

Extract from SEPP 6 June 2017

## Hard Times Coming?

The news in Australia must be discouraging for many of its citizens. Dr Alan Finkel AO, Chief Scientist, Chair of the Expert Panel, 2017, *et al.* of the Department of the Environment and Energy, wrote a 'Blueprint for the Future: Independent Review into the Future Security of the National Electricity Market' recommending that the country convert to 42% renewables by 2030. According to the report:

*'In preparing the blueprint, the Expert Panel consulted widely, visiting regulators and operators across Europe and the United States and commissioning a review of best practices from the International Energy Agency. In Australia, the Expert Panel held public and private consultations in every region of the National Electricity Market, undertaking over 120 individual meetings and receiving over 390 written submissions.'*

*'The Expert Panel would like to express its sincere gratitude to all those who made the time and effort to attend public forums, attend meetings, prepare submissions and provide counsel. The insights provided were invaluable in developing the blueprint. The Expert Panel is confident that adopting the blueprint will ensure the optimal functioning of Australia's electricity system into the future.'*

As the former head of Australia's National Climate Centre, William Kininmonth states:

*'The real challenge for society is to manage within a naturally varying climate. A total of 70 per cent of natural disasters involve weather and climate extremes. Regulating carbon dioxide concentration (indeed, if this is even possible) will not ameliorate these.'*

*'Less than 20,000 years ago Earth was in the grip of the last glacial maximum. Deep ice sheets then covered much of North America and northwestern Europe; sea level was 130 metres lower than today. Our present relative warmth is a blessing.'*

*'It is unfortunate that the Chief Scientist did not conduct an independent review of the science underpinning the contentious hypothesis of dangerous anthropogenic climate change before embarking on a blueprint for the national electricity market. A misplaced objective of emissions reduction at the expense of affordable and reliable electricity services will unnecessarily impoverish Australians.'*

Apparently, the expert panel doesn't understand the nature of the grid, even after the grid failure in South Australia causing South Australia to go black. The

grid is an energized system serving all those on it. Like a central nervous system, if a major component goes down, it all goes down.

Many of those involved in climate and energy are resembling the theoreticians and academics on the flying island Laputa in Johnathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* where one person in the grand academy of Lagado was engaged in extracting sunbeams out of cucumbers. Unless there is a major technology breakthrough in the generation of electricity or in its storage, a grid based on wind and solar will fail, unless bureaucrats can control when the wind blows and the sun shines. See links under Energy Issues -- Australia