

# Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

## WATCHWORD 18.11.20

### WATCH news

Zali Steggall MP presented a framework Climate Change Bill to Parliament on November 9th. Albury's Libby Rouse coordinated a letterbox drop in our region to raise awareness and encourage people to sign the on-line petition. Thanks to Libby and to the many volunteers who delivered the leaflets across Albury, Wodonga and Indigo Shire. The number of signatures at last count was 391 in Farrer and 1034 in Indi.

<https://join.climateactnow.com.au/>

### Keeping locals posted on new climate action through 16,000 flyers – Border Mail

Equipped with a QR Code linking to the petition, the flyers - printed on recycled paper - have been distributed by 45 volunteers in Albury, Wodonga and Indigo.

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/7001531/keeping-locals-posted-on-new-climate-action-through-16000-flyers/?cs=11>

### Correspondence

WATCH received an email from Helen Haines' Policy Advisor Hamish McKenzie, thanking WATCH chair Lauriston Muirhead for his letter supporting Helen's strong stand on climate action. WATCH was also a signatory to Act on Climate's [open letter to Prime Minister Scott Morrison](#) calling for increased ambition on climate and jobs.

WATCH member Annette Baker received a letter from Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore, commending her efforts to persuade the councils of Albury and Wodonga to join the Climate Emergency Declaration campaign.

### Letters in the Border Mail

*'Climate thinking short-term'* November 17<sup>th</sup> - David Sloane

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/7013905/you-say-border-closure-inconvenience-better-than-being-virus-ridden/?cs=9940>

*'The alternatives are endless'* October 17<sup>th</sup> - Lauriston Muirhead

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6968887/your-say-is-covid-really-the-time-to-be-demolishing-a-water-tower/?cs=9940>

**Facebook** Check the WATCH Facebook page for stories, photos and comments:

<https://m.facebook.com/pg/wodongaandalburytowardclimatehealth/posts/>

### Climate Change Bill

#### Zali Steggall to capitalise on climate movement with new bill - RN Breakfast

Prime Minister Scott Morrison says Australia won't commit to a net zero target by 2050. Listen to Zali Steggall discuss this with Fran Kelly. <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/steggall-to-introduce-climate-bill/12862326>

#### Zali Steggall's new climate change bill comes just as economic sectors step up

Steggall has garnered huge support outside of politics. In a [joint letter](#), more than 100 Australian businesses, industry groups and community organisations endorsed the bill as a critical step in the recovery from the pandemic. <https://theconversation.com/zali-steggalls-new-climate-change-bill-comes-just-as-economic-sectors-step-up-149728?>

### Climate emergency

#### BOM and CSIRO - State of the Climate 2020

The Bureau of Meteorology and the CSIRO have teamed up for the latest biannual report on the climate, and the findings are clear: Australia is experiencing climate change now, and the warming trend is continuing.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-11-13/bom-and-csiro-state-of-the-climate-2020/12871690>

## **Bushfire Royal Commission**

The bushfire royal commission has made a clarion call for change. Now we need politics to follow <https://theconversation.com/the-bushfire-royal-commission-has-made-a-clarion-call-for-change-now-we-need-politics-to-follow-149158?>

## **'Sleeping giant' Arctic methane deposits starting to release, scientists find**

Scientists say they have found evidence that frozen methane deposits in the Arctic Ocean have started to be released over a large area of the continental slope off the East Siberian coast. <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/oct/27/sleeping-giant-arctic-methane-deposits-starting-to-release-scientists-find>

## **Cause for optimism**

### **Suing for climate action: can the courts save us from the black hole of political inaction?**

Climate litigator David Barnden had a landmark win this month against a major superannuation fund and says he is just getting started <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/nov/15/suing-for-climate-action-can-the-courts-save-us-from-the-black-hole-of-political-inaction?>

### **Joe Biden's climate goals turn up heat on Scott Morrison**

Australia will face mounting international pressure to commit to increased long-term emissions cuts after US President-elect Joe Biden vowed to rally America's allies for greater action and integrate climate change into his foreign policy and national security strategies. <https://www.theage.com.au/politics/federal/biden-s-climate-goals-turn-up-heat-on-morrison-20201108-p56ckz.html?>

### **Woolworths aims to be carbon positive by 2050 - RN Breakfast**

Woolworths has outlined an ambitious plan to cut its carbon footprint and help grow the renewable sector by using only green energy by 2025. <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/woolworths-aims-carbon-positive/12874942>

### **Asia retreats from fossil fuels – RN Breakfast**

Here is an optimistic view by an energy investment expert: <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/asia-retreats-from-fossil-fuels/12785170>

## **Renewable energy news**

### **Indigo Power - powering our region with renewable energy**

Indigo Power has recently launched the Albury Community Energy Hub to support locally generated clean energy and build a renewable energy economy. Find out more by getting in touch on [connect@indigopower.com.au](mailto:connect@indigopower.com.au) or phone at 1800 491 739. <https://indigopower.com.au/>

### **Carpark solar farm helps power North East Water's Wodonga office**

Managing Director Craig Heiner said it's another step in the Corporation's journey to being carbon neutral by 2050. <https://www.newater.com.au/about-us/news-media/carpark-solar-farm-helps-power-wodonga-office>

### **Renewables surge - Saturday Extra - ABC Radio National**

Suddenly there is a lot happening on the renewable energy front. It seems state governments of both political persuasions, and the private sector, are deciding not to wait for a national plan. <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/saturdayextra/renewables-surge/12882772>

### **Climate Council - NSW Energy Infrastructure Roadmap**

The NSW Government's Energy Infrastructure Roadmap is one of the most ambitious climate plans in the country and has received significant bi-partisan support. [Will you join us in congratulating the NSW Government by adding your name to our 'Good on Ya' petition today?](https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/news/2020/11/15/will-you-join-us-in-congratulating-the-nsw-government-by-adding-your-name-to-our-good-on-ya-petition-today?)

## #StopAdani Albury Wodonga (SAAW)

### Current actions we can take to Stop Adani

Adani is racing to lock in insurers for its destructive coal project in the Lloyd's of London insurance marketplace. Please take 5 minutes to email or phone an insurer:

<https://www.stopadani.com/insurance>

### Big Letters

Last Saturday, a group met at Noreuil Park with the 'big letters' and this started quite a few conversations. The group will meet once a fortnight with the letters in a stationary spot with the next one at Noreuil Park on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November at 11.00am. Contact Jenni Huber on 0410 074 900.

### Knitting Nannas for Renewables

Knitting Nannas are meeting every Thursday at 12.30 to 1.30 in Albury's QEII Square, carefully socially distancing. Everyone is welcome; BYO your own chair and your knitting if you have some. We continue to knit rugs and donate them to local charities. Contact Alison Veld [alison.veld@gmail.com](mailto:alison.veld@gmail.com) or Liz Hammond 0429 177 681 [ronlizhammond@gmail.com](mailto:ronlizhammond@gmail.com)

### Committee meeting, Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 6 – 7.30pm

The meeting will be held outdoors at Browns Lagoon, at the intersection of Olive St & Nurigong St, South Albury. BYO chair, mozzie repellent. Up to 30 people can meet outdoors in NSW at present. For updates visit the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StopAdaniAlburyWodonga/>

## Action on climate

### Feedback on climate change for Albury Council

Albury Council is seeking feedback to develop its approach to managing the impact of climate change on its operations and assets. To have your say go to - <https://www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/have-your-say/climate-change-adaptation> . Closing date: Friday 4<sup>th</sup>, December 2020.

### Australia should cut emissions quickly and lead world in renewable energy, incoming chief scientist says

Physicist Dr Cathy Foley will be tasked with gathering evidence to guide a potential rapid shift away from fossil fuels. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/nov/11/australia-should-cut-emissions-quickly-and-lead-world-in-renewable-energy-incoming-chief-scientist-says?>

### Australia will lose more than \$3 trillion and 880,000 jobs over 50 years if climate change is not addressed, Deloitte

The report found the economy could shrink by 6 per cent over the next 50 years and 880,000 jobs could be lost. [https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-11-02/australian-economy-lose-\\$3-trillion-climate-change-inaction/12837244?](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-11-02/australian-economy-lose-$3-trillion-climate-change-inaction/12837244?)

### Benefits of Coalition's 'gas-led recovery' overstated and declining usage inevitable, report finds

'Good old days' of low gas prices long gone making role as 'transition fuel' unfeasible, Grattan Institute reports. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/nov/15/benefits-of-coalitions-gas-led-recovery-overstated-and-declining-usage-inevitable-report-finds?>

## 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.

**November** <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2020-11/>

**December** <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2020-12/>

## Selected events

### Earth Canvas exhibition in the Albury Library Museum

The exhibition targets contemporary artists whose works completely engage with the regenerative farmer's vision for a healthier world. The exhibition will be in Albury until February.

<https://www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/whats-on/museum/earth-canvas>

## Living Lightly

**Living Lightly** is published every Wednesday in the Border Mail and published on the Ecoportal website <http://ecoportal.net.au/articles/>. It is a wonderful way to connect with people who have similar conservation and environmental values. Articles of 380 words should be submitted to the *Living Lightly* coordinator, Lauren Salathiel: [l.salathiel@gmail.com](mailto:l.salathiel@gmail.com)

### Recent articles

[Ditch the car and lighten the impact](#) By Chris McGorlick

[We need the Act now](#) By Lauren Salathiel

[A love letter to my rain gauge](#) By Jonathon Howard

[What do we know about living in this landscape?](#) By Alan Hewett

## Volunteers required

### Our Native Garden Nursery

Our Native Garden Nursery in Wodonga is seeking a band of willing volunteers to join their team. If you're interested, please contact Our Native Garden on 0418 579331 or at [ongnursery@gmail.com](mailto:ongnursery@gmail.com)

### Parklands Albury Wodonga

Please contact one of the Parklands Rangers if you are happy to help with regular monitoring and rubbish removal from your favourite reserve or swimming hole. Contact them on 60 236 714 or [info@parklands-alburywodonga.org.au](mailto:info@parklands-alburywodonga.org.au)

## Environmental protection?

### Sussan Ley in a koala controversy over Port Stephens quarry extension

Environment Minister Sussan Ley has come under fire over her decision to allow land to be cleared for a mine in koala habitat. <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6989105/the-only-ones-left-will-be-soft-toys-ley-in-a-koala-controversy/>

### 'Devastating': The Morrison government cuts uni funding for environment courses by almost 30%

Universities will receive almost A\$10,000 less funding per year for each student undertaking environmental studies, undoubtedly leading to fewer students and lower-quality learning experiences.

<https://theconversation.com/devastating-the-morrison-government-cuts-uni-funding-for-environment-courses-by-almost-30-147852?>

## Albury Wodonga SLF highlights

### Fire preparation

Here is a series of short videos featuring Lauriston Muirhead demonstrating the comprehensive and impressive fire preparation at his property. <https://alburywodonga.gov.au/slf/program/watch/bushfire-awareness-and-management-tips?>

### Virtual garden tours

Enjoy these videos of habitat gardens - Julianne and Greg Sharp's West Wodonga garden, Glenda and Bernie Datson's Baranduda garden, and David and Sue Thurley's Glenroy garden:

<https://alburywodonga.gov.au/slf/program/watch/habitat-gardens>

### Go Wild art competition

The Go Wild children's art competition received 250 entries! They are on display at the Albury LibraryMuseum until Friday 4 December.

[https://facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=772986283253649&id=164633180755632](https://facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=772986283253649&id=164633180755632)

## Christmas gift ideas

### A Life on Our Planet by David Attenborough

'Read this book to learn, but also to honour the man. We shall never see his like again.'

<https://www.penguin.com.au/books/a-life-on-our-planet-9781529108279?>

### An antechinus in the attic by Vianne Mischon

A stunning A-Z filled with endangered, rare and iconic Australian species. <https://www.ecovoice.com.au/an-antechinus-in-the-attic-a-curious-tale-by-vianne-mischon-illustrated-by-myke-mollard/>

## **Glimpses of Utopia – real ideas for a fairer world by Jess Scully**

*Glimpses of Utopia* is a call for optimism. Harnessing technology and imagination, we can reshape our world to be fair and sustainable. <https://glimpsesofutopia.com/>

## **Cathy Goes to Canberra – doing politics differently**

Cathy McGowan tells how thousands of ordinary men and women in north-eastern Victoria got together, organised themselves and made their voices heard in Canberra.

<https://www.booktopia.com.au/cathy-goes-to-canberra-cathy-mcgowan/book/9781925835908.html>

## **Good news from our local towns**

### **Carbon emission cuts adopted by Albury Council**

Congratulations to Amanda Cohn and David Thurley for getting their fellow councillors over the line - a tremendous achievement requiring months and years of negotiation.

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6985520/were-reacting-to-climate-fears-with-plan-albury-deputy-mayor/?>

### **Totally Renewable Yackandandah's Matthew Charles-Jones nominated in Australian of the year awards**

Matthew Charles Jones had the tremendous honour of being a finalist in the Australian of the Year awards, in the Victorian Local Hero category. <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6974792/solar-star-honoured-with-nomination-in-australian-of-the-year-awards/?cs=9686>

### **Beechworth crowned the national Tidy Town champion**

Beechworth won three of the categories - the Dame Phyllis Frost litter prevention; environmental sustainability - energy; and environmental communication and engagement.

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6969313/north-east-community-crowned-the-national-tidy-town-champion/>

## **Thankyou...**

Thanks again to friends and supporters who have 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. The next newsletter is due out on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

**WATCH email address:** [watch.albwod@gmail.com](mailto:watch.albwod@gmail.com)

**WATCH website:** [www.watch.id.au](http://www.watch.id.au)

*Warm regards,*

**Jenny Davies**