

Green hue to sea of hysteria.

A NEW wave of bleaching on the Great Barrier Reef has given the go-ahead for anyone with a green axe to grind to start gloating about how evil humans are causing climate change. The added benefit is that jittery governments desperate to win votes from inner-city elites, are more willing to fork out millions to scientists who claim they can defeat nature.

Even before the latest bleaching, the World Wildlife Fund issued a press release saying that last year's bleaching had set back Australia's Reef protection efforts by 20 years. They also took the chance to remind the Federal Government that it had admitted a funding gap of between \$143 and \$408 million to implement Reef 2050 Plan actions. Of course, it said that even this amount is "under-estimated".

Last year, the feds pledged \$1 billion to protecting the Reef from climate change and water-quality issues. It really means giving money to scientists to think up new ways to impose even more red tape on miners and farmers already drowning in it.

This is also despite a Queensland Government report in 2015 admitting that even if every farmer in North Queensland adopted the world's best strategies to manage run-off, they have no chance of getting anywhere near the punishingly high targets set by the **green mafia**. In December 2015, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency said we were experiencing the strongest El Nino weather event on record. And the Bureau of Meteorology believes there's a 50 per cent chance of another one this year. El Ninos produce dry conditions on land and warmer water in the Pacific, about 3C higher than normal this time around.

A perfect one-two combo to increase the chances of coral bleaching. But El Ninos do end, and it makes sense to save our pennies and see what happens to the Reef when more favourable conditions resume.

But this doesn't suit a green movement that relies on emotion-charged hyperbole to convince everyone that it's man-made emissions that are killing the Reef and goes into all-out attack when challenged, especially when rivers of government funding are at stake.

They also seem intent on destroying the North's tourism industry with their claims "the Reef" is dying, and then dodge scrutiny. For example, a major Queensland newspaper has been trying to commission scientists to join a reporter on a tour of the GBR to independently see just how bad the bleaching supposedly is. So far, there have been none willing to take them up on it.

There are some people who believe water warmed by undersea volcanoes in the South Pacific could be causing coral to bleach. Others point to studies showing oxybenzone in sunscreen worn by millions of reef tourists harms coral.

I put both scenarios to James Cook University and it directed me to its ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies. Three weeks after I emailed ARC's communications team, they finally told me to go back to the JCU team.

You would think that JCU/ARC – the main “man-made climate change is killing the Reef” alarmist body in Queensland, if not Australia – would jump at the chance to quash alternative theories, but there's total silence.

Australia is being held to ransom by militant green groups intent on making us believe humans are killing the planet, and that giving them huge amounts of money will prevent it. They are depriving Australia of job-creating industries, they hold up major developments in the courts, they demonise farmers and use loud noise, threats and ridicule to silence even the most rational, fact-based counter-arguments on climate change, dredging or fossil fuels.

There also appears to be a “science for hire” mentality by which if you receive funding to combat climate change's effects, you'll make sure you find problems – or at least hypothesise on possible problems.

As public man-made global warming scepticism grows, and sceptical politicians gain popularity, bodies that rely on “doomsday scenarios” to continue existing, have to get louder and more hysterical to stay relevant.

This is despite a string of failed predictions, the most recent being the lack of cyclones this year. Scientists predicted at least 11 cyclones to form in 2016-17 we've only had three. Then we've had the “Climategate” emails, and revelations that US scientists mishandled climate data to suit a government agenda. But according to MMGW alarmists, weather/climate scientists can't be wrong or even questioned.

It's time we had a government that applies scepticism to all environmental claims, stands up to international environment bullies, and that realises nothing we do in Australia is going to make a noticeable difference to the world's temperatures.