Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.
PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, TOOWOOMBA QLD 435
(22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba QLD 4350)
Ph 07 4639 2135; Email: office@hopeaustralia.org.au
Website: www.hopeaustralia.org.au
Facebook: www.facebook.com/Householders.Options.to.Protect.the.Environment
ABN 48 036 173 161

HOPE E-news Bulletin 2026 #05.4 --- May 2026

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

Welcome to the May issue of the newsletter for 2026!
*Under Queensland items read about the **Condamine Catchment Management Association**, a community-based not-for-profit organisation who provides a point of coordination and information sharing amongst stakeholders in the Condamine catchment area in Southern Queensland. Next, read about the **National Parks Association of Queensland (NPAQ)** as it drives the conservation movement to ensure Queensland's remarkable biodiversity remains protected for generations to come.*
*Under national items, the **Climate and Health Alliance's** Sustainable Healthcare program demonstrates how healthcare professionals can contribute to sustainability to lessen the environmental footprint of health services. The following article on **Tackling invasive Species in Australia** investigates the ongoing issue of invasive rabbits across Australia and their damaging effects on agriculture and native plants and animals. Next, we revisit some of the current projects and activities of the **Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO),** followed by a short article on Australia's largest environmental law organisation, the **Environmental Defenders Office** and their work on environmental justice.*
*For a true circular economy to operate, our article on **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** examines the strategy of making producers financially responsible for managing their products throughout the lifecycle from production to disposal. Next, read about the inspiring work of **Saul Griffith**, an Australian born inventor, engineer and climate advocate.*
Revolve Recycling** promotes a circular economy by re-purposing old bikes while simultaneously supporting members of the disadvantaged community. Finally, read about the peak body representing Australia's waste and recovery sector **WMMR - Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia.
Happy reading!
Newsletter Editor – HOPE Inc.

2026 Environmental Observances

May
20 World Bee Day (Australia) – Helping Protect our Bees
22 International Day for Biological Diversity | United Nations

June
3 World Bicycle Day | United Nations
5 World Environment Day | United Nations
7 World Food Safety Day | United Nations
8 World Oceans Day | United Nations
17 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought | United Nations
29 International Day of the Tropics | United Nations

More detailed information on 'environmental observances' may be found at:

- International Days and Weeks | United Nations
- International Years | United Nations
- International Decades | United Nations

A message from the President

Good morning,
2026 has yet again proven to be a testing year politically, globally and environmentally. The recent fuel crisis has, much like the lockdown of Covid-19, highlighted Australia's heavy reliance on imported produce, building materials and on fossil fuel to move people and supply across much of the country. Metropolitan areas have witnessed a surge in the use of public transport and electric vehicles, now sold out in many local dealerships in my region. The optimist in me hopes that the situation serves as a wake-up call for our Government to electrify our transport and localize our supply chains. My opinion seems to echo those of fellow Queenslanders, who have started a petition to increase renewable energy projects in Queensland. Other recent Queensland-based environmental petitions include preserving native woodland for climate and biodiversity and a petition recognizing heat as a natural hazard in Queensland to ensure future development supports healthy, resilient communities in a warming climate. You can help support those by clicking on the links above.

Help support your local state environmentalists in their efforts to bring forward issues to Government in the links below:

1. *Petitions Northern Territories*
2. *Petitions Queensland*
3. *Petitions New South Wales*
4. *Petitions Australian Capital Territory*
5. *Petitions Victoria*
6. *Petitions South Australia*
7. *Petitions Tasmania*
8. *Petitions Western Australia*
9. *Petitions Parliament of Australia*

Warm regards,
Anna Kula-Kaczmarski, President - HOPE Inc. | admin@hopeaustralia.org.au

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Your financial support is sought! – https://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/donations/

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.

Of course, if you 'cash in your containers ', why not donate those monies to **HOPE Inc |** Member number: C11107170.

Please help us to continue our efforts in advocating for responsible stewardship of the environment and supports adopting sustainable long-term solutions to the manifold environmental problems facing hurdles.

Queensland items

Condamine Catchment Management Association (CCMA) – For the Future of Our River

(Written by Gloria Mutesi – HOPE researcher (Int – Uganda)

The Condamine Catchment Management Association (CCMA) is a community-based, not-for-profit organisation established in 1992 following consultation with communities across the Condamine Catchment. The Association was formed to provide a coordinated and inclusive forum for people with an interest in the management of land, water and natural resources within the catchment. CCMA operates strictly in line with its Constitution. It does not deliver on-ground projects or act as a regulatory authority. Its purpose is to support cooperation, representation and information sharing among community members, organisations, industry and government with an interest in the Condamine Catchment.

Why CCMA Exists: The Condamine Catchment encompasses diverse landscapes, land uses and communities, all connected by shared water and natural resource systems. Managing these resources effectively requires communication and collaboration across property boundaries, sectors and jurisdictions. CCMA exists to support this coordination. In accordance with its constitutional objects, the Association collects, collates and distributes information relevant to natural resource management; encourages interaction and cooperation between community, industry and government; represents catchment interests in natural resource management matters; and promotes community engagement and capacity building. Through these functions, CCMA provides a neutral space where local knowledge and perspectives can inform broader discussions and decision-making.

Where CCMA Operates: The Condamine Catchment is defined as the area of land where rainfall drains into the Condamine River and its tributaries. The Condamine River forms the headwaters of the Murray–Darling Basin, making the catchment significant at both regional and national levels. Covering approximately 29,150 square kilometres, the catchment spans several local government areas and supports a wide range of land uses.

What CCMA Does: CCMA's role focuses on coordination, representation and information exchange. The Association facilitates meetings and discussions, supports the sharing of information on natural resource management issues, and maintains links with relevant regional, state and national bodies. Through this work, CCMA helps ensure that community perspectives are considered within wider natural resource management frameworks.

Why CCMA's Work Matters: Catchment management starts in everyone's own backyard, whether a town block or a large rural property. Every small action contributes to broader outcomes, and coordinated effort enables the community to reach shared goals more effectively. By providing a consistent, constitution-based forum for engagement, CCMA supports more coordinated and sustainable approaches to land and water management for the benefit of current and future generations

Ways to Get Involved:
Community members and organisations with an interest in the Condamine Catchment are encouraged to engage with CCMA through membership or associate membership. **Associate Members** receive information on natural resource management matters, can raise views for consideration by the Management Committee, and are able to participate in discussions about the future management of the catchment. Through continued community involvement, CCMA remains a trusted forum dedicated to the long-term health of the Condamine Catchment.

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/CondamineCatchment/

National Parks Association of Queensland (NPAQ) – Protecting Queensland's Wild Places

(Written by Gloria Mutesi – HOPE researcher (Int – Uganda)

The National Parks Association of Queensland (NPAQ) is Queensland's oldest non-governmental environmental organization, founded in 1930. It is dedicated to preserving, expanding, and promoting effective management of the state's national parks and protected areas. For nearly a century, NPAQ has been a driving force in the conservation movement, ensuring that Queensland's remarkable biodiversity remains protected for generations to come.

Aims & Objectives: NPAQ's mission revolves around four key pillars: advocacy, community engagement, education, and conservation. The organization advocates for the establishment of new parks and improved management of existing ones, secures funding and strong policy support for the Queensland Protected Area Strategy, and empowers citizens to engage with nature through research, recreation, and volunteer initiatives.

Major Achievements: Since its inception 1930, NPAQ has influenced the creation of many of Queensland's most iconic national parks like Glass House Mountains and Munga-Thirri National Parks, and through Its flagship publications, **Protected Magazine** and **Connected eBulletin,** the NPAQ continues to inform and inspire thousands of readers interested in protecting nature.

Current Projects & Campaigns: Among NPAQ's standout programs over the years is **Parks Connect launched in late 2024**, which fosters direct community involvement in conservation. Supported by the Queensland Department of Environment, Science and Innovation, the program partners with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) to deliver initiatives like Junior Ranger, Park of the month, Cadet Ranger, Volunteer Ranger, and Campground Host across South East Queensland which gives youths and adults alike the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in park management

Events & Activities: NPAQ offers a rich calendar of outdoor and indoor events ranging from half-day and full day bushwalks, birdwatching to wetlands **(next event scheduled for 26th Nov 2025 at Nathan Road Wetlands)**, canoeing, and citizen science activities. Each month, its "**Park of the Month"** feature highlights a different park, inviting the public to explore Queensland's diverse ecosystems. These events foster appreciation of nature while promoting conservation awareness. Volunteers play a vital role, contributing thousands of hours annually to habitat restoration and environmental education projects.

As pressures mount from land clearing to climate change Queensland's wild places need protection more than ever and every Queenslander can play a role in protecting wild places. Whether through volunteering, donating, or simply exploring and respecting national parks, individuals can support NPAQ's vision of a state where nature thrives.

Ways to Get Involved:

- **Volunteer:** Help care for nature through programs like *Parks Connect*, *Volunteer Ranger*, or *Campground Host*. Lend your time to bush restoration, event coordination, or citizen science https://npaq.org.au/get-involved/volunteering/
- **Donate:** Support NPAQ's conservation campaigns, education initiatives, and park protection efforts. Every contribution helps safeguard Queensland's wild places – Donate – NPAQ
- **Attend Events:** Explore and connect with nature through guided bushwalks, birdwatching, canoeing, and our monthly *Park of the Month* activities – Upcoming Events – NPAQ

Stay connected: Follow NPAQ for the latest updates, conservation stories, and opportunities to engage facebook.com/NPAQld |instagram.com/npaqld | linkedin.com/company/npaqld | **Website** www.npaq.org.au

National items

CAHA's Mission and Sustainable Healthcare Work

Written by Dr Tennille Winter – HOPE researcher, QLD

The Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) is Australia's peak body on climate and health, uniting health professionals and organisations to advocate for sustainable healthcare systems that safeguard both human health and the environment. A key focus of CAHA's work is the Sustainable Healthcare Program, which aims to lessen the environmental footprint of health services, boost resilience to climate change, and adopt strategies that reduce climate impacts. Among these initiatives, waste reduction and circular-economy solutions in healthcare are central - especially for plastics and personal protective equipment.

PPE and Plastic Waste in Healthcare — The Challenge

Hospitals and health systems have traditionally depended heavily on single-use PPE for infection prevention. While essential for safety, widespread use of single-use PPE has significant environmental impacts.

- Plastic pollution: Most disposable PPE contains plastics that, once used, contribute to landfills and environmental pollution. Globally, only a small percentage of healthcare plastics is recycled.
- Greenhouse gas emissions: Production and disposal of single-use PPE contribute to climate change through fossil fuel extraction and waste processing emissions.
- Waste volume: Plastic waste can make up a significant portion of hospital general waste streams (upward of ~30%).

Given this, CAHA's sustainable healthcare initiatives explicitly aim to reshape the "culture of disposables" — encouraging strategies to reduce, reuse, recycle, and ultimately eliminate unnecessary single-use PPE where safe and feasible. CAHA has extended its focus beyond PPE to target all single-use plastics.

CAHA promotes a circular economy approach in health systems: reducing waste generation, encouraging reuse and recycling, and ensuring responsible procurement. This is evident in their broader work on healthcare plastics and waste, with several resources and case studies relevant to PPE.

Key principles include:

- Audit and Baseline Assessment: Health facilities are encouraged to audit their waste streams, including PPE types, volumes, and disposal methods. Audits help identify which single-use PPE can be safely replaced with reusable or recyclable alternatives.
- Behaviour Change and Staff Education: CAHA and member networks support workshops and campaigns highlighting how to minimise over-use while maintaining infection control.
- Procurement Policies for Sustainable PPE: Implementing procurement policies that prioritise reusable, recyclable, or lower-impact PPE can drive system-wide change. This involves selecting equipment that can withstand cleaning and sterilisation, that is made from recyclable materials, or that is designed for multiple use cycles.
- Partnerships and Networks: CAHA facilitates networks such as Global Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH) Pacific, which share case studies tools, and collective lessons on sustainable procurement and waste reduction

Case Studies and Research — Reuse/Recycle of PPE and Equipment

Consider these case studies to show that the reuse of plastics does not just relate to items that are used; it also includes items that are out of date.

CAHA highlights practical sustainability projects in healthcare that reduce waste, resource use and environmental impact. "Sustainable Christmas Decorations in a Hemodialysis Unit" at Monash Health repurposed expired medical supplies into festive décor, diverting about 160 kg of PVC from landfill and raising staff awareness about waste reduction: https://www.caha.org.au/sh15 .

At John Hunter Children's Hospital's NICU, the Greening the NICU initiative focused on recycling plastics (e.g., infant feeding bottles), switching to biodegradable nappies, and diverting stainless steel and large equipment from landfill — resulting in around 5 tonnes of plastic diverted: https://www.caha.org.au/sh9

Brisbane Day Surgery's project established recycling streams for commingled materials, healthcare plastics, PVC and polystyrene, replacing single-use items with reusable or recyclable alternatives and diverting tens of thousands of litres of material from landfill in its first year: https://www.caha.org.au/sh6

In Auckland, paper towel composting with partners Asaleo Care and Supertrash diverted over 1.25 tonnes of towels from landfill, cutting emissions by about 13% compared to landfill disposal:

https://www.caha.org.au/sustainable_healthcare_case_study_paper_towel_composting

South West Healthcare focused on replacing single-use plastics with compostable alternatives, avoiding 328,000 plastic items from landfill in one year: https://www.caha.org.au/sh4.

Finally, re-use of untouched oral nutrition supplements at Cairns and Hinterland Hospital saved around 2,664 plastic bottles from landfill and about AUD 4,400: https://www.caha.org.au/sh18.

These examples show that targeted action on PPE, combined with broader plastics-reduction strategies, can achieve measurable environmental outcomes in healthcare settings.

Challenges and Considerations

CAHA and related research discuss several barriers to PPE reuse/recycling:

- Infection control and safety: The highest priority of health systems is patient and staff safety. Introducing reusable PPE requires careful management to meet infection prevention standards.
- Staff resistance and workload concerns: Change can be challenging, and staff may worry about added workload or compliance with new processes.
- Infrastructure needs: Reuse systems require laundering, sterilisation, and tracking infrastructure, which can require upfront investment.
- Market limitations: Not all PPE materials are easily recyclable, and finding end-markets for recycled medical plastics can be complex.

Despite these challenges, CAHA's resources and networks demonstrate that systemic change is possible when sustainability is integrated into healthcare leadership, policy and operations.

You can join here as an organisation or individual https://www.caha.org.au/become_a_member or donate here: https://www.caha.org.au/donate.

Protecting What's Precious: Tackling Invasive Species in Australia

Author: Sreshti Nair, Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (CISS)

Australia is home to unique wildlife and landscapes: many of our native plants and animals are found nowhere else on the planet.

Yet, these precious natural assets are under increasing threat from invasive species. Australia already has the worst rate of recent mammal extinctions in the world, and every year introduced pests such as rabbits, feral cats, foxes and pigs, along with invasive weeds, damage farms, degrade ecosystems and push native species closer to extinction. Invasive species cost Australia billions of dollars annually, with more than 1,800 native species now at risk of extinction. While the challenge is significant, there is hope. With the right science, long-term investment and strong collaboration, real change is possible.

The Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, (CISS), is Australia's only independent, not-for-profit organisation dedicated entirely to invasive species research, development and engagement. CISS brings together governments, researchers, industry, landholders and communities to develop practical, science-based solutions that can be used on the ground and scaled nationally.

CISS is Australia's only not-for-profit that's entirely dedicated to collaborative research, development and extension on invasive species.

Rabbits: a growing problem (again)

Biological control has been one of Australia's most effective tools for managing invasive rabbits. Since its introduction, rabbit biocontrol has saved farmers billions of dollars and supported the recovery of native plants and animals across vast areas of the continent.

However, rabbit numbers are rising again and their impacts are taking an increasing toll.

Rabbits spread across Australia faster than any other colonising mammal in the world. Image credit: CSIRO

Rabbits cost Australia around $200 million each year in lost agricultural production and threaten more than 320 native plants and animals. They now occupy over two-thirds of the continent. Their grazing strips vegetation, prevents regeneration of native species, accelerates soil erosion and encourages weed invasion. Their burrowing also damages waterways, infrastructure and culturally significant sites, including sacred places for First Nations communities.

CISS has led Australia's national collaboration on rabbit biocontrol and management, working with government, industry and research partners. This collaboration delivered the RHDV1-K5 virus in 2017, the first new rabbit

biocontrol agent released in 20 years. It was spectacularly successful, substantially reducing rabbit numbers by around 60 per cent and holding populations at lower levels for almost a decade.

But rabbits are highly adaptable. Genetic resistance to biocontrol can build within 10 to 15 years and that tipping point is approaching again. Developing a new rabbit virus takes close to a decade of careful research, testing and regulatory approval to ensure any new biocontrol is safe, effective and specific to rabbits. In the meantime, rabbit populations – already estimated at more than 200 million – are expected to continue rising.

Turning concern into action

But there is hope.

CISS and its partners, including world-leading rabbit virologists and biosecurity scientists, are actively working to secure Australia's next generation of rabbit biocontrol. At the same time, CISS is supporting landholders, local governments and communities in using integrated approaches – combining conventional tools such as warren destruction, baiting and exclusion fencing, applied in the right sequence and at the right time.

A key part of this work is led by **Heidi Kleinert**, Australia's National Feral Rabbit Management Coordinator. Her role connects science, policy and on–ground action to support coordinated, landscape-scale rabbit control using tools such as RabbitScan and PestSmart.

There is also a strong economic case for continued investment. Independent analysis shows that rabbit biocontrol delivers extraordinary returns – up to $97 for every dollar invested – and that's excluding the environmental benefits of healthier ecosystems and recovering threatened species.

A shared responsibility – and a hopeful future

Rabbits may look harmless, even charming, but their impact is clearly anything but.

The good news is that Australia has solved this problem before – and can do so again. With sustained national collaboration, long-term investment in science, and strong community participation, we can protect what's precious.

As a national collaborator, CISS unites the expertise and experience to help prepare Australia for the next phase of rabbit management. Together with world-leading scientists, CISS is progressing the next generation of rabbit biocontrol while also supporting practical, on-ground action today through shared guidance, coordination and evidence-based tools.

To find out more about rabbits and how you can get involved, sign up for Heidi Kleinert's Feral Rabbit Newsletter, or visit the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions website. Support can take many forms – from learning and sharing information, to participating in local action, or making a tax-deductible donation to help fund the science and collaboration needed to protect Australia's landscapes and wildlife.

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
Written by Cassandra Adofo-Kissi - HOPE researcher ACT

CSIRO began in 1916 as an Advisory Council and have since advanced Australia by creating a range of inventions and innovations that have made significant positive impact on people around the world. CSIRO exists to solve the greatest challenges through innovative science and technology. The CSIRO works in collaboration with government, industry and research communities and turns science into solutions. CSIRO focuses on six areas: energy and minerals, food and fibre, from wonder to discovery, nature, one health and tech economy. CSIRO steward research infrastructure on behalf of the nation and connect science and society.

Major Achievements

- Fast WiFi: A wireless invention that connects computers without wires that is used in officers, public buildings, homes and coffee shops.
- Plastic Bank Notes: CSIRO was the world's first and represented a paradigm shift towards a secure currency against forgery. The plastic bank note is one of the CSIRO's most successful research initiatives.
- Hendra Virus Vaccine: The first vaccine to protect Australian horse owners and the equine industry against the deadly Hendra Virus.
- Extended wear contact lenses: As part of an international collaboration, developed contact lenses that can be worn for a month at a time.
- Aerogard: created insect repellent Aerogard with the formula eventually used by Australian Insecticide Mortein, leading to it becoming a household necessity.
- Total Wellbeing Diet: A science based, practical and healthy eating guide in a landscape of diets without scientific foundation. CSIRO clinical research unit developed a higher protein, low fat diet that's nutritious, facilitates sustainable weight loss and is supposed by scientific evidence.
- RAFT Polymerisation: RAFT Polymerisation is a new technique for creating plastics that allows a higher degree of control over the way molecules link together. CSIRO in collaboration with a leading Australian Manufacturer, is currently developing an environmentally friendly paint with enhanced flow, adhesion and abrasion resistance and durability. This will be one of the first commercial applications of RAFT technology. To see more CSIRO achievements https://www.csiro.au/en/about/achievements

Current projects/campaigns

The work of the CSIRO focuses on several national and international projects including those undertaken by the Australia Telescope National Facility. For instance, the SKA project. In addition to leading the development of the site for the Square Kilometre Array (SKA)-Low telescope in Australia, we have been actively involved in the SKA project since its inception. Over this time, we have collaborated with industry partners, universities, and key scientific organisations on the final design, prototyping, and testing of components for the SKA telescopes.

CSIRO current involvement includes:

- Operating Inyarrimanha Ilgari Bundara (the Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory) on Wajarri Yamaji Country on behalf of the Australian Government, the site of the SKA-Low telescope.
- Working closely with the Wajarri Yamaji people to protect and promote their cultural heritage as the Traditional Owners and Native Title Holders of the observatory land.
- Contributing to the construction of the SKA-Low telescope through contracts spanning site civil infrastructure and the development of software for the science data processing pipeline.
- Serving as the Australian partner to the SKA Observatory (SKAO) in the construction and operation of the SKA-Low telescope.
- Partnering in the Australian SKA Regional Centre (AusSRC), part of a global network that will provide astronomers with access to data from the SKA telescopes. The AusSRC has been established in partnership with The University of Western Australia, Curtin University, and the Pawsey Supercomputing Research Centre, with funding from the Australian Government.
- Preparing for SKA science by contributing expertise in radio astronomy and participating in science working groups shaping the future research agenda of the SKA telescopes. For more information on the SKA projects please visit https://www.atnf.csiro.au/projects/ska-project/

Events

CSIRO has a number of events for 2026 including:

- Human Centric AI and Security Seminar: A social approach to human centred AI
- Enabling climate change adaptation: Insights from case studies in Australia
- One health wonders webinar: Nipah virus as a one health issue
- STEM Community Partnerships Program (STEM CPP): 2026 Teacher Professional Learning Day.
- Adapting Ecological Knowledge System for Coastal and Marine Environments: report and webinar.
- Australian Farming Systems In A Changing World. For more information on upcoming events please visit https://events.csiro.au/

Overview of Environmental Defenders Office

(Written by Fidelia – HOPE researcher WA)

The **Environmental Defenders Office (EDO)** is Australia's largest environmental law organisation, often described as nature's lawyers. Since 1985, EDO has worked to protect the environment and community wellbeing by ensuring environmental laws are upheld in the public interest.

EDO supports communities, Traditional Owners, and civil society organisations on issues such as climate change, biodiversity protection, pollution, and unsustainable development. Through legal advice, strategic litigation, law reform, and community education, EDO helps people understand their rights and participate meaningfully in environmental decision making.

> ***Did you know?***
> *EDO does not represent corporations. It represents nature, communities, and the public interest. When ecosystems cannot speak for themselves, EDO's lawyers help give nature a legal voice.*

At the heart of EDO's work is a commitment to environmental justice. Through a combination of legal expertise and community engagement, EDO helps ensure that environmental harm does not fall unfairly on vulnerable communities and that decision makers are held accountable.

For organisations like HOPE Inc. (Australia), EDO's work illustrates how strong laws and informed communities can translate care for nature into meaningful protection. In practice, this approach shows how legal advocacy, transparency, and community empowerment support responsible stewardship of the environment and contribute to a more just and sustainable future.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- Producer Responsibility Shouldn't End at the Checkout
Written by Nelly Connor – HOPE researcher Vic

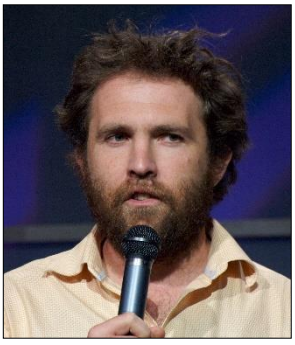
EPR is an essential part of the circular economy strategy and is used to make producers financially responsible for managing their products throughout their lifecycle- beyond sale and through to disposal. This includes funding collection, sorting, recycling, and disposal, aiming to incentivise companies to create products and packaging with as little waste as possible to reduce their end-of-life impacts.

This idea was first introduced by Thomas Lindqvist in Sweden in 1990, who defined the concept as "an environmental protection strategy to reach an environmental objective of a decreased total environmental impact of a product, by making the manufacturer of the product responsible for the entire life cycle of the product and especially for the take-back, recycling, and final disposal".

Who is responsible for effective EPR in the market?
For EPR to be successfully implemented several key players need to be involved:

1. Producers: the primary responsibility in this issue falls to the producers- they need to design, fund, and operate systems that can collect, recycle, and safely dispose of their products, as well as designing products which create minimal waste.
2. Government: for widespread adoption this policy needs to be implemented and regulated by the government through clear regulations, compliance reporting, and enforcement. This may involve reallocating specialised recycling funds toward monitoring and regulating EPR integration and requiring data reports to certify compliance. Further, policies should clearly ensure that costs don't fall to consumers, for example, the European Union has created packaging regulations, which prohibit separate EPR fees. The ethical backbone of EPR is the Polluter Pays Principle (PPP), so if enforced effectively the price should fall only to those creating the pollution (in this case the producers). Through product and packaging redesign, overall costs can remain aligned with current costs.
3. Practical Scheme Operators: the operational role of this process falls to practical scheme operators, entities set up to run the system, funded and led by industries to carry out the recycling of specialised products (such as batteries and tyres).
4. Consumers: to ensure effective, practical adoption of the policy consumers need to be on board. This involves education, accessible drop-off points, and accurate waste sorting and disposal.

Overall, EPR is one piece of the circular economy puzzle, and can play a key role in cutting waste and making products fit for a lower-impact future.



Saul Griffith: Rewiring the World for a Clean Energy Future
- *Engineer | Inventor | Author | Climate Policy Advocate*
(Written by Gloria Mutesi – HOPE researcher (Int – Uganda)

In a world racing against climate change, the solutions we need are not distant, futuristic inventions. They already exist among us, reflected in the Australian Development Goals' call for clean energy, innovation, and sustainable communities. One engineer is showing how these goals can move from policy into practice. **Saul Griffith**, an Australian-born inventor, entrepreneur, author, and climate advocate, has devoted his life to proving that a clean, electrified future is not only possible it's achievable, affordable, and practical.

Saul's work stretches across continents, technologies, and entire industries, but his message is focused and urgent: **we must replace fossil fuels with clean electricity, and we must act now**. By connecting households, transport, manufacturing, and power systems, he shows that decarbonization is not a distant ideal. It is a real, workable strategy one that starts at home and scales outward.

Who Is Saul Griffith: Saul Griffith is a **MIT-trained engineer and inventor** whose career sits at the intersection of technology, energy systems, and public policy. His early curiosity about how things work evolved into a lifelong commitment to redesigning the systems that power modern life. Over more than twenty years, Griffith has founded or co-founded **over a dozen companies**, working across robotics, renewable energy, manufacturing, and digital innovation. What distinguishes him is not only the breadth of his work, but its purpose: **to create technologies that serve people while protecting the planet**.

Among Saul Griffith's most notable ventures are: Through ventures such as Otherlab, Makani Power, and Instructables, Saul Griffith has shown how innovation moves from research labs into real-world impact. From advanced clean energy systems to platforms that democratize invention, his work reflects his belief that "we already have the tools to solve climate change, what we need is the courage to use them," proving that innovation thrives when knowledge is shared and scaled.

From engineering to policy, Saul Griffith recognized that technology alone is not enough. Through Rewiring America and Rewiring Australia, he advances national electrification by helping households, governments, and communities turn clean energy goals into practical, affordable action bridging individual choices with system-wide change.

Saul Griffith's work has earned international recognition, including the **MacArthur "Genius Grant**," and continues to inform climate policy, economic planning, and public education worldwide. Beyond awards, his true impact lies in shifting the conversation from whether climate action is possible to how rapidly it can be achieved**.**

At the heart of Saul Griffith's work is a simple belief: climate solutions should improve daily life, reduce inequality, strengthen local economies, and protect future generations. By championing electrification, he presents a path that is practical, affordable, and socially just.

How to engage: Readers don't need to be engineers to act. By electrifying homes, using resources from Rewiring America and Rewiring Australia, supporting clean energy policies, and sharing knowledge in their communities, everyone can contribute to the global shift toward a sustainable, decarbonized future.

Revolve Recycling

Written by Cassandra Adofo-Kissi - HOPE researcher ACT

Founded in 2021, Revolve Recycling aims to recycle and redeploy Australia's bikes, e-bikes, scooters and other personal transport vehicles (PTVs). Revolve Recycling promotes a circular economy, giving new life to old rides, and supporting disadvantaged members of the community, especially children.

Revolve Recycling achieves this by:

- Selling redeployed rides at affordable prices
- Giving people access to high-quality, safe and accessible rides.

- Creating jobs for people with disadvantaged backgrounds
- Encouraging cycling and active transport
- Supporting “bike equity” by giving away kids’ bikes including in Indigenous communities and via the newly formed Revolve ReCYCLING Foundation.
- Partnering with local councils hold bring back your bike events, manages end of life fleet collections for shared bike collectors, and operate a warehouse in Alexandria NSW.
- Providing employment opportunities for vulnerable members of the community.

Achievements

- Through the Revolve Recycling Foundation as part of bike equity, distributed more than 1500 bikes to kids in need, including to Ukrainian refugee kids, migrant kids in southwest Sydney, Indigenous kids in inner Sydney, and kids in disadvantaged communities / schools in Shoalhaven, Gippsland, the Hunter Valley, outback Queensland and elsewhere.
- More than 100 bikes were distributed – in partnership with local Indigenous organisations – to seven remote Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory, and 200 more are on their way this year.

Current Campaigns/Projects

The work of Revolve Recycling centres on working to ensure that their practices are as environmentally sustainable as possible. This involves making active choices about collection methods, fuels, offsets, lighting and energy and procurement of used tools and office goods. This is progresses through research, collaboration, sharing of ideas and information about minimising personal transport vehicles (PTVS) lifecycle environmental; footprint with the ride “ride fraternity”.

Revolve Recycling partners with various organisations to host events that provide opportunities to recycle and reuse. One such event is the “Bring Back Your Back Days”. They also contribute to “Right To Repair” movements. Revolve Recycling is committed to promoting the benefits of product stewardship of PTVs to industry and public policy stakeholders.

For more information regarding the work of Revolve Recycling please visit https://revolverecycling.net/supporting-a-circular-economny/

Events

Revolve Recycling has a number of recurring Bike Collection Events in Sydney and Greater Sydney including:

- Bexley Depot-1st Saturday of every month- 8:00 am to 3:00 pm- 10/14 Rye Ave, Bexley
- Botany Depot- 3rd Saturday of every month-8:00 am to 3:00 pm – Pemberton St and Clevedon St, Botany.
- Hawkesbury Collection- Hawkesbury tip-1 The Driftway, South Windsor, Daily 8:00 am to 3:45 pm.
- Randwick Sustainability Hub. 27 Munda Street Randwick. Every 2nd Saturday of the Month 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. For more information on these recurring events please visit https://revolverecycling.net/drop-off-points/

WMMR- Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia

Written by Nelly Connor – HOPE researcher Vic

Despite the WARR (waste and resource recovery) industry being worth over $15 billion annually, the WMRR is the only national body regulating this industry, their members paving the way across every facet of the field including: landfill, recycling, resource recovery, energy from waste, e-waste, organics, construction and demolition, and commercial, industrial, hazardous, and biohazardous waste sectors. The WMRR is made up of over 2,300 members, representing over 400 institutions across large multinational corporations, SMEs (small to medium-sized enterprises), local and state governments, equipment service providers, and individuals.

Who are the WMRR?

The WMRR represent the voice of the industry to local and federal governments, operating based on their vision to act as the "peak body that leads the success of the waste management and resource recovery sector." They are able to achieve this principle by following their three guiding principles:

1. Circular economy principles and the waste management hierarchy, two essential waste management frameworks, focusing on minimal landfill waste production
2. Professional management, strategic planning, support, and protection of WARR (waste and resource recovery) infrastructure, reflecting the role of the sector as a community service and economically viable producer.
3. Evidence-led, informed, professional, and responsible engagement with the entire supply chain, community, and government.

History of the WMRR:

Launching in 1991, the WMRR (formerly WMAA, Waste Management Association of Australia), the organisation was run almost entirely by volunteers, filling a gap in the WARR industry, becoming the first formal regulatory body, and allowing for improved stakeholder involvement. In 2001, ten years following their launch, the WMRR received essential funding from five major members. This allowed for immense growth within the organisation, helping them to hire a CEO, which grew their influence. Thus, allowing for the set-up of a national office, helping to link state branches and working groups, allowing them to consider larger national issues. Since then, the growth of the WMRR has been ongoing, running numerous sell-out conferences and events, including the biennial Energy from Waste Conference and the Women of Waste series. Further, the association plays a pivotal role in influencing policy discussions, sitting at the table in state and federal industry discussions.

Structure of the WMRR:

- State Branches: the WMRR operates a branch in every state, which are essential to guiding the association when responding to issues impacting the industry
- Working Groups: state branches assign relevant working groups, forming a vital part of the WMMR's knowledge and policy development
- National Divisions: the WMRR has five national divisions which operate at a federal level including: landfill, energy from waste, resource recovery and market development, biohazard waste industry, carbon, and waste educators.

What do the WMRR offer to their members?

The WMRR offer a range of services and opportunities to its members including:

- Networking and Professional Development Opportunities: networking through networking groups, events, and conferences, as well as an accreditation program and various other opportunities for professional development
- Advocacy and Policy: member's only briefings on current industry projects, draft submissions to federal and state governments with member input, forums and roundtables with government agencies and ministers.
- Advertising and Career Opportunities: opportunities for business exposure, job listings for jobseekers, and opportunities for employers to advertise openings.

Explore their mission and become a member here:
https://www.wmrr.asn.au/Web/Web/Default.aspx?hkey=b66f7d1f-370c-4fb4-9592-9192c68054f5