



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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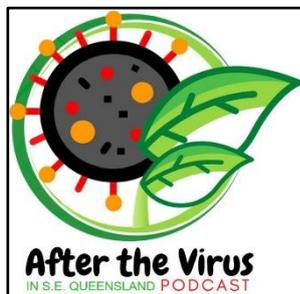
Think Globally. Act Locally!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 10 June 2021

Report on HOPE's 'After the Virus' Podcast series



This is the final report on the HOPE Inc. (Australia) podcast series: *After the Virus - talking about an innovative recovery from COVID-19 in South-East Queensland*. The thirteenth and final episode has just been added – and the series has attracted over 300 downloads to date. The episodes will remain online until October 2021 after which they will be archived

The series was produced between October 2020 and May 2021 in the context of the differential responses being made to the death, disruption and chaos caused by the COVID-19 pandemic as it continued to unfold around the world. We wanted to help showcase a range of ideas held by regional, South-East Queensland citizens which are supportive of the transition towards a more climate stable, environmentally sustainable, socially fair, and prosperous, low carbon economy in this part of the World.

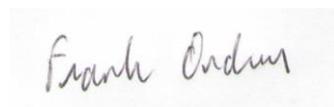
We also wanted to frame such progressive regional ideas in the context of the best, proactive responses to the pandemic internationally. Those responses are using lessons learned from dealing with the SARS-CoV-2 virus to tackle, simultaneously, public protection from the pandemic threat, as well as the bigger, longer term threats posed by climate breakdown, loss of natural places and wildlife, and other related sustainability risks. These pandemic lessons include the crucial roles of science informed risk assessment, strong government leadership and high-level financial support to ensure effective strategic responses to high level risks and threat of all kinds.

What was revealed in our podcast guest conversations is that we do not lack for innovative, forward-looking ideas for achieving a truly sustainable future in this part of Australia. Amongst many topics, guests talked about community owned renewable energy, waste control within a circular economy, more effective land manager engagement with climate change issues, climate smart agriculture, urban bushland restoration, social systems level reform, environmental law protections, and the use of art to help us process our reactions to disruptive events. Our guests provided their mini-visions and suggested paths forward to reach a preferred, sustainable future in this region.

The innovative ideas of our guests in the *After the Virus* series suggests we CAN create a preferred, prosperous, low carbon economy, which is climate safe, water secure, socially fair, and genuinely protective of our wildlife and natural places. Firstly though, we need to expand the conversation so that all of our regional citizens can contribute to developing a strong public vision of how they want to evolve as a sustainable regional community. This may help generate the community confidence to leave behind unsustainable, business as usual forms of development which are no longer fit for purpose. And we need to develop models of invigorated, truly participative democracy, to ensure that the collective public will and desire for a preferred future is fully implemented by governments.

We hope that this series has made a small contribution to achieving these important objectives and that listeners will follow the example of our guests to begin their own conversations about a preferred, sustainable, future, after the virus!

Visit Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. website to listen to all podcasts - www.hopeaustralia.org.au/resources/podcasts/ .

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank Ondrus". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured background.

Frank Ondrus, President – HOPE Inc., ph. 4639 2135
(Written by Andrew Nicholson, Senior Researcher – HOPE Qld)