



# Kelvin Thomson MP

Shadow Minister for Public Accountability  
Shadow Minister for Human Services

27<sup>th</sup> September 2006/mt

For the past five years I have been concerned about the impact of global warming on the planet in general and Australia in particular. I have made numerous speeches in the Parliament and in the broader community on the need for urgent action to address this issue.

Throughout this period I have been increasingly frustrated by the misinformation spread by "climate change sceptics", who have sought to undermine the case for action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by peddling pretty much any line they could think of – that global warming was unproven, that it might not be man-made, that it might be good for us etc. None of these things is true. Global warming is happening, it is man-made, and it is not good for us.

I am prompted to write to you, as well as to a substantive number of other companies, by two recent events. First I saw Al Gore's global warming film, "An Inconvenient Truth." It is an excellent film and I highly recommend it to everybody. In it he observes the divide between the scientific consensus on global warming – of over 9,000 scientific studies into the issue, every last one concludes global warming is real, man-made and bad – and media reporting of the issue, in which over 50% of reports suggest the science is uncertain. This divide is clearly a result of propaganda and misinformation.

Secondly I noticed that the Royal Society, Britain's leading scientific academy, has written to US energy company Exxon Mobil asking it to halt financial support for groups that have misrepresented the science of climate change. The Royal Society says Exxon Mobil has given \$4 million to 39 groups that have been misinforming the public.

I am writing to ask whether your company has donated any money to the Institute of Public Affairs, the International Policy Network, the American Enterprise Institute, the Competitive Enterprise Institute, the European Science and Environment Forums or any other body which spreads misinformation or undermines the scientific consensus concerning global warming. If your company has donated such money in the past, is it continuing to do so? If so, I request that your company cease such financial support.

Your early response to these important questions would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Kelvin Thomson MP  
**KELVIN THOMSON MP**  
Member for Wills