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Mr Bob Baldwin MP
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment
Parliament House, Canberra ACT

Dear Mr Baldwin

Australian temperature records and the BOM

My background is that I have Masters and Bachelor degrees in science, worked for 40 years in natural resource management, was a senior public servant, once used weather forecasts and climatic data on a daily basis as part of my work, and for nine years was responsible for the operation of a BOM weather station.

I understand that you are overseeing the inquiry by an expert panel into the "homogenisation" of temperature records by the BOM. This is significant inquiry, one with grave economic, social and scientific implications. I hope you will ensure that panel members are not whitewashed by the BOM, but have full access to independent experts and interest groups outside BOM.

My many scientific colleagues and I share serious concerns about the "homogenisation" issue. To summarise: (i) BOM admits that it uses computer models to adjust actual measured temperatures to create artificial temperature records; (ii) virtually nobody outside BOM understands how this is done, or why; and (iii) BOM has not complied with the basic principles applying to temperature record adjustment, i.e., that this should *only* be done (a) when there is a statistically significant discontinuity in the actual record and (b) when this discontinuity is supported by Meta data.

BOM states that its temperature adjustments have been "independently reviewed by international experts". Given point three above, these reviewers clearly cannot have been expert or independent. Our perception is that BOM is adjusting temperatures upwards to fulfil expectations about global warming. This is a political, not a scientific exercise, and it is a corruption of Australia's historical records.

Many hundreds of millions of good dollars are being spent as a result of fears about global warming. I would be happier about this if I knew that someone was keeping a good eye on the BOM, who are the custodians of our climate history. Every time I see them creating a new (and always warming) temperature record, and failing to explain why, I fear that good dollars are going down the drain, that the Australian public is being "snowed" for political reasons, and that solid historical facts are being corrupted.

I would be grateful if you would pass on this letter to the Expert Panel,



Roger Underwood
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