



# The Australian

## Time to end climate denialism, says Gillard government scientific adviser

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Julia Gillard receives The Critical Decade report from Tim Flannery (left) and Will Steffen in Canberra.

Picture: Ray Strange

Source: The Australian

**ONE of Julia Gillard's top climate advisers says climate change denial is a luxury the world can no longer afford, declaring the decisions Australian politicians make now will affect future generations.**

But, as Professor Will Steffen warned it was time for an end to “fruitless, phoney” debate, Nationals senator

Barnaby Joyce said Labor's carbon tax would not cool the planet.

Professor Steffen and Australian Climate Commission boss Tim Flannery met with Julia Gillard this morning to hand her a copy of the report *The Critical Decade*.

The report warns the world faces a near-impossible task to avoid dangerous climate change, says that human emissions of carbon dioxide are causing global warming and predicts sea rises of up to a metre by 2100.

Professor Steffen said it was time for important policy decisions to be made.

“The decisions we make between now and 2020 will really determine what our kids and grandkids are going to see in the way of a climate. Whether they are really going to struggle with a climate out of control or whether they can have a climate they can live in,” he told ABC radio.

“I think we can say quite clearly that we don't have the luxury any more of climate denialism.”

But Senator Joyce said the report was a mere gesture.

“We are not going to change the climate from this building,” Senator Joyce told journalists outside Parliament House in Canberra.

“We can make people poorer. We can definitely do that.

“We can make people's lives more difficult, but we are not going to change the temperature of the globe.”



Greens deputy Christine Milne backed Professor Steffen's call for an end to climate change denial.



“What this report will do is actually help the Australian population see that what we've been having is a phoney debate in Australia that's been run by the sceptics, financed by big business, by coal, by oil around the world,” she said.

Professor Steffen said there was no debate in scientific literature over the fundamentals of science underpinning climate change “and there hasn't been for decades”.

“I think we want to make clear in this report where the credible science actually stands, what the credible scientists are actually saying,” he said.

The *Critical Decade* report calls for a global limit or budget to be placed on emissions to 2050 to give the world a chance of limiting temperature rises to 2C.

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