

CITIES OF THE FUTURE – BENEFITTING FROM CLIMATE CHANGE

By Don Burke

Climate change will do much harm to environments and civilisation. But it is worth remembering that it is climate CHANGE not climate DISASTER. That is, some areas of our earth will be devastated, some may be affected only mildly AND SOME WILL ACTUALLY BENEFIT from Climate Change.

The general thrust of this presentation is that while science and people work towards stopping or reversing Climate Change, smart groups will plan to turn the (hopefully) temporary Climate Change into advantages for new cities and industries.

IF WE DON'T DO THIS, ECONOMIES MAY COLLAPSE AND CITIES MAY DISINTEGRATE.

Using climate change computer modelling for the future as a starting point, the idea here is to assemble a multidisciplinary TASK FORCE to plan cities and industries of the immediate future.

By looking at patterns of reduced or increased rainfall, industries can be relocated which means that populations (and hence cities and towns) will also move locations. Many other climate change issues may also yield ever more opportunities apart from rainfall.

The task force will be charged with the task of planning new cities and towns and also creating inducements for people to move. Obviously building infrastructure in advance is essential. Schools, shops, theatres, roads, restaurants, sporting facilities, etc all would need to be developed.

TOO EXPENSIVE??

Constructing roads alone in (currently) rural or useless areas would cost a tiny fraction of the expensive road tunnels that Sydney's urban congestion dictates. Opening up new land and housing developments would make housing affordable for younger people.

The truth is that cities like Sydney and Melbourne are already far too big and congested. They keep adding ever more rings on the outside of the onion. Both have long since run out of adequate water and the environmental cost of more dams is unacceptable.

The task force would include:

Town planners, sociologists, demographers, climate scientists, entrepreneurs, property developers, agriculturists, farmers, environmentalists, road builders, computer modelling experts and many other people with relevant expertise.