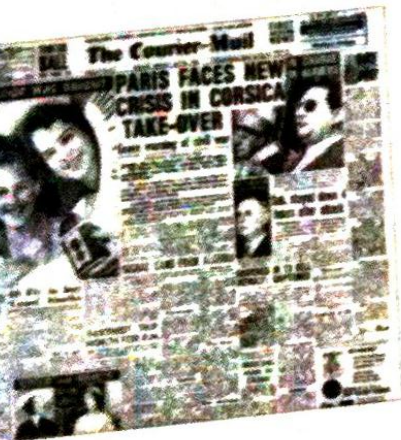


Talkingpoint

Timewarp

6.05.1958



Carbon tax feared, favoured

IN BRIEF

IF EVERY Australian factory, power station and mine closed tomorrow and every car, bus and aeroplane was grounded, it would take about four years for there to be a 1 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the world.

Even if the carbon tax proposed by Labor and the Greens achieves a 20 per cent reduction in Australian greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 (which is very doubtful), that will not make any measurable change in the world's emissions. By all means, let's all try to reduce all types of pollution, but let's not damage our economy by silly policies such as a carbon tax, which will achieve nothing worthwhile, but will certainly cost jobs and push up prices.

Michael Fitton, Buderim

MANY climate change sceptics and carbon tax opponents would have us believe the introduction of

a carbon tax would place Australia at an economic disadvantage compared with other countries around the world.

Yet carbon taxes are not new and are causing no great economic hardship on the citizens of the economies where they have been introduced. In fact, carbon taxes have been around for more than 20 years.

Finland was the first country to introduce a carbon tax in 1990 followed by Sweden in 1991. Britain introduced a climate change levy in 2001. Boulder, Colorado, was the first US city to introduce a tax on carbon emissions from electricity in April 2007, costing the average household about \$US133 a month. The Canadian province of Quebec introduced a carbon tax in October the same year, and British Columbia introduced a carbon tax a year later in 2008.

Even China is implementing a carbon tax from 2012 in an attempt to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from their industries.

Given these facts, why are so many Australians opposed to a tax that will have little effect on our personal economic situations, but will help reduce our carbon emissions and reduce climate change?

Michael Darcy, Upper Mt Gravatt

AT THE last election Julia Gillard was given a mandate not to impose a carbon tax.

A key policy of her election platform was that there would be no carbon tax under any government led by her. A vote for the Gillard-led Labor government should have been considered as a vote against the carbon tax.

Voters are now faced with this being the reverse.

Phillip Snowden, Noosaville

● MORE than any other time of the year, State of Origin makes me reflect on the sacrifices made by our Diggers. No doubt they had the game streamed via the internet, but it can't be the same. I hope they enjoyed the game.

Josh Mansfield, Redbank

● JAMES McCullough points out hotel room rates jump at State of Origin time (C-M, May 25). Hotels have high occupancies mid-week. There are few spare rooms to host visitors to an Origin game. More benefits and cheaper room rates would be available if events such as this were held on Sunday nights when most Brisbane hotel rooms are empty.

David Catterall, St Lucia

● I WAS appalled to read a Salvation Army collector had been attacked (C-M, May 25). My father was a soldier and told us we should donate to the Salvos if we