



Speech By  
**Colin Boyce**


**MEMBER FOR CALLIDE**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 May 2018

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Callide Electorate**

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (7.18 pm): I rise to speak about the electorate of Callide. We are the energy hub of Queensland. We have coal-fired power stations, coalmines, the CSG gas industry and proposals to build large renewable energy plants—solar and wind. I came across an article written by Mr Viv Forbes, a geologist and Fellow of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, and I believe it is relevant. I quote—

Earth is a dangerous place. Of all the species that have ever lived, over 95 per cent have already been extinguished by natural disasters.

Ice, not global warming, is the big killer and this recurring calamity often strikes quickly. Thousands of mammoths and other animals were killed by ice storms and their snap-frozen bodies are still entombed in ice around the Arctic. Just 15,000 years ago great ice sheets smothered the northern hemisphere as far south as Chicago, Moscow and London and all life had migrated towards the equator. This deadly ice had gripped Earth for about 50,000 years.

Ice ages are also times of dry winds and drought as cold oceans and cold dry atmospheres produce little evaporation or precipitation. Great deserts like the Sahara and the Gobi expand, and wind-blown dust fills the skies and rivers.

One of the great serendipities of modern life is that man's use of carbon-rich fuels like oil and coal not only provides energy but also adds carbon dioxide plant food to the severely depleted carbon stocks of the atmosphere. Satellites have detected the resultant greening of the Earth.

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Humans are not immune to the threat of extinction, but it will not come from today's warm, moist, atmosphere or from the gas of life, carbon dioxide. It will probably come from the next glacial cycle ...

In every short warm era like today's Holocene, the warming oceans expel enough carbon dioxide into the atmosphere to terrify today's global warming alarmists. And these times have always supported abundant plant and animal life. But never has "global warming" from this "greenhouse gas" prevented the cyclic return of the ice.

When blizzards blow and glaciers grow, the great ice sheets will spread again and mankind will be decimated by cold, drought, crop failures and starvation ... Those still able to extract coal, oil or gas may manage to generate enough warmth and carbon dioxide plant food to offset the cold sun, the perma-frost and the barren atmosphere ... (but the Neanderthals did not make it last time).

We should celebrate, not fear, the Modern Warm Era and give thanks for the many benefits gained from recycling those marvellous batteries of stored and buried carbon resources to our still-hungry biosphere.