



Why improving the world's land will mean a peaceful old-age

Monique Barbut ABC Environment 30 Oct 2014



Wind-blown soil sits in a drought-affected paddock near the western New South Wales town of Parkes. *Credit: David Gray/Reuters*

As we all slide towards old-age, we must put in place strategies to mitigate natural disasters in the future. Good land management is key to a peaceful retirement.

"ALL CHILDREN, except one, grow up." Peter Pan's statement was hard to believe when we were seven. But as adults, it is possibly even harder to believe that we will grow old. And sooner than we think.

Monique Barbut is executive secretary of the [United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification](#).

<http://www.abc.net.au/environment/articles/2014/10/30/4117406.htm>

Coal seam gas debate splinters Coalition

ALEX MITCHELL | NOV 14, 2014 12:57PM | EMAIL | PRINT



As the NSW state election draws near, debate on coal seam gas exploration has politicians panicking, NSW political correspondent Alex Mitchell writes.

Politicians in power alter physically as an election draws nearer: you start to see the whites of their eyes.

That physical phenomenon is on display in NSW among Parliament's 19 National MPs as they prepare to face their electorates on March 28 next year.

http://www.crikey.com.au/2014/11/14/coal-seam-gas-debate-splinters-coalition/?wmp_switcher=mobile

Saline soils, plant growth problems linked to tillage practices

Research on saline soils underway, but at least one cause points to over-tilling

by [Red River Basin Commission Release](#) 4 Nov. 2014



Photo: Thinkstock

Here in the Red River basin, most fields in crop production are tilled one or more times each year, whether with cultivators, disks or deep tillers. The resulting fields look well cared for — good farming is often associated with well-tilled fields. <http://www.manitobacooperator.ca/2014/11/04/saline-soils-plant-growth-problems-linked-to-tillage-practices/>

4 November 2014, 11:45am AEDT

Feed or weed? New pastures are sowing problems for the future

AUTHORS



Don Driscoll
Research Fellow in Ecology at
Australian National University



Jane Catford
Research Fellow in Plant Ecology
at University of Melbourne

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Don Driscoll receives funding from the ARC Center of Excellence for Environmental Decisions and the National Environmental Research Program Environmental Decisions Hub.

Jane Catford receives funding from the Australian Research Council and the ARC Centre of Excellence for Environmental Decisions.



Canary grass is an invasive plant, but new varieties are still being developed for pasture. [Shane Fitz](#)

Weeds cost Australian farmers around **A\$4 billion every year** — and they are likely to do a similar amount of damage to the environment.

<http://theconversation.com/feed-or-weed-new-pastures-are-sowing-problems-for-the-future-33733>

17 November 2014, 3.17pm AEDT

Why are there no true freshwater protected areas in Australia?

AUTHORS



R. Keller Kopf
Postdoctoral Research Fellow at
Charles Sturt University



Nicole McCasker
Research student at Charles
Sturt University



Paul Humphries
Senior lecturer in Ecology at
Charles Sturt University

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

R. Keller Kopf has received funding from the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office (CEWO)

Nicole McCasker is a member of the Greens.

Paul Humphries receives funding from the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and the Austrian Science Fund.

Charles Sturt University is not a member of



Australia's north is home to many pristine rivers, but most national parks are focused on land-based conservation. Carole Meskenney/Wikimedia Commons, CC BY

Freshwater ecosystems such as rivers, lakes and wetlands are precious. They contain **several-times more vertebrate species** per unit area than land and ocean environments, and they are **more degraded**.

<http://theconversation.com/why-are-there-no-true-freshwater-protected-areas-in-australia-32966>

inDUSTrial agriculture

Posted November 12, 2014 by [Cyrus Sutton](#) & filed under [Biodiversity](#), [Biofuels](#), [Comedy Break](#), [GMOs](#), [Health & Disease](#), [Soil Erosion & Contamination](#), [Water Contaminaton & Loss](#).



inDUSTrial agriculture is a parody commercial about sustainable farming. Chemical agriculture bears an uncanny resemblance to the pharmaceutical industry. Both produce patented drugs that are meant to eventually fail so new ones need to be invented.

<http://permaculturenews.org/2014/11/12/industrial-agriculture/>

Feral cats force the spotlight onto Australia's environmental future

Sara Phillips ABC Environment 21 Oct 2014



Hunting down all the feral cats in Australia would cost hundreds of billions. *Credit: Supplied*

The problem of feral cats seems insurmountable. Yet to do nothing seems shameful. It's a quandary Australians need to get used to.

"ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT isn't rocket science, it's a lot more complex." So said Nick Dexter natural resource manager at Booderee National Park on Radio National's [Off Track program](#) more than two years ago.

<http://www.abc.net.au/environment/articles/2014/10/21/4109544.htm>

12 November 2014, 6:30am AEDT

We have more parks than ever, so why is wildlife still vanishing?

AUTHORS



Bob Pressey

Professor and Program Leader,
Conservation Planning at James
Cook University



Euan Ritchie

Senior Lecturer in Ecology,
Centre for Integrative Ecology,
School of Life & Environmental
Sciences at Deakin University

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The authors do not work for, consult to, own shares in or receive funding from any company or organisation that would benefit from this article. They also have no relevant affiliations.



Kakadu National Park is Australia's largest – but we need to make sure parks are actually protecting wildlife from threats. [View all 117 items](#). CC BY-NC

While we can never know for sure, an extraordinary number of animals and plants are **threatened with extinction** — up to a third of all mammals and over a tenth of all birds. And the problem is getting worse.



<http://theconversation.com/we-have-more-parks-than-ever-so-why-is-wildlife-still-vanishing-34047>

Fred Kirschenmann: Soil – from Dirt to Lifeline (TED video)

Posted November 6, 2014 by Stefan Boone & filed under Soil Biology, Soil Composition, Soil Conservation, Soil Erosion & Contamination, Soil Rehabilitation, Structure.



Fred Kirschenmann has been involved in sustainable agriculture and food issues for most of his life. He currently serves as both a Distinguished Fellow at the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University, and as President of the Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture in Pocantico Hills, New York. He also still provides management oversight of his family's 2,600 acre organic farm in south central North Dakota. He was recently named as one of

<http://permaculturenews.org/2014/11/06/fred-kirschenmann-soil-dirt-lifeline-ted-video/>



Sweden is showing the way in renewable energy and energy efficiency

▶ Listen now ▶ Download audio [show transcript](#)

Sunday 2 November 2014 7:45AM

Andrew Lang, a farmer from Victoria, has been a regular visitor to Sweden, where he attended the World Bioenergy Conference. He talks about Sweden's advancement in renewable energy. Some Swedish cities have a target of zero use of fossil fuels by 2030 for electricity, heating or transport.



IMAGE IN STOCKHOLM ALL CITY BUSES ARE RUNNING ON BIODIESEL ET HANDEL OR BIOGAS (GETTY/DANIEL DEITSCHEL)



Sundays 7:45am

Presented by Robyn Williams

00 Times 0

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/ockhamsrazor/sweden-is-showing-the-way-in-renewable-energy-and-energy-effici/5848032>

Emissions deal: Abbott looks like a shag on a rock

November 14, 2014

Comments 403

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Mark Kenny

Chief political correspondent

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The G Two Oh

As BrisVegas opens its arms to the world's leaders, Tony and Vlad will work their chemistry and no-one will talk about shirt-front diplomacy or global warming. By Rocco Fazzari and Denis Camahan, with apologies to The Beach Boys and Bob Dylan.

The Australian prime minister knew APEC was not going to be an easy meeting. Tony Abbott was expecting it to be tense when he "shirt-fronted" Russian President Vladimir Putin. But he wasn't expecting it would be the leaders of the United States and China who would leave him like a shag on a rock on climate change.

<http://www.smh.com.au/comment/emissions-deal-abbott-looks-like-a-shag-on-a-rock-20141113-11lxb.html>

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Climate change a major talking point at APEC and G20 summits

Emissions Deal

2030 Emissions Peak

2025 26-28% less CO₂ than 2005

Australian Broadcasting Corporation
Broadcast: 16/11/2014

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Despite efforts by Prime Minister Tony Abbott to play it down, climate change has been a major talking point at the G20 summit. US president Barack Obama did not hold back, warning governments they could not ignore their global responsibilities and telling university students to raise their voices and be heard. The issue had already dominated pre-conference reporting anyway when the US and China surprised everybody by announcing a deal to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

BARRIE CASSIDY, PRESENTER: The G20 leaders meeting will wrap up in Brisbane today with a commitment to global growth that will in - all likelihood - exceed the initial ambition of two per cent over five years.

<http://www.abc.net.au/insiders/content/2014/s4129515.htm>

National parks: protected from what?

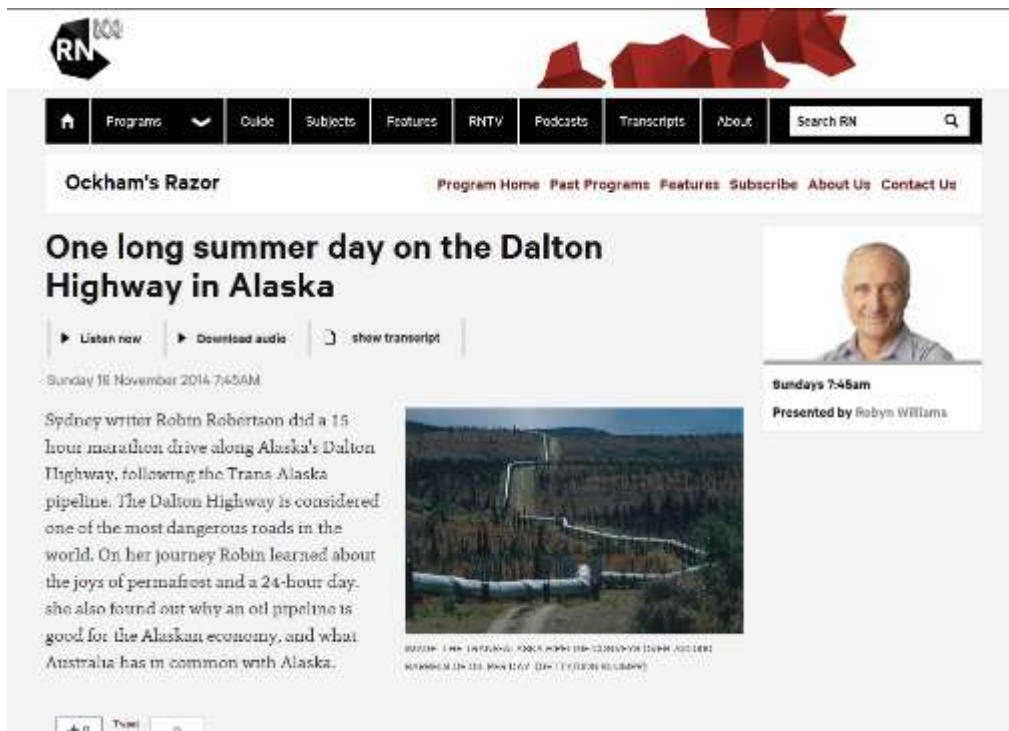
By [David Leyonhjelm](#) - posted Monday, 17 November 2014

One definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result.

The "hands off" management approach taken with national parks over the last half century is a great example of this phenomenon, especially when considering the dreadful environmental consequences that have arisen from the huge growth in area of protected public land.

The term "protected public land" is something of a misnomer, begging the question: protected from what? National parks are not protected from feral animals, weeds, rubbish, bushfires or vandalism. These problems are all pervasive. Whole mountainsides are covered by mats of impenetrable weeds, undergrowth is often sufficient to fuel massive bushfires, and the paucity of native wildlife is such that Tim Flannery once described national parks as "marsupial ghost towns." David Leyonhjelm is the Liberal Democrat Senator for NSW.

<http://www.onlineopinion.com.au/author.asp?id=6583>



The screenshot shows the ABC Radio National website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Programs, Guide, Subjects, Features, RNTV, Podcasts, Transcripts, and About, along with a search bar. Below this, the program name "Ockham's Razor" is displayed, with sub-links for Program Home, Past Programs, Features, Subscribe, About Us, and Contact Us. The main article title is "One long summer day on the Dalton Highway in Alaska". Below the title are buttons for "Listen now", "Download audio", and "show transcript". The article text begins with "Sunday 16 November 2014 7:45AM" and "Sydney writer Robin Robertson did a 15 hour marathon drive along Alaska's Dalton Highway, following the Trans-Alaska pipeline. The Dalton Highway is considered one of the most dangerous roads in the world. On her journey Robin learned about the joys of permafrost and a 24-hour day, she also found out why an oil pipeline is good for the Alaskan economy, and what Australia has in common with Alaska." To the right of the text is a photo of a road winding through a hilly, wooded landscape. Below the photo is a small caption: "ROBIN ROBERTSON FOR ABC RADIO NATIONAL". To the right of the article is a profile picture of a man and the text "Sundays 7-9am Presented by Robyn Williams".

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/ockhamsrazor/one-long-summer-day-on-the-dalton-highway-in-alaska/5886016>

You can't just call any risk a sovereign risk

By Margaret McKenzie

Updated Thu at 3:17pm Thu 13 Nov 2014, 3:17pm



[Photo: Ergon Energy's pilot solar farm south-west of Longreach, Queensland. \(ABC News: Chrissy Arthur\)](#)

It's misguided to apply the term "sovereign risk" to any risk to business profitability resulting from a change of government policy on the Renewable Energy Target, writes Margaret McKenzie.

There is no doubt that getting rid of the RET or lowering targets is a disastrous risk to renewable energy investors who have been left high and dry. A report from the Climate Council suggests that there has been a 70 per cent drop in renewable energy investment since 2013 (a period of time which includes the election of the Abbott Government and the repeal of the carbon tax).

Margaret McKenzie is a lecturer in economics at Deakin University

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-11-13/mckenzie-you-cant-just-call-any-risk-a-sovereign-risk/5888660>

Overhauling ag's image

Posted By: **Andrew Norris** on 18/10/2014 1:00:00 AM |



That's not exactly an attractive sector to sink your hard-earned dollars into

AUSTRALIAN Rural Leadership Foundation chief executive officer [Matt Linnegar's recent comment](#) that Australians need to drop the city-country divide stereotype may be stating the obvious, but it's a necessary message all the same.

This country has one of the most urbanised populations in the world, which is also largely clueless to the potential sitting on its doorstep, simply due to a lack of understanding of how agriculture works <http://www.stockandland.com.au/blogs/a-matter-of-opinion/overhauling-ags-image/2715283.aspx>

17 November 2014, 6:18am AEDT

The US-China climate deal leaves Australia with no excuse

AUTHOR



Don Henry
Public Policy Fellow, Melbourne
Sustainable Society Institute at
University of Melbourne

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Don Henry receives funding from the
Australian Conservation Foundation. He is a
former CEO of the Foundation.



Tony Abbott says Australia is taking strong action on climate change. It needs to be stronger to
keep up with the US-China pledges. *AAP photo/Dan Hindle/USA*

The **US-China climate deal** provides a fresh burst of momentum
after years of **exhausting international negotiations** in search
of a worldwide agreement to tackle climate change.

<http://theconversation.com/the-us-china-climate-deal-leaves-australia-with-no-excuse-34256>



<http://www.smh.com.au/photogallery/federal-politics/cartoons/cathy-wilcox-20090909-fhd6.html>

10 things we learned at the G20: the good, the bad and the silly

[Van Badham](#)

Merkel selfies, Cameron avoiding the proles, koalas snuggles – it was a busy few days in Queensland



A group of around 400 demonstrators participate in a protest by burying their heads in the sand at Sydney's Bondi Beach. Illustration: David Gray/Reuters

Monday 17 November 2014 13:59 +11:00

Well, the leaders of the world's largest economies have thoroughly Queenslanded themselves. Amongst [photo ops with koalas](#), a legion of hot cops on wheels and protest movement with more demands than a Hollywood pre-nup, statements were made, negotiations negotiated and the survival of life on earth even addressed in the odd casual chat. Now everyone's packing up their toys and going home, what did we learn at the Brisbane G20? <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/nov/17/10-things-we-learned-at-the-g20-the-good-the-bad-and-the-silly>

Australia's role in the outlook for world energy

Sara Phillips ABC Environment 14 Nov 2014



Woman bicycles past a Chinese coal fired power station

The world is on-track to increase its energy use by 37 per cent by 2040. And Australia is well placed to play a starring role in all energy sources.

By the cheers, you'd think that the joint US-China announcement on climate change meant that it was mission accomplished. Job done. Sea level rise, ice melt, crop failure and natural disasters averted. <http://www.abc.net.au/environment/articles/2014/11/14/4128016.htm>

Tony Abbott's missed opportunity overwhelms G20 positives

SMH Editorial

Date

17 November 2014 - 8:11AM

EDITORIAL



Australia struggled to show global leadership on other issues. *Photo: Andrew Meares*

Australians are known for being honest — in our parlance, fair dinkum.

So for all the kerfuffle over Australia's embarrassing slap-down on climate change at the G20, a fair dinkum appraisal of the summit must recognise that many positives were achieved.

Leaders visiting Brisbane over the weekend deserve high marks for keeping their primary focus on global economic growth and infrastructure.

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/comment/smh-editorial/tony-abbotts-missed-opportunity-overwhelms-g20-positives-20141116-11nm56.html#ixzz3Jlwwa41X>



<http://www.smh.com.au/photogallery/federal-politics/cartoons/cathy-wilcox-20090909-fhd6.html>

US-China climate deal exposes Tony Abbott's parochialism

SMH Editorial

Date

14 November 2014

EDITORIAL



The landmark carbon emissions reduction deal between the United States and China has left Australia looking all the weaker as a global citizen. *Photo: Reuters*

Prime Minister Tony Abbott stumbled on the world stage early in his tenure and then improved.

Now he has been caught out badly once more.

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/comment/smh-editorial/uschina-climate-deal-exposes-tony-abbotts-parochialism-20141113-11Intj.html#ixzz3JlxJw1ti>

27 October 2014, 6:07am AEDT

Dam hard: water storage is a historic headache for Australia

AUTHORS



Joshua Larsen

Lecturer, School of Geography Planning and Environmental Management at The University of Queensland



Bradin Gibbes

Lecturer, School of Civil Engineering at The University of Queensland



John Quiggin

Professor, School of Economics at The University of Queensland



Australia won't be building anything as big as the Gordon Dam any time soon. JJ Hambro/Wikimedia Commons, CC BY SA

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Joshua Larsen works on water related environmental issues and has received funding from a variety of organisations including the Australian Research Council, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, and the Coal Seam Gas industry.

Bradin Gibbes has worked in the water resources and environmental management fields since the 1990s, with funding from a variety of organisations including the Australian Research Council, the National Centre of Excellence in Desalination Australia, Healthy Waterways and Seqwater.

John Quiggin has worked on water policy

The **agricultural green paper** released last week proposes 27 new water and irrigation projects, which the government claims will be necessary for Australia's agricultural expansion. The emphasis is firmly on dams, with federal agriculture minister Barnaby Joyce **arguing** that "water is wealth and stored water is a bank".

<http://theconversation.com/dam-hard-water-storage-is-a-historic-headache-for-australia-33397>

Nitrogen: the Double-Edged Sword

Posted October 29, 2014 by Christine Jones PhD & filed under Fungi, Soil Biology, Soil Composition, Soil Conservation, Soil Erosion & Contamination, Soil Rehabilitation, Structure, Water Contamination & Loss



Dutch clover cover crop between cabbage rows

Nitrogen is a component of protein and DNA and as such, is essential to all living things. Prior to the Industrial Revolution, around 97% of the nitrogen supporting life on earth was fixed biologically. Over the last century, intensification of farming, coupled with a lack of understanding of soil microbial communities, has resulted in reduced biological activity and an increased application of industrially produced forms of nitrogen to agricultural land.

<http://permaculturenews.org/2014/10/29/nitrogen-double-edged-sword/>



<http://www.smh.com.au/photogallery/federal-politics/cartoons/matt-golding-20090907-fdh2.html>

Push to close Australia's native timber industry to 'save' forest carbon based on flawed science

By [Mark Poynter](#) - posted Monday, 17 November 2014

In a [media release last week](#), the Australian National University (ANU) announced that "*in partnership with information and communication technologists at Fujitsu Laboratories in Japan*", its researchers had found that "*protecting native forests by ending logging could double the amount of carbon stored in trees*", and that "*avoiding emissions from logging native forests is important to help fight climate change*".

The ANU media release went on to explain that the findings were drawn from research undertaken in the mountain ash forests of Victoria's Central Highlands in which a new national park – the Great Forests National Park – has been proposed by 'the community'. Furthermore, it announced that two research papers proposing new strategies to manage native forests would be presented at the IUCN's World Parks Congress due to start the following day in Sydney.

Mark Poynter is a professional forester with 30 years experience. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Foresters of Australia and acts for it in a voluntary capacity as a media spokesperson. His book *Saving Australia's Forests and its Implications* was published in 2007 <http://www.onlineopinion.com.au/view.asp?article=16859>

14 November 2014, 6:32am AEDT

Marine parks for fish and people: here's how to do it

AUTHORS



William Gladstone

Professor and Head of School of the Environment at University of Technology, Sydney



Michelle Voyer

Assistant researcher at University of Technology, Sydney

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

William Gladstone has previously conducted research funded by the NSW Department of Primary Industries and is a member of the Temperate East Bioregional Advisory Panel to the current Commonwealth Marine Reserves Review

Michelle Voyer has previously conducted research funded by the NSW Department of Primary Industries and is currently employed on a research project funded by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.



NSW is considering a marine park for Sydney Harbour. But have we learnt from our past mistakes? Peter Winham, CC BY-NC-SA

As thousands gather for the World Parks Congress in Sydney, there are growing calls for a **new marine park** in Sydney Harbour. New South Wales's Labor opposition has promised, if elected, **to establish the park**, and there is speculation the state government will announce its own plan at the congress.

← | → | ↶ | ↷ | ↻ | ⌂



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How a shirtfront became an own goal

By ABC's Barrie Cassidy

Updated Fri at 8:53am

The opportunity to rub shoulders with global leaders usually gives the prime minister of the day a boost. Not this time, writes Barrie Cassidy.

Only now are the political negatives from Tony Abbott's threat to Vladimir Putin blindingly obvious, and "shirking the shirtfront" as one television newsreader put it, is only part of the problem.

For the past week, the Prime Minister's appearance at APEC - and probably at the G20 in Brisbane still to come - has been traduced and cheapened by a media obsession with the undiplomatic overreach.



PHOTO: How Prime Minister Tony Abbott would now like to erase history and start again. (Dean Lewins: AAP)

China free trade: is there a devil in the detail?

By [Kyla Tienhaara](#)

Posted about 4 hours ago Mon 17 Nov 2014, 12:17pm



Photo: [Tony Abbott greets Xi Jinping on November 15. \(AAP Image: Steve Christo\)](#)

Investor-state dispute settlements could hurt our efforts to combat climate change, which is why we should hope the Australia-China free trade deal doesn't allow for them, writes Kyla Tienhaara.

Last week a historic agreement was announced between the US and China that aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions in the world's two largest emitters.

Dr Kyla Tienhaara is a research fellow at the Regulatory Institutions Network, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific. She [recently presented](#) on ISDS at the Senate Defence, Foreign Affairs and Trade Legislation Committee. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-11-17/tienhaara-will-there-be-a-devil-in-the-detail-of-the-china-fta/5896534>

13 November 2014, 3:58pm AEDT

Green building scheme review adds yet more policy uncertainty

AUTHORS



Daniel Daly

PhD candidate at the Sustainable Buildings Research Centre at University of Wollongong



Paul Cooper

Professor and Director of the Sustainable Buildings Research Centre (SBRC) at University of Wollongong

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Daniel Daly does not work for, consult to, own shares in or receive funding from any company or organisation that would benefit from this article. He is a current member of The Greens.

Paul Cooper does not work for, consult to, own shares in or receive funding from any company or organisation that would benefit from this article, and has no relevant affiliations.



The scheme aims to make buildings with high energy-efficiency ratings, like this one in Canberra, attractive to potential buyers and renters. [Daly/ep/Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA](#)

Australia's policies to cut greenhouse emissions have been shrouded in uncertainty over the past few months. The contentious **Renewable Energy Target review** and the swapping of the **carbon price** for **Direct Action** have garnered most of the headlines. But another policy, which has quietly been cutting emissions for the past four years, is now also under scrutiny.

<http://theconversation.com/green-building-scheme-review-adds-yet-more-policy-uncertainty-32748>

13 November 2014, 6.33am AEDT

Australia talks the talk, but will it walk the walk to save rainforests?

AUTHOR



Bill Laurance

Distinguished Research Professor and Australian Laureate at James Cook University

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Bill Laurance receives funding from the Australian Research Council and other scientific and philanthropic organisations. In addition to his appointment as Distinguished Research Professor and Australian Laureate at James Cook University, he also holds the Prince Bernhard Chair in International Nature Conservation at Utrecht University in the Netherlands. This chair is co-funded by Utrecht University and WWF-Netherlands.



Rainforests in trouble in Indonesian Borneo. Bill Laurance, Author provided



At the **Asia-Pacific Rainforest Summit**, which concluded yesterday in Sydney, environment minister Greg Hunt announced A\$6 million to combat illegal logging.

<http://theconversation.com/australia-talks-the-talk-but-will-it-walk-the-walk-to-save-rainforests-34145>

14 November 2014, 12:16pm AEDT

Now is our chance to deliver on the 30% ocean protection target

AUTHOR



Jessica Meeuwig

Professor & Director, Centre for Marine Futures at University of Western Australia

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Jessica Meeuwig does not work for, consult to, own shares in or receive funding from any company or organisation that would benefit from this article, and has no relevant affiliations.



Marine parks need to be big enough to safeguard wide-ranging species, like the sharks being studied here. *Merei San Feladik/Novel Geographic/Petera Seas Expeditions, Author provided.*



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Top scientists, senior government managers, industry representatives, conservationists and even some nations' presidents are currently in Sydney for the **World Parks Congress**. This major international meeting happens only once a decade, and provides a critical opportunity to share the latest scientific knowledge and management of protected areas, both land-based and marine. It is also a time for assessing progress and reviewing targets that drive the world's conservation reserves.

<http://theconversation.com/now-is-our-chance-to-deliver-on-the-30-ocean-protection-target-34127>

A working day at the Climate Change Authority

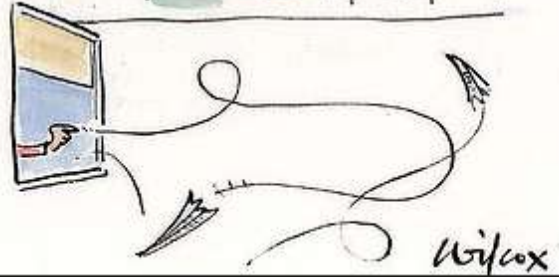
- ① Read all the existing studies proving the effectiveness of Emissions Trading Schemes.



- ② Collate latest data regarding the effectiveness of an ETS.



- ③ Make paper aeroplanes of these studies and throw them out the window.



23 October 2014, 1.32pm AEDT

Australia shouldn't sacrifice food safety standards for free trade

AUTHOR



David Adamson
Senior Research Officer at The University of Queensland

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In the past David Adamson has received funding from the CRC's for Tropical Pest Management (1994-1999) and the Emerging Infectious Diseases CRC (2009). He is currently part of a COST-ACTION proposal looking at the evaluation metrics of one-health issues.



Australia's reputation for strict farming standards helped its beef industry weather the BSE crisis. Malcolm Paterson/CSIRO/Wikimedia Commons, CC BY



Provides funding as a Member of

*Ten years on from the Australia-US Free Trade Agreement, Australia is entering another round of negotiations towards the new and controversial Trans-Pacific Partnership. In this **Free Trade Scorecard** series, we review Australian trade policy over the years and look at where we stand today on the brink of a number of significant new trade deals.*

<http://theconversation.com/australia-shouldnt-sacrifice-food-safety-standards-for-free-trade-32963>

17 November 2014, 6.17am AEDT

FactCheck: does the new climate deal let China do nothing for 16 years?

AUTHORS



John Mathews
Professor of Strategic
Management, Macquarie
Graduate School of Management
at Macquarie University



Hao Tan
Senior Lecturer in International
Business at University of
Newcastle

REVIEWER



Frank Jotzo
Director, Centre for Climate
Economics and Policy at Australian
National University

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Frank Jotzo receives research grant funding from the ARC and the Australian government.

Hao Tan and John Mathews do not work for, consult to, own shares in or receive funding from any company or organisation that would benefit from this article. They also have no relevant affiliations.



Republican senator Mitch McConnell says the new climate deal will let China “do nothing” until 2030. Far from it. EPA/MICHAEL REYNOLDS/AAP

*“As I read the agreement it requires the Chinese to do nothing at all for 16 years while these carbon emissions regulations are creating havoc in my state and around the country.” – US Republican Senate leader **Mitch McConnell**, November 12, 2014.*

<http://theconversation.com/factcheck-does-the-new-climate-deal-let-china-do-nothing-for-16-years-34239>



<http://www.smh.com.au/photogallery/federal-politics/cartoons/matt-golding-20090907-fdh2.html>

Agricultural disarmament

By [Evaggelos Vallianatos](#) - posted Monday, 10 November 2014

The so-called industrial revolution of the nineteenth century was a perverse revolution. It knocked down small-scale traditional industries and boosted giant monopolies. Millions of people were forced off the land and into cities of factories, disease, and hunger.

Rural people and ancient traditions suffered the most from the violence of few men armed with large machines. This mechanized new class wants all power. Its bosses purchase their way into legislatures, demanding subsidies and a free hand in the use of technologies, especially chemicals.

Evaggelos Vallianatos is the author of several books, including *Poison Spring* (Bloomsbury Press, 2014). <http://www.onlineopinion.com.au/view.asp?article=16841>

Abbott's tough talking comes undone at the G20

By [Paula Matthewson](#)

Updated about 8 hours ago Mon 17 Nov 2014, 8:15am



Photo: Tony Abbott Vladimir Putin cuddle koalas on the sidelines of the G20 summit. (G20 Australia/Andrew Taylor)

Tony Abbott's "protector of the realm" persona is one of his key strengths, so the image of him wimping out of the fight with Putin and being overruled on climate change will hurt, writes Paula Matthewson.

Other than the Chinese and Indian leaders' addresses due to be given to Parliament this week, the G20 wagon train has already moved on, leaving Prime Minister Tony Abbott and his government with the same thorny domestic issues to resolve as they had before the international summit began.

Paula Matthewson is a freelance communications adviser and corporate writer. She was media advisor to John Howard in the early 1990s. She tweets and blogs as [@DragOnista](#)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-11-17/matthewson-abbotts-tough-talking-comes-undone-at-the-g20/5895720>

A Scourge for Coal Miners Stages a Brutal Comeback

Black lung — a debilitating disease caused by inhaling coal dust — was supposed to be wiped out by a landmark 1969 U.S. mine safety law. But a recent study shows that the worst form of the disease now affects a larger share of Appalachian coal miners than at any time since the early 1970s.

BY KEN WARD JR.

In August, when former GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney visited West Virginia to campaign for Republican U.S. Senate candidate Shelley Moore Capito, the Democrat in the race was quick to remind voters what Romney had said a decade earlier about the coal industry.



Former miner Albert Perry, 55, lying in bed, hooked up to an oxygen machine in 1991 because of black lung disease contracted through years of inhaling coal dust. (Photo by William F. Campbell/The LIFE Images Collection/Getty Images)

http://e360.yale.edu/slideshow/far_from_being_wiped_out_black_lung_disease_booms/388/1/

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Direct Action could deliver a useful outcome: carbon trading

AUTHOR



Alan Pears AM
Sustainable Energy & Climate
Researcher at RMIT University

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Alan Pears AM provides advice to a range of sustainable energy and community groups. He and his superannuation funds own shares in the renewable energy industry. He sometimes receives funding from sustainable energy industry organisations and individual companies although, at present he is not receiving such funding.



Greg Hunt (left) says he doesn't want an emissions trading scheme, Clive Palmer says he does. But Hunt's Direct Action plan might ultimately take us there anyway. AAP Images/Alan Parris



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There's little point in getting too excited just yet about the details of Direct Action and its merits (or otherwise) as compared with emissions trading.

Why? Because all of the current debate about Australia's response to climate change is focused on paths that are completely inadequate compared with the action that climate science tells us we must take. If we were really serious, we would no longer be trying to expand our fossil-fuel production.

<http://theconversation.com/direct-action-could-deliver-a-useful-outcome-carbon-trading-33736>



<http://www.smh.com.au/photogallery/federal-politics/cartoons/alan-moir-20090907-fdxk.html>



<http://www.smh.com.au/photogallery/federal-politics/cartoons/cathy-wilcox-20090909-fhd6.html>

Science vs tall tales in the feral battle

Posted By: **Andrew Miller** on 25/09/2014 4:00:00 AM | Comments (1)

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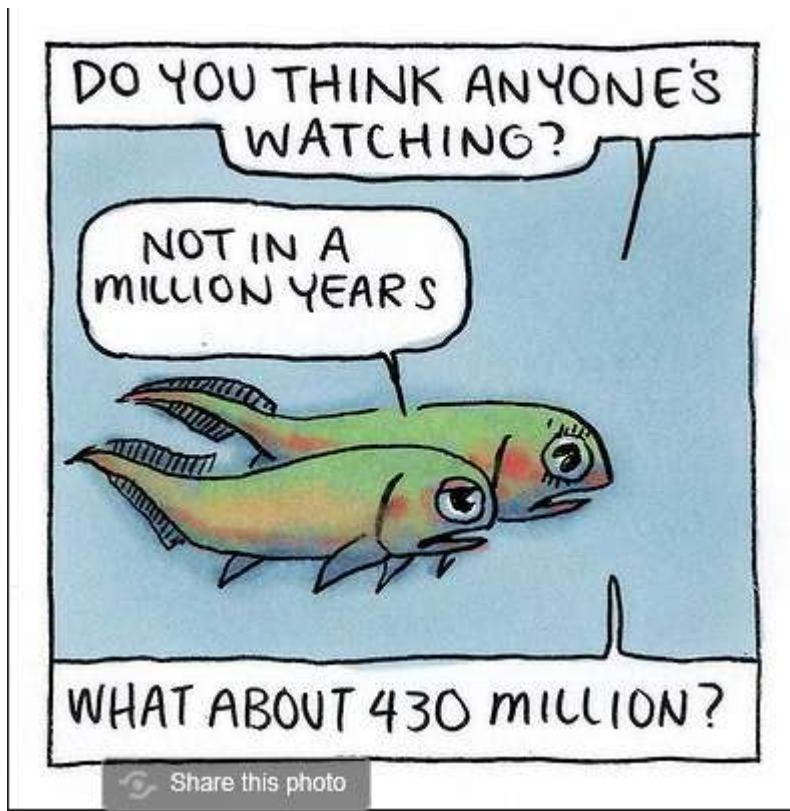


You don't control cats just by funding the idea of doing so

IT WAS a famous line, from an iconic television series – *Seinfeld*.

"Jerry, just remember. It's not a lie ... if you believe it."

Wise advice to Jerry Seinfeld – and perhaps a lesson to be heeded when it comes to seeking the elusive Tasmanian fox. <http://www.stockandland.com.au/blogs/a-matter-of-opinion/science-vs-tall-tales-in-the-feral-battle/2713181.aspx>



<http://www.smh.com.au/photogallery/federal-politics/cartoons/matt-golding-20090907-fdh2.html>

Australia can embrace tougher emissions targets, Colin Barnett says

Western Australian Liberal premier backs Barack Obama's call to be bolder in cutting emissions, but Greg Hunt says the government is doing enough already



The north west shelf gas project in Western Australia. The state is a major producer of gas, most of which is liquified and exported. Photograph: Graeme Robertson

[Shalailah Medhora](#)

Monday 17 November 2014 13.35 +11:00

The federal environment minister, Greg Hunt, has brushed aside criticism from the Liberal premier of [Western Australia](#) that Australia's greenhouse gas emissions targets are too soft.

[Colin Barnett](#) has backed Barack Obama's call for stronger emissions reductions targets, saying: "We can be bolder in Australia, including in WA".

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/nov/17/australia-can-embrace-tougher-emissions-targets-colin-barnett-says>

Computer models in climate science

By [Don Aitkin](#) - posted Monday, 3 November 2014

A new journal is out, *Inference. International Review of Science*, and its first issue carries a long, clearly written and most informative [essay](#) entitled 'Physical Theories and Computer Simulations in Climate Science', by William Kininmonth, who was for 12 years the head of the Australian Climate Centre, part of the Bureau of Meteorology. Kininmonth was there when the UNFCCC was drafted, and knows about models, for they were part of his life. But he is not part of the orthodoxy. He has been writing books, articles in and letters to the press for some years now, but this is the longest essay of his that I have seen. It is very good indeed.

Its focus is on the use of computer models in the study of climate, and he says, almost at once:

I argue that the relatively simple representation of the climate captured in computer models is inadequate for the purposes of prediction. I shall argue, in addition, that our rudimentary and incomplete understanding of natural variations in ocean and atmosphere fluids has made it difficult to interpret recent climate trends.

Don Aitkin has been an academic and vice-chancellor. His latest book, *What Was It All For? The Reshaping of Australia* was published by Allen & Unwin.

<http://www.onlineopinion.com.au/author.asp?id=3906>

Belinda and Simone catch up after the weekend.

So I spent the last three days doing the G20 - mate that is some serious bullshit. I got felt up by some of the most powerful people in the free world.

You were getting equity rates though right?

It was terrible - Putin was so handsy! The whole thing was a complete waste of time. Our PM is famous around the world for the political equivalent of complaining about the time his mum didn't let him go out to play because he hadn't cleaned his room.

And we want to make people pay more to go the doctor and slash funding to universities and everyone is complaining! My job is really hard. How good is coal though? I like to spread it out on the floor and roll around in it.

"cringeworthy" was trending on Twitter

I may even have some coal in my underpants right now.



I tried to get a commitment from them to address the massive inequality around the globe, but they all just want to grow the global economy. As if that will do anything to counter the disparity of wealth.

And Angela Merkel smells like peanut butter for some reason. The real action was outside though - so many excellent protests. So many excited police!

Proibly make it worse.

Did you see the flag burning?

I saw it on telly! Amazing. If Aboriginal people want to get on the 6 o'clock news they have to win at sport or burn the aussie flag.

I know right. Aboriginal kids killing themselves in record numbers and you don't hear a thing, but you burn one flag...

... and before all the nice white people got here in 1788 it was nothing but bush. Nothing. But. Bush! It was like the moon! Did I mention I was also the Prime Minister for Indigenous Affairs? No I didn't.



frank day in the sun