

20 January 2020

A MAJOR 10 METRE INCREASE IN SEA LEVEL ALONG WITH SIGNIFICANT CLIMATE CHANGE, SAY, OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS - HOW WOULD IT EFFECT YOU?

THIS WAS A QUESTION ASKED OF THE WRITER RECENTLY BY A COUPLE WHO WERE FAIRLY OBSESSED WITH THE ISSUES - THIS WAS MY REPLY GIVEN TO THEM SEVERAL DAYS LATER.

- (1) I feel Mother Nature is just as guilty as you and I if something along your lines comes to pass.
- (2) My house is presently 8.7 metres above sea level.
- (3) If there was a massive evacuation, I would take my family and about four friends (Nicky would be essential) to my bach in the hills, where the rainfall presently is about 1,000 millimetres (40 inches) per year and the height above sea level is around 900 ft. (272m)
- (4) I would miss my cellphone.
- (5) At school, I learnt how to make bread - I would have to relearn this.
- (6) Cold showers I could cope with.
- (7) The outside fireplace would have to be improved a little.
- (8) I have enough firewood for Africa.
- (9) I would start growing vegetables immediately.
- (10) I would barter for a small amount of milk and some tea or tea substitute each day with something such as firewood or advice or support '101' Economics would still apply even with barter.
- (11) Cooking outside all the time would be a pain some days, but it would be workable.
- (12) With no power, I would go to bed early but get up early.
- (13) My present wardrobe of clothes would last ten years if they had to.
- (14) I would not miss television or the internet.
- (15) I would need a bicycle, a fishing rod, an axe and a flint – all of which I have in the garage already.
- (16) I could cope with dropping my standard of living.
- (17) I would take my 20 chickens and one rooster – my engineering ability would help in several areas.
- (18) I quite like the idea of bartering and negotiating for some things with other parties – with food issues they tend to taste better and bartering is a lovely big game.
- (19) Presently, my house and bach would have enough canned food for probably a month, my friends would have to bring all and any canned food they also may have – we could fix this with a months warning.

- (20) In my youth, I spent six months in the bush scrub cutting and pulling tarwhine - the work was too far from the farm house, so I had a fair taste of the living arrangements outdoors and became reasonably comfortable with it.
- (21) What would I miss - salt, pepper, soap, flour, alcohol, honey, work, Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, The Economist, the Saturday Press, UK Guardian and a refrigerator.
- (22) What else would be required - cards, chess set, toenail clippers, Lego, long walks and as much reading material as possible - a .22 rifle to shoot a few hares and rabbits.
- (23) There would be enough local farmers to barter re milk, meat and honey.
- (24) The first six months would be hard going because of food issues, but if we got beyond that, I feel we would survive, but only just.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pita Alexander', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Pita Alexander is an accountancy and agribusiness director at Alexanders.

PS: The couple did not like my reply for all sorts of reasons.