



## Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350

(22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba QLD 4350)

Ph 07 4639 2135; Email: [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au)

Website: <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Householders.Options.to.Protect.the.Environment>

ABN 48 036 173 161

### HOPE E-news Bulletin 2017 #07 --- 01 July 2017

The following items have been gathered from various e: newsletters received by HOPE in recent times; and/or prepared specifically by HOPE members and supporters. If you have any news to contribute, please forward to [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au). Deadline for articles is 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month.

### Editorial

Hi there,

The slogan that really describes HOPE in a few words is “Think Globally – Act Locally!”. What does that actually mean for you in practice? Do you grab a reusable shopping bag before heading to the supermarket? Are you someone that likes to sign petitions to those in power? How about teaching your children about doing something for the environment? Let us know what you're doing! Share your comments on our Facebook page, our Twitter account, or send us an email. We'd love to have this discussion with you all!

Miriam Sharp, Acting Newsletter Editor

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### 2017 National/International Events Calendar

- [2017 – International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development](#)
- [2014-2024 – International Decade of Sustainable Energy for All](#)

#### July

- 11 World Population Day
- 15 **HOPE picnic social – 11am start at Peacehaven Botanic Park & Nursery, 56 Kuhls Road, Highfields**
- 28 Schools Tree Day
- 30 National Tree Day

#### August

- 9 [International Day for World Indigenous Peoples](#)
- 12-20 [National Science Week](#)
- 19 **HOPE Community Forum: An Overview of Condamine Alliance (NRM / Landcare) – beginnings, current achievements and future plans**
- 19 [World Humanitarian Day](#)
- 21-27 [Keep Australia Beautiful Week](#)

#### September – [National Biodiversity Month](#)

- 1 [National Wattle Day](#)
- 1-3 [Building a New Economy for Australia Conference Brisbane](#)
- 4-10 [Sea Week](#)
- 5-11 [National Landcare Week](#)
- 7 [National Threatened Species Day](#)
- 9 **HOPE quarterly Ordinary Meeting**
- 10 [National Bilby Day](#)
- 11 [Sustainable House Day](#)
- 16 [International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer](#)
- 17 [Bushcare's Major Day Out – BMDO](#)
- 22 [World Car-Free Day](#)
- 29 [World Maritime Day](#)

## HOPE News – July 2017

Good morning folks,

June was another busy and productive month for HOPE with the holding of 2 events.

Firstly, our quarterly Ordinary Meeting held on Saturday 10 June reviewed the past 3 months activities with major highlights being:

- Written submissions made to 2 federal government discussion papers
- Review and comment on 2 envNGO reports
- Staging of 2 community forums (18/02 and 22/04)
- Funding application to Nexus re “Supporting Peri-Urban Landholders with Wildlife Friendly Gardens and Landscape Connectivity”
- Attended “National Sustainability in Business” conference in Brisbane (23-24/03)
- Held National Youth Event on 8 April – focusing on “Youth Engagement in Landcare” and “Volunteering for the Environment”
- Held information talk on Native Bees (20/05)

Also discussed at this meeting was our Frank Ondrus’ intention to retire as President at the end of the 2017-2018 term of office. Frank indicated that the committee, admin support staff and general membership would need to consider:

- succession planning options – including possible recruitment from outside the organisation;
- HOPE’s mission statement; objectives and breadth of activities; and
- Financial security – including more fund-raising measures such as the introduction of membership fees, sponsorship and Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status.

If you would like to contribute to “The Future of HOPE” discussions and/or volunteer some of your time and talents to help manage the organisation, please contact the office by phoning 07 4639 2135 or send an email to [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au).

Our second event for June was the “Going Solar – On/Off Grid with Battery Storage” community forum held on 17 June. 20 people were on hand to hear from ACDC Energy (<http://www.acdcenergy.com.au/>) representatives Terry Davis and Paul Lemming.

If you live in the Toowoomba region and you are interested in ‘going solar’, let us know and will arrange another information session or two later in the year.

Finally, I hope to see you at our picnic social on Saturday 15 July. It’s an opportunity for you to meet some of the committee and admin support staff.

Frank Ondrus, Office Manager – HOPE Inc., ph 07 4639 2135

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### Social Picnic, 15 July 2017

**For our next HOPE Social**, we’ll be visiting the Peacehaven Botanic Garden and Nursery at 56 Kuhls Road, Highfields on **Saturday, 15 July**. Join us at **11am** for a tour of the native plants nursery; and a picnic afterwards in the park. Please byo chair and lunch.

### Volunteers needed

More active volunteers – both local and remote (i.e. online) – are required to help us maintain our high levels of activity. Volunteers are needed to help with projects, events and display activities, as well as general admin duties and media/publications work. We invite members and supporters to step up and volunteer some time and talents to help share the workload. Current vacancies include Researchers, Media Officers and Publications Team members.

A fair portion of the above work would ideally be done by locals (i.e. in the Toowoomba area) because the HOPE office is in Toowoomba. However, quite a bit of the literature review, research, media and publications activity can be done via email. If you have a little bit of time to help us in any way, then contact the HOPE office on email [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) or phone (07) 4639 2135.

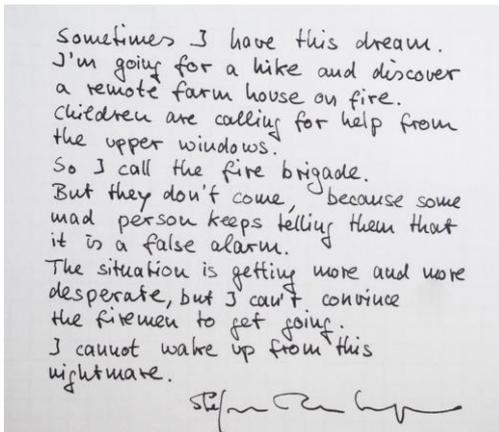
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## Letters to the Editor

### Is this how you feel (about climate change)?

Do you ever wonder how the scientists who are working on climate change feel about it? Those who are at the forefront of learning about how our climate is changing, including climate scientists express a variety of emotional responses which are captured, in their own, hand-written words, on a website called "Is this how you feel?", operated by Joe Duggan, a science communicator. (<http://www.isthisshowyoufeel.com/this-is-how-scientists-feel.html>)

Here's one response from esteemed climate scientist Stefan Rahmstorf, who works in the German government funded Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research.



It's easy for anyone to become overwhelmed when thinking about the profound challenges facing the world today, including climate change. But it is not helpful, least of all ourselves and our loved ones, to get bogged down in negative feelings of despair and hopelessness.

So, how are we to cope with our feelings about climate change, without getting overwhelmed, depressed, and paralysed into inaction?

Psychologist Susie Burke says there are two main types of coping measures to deal positively with feelings about climate change. These are emotion-focussed coping and problem-focussed coping.

**Emotion focussed coping strategies** recognise that acknowledging the feelings we have about climate change is very important. She says "Psychotherapists argue that unless we recognise and articulate the strong feelings that climate change generates, there's a risk that the feelings lead us to disavowal and outright denial." (Burke 2016).

Personally, my preferred coping strategy, and one I highly recommend, is the second type, **problem focussed coping**. Taking action to help solve a problem is always liberating, and there is good research evidence that taking action is a good remedy against depression. It also helps to solve the problem, and may inspire others to do so too!

Hundreds of thousands of Australians, and international citizens including Indians, are committed to preventing the disastrous Adani Carmichael mine going ahead in the Galilee Basin. To find out why, and what we can do, explore the #StopAdani website at [http://www.stopadani.com/why\\_stop\\_adani](http://www.stopadani.com/why_stop_adani). Have a look at the trailer for the 30-minute film, *Guarding the Galilee* ([guardingthegalilee.com](http://guardingthegalilee.com)) and you might just find a local #stopadani group, or a civil action or two, that are exactly right for you ☺.

Sue Cooke, Public Health Educator, Promoting Health and Climate Change Solutions

Refs.

Dr Stefan Rahmstorf, <http://www.isthisshowyoufeel.com/this-is-how-scientists-feel.html>

Dr Susie Burke 2/3/2016 [www.isthisshowyoufeel.com/blog/how-do-people-cope-with-feelings-about-climate-change-so-that-they-stay-engaged-and-take-action#comments](http://www.isthisshowyoufeel.com/blog/how-do-people-cope-with-feelings-about-climate-change-so-that-they-stay-engaged-and-take-action#comments)

#StopAdani website [http://www.stopadani.com/why\\_stop\\_adani](http://www.stopadani.com/why_stop_adani)

*Guarding the Galilee* – website for the film [www.guardingthegalilee.com](http://www.guardingthegalilee.com)

### Wanted – Photocopy paper

HOPE has used up its current stock of photocopy paper and we are asking our members and supporters to donate a ream or two of A4 photocopy paper. Donations of paper can be left on the table in the carport at 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba.

Alternately, cash or cheque donations can be made online at <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/annual-pledgedonation/> or posted to HOPE Inc., PO Box 6118 -Clifford Gardens Toowoomba QLD 4350.

## Feature Articles

### [14 Items You Can Recycle - But Probably Aren't \(Part Two\)](#)

By Brad Gray for Planet Ark

As more recycling programs pop up around the country it's important to keep up to date. So, in the second part of this article we look at seven more items that most Australians could be recycling - but probably aren't. [See Part One](#) of the article for the first seven items.

**Light Globes** – Light globes come in a few different types which differ in composition as well as means of disposal. Fluorescent tubes, compact fluoros (CFLs), HIDs and metal halides all contain mercury and need to be [recycled through council, commercial or community programs](#) that safely separate the different elements. Incandescent globes and halogens can be recycled through some of these programs or can simply be wrapped in paper and disposed of in the garbage bin. They are made from low value and non-toxic materials which makes recycling them very difficult.

**Mailing Satchel** – If your workplace uses lots of Australia Post mailing satchels you can sign up to the free [Mailing Satchel Recycling Program](#) run in conjunction with TerraCycle. Once you've signed up you just bag up your satchels, download a shipping label and post them off to be recycled.

**Paint** – Under the new PaintBack scheme 15 cents is added to the price of each litre of paint which is used to establish collection points and recycling processes for un-used paint. PaintBack locations are beginning to appear around the country. Many councils, state-run clean out programs and the Community Recycling Centres in NSW also collect paint. [Find a site near you.](#)

**Ink and Toner Cartridges** – Whether you use ink jet cartridges at home or toners at work recycling them is easy though '[Cartridges 4 Planet Ark](#)'. There are collection boxes in over 4,000 retail outlets and your workplace can apply for your own box. And better still it's completely free to the user as the participating manufacturers – Brother, Canon, Epson, HP, Konica Minolta and Kyocera - cover the costs.

**Pizza Boxes** – An increasing number of councils accept pizza boxes for recycling. They just need to be [free of solid food and too much oil](#). If the base is too soiled, you can tear it off and dispose of it in the garbage bin and recycle the top.

**Soft Plastics** – You can [drop your used soft plastics](#) including bread, cereal, pasta, lolly and dry cleaning bags off at participating (metro) Coles and some Woolworths stores where REDcycle will recycle them into new products like furniture for schools. The basic rule is that if you can scrunch it you can recycle it. (Residents in some councils like those around Perth, plus Ballina, Lismore, and Moreland can recycle soft plastics in the council bin.) Make sure you follow council advice re soft plastic as it can cause problems if it ends up in the wrong system.

**Toothpaste Tubes and Brushes** – These are tricky and definitely can't go in your home recycling bin but can be recycled through [TerraCycle's Oral Care Recycling Program](#). The program is ideal for workplaces or schools as it also operates as a fundraiser.

So, are there any items on this list that you're not recycling? Follow the link to find out more or check out [RecyclingNearYou.com.au](#) for lots more recycling information.

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### [Expansion of the Tropics](#)

By Dan Bielich, B.Sc. – *Climate Science, Completing M Env. Sc.*

#### **Introduction**

The atmosphere is a vastly perplexing, dynamic and interconnected system that is regulated by various mechanisms to sustain a form of equilibrium to maintain conditions for life on earth [12]. However, the onset of climate change has been triggered through greenhouse gas emissions from combustion of fossil fuels such as Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>). This onset of climate change has altered atmospheric dynamics, and thus changes in climate. Climate change has led to a range of impacts such as: expansion of the tropics, uncertainty in climate stability, intensification of severity of extreme weather events, and distinct fluctuations in [read [full article here](#)].

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## **Australia's energy crisis: What you need to know and steps businesses can take to adjust to the new norm**

by Michael Fahey, Interim CEO of [Energy Action](#)

Across the East Coast of Australia, business owners are facing significant cost imposts with surging gas and electricity bills as a major energy crisis grips the energy market. We have recently seen some businesses foreshadowing the impact of the rising forward prices for electricity by changing their outlook on investment and [staffing levels](#).

Market participants generally agree that higher energy prices are here to stay, at least in the short term, but there are steps that commercial users can take to assist in managing these risks and associated costs.

While the recently announced initiatives from the industry and both State and Commonwealth governments are welcomed, many of these projects have a lead time of some 3-5 years. If your contract is expiring in the next 6-12 months, you have a "real-time" problem that needs a "real-time response".

Here's everything you need to know about recent developments in the electricity and gas markets, and how you can address the impacts within your business.

### **What's causing the energy crisis?**

The structural causes of the Australian energy crisis mean that higher gas and electricity prices – along with increased market volatility – are unlikely to abate in the short term:

- South Australia has already been subject to a high-profile string of costly blackouts.
- The impending closure of Victoria's 1,600 megawatt Hazelwood Power Station at the end of March will mean that base load electricity supplies across the East Coast will be significantly lower next summer than they were this year.
- In addition, market analysis shows that gas power plants face fuel shortages as they struggle to cope with the additional demand.
- A significant portion of East Coast gas reserves have been contracted by the LNG projects that have signed long term contracts with overseas customers, leaving very little additional supply that can be contracted out to the local market.

These factors have raised the very real prospect of a severe energy supply crunch, potentially including load shedding and severe blackouts across the eastern states next summer.

### **Impact of energy prices on business**

Following the laws of supply and demand, these energy shortages are already causing power prices to increase dramatically, and the situation is likely to continue.

February was a particularly tumultuous month in both the [spot and retail contract markets](#), with every state experiencing multiple very high-priced days as the mercury rose across the eastern and southern states:

- In Queensland, the spot price averaged 24c/kWh for February.
- It was slightly lower at about 18c/kWh for both South Australia and New South Wales, where excessively high demand led to load shedding during the second week of the month.

On the ground, many business owners and managers are already reporting that their energy contracts are now double or triple what they were just a few years ago.

Especially if you're in an energy-intensive industry (such as manufacturing), these higher gas and energy prices can cause serious cash flow issues that can impact the sustainability of your business.

### **Managing usage and costs**

Carefully time when you go to market on your next energy contract, choosing the right contract term, and taking steps to improve and manage onsite levels of energy efficiency can have a massive impact on your company's energy costs.

Some of the key steps businesses should be considering include:

- Be an "informed" buyer, and while paying for specialist advice may be considered an unnecessary expense, what is the cost of an "uninformed" purchase?
- Carefully review terms and conditions within current and new contracts.
- Monitor your contract expiry dates: default rates accrued when you go past contract dates can be significantly higher.
- Focus on load forecasting when negotiating new contracts – this can align contracts with actual predicted volumes and secure contract lengths that meet individual business needs.

- Be aware that, given the new paradigm for energy prices and volatility, customers with 6 – 12 months left on their current energy contract should act now and not wait to renew a contract. Negotiating contracts with 2 months to expiry is not a recommended strategy in the current market.
- Energy efficiency projects with an 18 – 36month payback and with an implementation timeline of 3 – 9 months should be given a high priority as these will deliver “real-time” solutions by reducing the grid demand and insulate your business from the market volatility.
- Increase the emphasis on identify and fixing energy “leakage”. Small leaks in the current market have substantial cost implications.
- Look closely at fuel substitution and switching where possible.

If your business gets this right, it can provide cost advantage over other local competitors who don't have an energy strategy, and who are subsequently left paying significantly more for their power bills.

However, the optimal procurement strategy and negotiating the right contract terms takes time to implement. Because of this and considering the importance of timing when it comes to approaching the current energy market, you will need to begin acting now to seize the opportunity.

Energy Action offers a range of tailored services that can help your business assess, improve and manage onsite levels of energy efficiency through the use of innovative energy efficiency and energy management initiatives.

With the right advice, your business can gain a competitive advantage by proactively adapting to the new realities of Australia's energy market while your rivals continue suffering from bill shock.

*(This article was provided by a speaker from the recent National Sustainability in Business conference held in Brisbane on 23-24 March 2017.)*

## Did you Know?

(Extract from <http://bluworld.org/learning-center/environment/did-you-know/> )

The environment is everything around us—land, water, air and wildlife—from the birds in the trees, the ground we stand on, to the water we drink. In the last 200 years, mankind has upset our relationship with the environment. Our machines and the products they make have emitted chemicals and gases that are changing the planet in almost every way. Species of animals are disappearing around the world. The poisons we've washed into our surroundings (like mercury) have entered the food we eat and have now found their way inside of us. In the past 40 years, a growing number of people have come to understand that it is our responsibility to protect the environment. Polluting ultimately harms humanity—our health, our sources of food and our ability to survive. You'll need some basic rules to join the fight to save the environment.

### **Rule #1: Everything in the world is connected.**

It's as if we're part of a web. Disturb one part and it's felt in all parts. Not sure what this means? Here's an example. You might not pay much attention to the honeybee, but honeybees carry pollen to flowers, which allows them bear fruit. In the last decade, the bees have mysteriously died in large numbers in North America. Though just a small insect, their disappearance has greatly disturbed the entire web of life. Fruit trees—apples, apricots, strawberries, peaches, and more—are all under threat because they cannot bear fruit and cannot reproduce without the bees. We humans are only one step removed. We cannot harvest fruit we eat and lose sources of sustenance—all because of a small bee. This leads directly to rule #2.

### **Rule #2: Every change in the environment affects mankind directly or indirectly**

Our health and our ability to survive depend on the health of everything around us. Over hundreds of thousands of years our species has adapted to survive in almost any environment—from the deep jungles to the Arctic tundra. That said, a toxic environment limits our ability to thrive. After all, we still need healthy food, clean water, fresh air, and shelter from the elements. One of the biggest challenges facing our generation is a phenomenon called global warming. Like all animals, every time we breathe out, we release carbon dioxide. Luckily for us, plants absorb carbon dioxide in order to grow, and creating a natural cycle of carbon dioxide on this planet. However, in the last century our vehicles, factories and farms have begun producing carbon dioxide too, causing an imbalance in the cycle. The plants can't keep up.

The extra carbon dioxide floats to the top of our atmosphere, about 85 kilometers in the sky, and blocks heat from escaping the planet. The change has warmed the planet by about 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit in the last 150 years. That's much too fast for animals to adapt, and many are disappearing. Scientists aren't sure how different regions will be affected by the change, but most agree that the world's weather will become less predictable and more violent. In the last year, Russia experienced its worst heat wave and drought on record, twenty percent of Pakistan was flooded with rain, and scientists recorded the hottest summer in history. Don't lose hope...

### **Rule #3: We can all do our part to help preserve the environment.**

Acts like conserving water, or cleaning beaches, or taking public transport, each play a small part in keeping our environment healthy. Explore other sections of this site to learn what more you can do.

## World News

### Sustainable Development Goals: 17 Goals to Transform Our World The New Urban Agenda: Key Commitments

It's official: world leaders have adopted the [New Urban Agenda](#), which sets a new global standard for sustainable urban development, and will help us rethink how we plan, manage and live in cities. The New Urban Agenda is roadmap for building cities that can serve as engines of prosperity and centres of cultural and social well-being while protecting the environment. The Agenda also provides guidance for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and provides the underpinning for actions to address climate change.

Now it is up to national governments and local authorities to implement the Agenda, with technical and financial partnerships and assistance from the international community.

#### **In the New Urban Agenda, leaders have committed to:**

- Provide basic services for all citizens. These services include: access to housing, safe drinking water and sanitation, nutritious food, healthcare and family planning, education, culture and access to communication technologies.
- Ensure that all citizens have access to equal opportunities and face no discrimination. Everyone has the right to benefit from what their cities offer. The New Urban Agenda calls on city authorities to take into account the needs of women, youth and children, people with disabilities, marginalized groups, older persons, indigenous people, among other groups.
- Promote measures that support cleaner cities. Tackling air pollution in cities is good both for people's health and for the planet. In the Agenda, leaders have committed to increase their use of renewable energy, provide better and greener public transport, and sustainably manage their natural resources.
- Strengthen resilience in cities to reduce the risk and the impact of disasters. Many cities have felt the impact of natural disasters and leaders have now committed to implement mitigation and adaptation measures to minimize these impacts. Some of these measures include: better urban planning, quality infrastructure and improving local responses.
- Take action to address climate change by reducing their greenhouse gas emissions. Leaders have committed to involve not just the local government but all actors of society to take climate action taking into account the Paris Agreement on climate change which seeks to limit the increase in global temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius. Sustainable cities that reduce emissions from energy and build resilience can play a lead role.
- Fully respect the rights of refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons regardless of their migration status. Leaders have recognized that migration poses challenges but it also brings significant contributions to urban life. Because of this, they have committed to establish measures that help migrants, refugees and IDPs make positive contributions to societies.
- Improve connectivity and support innovative and green initiatives. This includes establishing partnerships with businesses and civil society to find sustainable solutions to urban challenges.
- Promote safe, accessible and green public spaces. Human interaction should be facilitated by urban planning, which is why the Agenda calls for an increase in public spaces such as sidewalks, cycling lanes, gardens, squares and parks. Sustainable urban design plays a key role in ensuring the liveability and prosperity of a city.

#### **How will this be achieved?**

The New Urban Agenda will require new urban rules and regulations, improved urban planning and design, and municipal finance, among other things. To find out more about the implementation of the Agenda visit the [website](#).

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#### **Annual Pledge/Donation**

We invite members and supporters to consider making an annual financial contribution to help cover our operating costs of approximately \$20,500 p.a.

Currently, our income is derived from project grants, fund-raising, corporate sponsorship and donations, but falls well short of our requirements.

Your financial support, by way of an annual pledge or donation, will considerably help us to achieve better financial viability.

## National News



### Local Food Loop

No matter where we travel, or if there's a special occasion happening, food is never far from the centre of our thoughts. What we eat and drink shapes us – literally! – and has profound influences on our lifestyle, our health and our happiness.

Our food choices also affect food itself, because every time we eat, we create more demand for the food we choose. Sometimes that's a good thing; other times, not so good. An example of the not so good can be seen with some types of seafood, where its future availability is in question because our demand for it has grown to a far greater level than the sea can supply.

On the flip side, there are great food choices that send benefits all the way back to where the food came from. But sometimes it can be a challenge to know just where that food has been caught, grown or made. Fortunately, there's an app(lication) for that. Local Food Loop is an Australian initiative that grew out of the need for people to know where their food comes from.

In these days of better food labelling, concern for farming families and a greater awareness of the health benefits of truly fresh food, the Local Food Loop app traces your food's journey from paddock to plate, showing you exactly where it's come from, the stories behind it, and all the places you can find it nearby.

Local Food Loop listings include a wide range of primary producers, growers, food artisans, farmers markets and sellers of local food. If your favourite local food business is not listed on the app, there is a facility on the app for you to nominate them to be added to our growing list of purveyors.

The Local Food Loop app is fast approaching one thousand places that grow, make and sell local food, including farmers markets and speciality shops. The app is free to download in the usual app stores and new places are being added all the time. Use it to find great local food wherever you find yourself hungry, and know exactly where your food comes from.

*(Patrick O'Callaghan is Local Food Loop's founder and creator. With a background in marine conservation, Patrick now works on several food-related programs to help connect people who eat food with the people who grow and make it for them. His favourite seafood is freshly caught flathead, and he collects and grows old varieties of apples in his backyard orchard in Geelong. Contact him [patrick@localfoodloop.com](mailto:patrick@localfoodloop.com) or download the app on the iTunes store and at Google Play.)*

Patrick O'Callaghan -, Local Food Loop  
Geelong Vic. AUSTRALIA

t: +61 (0)430 224 343 | fb: /localfoodloop | i: @local\_food\_loop | [for iPhone](#) [for Android](#)

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### 2017 Litter Legends Grants



Participate in the 2017 Eco-Schools Australia Wrigley's Litter Legends Campaign, and receive \$500 in seed grant funding to jumpstart a litter reduction and recycling campaign at your school. In 2017, Eco-Schools Australia, operated by Keep Australia Beautiful, is running the Litter Legends Campaign (known internationally as Litter Less Campaign) for the second year. This year 20 Aussie Eco-Schools will receive seed grants of \$500 to implement a project to reduce litter and improve recycling in their school and community. Visit the [website](#) for more information.

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### Micah Climate Petition

The world's poorest and most vulnerable communities – particularly in our region – are suffering the harmful impacts of climate change. Yet Australia – one of the wealthiest nations – is not doing anywhere near enough to reduce our emissions. Our Federal and State Governments should help Australians manage the risks of a changing climate, seize the opportunities of the global energy revolution, and support our neighbours as they adapt to the harmful effects of climate change. To call on Australia to act more urgently for climate justice, we are launching a [Community Climate Petition](#) which we aim to make the largest coordinated multi-electorate petition in Australia's history.

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## Queensland News

### Southern Beekeepers' Association (Queensland) Inc.



#### **Background Information**

The Southern Beekeepers Association (Qld) Inc. is an enthusiastic group of individuals from diverse backgrounds having a common interest in the promotion of their hobby or their industry – beekeeping. Consequently, our Association has among its membership those who are learning about beekeeping, those who are competent beekeepers and those (fortunately for most of us) who can only be described as professional - the old bards who are ever-ready to answer questions and lend a helping hand or advice when needed.

**We meet each third Wednesday of the month at 7.00pm in The Dr. Price Meeting Room, 6 Little St, Toowoomba.** Meetings are generally short affairs centered on the planning of coming events such as guest speakers, field days, heritage festivals at Jondaryan and Highfields, The Honey Court at the Toowoomba Royal Show, etc. Monthly meetings are often followed by a guest speaker, demonstration, or some other activity. However, the real business doesn't start until the 'cuppa' afterwards. It's then that insurmountable problems are solved, honey flows are compared and predicted, goods are bought, sold or swapped and new members are made to feel perfectly at home.

Membership is intentionally kept low (\$20.00 per financial year) and includes the member and his/her family where applicable. (Note: – One vote only per membership is permitted.) A growing and comprehensive library of books, journals, and CD's is also available to financial members at no additional cost.

Meetings are widely advertised via radio and an informative newsletter is emailed out to members during the week prior to the meeting.

#### Southern Beekeepers' Association (Queensland) Inc

C/o – 140 Carroll Road, Hodgson Vale QLD 4352

Email: 'Neville Hunt' [nev\\_hunt@bigpond.net.au](mailto:nev_hunt@bigpond.net.au)

Website: <http://www.toowoombabeekeepers.org.au/>

President – Mr Glen Tucker	Ph 07 4615 5619
Secretary – Mr Nev Hunt	Ph 07 4630 9941
Treasurer – Mr Steve Rasmussen	Mob: 0412 295 875
Asst Treasurer – Lynn Smith	Mob: 0407 162 184

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#### **Media statement: CCIQ ecoBiz learning from the past, planning for the future**

While the Paris accord on climate change might be centre stage at the moment, CCIQ and members of its ecoBiz program are making real-world energy savings at a grassroots level.

CCIQ has delivered the successful ecoBiz program for three-and-a-half years now.

In this time, CCIQ has been instrumental in helping organisations cut their energy, water and waste bills by an average of 16 per cent. The program has saved ecoBiz partners a staggering \$255,000.

Program Coordinator Alex Hayes-Graham said CCIQ ecoBiz Star Partners have saved almost 7350 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> - equivalent to 2880 cars being taken off the road every year.

“The CCIQ ecoBiz program encourages Queensland's small-medium enterprises (SMEs) to develop eco-efficiency strategies that reduce their energy and water consumption and waste generation to enable them to be more competitive and resilient moving into the future,” he said.

CCIQ ecoBiz Star Partners have saved on average approximately:

- 5 per cent of their energy costs
- 19 per cent of their water costs
- 22 per cent of their waste costs

Mr Hayes-Graham said the ecoBiz program utilises a unique combination of tools for SMEs, including one-on-one coaching with sustainability experts, online resources, webinars, workshops and events.

“To date, CCIQ ecoBiz has been amazingly successful in all areas,” he said.

“Almost 100 businesses have achieved ecoBiz Star Partnership and more than 700 businesses have received personalised, one-on-one coaching sessions, which provide tailored advice on how to reduce their energy, water and waste costs.

“And more than 1000 people have attended over 100 ecoBiz workshops.”

Mr Hayes-Graham said to ensure the program provides SMEs with the highest quality and most up-to-date information, it was undergoing a review and evaluation phase.

“This review and evaluation phase, which began in March, is vital to ensure the evolution of the program, as it will allow us to review the learnings to date,” he said.

“It will help determine what the future format could be with the program partners; the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) and the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) Australian Centre for Sustainable Business and Development (ACSBSD).

“This review will position the program to build upon the successes achieved so far, with the aim of assisting more Queensland businesses to compete, invest and profit through eco-efficiency initiatives.

“We are always looking to enhance measures that reduce SMEs’ operating costs, while also improving their environmental performance, enabling them to compete on an increasingly global scale.”

Mr Hayes-Graham said the tools and resources on the CCIQ ecoBiz website will remain active during the review and businesses are encouraged to access the webinars, fact sheets and tool kits.

If you have not signed up to the ecoBiz program yet and are keen on making substantial savings to your energy, water and waste bills, then contact CCIQ ecoBiz at [ecobiz@cciq.com.au](mailto:ecobiz@cciq.com.au) or 1300 731 988.

*For media enquiries, please contact: **Darrell Giles Communications Manager** T 07 3842 2278 M 0428 117 861  
E [dgiles@cciq.com.au](mailto:dgiles@cciq.com.au) [cciq.com.au](http://cciq.com.au)*

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## **[Ecological consequences of land clearing and policy reform in Queensland](#)**

*By A. Reside et. al.*

Land clearing threatens biodiversity, impairs the functioning of terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems, and is a key contributor to human-induced climate change. The rates of land clearing in the State of Queensland, Australia, are at globally significant levels, and have been the subject of intense and polarised political debate. In 2016, a legislative bill that aimed to restore stronger controls over land clearing failed to pass in the Queensland Parliament, despite the clear scientific basis for policy reform. Here, we provide a short history of the recent policy debate over land clearing in Queensland, in the context of its global and national ecological significance. Land clearing affects regional climates, leading to hotter, drier climates that will impact on the Queensland economy and local communities. Loss of habitat from land clearing is a key threatening process for many endangered animals and plants. Runoff from land clearing results in sediment and nutrient enrichment, which threatens the health of the Great Barrier Reef. Australia has made national and international commitments to conserve biodiversity and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, but current land clearing policies are not consistent with these commitments. Stronger regulation is needed to reduce vegetation loss, such as target-based regulation, which sets a cap on land clearing and could effectively halt vegetation loss over the long term. Lasting policy reform is required, and we recommend an effective policy mix that restricts clearing, provides economic opportunities for vegetation retention, and informs the Australian community about the value of native vegetation.

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