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## HOPE E-news Bulletin 2012 #7 --- 19 September 2012

The following items have been gleaned 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.

*Hello there,*

*Miriam, our regular newsletter editor, is on holidays for the next month so the August and September editions of the e:news bulletin will be prepared by the office.*

*The Office News section contains lots of important items from vacancies on the management committee and admin support; membership matters; progress report on the 2012 Pathways to Sustainability Expo; and a revised game plan for establishing a new Regional Conservation Council for the Toowoomba region. There's also a good swag of interesting items from around the nation for your reading pleasure. Enjoy!*

The HOPE Office, - [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au)

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### September

- 29 – Public Meeting: Mining Impacts on the Darling Downs - [www.hopeaustralia.org.au](http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au)

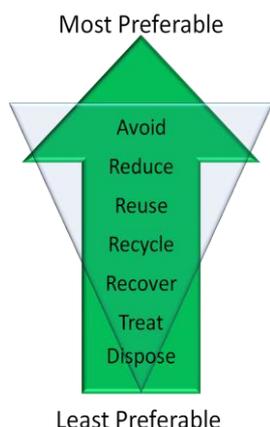
### October

- 1 - [World Habitat Day](#)
- 4 - [World Animal Day](#)
- 12 - [National Ride to Work Day](#)
- 13 – HOPE's 2012 Pathways to Sustainability Expo – [www.hopeaustralia.org.au](http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au)
- 14-20 - [National Water Week](#)
- 17 - [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#)

### November

- 6 - [International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict](#)
- 12-18 - [National Recycling Week](#)
- 21 - [World Fisheries Day](#)

## The Waste Hierarchy



**Avoid** - collecting or creating waste

**Reduce** - waste and use of resources, especially water and electricity

**Reuse** - what you can

**Repair** – give an item a longer life

**Divert** – send items to welfare stores, not to the tip

**Recycle** – glass, paper, plastic, steel, aluminium – support you Council recycling programs

**Disposal** – to the appropriate facility – don't litter or illegally dump

## Office News

What a hectic and sometimes dramatic month or so it has been for everyone at HOPE.

The office staff; management committee; Policy & Advocacy sub-committee; the Environmental Networking Partnership (ENP); and the *Pathways to Sustainability Expo* working group have all busy progressing their respective activities.

And, with the recent resignations of Vice-President and Membership Officer, coupled with our Newsletter Editor going on leave, we urgently need YOU to step up and share the workload to enable us to continue a high level of service to our membership and supporter base.,

So, if you have some spare time, why not lend a hand. Please phone the office on 07 4639 2135 or email [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) to volunteer your services.

Our new website is attracting plenty of positive feedback and the odd notification of an error here and there. Please do report any further anomalies; and/or suggested improvements.

The new HOPE pull-up strip banners look great and are already in use.

The new national edition of HOPE's *Low Carbon Living starts at home* booklet is now online at [www.hopeaustralia.org.au](http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au)

### Information displays report

HOPE continues to promote itself locally by providing information displays for community events such as Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival (12/8), Toowoomba TAFE Open Day (14/8) and U3A Seniors Expo (22/8). If you would like to help out with future display activities please contact the office on 07 4639 2135.

### Membership Matters:

HOPE is keen to attract more active members – both locally and throughout Australia - to help us promote the HOPE Charter of sustainability, to a wider audience.

Of course, we also need more active members to assist with management committee and admin tasks, as well as to help manage projects, events and community activities.

If you feel that the time is right for you to be more active within the HOPE organisation, please give the office a call on 07 4639 2135 or send an email to [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) ; and we'll see what tasks you may be willing to undertake.

The office has also initiated a national media campaign to attract more members. (Please let us know if you see or hear story in the newspapers, TV or on the radio.

We're also keen to attract more NGOs to our network of members and supporters. If you know of any community group that might be interested in sustainability practices, please pass on their information to the office.

### Pathways to Sustainability Expo, Saturday 13 October 2012

The working group has been meeting weekly to advance the major aspects of the event; and to sort out marketing and promotion requirements.

Major Expo activities locked in so far are:

- Eco Art workshops for children (2 sessions) and adults/artists (1 session);
- Geckoes Wildlife Exhibits;
- Speakers Program;
- Green Street opportunities for our communities –guest speakers and discussion groups;
- Sustainability Competition for secondary school children;
- Farmers Market – local and regional produce;
- Community information displays and demonstrations;
- Trade exhibits – featuring environmentally friendly products and services;
- Vintage Bicycle Collection;
- Fun Bike Ride; and
- Food and drink.

We're keen to recruit some 30+ volunteers to help on the day of the Expo. Please call the office on 4639 2135 or email [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) to offer your services at the Expo.

### **Public Meeting – Impacts of Mining on the Darling Downs**

Saturday 29 September, 2pm – 4pm, Jacaranda Room, Grand Central, Toowoomba

Invited guest speakers include: Ms Sarah Moles, Lock the Gate Alliance; Ruth Armstrong, a grain and cotton farmer from Cecil Plains; Rob McCreath from Friends of Felton; and Dr John Standley, agricultural scientist..

*Please show your support of HOPE and its activities by attending this important meeting.*

*RSVP to HOPE office by phoning (07) 4639 2135 or email [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au)*

*Frank Ondrus, acting Office Manager; ph 07 4639 2135*

#### **Volunteers needed**

More active volunteers – both local and remote via email – are required to help us keep the machinery of operation going. We are currently looking for a secretary/minutes-taker, media officer, admin assistants; as well as on-ground helpers to assist with staffing information displays, and helping out at events.

Please contact the office on 07 4639 2135 or email [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) or phone (07) 4639 2135.

#### **Make Poverty History – Every Minute Counts.**

Make Poverty History is a campaign committed to raising awareness of global poverty and related issues and pressuring governments into achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals to halve global poverty by 2015. Although it is a secular campaign, it is supported by a coalition of more than 70 aid and development organisations, community and faith-based groups. In Australia, it works in partnership with Micah Challenge and the Global Call For Action Against Poverty.

The campaign has played a leading role in achieving federal government policy commitments to increase aid levels, significantly increase the percentage of the aid budget to NGO and civil society programs, and ensuring aid programming is measured against the UN Millennium Development Goals and reported to the Federal Parliament.

The Make Poverty History campaign is not a fundraising campaign. Anyone wishing to make a financial contribution to help end global poverty should give to the existing poverty-alleviating programs of the member organizations.

The campaign website contains a wide variety of materials including an e-newsletter, a blog, videos, brochures and links to a range of educational resources targeted predominantly at young people, students and teachers including:

- An activity kit for students to help explore the importance of basic education and the effects of global poverty.
- A guide to visiting Members of Parliament and the Prime Minister.
- A guide to writing letters to Members of Parliament and the Prime Minister.
- Simulation Games and Activities for teachers and student groups.
- Publications relating to the UN Millennium Development Goals.
- Links to on-line communities and forums for youth who share a concern for issues such as child exploitation, unfair trade, HIV/AIDS and global poverty.

There are also facilities for individuals, other NGOs, churches, organisations or groups to join the campaign and become members of Make Poverty History.

Website: <http://www.makepovertyhistory.com.au>; Email: [mph@makepovertyhistory.com.au](mailto:mph@makepovertyhistory.com.au)

Phone: (03) 9251 5290

*(Reprinted in support of poor and disadvantaged people all over the world.)*

## Feature Articles

### **Carbon Market signs deal with Ecospecifier**

**Carbon Market, owners of EcoNews, EcoTV, EcoVoice and Eco Daily Deals, has signed an agreement with specialist sustainable products website Ecospecifier.**

The agreement will provide access to a major green building and healthy living knowledge base as well as more than 6000 environmentally preferable building materials, products and technologies for readers and users.

Led by co-founder Mary-Lou Kelly Ecospecifier Global is an award winning tool that makes finding and choosing eco and healthy products easier by providing free access to 'Ecospecifier Basic Listing, Verified', and third party certified building materials, products and technologies hosted on a national and international network of websites.

Linking independent information with a powerful search interface, Ecospecifier provides materials research for industry and homeowners alike as a true third party, delivering innovative solutions with unique difference.

The site contains products certified by a range of national and international third party assessed products such as FSC, Global GreenTagCert™, GECA and other Ecospecifier Verified products are rigorously assessed using the ESCAP health and eco-toxicity screen using Australian, European and USA leading edge legislative systems, are assessed on a life cycle thinking basis and all key health and environmental claims verified in accordance with ISO 14021.

Once a product has been Ecospecifier Verified or third party certified (e.g. under the ISO14024 Type 1 Ecolabel Standard) or the like, Ecospecifier's national and international website and partner network facilitates marketing to a world of green building professionals, hotel chains and the public domain, integrating with tools such as the GBCA's Green Star®, LEED®, BREEAM®, DGNB, Green StarNZ™, Estidama Pearl Design System, Green StarSA™ and many others.

The product assessments are hosted on extensive Ecospecifier product databases at [www.ecospecifier.com.au](http://www.ecospecifier.com.au) and five other international websites in South Africa, Singapore, UAE, China and Ecospecifier's global website.

Designed to help designers, builders, consultants, procurement officers, facilities managers, purchasers and those looking to deliver a best practice design, Ecospecifier websites and Green Building Rating tools specific search functions, can cut research time by up to 90 per cent.

This helps designers deliver rated green buildings more cost and time efficiently and helps homeowners easily find trustworthy products with strong eco-credentials while simultaneously helping reduce environmental impacts and creating healthier and more productive living and working environments.

Ecospecifier is more than a database however, providing information on how to choose healthy products and design and deliver buildings, interiors and surrounds using environmentally preferable products available to relevant regions.

It also provides in-depth reporting on materials and product related topics particularly in relation to the environment and health issues surrounding materials.

By partnering with a number of key organisations within each country, Ecospecifier Global is able to be more effective at supporting the consumers make easier choices and the green building and materials sector improve their efficiency and profitability.

According to Mary-Lou Kelly CEO of Ecospecifier Global "the partnership with Carbon Market will provide significant additional exposure for certified and verified product manufacturers and make it easier for everyone to find, choose and buy eco and healthy products".

Carbon Market's publications are media partners with The Banksia Foundation, Conservation Volunteers Australia, Keep Australia Beautiful, Environs Australia, as well as many other high profile and credible environmental organisations.

Tim Langdon, co-founder of Carbon Market said that he was delighted to partner with Ecospecifier and the information and services it provides.

"It is a collaboration that will greatly assist our subscribers to access quality eco products and services and joint marketing initiatives will create further awareness in the community of what's on offer." he said.

"It will also provide us with access to more than 2000 businesses and 20,000 more individuals that have the

environment at the forefront of their thinking. Businesses that our publications will be able to assist to get their message out - via advertorials and interviews." Mr Langdon added.

Carbon Market manages and operates five business units including: Eco TV, EcoNews, Eco Voice, Eco Daily and Carbon Market.

**EcoTV - [www.ecoTV.com.au](http://www.ecoTV.com.au)**

Providing viewers with the latest environmental news headlines, sustainable lifestyle tips and interviews with industry thought leaders and eco-minded celebrities. Eco TV aims to engage, educate and entertain viewers on all things green.

**EcoNews - [www.econews.com.au](http://www.econews.com.au)**

EcoNews is a major source of "as it happens" leading edge environmental news, from an Australian perspective.

Read by 25,000 people in more than 140 countries it also distributes a daily newsletter to more than 13,000 subscribers. Make it your daily source of environmental information. It is free to subscribe.

**EcoVoice - [www.ecovoice.com.au](http://www.ecovoice.com.au)**

One of the leading environmental news platforms in Australia, with tens of thousands of subscribers receiving the monthly newsletter. It is free to subscribe.

**EcoDaily - [www.ecodaily.com.au](http://www.ecodaily.com.au)**

Provides 'clever green savings' through our a daily deals platform.

**Carbon Market - [www.carbonmarket.com.au](http://www.carbonmarket.com.au)**

Provides an online platform for suppliers of environmentally friendly goods and services to promote and sell their products using ANZ's secure e-gate facility.

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## **National Waste Policy: Less was, more resources – Implementation Report**

(released July 2012)

The Australian Government has long been committed to working with states and territories to deal responsibly with Australia's waste. The 1992 National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development, agreed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), committed Australia to improving the efficiency with which resources are used, reducing the impact on the environment of waste disposal, and improving the management of hazardous wastes. This commitment still stands and has underpinned a collaborative approach by governments on national waste issues up to this day.

The 2009 *National Waste Policy: Less waste, more resources* builds on these earlier commitments and sets a clear direction for Australia for the decade to 2020. It provides an integrated policy and regulatory framework for waste management and resource recovery in today's Australia. The overarching aims are to generate less waste, to reduce the amount of waste for disposal, to manage waste as a resource, and to ensure safe and environmentally sound waste treatment, disposal, recovery and reuse.

The National Waste Policy provides the basis for strong collaboration among stakeholders to deliver effective approaches to national waste issues. Implementing this policy will mean that all wastes, including hazardous wastes, will be managed in a way that is consistent with Australia's international obligations and the protection of human health and the environment.

Since the policy was launched, much has been achieved. This report provides a snapshot of progress so far against the 2010 National Waste Policy Implementation Plan. The results showcase the clear benefits of a collaborative approach across government and industry.

This report was made possible by the efforts of state and territory governments, local governments, industry and other stakeholders who worked with the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities to provide information

Download report at <http://www.environment.gov.au/wastepolicy/index.html>

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## The E-Waste Challenge

Australians are among the world's largest consumers of electronics. This trend is increasing alongside a growing population and decreased product lifespan, yet Australia falls short of international standards for electronic waste management. The majority of 'e-waste' is land filled, where hazardous components pose serious threat to the environment and human health, and valuable materials such as gold and copper are lost. Despite political attention since the early 1990s, e-waste recycling efforts have been notoriously scattered, short-lived and under resourced.

The solution is simple: reduce, reuse, and recycle; and shift responsibility back to the source – industry. In 2002, the European Union's *Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive* (WEEE) imposed strict laws on manufacturers and distributors for e-waste recycling, public reporting, compulsory labelling, and public engagement. WEEE has achieved a broad shift in e-waste recycling, reduced demand for virgin electrical materials and boosted recycling industry jobs.

Australia is in the early stages of implementing the *National Computer and Television Recycling Scheme* (November 2011). This industry-funded scheme aims to boost television and computer recycling to 80 per cent by 2021-22. The target is ambitious and a welcome step towards transforming this difficult waste stream from an environmental hazard into a valued economic resource.

**Belinda Hewitt**, Consultant | Integrated Environments Group, **Arup**

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### Welcome to customer owned banking - bankmecu

bankmecu is a new kind of bank in Australia, a customer owned bank. This means we put our customers first because they also own the bank. We exist to maximise benefits in the form of better rates and lower fees. In 2010 bankmecu customers were collectively \$31 million better off than they would have been if they banked with Australia's big banks.

For more than 50 years, bankmecu **has been** offering customers a range of responsible banking products and today bankmecu is one of Australia's strongest and largest customer owned banks. Many of our products such as our award winning goGreen® Car and Home Improvement Loans include responsible features to enable you to contribute positively to the environment and local community, simply by choosing to bank with us.

As part of our commitment to responsible banking, bankmecu has also set up a world-first Conservation Landbank. In partnership with Trust for Nature and Landcare, revegetation works are being carried out on the properties to help bankmecu offset the loss of biodiversity resulting from new home constructions we finance and carbon emissions generated by cars financed by bankmecu.

To find out more about bankmecu and our responsible approach to banking visit us on campus at Room 208, C Block or phone 07 4636 1629.

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## Toowoomba Regional News

### Condamine Alliance set for finals in Australian 'River Olympics'



Condamine Alliance's work on the Dewfish Demonstration Reach on the Condamine River has been internationally recognised with the regional body chosen as one of three finalists in the International RiverFoundation's 2012 Australian Riverprize—the environmental equivalent of the Olympics.

As the flagship project for the Condamine River Rescue program led by Condamine Alliance, the Dewfish Demonstration Reach (the Reach) is Queensland's first native fish strategy demonstration reach.

[Read more](#)

### Interim Committee formed to establish of new Regional Conservation Council for Toowoomba region

HOPE was recently advised by Queensland Conservation Council (QCC) that the Qld Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) now requires us to transition our Environmental Networking Partnership (ENP) initiative into a stand-alone Regional Conservation Council (RCC) entity by the end of the 2012-2013 financial year.

Accordingly, a special meeting of ENP members and interested stakeholders has been convened for Monday 3 September, 10am at the HOPE office, 22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba, to form a steering committee to determine the process, requirements and timeline to achieve the desired RCC outcome.

HOPE will be providing the secretariat support and funding in this matter.

Please direct all enquiries on the formation of this new Conservation Council for the Toowoomba region to the HOPE office by phoning 4639 2135 or email [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au).

### Office Hours

HOPE's office is open every Monday from 9am to 5pm; with the library resources available at the same time. Other times can be arranged through the office.

### Advertisements



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## Queensland News

### Free grant writing workshop for the Burnett

Landcare Queensland is hosting a grant writing workshop for landcare communities hoping to apply for the Everyone's Environment Grants.

The workshop will explore the grant guidelines, present information about what funders generally look for, and give groups the chance to hone their grant writing skills with a specific application in mind.

[Read more](#)

### Mini Wind Turbines - Pros & Cons

Over the last couple of decades renewable energy technologies have taken off and are growing steadily in use. Mini-wind generators are one of a range of new renewable technologies, which reduce the impacts of climate change. They are smaller versions of the wind generators, with white blades as seen on TV and can be mounted to the side of your house. This adds to their convenience and makes them a good choice to counter power outages and to save money for business.

Overall, wind generators are a great new technology to invest in for home owners.

[Read this wonderful article compiled by one of our treasured volunteers](#)

*(extract from Gecko's Leaf Tales, Issue 43 – September 2012)*



## Landcare Queensland

### Mission

Our mission is to support locally motivated people who come together to make a difference to their environment through good land management initiatives.

Landcare Queensland provides training, resources and support for the landcare movement in Queensland.

### Vision

Our vision is for a Queensland where people work together to manage water, land and biodiversity across the state.

### What we do

We provide training, resources and funding for more than 30,000 people involved in Landcare and community based natural resource management throughout Queensland. We do this through:

- Providing capacity development products for landcare volunteers and members; and key stakeholder groups, often by working in partnership with regional NRM groups or local governments;
- Creating and enhancing awareness about landcare and related issues throughout the state;
- Working to grow the annual Queensland Landcare Conference by managing sponsorship and communication activities as well as supporting the host organisation;
- Broadening the frequency and total value of individual donations to landcare in Queensland;
- Increasing the financial commitment of the corporate sector to landcare in Queensland; and
- Helping landcare and community natural resource management groups become financially independent from government grants.

Things that Landcare Groups do include:

- Revegetating areas affected by salinity and erosion;
- Helping people with long term planning for their farms;
- Educating our children about the land and sustainability;
- Fencing off important bushland to protect from agricultural pressure;
- Helping to repair and protect urban creeks and bushland;
- Monitoring water quality in our rivers and streams;
- Helping developers manage the land sustainability and
- Working with governments to improve policies and legislation

For further information on Landcare Queensland, visit <http://landcare.org.au/>

## National News



# LIVING FUTURE INSTITUTE<sup>SM</sup> AUSTRALIA

The Living Future Institute (LFI), an international NGO focussed on social justice and sustainability, launched in Australia in August. [LFI Australia](#)'s founding director is University of Melbourne senior lecturer and EDG author Dominique Hes. According to Dominique: 'The Living Future Institute Australia (LFIA) is dedicated to establishing a powerful network of informed, influential, and active global citizens who are committed to redefining humanity's relationships with the ecosystems we inhabit'.

The LFI's built environment arm is the Living Building Challenge (LBC), the world's most rigorous certification program. The University of Wollongong's [Sustainable Buildings Research Centre](#), scheduled for completion in mid-2013, is on track to be the first Australian building to be certified by the LBC.

Designed by Cox Richardson, the centre will feature natural ventilation, rooftop PV and a wind turbine. It will also have a natural waste water system, integrated green IT building management, and permaculture and native food gardens.

### [Laggard to Leader: How Australia can lead the world to zero carbon prosperity](#)

The Beyond Zero Emission report [Laggard to Leader](#) makes the case for Australian leadership on climate change by:

- highlighting the true extent of Australia's influence over global emissions
- demonstrating how the practical, problem-solving approach to decarbonising every economic sector advocated in the Zero Carbon Australia Plans can be leveraged by Australia to achieve major emissions reductions globally while the UN negotiations remain deadlocked
- outlining a series of domestic and foreign policy initiatives that Australia should implement to steer the world's trajectory towards zero carbon prosperity.

### Australian farmers embrace Landcare, but call for innovation



The results of a recent national Landcare survey demonstrate a movement that is firmly embedded in the culture of Australian farming, with a staggering 93 per cent of those surveyed saying they practiced Landcare on their farms and 73 per cent saying they feel they are part of Landcare.

National Landcare Facilitator Brett de Hayr says the preliminary release of the survey results convey a powerful message and provides further proof that the Landcare movement has proven its longevity.

[Read more](#)

### Grants for environment, sustainability and heritage organisations

The Australian Government is offering grants to community-based volunteer organisations that work to preserve the environment or our heritage with Federal Minister for Sustainability Tony Burke calling for applications under the 2012–13 Grants to Voluntary Environment, Sustainability and Heritage Organisations (GVESHO) program.

"There are many great organisations working every day at local, regional, state and national levels to achieve better protection for our environment and heritage," said Mr Burke.

[Read more](#)

## **Landcare Australia – [www.landcareonline.com.au](http://www.landcareonline.com.au)**

**Keep up to date:** Landcare Australia's free e-newsletters are a great way of keeping up to date with all the latest Landcare news, campaigns, project case studies and funding opportunities.

There's one for everyone, with Landlink and the Junior Landcarer published on a monthly basis, and the Coastcarer being distributed every two months.

Simply visit [www.landcareonline.com.au](http://www.landcareonline.com.au) to sign up today.

If a monthly dose of news just isn't enough, you can also follow us on Twitter, @LandcareAust, or like us on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/landcareaustralia](http://www.facebook.com/landcareaustralia)

**Register your group:** Has your group been registered on the National Landcare Directory, a national database of thousands of care groups, schools, councils and environmental organisations?

Being part of the directory is a great way to make sure your group appears on the national map of the Landcare movement, can easily be found by potential new volunteers, and can help you promote your events and publish stories about your groups' projects and achievements.

Sign up your group today at [www.landcareonline.com.au](http://www.landcareonline.com.au)

## **Feed-in tariffs (FIT)**

THE national trend of plunging solar feed-in tariffs intensified recently when Victoria slashed its subsidies to rein in spending and to account for soaring demand for renewable energy.

Victorian Energy and Resources Minister, Michael O'Brien, released figures showing the original Labor-era tariffs for providing surplus power to the grid would cost Victorian taxpayers nearly \$500 million by 2024.

As a result, Mr O'Brien said Victoria would back an 8c/kWh tariff from January 1 next year, which is down from the transition figure of 25c/kWh and a marked reduction from the original rate of 60c/kWh.

Government's in NSW and QLD have also slashed the Feed-in tariff and with few if any rebates for installation this makes the whole idea economically marginal for many who would otherwise consider this household option.

*Editor's comment: Taking into account that government's have indicated that they need to rein in expenditure to balance the budget, do you think that reducing feed in tariffs is a positive or negative step?*

## **THE WASTE HIERARCHY: priority of actions**

As part of HOPE's aims to reduce waste and conserve energy and resources, we offer the following suggestions to remind you that: underlying all our human activities, we should be mindful of things we can do every day to help the environment.

Avoid - collecting or creating waste

Reduce - waste and use of resources, especially water and electricity

Reuse - what you can

Repair – give an item a longer life

Divert – send items to welfare stores, not to the tip

Recycle – glass, paper, plastic, steel, aluminium – support you Council recycling programs

Disposal – to the appropriate facility – don't litter or illegally dump!

## **Groundwater atlas goes online**

The atlas, funded by the National Water Commission and hosted by the Bureau of Meteorology, presents the first-ever comprehensive picture of Australia's groundwater-dependent ecosystems.

The atlas is available at: [www.bom.gov.au/water/groundwater/gde](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/groundwater/gde)

## **[National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme](#)**

Scheme recycling drop off points for televisions and computers have started to roll out across Australia.

Further drop off points and recycling events will gradually roll out over the next 18 months in metropolitan, regional and remote areas.

## Resources

### [Bushcare website](#)

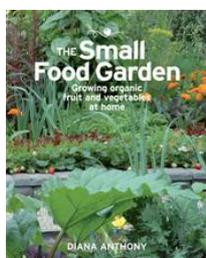
Bushcare is about groups of volunteers working to restore the natural environment in urban and coastal areas across Australia. The [Bushcare website](#) helps you get connected with local groups and organisations involved in Bushcare, as well as the latest news, upcoming events and useful resources.

### [Resources from the SAVE Program \(Sustainable Actions Value Everyone\)](#)

The SAVE Program (Sustainable Actions Value Everyone) delivered sustainability projects to low income, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities in Sydney. The [SAVE Program website](#) was developed to make the resources and lessons learnt throughout the program available to other organisations looking to engage similar communities in sustainability initiatives.

### [Publication of National Waste Policy Implementation Report 2011](#)

The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, on behalf of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Standing Council on Environment and Water, has released the [National Waste Policy Implementation Report 2011](#). The report outlines progress against the National Waste Policy and the National Waste Policy Implementation Plan milestones to the end of 2011.



### [The Small Food Garden](#)

Growing Organic Fruit and Vegetables at Home

*Diana Anthony*

Based on organic principles, this practical, well-illustrated guide takes you through all the basics to successfully grow fresh produce.

DUE Sept 2012 - CSIRO PUBLISHING - 112pp - Colour photographs

Paperback - 9780643108233 - \$29.95

### **Food Shock** by Dianne Loughnan [http://www.exislepublishing.com.au/Food\\_Shock.html](http://www.exislepublishing.com.au/Food_Shock.html))

The truth about what we put on our plate ... and what we can do to change it

Everyone wants to eat fresh, clean, nutrient-rich food. The more sophisticated of us want our food ethically produced as well. But the vast majority of food in Australia is mass-produced in an industrialised system and the results are not as palatable as the everyday shopper might imagine.

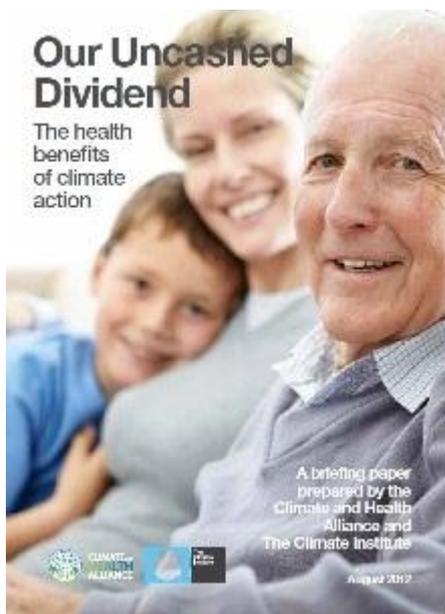
Our fruit and vegetables are sprayed with pesticides and herbicides, many of which have been banned overseas for years. Our beef is more often than not produced in feedlots, where thousands of cattle stand in their own faeces, regularly dosed with antibiotics to prevent the diseases that are an inevitable result of these conditions. Our chickens are 'spin chilled' in a dilute chlorine solution to help preserve them, and also to whiten the meat. The list goes on ...

And if you combine all this with the as-yet-unknown effects of genetically modified crops, the growing water crisis, the continued sale of valuable farming land to foreign interests, and the constant struggle Australian farmers face to survive in a 'free-market' economy where 'big business' makes the profit and their overseas competitors are subsidised yet they are not, it soon becomes evident that food production in Australia faces a very uncertain future.

Food Shock investigates these issues and encourages us to ask some important questions: what are the alternatives to our current system? How do we get there? And what can we, the consumer, do to change things? The answers may surprise...

#### **About the author**

Dianne Loughnan is a former Queensland and NSW provincial newspaper journalist and now commercial beef producer. She has also worked for the Queensland Landcare movement and has consulted to rural industries as a public relations practitioner. She currently lives and works with her husband and two children on their cattle property near Roma in southern inland Queensland.



## **Our Uncashed Dividend report highlights billions in health benefits from climate action**

The [Climate and Health Alliance](#) (CAHA) and [The Climate Institute](#) (TCI) released [Our Uncashed Dividend: The Health Benefits of Climate Action](#). The report outlines emerging research demonstrating how reducing emissions can deliver significant improvements in public health and save billions of dollars annually for healthcare budgets.

Publicly supported by the [Australian Medical Association](#), the [Public Health Association of Australia](#) and the [Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association](#), the report's release was described as a "signal moment" in Australian climate and health policy by ANU Professor Tony McMichael, a world leading climate and health researcher.

The report will be used to build support for climate action, to advocate for research, inform national and global climate policy discussions and seek to ensure health benefits are considered in designing climate policy.

The report was launched at the Canberra Hospital on 14 August during the [CHARM conference](#) – watch the launch [here](#) and see some of the media coverage [here](#).

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### **Free book for small business sustainability – John Dee author**

Sensis is proud to present this free 'Sustainable Growth' book for small and medium sized businesses.

'Sustainable Growth' provides small and medium sized businesses with practical information and tips on how to improve their bottom line while reducing their impact on the environment.

We commissioned Jon Dee, Founder and Managing Director of Do Something! and NSW Australian of the Year for 2010, to author this free book as part of our commitment to supporting a sustainable future for Australia's small and medium sized businesses.

'Sustainable Growth' follows the successful advertising and marketing book we produced with Rob Hartnett in 2006, with a second edition printed in 2008, 'Small Business, Big Opportunity: Winning the right customers through smart marketing and advertising'. Almost 130,000 copies of this book have been given away free of charge to businesses all over Australia.

You can download or order your FREE copy of 'Sustainable Growth' below. Orders will be dispatched free of charge in Australia only.

<http://about.sensis.com.au/small-business/free-sustainable-growth-book/>

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