

SCIENTIFIC THEORY DEMANDS EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE

I INTERFACE with some of the best reef scientists in the world.

Dr Joe Baker was a close personal friend of mine and he was the founder of the Australian Institute of Marine Science.

We didn't agree on everything but there was a depth of scientific learning which we entirely respected - he would be deeply embarrassed to see the depths to which James Cook University has fallen.

The very heart of science is based on objective scientific assessment.

The fathers of science, Newton and Galileo said scientific theory must be backed up by 'empirical evidence'.

Yet they require a professor to report on objective science and then order him to recant for asking for objective science.

JCU has done untold damage to water development in North Queensland.

The acting head of the engineering department advised me that they were not in the business of engineering at JCU in building dams, but in opposing the building of dams.

At that stage they were contemplating closing down the engineering division of the university.

And if you take out Professor Ian Wronski's health and related sciences departments - the university has much the same enrolments as Central Queensland University; which has a drawing area of 270,000 people.

JCU has a drawing area of more than 800,000 people yet the university is much the same size.

JCU pays its CEO more than a million dollars. CQU pays their CEO more than \$300,000.

If the Cowboys are the pride of NQ, JCU is the shame of NQ (with the exception of the health departments).

It seems that to be a professor at JCU, you need to be a greenie - if you aren't, you are kicked out.

JCU is the thought police. If Torquemada was around today, he would have been faculty president as well.

BOB KATTER, Federal Member for Kennedy.