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## **Six Facts you should know about Climate Change**

It's hard to predict tomorrow's weather with 100% certainty. It's even harder to predict changes to the climate in 50 or 100 years time. There are many unknowns, uncertainties and assumptions.

It's this uncertainty that some people use to loudly reject or deny the proposal that the climate around the world is changing, or that this is in any way connected to the amount of greenhouse gas that we humans are pumping into the atmosphere. The media loves a good fight and often gives climate change "denialists" more airtime than they deserve, considering that the vast majority of climate scientists are of one mind on the subject.

### **Where do you stand? Are you unsure of who to believe**

Don't worry. You can accept the following 6 facts... Think about them and then draw your own conclusion.

#### **The facts**

1. Greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere trap heat. Like a greenhouse roof, sunlight penetrates the atmosphere and reaches the earth, but much of the resulting warmth is trapped.
2. Burning fossil fuel (petrol, diesel, oil, coal) and making cement (by burning limestone) pumps millions of tonnes of greenhouse gas into the atmosphere. Changes in land use (cutting down forests) release methane and reduces the earth's capacity to absorb CO<sub>2</sub>
3. Humans have burned more fossil fuels and chopped down more forests in the last 200 years than in the last 20 000 years put together
4. Greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, particularly carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) have risen sharply since the 1800s.
5. Average global temperatures have increased sharply since the 1800s
6. Tiny increases in global temperature have massive impacts on climate

**These facts are all supported by sound empirical data.**

**We cannot prove that our industrial lifestyle is the cause of climate change, but its hard to ignore the smoking gun.... And 99% of the world's climate scientists agree.**