Covid-19 and climate change

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Disclaimer

- Neither a doctor, medical researcher, quarantine expert nor epidemiologist
- There is always a good chance that we get our projections wrong – they are best estimates based on experience and knowledge
- Clouds do not always have a silver lining
• We have had record breaking emissions over decades
• GHGs still linger and trap heat
• Hawaii measured 416.2 ppm in April/2020, highest in 800,000 years
• “Slowing the flow doesn’t mean the tub will stop filling”
• Annual 7.6% drop needed every year for 2°C to be reached, let alone 1.5 °
• Estimates of 5-11% drop in GHGs in 2020
• US electricity emissions will drop 11% and RE will overtake coal
• Cleaner air in many heavily polluted cities is of benefit, but uneven distribution
• Aviation has seen 75% drop
• Significant drop in maritime transport
• Do not delay climate change programs, such as weakening standards for more efficient buildings and cleaner cars
• Economic responses to COVID-19 is likely to influence the pathway of CO2 emissions for decades to come
• Opportunities are there for a climate friendly response to COVID
What next?

- Our fuel use has not fundamentally changed – less emissions from virtual meetings, but still lots of diesel for electricity
- Need to make fundamental shifts
- Pacific diplomacy also needs to be upgraded to these new realities
- When project funds flow again, re-direct or re-focus on climate friendly solutions