

## **Open letter to all people concerned with climate change**

### **URGENT: Futurecide Data subsequent to IPCC 2014 Report ARCTIC METHANE: total 'game-changer'**

Scientific evidence subsequent to research data included in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 5th Assessment Report (IPCC AR5) strongly indicates that

#### **PRESENT GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE SERIOUSLY UNDERESTIMATES THE URGENCY.**

Cutting edge climate science related to geographic areas not generally considered in Australian climate discussion, but of primordial importance in dynamic planetary systems, is an essential component of managing the future of this country.

Data from leading experts in the form of **direct observations** signal an

#### **EXPONENTIAL INCREASE IN RISK TO ECONOMY, SOCIETY AND EVEN CIVILISATION:**

- 'possible' 5°C increase by 2100 (IPCC AR5, vetted and accepted by major governments) means \$60T cost and business/economy/civilisation collapse completed by 2100
- Arctic temperature increase (according to Arctic specialists including University of Cambridge professor of Arctic physics), already 5°C, means civilisation collapse from 2035 to 2050 and species, possibly planet-wide, extinction by 2100
- and anyway we are many decades into the 6th mass extinction, the greatest since the dinosaurs - caused by us, and named the Anthropocene. Why do we ignore the most catastrophic event on the planet in 70M years? Business as usual?

#### **RESPONSIBLE RISK MANAGEMENT**

The possibility of a low impact high risk event can be ignored. A high impact low risk event needs an insurance policy. A cataclysmic impact event with medium risk – and even inevitability under 'business (and government) as usual' – needs more than insurance, it needs immediate concerted action by all major players.

This open letter addresses:

1. The problem: our species is already responsible for a major extinction event and seems incapable of responding adequately to the exponentially increasing risk of global extinction
2. The urgency of total change
3. The origins of human and organisational responsibility
4. A way answers can be found: individual creativity within the organisation

This cycles through three iterations:

- A. Headlines
- B. Outline of submission
- C. Exploratory text

### **Section A.**

**EXTINCTION BY 2035, or a bit later? Denying the future.**

**A double denial.**

**Politics ignores the IPCC AR5 warning: the possibility of +5°C by 2100 under 'business as usual' actually means human civilisation extinction.**

**In turn, IPCC AR5 denies Arctic methane feedback, which puts us on track towards extinction by 2035-2050: ESAS (East Siberian Arctic Shelf) already 5°C warmer causing methane release leading to a further increase of 5°C.**

**5°C + 5°C = Permian 90% mass extinction of life – that means us.**

**We have already caused the 6th great mass extinction, and are now taking the Earth towards a second Venus.**

**Why have we done this and how can we find the answers: see <<http://www.creativediscussion.org>>.**

**“The greater the consequences, the greater the risk” (UniSA OHSW&IM Procedure).**

**Even at low probability, possible 'off the scale' levels of hazard from global warming call for most urgent RISK CONTROL.**

**Please examine <<http://arctic-news.blogspot.com.au/>> in the detail our collective future requires and judge for yourself.**

See important paper:

<http://arctic-news.blogspot.com.au/2013/08/historic-killer-methane-could-erupt-from-arctic.html>

**Change means CHANGE – total and immediate!**

**“I” am responsible – all 7B with no exceptions.**

## Section B.

### Global warming: realities, causes and 'a way answers can be found'

The Anthropocene – 6<sup>th</sup> mass extinction of life already well under way

IPCC 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report (9/2013) – predicted temperature rise up to 5-6°C, which actually means human civilisation extinction by 2100

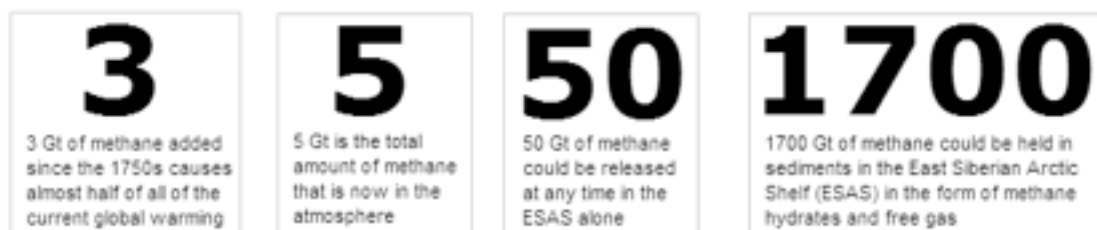
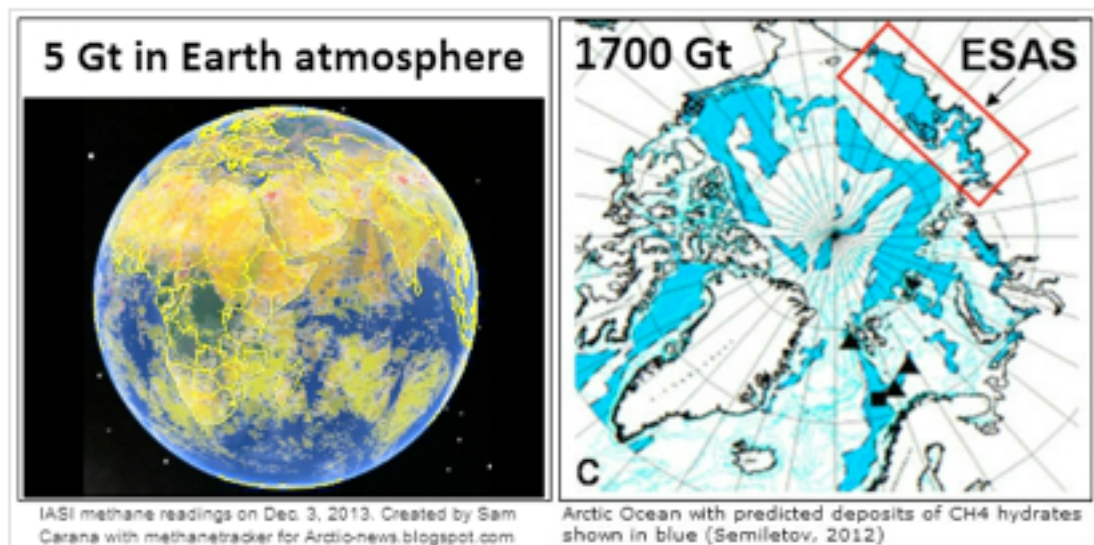
Parallels to Permian extinction with 90% loss of life

Role of Arctic methane feedback, tipping point passed in 2010 with massive releases pointing to complete breakdown of modern economy within 20-30 years (according to a number of leading Arctic scientists)

Why are we destroying our planet and now risk destroying ourselves: origins of human and organisational dysfunction

Role of organisations: insensitivity to negative externalities – individual members cannot 'rock the boat'

A way to promote the role of the individual in decision-making by enhancing creativity and 'flash of insight'



The time has come to spread the message. Please share this image widely! Created by Sam Carana for Arctic-news.blogspot.com

<http://arctic-news.blogspot.com.au/2013/12/the-time-has-come-to-spread-the-message.html>

## 1. Extinction now

**We are already in the Anthropocene mass extinction event**  
*Starting with industrialisation in 1750s*

6<sup>th</sup> great extinction of life

Plankton loss, jellyfish invasion, land species and diversity loss

Global warming – CO<sub>2</sub> from human activity

**What are we doing about 'our' extinction event?**

Development, profit, man versus nature

No awareness, no concern, no change

**Possible extinction events: where to from here?**

Human civilisation

Human species

Living planet – terracide

*Permian 250M yrs BP: 90% loss of life ... Venus?*

## 2. Global warming

**Where we think we are now**

0.8°C has already brought significant perturbation

IPCC predicting up to 5.4°C by 2100 and even higher

Not stated but this means human civilisation extinction

*Massive food deficits, price skyrocketing, starvation, mass population movements*

**Is this accurate?**

IPCC combines general climate science but

*Research data 5-6 years out of date*

*Consistently conservative – underestimates the problem*

*Requires the approval of government representatives, responding of course to the 'business as usual' fossil fuel lobby*

IPCC reports are based on direct impact of human activity (CO<sub>2</sub>)

*The impact-of-this-impact is largely ignored = positive feedback*

*Over 20 feedback loops, Arctic methane most important*

**Response by governments, media and general public**

Better to ignore inconvenient facts

### 3. The past

#### Permian mass extinction

Volcanic eruptions in Siberia caused +5°C

This melted the permafrost, releasing the methane and causing further 5°C, total 10°C temperature increase

Mass extinction with 10M years to recover

Note: IPCC already looking at possible 5°C Anthropocene increase

### 4. Arctic methane

East Siberian Arctic Shelf (ESAS) methane formed 11,600 BP with rapid glaciation of vegetation, then sea level rise and sea ice cover

Total ESAS methane 1,700 Gt

Total methane in atmosphere 5Gt (responsible for half of warming)

By 2010 already 5°C temperature increase in ESAS

Possible abrupt release “at any time” from ESAS of up to 50Gt (Natalia Shakhova)

Sam Carana, Unfolding Methane Catastrophe, <http://arctic-news.blogspot.com.au/2013/10/unfolding-methane-catastrophe.html>

#### Rapidly increasing ESAS methane release

September 2010 methane “plumes” metres across

September 2011 100s metres across

September 2012 kilometres across

September 2013 150 kilometres across ([NASA](#))

October 2013 deep Arctic Ocean methane release appeared and has already reached alarming levels

Follow breaking news on <<http://arctic-news.blogspot.com>>

February 2014 Earth mantle involvement in methane release noted as a result of Anthropocene warming

Mantle Methane by Malcolm P.R. Light <http://arctic-news.blogspot.com.au/2014/02/mantle-methane.html>

**In addition, summer Arctic sea ice cover set to reduce to zero by 2015**

<http://arctic-news.blogspot.com.au/2012/11/arctic-sea-ice-set-to-collapse-in-2015.html>

#### **Potential effect**

**Cost to global economy estimated at “60 trillion dollars - the size of the size of the global economy in 2012”**

<http://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/cost-of-arctic-methane-release-could-be-size-of-global-economy-warn-experts>

**Arctic scientists are very worried and some are talking of a planetary extinction event by 2030's or 2040's**

Global Extinction within one Human Lifetime as a Result of a Spreading Atmospheric Arctic Methane Heat wave and Surface Firestorm

<http://arctic-news.blogspot.com.au/p/global-extinction-within-one-human.html>

## **5. How did we get here?**

**We are uniquely responsible for the ongoing 6<sup>th</sup> mass extinction which may well become bigger than the Permian**

**Unless we act decisively and immediately**

**Evolutionary error: we are lacking the capacity to (automatically) recognise an error in judgement – “mental proprioception”**

**Error however can be corrected through ‘flash of insight’**  
*Insight is the key to change*

**Increasingly, organisations are now superimposed on individual or group of individuals**

**No ‘organisational proprioception’ – insight only possible to individual**

**We make our judgement subservient to the interests of our organisation**

<http://www.creativediscussion.org> > Contents > [The Awakeness Paradigm](#)

## 6. How can we get away from here?

How can knowledge of extreme global warming have an influence on organised political decision-making?

Any reference to above data will normally be received with derision and warning not to 'rock the boat'

Totally new ideas can only be accepted by individual, not by organisation/party/government etc

Present ideas to small group of people (2-3-4)

Rules:

*Equal time for each person to present ideas*

*Listen attentively, do not interrupt*

*Listen, not to agree or disagree, but for one's own 'flash of insight'*

*Each person take good ideas to, and from, another small group*

A network of individual creativity can lead to change in an organisation in the interests of organisation + its members + all stakeholders (all those affected by its decisions)

<http://www.creativediscussion.org> > Contents > [Creative Discussion Groups](#)

## 7. Creative discussion

Creative Discussion gives not the answer, but a way answers can be found: by each individual

To free decision-making from pre-determined outcomes

See [www.creativediscussion.org](http://www.creativediscussion.org) > Contents > [Wisdom in Planetary Leadership](#)

**"I" am responsible for country**

## Suggestions

### Not nuclear !!!

Note likely future incapacity to service (uranium/plutonium cycle) nuclear power plants

*Nuclear needs guarantee of very long term viability - to maintain nuclear waste*

*With global warming this is not guaranteed*

*Even an industrial leader like Japan is at present at high risk of nuclear meltdown during Fukushima decommissioning*

Need for immediate decommissioning and ban on uranium export

*Extreme risk of nuclear power chain meltdown in case of even limited 'de-industrialisation'*

### Incentives:

Incentive for activities that reduce global warming funded by disincentive for activities that increase global warming

<http://feebates.blogspot.com.au/p/feebates.html>

*While not developed in this submission, Feebates may well represent one of the most effective methods of acting directly on the causes of global warming, as well as promoting the most appropriate alternatives. In addition it can be applied at all levels of governance, and most importantly at local level, thus allowing action to be tailored to local requirements.*

## For more information see:

Last Hours: very good 10 minute video on Arctic methane

<http://lasthours.org/>

Arctic News: up to date observations and articles

[arctic-news.blogspot.com](http://arctic-news.blogspot.com)

Creative Discussion using Plain Pair Groups: creative decision making

[www.creativediscussion.org](http://www.creativediscussion.org)



## Leading Arctic scientists

Prof Peter Wadhams, Polar Ocean Physics Group, University of Cambridge <http://www.damtp.cam.ac.uk/user/pw11/>

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/earth-insight/2013/jul/24/arctic-ice-free-methane-economy-catastrophe>

Malcolm Light, see Project Lucy, radio transmission to decompose methane

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/10b1VGrbysjL4GDyQVldwFXtrd7xJgg89XzjNueqVkks/edit?pli=1#slide=id.gd46501f\\_0\\_26](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/10b1VGrbysjL4GDyQVldwFXtrd7xJgg89XzjNueqVkks/edit?pli=1#slide=id.gd46501f_0_26)

Natalia Shakova and Igor Semiletov – Russian specialists in ESAS at International Arctic Research Center in Alaska

<http://www.iarc.uaf.edu/people/nshakhov>

### Section C.

I wish to make a contribution to the global warming consciousness-raising process: making available a structured form of information exchange facilitating creativity which can help individuals, including decision makers, to wake up, become involved and take appropriate action.

What I offer is well researched and proven to be effective, responding to a fundamental problem with human thinking, a gap in human evolution, but deliberately designed to be as minimalist as possible. Please take a little time to see what 'Creative Discussion using Plain Pair Groups' can offer and, better, spend a while with a couple of friends or colleagues simply following a defined pattern of communication to get a feel for its potential and test its efficacy.

As a way to encourage people to discuss climate change in some detail and discover ways each individual can respond, see Creative Discussion on GetUp!: ([www.communityrun.org/p/creativediscussion](http://www.communityrun.org/p/creativediscussion)).

To explore Creative Discussion in depth go to the main website: ([www.creativediscussion.org](http://www.creativediscussion.org)).

-----

We are facing an unprecedented crisis, still largely ignored, that threatens our survival and that of the planet. The government of each country has the critical task of bringing this crisis to public awareness and legislating an urgent and appropriate response.

I also wish to make a contribution – not an answer, but a way answers can be found; not limited to the powerful and the decision-makers, but accessible to each of us Terrians.

The threat is so big we can't see it, and when we do look, we don't want to see; meanwhile, powerful interests keep telling us there is nothing to see. As our First Peoples say, we are all responsible. In a way we are all terracidists (Tom

Englehardt uses the term 'terrorist': ([www.tomdispatch.com/post/175703/](http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/175703/) ), though certain corporate interests and established systems have the most impactful terracidal effect.

Some are struggling to explain how big the problem is (e.g. [www.zcommunications.org/bigger-than-that-by-rebecca-solnit.html](http://www.zcommunications.org/bigger-than-that-by-rebecca-solnit.html) ); a few climate scientists are now clearly stating the unthinkable (<http://arctic-news.blogspot.au/>) an excellent website for latest observations on Arctic methane release, also explore right hand menu e.g.: "Global Extinction within one Human Lifetime" and "Message from the Arctic Methane Emergency Group" esp. 7; a video released on 28th September, 2013, unequivocally shows our present trajectory (<http://lasthours.org/> ).

I wish to briefly outline my understanding of the most severe outcomes presently being discussed, not to further close us in an avoidance reaction but to underline the urgency in stimulating a creative response, while at the same time offering a specific means by which that creativity can be activated in each individual and result in effective action.

-----

Irreversible abrupt climate change involves 1, 2, 3 ... and even 4 separate but cumulative threats which are inherent in the present anthropocene extinction event.

1. Aggressive human over-occupation of the planet has resulted in the 6th major extinction of life forms on the planet, already several decades and perhaps much longer in the making.

2. The choice of fossil fuels as the energy to run the human world, initially the result of fortuitous inventions, but maintained against more efficient forms of energy largely by corporate interest, has resulted in an increase in CO2 that risks making the anthropocene one of the great extinctions.

3. Add to these two forms of climate forcing the increasingly massive release of methane on the East Siberian Arctic Shelf, first noticed in September 2010 but largely ignored in the IPCC AR5, now accompanied by large scale release of methane from the deep Arctic Ocean, first noticed in October 2013, and we are facing an extinction event which will possibly be greater than the Permian, with its 90% species extinction. While life has so far always recovered – after millions of years – some are now indicating a true terricide, or 'Venusian terraforming' (the correct word has not yet been invented). After 3 billion years of planetary homeostasis: the extinction of a conscious living planet.

4. Even if this process is limited to a 'simple' human civilisation extinction event – mythical history tells us this would not be the first – any breakdown of the present technological and economic systems, even limited to one small country, could mean the collapse of a national nuclear power industry and a hemispheric downwind chain reaction, making impossible the re-emergence of a human civilisation. Reason not only for avoiding uranium/plutonium based nuclear as an 'alternative' energy source, but for immediate global decommissioning and deactivation of all nuclear waste products (along with cessation of uranium mining) – before it's too late.

'ESAS 5+5' – An August 2013 article specifically endorsed by Prof Peter Wadhams, professor of Polar Ocean Physics of Cambridge University (<http://>

[arctic-news.blogspot.it/2013/08/historic-killer-methane-could-erupt-from-arctic.html](http://arctic-news.blogspot.it/2013/08/historic-killer-methane-could-erupt-from-arctic.html) ), adds further detail to the 1, 2, 3 ... points above. During the Permian, CO<sub>2</sub> from volcanic eruptions in Siberia caused a 5° warming, which was sufficient to thaw frozen methane, in turn resulting in a further 5° warming and the Permian extinction. According to Natalia Shakhova (International Arctic Research Center in Alaska), the ESAS has already warmed by 5°. It seems the massive ESAS methane release she has observed starting 2010, accentuated further by sustained methane release from the depths of the Arctic Ocean since October 2013 (<http://arctic-news.blogspot.au> : see e.g. 2013 November 11 and 14 – click on Blog Archive by Month, “Methane levels ..”, “Horrific amount ..”), can be interpreted as the beginning of a similar double warming process today.

I thought scientists were generally reticent about making clear statements, but Arctic climate scientists are now reporting their observations with such clarity! ... but then they are presenting simple observations, not models or theories.

The data reported by Arctic scientists indicate the urgency of total change. We are responsible, we have caused this, and we need to make any change needed to avoid the consequences. We now need to examine what it is in the human species that has allowed us to reach this point, and what it is that can facilitate necessary change.

-----

Why is the supposedly ‘wise wise man’ the first species in the history of the planet to set about destroying its source of life? In very simple terms, it seems this is because we see the world through the eyes of human conditioning – ‘I think what we all think’. While all species have evolved an automatic means to correct physical error, or a capacity for ‘physical proprioception’, the recent evolutionary development of a ‘thinking brain’ and a sense of ‘self’ has left us so far without the capacity for ‘mental proprioception’, i.e. automatic correction of error in judgement. (Note this term is used in number of quite different ways). For more detail see: [www.creativediscussion.org](http://www.creativediscussion.org) > Contents > [“The Awakeness Paradigm”](#).

Mental proprioception is possible, but is not automatic. It requires the individual to step outside of human conditioning, which means the whole pattern of memory and interpretation which define our understanding of the inner and outer world. This is not impossible, but in fact is experienced by each individual in moments of silent attentiveness when a ‘flash of insight’ provides a direct perception, unmediated by conditioning. This ‘seeing in a different way’ reorganises cognitive and even cerebral patterns. It provides an understanding that is valid to the individual, here and now.

The human species is responsible for an ongoing mass extinction that may become a planetary extinction. A total and immediate – here and now! – restructuring of the human occupation of the planet is most urgently required. Organisations are fundamentally incapable of responding. Only the individual, ‘you and me’, which ultimately means “I”, can respond by initiating immediate change. This requires a highly creative response. The key to creativity is insight. Insight is accessible to the individual, each and every individual irrespective of education or age. The interaction of multiple individuals focusing on and giving value to insight can then bring about fundamental change in organisations.

The fundamental orientation of my research over 20 years in leading Japanese universities has been to provide a simple yet effective means by which 'flash of insight' and thus creativity can be facilitated in the individual and shared by individuals across a community.

It has been found that creativity is best exercised in a small, preferably heterogeneous group, where each participant prepares and presents new and interesting ideas aimed at stimulating creativity, with equal time for each presenter, and where each person listens silently, in thought and in word, attentive both to the speaker and to one's own 'flash of insight'. During presentations, good ideas and insights are collected and then discussed when all speakers have concluded.

Between regular meetings of this 'Insight Group', each person participates in a separate 'other group', the 'Plain Pair Group', from which they bring back insights collected, both from presentations and from ideas each member has in turn collected in their own 'other group'. Thus insights are gathered, directly or indirectly, from a number of other groups, intensifying one's own experience of creativity, while 'my' ideas can reverberate out from Insight Group to an array of Plain Pair Groups across a discussion community.

From direct experimental evidence, as well as from reported experience, insight moves in an evolutionarily positive direction, it is dynamic and pertains to the 'here and now', the ever-changing, ever-present experience of "I", not 'self' which is limiting, but "I" as the experiential centre of a planetary field of wisdom – I use the term 'Earthsight'. Insight, however, is dynamic, ever-changing. If an insight is held up as an 'answer', given a fixed identity, it would again enter the realm of memory, structure and conditioning, just as other forms of knowledge. Insight therefore cannot be hierarchical, it cannot be taught or based on authority. Insight is lived, by each individual, actively participating in the moment to moment dynamic of the unfolding planetary experience.

-----

While Creative Discussion was initially developed in the field of student-centred learning, other areas of successful application have shown it can be effectively applied to a consciousness-raising process across a delimited or an open community. It provides a simple interactional format without imposing any values or pre-determined ideas – or even topics for discussion – where any individual can sit down with people having similar or even widely differing attitudes and values, each gaining from a non-confrontational 'attentive listening for one's own insights'.

Creative Discussion is not for convincing others, for selling one's own ideas, nor even for agreeing or disagreeing with those of others. Creative Discussion is for stimulating insight, and each person's insights will be valuable for that person at that moment – they may be different tomorrow, and will probably change over time ... will need to change, and rapidly, perhaps even contributing to the profound transformation required in our species at this moment.

The question is, how can our species attain a sudden awakening, not within structured hierarchical organisations or as a form of global mental synthesis, either of which would represent an imposition, but through the awakening of each person, each "I", as an individual, by oneself and in interaction with, sharing with other individuals.

A network of Creative Discussion groups, where each person belongs to two groups, spread across any form of community, would nevertheless remain experientially centred on the individual, "I". The group I am in now is the 'Insight Group', the other group or groups I meet at another moment in time being the 'Plain Pair Group'. Where I am now is always the centre of insight, change and action. My own insights can ripple out across the community, while I am open to insights flowing in towards me through a diverse range of other groups.

There are therefore no channels through which instructions or knowledge or values can be imposed on the individual. Likewise within the group, possible influence of dominant personalities is counterbalanced by each person belonging to a separate group, where the dynamics will be quite different. There is also no threat to organisations or nations within which this process takes place. Each member is freely contributing their creative best to the welfare of the organisation/nation etc while at the same time being attentive to the externalities resulting from its activities, attentive that is to all stake-holders, internal and external, people and planet.

-----  
The role of the government is of crucial importance in the present state of general denial of extreme urgency where even the IPCC AR5 effectively ignores the importance of increasing ESAS methane release between 2010 and 2014 and the possibility of a summer ice-free Arctic Ocean as early as 2015 (see <http://a-m-e-g.blogspot.com.au/> – Figure 3), with consequences that the IPCC reserved for the end of the century.

I wish all those concerned, directly and indirectly, all the best in the essential and unavoidable role of each person to promote political, corporate and community awareness of the urgency of a multi-level response to what is now dangerously close to abrupt irreversible climate change.

If you consider that Creative Discussion using Plain Pair Groups may make a contribution to this process of awareness raising, please experiment, have a Creative Discussion lunch with colleagues or friends and make this known as widely as possible.

As a momentary aside, in a recent dream (as I write this) I formulated a carefully worded question, "What is the butterfly that heals the ailing human mind?" On waking, the first thing that came to mind was the butterfly in chaos theory. Is it possible that 'flash of insight' could exercise a 'butterfly effect'?

It is not within my capacity to judge the validity of the body of research cited above. I am nothing but a finger pointing, at the part of the world most critical for global warming, and indicating the most appropriate scientists, those who specialise precisely in the ESAS and Arctic Ocean.

I realise that this topic is 'inconvenient', and will require a total re-evaluation of politics, industry and even society.

In response, I can only point to the one society and earth management which has proven to be capable of living sustainably with the planet over long periods of time and can provide invaluable keys in our search for a successful future, the Australian people and their ecological blueprint applied over decimillenia. A ground-breaking publication, Bill Gammage, *The Biggest Estate on Earth: How the Aborigines Made Australia*, outlines the marvel of this continent in 1788 –

about the time the industrial revolution commenced, leading to our present impasse.

I personally can hope that some planetary process will turn the situation around, or hope that all these specialists are just wrong. But government cannot relegate its management of our future to a hope. We are already decades into the greatest extinction event in nearly 70 million years, 'our' extinction event. We caused it, and our governments are continuing 'business as usual'. The anthropocene extinction may well now become ... ..

**There is no future in waiting for tomorrow.**

Regards,

William Plain

Emeritus Professor

[www.creativediscussion.org](http://www.creativediscussion.org) and [www.earthsight.org](http://www.earthsight.org)