



Mixed signals from uninformed commentators

Letter to The Australian 8 April 2008 by Fiona Wain, CEO, Environment Business Australia

How confusing. On one hand The Pentagon, International Monetary Fund, IPCC, UNFCCC, Reserve Bank, CFMEU, NASA, Environment Business Australia, WWF, CSIRO, inter alia – say climate change is one of the most important risks facing humanity and the need for action is urgent.

On the other hand Professor Aitken of political science background and Catholic Archbishop George Pell, neither of whom are renowned for any in-depth knowledge of climate change, would have us sit on the fence as change accumulates foreseeably to the point of irrevocability.

Perhaps either of those learned gentlemen would like to outline what our response should be if eco-systems collapse. If this happens then the services we humans rely on collapse as well. At that point "adaptation" to climate change will be impossible.

They may believe that climate change is not happening (and I would be delighted for them to be proven correct) but I do not recommend that policy makers, investors, decision makers rely on crossing their fingers or saying their nightly prayers in place of prudent risk management and investing to help ensure the future we all want.