug - Dispelling the myths about climate change science
- \* 22 Aug - The Challenge of Climate Change for Health in Rural & Regional Victoria
- \* 23 Aug - Workshop on Human Rights and Climate Change - Law Faculty
- \* 31 Aug-1 Sep - Transported: Collective Transport Sustainable Cities
- \* 19-23 September - Conference on Spatial Information Theory - COSIT
- \* 9-11 January 2008 - Workshop on Hydrologic Prediction: Modelling, Observation and Data Assimilation

Details: [www.caspi.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.caspi.unimelb.edu.au)

*This newsletter, its contents and style, are the responsibility of the author and do not represent the views, policies or opinions of The University of Melbourne.*

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