

YOUR VIEW

Mass cycling doorstep

held here in little old Invercargill.
DAVE PRICE
Invercargill
■ Abridged – Editor

Positive report

I will have a go at answering Mr Cave's letter.

Implementing the report commissioned by the World Wildlife Foundation (NZ), "A View to the South: Potential Low Carbon Growth Opportunities for the Southern Region Economy", which was released in Invercargill last Tuesday, would do a lot to create employment and provide economic growth in our region.

The report, written by recognised economic analyst Dr Giresh Nana of BERL, estimates that up to 1180 jobs could be created and \$190 million in GDP added, over the next 15 years in forestry and wood-processing alone. In engineering, 820 jobs generating \$115 million, could be attained in the same period, while the figures for education and training, and in horticulture, are 755 and \$91 million, and 540 and \$67 million, respectively.

Whether any of this actually occurs or not depends very much on the response of those paragons of public virtue, the "business community".

But at least the Greenies put their money where their mouth is and paid for the report, which

provides an alternative to complete despoliation of our environment.

MICHAEL GIBSON
Invercargill

Welcome point of view

BERL's latest report "A View to the South" (Letters, August 30) is welcome news for everyone. Leading economics consultancy firm BERL demonstrates how to grow good jobs without destroying the climate, in its report on the Southland economy released this week.

BERL's report outlines diverse growth areas of forestry, horticulture, crops, engineering and education, creating more than 3000 new jobs. These draw on Southland's tried-and-true strengths and give healthy reasons for young Southlanders to stay. Forestry expansion is the biggest job generator, soaking up carbon emissions and potentially building renewable energy independence.

Climate change's impact on health and health services is the leading risk to global health this century. The burning of fossil fuels – including the risk of mining Southland's vast reserves of dirty lignite – is the main cause of this health crisis.

The NZ Climate and Health Council, including Southland-based and linked doctors, has already submitted that the draft Southland Regional Policy Statement consider the impact of Southland's emissions on climate stability and changing climate impacts on the Southland economy.

Our farming and fisheries exports also rely on slowing the changing climate and acidifying ocean.

For a healthy future, New Zealanders

have to rapidly reduce our lethal greenhouse gas emissions. This means ignoring Solid Energy's pie-in-the-sky plans and leaving lignite deposits in the ground.

We support Southlanders in choosing a future that is rich in jobs, healthy and hopeful for everyone.

DR SCOTT METCALFE
NZ Climate & Health Council

Stating the obvious

I have read "A View to the South: Potential Low Carbon Growth Opportunities". The report's preamble shows it was obviously commissioned as an anti-lignite utilisation document, as in: "We don't need to do lignite because we can do these other."

The first point is there is nothing to suggest one is at the expense of the other. We can do both.

The second point is that the report's authors take a subjective benchmark of a "business as usual", comparing it with the supposed exploitation of potential in forestry, horticultural crops, engineering, and tertiary education. Southland businesses are already exploiting every economic opportunity here. Exploiting opportunities now and in the future is "business as usual". The so-called economic opportunities the report authors credit themselves with highlighting, are what is already being done, and what businesses in the future will ordinarily do.

According to the report's authors, all that land planted in forestry is going to produce jobs when it is harvested, Southland land could grow horticultural crops, Invercargill engineering businesses could make things and

the SIT could run extra courses. Gee whizz, I didn't know that until I read this report.

Robert Guyton may be excited to discover the bleeding obvious. I don't think anybody else reading this report will be.

MERVYN CAVE
Manapouri
■ Abridged – Editor

Adoption option

The Abortion Law Reform Association of New Zealand meeting the other night (August 16) left me feeling really sad at the information provided. Abortion is never the answer to a mother's plight.

When abortion takes place, someone dies. That someone is always the baby, but there are negative consequences for the mother as well.

Nine months seems a short space of time when one considers a lifetime of regret after having killed one's own baby.

The adoption option is by far the best option in an unplanned pregnancy as the baby gets to live and the mother can move on after delivery to have a life again, that is filled with hope and not despair.
LYNLEY MORRISON
Winton

■ Letters are welcome, but writers must provide their name, address and telephone number as a sign of good faith – pseudonyms are not acceptable. So that as many letters as possible can be published, each letter should be no more than 250 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, sense, legal reasons and on grounds of good taste. Please send your letters to: The Editor, The Southland Times, PO Box 805, Invercargill; or fax on (03)2149905; or e-mail to letters@stl.co.nz

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A productive plan

Mervyn Cave wants me to put forward a productive, job-creating idea that's not pie in the sky.

How about this: read the Berl economic report, *A View to the South: Potential Low Carbon Growth Opportunities for the Southern Region Economy* that was released at a public meeting in Invercargill just this week.

In it, Mr Cave will find proposals for forestry, horticulture, manufacturing, engineering and education that could ensure that Southland prospers.

It's a new report; it's exciting and it's positive.

It's full of job-creating ideas and nothing like the poverty-stricken North Korean scenario that Mr Cave describes for Southland.

ROBERT GUYTON
Riverton

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MICHAEL GIBSON
Invercargill

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