

Letters Ed
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Dear Sir

I was surprised that the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank, Guy Debelle, made a speech on assessing climate change just a few weeks before the election (RBA warns on climate Fallout, 11/3). The debate about how to treat changes in climate is probably the most controversial between the political parties. As such, statements by government bodies which can influence attitudes, add to the controversy and possibly favour one party, should not be made at this time.

That generally accepted rule applies to the Reserve Bank notwithstanding its claim to be "independent" and the more so as Debelle claims climate change influences monetary policy,

Debelle enhances the problem of analysis by claiming that "we need to think in terms of trend rather than cycles in the weather" and "to reassess the frequency of climate events". Yet he provides no evidence to justify this claim and he omits an important conclusion by the IPCC that cyclones do not exhibit a trend. Analysis by Australian experts, not quoted, suggest the same as regards droughts.

I call on the Governor of the RBA to state that his deputy's speech does not necessarily reflect the banks' official view.

Yours faithfully

Des Moore, Former Deputy Secretary, Treasury