

# Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

## WATCHWORD 16.12.20

### WATCH news

#### Correspondence

WATCH member Jill Coghlan wrote to Greater Hume Shire councillors asking them to set emissions targets for the Shire. WATCH member David Macilwain contacted Sussan Ley, alerting her to his letter in the Border Mail (28/11/20), criticising her decision to approve the Narrabri gas development.

#### Letters in the Border Mail

##### **'Gas project 'perfect illustration' - David Macilwain, 28<sup>th</sup> November**

'The approval of the Narrabri gas-fracking project by Environment Minister Sussan Ley, just as Australia is called upon to show genuine commitment to the Paris agreement on emissions, provides the perfect illustration of why we need an independent federal anti-corruption body - as proposed by our other local federal member Helen Haines.' <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/7029772/your-say-sodens-damage-proves-more-needs-to-be-done-about-hoons/?cs=9940>

##### **'Columnist in denial'- Graham Parton, 25<sup>th</sup> November**

'Your correspondent David Everist should come clean and admit that he doesn't accept the science of climate change, and thus enable your readers to decide whether or not they want to read columns written by a climate change denier.' <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/7025419/you-say-rsl-grateful-for-support-despite-covid-restrictions/?cs=9940>

#### Climate Change bill update

Zali Steggall's Climate Change Bill has been tabled in parliament and referred to the House Standing Committee on Environment and Energy. Two days of public hearings will take place on 29 January and 1 February 2021. Follow this [Facebook](#) page to stay up to date.

Libby Rouse has thanked WATCH members and those who contributed to the Climate Act Now flyer letterbox drop in Indi and Farrer. Signatures in Indi rose to 1038 and in Farrer to 400. Thanks, Libby, for taking on this action!

#### La Trobe University to add 270 more solar panels in carpark addition

WATCH chair Lauriston Muirhead welcomed the additional solar panels and said La Trobe Uni should be seen as 'leaders in the field' of renewable energy.

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/7037891/uni-a-beacon-of-renewables-as-campus-takes-next-step-towards-carbon-neutral-goal/?cs=9681>

#### WATCH meetings

We have resumed face to face meetings! They occur every quarter, usually in central Albury and anyone is most welcome to attend. The next meeting will be at 6pm on Tuesday March 9<sup>th</sup> 2021. Contact Lizette to be advised of the venue: [lizette@salmonfamily.id.au](mailto:lizette@salmonfamily.id.au)

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

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

### UN climate summit

#### UN urges world to declare 'climate emergency' as Morrison sidelined

World leaders should declare states of "climate emergency" in their countries to spur action to avoid catastrophic global warming, U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres said in opening remarks to a climate summit last Saturday. Only countries deemed sufficiently serious about fighting the existential threat of climate change were invited to speak.

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/life/science/environment/2020/12/13/australia-climate-change-morrison/>

#### UN defends excluding Morrison from climate summit

Scott Morrison had [planned to use his speech to announce](#) that Australia would drop its controversial plan to use Kyoto carryover credits to achieve its 2030 emissions reduction targets.

<https://www.theage.com.au/world/europe/un-defends-excluding-morrison-from-climate-summit-canberra-livid-with-johnson-over-snub-20201211-p56mk7.html>

## The climate crisis

### Honour your climate commitments, Australia, signed your Pacific neighbours

Pacific leaders have jointly signed an open letter to Prime Minister Scott Morrison urging to take urgent climate action. <https://www.theage.com.au/environment/climate-change/honour-your-climate-commitments-australia-signed-your-pacific-neighbours-20201124-p56hit.html?>

### Australia's climate change stance considered 'suicidal': former UN chief

Christiana Figueres, who was executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change through the Paris Agreement talks, said the world expected more from Australia in the lead-up to the so-called COP26 climate talks to be held in Glasgow next November.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/world-awaits-action-by-suicidal-australia-says-former-climate-chief-20201201-p56joi.html?>

### Spinning emissions: Australia's climate projections are not what they seem

Official modelling could give you the impression the Morrison government has achieved something meaningful. But you would be wrong. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/dec/11/spinning-emissions-australias-climate-projections-are-not-what-they-seem>

### Liberal MP Warren Entsch urges Coalition to adopt net zero emissions target by 2050

Great Barrier Reef envoy tells party room the government should be seen as leaders on climate action, not 'reluctant followers'. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/dec/01/liberal-mp-warren-entsch-urges-coalition-to-adopt-net-zero-emissions-target-by-2050?>

## Cause for concern

### Failure to tackle health impacts of climate change putting lives at risk

Writing in the [Medical Journal of Australia](#) (MJA), health experts say Australia is falling behind comparable countries because we have no national plan to tackle the health impacts of a warming planet.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/health/2020-12-03/health-climate-change-bushfires-black-summer-report-lancet/12942978?>

### Controversial Narrabri gas field approved by Federal Government - RN Breakfast

Opponents of the controversial project to sink up to 850 coal seam gas wells say the fight is far from over. Listen to this interview with James Jackson - President of NSW Farmers Association.

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/controversial-narrabri-federal-government/12917658>

### Great Barrier Reef in critical condition after three major bleaching events

The finding in the third World Heritage assessment by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature means the reef's World Heritage values are considered severely threatened and deteriorating from the impact of climate change. Listen to this interview with climate scientist Professor Lesley Hughes.

<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/pm/great-barrier-reef-in-critical-condition/12948376>

### World's biggest iceberg heads for disaster

The mass is now moving straight toward a remote south Atlantic island populated by penguins and seals. Scientists say a collision could cause a local, environmental catastrophe.

<https://graphics.reuters.com/CLIMATE-CHANGE/ICEBERG/yzdvxjrbzvx/index.html>

## #StopAdani Albury Wodonga (SAAW)

### Current actions to Stop Adani

Adani continues to race to lock in insurers for their risky and destructive coal project in the Lloyd's of London insurance marketplace. We encourage everyone to take 5 minutes to email or phone an insurer. <https://www.stopadani.com/insurance>

### Big letters

A group met at Noreuil Park in Albury with the big letters on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December and this started quite a few conversations. The next meeting will be at Noreuil Park on Saturday 16 January at 9am. Contact Jenni Huber on 0410 074 900.

### Knitting Nannas for Renewables

Knitting Nannas meet every Thursday at 12.30 to 1.30 in Albury's QEII Square, continuing to knit rugs and donating them to local charities. Everyone is welcome, BYO chair. The final date for 2020 is 17<sup>th</sup> December, resuming on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021. 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 4<sup>th</sup> February, 6 - 7.30pm (first Thursday of the month)**

Venue – Browns Lagoon, at T-intersection of Olive St & Nurigong St, South Albury. The meeting will be outdoors so BYO chair, mozzie repellent and refreshments as desired.

## **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.

## **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>

### **Grow native plants from seeds, Our Native Garden Nursery, Sunday January 3<sup>rd</sup> 1.30**

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/our-native-garden-32017896303?>

## **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) **A new coordinator will be required in 2021 so please contact Lauren if you are interested in finding out more about the role.**

## **Recent articles**

[Farrer and Indi call for Climate Act](#) By Libby Rouse

[Getting a prickly pest under control](#) By Mick Webster, Friends of Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park

[Hair experiment busts a myth and saves water](#) By Melissa Kane

[Lawnmower the next step to cutting out fossil fuels](#) By Matthew Charles-Jones

## **Victorian government budget highlights**

### **Government splashes \$100 million on renewable energy projects**

Green energy companies will be able to access \$100 million in state government funding to develop new technologies to help fast-track renewable projects.

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/victoria/government-splashes-100-million-on-renewable-energy-projects-20201129-p56ivy.html?>

### **Andrews government's record-breaking budget builds momentum for ambitious climate targets**

Friends of the Earth say the record investment in climate, energy, and transport initiatives build momentum for the government to set science-based Emissions Reduction Targets.

[https://www.melbournefoe.org.au/vicbudget\\_2020?utm\\_campaign=vic\\_budget\\_response&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=friends-of-earth-melbourne](https://www.melbournefoe.org.au/vicbudget_2020?utm_campaign=vic_budget_response&utm_medium=email&utm_source=friends-of-earth-melbourne)

### **Energy efficiency - helping Victorians pay their power bills**

Renters in Victoria soon won't have to deal with dodgy heaters and poor insulation.

<https://theconversation.com/renters-in-victoria-soon-wont-have-to-deal-with-dodgy-heaters-and-insulation-now-other-states-must-get-energy-efficient-150358?>

## **NSW clean energy plan**

### **NSW's clean energy plan means the federal government is even more isolated on fossil fuels**

The NSW Renewable Energy Plan has passed, after Coalition, Opposition and Crossbench MPs outlasted an attempt by One Nation MP Mark Latham to filibuster the bill with 249 individual amendments.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/nov/30/nsws-clean-energy-plan-means-the-federal-government-is-even-more-isolated-on-fossil-fuels?>

### **NSW passes ambitious multi-partisan energy plan - RN Breakfast**

Matt Kean, NSW Minister for Energy and Environment, is interviewed by Hamish McDonald.

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/nsw-passes-bipartisan-energy-plan/12926562>

## **Matt Kean takes on Angus Taylor: 'I'm not on the side of vested interests'**

During the online Energy and Climate Summit, Angus Taylor insisted on his 'gas-led' approach, while Matt Kean argued that his state's embrace of clean energy sources would ultimately leave households and businesses better off with cheaper supplies of energy. <https://reneweconomy.com.au/matt-kean-takes-on-angus-taylor-im-not-on-the-side-of-vested-interests-60367/>

## **Wildlife matters**

### **Gardens for Wildlife**

Do you or someone you know have a wildlife-friendly garden with diverse plantings? Please contact Lizette Salmon, Project Officer, Gardens for Wildlife Albury-Wodonga [lizette@salmonfamily.id.au](mailto:lizette@salmonfamily.id.au) Ph: (02) 6059 4185, 0468 320 647.

### **Cat enclosures of Albury-Wodonga**

To keep cats and wildlife safe, Gardens for Wildlife Albury Wodonga has created this excellent five-minute video of six local cat enclosures, including a fence-line extension, electric wire, aerial walkway and cat courtyard. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQ9hEH\\_2MLg&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQ9hEH_2MLg&feature=emb_logo)

### **Charles Sturt University researchers create 3D plastic hollows for animals in bushfire-affected areas**

This new design by Charles Sturt University professor David Watson and research student Mick Callan is aimed at helping threatened Australian species. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-10-27/3d-printed-plastic-hollows-for-threatened-australian-species/12812606?>

## **Cause for optimism**

### **US to hold world climate summit early next year and seek to rejoin Paris accord**

The US will hold a climate summit of the world's major economies early next year, within 100 days of Joe Biden taking office. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/dec/14/us-to-hold-world-climate-summit-early-next-year-and-seek-to-rejoin-paris-accord?>

### **Torres Strait Islander complaint against climate change inaction wins backing of UN legal experts**

A landmark human rights complaint against the Australian Government by Torres Strait Islanders suffering the effects of climate change has received the backing of two prominent United Nations legal experts. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-12-11/torres-strait-islander-complaint-against-climate-change-inaction/12972926?>

### **The Australian philanthropists spending big and fast to fight catastrophic climate change**

These good news stories give us hope for the future. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-11-18/spending-down-millions-climate-change-philanthropy/12880114>

## **News from our local towns**

### **Sustainability Awards 2020**

Totally Renewable Yackandandah's Virtual Power Plant is a finalist in the Premier's Sustainability Awards 2020 – Community category. <https://www.sustainabilityawards.vic.gov.au/2020-Finalists/Yackandandah>

### **Indigo Extinction Rebellion**

Members joined in the Festival of Love and Rage in Melbourne on 12<sup>th</sup> December. Watch the Indigo XR Red Rebels in this video clip: <https://m.facebook.com/search/posts/?q=indigo%20extinction%20rebellion&source>

### **Largest solar farm in NSW gets planning approval**

The largest solar farm in New South Wales – the 300MW Walla Walla project north of Albury – has won approval from the state's planning commission. <https://reneweconomy.com.au/largest-solar-farm-in-nsw-gets-planning-approval-despite-nuclear-meltdown-fears-30698/>

## **A little treat for Christmas!**

### **Little pygmy possum discovered on Kangaroo Island after fears bushfires had wiped them out**

Conservation group Kangaroo Island Land for Wildlife found the tiny creature as part of a larger recovery effort in the wake of the summer bushfires. Have a look at the photos. So cute!

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-12-06/little-pygmy-possum-found-on-kangaroo-island/12954912?>

## **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 January 20<sup>th</sup> 2021.

**Wishing you all a safe and peaceful festive season.**

*Warm regards,*

*Jenny Davies*

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