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Special Interest Articles:

- IPCC Report– The news is not good.
- Controversial Technology – Blocking the sun to slow down global warming.
- Bladeless Wind Turbines – the way of the future?

IPCC Report

On the News, most nights, we have been seeing reports about the devastating bushfires in Greece, Turkey and the United States. While the climate change deniers continue to claim there is no such thing as human made global warming, the latest report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says otherwise.

According to the much anticipated assessment report, the Earth is just 10 years away from heating a further 1.5 degrees, on top of the 1.1 degrees it has warmed up since the industrial revolution, and it is humanity's fault. "Climate change is already affecting every region on Earth, in multiple ways. The changes we experience will increase with additional warming," said Panmao Zhai, co-chair of the international group of scientists behind the report.

The climate is not merely changing, the rate of change is now accelerating. The report shows that every fraction of a

degree matters, with even incremental increases creating catastrophic weather events. The Greenland iIce Sheet, for instance, which is the second largest body on Earth, will continue to melt at a rapid rate over the next century regardless of what we do now.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres declared the report a "Code Red" for humanity. Mr. Guterres said the report must "sound a death knell for coal and fossil fuels" before they destroy our planet.

Never more have we needed leaders from government, business and civil society to unite behind policies, actions and investments that will limit the temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The bushfires named above, combined with the catastrophic floods in China Belgium and Germany, should mean that we don't even need to read the report to understand what is happening.

J. R. Sanchez, CP

EVs and Australia

Many countries in the world have recognised that a switch to electric vehicles (EVs) is an important step in reducing carbon emissions. In Australia every State and territory now offers incentives to buy an EV, but not all offers are equal.

The best incentives can be found in NSW. They offer rebates and tax breaks that add up to roughly \$5,000.00, an investment in charging infrastructure, a commitment to fully electrify the government fleet by 2030 and even a push ahead of the national construction code to ensure new suburbs and buildings can cope with mass plug-in uptakes.

The worst performer is WA who focus on developing charging infrastructure but provide no incentive for buyers.

Victoria will offer incentives of up to \$3,000.00 on the purchase of an EV, but introduced road user charges at the same time. With EV sales only reaching 1% of the market, it is too soon to be whacking prospective buyers with a new tax.

Queensland was the first state to have an EV strategy back in 2017, but has since slipped down the order and is now reviewing it, looking to do more.

J. R. Sanchez, CP



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JPIC Happenings



There isn't a great deal that has changed since our last newsletter. Lockdowns continue to come and go and restrict all but routine, home based JPIC ventures. One development, on a personal level, is that I am seriously considering closing the JPIC blog. Since I launched it in 2009, I have written an article a month, of around 500 – 5000 words, on a range of topics covered under the umbrella of JPIC. I post a short extract with a link to the full article on my Facebook page and on the U.S. Passionist JPIC Facebook page as well. In this quarterly newsletter I always include the IP address to the blog as well. Having monitored site for hits and likes, as well as the US CP JPIC Facebook page, I've noted a steady decline in interest in clicking onto the link and actually reading the article, and have concluded that it is a lot of work for very little result. To the contrary, this newsletter seems to continue to be well received.



"We have only one heart, and the same wretchedness which leads us to mistreat an animal will not be long in showing itself in our relationships with other people."
(Pope Francis)



Controversial Technology

Today, scientists are examining whether they can stop the sun's rays as a way to avoid the worst-case scenarios from a warming planet. What sounds like science fiction is becoming a larger focus in deliberations and ethical discussions about solutions to climate change, as billionaires like Bill Gates back exploration into the technology of solar geoengineering, while leading climate activists call it a delay tactic to avoid a swift global shift away from fossil fuels.

There are two theories of how to do this: pumping aerosol particles, such as sulfur dioxide, into the upper atmosphere; and spraying sea salt into the sky to create low-level marine clouds over the ocean to reflect more light back into space. Neither is without controversy.

The idea derives from the effect of volcanic eruptions, which have had a cooling effect on the planet. Following the 1991 eruption

of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines, the second-largest volcanic explosion of the past century, a massive ash cloud containing nearly 20 million tons of sulfur dioxide temporarily lowered average global temperatures by 0.5 degrees Celsius.

But it's the unintended consequences that cause concern. Reducing solar rays could make droughts more widespread, blunt plant and crop productivity and potentially change atmospheric circulation patterns in ways that actually warm some parts of the world faster. Even if the technology proved successful in reflecting sunlight back to space, the use of sulfur dioxide could produce acid rain, accelerating ocean acidification.

J.R.Sanchez, CP .

I would suggest these are unnecessary risks that divert attention from addressing the main cause of climate change.

.R.Sanchez CP



The Christian Prime Minister

The Morrison Government said that Australia will provide 3000 humanitarian visas this financial year to afghan refugees desperately trying to flee the Taliban. These, however, will come from the existing intake, rather than a special allocation. This is well below par with the commitments made by other nations.

Canada has offered resettlement to more than 20,000 people at risk and the United States is accelerating its visa application process. It is worth noting that in 2015, the Abbott government granted 12,000 humanitarian visas to people in Syria on top of Australia's regular humanitarian program.

Mr. Morrison said Australia would offer visas only through official channels after security and health checks. "Those who have not come to Australia in the right way and on temporary visas in Australia, they will not be offered permanent residence in Australia," he said.

I am astounded by this hard heartedness in the face of such a humanitarian crisis. Is this who we are as Australians? Is this who we've become? Families are fleeing their homes, their livelihoods and their loved ones in fear for their lives. We've seen the pictures of people clinging to the outside of the big transport planes then falling to their deaths, and all our government can focus on is their asylum seeker policy.

In contrast, faith based and community groups are declaring they are ready to help any such refugees relocating to Australia. It makes you wonder if the Prime Minister's attendance at the Hillsong Church is really just for political show.

Ray Sanchez CP



Not so Veiled Control

The Morrison Government has moved to tighten the supervision of charities. The proposed new regulation would place a charity at risk of losing its registration if one of its staff or volunteers were to do any act, or omit to do an act, that may be dealt with as a summary offence under an Australian law relating to real property, personal property or causing personal injury or harm to an individual.

On the surface, this appears to be a response to a growing consciousness of professional standards and duty of care. However, it could well be a veiled attempt to prevent charities from speaking out against unjust government policies. For example: if a member of the SVDP participated in the annual Palm Sunday protest really against the government's refugee and asylum policy and disobeyed a police direction at one of these protests, it could impact on the ongoing registration of Vinnies as a charity.

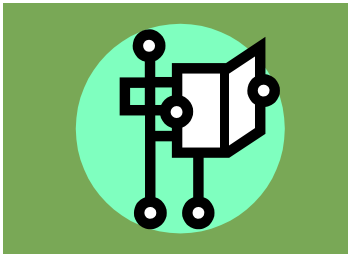
In other words, this policy change may be designed to put pressure on charities, if they wanted to continue to be registered, to discourage staff or volunteers from participating in common peaceful protests. It would also make it much harder for charities to share their resources



with community groups to support their advocacy. The regulation could also introduce unnecessary red tape for virtually every one of Australia's 59,000 charities, and again, threaten them with deregistration if they fail to comply.

This treatment is unprecedented. Note that neither for-profit corporations nor political parties can be deregistered because a staff member commits – or is deemed likely to commit – a minor offence. Perhaps it is a not so veiled attempt at control of freedom of speech when it questions the morality of Coalition policies.

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Another Vietnam

Like many of you, I have been deeply distressed and angered by the images from Afghanistan, which brought back images I'd seen of the allied departure from Vietnam and Cambodia. As in the film, "The Killing Fields," I fear for what will now happen to those who are left behind.

Should the US and Australian troops have remained? I think we should never have gone there in the first place. President Biden blamed the tragic end on the Afghan army and government, saying that if they were not prepared to fight for their own country, the allies could not remain indefinitely propping them up. But what did we expect? The United States never went to Afghanistan to do nation building – they went there for revenge. As with Vietnam, the coalition propped up a corrupt government for whom its citizens had no great love. How could the army expect to fight for it, especially when the president himself abandoned ship?

Sadly, those who will experience the revenge of the Taliban will be those left

behind. The lightning speed with which the Taliban have retaken the country, like the Camera Rouge in Cambodia or the Vietcong in Vietnam, speaks volumes about who truly believed in what they were fighting for.

I heard an Australian soldier, who had fought in Afghanistan, interviewed on the news. He was asked if he believed going there was a mistake. He answered that he believed it was the right move as it took the fight to the Taliban and occupied them there for 20 years so that they could not enact terrorist attacks like 9/11 throughout the world. It is impossible to quantify this conclusion, though it is a relief to see that our troops acted with the best intentions and with the belief that they were doing what was right. Unfortunately it is now the once 'free' citizens of Afghanistan who will experience terror as the Taliban vent 20 years of suffering and fighting for their belief that it was their country and their right to practice their faith as they understand it.

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Bladeless Wind Turbines

Even though wind power, in the form of wind turbines, is one of the fastest growing energy sources in the world, it is not without its critics, even from the environmentally conscious. While being cost-effective and environmentally friendly, commonly heard criticisms are that the turbines themselves might cause noise pollution, due to the noise produced by the blades; and aesthetic pollution, caused by the visual impact to the landscape. Also wind turbines have been criticised for their impact on local wildlife, such as birds flying into the spinning turbine blades.

Conscious of this criticism, it was with great interest that I learned about bladeless turbines. The technology consists of a cylinder fixed vertically with an elastic rod. The cylinder oscillates on a wind range, which then generates electricity through an alternator system. The energy from the wind is captured by a resonance phenomenon called vortex shedding, which is caused by an aerodynamic action. The body begins to oscillate and enters into

resonance with the wind when the frequency of these forces approaches that of the body's structural frequency.

There are many advantages to designing a turbine without blades. Compared to standard turbines anchoring or foundation requirements are greatly decreased, making installation much easier. The reduced swept area of these turbines allows more turbines to be positioned within the same surface area, compensating for the loss of power efficiency with space efficiency in a cost-effective manner. There are also few moving parts, which not only help to reduce noise, but also do not pose a threat to birds.

The technology is still in its infancy and at present bladeless turbines are less efficient in converting captured wind power into electrical energy, which has limited their widespread adoption. But technology is always advancing so that the 3-blade turbines are not guaranteed to be the technology for the future.

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