

# Review of: "The Climate Fix: make what's important measurable ..."

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

Dear Phil and Ross

This is an excellent paper which is very easy to read by lay people keenly interested in strategies to bring the climate crisis under control. What I most like about this paper (coming from a person involved in researching human occupation) is that the entire focus is occupation-centred. The classic example you offer is the reduction in environmentally harmful car vehicle emissions. You have addressed the issue at a global scale, which of course is vital as a necessary first account. The next step, I imagine, would be to create, or provide access to, more localised information.

Now, from where I live in far north-eastern Australia (Atherton Tablelands in the Cairns hinterland) it is very clear that the entire region is economically dependent on very large vehicles using predominantly diesel fuel transporting infrastructure materials and other goods over very large distances. There are also very many large farm machines and other industrial equipment in daily use. There is very little potential for conversion to more energy efficient vehicles at the current rate of development of the infrastructure needed to support that. There is a small increase locally in the use of hybrid cars, but no evidence of fully electric vehicles. Because of the relatively long distances between centres of work, many people "commute" on a daily basis. The distance from Cairns to Atherton is over 100 kms and traffic on the roads out of Cairns is very highly congested, making travel between centres often quite unpleasant and even extremely dangerous at times of heavy rainfall or thick fog.

What would be most useful in remote, albeit highly technologized regions such as this, is comprehensive data on what the local emissions amount to, in absolute terms. Those figures could be analysed on a per industry and per capita basis, not just in terms of the industries and people using the machines for production, but also in terms of the number of industries and people consuming resources from this area. Consumers would also include tourism, for example busloads of overseas visitors or what are colloquially called "grey nomads" who make the annual pilgrimage from southern states to northern regions.

Perhaps this data does exist somewhere and I have been too lazy to look it up. Or maybe it's not simply laziness but a kind of underlying despair that even equipped with such information, local individuals would be powerless, or at least at a loss, as to knowing how to deal with it.

I'm sure you are well aware of the drift of my line of thinking. It kind of ends up on the edge of an abyss; an existential crisis resulting in environmental lethargy. What I think is needed is some creative thinking on how to help local



communities come up with at least some of their own environmental solutions.

Just some thoughts in a very important dialogue...

Best regards and thanks for the great work

David