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### Presentation

On shaky ground: Policy foundations for political standing during a climate change earthquake?

### Biography

Alastair is a CEnvP with 30 years' experience principally in scientific evaluation and development of environmental policy and plans. Most recently he has focused on the communications and social elements of environmental management. He has become increasingly concerned for the need for real community engagement with the global climate emergency.

### Abstract

In 2040 it is worth reflecting on 30 years of climate mitigation policy. In Australia, how the early moral ideals of Rudd, Gillard and Turnbull were rattled to pieces by mighty multi-nationals fossil fuel companies wielding the media like a sledge hammer. Interesting how social media and crowd funding leveled the political playing field for independent politicians. That forced audited donations disclosures in 2019 and the corporate donation ban in 2027. Finally political power from the electorate: Not that novel really.

Thank goodness Paris COP 21 turned out to be more than a Climate Change conference. Without that forum and consensus mechanism to address global threats to humanity we could never have established the necessary global governance mechanisms to deal with the 2025-2035 GEPD (Global Economic Ponzi Depression) or accommodate 1.12 billion refugees as we dug out of that hole. Thank goodness the 2020 emissions review moved away from talking about renewable energy and percentages and focused on the real issue of 'Air shed' Greenhouse Gas Accounting (AGGA). OECD populations could never have taken responsibility for their actions without that sophisticated carbon flux modelling.

The real surprise to me is just how fast the changes occurred once New Zealand announced bipartisan agreement on 100% disinvestment in fossil fuel research or production. Admittedly they had less to lose than Australia or Venezuela, but nobody thought that in a decade 160 countries would make that position a cornerstone policy, allowing 90% to surpass their 2025 mitigation pledges.

All considered I think we did OK. Sure the world's natural resources have taken a real beating, but we are still standing as a civilization. For the first time in generations; possibly ever, we have constructive, accountable, democracies (locally, nationally and globally), we understand and accept personal responsibilities for consumerism and the environment is in recovery.

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**EIANZ Conference Brisbane  
'Foundations for our future'  
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Environment  
Institute of  
Australia and  
New Zealand



Image: Grosciences Australia



Image: Climate Reality Project

# Reflect & Discuss

What struck a chord?



What sounded unrealistic?



What didn't you understand?



# Foundation stones

(Opinion)



1. Career politicians are being bought by old money
2. Democracy needs transparency and equity
3. Social media is a great tool for democracy
4. Paris may provide a model for effective resource based global government
5. Our finance system will crash and keep crashing until we set it up differently
6. We must consider area based atmospheric flux, Efficiency and offsets won't get us there
7. Multi-party commitment is key – No games
8. Life is not fair, get over it and work with what you have
9. Through adversity come innovation and companionship
10. Listen to Dr. Bob Brown

# Commitment to action



Environment  
Institute of  
Australia and  
New Zealand

- What role do you think the institute should play in molding this scenario for our 2041 conference?
- That will you do?



Write something down and share your intention and request



Thank You