

LETTERS

Energy policy is based on misapprehensions

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Energy Minister Josh Frydenberg cannot expect us to take seriously his acceptance of the National Energy Guarantee scheme by an energy security board (“If we co-operate, we can lower carbon and cut energy prices”, 12/4). This is not an independent body; it comprises experts who accept the global warming thesis and who were selected by Malcolm Turnbull for that reason.

Amazingly, details of such a scheme have not been announced months after they were due. Yet Frydenberg tells us that electricity retailers will have to ensure reliability and to reduce emissions intensity. To pretend this will be a market is absurd; it will be a supplier of electricity under conditions stipulated by government.

Des Moore, South Yarra, Vic

We do have a problem with carbon dioxide and it is wrong for Doug Hurst (Letters, 13/4) to claim we don’t. Carbon dioxide emissions are a primary global risk. Coral bleaching, the melting Arctic ice and unprecedented weather patterns show the steady increase of heat in the system.

The real problem, as the Paris accord covertly acknowledged, is that emission reduction won’t fix the climate. The focus of climate policy should shift from emission reduction to research and development of cost-effective ways to remove excess CO₂ from the air.

Robert Tulip, Fraser, ACT

There’s a good reason why Josh Frydenberg “ignores two important points” — they are demonstrably untrue, and have been repeatedly disproved (Letters, 13/4).

And if Frydenberg “seems to take voters for fools”, then it is only the dwindling minority of right-wing ideologues who ignore reality, can’t provide a single verifiable fact to support their delusions that fossil-fuel driven extreme weather isn’t getting worse, and keep repeating the same arguments in the forlorn hope that anybody other than global warming deniers are paying attention.

Having failed in all of their prognostications to date — the temperatures are still breaking records, extreme weather keeps happening, and not a single credible world leader or climate scientist now pays them any attention — the question is, who do they pretend is still listening?

Nuclear energy is a red herring, new coal mines are dead ducks.

Chris Roylance, Paddington, Qld

Doug Hurst is correct to say that the global threat posed by increasing CO2 levels has been exaggerated, and that the best science now available says we do not have a problem.

Yet such is the gullibility of academia, government and UN institutions, CO2 has been demonised as a dangerous pollutant, and has resulted in an ever-expanding edifice of green and leftist ideology, the corruption of politics and science, the creation of an economy-sapping and wealth-transferring Paris agreement, and the replacement of cheap and efficient carbon-based energy systems with unreliable, inefficient and expensive renewables, all for virtually nought.

G. M. Derrick, Sherwood, Qld

When is the federal government going to get real about energy? We are spending millions on renewables which have contributed to our high cost of energy without providing a source of base-load power. Tony Abbott was right when he said Hazelwood should continue to supply power and he is also correct in saying Liddell should continue to supply power. Now that Hazelwood has been shut down, electricity prices have skyrocketed for industry and our homes. One can only speculate on the effect on power prices should Liddell be shut down.

Leo Vilensky, Castle Cove, NSW

The albatross hanging around the Turnbull government's neck is its continued kneeling at the altar of the Paris agreement. Last year, Bjorn Lomborg said: "The UN's own figures reveal that even in an implausibly optimistic, best-case scenario, the Paris accord would leave 99 per cent of the climate problem in place."

This is largely due to that agreement giving large emitters such as China a free pass through to 2030. Meanwhile, our political class clings to an agreement that will achieve nothing, while offering nothing to suffering businesses and consumers other than the threat of blackouts.

Kevin Begaud, Dee Why, NSW