

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 24.10.18

IPCC report

[The UN's 1.5°C special climate report at a glance](#)

Here are the essential facts from the UN's special report on climate change.

IPCC issues dire climate warning and says coal must go to save Great Barrier Reef

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2018-10-08/ipcc-climate-change-report/10348720>

Front page news!

Global warming predictions make for 'a frightening time'

Finally, after eleven years, WATCH has made it to the front page of the Border Mail, coinciding with the release of the IPCC report. For those who aren't subscribers, you will still see a fab photo of Lizette Salmon and Bruce Key. Here's the link to the story published on 9th October:

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5690122/global-warming-predictions-make-for-a-frightening-time/?cs=9681>

WATCH has criticised the federal government for a lack of climate change policy and member Bruce Key said "unprecedented, emergency-speed action" was needed. "We need to transition to renewables as soon as possible, electrify transport and draw down carbon in the air by protecting existing forests, planting more forests and improving farming practices through regenerative agriculture, soil carbon sequestration and other techniques."

And our government's response?

[Climate change: Environment Minister rejects top scientists' advice on phasing out coal, after UN's warning](#)

Federal Environment Minister Melissa Price has argued some of the world's leading climate scientists are "drawing a long bow" in calling for an end to coal power in a bid to limit global warming.

[Australian government backs coal in defiance of IPCC climate warning](#)

The Australian government has rejected the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report's call to phase out coal power by 2050, claiming renewable energy cannot replace baseload coal power.

Coalition backing "big coal" over climate, says Sachs: "Unbelievably irresponsible"

US economics professor Jeffrey Sachs has slammed the Australian federal government as "unbelievably irresponsible" for its inaction on climate change and suggested that policy progress in the Coalition has been held hostage by major fossil fuel interests.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/coalition-backing-big-coal-over-climate-says-sachs-unbelievably-irresponsible-43094/>

Letters to the editor

Here is a link to David Macilwain's excellent letter in the Border Mail. 'I'm delighted to see *The Border Mail* giving such prominence to the issue of climate change and the global efforts to reduce the carbon emissions that are responsible for it....'

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5693807/you-say-coalitions-scandalous-determination-to-keep-the-coal/?cs=9940>

Graham Parton's letter in response to a climate change denier was published in Saturday's BM: <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5709650/you-say-on-climate-science-weve-left-the-days-of-doubt-behind-us/?cs=9940>

And on Thursday 10th October, the BM's in-house editorial was very much in favour of climate action, quoting the IPCC report, a Nobel prize-winning economist and also the convener of WATCH!

Other WATCH news

65 Groups from 28 Countries Tell EBRD and EIB to Stop Financing Fossil Fuels

65 civil society groups from 28 countries released an open letter that was sent to top European Bank for Reconstruction & Development and European Investment Bank officials demanding that they stop financing oil, gas, and coal projects. WATCH was a signatory to the letter - see link here:

<http://bit.ly/EBRD-EIB-letter>

Presentations on climate change

Bruce Key gave a presentation on climate change and renewable energy at the Border Bushwalking Club meeting on 2nd October. Lizette spoke on climate change, WATCH and leadership to participants as part of the Alpine Valley Community Leadership Program on 19th October.

Wodonga's Draft Housing Strategy

At the last WATCH meeting, council staff presented Wodonga's Draft Housing Strategy and encouraged WATCH members to provide feedback by October 29th. The draft Wodonga Housing Strategy, background documentation and communications materials are available on [Make Wodonga Yours](#).

#StopAdani Albury Wodonga (SAAW)

Doorknocking

SAAW's recent doorknocking event went very well with general agreement that a great majority of people were receptive and supportive. Across Australia, hundreds of #StopAdani volunteers in 60 communities knocked on thousands of doors in over 50 electorates. Look carefully and you will see a quick snap of Albury-Wodonga's group at the start of the VIC photos! [Watch and share a few of the many highlights from this inspiring display of people power](#):

Save the Date – Saturday 1st December

Join us from 1pm - 2pm on the Causeway, Wodonga. Let's show our pollies that it's not only Wentworth voters who are concerned about climate change. We want them to #StopAdani.

BIG LETTERS walk

The Denyosaurs joined the BIG LETTERS on October 13th in Dean Street, Albury, with overwhelmingly positive response from bystanders:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2298857106808995&id=1628658647162181

Knitting Nannas

Knitting Nannas meet from 12.30pm to 1.30pm outside Sussan Ley's office each Thursday, standing up for their grandchildren's future and the planet. BYO chair, knitting optional!

Facebook

For photos and videos of SAAW actions and to be kept abreast of breaking news, go to our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StopAdaniAlburyWodonga/>

Ecoportal

<http://www.ecoportal.net.au>

Ecoportal is your online directory, listing groups and events for sustainable living in Albury-Wodonga, North East Victoria and Southern New South Wales. Follow Ecoportal on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Ecoportal.net.au?fref=nf>

October <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2018-10/>

November <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2018-11/>

Selected events

Sustainable Living Fair – Thursday 8 November, from 5pm

WATCH and StopAdani Albury Wodonga will have a combined stall so please drop by and say hello. Also check the [festival website](#) for many other events happening in November.

Albury Wodonga Regional FoodShare fundraiser, November 1st 6pm, Regent Cinema Albury

Have you got your tickets to see Bohemian Rhapsody? Tickets are available now

<http://foodshare.org.au/have-you-got-your-tickets-to-see-bohemian-rhapsodytickets-are-available-now-a/>

Living Lightly

Living Lightly is published every Wednesday in the Border Mail and published on the Ecoportal website <http://ecoportal.net.au/articles/> Karen Bowley is always on the lookout for inspiring articles so please send your 380 word article to kbowley53@gmail.com .

Recent articles

[Words About Birds](#) By Gill Baker, [Wangaratta Sustainability Network](#)

[Living Lightly with Ease](#) By Bruce Key, Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health (WATCH)

[Occam's Razor](#) By Bruce Key, Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health (WATCH)

[Repair Café Sewing Machine Maintenance Demos](#) By Lizette Salmon, Repair Café coordinator

Climate updates

[The science is clear: we have to start creating our low-carbon future today](#)

An article by Chief Scientist Alan Finkel.

Farmers struggling to manage impacts of climate change

'You can't keep arguing this is just a cycle':

<http://www.weatherzone.com.au/news/you-cant-keep-arguing-this-is-just-a-cycle-farmers-struggling-to-manage-impacts-of-climate-change/528593>

The good, the bad and the ugly: Limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C

A report by the Climate Council:

<https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/resources/limiting-temperature-rise/>

Dutch appeals court upholds landmark climate change ruling

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/oct/09/dutch-appeals-court-upholds-landmark-climate-change-ruling?CMP=share_btn_fb

The Trump administration knows the planet is going to boil

An article by Bill McKibben: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/oct/02/trump-administration-planet-boil-refugee-camps>

Energy poverty matters

[North East tops state as high bills flood ombudsman](#)

Cost of living changes disproportionately affect low-income earners

Why energy poverty is something we have to urgently end

<https://www.thefifthestate.com.au/columns/spinifex/energy-poverty-urgently-end/100758>

Welcome - Victorian Energy Compare

<https://compare.energy.vic.gov.au/>

Wildlife news and activities

Aussie Backyard Bird Count

Celebrate National Bird Week 2018 by taking part in the biggest citizen science project to hit Aussie shores. 22-28 October: <https://aussiebirdcount.org.au/>

Wild Pollinator Count news: Springtime Count 2018

<https://us11.campaign-archive.com/?e=4e8e4c8c6d&u=dccd92ddc6a82bac2d32f2d66&id=0fb5ed54f8>

News from Parklands Albury Wodonga

<https://mailchi.mp/1ae69266f9ba/news-from-parklands-albury-wodonga?e=24dfe9c66e>

Waste stories

Congratulations!

Plastic-wise Beechworth received a Highly Commended at Keep Victoria Beautiful Tidy Towns awards: https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1127561074076963&id=755631064603301

CSU ditches plastic straws across campuses

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5699534/the-final-straw-as-university-ditches-plastics/?cs=9680>

New solar bins hungry for rubbish and recyclables

It's hard to miss the latest addition to The Cube Wodonga Courtyard - two solar-powered Big Belly Bins capable of collecting six times the amount of waste as a standard 120-litre bin.

<https://news.wodonga.vic.gov.au/new-solar-bins-hungry-for-rubbish-and-recyclables/>

Plastic fantastic? Artist captures a human love affair

An exhibition at Artspace Wodonga by Alison McDonald. *Wanton, Wild & Unimagined* is a travelling exhibition organised by Umbrella Studio contemporary arts,

<https://news.wodonga.vic.gov.au/plastic-fantastic-artist-captures-a-human-love-affair/>

Border Mail headlines

TAFE NSW's National Environment Centre in Thurgoona wins silver green campus award

Congratulations to Rob Fenton and his team at the NEC:

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5696609/regions-hidden-green-oasis-recognised-internationally/>

More homes make urgent solar switch for Yackandandah's third micro-grid

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5708083/more-homes-make-urgent-solar-switch-for-towns-third-micro-grid/?cs=9681>

Stanley takes fight against water mining to doorstep of bottled water giant Asahi

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5699394/little-town-takes-fight-against-water-mining-to-giants-doorstep/?cs=9681>

Candidates have differing energy policies in Benambra and Ovens Valley

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5699566/candidates-to-take-differing-energy-policies-to-election/?cs=9680>

Barnawartha solar farm near Hume Freeway ready to start

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5698813/solar-farm-near-freeway-ready-to-start-needs-approval/?cs=9681>

And finally...

Morrison unveils new fast train service

Couldn't resist...

<http://www.theshovel.com.au/2018/10/14/morrison-unveils-new-fast-train-service/?wp-nocache=true>

Thankyou

Thanks again to everyone who has provided content for this newsletter including those who regularly send links, write *Living Lightly* articles or letters to the editor. They are all much appreciated. Next newsletter will be coming out on November 21st.

WATCH meetings

We meet every second month, usually in central Albury, and offer plenty of opportunities to take positive action. The final meeting for 2018 will be at 6pm on Tuesday December 11th.

Website

Please check our website: www.watch.id.au

Facebook

And follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/wodongaandalburytowardclimatehealth>

WATCH email address: watch.albwod@gmail.com

Warm regards, Jenny Davies