

Dear Sir

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the rating system and future changes to the rating system.

I have twice made submissions to the Wellington Shire budget, first in 2014 (in blue) and again in 2018 (in green), my reason for submitting was to warn the shire that drought would impact on their ability to raise rates from a largely rural rating base. The attachments were part of my budget submissions. I have so far predicted this drought very accurately, in response to a post November 10th 2016 o [REDACTED] Facebook page I said-

[REDACTED] 18.6 year lunar cycle droughts show up in tree ring studies of in America and Canada over a 1,100 year period and they show up in rainfall records in eastern Australia, double lunar cycles of 37.2 years more pronounced. 1981-83 plus 37.2 is 2018-2020. Go back every 18.6 years from 1981-3 and there are a very high number of severe droughts. There is a very high probability of a severe drought in the period 2017-2021."

I have taken a keen interest in what is termed "megadroughts" for well over 30 years and this New Scientist article of 25th March 1989 is very interesting-

<https://books.google.com.au/books?id=BTUBKa60jG0C&pg=PA28&lpg=PA28&dq=new+scientist+solar+variations+fuel+debate+on+climate&source=bl&ots=9AuYjcOYT5&sig=Tc4VvM15mwCl36UlKQnVUFmh6zE&hl=en&sa=X&ei=JLqU6rxEMS48gWEIlgDQ#v=onepage&q=new%20scientist%20solar%20variations%20fuel%20debate%20on%20climate&f=false>

It talks about a cycle in the order of 200 years with several decades of very low solar activity and says that the cycle was set to return early this century, now there seems to be widespread acceptance within the scientific community that we are now entering a period of several decades of very low solar activity and this is associated with "compressed tree rings" which means drought. The Wellington Shire is already in crisis to a degree with the drought as are some other rural shires in Victoria so I attended the Engage Victoria meeting in Bairnsdale on the 3rd October 2019 in Bairnsdale, I was interested to see which deck chairs Engage Victoria would seek to re-arrange. The two most interesting things that came out of that meeting was that the facilitator had no idea what rating concessions were available to land holders such as companies involved in plantation forestry and wasn't interested in the review investigating excessive spending. The facilitator also made it clear that Engage Victoria wasn't interested in the way State and Commonwealth governments had transferred state and federal services to local government.

So, we have a looming debt crisis with Local Government, greater cost pressures on rural shires and an extremely high chance that drought is going to be an extreme burden on rural shires for the next 30-50 years. If local or state government isn't totally open about any advantages that companies such as those involved in plantation forestry, mining companies or any other land owner has then the whole process is unacceptable. Also any review needs to have an understanding of the likelihood of a solar related megadrought and its pressure on a rural rate base.

[REDACTED]

Previous budget submissions-

I have re-submitted my submission from 2014

1. Future climate-

To give a local perspective of what I have said about past megadroughts, I have been given two anecdotal accounts locally, one is a swamp on the South Gippsland Highway out of Longford, originally quoted as 12-15' deep and never dried up till 1914-15 to reveal dead trees had been growing in the bottom and had achieved an estimated age of 50 years. The catchment of the swamp is now predominately pines and rarely fills but it indicates megadroughts similar to what have occurred in other parts of S.E. Australia have also occurred locally in the not too distant past. The other account I have been given is a pool on Carr's Creek near Seaspray that had a pool quoted to be 100' long, 30' wide and 30' deep, there is only one time it has been known to have stopped running and dropped some 2m, it was around 1945. The amazing thing was that it revealed the branches of a dead tree growing from under the water line and this indicates a prolonged and extremely severe drought.

The causes of these droughts are almost certainly prolonged periods of low solar activity such as the coldest of the Little Ice Age from 1645-1815 (should have been 1645-1715) and such periods relate to the alignment of the planets. We are being told that the planets are starting to align in a similar manner to that period so we could well be facing similar periods of rainfall as were experienced during the period that left the swamp dry at Longford dry for 50+ years and when it appears that there was no flow in Carr's Ck for 50+ years also.

The present management of Wellington Shire should not leave future generations with debt to be repaid in that situation.

2. Cooling and other issues facing the Northern Hemisphere

I quote from my previous submission of 2014-

"Last year I submitted some of my research into climate to the Wellington Shire for consideration in formulating their budget as an analysis of the available research on past climate suggests that southeastern Australia is headed for extremes in drought to the point that it will significantly impact on the shires ability to raise rates from the rural sector. In that submission I also suggested that cooling in the northern hemisphere could significantly impact the world economy and in the 12 months since I made that submission this has clearly happened. I am resubmitting that submission to this years budget consideration along with an "

We are starting to see significant cooling and indications of a return of Maunder Minimum conditions in many parts of the Northern Hemisphere and this caused massive famine in a world with a 1 billion population, the world economy will be unsustainable with the present population. There are some things that we can do to help the coming generation survive and one of those is reduce the debt they inherit.

4. World economics and the dairy industry.

Dairy farmers probably have the highest debt levels ever and significant market uncertainty, next generations money can't simply be spent on the assumption that local dairy farms can provide the same rate revenue that they have in the past.

5. State government mismanagement.

We have seen a reduction in allocation of sawlogs to the Heyfield, I believe as a clear result of bipartisan absolute mismanagement of the forest, some has been lost to fire, much to provide for legislative commitments to pulp wood supply and some because of political responses to such things as the Ledbeagters possum. These issues can affect house and land values around Heyfield so affect the shires ability to raise rates. The Wellington shire shouldn't be spending money as if the state and Federal governments are acting correctly when they are not.

Thanks for whatever consideration is given to what I have said-

Subject:Budget submission

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The sixty years from 1940 to 2000 has been said to be the highest solar activity for the last 8,000 years and high solar activity appears to closely relate to high rainfall in S.E. Australia and higher world temperatures, particularly many parts of the Northern Hemisphere.

<http://cc.oulu.fi/~usoskin/personal/nature02995.pdf> These are the ideal conditions for the local and world economies and in what is likely a very brief one in 8,000 year optimum governments at all levels have been lulled into a false sense of security and put the people into vast debt. The attachment Mechanisms of megadroughts attempts to give a very brief explanation of the relationship between solar activity, volcanic activity and rainfall in our part of Australia and also provides links to research detailing the probable decline in solar activity in the coming decades.

The attachment Water Inquiry is something I wrote previously and attached as an overview. Since 2005 I have been warning about the prospect of declining solar activity and the drought related consequences locally and the consequences of the cooling globally. Below are a few links to the situation in the northern hemisphere this winter and spring, it would appear that it is only a matter of time before the debt ridden world has a climate and debt driven massive financial crash. The present cold conditions are threatening food production in many areas of the northern hemisphere-

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/04/03/east-german-march-2013-coldest-in-130-years-dramatic-temperature-deviations-all-the-way-to-siberia/>

<http://sunshinehours.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/hadcet-since-1659-monthly-mean-mar.png>

<http://www.thegwpf.org/antarctic-sea-ice-extent-2013-approaching-record/>

<http://www.thegwpf.org/headed-coldest-spring-record/> So, government at every level has to stop spending next generations money in the manner that they are as they will have immense difficulty paying it off under much harsher conditions than our present lot are spending it. This is particularly so for a shire such as Wellington who has a major part of its rate base dependant on farmers who are most probably going to be in extreme difficulties through an extended drought over the coming decades. The Wellington Shire shouldn't be increasing the rate burden at all. The cooling of the planet and its crippling effect on the economy won't be prevented by unscientific predictions of warming, as is becoming evident already. <http://www.drroyspencer.com/2013/04/global-warming-slowdown-the-view-from-space/> I am sorry time constraints have prevented me explaining it in greater detail. I have CC'd local state polities as everyone in every level of government has to sit down and work through what we are likely facing but I'm not confident they will. Neil Barraclough

Subject:Budget submission

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I have resubmitted last years budget submission with a quickly put together addition, the attachment LIA-Gulf Stream. In the Mechanics... attachment last year I gave an analysis of Sales rainfall in relation to changes associated with changes in solar and volcanic activity as a means of assessing likely changes with the predictions of low solar activity for the coming decades, at that time I wasn't aware that Sales rainfall was the combination of two data sets. Rainfall was recorded in Sale from August 1870 until July 1945 and recorded at the East Sale Airport from April 1943 until the