

More scientific evidence, please

You quote Professor Andy Pitman as saying: "Most of the climate sceptics ... don't base their arguments on science" ("Author downplays climate report errors", smh.com.au, January 25). He adds: "As far as I understand it, there are two paragraphs that have been questioned in a 1600-page document ... We ought to be talking about the other 1599 pages that nobody has found any problems with."

Pitman was a lead author of the chapter "Climate models and their evaluation" in the main 2007 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which cited models showing that "as the climate warms" the globe's capacity to take up carbon dioxide emissions "decreases".

Yet a recent peer-reviewed paper by Wolfgang Knorr in *Geophysical Research Letters* (November 7, 2009) shows there has been no downward trend in the proportion the globe has absorbed on average since records began in 1958 - 57 per cent.

As a result, the projections for the future atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide in Pitman's co-authored chapter are greatly exaggerated.

His own "science" needs to be supported by evidence, not synthetic models, a distinction that is largely absent from his chapter - and clearly ignored by the present Government.

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