



DEVILS' ADVOCATE



SUMMER 2016



A FREE PUBLICATION FROM
Healthy futures for arid lands and people
ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
www.alec.org.au

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The Devils Advocate is the quarterly newsletter of the Arid Lands Environment Centre.
The deadline for submissions for the next Autumn edition is Friday 10th February 2017.
Articles, pictures, poetry, letters, welcome.
Email communications@alec.org.au

All opinions expressed within Devils Advocate are those of the author alone, unless explicitly expressed.

The Devils Advocate is edited and designed by Nicole Pietsch, ALEC's Communications and Campaigns Manager. It is printed on 100% recycled paper.

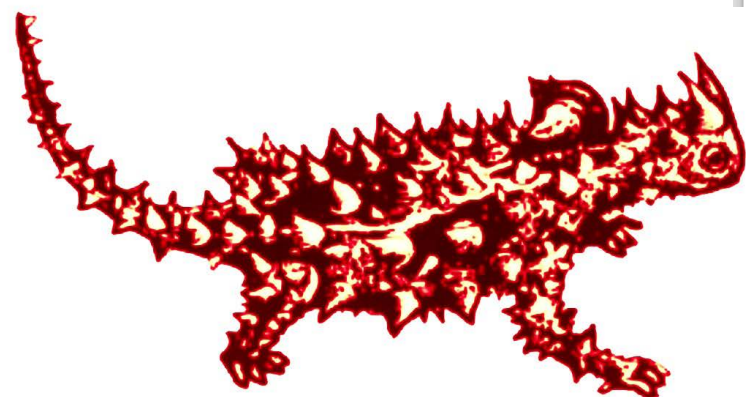
Front and back cover image by Karlee Foster

The Arid Lands Environment Centre acknowledges and pays respect to the traditional owners, both past and present, of this region.

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**Arid
Lands
Environment
Centre**



ALEC DIRECTORS' WELCOME

G'day folks and welcome to the summer edition of the Devil's Advocate for 2016/17.

Firstly, I want to thank all of ALEC's supporters and especially staff for ensuring that we survived the 4 years of the worst NT Government in history. It has been a very tough period, which saw our operational funding cut, projects diminished and a hostile approach to the environment, but we all dug deep and not only did ALEC survive but we thrived through developing an innovative business model and the sheer determination of our dedicated team.

Arid Edge Environmental Services has grown immensely in 2016, as has the impact of Ten Deserts and the No Fracking Campaign. Thanks Carmel, Peachy and Alex for their continued efforts to support ALEC's vision and a special thanks to Tanya Hall, Frack Free Alliance Coordinator who has grown the campaign to become a mainstream issue. Well done!

The 'dig it/pump it and sell it off' mentality of the previous CLP government failed the ultimate test with their absolute thumping at the August election. ALEC welcomes the result and looks forward to working with the Gunner Labor Government to drive investment in renewable energy, strengthen our environmental assessment and approval framework and take serious action on climate change.

Beyond the change in policy direction, ALEC (along with the Environment Centre NT and the Environment Defenders Office NT) has received confirmation that operational funding to the tune of \$100K per year for a policy officer would be provided. A five year term has been negotiated as per the NT Government's NGO Policy of reducing uncertainty for the sector.

ALEC welcomes this approach which goes

a long way to restoring trust and provides a sound basis for ALEC to work constructively with the NT Government. We will commit to giving full and frank advice to government in the interest of the environment and the communities in central Australia.



Whilst this is a great relief for ALEC, we still need to fundraise in an ongoing capacity to maintain our current operations. Again we specifically thank our Desert Defender donors who have helped ALEC to survive and continue to support the work we do.

The change of government has also resulted in a moratorium on fracking and the initiation of an inquiry into the process of hydraulic fracturing. ALEC welcomes this but has serious concerns about the narrowness of the draft Terms of Reference of the Inquiry which focuses only on the process of fracking rather than the whole onshore, unconventional gas industry, which was ALP policy heading into the election.

The other concern is the moratorium only covers fracking and not the numerous steps of exploration leading to a 'frack'. This means farmers, indigenous communities and others are still subject to all of the other issues including access, damaging seismic, road building and other activities that are associated with this polluting industry.

Not to mention the continued development of the Northern Gas Pipeline by Chinese/Singaporean company, Jemena, which has Labor party support and is touted as enabling



infrastructure for the wholesale fracking of the NT. ALEC is committed along with other groups to #stopthefrackingpipeline. Stay tuned for details as to how and when we're going to need to act on this destructive project.

Other projects that we will be keeping an eye on in 2017 are the proposed Nolan's Bore Rare Earths mine near Aileron, TNG Vanadium mine near Barrow Creek and the Chandler Salt Mine on Maryvale station. Each of these projects have elements of serious concern for the long term impact on the environment and the communities surrounding them.

ALEC will also be supporting RePower Alice Springs to develop the vision for 100% renewable energy for the Alice Springs grid. With 80% of proven fossil fuel reserves needing to stay in the ground, we have an immediate imperative to transition as quick as possible to renewable energy. ALEC provides administrative support to this community group and it's been fantastic to see the impact the group has had in terms of getting solar back on the NT Government agenda.

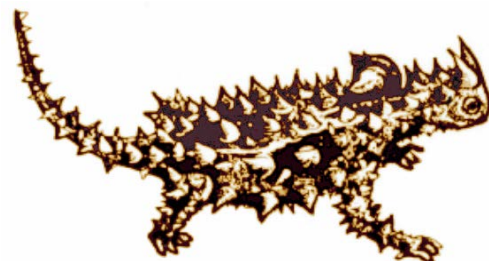


ALEC's Annual General Meeting is being held at ALEC, 90 Gap Rd, The Gap at 5.30pm Wednesday November 23. Drinks and nibbles will be provided. Please come down and hear about the year we've had and the year to come. If you're interested in being on the Board, please email director@alec.org.au to get more details.

On behalf of the staff, Board and ALEC members, I thank you for your interest in this great little organisation and the work that we do. Everyday in every way ALEC is working towards its vision of 'healthy futures for arid lands and people.' You're a part of it and we invite you to get more involved and make a difference.

Enjoy the read and have a relaxing and recuperating summer - 2017 is going to be a big year!

Jimmy Cocking



ALEC OFFICE XMAS HOURS

CLOSED:

**SATURDAY 24TH DECEMBER TO
TUESDAY 2ND JANUARY 2017**

REOPENING:

WEDNESDAY 3RD JANUARY

**PLEASE PHONE FIRST IF YOU PLAN TO VISIT
IN JANUARY - REDUCED OPENING HOURS.**



A NEW PARADIGM?

A new day has dawned. NT residents have spoken and the Giles CLP Government was reduced to a 2 seat party in a 25 seat parliament in August.

The Gunner Labor Government promised to restore trust in government. Consultation of stakeholders. An ICAC. Restoration of funding for environment groups. Review of water licences. A moratorium on fracking. Environmental regulatory reform with more power to the EPA and Environment Minister to assess and approve projects. 50% by 2030 renewable energy target, to name just a few.

The **NT cabinet is now made up of 50% women**, a far cry from the scandalous boy's club of the previous government. It feels as though a veil has lifted. What was considered impossible 12 months ago is now more possible, pending feasibility and funding. The toxic environment that spread from the top through the bureaucracy has been replaced with a sense that government is prepared to work with non-government and business stakeholders to achieve its vision, rather than impose it on Territorians like the previous mob.

Thankfully and to the credit of former Environment Minister and now Opposition Leader, Gary Higgins, issued an apology for the previous government in his first address to parliament. A truly noble act.

But! Let's not delude ourselves about what this change means and have a hard look at what is going on so far and what we need to look out for.

The promise of establishing an **Independent Commission Against Corruption** needs to be implemented as soon as possible. It needs to extend beyond the reign of the previous government and look closely at resource project

developments and water license approvals.

The **reform of Environment Protection Authority** and the Environmental Assessment and Approvals framework is an election promise that ALEC will be engaging with closely. The recently resigned EPA Chair Bill Freeland produced a valuable contribution to the process before leaving. ALEC has been engaged in this space for many years and welcomes the new approach that has confirmed a stronger role for the Environment Minister and EPA in the assessment and approval of resource projects and others that may have significant environment impact.

ALEC will also be advocating to ensure recent projects subject to EIS processes will also be subject to any new conditions that proposed reforms will require. The proposal to develop an Environment Protection Act is welcomed and ALEC will be working to ensure that the legislative and regulatory framework will be universal and strong enough to protect the Territory's natural and cultural assets.

ALEC welcomes the **moratorium on fracking** and the inquiry but is concerned by the narrowness of the terms of both. By focusing on the process of fracking alone, it means that all other aspects of the unconventional gas industry can continue – seismic testing, landclearing etc.

A broader terms of reference to include the entire onshore gas industry would provide certainty for Territorians and investors. The current approach leaves the door open to companies to effectively 'mine the sharemarket', while pastoralists and indigenous landholders are left with the uncertainty and imbalanced access arrangements as a legacy from the previous government.





More concerning than the narrowness of the inquiry and the moratorium is the **NT Government's support for the proposed Northern Gas pipeline**. The project has only recently submitted its Draft EIS but already the first shipment of pipeline components has arrived in Darwin to be transported to Tennant Creek with a construction timeline set to begin in the first quarter of 2017. NT Chief Minister Michael Gunner has also been meeting with Chinese shareholders in the Jemena pipeline, and talking up the oil and gas industry.

ALEC is opposed to the Northern Gas Pipeline and will be working with local, Territory, national and international partners to #stopthefrackingpipeline.

ALEC welcomes the election commitment to review water licenses and **water law reform** through the removal of the exemptions of mining and petroleum activities from the Water Act. The reinstatement of the Strategic Indigenous Reserves and a review of water allocation and licenses granted between 2012-16 is critical to ensuring sustainable water policy. ALEC anticipates that we will be represented on the Alice Springs Water Advisory Committee and will remain heavily engaged in water policy and water policy reform during this term of government and beyond.

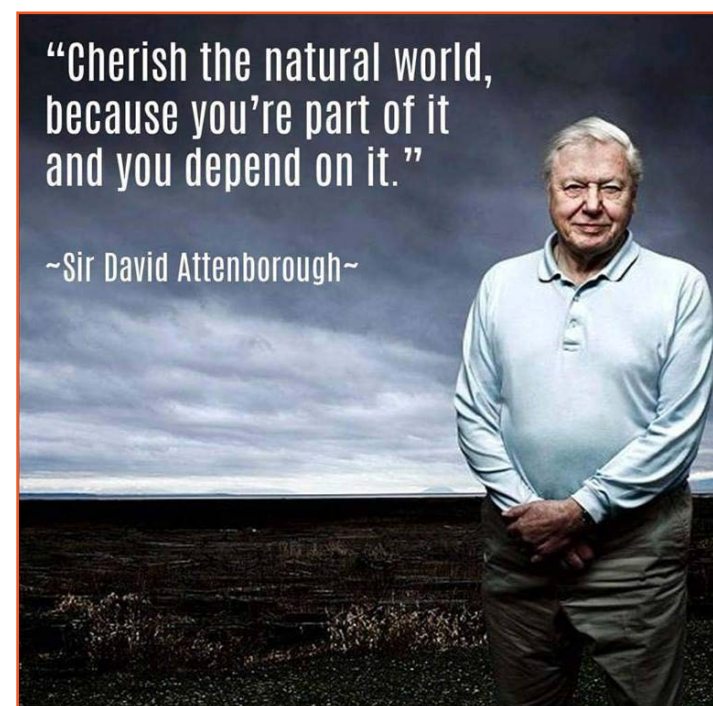
ALEC will continue to push for the removal of the special reservation of land for the **development of a coal mine in the Perdirka basin** in the most southern part of the NT. The previous government very sneakily combined 24 exploration licences totalling over 50 000 sq km and gifted it to Texan based Tri-Star Resources on the last day before caretaker mode in the lead up to the August election. ALEC and the EDONT will advocate strongly for the retraction of this reservation of land by the NT Government.

ALEC welcomes the **NT Government's 50% renewable energy target for 2030**. Obviously

we'd prefer an adoption of our more than 100% renewable energy target for Alice Springs but we will continue to advocate and organise for the rapid energy transition that is needed to minimise our contribution to global greenhouse gases. ALEC will advocate for the continuation of 1:1 feed in tariffs and support for low-income households to benefit from renewable energy.

Indigenous ranger groups are the backbone of land management and keeping country healthy in the NT. The support committed by the NT Government is welcome and ALEC will continue to work through the Ten Deserts Initiative to lobby for secure funding to provide certainty for rangers while also seeking opportunities for access to the carbon market and tourism that will provide alternative revenue streams for land management activities.

Finally, ALEC welcomes the **commitment of funding support for the environment sector** through providing \$100K per year for 5 years to enable ALEC to employ a Policy Officer. This will allow ALEC to remain engaged in government processes and committees to provide full and frank advice on environmental issues. ALEC is



joined by the Environment Centre NT (\$100K) and Environment Defenders Office NT (\$50K) in receiving this funding which will support the development of a robust regulatory environment in the NT. A most welcome and refreshing change from the previous government's approach.

So ALEC welcomes the change in government but we cannot get complacent. Nothing is going to happen without us pushing for it. ALEC is well-positioned to make significant impact in the areas of regulatory reform, climate adaptation, renewable energy policy and natural resource

management. ALEC will be stepping up our community engagement on environmental issues and establishing a working group to support our policy work.

Now is the time for strengthening our resolve and ensuring that Alice Springs and the wider Central Australian region is front and centre when it comes to sustainable, resilient and equitable responses to the global challenges of climate change and energy, water and food security.

Jimmy Cocking

Media Release 3.11.16: Focus of NT Government China Visit Should Be Renewables Not Fossil Fuels.

The Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC) is very disappointed that the NT Government's focus in China this week has been on building support for oil and gas projects, instead of building relationships and support for renewable energy industries.

In a media release last week regarding his Chinese visit Mr Gunner said that 'Darwin was emerging as a key international oil and gas hub with multi-billion dollar projects in full swing'. In meetings this week Mr Gunner has met with Chinese shareholders in the Jemena Northern Gas Pipeline project.

In December 2015 Australia signed the Paris Climate Agreement, which seeks to limit global temperature rise to 1.5C - the upper limit being 2C. This global target requires 80% of all known fossil fuel deposits to remain unburned and in the ground.

"Despite pre-election commitments to a 50% renewable energy target for the NT by 2030, it seems the Gunner Government is still engaging a full steam ahead approach with the fossil fuel

industry. This is not in line with what needs to happen if we have a chance of tackling runaway climate change," said Jimmy Cocking, Director of the Arid Lands Environment Centre.

"The science is in. We need a distinct change in approach away from fossil fuels and need to see immediate planning and investment into renewable energy. China became the worlds largest investor in renewable energy last year – it would have been great to see the NT Government building relationships with the Chinese renewable energy sector instead of oil and gas companies," said Jimmy Cocking.

"ALEC is staunchly opposed to the proposed Northern Gas Pipeline (NGP) due to its enabling effects on the Northern Territory onshore gas industry. The stated economic justification for this project is to 'stimulate the development of the Northern Territory through increased gas exploration and production', however the world is already facing an over supply of gas for the next decade – why search for, dig up and most likely frack for more?"





“We simply cannot have any new fossil fuel projects if we are to address climate change. All countries, governments and communities must play their part. The NT Government must understand the seriousness of this issue and ALEC will be opposing this pipeline every step of the way.”

“ALEC does not believe the NT Government will meet its renewable energy targets whilst at the same time developing the oil and gas industry, and is calling for the release of the Renewable Energy Roadmap to provide clarity to NT residents.”

Article Links:

<http://www.publicfinanceinternational.org/>

Media Release 11.10.16 Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC) expresses concerns with the Jemena Northern Gas Pipeline Draft Environmental Impact Statement

ALEC is staunchly opposed to the proposed Northern Gas Pipeline (NGP) due to its enabling effects on the Northern Territory onshore gas industry.

It is pertinent to consider this project in the context of the previous NT Government's failed economic agenda. The Giles/Tollner Government spent millions of taxpayer dollars on promoting the onshore gas industry while significantly weakening the environmental safeguards supposed to regulate the industry. The Giles Government set the timeline and process in motion for this project, which has been described as the 'whitest of white elephants' in an Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis report in May 2016[2].

In December 2015, Australia signed up to the Paris Agreement and is now in the process of ratification. The agreement seeks to limit global temperature rise to 1.5C, with the upper limit

news/2016/03/china-worlds-largest-investor-renewable-energy

<http://www.yesmagazine.org/issues/life-after-oil/why-we-need-to-keep-80-percent-of-fossil-fuels-in-the-ground-20160215>

<http://ieefa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Pipe-Dream-A-Financial-Analysis-of-the-NEGI-MAY-2016.pdf>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-06-09/ing-glut-will-continue-as-demand-falls-and-supply-surges/7494850>

<http://www.thenational.ae/business/energy/world-gas-market-faces-glut-says-iea>

being 2C. This global target requires 80% of all known fossil fuel deposits to remain unburned and in the ground[1].

The stated economic justification of this project 'stimulating the development of the Northern Territory through increased gas exploration and production' and 'providing a new source of competitively-priced clean, reliable energy to eastern Australia' is in direct conflict with Australia's meaningful participation in the Paris Agreement to reduce global emissions.

The cumulative impacts of this enabling project need to be considered as part of its environmental assessment. This is not currently the case.

Rural, remote and urban residents of the Northern Territory have expressed serious concern about the impact of fracking on groundwater and the environment, which has



seen the newly elected Labor Government deliver the moratorium on fracking. It would be environmentally and economically irresponsible to allow this project to proceed while the moratorium on fracking is in place.

Project specific shortcomings and concerns identified by ALEC in the Jemena EIS.

- The principles of ecological sustainable development cannot apply to this project due to its proposed enabling impacts on the gas fracking industry and the future implications for both groundwater and greenhouse gas emissions.
- The ownership and operation of the pipeline, by Jemena that is a conglomerate of foreign state-owned utilities China State Grid (60%) and Singapore Power (40%) with recent issues raised about the restructuring of the company to reduce its tax liability in Australia [3].
- Only 13 permanent jobs in the NT are forecast.
- The Mines Minister can approve the project, the NTEPA is not even listed as a stakeholder
- The reliance on desktop research and one fly-over to assess biodiversity and bilby habitats.
- Lack of clarity around evaporation ponds at the compressor stations and wastewater management.
- The EcOz Figures Volume 1 (2.2,2.3,2.4, 2.5, 2.6) all have disclaimers of warranty for every part of research they were involved in, yet the EIS is based on their work – who's accountable?
- No Hydrostatic Test Management Plan (Sect 7.6.5)
- No specific details on methods and techniques of crossing watercourses (2.13.5)
- Risks of wildfire spread in construction with only one fire truck in Tennant Creek and one fire trailer proposed
- Water Act – clarity needed as to whether this project is exempted from the Water Act as a petroleum activity

- Groundwater drawdown in a semi-arid areas with a lack of research and knowledge of potential water source. There needs to be a whole of life cycle analysis of the cumulative water impacts this project would have to obtain a viable amount of gas through the 30 year period.
- Construction timeline does not consider the variable and unpredictable climate of the Barkly, the risk of heavy rain impacting on the project is high.
- Weed hygiene and the creation of a weed corridor through 600kms of relatively pristine country.
- Social Impact Assessment is incomplete.
- Air management plans are inadequate.
- Traditional Owners and Native Title Holders have not given consent for this project to proceed.
- Biodiversity surveys, particularly the Bilby surveys were only completed in April, May and June – given the 18 month construction timeline, more seasonal ground surveys need to be conducted to ensure minimal impact on threatened species.

ALEC recommends that this project not be allowed to proceed based on its expressed justification to stimulate the Northern Territory onshore gas industry. The development of shale gas by fracking is not sustainable and cannot be allowed to proceed if Australia is to honour its commitments under the Paris Agreement.

Time, energy and money spent on developing fossil fuel ventures is wasted money and ALEC recommends that the proponent instead seek opportunities to invest in renewable energy projects in the NT.

[1] <http://www.yesmagazine.org/issues/life-after-oil/why-we-need-to-keep-80-percent-of-fossil-fuels-in-the-ground-20160215>

[2] <http://ieefa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Pipe-Dream-A-Financial-Analysis-of-the-NEGI-MAY-2016.pdf>

[3] <http://www.afr.com/news/policy/tax/jemena-funding-arrangements-raised-with-the-ato-20160610-gpgk63>



Media Release 24.8.16

Dirty Coal deal done at the last minute

The Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC) has discovered that on the final day before entering caretaker the Giles/Tollner CLP Government consolidated 24 explorations licences for the benefit of Texan company Tri-Star Energy.

This news broke nationally yesterday in The Australian Business Review <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/sweetheart-coal-deal-locked-in-before-nt-poll/news-story/82da87f5228eb048b3ef756e52a5008d>

It also featured in The Guardian <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2016/aug/23/timing-of-nt-governments-secret-deal-with-tri-star-coal-company-queried>

The titles, which cover a staggering 14,750 sq/ km, keep the door open for Tri-star to try and develop a massive coalmine along the southern border of the Northern Territory. The Gazette notice consolidating the titles and reserving the land for coal development can be seen here: https://nt.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/363802/s84-2016.pdf

“Unfortunately, while not surprising, the audacity of the Mines and Energy Department to approve this consolidation and reserving 14,750 km2 for a potential coal mine is reprehensible”, said ALEC Director Jimmy Cocking.

‘Tri-star petroleum is locked in legal battles in Queensland over contractual arrangements. This gifting of almost 15000km2 of land in the middle of the Great Artesian basin by the NT Mines and Energy Department on the last day of government is akin to theft,’ said Mr Cocking.

‘It was the granting of coal mines in New South Wales that featured in the Independent

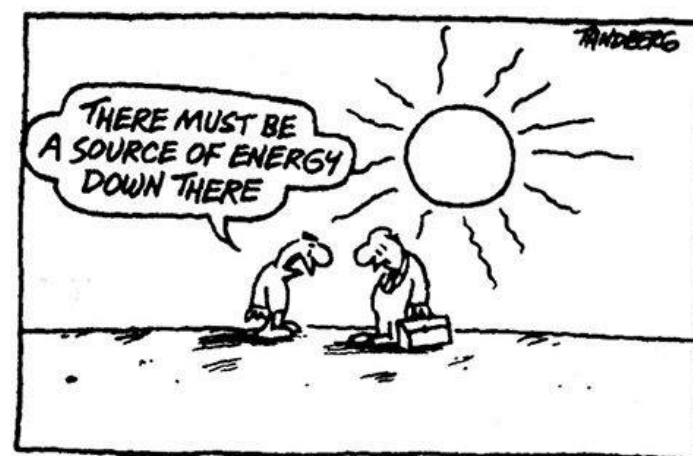
Commission Against Corruption inquiries, and here we see other deals taking place without any public scrutiny. Government must realise the need to be open and transparent with the public.”

“The CLP has outdone itself, the world is moving away from coal, but unfortunately it would seem the NT is stuck in the past. Here we have the Minister and the Department of Mines and Energy reserving land and actively working towards the development of a massive coal mine in the middle of the Great Artesian Basin, whilst the rest of the world is turning to renewables.”

“ALEC has concerns that decision sets up the NT for legal liability where the company may push for compensation if it is not allowed to proceed down the track.”

“The Arid Lands Environment Centre calls on the Opposition to commit to undoing the dodgy deals of the CLP if it is fortunate enough to form government. It must reverse this decision to reserve land for a coal mine and refer the decision to the promised, but not yet established ICAC”, said Mr Cocking.

The Arid Lands Environment Centre has today engaged the Environmental Defenders Office NT to provide advice on the legality of the decision.



Australia's desert country is the healthiest and most ecologically intact arid landscapes remaining on Earth. The Ten Deserts Initiative works to build collaborative partnerships across state and territory borders to support the protection of the natural and cultural values of Australia's outback. A vibrant future for the arid lands will recognise the interdependence of people and nature with social and economic development being built on healthy and sustainably managed landscapes.

The Ten Deserts workshop was held at the Doubletree by Hilton, Alice Springs on the 16-17 August 2016. Representatives from around the country participated in an intensive planning workshop to develop a Roadmap for a Buffel Free Great Victoria Desert and the Ten Deserts initiative.

Facilitator Stuart Cowell from Conservation Management did a great job of getting the most out of the group as we worked through where we want to get to, where are we starting from and what are the signposts along the way. The results of this workshop forms the basis of a strategic plan for the Buffel Free GVD project and some clear strategic direction for the Ten Deserts. The piles of butchers paper and post-stick notes are testament to the depth of thinking, breadth of discussion and the willingness of us all to work together to protect the natural and cultural values

of the desert country.

On the second day Robbie Henderson from the Nakau Program broadened our minds on the concept of Payments for Ecosystem Services with working examples from the Pacific. Following this he ran a fun workshop on climate change using helium balloons to demonstrate the carbon abating effects of cool season burns as opposed to hot season burns and the benefits of protecting mulga stands and other fire sensitive species.

In the afternoon session, the Bushfires and Natural Hazards CRC ran a workshop on disaster preparedness and adaptation to identify research priorities to support remote communities and people living in the regions. While this was happening, the Indigenous Desert Alliance met to discuss the next steps in developing a carbon methodology for the deserts.

In reporting back, everyone was feeling inspired from the two days of networking, learning, sharing, collaborating and building trust. The outcomes are a very solid set of SMART goals, supporting activities, and measures of success for the Buffel Free GVD project and the Ten Deserts Initiative.



Participants brainstormed issues in groups at the annual workshop at DoubleTree by Hilton, Alice Springs.



The momentum is growing with the Buffel Free GVD project launched in Adelaide on October 26 as part of the SA Buffel Forum. The Indigenous Desert Alliance meeting in Perth in late November will add another level of support to the initiative as we enter 2017 with a strong eye to the future.

Thanks to the Nature Conservancy for providing the funds to make the workshop happen, and to Pew Charitable Trusts for providing operational support for the initiative.

Participants at the 2016 Ten Deserts meeting including representatives from:

The Nature Conservancy (international)
Pew Charitable Trusts (international)
Territory NRM (NT)
Natural Resources Alyinta Wilurara (SA)
SA Department Environment, Water and Natural Resource (SA)
Kanyirinpa Jukurrpa (WA)
Pila Ngurra - Spinifex Land Management (WA)
NT Parks and Wildlife (NT)
NT Dept Land Resource Management (NT)
Rangelands NRM (WA)
APY Lands Management (SA)
Central Land Council (NT)
GVD Biodiversity Trust (WA)
Central Desert Native Title Services (WA)
WA Dept Parks and Wildlife (WA)

Arid Recovery (SA)
Indigenous Desert Alliance (national)
Charles Darwin University (NT)
Bushfires and Natural Hazard CRC (national)
Nakau Program (international)
Land for Wildlife Central Australia (NT)
Low Ecological Services (NT)
Parks Australia (national)
Desert Knowledge Australia (national)
Biosecurity SA (SA)
Aboriginal Carbon Fund (national)
Arid Lands Environment Centre (NT) and;
Conservation Management (Tas)

Jimmy Cocking



NRM organisations, land managers and indigenous ranger groups attended the workshop

A BUFFEL FREE GVD

Buffel grass is recognised by the Australian Government as a key threat to native biodiversity in Australia's arid heartland. As an aggressive colonizer it rapidly transforms landscapes causing significant losses of native flora and fauna and negatively impacts on Indigenous cultural practices, including the availability of bush tucker.

The relatively untouched Great Victoria Desert

(GVD) has been identified as one of the few landscapes where broad-scale Buffel grass invasion could potentially be averted. With the GVD spanning the South Australian and Western Australian borders, close cross-border collaboration is key to effective Buffel grass management in the region.

The Ten Deserts Initiative

The Ten Deserts Initiative supports the Buffel

Free GVD Project by bringing groups together to collate cross-border data, assess cross-border resources and develop a single action plan that can be effectively undertaken across the GVD.

Ten Deserts facilitates the Buffel Free GVD working group made up of representatives from cross-border land management groups. Ten Deserts is facilitating the development of the Buffel Free GVD Strategic Plan, as well as actively leveraging resources and support for the project.

See <http://www.tendeserts.org> for more information

The Buffel Free GVD Vision

The Buffel Free GVD vision is long term total eradication of Buffel grass in the Great Victoria Desert through the development and implementation of a collaborative strategic plan.

A Buffel Free GVD will have positive impacts for native vegetation, threatened species, and ongoing community development and employment with people having long-term, real jobs on country.

The program partners will achieve this outcome by attracting adequate long term funding from relevant investors, implementing the strategic plan, and developing collaborative partnerships that build the collective capability of stakeholders in the region to undertake effective management of Buffel grass in the GVD.

The 10 Year Strategic Plan

The occurrence of Buffel grass predominately on the periphery of the GVD presents the realistic opportunity to eradicate Buffel grass within 10 years.

There are 2 identified zones in the GVD where Buffel Grass is firmly established. It is acknowledged that total eradication may not be possible within the 10 year timeframe, however

containment to these two zones is, with the view of total eradication into the future.

A number of indigenous land management groups operating in the GVD already have active Buffel Grass management plans. The Buffel Free GVD project will bring these groups and plans together in a coordinated way in the development of the cross border Buffel Free GVD Strategic Plan. This plan will be finalised early in 2017, in collaboration with the working group.

Ten Deserts – Bringing People and Resources Together

The integration and collation of relevant cross-border information will be invaluable to the development of the Buffel Free GVD strategic plan.

In SA, a Buffel Grass Task Force (through Biosecurity SA) was established in 2013 to:

- provide independent, expert advice on the implementation of the state buffel grass strategic plan through a three year project (funded by the Native Vegetation Council significant environmental benefit grant scheme)
- support the development of buffel grass project activities such as herbicide trials and capacity building fact sheets
- guide buffel grass management to minimize the inadvertent spread of buffel grass by human activity
- develop and maintain early detection and eradication mechanisms through roadside surveys and strategic control activities



The buffel grass project has made significant progress in buffel management in SA but finished on 15 November 2016. However funding has been secured to continue buffel management in the Natural Resources- Alinytjara Wilurara NRM region for another 12 months, with expertise and learning from this project being integrated into the Buffel Free GVD Strategic Plan.

In South Australia, Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara (NR AW) are taking the lead on working towards a Buffel Free GVD, while in Western Australia Spinifex Land Management supported by Rangelands NRM are playing a crucial on-ground role.

Ten Deserts is coordinating the participation of all these groups in the development and

implementation of the Buffel Free GVD Strategic Plan.

Momentum is growing for a Buffel Free GVD but resources are needed to support people on the ground. Find out how you can support a Buffel Free GVD by contacting Ten Deserts Coordinator, Jimmy Cocking coordinator@tendeserts.org 0423511931.



ECOFAIR 2016 - ANOTHER SUCCESS

desertSMART EcoFair has been another success, with all science and sustainability events happening over the weekend of 12-14th August 2016 in Alice Springs being well attended, some with the highest ever engagement.

desertSMART EcoFair is in its eighth year and is organised by the Arid Lands Environment Centre as part of National Science Week, and is sponsored by the Australian Government's Inspiring Australia Initiative as well as a range of community sponsors.

In 2016 special guests included Professor Lesley Hughes (Climate Council), Claire O'Rourke (Solar Citizens) and desertSMART EcoFair ambassador Costa Georgiadis (Gardening Australia).

The event also engaged in a new approach by expanding out from the Olive Pink Botanic Garden venue into other venues in Alice Springs that showcase science, sustainability and our natural environment including the Earth

Sanctuary World Nature Centre and the Alice Springs Desert Park.

Highlights included more than 300 local school students attending Eco-Science Schools day, and the presentation on climate science by Professor Lesley Hughes.



Young people designing floating platforms at the Engineers Without Borders Stall



RePower Alice Springs

RePower Alice Springs welcomes the opportunity for a solar powered future for our town with the new NT Labor Government now in place.

Whilst in opposition the NT Labor Party made a commitment to a 50% renewable energy target by 2030, the development of a Roadmap to Renewables, the establishment of a Renewable Energy Unit and has promised investment into research, a Centre for Excellence for Solar Energy and roof top solar for schools.

RePower Alice Springs is an Alice Springs community group that formed in February in response to the previous NT Government announcement of a \$75m investment in gas fired power for our town, with no consideration and investment into renewable energy.

"RePower Alice Springs has been incredibly successful in getting solar and renewable energy back on the agenda in the Northern Territory," said group spokesperson Glenn Marshall. "The previous government's decision to wage a war against renewables has seriously backfired, and we look forward to working with the new Northern Territory government in which we hope is a more progressive era for the Territory."

"Whilst we welcome the renewable energy target of 50% for the Territory, Alice Springs is one of the sunniest places in the planet with a small isolated electricity grid. We will be encouraging the new NT Government to have more aspirational targets for our town and go

100% solar. We have substantial current gas generation installed and this will provide a back up for as long as it is required to transition to 100% solar/renewable generation," said Glenn Marshall.

"The ACT have recently made a commitment to go 100% renewable energy by 2020, and we are seeing communities, councils, states and even whole countries working towards that same goal. As the rest of the world moves towards embracing renewable energy to keep global warming to below 2 degrees there is going to be so much innovation in the renewable energy sector. We have fantastic expertise here in Alice Springs, and whilst we have some ground to make-up we can still be world leaders in the energy sector."

"RePower Alice Springs members we have a lot of passion and expertise within this area and we look forward to working with the NT Government towards a solar powered future for our town," said Glenn Marshall.

RePower Alice Springs meets fortnightly at the Arid Lands Environment Centre. RePower Alice Springs invites local organisations, businesses and community members to share the vision for a renewable energy future for Alice Springs.

Email: repoweralicesprings@gmail.com for more information. Keep updated via Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/repoweralicesprings/>





Summer is looking busy as Arid Edge wraps up a productive 2016 and looks forward to the year ahead. We've taken leaps and bounds ahead in our landscaping works both in town and out bush, we're steadily building the strength of the Utopia Food Gardens Project and are waiting with anticipation to hear if more Green Army projects will be going ahead in 2017.

Arid Edge's Community Landscaping for Environmental Health project with CLC in Wilora has begun. With beautiful designs from Clarsen & Clarsen Landscape Architecture, the



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project is employing 4 local laborers to work on planting shade trees, building earth mounds and screening plantings in public spaces in Wilora community near Ti Tree. If this initial stage is a success we look forward to continuing with the planned further 3 stages over 3 years to transform Wilora's community spaces with increased shade, less dust and more inviting public spaces within the community.

The Green Army team have finished their project for 2016 managing buffel grass in the Todd River with ASTC. Between March and September the team managed to clear buffel from around 850+ river red gums in the Todd River protecting them from the threat of fire damage. In addition a regeneration area was established on the Todd River's eastern bank outside Olive Pink, with 250+ seedlings planted out for ongoing management by Olive Pink Botanical Gardens volunteers. Some great work has gone into developing partnerships with ASTC, DKA and Landcare for possible future projects in 2017 – we're just waiting now to hear if applications have been successful.

The Utopia Food Gardens Project continues to produce great results, with our 2 new nutritionists Sarah and Ingrid joining Hilton on the project 1 week per month for planting, harvesting,



Planting seedlings at Soapy Bore, Utopia Homelands



cook-ups, and nutrition education activities. Participation and interest continues to grow with 12 gardens now in place across 9 homelands, and attendance growing to 75 people per month involved in activities and in particular more women and children getting involved in the project. We look forward to seeing how this project will continue to grow and produce great outcomes for healthy eating in Utopia.

Our commercial landscaping team have never been busier, with a lot of interest in water efficient landscaping this year. Arid Edge's work with MPH on the Larapinta Child Care Centre is nearly complete and will look fantastic when done. We're very pleased to have started working with Sue Dugdale Architecture on designs for a number of pre-school playgrounds at Ampilatwatja, Lake Nash and Braitling School (stage 2). And 2017 looks even busier, with some interesting jobs on the horizon, including in heritage listed properties around Alice Springs among others.

Our ever popular Garden Tune Up, Fruit Tree Doctor, and Food Garden Guru's services also continue to be a winner with local gardeners – make sure you book now for your garden consult and make sure you're ready for the long hot summer ahead!

Alex McClean



The Green Army team with their completion certificates

Good health grows at Utopia



Arid Edge features in the Koori Mail

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Just what can come out of running a farmers market other than supplying community members with fresh fruit and veg? LOTS!

Many can look at a local farmers market and see the direct benefits. Benefits like supporting local community members, local farmers and gardens, eating fresh fruit and veg that has no preservatives to help it travel thousands of miles, or chemicals used in production. These are the benefits that I see and hear people talk about the most.

However this is really only just touching the surface. There is much, much more, and it is mainly about education. Educating consumers about growing cycles, what real fruit and veg looks like (i.e. not all perfect like you see in the supermarkets) and the fact that there are often parts of plants that we did not know we can eat - like the leaves of sweet potato and beetroot and broccoli flowers. These are some of my big happy moments, educating people, expanding their choices of food consumption.

And then there are the even bigger education moments, ones that happen slowly and build up. They take a little more time and effort, and the reward is more than worth it. A few years ago the education guide for the Alice Springs Community garden was developed giving a fantastic resource for education providers to use with the gardens. One of the regular education providers to use the resources is the KITES program.

KITES is a school program for kids from remote communities that is run at Sadadeen Primary School. It was over a year ago that the students

first visited the Gardens, and I have to say that first visit was an interesting experience. It was also a great lesson reminding me that as kids or adults, if we do not understand the reason for a "rule" we are less likely to follow it. For example, why stay off the garden beds, what is wrong with running through them?

One year on and it is a very different story that has very little to do with my input and everything to do with the garden, recycling, and general environmental and sustainability programs run at KITES in conjunction with Sadadeen Primary School.

Now when the students visit the gardens, I rarely have to remind them of the general garden rules. They automatically stay off the garden beds, they get excited to show me what is growing in the beds, and at times they have more of an idea on what is growing than I do and what to do with them, how to cook them. The KITES students are being educated about a whole of system approach - from preparing the soil, to growing, to cooking and even looking at the waste cycle of what they are doing.

There was a time when KITES were even supplying produce to Food for Alice and swapping it for produce they were not growing themselves. All of which would be used in their cooking class the following Wednesday. Unfortunately like a few other local gardens, the hail storm caused a lot of damage to their garden and it is still recovering so the students have not been able to supply produce for the last few months. That however has not stopped them from growing their own for their cooking classes. As a way of supporting the students any left over produce from the FFA market is picked up by the school students on the bus run to school the following Monday.

Recently the students came and visited the garden, however instead of doing the activities that are in the education guide I asked the



teacher if the students would like to help me in getting the Food for Alice Plot ready for some new plants. We needed to remove the old broccoli plants and get some good manure into the plot to give the soil a good boost.

Now how many people out there would worry about letting a bunch of school students loose on their garden with shovels and pitch forks? I am guessing a few. The end result is that with the students' help we managed to do what would have taken me a good 3 or 4 hours to do, in less than one hour. We had 10 students happily working at pulling out the plants, shredding them up for compost, shoveling poo and getting it all on the garden bed, asking questions about what we were doing and generally enjoying the work. The only issue arising was the garden bed next to the Food for Alice plot getting a bit of poo too!

And now for some extra news: KITES is one of the finalists for the Junior NRM Champion Award from the Northern Territory, Natural Resource Management 2016 awards. We wish them all the best in the awards, and even more for all the skill, knowledge and effort that the teachers and students put into their work. Effort that will be rewarded so many times over in the future for all of these students.

XMAS opening times for Food For Alice

Food for Alice will be open on Saturday the 24th of December so you can get all your fresh fruit and veg for Christmas dinner. We will be closed on Saturday the 31st of December and re-open on Saturday the 7th of January. For January we will be open every 2nd Saturday. In February we will resume normal service and be open every Saturday.

24th December - Open
31st December - closed
7th January - Open
14th January - closed
21st January - Open

28th January - closed

4th February - open

Services return to normal in **February** and we will be **open every Saturday 9am-11am**.

Have a great end of year, keep buying local and enjoying the fresh produce that grows so well here in Alice Springs!

Carmel Vandermolén

Join the Food for Alice Facebook Group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/108715702520033/>



CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN FRACK FREE ALLIANCE

The last few months have been huge for the campaign. Firstly we witnessed the people power behind this issue with the huge swing from the CLP at the NT Election in August and the change in Government!

Despite this positive step we have already seen the new Labor Government go back on their pre-election commitments, watering down their promised moratorium and setting weak terms of reference for the scientific inquiry into fracturing.

They also delivered an epic fail with their first step towards the scientific inquiry – the consultation around the terms of reference. Only days before the consultation closed it was discovered that the online submission portal had not been receiving submissions and potentially hundreds of submissions had not be received!

Despite this issue the consultation period was not extended and no public announcement was made to notify the community that they may need to resubmit their feedback. This is a huge disappointment given the importance of this issue and does not demonstrate a genuine commitment from the NT Government to listen to the views of Territorians.

Frack Free NT have continued to keep the pressure up on the new Government. In Darwin community members gathered on the first day of Parliament on 18 October to send a strong message to politicians that the issue could not be swept under the rug.

Our next opportunity to make our voices heard will be the community consultation held as part of the Scientific Inquiry into fracking. This is currently planned for early in the new year and we will keep you posted on when it commences and opportunities to be involved.

Pipeline Progresses Despite No Approvals

The development of the Northern Gas Pipeline planned for Tennant Creek to Mt Isa continues despite serious flaws in the required approval process.

In October shipments of steel for the pipeline began to arrive in Darwin, despite the fact that agreements have not been finalised with Traditional Owners along the pipeline route for access to their Land, and the pipeline company Jemena still has to respond to community concerns around their draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).



Consultation on the draft EIS was open until early October with hundreds of submissions received from concerned members of the public. Jemena now has work to do to complete their supplementary (EIS) in response to these concerns. Work on the pipeline should halt until Jemena can show it has sufficiently addressed all the environmental and community concerns around the project.

The consultation process around access agreements with Traditional Owners is also far from finalised. Traditional Owners of the Wakaya Land Trust raised serious concerns about the negotiation process for the agreements saying that the process has been rushed and that they were not being given all the information about the pipeline and it's links to opening up the Territory for fracking.

In July members of the Land Trust walked out of a meeting to negotiate the agreement.

Max Priest, Wakaya Traditional Owner explains, "If we say yes to the pipeline we would be helping the fracking industry to expand across the whole Territory and damage not just our own but other mob's country. We are standing up and saying no to this pipeline not just for our own sake but on behalf of a lot of station owners and Native Title mob who don't have any rights to stop the gas companies walking on and damaging their land."



The concerns of Traditional Owners must be addressed before construction on the pipeline commences. The NT Frack Free Alliance continues to work with Traditional Owner's along the pipeline route who have concerns about the pipeline enabling the development of fracked gasfields across the NT.

Construction of the pipeline is due to commence in early 2017 with the overall built time expected to be under one year, with the gas to start flowing in 2018.

Now is the time to stand up against this poorly thought out pipe dream! Stay tuned for opportunities to oppose this damaging development.

Tanya Hall

frackfreecoordinator@gmail.com

Alice Springs Community Garden



Regular working bees are on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of every month.

www.alicecommunitygarden.org.au

As the Convenor of the Alice Springs Community Garden committee, it's my pleasure to provide you with an update on our Garden - what's been happening, what's in store and gardening options as summer rapidly approaches.

On September 3 Fran Liepa and Kay Smith attended the Dangerous Dinner on behalf of the Garden. This was organised by Red Hot Arts as the local contribution to the Dangerous Ideas conference held in Sydney at that time. Along with Carmel on behalf of Food for Alice, Rodney

Angelo from the Happy Farmer and Raylene Brown from Kungkaskan Cook, we spoke about the Garden as a part of the local action towards food security, sustainability and community.

The small pond behind the solar pergola created by Work for the Dole has plants in it now (reeds, water lily and general oxygenating plants fish like). The plants seem to be acclimatising well.

The Bodhi Tree has survived the winter with improved frost protection that seems to have

done the trick this year. The Tree is happily unfurling fresh new leaves along the trunks of last summer's growth. Hopefully this will result in a larger more robust tree by the end of this summer and we can repeat the frost protection regime again next winter.

A couple of weeks ago our Treasurer, Wendy Mann, arranged for her troop of Girl Guides to spend an hour at the Garden. We started with a question for the girls as they sat on our front garden wall. "What do you think of when someone talks about a garden?" The common answer was 'plants' which was fair enough. Hopefully, half an hour later, after a garden tour with fresh mulberries and sugarsnap peas to savour, the young Guides had many more ideas and options. They gave us a resounding "thank you, thank you, THANK YOU!" at the end.

We held the Spring Garden Fair in October. It was wonderful success thanks to many, many contributors, large and small. We have been so lucky with a cool and wet Spring and our plot gardens have never been more healthy, vigorous, colourful and bountiful than they are right now. I felt that welcoming over 250 visitors helped our regular Garden members to feel proud that they have contributed to a now well established and important land mark in our community. Special thanks to Britt, Sue, Kay, Shrike, Anna, Margie, Katelnd, Hilary, Hannah, Zoe, Morra, Margaret and Dow and our many

friends for pulling it all together; and to our local expert guests, Peter Yates on bees, Ben Wall on solar fruit drying and earth walls and Geoff Miers on 'no dig' gardening for all their enthusiasm and time.

Garden New and Tips:

- **What to plant right now?** All the summer flowers and veggies should be planted ASAP to get them established before the heat really hits. Tomatoes don't form fruit when the days are consistently over 35C so the sooner you get them in the better. It may be worthwhile buying a few big plants that are already flowering. It's way too late for planting winter veggies including all the brassicas (cabbage, caulis, broccoli and Brussel sprouts), bulbing onions, hearting lettuces, all peas, broad beans, coriander and calendulas. But that still leaves a choice of an enormous number of both all year round veggies and summer veggies, flowers and herbs.
- **Shade:** Geoff Miers recommends a 50% white shade cloth over all your garden from now on. Some hardy plants survive without shade but it can be tough going for both plants and owners. Remember too that a layer of mulch not only retains moisture but also reduces the temperature of the surface soil by many degrees allowing fine roots near the surface to survive. Growing plants close together also has some benefits especially



if you choose companion planting. Bare soil isn't helpful.

- **New Plots:** There has been quite a bit of interest in when the new plots will be ready. Ben Wall and his work for the dole team will very shortly be framing up and laying out irrigation in our third and last batch of plots. We haven't worked out exactly how many more we'll squeeze in but somewhere around 12-14. Some might be ready within a couple of weeks, others will take a month or two. Please contact info@alec.org.au if you would like to be listed for a plot. Once you have been signed up for a plot, it is essential to have an orientation with our Plots Rep, Philippe Freidel.
- **Sugar snap pea bed:** This is a community bed open to all. The peas have been great but have almost all gone now. We will re-plant sweet potato tubers at our next working bee.
- **Mandala and entrance demo beds:** These are both community beds and open to all to pick from and contribute time and plants to. Food for Alice is picking from the beds on Friday evenings and committee member Kay Smith is picking on Saturday mornings to sell to Afghan Traders.
- **Solar pergola:** It's coming along really well but we need to find more cement bricks and add the solar panels to complete the job.
- **Wheelchair Access:** The pathway base is built but we still have to put in a laterite path from the entrance to the pergola.

For Garden Plotholders:

- **Picking:** There's just so much food in the Gardens at the moment and there will never be a better time for picking than right now! The heat will bring on the aphids and other insects that can spoil your fun! If you have surplus you can't use then please contact Kay, Carmel at ALEC or myself.
- **Manure:** We have a huge heap of aged cow manure behind the compost huts which can be dug in prior to planting or can be used as a thin mulch. Much of the manure is earmarked for the new plot beds but the first in, best dressed rule still applies.
- **Nematodes and Garden Hygiene:** As hard as we have tried to keep harmful levels of root nematodes out of our plots, there is a certain inevitability that they will increase over time. A few weeks ago I noticed a couple of silver beet plants with very large nodular roots caused by nematodes that had been pulled out and placed in the yellow bin outside the gate. As a general rule, any plant that you pull out with nodules (lumps) on the roots is best placed in the bin. I'd like to informed about it too. If any plot is heavily infested we might have to rest and treat it and offer the plot holder another alternative bed.
- **Mulch:** We have a lot of loose spoilt hay on the new plots area south of the pathway which you can fork up and use on your beds. The hay has been seeding lots of vigorous



wheat and barley grasses which you can see growing in the sugar snap pea, strawberry and other beds but they do no harm and can just be pulled out and laid back, adding to the mulch in your beds.

- **Watering:** The automatic plot irrigation system has been set for 'cool months mode' (15mins daily) since around late April, but last week the Galcon timers were set to 12 mins each morning and evening. After planting new seedlings, additional daily hand watering is recommended for at least the first week, especially if it's hot. And mulch!
- **Weeding:** This is another area that requires greater group knowledge and shared management. Many eyes and hands make light work and less seeds and less weeds! Every visit, maybe look for at least 10 weeds to pull out. Ask for help in identifying them.
- **Composting:** Most weeds and pulled plants without nematodes should go into the compost area straight away. If pulled out weeds are left to dry out on paths or beds their seeds will usually mature and sprout as soon as the ground is wet. One year's seeding leads to seven years weeding! In the compost they will generally rot and/or be cooked.
- **Bird baths:** We have two bird baths that should always be kept filled to encourage our feathered friends. Please assist if you see a water level down.
- **Water Watch!** Generally I am being

contacted if a leek has been spotted. Similarly, I should be contacted if the watering system doesn't seem to be working satisfactorily. For water security we need all plot holders to keep a constant eye open for any problems to do with water. For example, if a Galcon timer or its battery fails, then all the watering it controls stops. A few days in mid-summer can be disastrous. We also need an Infrastructure POD group of Garden members who can take shared/rostered responsibility for water management. Contact me or any committee member if you would like to join this group.

We can be very pleased with garden progress in recent years. With 35 individual plots, four community plots, a composting centre, solar pergola etc, etc we have come a long way.

As the ABC's Peter Cundall used to say "That's your bloomin' lot for now but don't miss out on what comes next, it'll be quite wonderful!" Our Garden has been terrific and with its passionate community of carers there's much more to come.

Bruce Simmons

simmonsbruce@hotmail.com

Keep updated via the ASCH Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/AliceCommunityGarden/>





COMMUNITY RESILIENCE, LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION & LOTS OF YUM.



WHAT WE DO:

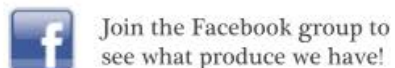
- We reduce food waste by buying backyard gardeners excess produce
- We reduce food miles by offering people local produce
- We create an alternative to the supermarket duopoly
- We create a culture and a community around local food

WHAT WE SELL:

- We sell seasonal, local fruit & vegetables
- We also sell local honey, and eggs and can sell jam, pesto, and sauce if made in a registered kitchen.



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BEYOND NUCLEAR INITIATIVE

National Radioactive Waste

We have just passed the ten-year anniversary of when the federal government (with Julie Bishop as Science Minister) accepted the nomination of Muckaty, 120km north of Tennant Creek, to be assessed for the national nuclear waste facility.

ALEC members and supporters would be well aware of the fierce campaign by Muckaty Traditional Owners that eventually saw the government agree not to further pursue the site.

Instead of learning from the eight-year battle- which ended in the midst of federal court hearings- the government has again selected a site with significant Aboriginal heritage concerns as the only contender, Wallerberdina Station

located in the Flinders Ranges in South Australia.

Adnyamathanha people cite cultural heritage concerns amongst the key reasons they are opposed to the site. Thousands of artefacts are located on the nominated property and the country's first registered storyline travels through it.



A cultural heritage assessment will be undertaken early next year, but the community has been unequivocal in stating there is nowhere on the station, or indeed the region, that they would deem acceptable for a waste dump to be built.

Juanella McKenzie, whose family manages Yappala Indigenous Protected Area adjacent to Wallerberdina recently travelled to Sydney at the invitation of Beyond Nuclear Initiative for a series of meetings and public events. At a rally in Pitt Street Mall she said, "the nominated site is actually in the middle of many stories. In our culture, when someone passes away we can't talk about them anymore, so if they bury this poison on Adnyamathanha country we can't sing the songs anymore, we can't tell the stories anymore, we can't teach our children and we won't be able to take them to country."



Enice Marsh and Regina McKenzie at Hookina Springs

The most dangerous of the waste destined for the Flinders site results from the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel rods used in the Lucas Heights nuclear reactor in southern Sydney. National environment groups have consistently urged the government to examine the option of extended interim storage of this waste at the Lucas Heights complex while an independent inquiry into waste production and management options is undertaken.



Yanakanai Ngarpala Yarta - Come Here to Our Country

In early October the McKenzie family invited people to spend a weekend on country visiting important areas near the nominated site. Around 60 people attended the 'Cotabena Campout' and witnessed giant trees and railway pylons that had been uprooted and thrown hundreds of meetings by flooding, densely populated archeological sites with tools and fossilised bone and the beauty of Hookina Springs, a place Regina McKenzie calls "an oasis in the desert".

The weekend concluded with a rally in the nearby town of Hawker. Speeches from the town's GP and local landholders emphasised clear opposition from across the community and a determination to keep the area focused on growing the tourism trade not toxic industry.

International radioactive waste proposal

The Sydney event attended by Juanella was part of a national day of action against both the national and international waste dumps proposed for SA. In Adelaide trade unions played a leading role in the organising and around 3000 people marched. Events also happened in Alice Springs, Melbourne, Perth and Toowoomba.

Parallel to the federal government's process for



Alice Springs action on October 15

finding a site for domestic radioactive waste, the South Australian government is examining whether to import around one third of the world's high level radioactive waste for decades of storage and eventual disposal. A coalition of Traditional Owners, environment and health organisations, trade unions and faith groups is working under the banner of the No Dump Alliance to challenge this proposal head on.

The four key points in the Alliance's Statement of Concern are: Lack of respect for Aboriginal people; future generations; public health and environment risks and; financial risks. Aboriginal communities in South Australia endured British nuclear weapons testing in the 1950s and 1960s and continue to suffer health and social impacts from these tests today. A nuclear waste dump would be a permanent imposition on country, people, laws, environment and culture.

In addition, the Royal Commission's case for a nuclear dump making a profit is based on inflated estimates of the income and deflated estimates of the costs and risks. The Commission assumes that countries with waste stockpiles will pay a premium price to dump in Australia and that no other country will ever offer a cheaper option. If the economics of this nuclear waste project fail, the public would bear the losses – forever.

Premier Jay Weatherill is expected to make an announcement whether to pursue the controversial and highly contested plan in mid-November. Beyond Nuclear Initiative will continue to work with communities across South Australia who are standing up to say no.

Australian Nuclear Free Alliance

The 19th annual meeting of the Australian Nuclear Free Alliance was held on Wongutha country in Kalgoorlie over the weekend September 9-11. People from a range of Aboriginal nations and non-government organisations attended. This was the first time



the meeting has been held in Western Australia and was a great opportunity for people from across the Goldfields and Pilbara to come in and discuss strategies for resisting the three current uranium mine proposals in WA. Beyond Nuclear Initiative and ALEC have hosted and assisted ANFA many times in Alice Springs so it was wonderful to travel and be welcomed in the west.

The national meeting statement reads in part: "The meeting delegates assert our rights as sovereign peoples who are traditional owners, caretakers and custodians to put an end to uranium mining and resist all proposals for unwanted radioactive waste dumps on traditional lands across Australia. Not here, not anywhere. ANFA delegates travel from all around the country, coming from different places and different kinds of country but we are all connected by the foundational structure of land, law and culture. There is no price that is worth the destruction of the land. If we look after country, country looks after us."

A speech by Sean Angeles: Indigenous Repatriation Officer, Strehlow Information Centre

Werte and welcome to everybody! I would like to acknowledge and pay my respect to the Apmereke-artweye and Kwetengerle families of this beautiful country.

What an amazing collection and what an emotional roll-coaster it's been for me personally working inside the collection for three years now. I want to thank Adam Macfie, a mentor and dear friend for giving me the opportunity to work at the Strehlow Research Centre (SRC). I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge Adam's vision of Indigenous employment within the SRC.

I am one of only three Indigenous people to work here and the second after Mark Inkamala, a western Arrernte man and a cultural mentor of mine, and recently Uncle John Cavenagh,

For the full statement and more information about ANFA please see www.anfa.org.au

Natalie Wasley
Beyond Nuclear Initiative
<http://beyondnuclearinitiative.com>



Australian Nuclear Free Alliance 2016 national meeting

a senior Eastern Arrernte cultural genius and teacher to me. Adam fought hard for this vision and I want to thank him for his conviction and belief that we as Indigenous people can bring a unique perspective, passion, enrichment and innovation to this very important cultural heritage work. In Adam's words, Indigenous people "hit the ground running" when working with our cultural material – it makes sense, doesn't it!

I would also like to thank the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory and Marcus Schutenko who I think is a great leader for the museum and an advocate for Indigenous involvement within museums. We currently have a wonderful manager of the Museum of Central Australia in Felicity Green. She is respectful, very intelligent, passionate, and innovative but





most importantly has that fire in the belly. I look forward to working closely with Felicity over the coming years.

I also want to thank my Elders – Huckitta Lynch Penangke, Ken Tilmouth Penangke, Martin McMillan Kemarre, John Cavenagh Kemarre, and Bayden Williams to name a few – for endorsing my employment at the SRC and supporting me with their wisdom, love, and teachings.

My name is Shaun Angeles and I am a Penangke man from Ayampe country. I commenced working at the SRC in September 2013 as an Indigenous Repatriation Researcher. Like I said before, it has been an emotional roll-coaster. I've experienced joy and happiness watching these old men perform on film and reading about their stories of resilience, vulnerability and strength.

On the other hand, I've experienced deep frustrations and sadness when reflecting upon the dominant western culture's systematic destruction of our most beautiful culture, its people and Land.

I've also found myself laughing and smiling while reading particular diary excerpts and also crying while watching these amazing men on film. It sounds crazy but it's very real. Very real for Indigenous people! Some days I feel light, easy, and empowered doing this work and other days I feel heavy with responsibility and worry about our future generations and how they're going to navigate this crazy world and carry our culture through time.

I have worked intimately with the collection for three years – analysing field diaries, editing the ceremonial film footage, working with individuals and families with the genealogies, digitising the ceremonial song catalogue and travelling to museums within Australia searching for artefacts that left this landscape in some instances over a hundred years ago. It's like being involved in a

ceremonial soap opera.

You feel to a certain extent like you know these old men, in sometimes tracking their lives through four decades of work with TGH. You begin to develop favourites or you relate to a specific person more than what you may another. There's a real intimacy involved. I look forward to other Indigenous men experiencing this because it is very uplifting, and a very special part of being a human – to experience the wide array of emotions available to us. For me that's our greatest gift of being human.

As a young Arrernte man, I want to pay my deepest respect to TGH Strehlow for doing his amazing work, which spanned four decades from the 1930s to the mid 1970s. Over the years, numerous people have written about him and there are many different points of view regarding his life work, his personality and character, and his relationships with people. I'm not going to stand here and do the same, I just want to thank him for working with our old men to document this beautiful body of knowledge. I think he was an amazing man.

What I want to do though is shed light on and elevate the story of the Akgngerrapte (senior cultural leaders) who, in my opinion, possessed the greatest agency in this story. They were the co-creators of this collection. They chose what to show Strehlow. I want to thank these old men for their vision and foresight to record some of the deepest aspects of Aboriginal men's culture in Central Australia for the benefit of their future generations.

If you strip the collection right back to its core, its essence is all about sacred land management practice and human wellbeing management. Take away all the English language, government red tape and bureaucracy, museum ideology and practice; the collection documents the sacred ways of maintaining a balance within our environment – a balance between the land, the



people, and the spirits. Our Land and our culture provide us as Aboriginal people a wellbeing that nothing else equals.

At no other point in recent human history has the Earth needed its Indigenous people to practice their sacred ceremonies more than what it does at present. In this current age where western culture has waged a war on the environment and the world's Indigenous peoples, we stand on a precipice. We need to bring a balance back. Devastating practices such as fracking and mining are not only destroying our Earth but also us as humans.

It is important for us to work very closely with our Elders to realise the collection's true potential. We have to include our elders throughout every process as they are the ones – and the only ones I might add – who understand its content and are able to enrich it and enrich the lives of our young men who are coming through the ranks. Our elders were left out of the collection for so long, so now we have a perfect opportunity to rewrite this bit of history and involve them with everything we do.

We need to find innovative cultural ways to unlock this potential. For the past 25 years it has been like a sleeping giant, or a dormant volcano. I believe it's time for us to wake it up and spread its power throughout Central Australia and its people.

Over the next 25 years I would like to see the SRC grow to accommodate the employment and involvement of more Indigenous people. I would like to see Anmatyerre people working with Anmatyerre material, Pertame people working with Pertame material, Luritja working Luritja material and so forth. This would be more culturally appropriate, culturally safe and a best practice model.

I would like to see initiatives such as Cultural Apprenticeships where elders work directly

with their younger generations in training and teaching these ancient ways. I would like to see an independent board of Elders to guide and influence our work.

We need to forge new relationships with the community itself and with other stakeholders such as the National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA) where much of the SRC's original film and sound material is kept. We need to form close working relationships with the Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC). Why you might ask? It's simple! ALEC fight hard for the protection of the environment – the SRC is an institution that holds environmental knowledge therefore we need allies that carry this same respect and passion for the Land itself.

Finally, the Strehlow Research Centre and the Museum of Central Australia doesn't fit the traditional model of Museums. This is a living breathing collection that needs Aboriginal custodians interacting with it. There are many stakeholders to this collection but the most important are the Indigenous people – the custodians and owners of this material.

Speech reprinted from <http://www.alicespringsnews.com.au/2016/09/30/working-with-this-beautiful-body-of-knowledge-at-the-strehlow-centre/>





Recalculating the Climate Math

The future of humanity depends on math. And the numbers in a new study released in September are the most ominous yet. Those numbers spell out, in simple arithmetic, how much of the fossil fuel in the world's existing coal mines and oil wells we can burn if we want to prevent global warming from cooking the planet. In other words, if our goal is to keep the Earth's temperature from rising more than two degrees Celsius—the upper limit identified by the nations of the world—how much more new digging and drilling can we do? **Here's the answer: zero.**

That's right: If we're serious about preventing catastrophic warming, the new study shows, we can't dig any new coal mines, drill any new fields, build any more pipelines. Not a single one. We're done expanding the fossil fuel frontier. Our only hope is a swift, managed decline in the production of all carbon-based energy from the fields we've already put in production.

The new numbers are startling. Only four years ago, I wrote an essay called "Global Warming's Terrifying New Math." In the piece, I drew on research from a London-based think tank, the Carbon Tracker Initiative. The research showed that the untapped reserves of coal, oil, and gas identified by the world's fossil fuel industry contained five times more carbon than we can burn if we want to keep from raising the planet's temperature by more than two degrees Celsius. That is, if energy companies eventually dug up and burned everything they'd laid claim to, the planet would cook five times over. That math kicked off a widespread campaign of divestment from fossil fuel stocks by universities, churches, and foundations.

But the new new math is even more explosive. It draws on a report by Oil Change International, a Washington-based think tank, using data from the Norwegian energy consultants Rystad. For a fee—\$54,000 in this case—Rystad will

sell anyone its numbers on the world's existing fossil fuel sources. Most of the customers are oil companies, investment banks, and government agencies. But OCI wanted the numbers for a different reason: to figure out how close to the edge of catastrophe we've already come.

Scientists say that to have even a two-thirds chance of staying below a global increase of two degrees Celsius, we can release 800 gigatons more CO₂ into the atmosphere. But the Rystad data shows coal mines and oil and gas wells currently in operation worldwide contain 942 gigatons worth of CO₂. So the math problem is simple, and it goes like this: $942 > 800$

"What we found is that if you burn up all the carbon that's in the currently operating fields and mines, you're already above two degrees," says Stephen Kretzmann, OCI's executive director. It's not that if we keep eating like this for a few more decades we'll be morbidly obese. It's that if we eat what's already in the refrigerator we'll be morbidly obese.

What's worse, the definition of "morbid" has changed in the past four years. Two degrees Celsius used to be the red line. But scientists now believe the upper limit is much lower. We've already raised the world's temperature by one degree—enough to melt almost half the ice in the Arctic, kill off huge swaths of the world's coral, and unleash lethal floods and drought. July and August tied for the hottest months ever recorded on our planet, and scientists think they were almost certainly the hottest in the history of human civilization. Places like Basra, Iraq—on the edge of what scholars think was the Biblical Garden of Eden—hit 129 degrees Fahrenheit this year, approaching the point where humans can't survive outdoors. So last year, when the world's leaders met in Paris, they set a new number: Every effort, they said, would be made to keep the global temperature rise to less than 1.5



degrees. And to have even a 50–50 chance of meeting that goal, we can only release about 353 gigatons more CO₂. So let's do the math again: $942 > 353$

A lot greater. **To have just a break-even chance of meeting that 1.5 degree goal we solemnly set in Paris, we'll need to close all of the coal mines and some of the oil and gas fields we're currently operating long before they're exhausted.**

"Absent some incredible breakthrough in mythical carbon-sucking unicorns, the numbers say we're done with the expansion of the fossil fuel industry," says Kretzmann. "Living up to the Paris Agreement means we must start a managed decline in the fossil fuel industry immediately—and manage that decline as quickly as possible."

"Managed decline" means we don't have to grind everything to a halt tomorrow; we can keep extracting fuel from existing oil wells and gas fields and coal mines. But we can't go explore for new ones. We can't even develop the ones we already know about, the ones right next to our current projects.

In the United States alone, the existing mines and oil wells and gas fields contain 86 billion tons of carbon emissions—enough to take us 25 percent of the way to a 1.5 degree rise in global temperature. But if the U.S. energy industry gets its way and develops all the oil wells and fracking sites that are currently planned, that would add another 51 billion tons in carbon emissions. And if we let that happen, America would single-handedly blow almost 40 percent of the world's carbon budget.

This new math is bad news for lots of powerful players. The fossil fuel industry has based its entire business model on the idea that it can endlessly "replenish" the oil and gas it pumps each year; its teams of geologists are constantly searching for new fields to drill. In

September, Apache Corporation announced that it has identified fields in West Texas that hold three billion barrels of oil. Leaving that oil underground—which the new math shows we must do if we want to meet the climate targets set in Paris—would cost the industry tens of billions of dollars.

"Keeping it in the ground" does not mean stopping all production of fossil fuels instantly. "If you let current fields begin their natural decline," says Kretzmann, "you'll be using 50 percent less oil by 2033." That gives us 17 years, as the wells we've already drilled slowly run dry, to replace all that oil with renewable energy. That's enough time—maybe—to replace gas guzzlers with electric cars. To retrain pipeline workers and coal miners to build solar panels and wind turbines. To follow the lead of cities like Portland that have barred any new fossil fuel infrastructure, and countries like China that have banned new coal mines. Those are small steps, but they're important ones.

But to convince the world's leaders to obey the math—to stop any new mines or wells or pipelines from being built—we will need a movement like the one that blocked the Keystone pipeline and fracking in New York and Arctic drilling. And we will need to pass the "Keep It in the Ground Act," legislation that would end new mining and drilling for fossil fuels on public land. It's been called "unrealistic" or "naïve" by everyone from ExxonMobil to the interior secretary. But as the new math makes clear, keeping fossil fuels in the ground is the only realistic approach. What's unrealistic is to imagine that we can somehow escape the inexorable calculus of climate change. As the OCI report puts it, "One of the most powerful climate policy levers is also the simplest: stop digging." That is, after all, the first rule of holes, and we're in the biggest one ever.

Bill McKibben

Excerpts of this article are reprinted from <https://newrepublic.com/article/136987/recalculating-climate-math>





Australia’s coal seam gas emissions may be vastly underestimated.

The coal-seam-gas industry could be vastly underestimating its emissions, jeopardising Australia’s commitments made at Paris and swamping any benefits gas has over coal, according to a landmark report by the Melbourne Energy Institute, commissioned by the Australia Institute.

The report found the industry’s true emissions could easily amount to twice the emissions Australia has promised to cut by 2030. While no studies in Australia have examined emissions from methane escaping directly into the atmosphere, in the US those measurements show it is often 170 times higher than that claimed by the Australian industry and 34 times higher than that what the Australian government reported to the UN.

“We’re potentially not measuring the equivalent of the emissions from our entire transport sector,” said Mark Ogge, principal advisor at the Australia Institute.

“If the emissions are a lot more than what is being estimated now, it could jeopardise our commitments made at Paris,” said report author Tim Forcey from the Melbourne Energy Institute.

Gas has been spruiked as the lower-emissions fossil fuel since, when burned, it emits 60% less carbon dioxide than coal for each unit of energy produced. But unburned gas – mostly made up of methane – is a much more powerful greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide, exerting a warming influence 84 times that of carbon dioxide over a 20-year time frame.

As a result, gas accidentally released directly to the air during extraction or transportation, in what are called “fugitive emissions”, could swamp the benefits of gas over coal.

According to research compiled by experts at the Melbourne Energy Institute, when fugitive emissions reach 3.2% of the overall gas produced, gas loses its edge over coal.

While there have been no reliable studies of the actual fugitive emissions in the Australian coal-seam-gas industry, the industry itself claims they amount to only 0.1% of the gas produced. That figure was used in the environmental impact statements used to get approval for the huge gas liquefaction plants recently built in Gladstone.

But when the government reported to the UNFCCC on Australia’s total emissions in 2014, it assumed fugitive emissions were five times higher than that suggested by the industry, at 0.5% of gas produced.

However, studies of unconventional gas – shale and coal seam gas – in the US have found fugitive emissions are often as much as 17% of the gas produced. Since Australian coal seam gas is closer to the surface, the researchers said it was likely that Australian fugitive emissions are even higher. In one US region, fugitive emissions from coal seam gas were 30% – 300 times that assumed by the industry in Australia.

If fugitive emissions in Australia were just 10% of the total gas produced, then in 2014, Australia’s fugitive emissions would have amounted to twice the amount of greenhouse gases Australia has committed to cut from its emissions by 2030, or the equivalent of the whole transport sector.

Moreover, that figure is set to grow significantly. Between 2013 and 2017, Australia is projected to triple its gas production in the eastern states, mostly in order to service the liquefied natural gas export industry. There are currently 6,000 wells in eastern Australia servicing that industry,



a figure expected to grow to at least 20-fold in the next 20 years.

“Methane is a very powerful greenhouse gas, which means that controlling methane emissions is crucial to meeting climate targets and avoiding tipping points,” said Forcey.

For some aspects of gas production, emissions reported to the UNFCCC were said to be zero, despite there being a likelihood of very large leaks from those sources.

The report said the government relied on one study to claim several processes had no fugitive emissions, despite that report explicitly acknowledging large leaks that it wasn’t able to properly measure, because the measuring equipment was being overwhelmed by gas leaking from other sources – including sources assumed to have no emissions when Australia reports to the UNFCCC.

“It would have been like being in a hurricane and being asked to measure the water coming from a

leaking tap,” said Forcey.

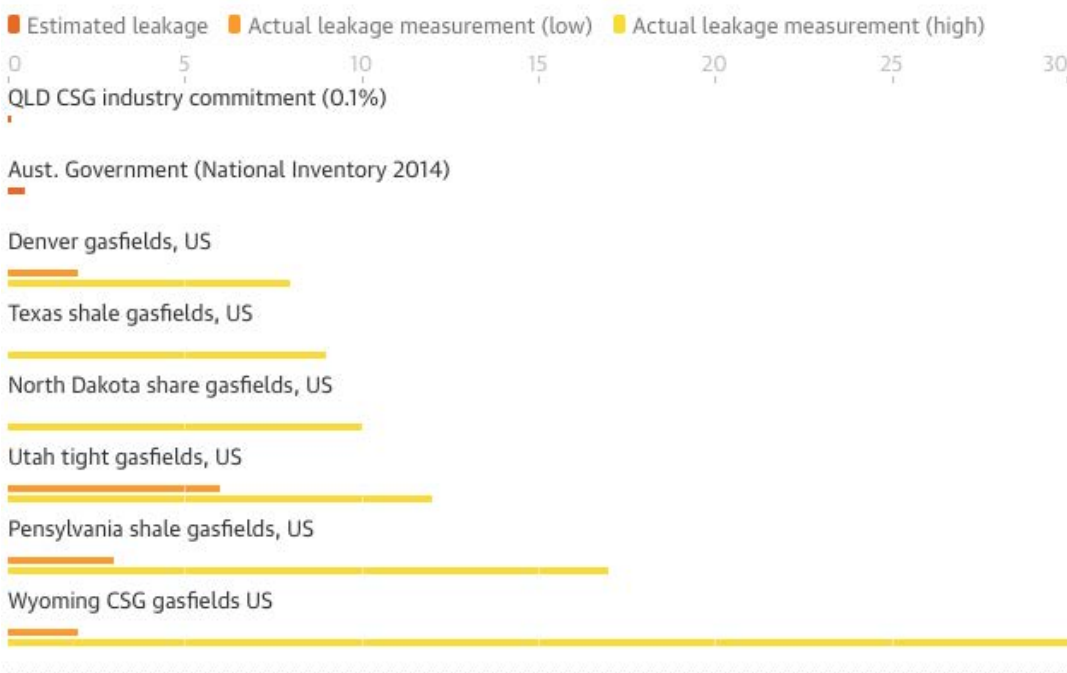
This year, the UNFCCC urged Australia to improve its measuring of fugitive emissions. In light of the growing industry, the new report called for fugitive emissions to be independently verified by a regulatory body funded by a levy on the industry.

And since one of the difficulties in measuring methane emissions was a lack of baseline studies, the report called for compulsory baseline methane measurements in any area being considered for oil and gas development.

Within about five years, Australia is expected to overtake Qatar as the biggest exporter of liquefied natural gas, much of which will be produced from CSG wells in the eastern states. In 2021, both Qatar and Australia will export roughly the same amount of gas. But because of generous tax breaks to the fossil fuel industry, Fairfax Media reported this month that Qatar will receive \$26.6bn in tax revenue, while Australia will receive less than \$1bn.

Michael Slezak

Methane leakage, percent of total production



Guardian graphic | Source: University of Melbourne Energy Institute

Reprinted from <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/oct/26/australia-coal-seam-gas-emissions-may-be-vastly-underestimated-report>





Time To Stop Pretending That Gas Is A Climate Solution

The “gas-is-great” rhetoric spilling out of the September Council of Australian Governments meeting (COAG) is cause for major concern. As the coal industry continues its decline, the gas industry is circling around like a pack of vultures, ready to get their fill.

Josh Frydenberg’s push to boost gas supply and lift state gas bans is a worrying move that will send the mercury rising to dangerous levels, condemn local communities to undrinkable water and wrecked farmland and throw a wrecking ball through any attempts to transition to a 100% renewable energy future.

The rosy gas agenda coming out of COAG demonstrates that the gas industry has done a good job at peddling its gas-is-great-for-the-climate propaganda. This couldn’t be further from the truth. Modelling from the International Energy Agency shows that if the planet converted heavily to “clean” gas, global temperatures would still rise by 3.5 degrees and CO2 would stabilise at 650ppm — a far cry from the less-than-350ppm levels we know are needed for a safe climate future.

Already we are seeing devastating impacts flow from the earth’s temperature rising by just 1 degree. Raise it by 1.5 degrees and we kiss goodbye to many of our Pacific neighbours. Raise it by 3.5 degrees and the storms, droughts and extreme heat we face now will become the new norm. The social and political fallout from a world that is 2.5 degrees hotter than today’s should be worrying to all of us. And yet that is the best case scenario if we give the gas industry a front-row seat in our energy future.

And I say “best case” because the IEA’s modelling doesn’t account for the gas industry’s fugitive emissions - the pollution that leaks out of wells and pipelines at every stage of the production line, yet is at best poorly measured

and, at worst, covered up by the industry’s spin doctors. These leaked methane emissions are 105 times worse than CO2, which is why experts agree that they cancel out any climate benefit that gas may have been thought to offer.

We could spend the next decade patching up all these leaks, but time is not on our side in the fight to halt global warming. And wouldn’t that time be better spent building the clean affordable renewable energy we know we need?

Which brings us to the second reason why the gas-is-good argument is a mirage. Switching to gas will actively undermine the transition to a 100% renewable energy future. The IEA warns that gas could push out wind and solar if governments come under pressure to reduce renewables subsidies and opt for gas, as the industry has been urging.

If we replace coal with gas, we’ll have to build new plants and new pipelines, locking us into decades’ worth of new carbon pollution. Modelling shows that replacing Australia’s existing coal plants over the next decade with renewables, not gas, would generate 75% less carbon pollution.

We should be building the renewable energy systems we know will be required, and building them now, not investing resources in new gas infrastructure that we can’t allow to run for even a third of its normal life.

Climate arguments aside though, lifting bans on gas and opening up wells across the country would spell disaster for local communities and ecosystems. Household water setting on fire, healthy people made sick by toxic fracking chemicals in their soil and drinking water, properties nurtured over generations ripped apart by drilling, precious natural ecosystems like the Pilliga and the Kimberley laid to ruin, is this the



legacy that our politicians really want to leave our kids?

If Minister Frydenberg and his mates in the states get their way, the door to the gas industry will be pushed wide open and tragic climate and community impacts will be allowed to flow out. The relationship between the gas industry and

our politicians will never have been rosier. We’ve seen how hard companies like Santos have fought to block climate action before. Now is our chance to stop them doing it again.

Charlie Wood

Reprinted from http://www.huffingtonpost.com/charlie-wood/time-to-stop-pretending-t_b_11869718.html

STOP THE FRACKING PIPELINE

10 reasons why the Northern Territory Gas Pipeline should not go ahead:

1. There can be new fossil fuel projects if we are to meet global targets of keeping temperature rise below 2 degrees (<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/sep/27/fracking-digging-drilling-paris-agreement-fossil-fuels>)
2. One of the stated intentions for building the pipeline is to develop the onshore gas industry – which means fracking for gas.
3. Territorians overwhelmingly voted against fracking in the August 2016 NT election – with a moratorium currently in place, the fracking inquiry needs to be delivered before any construction of a pipeline is considered.
4. The pipeline was a project of the former Giles CLP government and has involved questionable processes – it needs ICAC investigation.
5. The pipeline is a bad economic deal for the Territory (<http://www.smh.com.au/business/energy/northern-territory-gas-pipeline-a-white-elephant-report-20160518-goya2b.html>)
6. The pipeline was sold as a solution to deal with an East Coast gas shortage but the shortage does not exist due to decreasing demand for gas (<https://theconversation.com/a-crash-in-gas-use-is-more-likely-than-the-forecast-shortage-36764>)
7. The pipeline can be easily upgraded in size, once all approvals are met for the original

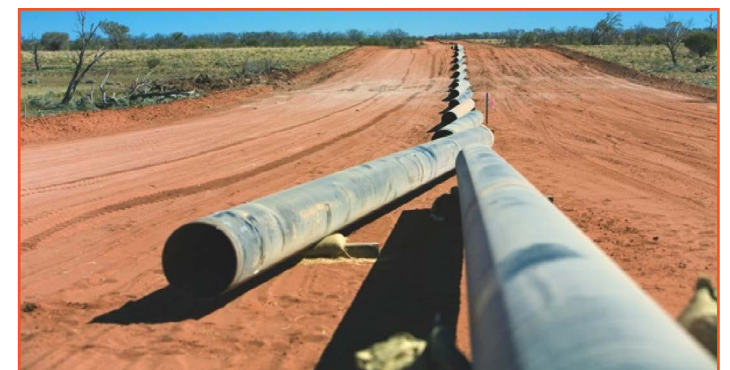
- pipeline, which could aid in opening up the unconventional gas industry in the NT.
8. Jemena has indicated they want to build a pipeline to Gladstone to export the gas so the gas is destined for international markets. The pipeline owners, Jemena, are state owned companies (60% China State Grid, 40% Singapore Power) so the profits go to China and Singapore. The pipeline is being laid in their interests, not the Territory’s.
 9. There are safety concerns around the Chinese made pipeline steel and ability to withstand pressure testing.
 10. There were 844 submissions which raised concerns about the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Jemena Pipeline – these must be adequately addressed before the pipeline could be considered.

For more information:

<http://dontfracktheterritory.lockthegate.org.au/pipeline>

http://www.alec.org.au/don_t_frack_the_outback

#waterislife #NoNTPL #nofrackingpipeline



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WRONG BANANA** Love our Environment.. Love ALEC.



Support the work of the Arid Lands Environment Centre

For more than 36 years ALEC has been standing up for the outback and catalysing change in the arid lands. With unprecedented threats facing the NT environment we need your support.

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Donate \$100 a month each year, or contribute a one off \$1000 tax deductible donation. 100 supporters will provide the ongoing essential operating funds of ALEC.
https://aridlands.nationbuilder.com/desert_defenders

Become a Desert Defender:

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https://aridlands.nationbuilder.com/desert_defenders

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