

Rising sea level at our doorstep

by Don Pagé

Predictions that global warming will cause disaster worldwide have been made by renowned naturalist Sir David Attenborough, at a United Nations conference in Poland. He called climate change “our greatest threat in thousands of years”.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-12-04/attenborough-and-schwarzenegger-open-un-cop24-in-poland/10579660>

Many waterfront houses at Woronora could be inundated by rising sea level, as well as the low-lying Pacific nations of the region which he mentioned.

Prominent US conservative Arnold Schwarzenegger echoed calls at the conference to act against rising world emissions and condemned US President Donald Trump’s abandoning of the Paris Accord to limit global warming. The comments were made in Katowice, the city hosting the UN’s COP24 climate talks this week—drawing together about 200 countries to set the rules for the 2015 Paris climate accords.



LOCAL M.P. KELLY LEADS THE BACKLASH

Deniers of climate change in Australia are led by political right-wingers such as Craig Kelly, our local MP for Hughes and a key opponent of action to reduce emissions by the Liberal Government in Canberra. He claims that it is all in the natural cycle, not the result of fossil fuels burned since the Industrial Revolution began about 1840.

MP Kelly had opposed the National Energy Guarantee (NEG), which aimed to increase renewable energy, and provide secure and reliable electricity at reasonable prices.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/aug/07/craig-kelly-says-backbenchers-have-not-agreed-to-neg-contradicting-turnbull>

Australia’s emissions are among the worst in the developed world, and it was criticised by its neighbours in the Pacific at a regional conference in September in Nauru.

Sir David Attenborough (pictured), 92, has blamed humans for the “man-made disaster of global scale”, using his influence as a famed naturalist and BBC presenter.

"The world's people have spoken, their message is clear: time is running out," he said.

"They want you, the decision-makers, to act now."

CATASTROPHY LOOMING

UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres made a dramatic appeal to world leaders to take seriously the threat of global warming, and to act boldly to stop a catastrophic rise in temperatures before the end of the century.

"Even as we witness devastating climate havoc across the world, we are still not doing enough, nor moving fast enough, to prevent irreversible and catastrophic climate disruption," Mr Guterres said. This requires a “radical overhaul of the global economy” and a move away from fossil fuels, he said.

Arnold Schwarzenegger, the action film star and former right-wing governor of California, said the United States was "still in" the Paris accord to curb fossil fuels and global warming, despite President Donald Trump's decision to walk away from it.

"If we had never started in that direction, and used other technology, we would be much better off," he told conference delegates. "America is more than just Washington or one leader".

He suggested that Mr Trump’s stand was "crazy" for deciding to withdraw from the Paris accord, and insisted that the climate deal had widespread support in the US. Many of the world's smaller islands face catastrophic flooding from higher sea levels in a warming world, and have been among the loudest opponents of climate change.

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<https://www.smh.com.au/business/the-economy/what-is-the-neg-and-what-will-it-do-20180319-p4z53r.html>