Policy making in the Post-Truth

Note: This paper is more in the structure of an essay. It actually is an essay.

The essay consists of 7 parts, each part having its own purpose. I will highlight the core essence of each part bullet wise:

* The first introductory part is about what exactly ‘Expertise’ is. They state its causal inference, but this is still not well enough understood by politicians.
* Part ‘1’ is about the rise of post normal science. It highlights that science became important for decision makers and that this has turn into a post truth era.
* Part ‘2’ highlight why we’ve hit a post truth era. It mentions how uncertainties, complexity affect scientists claims & research. It concludes: ‘*it is impossible to test causal inferences at large enough temporal and spatial scales to draw conclusions about which experts were right and which were wrong with regard to questions related to something like overall earth-system behavior.’*
* Part ‘3’ highlights why the obsessive urge to quantify and use assumptions are problematic to science.
* In part ‘’4’ the difference between short term period models and long term decision making models is mentioned. A climate model is compared to a weather forecast model. A wheater forecast model can be used daily and is used for short term predictions, so its ouput can be interpreted frequently and users develop tacit knowledge. Climate models predict the future for centuries and are therefore fundamentally different. The author states that ‘the time frames are too long to provide necessary feedback for learning.’ When using climate models
* Part ’5’ is a short part of the essay that once again highlights three points required to establish a causal relation. This text highlights the points I mean:

‘*First is control: the creation or exploitation of closed systems, so that important phenomena and variables involved in the system can be isolated and studied. Second is fast learning: the availability of tight feedback loops, which allow mistakes to be identified and learning to occur because causal inferences can be repeatedly tested through observations and experiments in the controlled or well-specified conditions of a more or less closed system. Third is clear goals: the shared recognition or stipulation of sharply defined endpoints toward which scientific progress can be both defined and assessed, meaning that feedback and learning can occur relative to progress toward agreed-upon outcomes that confirm the validity of what is being learned*.’

It does this, because climate models are about complex social problems and therefore cant comply to these three conditions, and weather forecasts more or less comply to these conditions.

* Part ‘6’ is about the role of models in politics. One nice sentence is about the fact that a 1000 new climate studies won’t aid the governance about climate. This is because ‘Conflicts and controversies persist indefinitely.’ In the rest of this part a few examples are highlighted.
* Part ‘7’ is a concluding paragraph