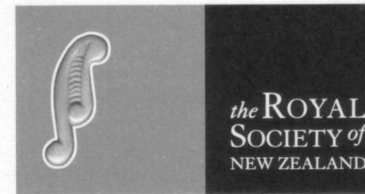


24 July 2008

Dr Vincent Gray
75 Silverstream Road
Crofton Downs
Wellington 6035

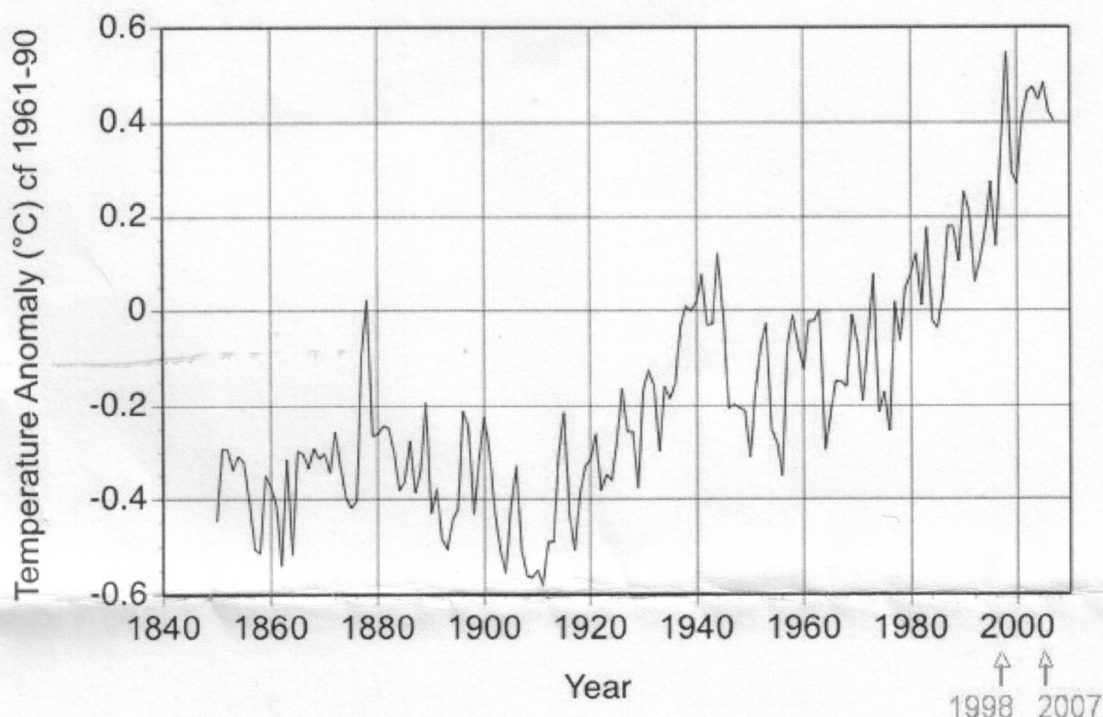


Dear Vincent

Re: Your Comments Regarding the RSNZ Climate Change Statement

This letter is in response to the material you emailed to Jim Renwick and me on 10 July, which I have circulated and discussed with the other members of the New Zealand Climate Committee of the Royal Society. I am also sending a copy of this letter to the Council Members of the New Zealand Association of Scientists, since you indicated in your 10 June email message that you were copying your correspondence to them.

You strongly challenge the statement made by the Committee that “there has been an overall upward trend in global surface temperature since the beginning of the 20th Century. Here is a plot of the global temperature change from 1850 to 2007, based on the HadCRUT3 data set (<http://www.cru.uea.ac.uk/cru/data/temperature>).

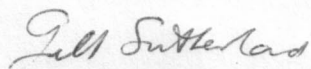


From this plot (together with the evidence outlined in the IPCC’s Fourth Assessment Report including rising sea level, diminishing snow cover, melting of glaciers, diminishing arctic sea ice cover) it is clear that the world is warming. This evidence is why the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report states: “Warming of the climate system is unequivocal”. As stated in the body of the RSNZ statement “the overall decade-to-century temperature trend is upwards, but individual years can still be cooler or

warmer than previous years" because "natural variability still occurs in addition to the human influences".

Most of the other points you raise in your comments are already addressed in the IPCC's recently published reports. These reports are based on assessment of the appropriately reviewed literature, by lead authors who are world experts in these fields, and who considered all of the comments submitted during the IPCC review cycles.

Yours sincerely



pp. David Wratt

(Chair, New Zealand Climate Committee, Royal Society of New Zealand).

CC: Council Members, New Zealand Association of Scientists