I Have Been Thinking

By Neville Barlow

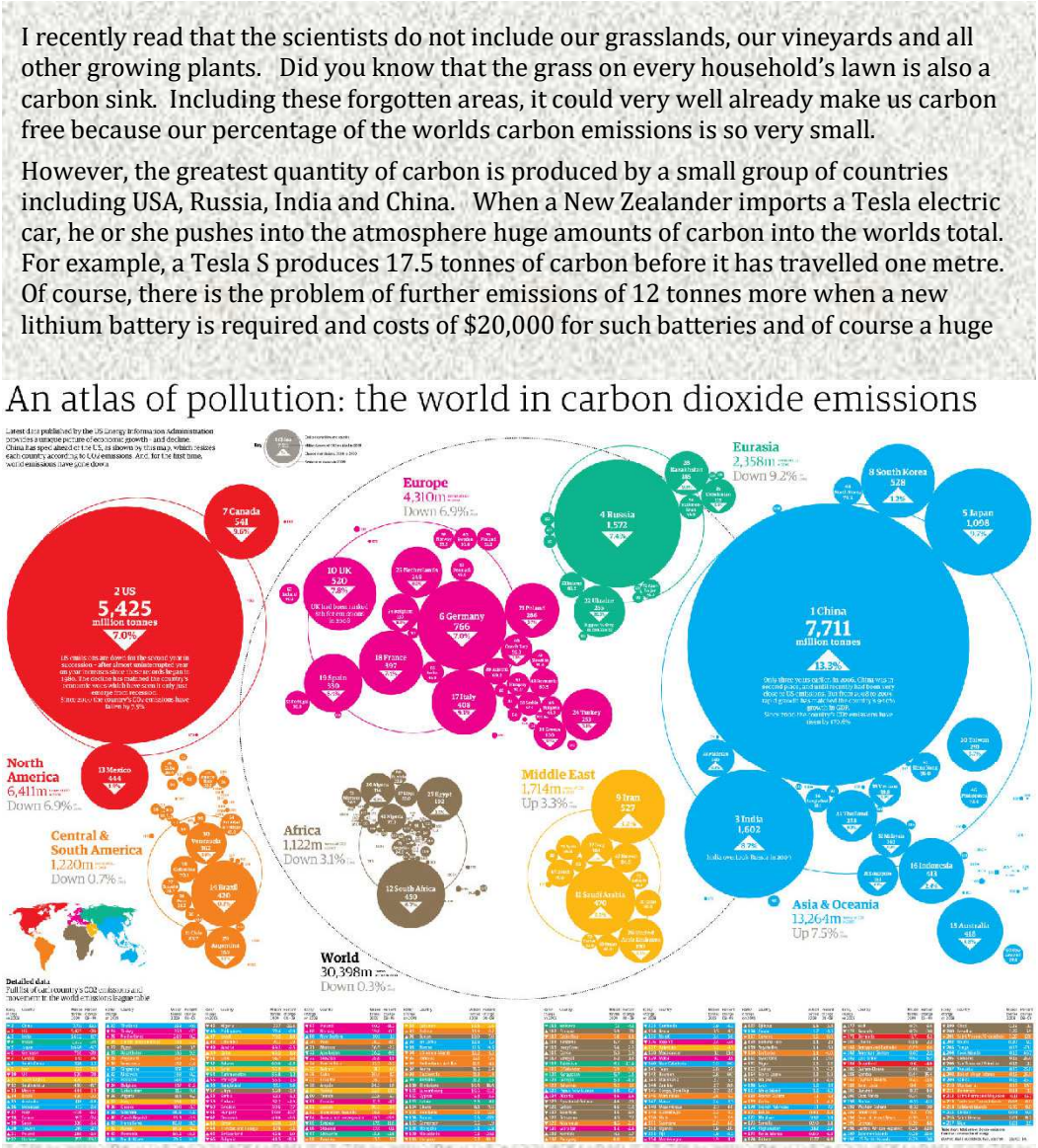
After having written many articles over the last 10 years for our Magazine, I have looked back and realise that every now and then there is a title such as "Do you believe everything you read" or "Emissions and CO2" or "The trouble with Electric Cars" and so on. Increasingly I wonder what the World is coming to.

Scientists the World over are telling us that emissions, or CO2, are altering our climate and the greenies are screaming that Methane gas from our animals is an even more of a hazard. Strangely enough it seems that the scientific world is greatly divided as to whether Methane is good or bad. From my research I understand that in India Methane produced from animal "dung" mixed with water is the main source of power for Internal Combustion engines, for heating in their houses and for cooking. My own experiments with poultry manure in a 44- gallon drum produced enough energy to light a radiator for 20 minutes or so. To further prove how much energy could be extracted I found that because I had left the drum unattended for several weeks it blew a huge hole in the side of the drum.

I do think that Carbon emissions are another thing though. Carbon is a very necessary element for every growing organism to survive and having been a farmer I have always been aware of its importance. My Mother used to tell me that trees produce oxygen and with out them we may not survive. Of course, she was referring to them as carbon sinks. The popular cry from greenies is "Plant more trees." Judy and I have travelled more than 100,000 Ks around New Zealand and have been amazed at the number of trees already growing in our country, billions and billions of them. I challenge anyone to please tell me how many trees we have in NZ, so that I can tell them if there is already enough to be doing our carbon sink duty.

I recently read that the scientists do not include our grasslands, our vineyards and all other growing plants. Did you know that the grass on every household's lawn is also a carbon sink. Including these forgotten areas, it could very well already make us carbon free because our percentage of the worlds carbon emissions is so very small.

However, the greatest quantity of carbon is produced by a small group of countries including USA, Russia, India and China. When a New Zealander imports a Tesla electric car, he or she pushes into the atmosphere huge amounts of carbon into the worlds total. For example, a Tesla S produces 17.5 tonnes of carbon before it has travelled one metre. Of course, there is the problem of further emissions of 12 tonnes more when a new lithium battery is required and costs of $20,000 for such batteries and of course a huge



number of costs pertaining to charging stations etc.

My research tells me that Tesla has to the end of 2021 built 2,8000,000 cars of which I expect will mostly be electric. If we are generous and say across all Tesla's models the emissions are 12 tonnes per car, we get a total of 33.6 million tonnes that has gone into the atmosphere. If we look at an equivalent vehicle, a Jaguar XF, with 4 tonnes per car, we get a total of 11.2 million tonnes. So, on that reckoning, Tesla has put 22.4 million tonnes more than Jaguar would have with the same number of cars.

We all know that the change in climate has quickened over the last 10- years and I suspect that it could be put down to the extra emissions that have poured into our skies from the production of electric cars World-wide.

New Zealand produces only 0.17% of all the Worlds carbon emissions. Certainly, keeping our emissions under control is essential but I find it very difficult to understand our Prime Ministers desire to make New Zealand the very first country in the world to tax agriculture emissions. Irreparable damage will be done to our economy which relies heavily on the agriculture sector. Is this another off the cuff "gem" like her killing off of the Oil industry in Taranaki?

Jamie Mackay writing in the New Zealand Herald on November 1st said "India currently produces 23% of the Worlds milk with ambitions to be at 43% in 20 or 30 years. Their carbon foot- print is about 10 times ours and questioned on what sustainability meant to them they said -a full belly." It just seems that the 4 countries that are the biggest emitters in the World just do not care.

For me the rush to electric cars will be detrimental to our world when in the next few years new lithium batteries will be needed for millions of electric cars. I understand that petrol and diesel cars do emit carbon, however increasingly modern cars emissions have greatly reduced. So would it not be a good idea for our government to offer a subsidy of say $20,000 to owners of cars older than 15 years so that they may upgrade to a newer vehicle. NOT COMPULSORY! Even 1,000 cars that are heavy polluters would make an immediate difference at a little effect on our money spending authorities. A much cleaner option to our Utility Tax.

Many countries throughout the World are recording that they will not accept any Internal Combustion engine cars by 2030 or 2050. Jaguar is the only company who has stated that they will ONLY produce Electric cars by 2025. Every other car maker is hedging their bets and will continue with a mix of ICE engines and electric or Hydrogen.

It has been calculated that there are 8.1 billion Petrol and Diesel vehicles in our World. With the out cry against fossil fuels where will these vehicles obtain their power. You can not tell me that 8 Billion vehicles will go on the scrap heap!

Along with that, there is a world-wide shortage of electricity, made worse by the shutting down of coal powered station and the abhorrence of Nuclear power. In New Zealand if we reach 100,000 electric cars, we will need an extra amount of power, equivalent to the total power now used by the city of Tauranga. (Population 150,000). We all know there is ample power available in the South Island but the cables to bring it as far as even the Cooks Straight will need to be replaced. The under- water cable in Cooks Straight will also need to be replaced.

Mention of millions of dollars just for electric cars is ridiculous. Many will say what about wind power. Currently these wind towers produce only 8% of our power. They are supposed to be able to return their cost to make and install in 20 years, yet they are needing to be rebuilt in 15 years. They are dependent on mother nature and really need to have some sort of storage instead of pouring "willy-nilly" into the national power grid. Solar panels that are made from a now hard to obtain sand, produce power only in daylight hours but can be helpful to some households and perhaps Camper vans etc.

An article written by Chris Keall states that 1 million Hydrogen vehicles will be on the road by 2027. Toyota have on the road and for sale in the USA a Hydrogen car called The Mirai. Current road test show it can travel 1360Kms on a tank and can fill up in 4 minutes. Hyundai, Honda, Mercedes and General Motors all have Hydrogen cars out experimenting. There are at present 49 Hydrogen filling stations in California. Even Landrover have installed a fuel cell in a latest model Defender.

In an article in the Jaguar Enthusiasts Club Magazine, Tony Slinn says that the forecasting analysis IHS Markit, states that the costs of producing green Hydrogen have fallen by 50% since 2015 and could be reduced by a further 30% by 2025. It also stated that the EU has huge plans to roll out further Hydrogen production.

Lastly, many motoring journalists are wondering what Jaguar's future will be. Questions such as - will Jaguar be building Sports cars. The answer "We are carefully looking at that". Top gear asked a similar question of Jaguars new boss Thierry Bollore and got a similar answer such as, "We are not yet prepared to identify what models will be produced." The models available in the future line up will certainly be different.

I wonder what sort of response will come from the at present buying public to cars being offered today, that will be redundant in less than 2 years. These cars are surely Jaguars life blood, at present, but if sales fall heavily will Jaguar survive?


Thierry Bollore

One journalist put it "we will wait supportively, with bated breath, to see what our beloved Jaguar does next!

Neville