



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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ABN 48 036 173 161

HOPE E-news Bulletin 2018 #05 --- May 2018

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. Deadline for articles is 15th day of the month.

Editorial

Good morning folks,

This month's newsletter focuses on environment NGOs advocating for a "new generation of environmental laws to ensure a healthy, functioning and resilient environment for generations to come." (see pages 4-6)

HOPE is a member group of the Places You Love Alliance (<http://www.placesyoulove.org/>) which is one of these NGOs and BirdLife Australia (<http://birdlife.org.au/>).

HOPE is hosting the Toowoomba leg of BirdLife Australia's National "Act for Birds, Act for Nature" Roadshow on Tuesday 8 May 2018 (see 'Date Claimer' item on page 3).

Regards,

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

2018 National/International Events Calendar

May

- 6-12 [International Composting Awareness Week](#)
- 8 **HOPE community forum (Toowoomba): BirdLife Australia's national roadshow "Act for Birds, Act for Nature"**
- 8-10 [OZWater'18](#)
- 10-18 [World Parks Week](#)
- 12 [World Migratory Bird Day](#)
- 21-27 [National Volunteer Week](#)
- 22 [International Day for Biological Diversity](#)
- 22 **HOPE Community Forum: "How restoring soil balance can help restore our environment" by Colin Johnson, EarthLife, Toowoomba**
- 23 [World Turtle Day](#)
- 26 [National Sorry Day](#)
- 27-3June [National Reconciliation Week](#)

Volunteers needed

More active volunteers – both local and remote (i.e. online) – are required to help us maintain our level 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; Publications Team members; and Newsletter Editor

Please contact the office on 07 4639 2135 or email office@hopeaustralia.org.au to offer your assistance.

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 or phone (07) 4639 2135.

HOPE News --- May 2018

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. (Australia) is pleased to support BirdLife Australia's (<https://www.actforbirds.org/>) national roadshow tour – "Act for Birds, Act for Nature" ... Advocating for a New Generation of National Environmental Laws.

A series of community meetings will be held in capital cities and some regional centres throughout Australia to discuss shortcomings of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999; and to proffer suggestions to improve and strengthen our national environmental protection laws.

Information on dates and locations of BirdLife Australia's roadshow events may be found at <https://www.actforbirds.org/events> .

BirdLife Australia believes that "the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 is neither protecting the environment nor conserving biodiversity. Together with the Places You Love Alliance (<http://www.placesyoulove.org/>) and guided by the work of the Australian Panel of Experts on Environmental Law (<http://apeel.org.au/>), BirdLife Australia is calling for a new generation of national environmental framework with four key elements:

1. National environment laws that genuinely protect Australia's natural & cultural heritage
2. An independent National Sustainability Commission
3. An independent National Environmental Protection Authority
4. Guaranteed community rights & participation in environmental decision making

The Toowoomba leg of BirdLife Australia's national Roadshow program is being held on Tuesday 8 May, from 7pm to 9pm, at Laurel Bank Park Hall, 50 Hill St, Toowoomba. This event is hosted by Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. (www.hopeaustralia.org.au) with logistical support provided by Amaroo Environmental Education Centre (<https://amarooeec.eq.edu.au/Pages/default.aspx>).

Bookings are essential. Online registration for the Toowoomba event can be made at <https://www.actforbirds.org/community-forum-toowoomba> .

"Restoring soil health - from backyards to farm yards - can help the environment" is the theme of HOPE's second community forum for the month of May.

Mr Colin Johnson from Earthlife Pty Ltd (<http://earthlife.com.au/>) will address topics including the relevance of soil mineral depletion; the adverse effect of survival plant growth on the environment; inefficient fertilisers; and the re-creation of healthy and fertile soils.

The forum is being held at the Toowoomba City Library, Tuesday 22 May, from 7pm until 9pm.

Bookings are essential. Please RSVP by phoning the HOPE office on 07 4639 2135 or by email to office@hopeaustralia.org.au . Entry by gold coin donation.

HOPE's proposed U3A Toowoomba course for term 2 **"Sustainability made Simple: exploring the local to global connections between people, planet and prosperity"** did not proceed, due to insufficient registrations for the 10week course.

Thanks to Andrew for developing the course and we are hopeful of presenting the course later in the year.

Date Claimers

Community Forum: BirdLife Australia's National Roadshow --- Act for Birds, Act for Nature "Advocating for a New Generation of Environmental Laws to Protect our Environment"

Tuesday 8th May 2018 | 7pm to 9pm | Laurel Bank Park Hall, 50 Hill St, Toowoomba



Join BirdLife in Toowoomba this May to hear about how nature laws are failing our birds and what we can do to help our feathered friends.

BirdLife Australia is calling for stronger nature laws that genuinely protect our wonderful birds and their precious habitats. Our [Act for Birds campaign is live](#), our [report just launched](#), and across the environmental movement as a whole we're starting to see the [extinction crisis getting the national media attention it deserves](#).

But our real power to secure stronger nature laws – and better outcomes for birds - lies in the stories and voices of local bird-lovers from around the country. So, BirdLife will be hosting 8 public community forums across the country!

This series of community forums will bring together people who care about birds and nature to share knowledge and take action. Attendees will get the chance to improve their understanding of this national issue, why it's important and how it relates to you. We'll talk through exactly how the current system of nature laws is fundamentally broken and offer practical ways to take action about the local issues that matter to you.

This will be a great opportunity for passionate nature lovers (like you!) to connect with one another, come up with ideas of your own, and take action together for the places and birds you love!

Lucky Door Prize – A "family pass – 2 adults & 2 children" to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary (<https://currumbinsanctuary.com.au/>)

Bookings essential. Refreshments provided.

RSVP via <https://www.actforbirds.org/community-forum-toowoomba>

Community Forum: "Restoring soil health – from backyards to farm-yards - can help the environment" Tuesday 22 May 2018 | 7pm – 9pm | Toowoomba City Library



"How restoring your soil's health - from backyards to farm-yards - can help the environment" is the theme of HOPE's second community forum for the month of May.

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. is hosting a community forum on good soil management practices on Tuesday, 22 May 2018 at 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm at the Toowoomba City Library (155 Herries St, Toowoomba City QLD 4350).

Mr Colin Johnson from Earthlife Pty Ltd (<http://earthlife.com.au/>) will address topics such as the relevance of soil mineral depletion; the adverse effect of survival plant growth on the environment; inefficient fertilisers; and the re-creation of healthy and fertile soils.

Bookings are essential. Please RSVP by 18 May to the HOPE office on 07 4639 2135 or by email to office@hopeaustralia.org.au. Entry by gold coin donation.

Feature Articles



An overview of Places You Love - www.placesyoulove.org

Written by Alessio Claudi, HOPE volunteer Qld

The Places You Love (PYL) is an alliance composed of 40 groups totalling more than a million and a half members and supporters. The Alliance's aim is to promote nature protection laws on a national scale, and also to unite the nature-loving Australian community to take direct action to protect the environment and improve the actual situation in regard to this matter.

The organisations that are part of the Places You Love are a movement of people who take a stand for the environment through political and social power. The Alliance remarks on the strong connection between Australians and nature; and how Australia's natural sites represent their national identity. Australia has natural places that are unique and which are part of every Australian's life. The key aspect of their struggle is the enactment of a new generation of environmental laws. Places You Love has been fighting for decades advocating for environmental preservation, also by demanding that governments and companies preserve Australia's nature.

Now, like never before, protection of nature is paramount due to the threat posed in the current political climate, and the exploitation of the natural resources in recent years has reached its peak. Places You Love's mission is to inspire Australians to protect nature. Places You Love members include WWF-Australia, The Wilderness Society, Australian Conservation Foundation, Birdlife Australia, Humane Society International and many conservation councils and local groups around the country.

The Alliance highlights the fact that a healthy natural environment is paramount for a healthy society, as well as a shared vision of Australia starting from the local communities, government and businesses. This vision is based on collective action and a joint approach to solving problems, and also on the identification and implementation of activities to pool its member organisations' strengths - because in **union there is strength**.

According to Places You Love, a new national environmental framework must be built on five key principles:

- National leadership;
- A central role for communities in decision making;
- Trusted and independent institutions
- Delivering strong environmental outcomes; and
- Ensuring resilience in the face of climate change.

Places You Love conducted a survey of Australia's nature, and discovered several important things. For example, the great majority of Australia's rivers have been modified by man through the construction of dams and irrigations systems. Also, their survey highlights the ongoing impacts of development on fresh water resources, and how the projected impact of climate change will cause a further decline of these resources.

Another, significant finding is the projected increase of emissions worldwide by 2050.

According to Places You Love, 'Two degrees of climate warming will likely mean the loss of most coral cover on the Great Barrier Reef, 80 per cent of freshwater wetlands from Kakadu National Park, and Queensland's tropical forests'.

Moreover, in Australia there has been an increase of air-pollution-related illness, with health costs amounting to some \$11.1 to \$24.3 billion a year.

Nature is under threat in Australia, as is exemplified by the constant increase of rubbish, energy consumption (with only a small percentage coming from renewable sources) and chemicals for agricultural application. Also, half of Australia's wetlands have been drained, filled or destroyed.

All these findings should sensitise each and every Australian to do what is possible to limit, and possibly stop, this ongoing and multiform exploitation of nature.

Places You Love also works closely with The Australian Panel of Experts on Environmental Law (APEEL) - <http://apeel.org.au/>, which is working toward a more environmental-centred legislation.

HOPE, as part of the Places You Love alliance, invites its members to take part in Places You Love campaigns and events. Places You Love's website <http://www.placesyoulove.org/> provides a list of all the organisations that comprise its alliance, which can be useful to understand the broad range of associations and groups involved in its project.

APEEL – The Australian Panel of Experts on Environmental Law: <http://apeel.org.au>

By Alessio Claudi, HOPE volunteer QLD

By way of introduction, an extract from APEEL's website:

'The Australian Panel of Experts on Environmental Law (APEEL) is comprised of experts with experience in environmental law, research, practice and design and our aim is to set out a vision for environmental laws that ensure we have a healthy, functioning and resilient environment to benefit people for generations to come. We will achieve this through a system of laws that makes their implementation as transparent, efficient, effective and participatory as possible.'

The APEEL experts comprise environmental law practitioners, academics with international standing, and a retired judge of the Federal Court.

Their work is focused on research and producing technical papers on the reform of environmental laws. Through their work they have identified several core themes and ways to improve them.

Their technical discussion papers include:

1. The foundations of environmental law
2. Environmental governance
3. Terrestrial biodiversity conservation and natural resources management
4. Marine and coastal issues
5. Climate law
6. Energy regulation
7. The private sector, business law and environmental performance
8. Democracy and the environment

As it possible to note from the themes above, APEEL works on a wide range of issues which are, however, all linked to environmental preservation. The environment in itself is made by a multitude of components that are interconnected, and impact directly or indirectly with each other.

However, the most important work of APEEL is the *Blueprint for the Next Generation of Australian Environmental Law*, which is a detailed framework for a complete reform of environmental law in our country. This document also identifies the key actors in environmental law, as well as methods of examination and research in this field. This 30-page document highlights in a concise but specific way, future strategies with clear examples on how to tackle environmental issues.

APEEL's reformist approach has been highlighted and reported by several media such as *The Australian*, *The Conversation* and *The Guardian*. This shows how the problems raised by APEEL are both highly relevant, and worthy to be diffused on a national and international scale.

Raising awareness on the environment is what APEEL is also trying to do. Their online contents are clear and easy to understand for non-experts of environmental law, but they also provide highly academic and technical analysis useful to understand in depth what their vision is, and direct actions toward better environmental policy.

Academic research should be accessible to everyone and not elitist, and APEEL surely makes research easy to understand and is well-presented.

APEEL's vision of a more environmental-friendly world represents an example of how scholars and experts can have a direct impact in policy making, and generally in how everyone lives, since everybody benefits from a clean environment. Also, APEEL's actions remind us how everything we do even today, impacts on the future.

HOPE embraces the ideas, and principles of APEEL, and encourages all its members and their acquaintances to know more about APEEL and their remarkable work.

APEEL website: <http://apeel.org.au>

APEEL - 57 Recommendations for the next generation of Australia's environmental laws: https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56401dfde4b090fd5510d622/t/58f98c9a3e00bed09c88c4ed/1492749468106/APEEL_recommendations.pdf

APEEL overview paper:

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56401dfde4b090fd5510d622/t/58f99ce7579fb3435965bb11/1492753641256/APEEL_Future_of_Australian_Environmental_Laws_Overview.pdf



Birdlife Australia - <http://www.birdlife.org.au/>

Birdlife Australia is the Australian partner of Birdlife International. It came into existence on 1 January 2012 when Birds Australia and Birds Observation & Conservation Australia merged together. It is a national organisation actively involved in conserving the natural habitat of Australian birds and in creating a bright future for them. They have branches all over Australia that run various projects and events which provide a platform for local communities to participate and also to share knowledge and experience.

Currently, the organisation is running 30 projects nationwide managed by highly dedicated and passionate individuals. One of the most important projects is **Atlas & Birddata** that tracks changes in the birds across the country. It also allows passionate individuals to be a part of the project by submitting their own surveys. **Beach-nesting Birds** is another project that aims at protecting birds that nest and lay their eggs on the beach. Under **The Bittern Project** which started in 2007, the Australasian Bittern was successfully enlisted under the EPBC list as endangered. Some of the other projects are Cowra Woodlands Birds program, EAGA Biodiversity Monitoring, Gippsland Lakes Program, Operation Rainbow Roost, Red-Tailed Black Cockatoo Recovery and Powerful Owl Project. Their projects range from local ground work to national surveys which require the time and commitment of thousands of volunteers.

Birdlife Australia has adopted a five-year strategic plan 2017-2022 for improving conservation efforts and to protect endangered birds and nature. To maximise the output of their efforts they have adopted a series of strategic priorities and principles that aim at prioritizing actions, implementing them and evaluating the results. They value science and research and always encourage engagement through communication and campaigns.

Birdlife Australia relies upon its vast network of volunteers and supporters to contribute their observations, records and share their biodiversity knowledge to help native birds. One can choose to volunteer their time in the field, at the facility or in the office. Also, those interested in getting involved can either participate in projects like Citizen Science, Congress & Campout or The Conservation Forum or engage in local events and activities. You can also support them by donating, leaving a bequest, becoming a member or signing up as a wildlife protector. To find out what's happening in your area or to look into different options of supporting Birdlife Australia, visit their website or their Facebook page.

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World News

MAJOR THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY

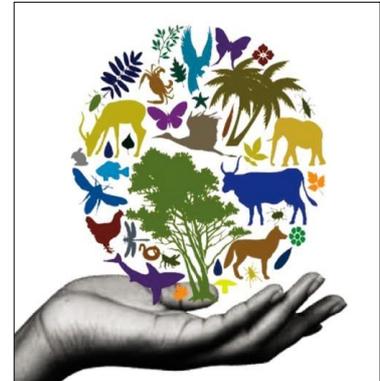
By Rao M Sajjad Sharif^{1*}, Ashfaq Ahmad and Shahid Majeed

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Climate Change:

Anthropogenic induced climate change is leading to degraded ecosystems, through a loss of biodiversity. A rapid decline in global biodiversity is occurring because of the shifts in species abundance and distribution, caused by climate change. Furthermore, the extreme weather conditions, rainfall variability, rising temperature and severe drought, from changed climate conditions, is having significant impacts on the planet's biodiversity. Whilst climate change is already creating a negative impact on biodiversity, this is projected to become a more significant threat for biodiversity as climate change worsens.



We can:

- Reduce sources of pollution
- Increase & manage protected areas

Pollution:

Anthropogenic activities are the main source of pollution. Pollutants such as oil, pesticides, phosphate, and nitrogen from fertilizers can have significant impacts on ecosystems. These pollutants, as well as sewage or industrial waste, become a problem when they enter waterways and create harmful impacts on fish populations, other aquatic organisms, and their habitat. Similarly, air pollution has adverse effects on biodiversity, the economy, and public health. Air pollutants are generated from multiple sectors such as agriculture, industry, and transportation.

We Can

- Take public transport or walk/cycle
- Plant vegetation

Deforestation:

Deforestation is currently the greatest threat for ecosystem biodiversity and it is also responsible for the extinction of many species and their habitats through a loss of habitat.

We can:

- Reduce timber use
- Use recyclable products
- Sustainably manage forests

Forest fire:

Globally, negative impacts caused by uncontrolled forest fires have increased over the past two decades. Forest fires are a major threat to flora and fauna biodiversity because millions of plantations are destroyed. Forest fires also cause a loss of lives and recreational values.

We can:

- Develop forest fire regimes
- Educate and train people about forest fire

Agriculture:

Agriculture practices are a major threat to terrestrial biodiversity. According to the IUCN red list, an increase in cultivated land is a major threat to 85% of all species. The extensive use of fertilizers, extensive tillage practices and insecticide have been linked to declines in biodiversity in agri-ecosystems. According to UNEP, natural forest cover in developing nations declined by 8 percent, which is mainly due to anthropogenic activities such as urbanization.

We can:

- Use cover crops
- Adopt zero tillage
- Efficiently use fertilizer

Industrialization:

Industrialization is destroying habitats and consequently causing a loss of the planet’s biodiversity. The rapid development of building structures and pollutants from industry have negative impacts on global biodiversity.

We can:

- Use recyclable products
- Use sustainable products
- Switch away from fossil fuel industries



(Source: australianmuseum.net.au)

Urbanization:

Terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity is diminishing due to an increasing human population that is placing greater demand on natural resources.

We can:

- Educate the community about the importance of biodiversity
- Preserve natural resources
- Promote urban trees

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'If the United Nations exists on behalf of "we the peoples", then UN Environment's mission must be to improve those people's lives by radically changing the way we treat this planet.' - Erik Solheim, UN Environment Executive Director, 2016

The **United Nations Environment Programme** (UN Environment, previously known as UNEP) is a leading international body that promotes global environmental implementation of sustainable development. Its slogan "a healthy planet depends on all of us" is fulfilled through UN Environment's efforts to connect with people, organisations, leaders and nations in order to empower them to care for the environment and reach a better quality of life for them and the future generations.

UN Environment is active across a spectrum of areas from climate change to ecosystems to environmental governance and green economy. Throughout its history, it has played a significant role in international environmental conventions, research and policies, as well as in funding and conducting environmental development projects.

MAJOR SUCCESSES



Since its foundation in 1972, UN Environment has achieved numerous successes that go in harmony with its commitment to sustainable development.

These accomplishments were registered in various environmental spheres. The 1987 Montreal Protocol, for example, resulted in phasing out approximately 98% of the Ozone-Depleting Substances (ODS) in approximately 100 hazardous chemicals around the world. The 2012 Minamata Convention on Mercury tackled the hazardous effects of mercury on human health and the environment. UN Environment has also played a primary role in supporting and financing a number of solar power programs in a

number of developing countries.

As a leading global environmental authority, UN Environment continues to register various successes in different environmental spheres. It is currently involved in a number of major campaigns with specific goals and actions that engage the public and empower them to improve the quality of life on our planet.

#CleanSeas

This global campaign was launched in February 2017 by UN Environment to bring together governments, the general public, civil society and the private sector to combat marine plastic litter. By doing so, UN Environment intends to significantly cut marine litter by changing habits, practices, standards and policies worldwide.

To take #CleanSeas pledge, visit <http://www.cleanseas.org/take-action> and learn some useful tips on how to be part of the solution by following some tips that can be as simple as saying no to straws.

To receive campaign updates, or to be in touch with groups and organisation concerned about ocean pollution near you, visit <http://www.cleanseas.org/stay-connected>.

#BeatPollution

With more evidence on the deadly impact of pollution on the life of every living creature, this campaign calls on everyone to take action and contribute to a pollution-free planet.

Signing the pledge will enable people to receive relevant information and ideas to combat pollution. Among the actions that supporters of the campaign are encouraged to do is the refusal of disposable shopping bags and single-use plastic, refraining from throwing rubbish into storm drains or sewers and opting for natural cleaning products and lead-free paint.

To sign the pledge and learn more about the campaign and what you can do to help a pollution-free planet, go to <http://web.unep.org/environmentassembly/sign-the-pledge>.



#BreatheLife

As air pollution directly impacts health and causes near-term climate change, #BreatheLife is concerned with raising awareness and educating the public about the effects of outdoor and indoor air pollution.

This global campaign provides solutions for individuals, community leaders, health professionals and other influential leaders. The solutions cover a variety of areas; transportation, waste management, household air & pollution, energy supply, industry and food & agriculture.

#BreatheLife aims to reduce by 50% the approximately 7 million annual deaths caused by air pollution and decreasing the rate of global warming by 2030. To learn more about the campaign and receive air pollution-related updates, visit <http://breathelife2030.org/>.

#WildforLife

What is illegal trade? Why is wildlife in such high demand? What can we do? WildforLife campaign addresses these questions to bring attention to the consequences of illegal trade in wildlife.

The campaign proposes different actions for supporters to choose from and help raise awareness of endangered species. All the actions are designed to educate the supporters and get them to influence their own personal circles.

To learn more about the campaign, visit <https://wildfor.life/the-campaign>, or go to <https://wildfor.life/act> to check what you can do to help wildlife.



These campaigns provide educational platforms for people to realise the impact of their personal habits and actions on our planet. One common thing between these campaigns is that they all depend on, and start from, *connecting with people*. Despite being globally spread, taking real steps start from locally committed individuals.

UN Environment programs and campaigns not only raise the awareness of critical issues encountering the planet but also suggest ideas on how to be proactive and help make a difference. To stay informed about UN Environment activities and news, sign up for updates on <https://www.unenvironment.org/subscribe>.

(Written by Remah Naji, HOPE volunteer Qld)

National News

China's Ban Drives Australia to Consider Working Toward a Circular Economy

By Sarah Field, 19, is a sophomore studying psychology and Spanish at New York University. She has always had a passion for creative writing and decided to take an environmental journalism course while studying abroad in Sydney in order to try a new style of writing - as well as learn more about current environmental issues.



Recyclables piling up at a waste facility in Hume. Photo by Matthew Roberts of ABC News.

Australia must weigh the demand for a sustainable circular economy after China placed a ban on low-value recycling materials on January 1st, causing panic over whether Australia's household recycling practices will be able to continue without significant systemic reorganization.

In January, China officially stopped accepting 24 categories of recyclables and solid waste as part of their campaign against "cheap garbage," specifically contaminated waste.

Consequently, many countries are facing a massive waste build up, unsure of what to do with it all. While some are calling the ban a "crisis," others see it as a chance for Australia to work on its national waste disposal system.

"It's an opportunity to create a recycling industry in Australia. We need it, and we need the jobs," says Frank Ondrus, president of Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE).

Many countries including Sweden, Denmark, Japan, Scotland and the Netherlands have shifted toward a circular economy in recent years.

In a circular economy, materials are constantly being reprocessed and reused, or 'circulating' for as long as possible, reducing the amount of virgin plastics being used.

A South Australian government report states that transitioning to a circular economy would create 27,000 in-state jobs by 2030 and reduce South Australia's greenhouse emissions by 27%.

Jayne Paramor, Deputy Director for the Boomerang Alliance, says that one main problem is the fact that environmental regulations are handled at the state level, not a national one.

New South Wales, along with several other states, has landfill levies requiring landfills to pay a fee for every tonne of waste collected in order to promote recycling and recovery of reusable resources.

However, Paramor says that businesses have found ways to get around levies by shipping waste to Queensland, where there are no levies.

To prevent this, she says "state environment ministers would need to agree to make a level playing field across the country so there'd be no incentive for going over the borders."

Paramor suggests that a short-term solution would be for states to implement a container deposit scheme which would enable them to continue to sell materials overseas.

New South Wales successfully implemented a "Return-and-Earn" program where citizens receive compensation for bringing recyclables to collection points where the uncontaminated materials are sorted.

Paramor says that Australia should simultaneously be working on creating its own infrastructure.

"There are lots of opportunities for private-public partnerships in this instance where money could be put in from both government and businesses to stimulate the industry."

The future of recycling in Australia rests on the decisions of government officials, businesses, and citizens who can help promote sustainable recycling practices.

"Future generations have to keep paying for the mistakes of the past," says Ondrus. "Let's catch up, let's legislate, and mandate all these changes like more corporate responsibility, and more reprocessing onshore."

CONTACT LIST

Quoted:

INTERVIEW with Jayne Paramor, Deputy Director for the Boomerang Alliance. T: 02 9211 5022, email: jayneparamor@boomerangalliance.org.au. Interviewed by phone on March 7, 2018.

INTERVIEW with Frank Ondrus, President of Householders' Options to Protect the Environment. T: 07 4639 2135, email: office@hopeaustralia.au. Interviewed by phone on March 6, 2018.

Other Sources:

Government of South Australia— Green Industries Report: "Benefits of a Circular Economy—summary." <https://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/circular-economy.Published> in 2017.

The Guardian, "Five Countries Moving Ahead of the Pack Toward Circular Economy Legislation." <https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2014/oct/29/countries-eu-circular-economy-legislation-denmark-sweden-scotland>. Published 30 October 2014.

Independent, "China bans foreign waste – but what will happen to the world's recycling?" <http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/china-foreign-waste-ban-recycling-a8011801.html>. Published 25 October 2017.

An overview of the Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA)

(<http://www.alca.org.au/contact-us/>)

By Supreet Kaur, HOPE volunteer Qld

The Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA) was established in 2011 by seven organisations to support and encourage private land conservation efforts in Australia.

Their purpose is to spread awareness about the best practices in this sector, promote information exchange and to ensure that the greatest possible contributions resulting from these efforts are in alignment with the national and international biodiversity conservation goals. Their mission for 2018 is to “**increase the amount of permanently protected private lands by 1 million hectares**”.

Since its inception, ALCA has been instrumental in increasing public awareness and support for private land conservation. They are also working on developing a national framework and creating tools and practices by conducting research on issues effecting conservation efforts and by sharing knowledge and experiences.

In the past, ALCA has supported the Australian Government’s efforts to establish a National Wildlife Corridor Plan. However, they also emphasized the necessity to grant protection to private land protected areas and in particular the rights of the private landholders and local communities. The organisation has also been actively involved in voicing its opinion over the Caring for our Country (CFOC) Program by making suggestion for reshaping the program’s key principles and discussing the existing challenges. In 2014, they also made a submission on the National Landcare Program in which ALCA emphasized on the importance of permanent protection in order to ensure long-term investment security and protection of endangered species. Their comments and submissions on various plans and policies can be read in detail on their website.

The National Private Land Conference held each year and attended by ALCA along with other private land conservation NGOs, Government agencies, researchers and other stakeholders is an attempt to build a network of people and organisations working in this field. In previous conferences held in 2015 and 2017, some of the key issues discussed were conserving carbon stock in native forests, its role in achieving conservation of private lands, landscape conservation and role of land trust, Wedderburn Conservation Management Network

experience, financing private land conservation, public-private partnership and wetland restoration. The presentations and discussions on various topics covered in both the conferences is available on the website.

Like the previous years, this year ALCA is organising another National Private Land Conservation Conference which is scheduled to take place from 24th to 26 October in Brisbane. The theme for this year is ‘Accelerating Connection’ which aims at energizing connections

between different stakeholders. For more information about the conference, please contact info@plc-conference.org.au.

Also, as discussed in the 2017 conference, ALCA is expanding in its operations and a Steering Group has been formed for its management. More information on this will soon be posted on the organisation’s website.

