

23rd November 2001

## Media release

---

Contact Clive Hamilton (02) 6249 6221 (bh) or 0413 993 223 (mob.)

# Danish Skeptic No Environmentalist

Visiting Danish ‘environmental skeptic’ Bjorn Lomborg “has a poor understanding of ecology, environmental economics and environmental politics”, according to a critique of his book by Clive Hamilton and Hal Turton of The Australia Institute.

Lomborg, whose book claiming that reports of environmental decline are exaggerated and that the world is getting better, is being feted by anti-environmentalists in Australia.

Focusing on Lomborg’s claims about climate change, the critics argue:

“For those of us who are not climate scientists, we must decide whom to believe – the several hundred professional scientists whose work is thoroughly peer reviewed and published in the leading journals, or a handful of skeptics some of whom are funded by the fossil fuel lobby and whose arguments are inexpertly recycled by Bjorn Lomborg.”

They point out that Lomborg misrepresents the academic literature, ignores mountains of evidence that contradict his claims and misunderstands some of the central propositions of ecologists.

While Lomborg is ‘skeptical’ about the science of climate change, he accepts uncritically the results of economic models that purport to show that cutting greenhouse gases would be costly, ignoring a mass of evidence indicating that there are large opportunities for zero-cost energy savings.

“Some commentators with an anti-environmental agenda have seized on Lomborg, the latest in a series of so-called skeptics to emerge in recent years. Those interested in a balanced assessment should be aware of the mauling Lomborg’s book has received from some of the world’s most eminent scientists”, said Dr Hamilton.

The authors also attack Lomborg’s moral position. In response to his argument that it would be cheaper for the world to adapt to climate change rather than reduce emissions, they suggest that on his next world tour Lomborg visit Tuvalu and the Maldives and inform the citizens of those sinking lands that it will be cheaper for rich countries to shift them away from their ancestral homes than to cut fossil fuel consumption.

The Institute’s critique can be read on its website under ‘What’s New’ – [www.tai.org.au](http://www.tai.org.au).