



# DEVIL'S ADVOCATE



## WINTER 2018



A FREE PUBLICATION FROM  
*Healthy futures for arid lands and people*  
**ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE**  
[www.alec.org.au](http://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 20th July 2018**

Articles, pictures, poetry, letters, welcome.  
Email [communications@alec.org.au](mailto: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 Strategy and Communications Manager. It is printed on 100% recycled paper.

Front cover image by David Morris

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

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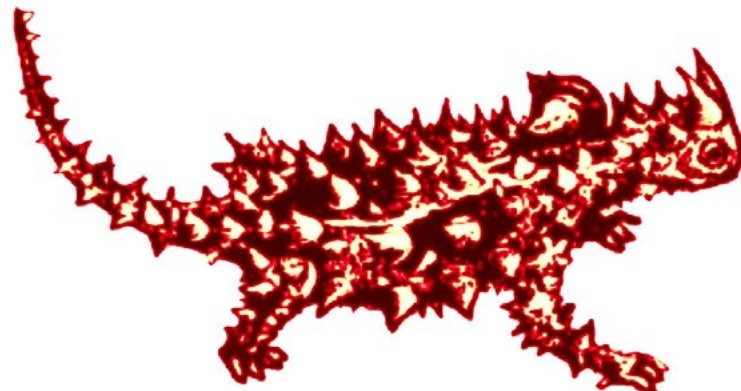
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Lands  
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Centre**







# FROM THE ALEC CEO

G'day folks and welcome to the Winter edition of the Devil's Advocate for 2018.

It's been a tumultuous time in the Northern Territory with the news that the NT Government has lifted the moratorium on fracking. The NT Government has committed to implementing the 135 recommendations from the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing which was delivered in March. This decision has come as a blow for many of us who have been campaigning for a ban on the dangerous and polluting process of shale gas extraction for a number of years.

51% of the Northern Territory is being made available for the gas companies to drill and frack. While the NT Government has committed to implementing the 135 recommendations, they have given themselves only 6 months to do so. This is woefully inadequate to develop regulations and processes to ensure the risk is reduced to an 'acceptable level'.

**ALEC maintains its position in calling for a ban on fracking.** At the minimum it will take 2-3 years to develop satisfactory protections for our land and water under this regime, and this decision being made in the absence of climate policies and emission reduction targets is simply irresponsible.

On a positive note, ALEC continues to organise and support community engagement in sustainability and environmental protection. Film nights on the ALEC verandah have become popular, the Repair Café exceeded expectations again, as did the Community Garden Community Fete Fundraiser.

The launch of the Ten Deserts Project sees ALEC participating in the largest indigenous led conservation project in the world. This is a very exciting project that ALEC has had a role in

facilitating.

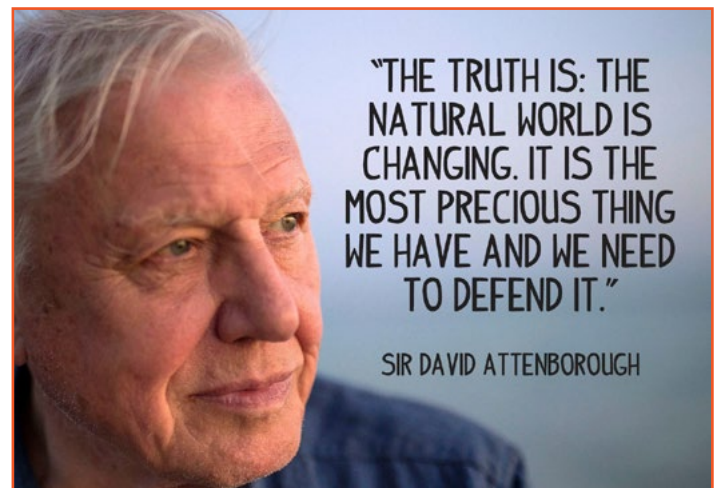
As always, we're constantly having to work to maintain ALEC's momentum and positive impact through fundraising and seeking donors.



We have recently recruited Jesse Hancock to a Fundraising and Engagement Officer position to support our efforts to get more people on financially supporting ALEC. In the months leading up to the end of financial year, expect a call, an email or a mailout asking for your support. Please consider how best you can contribute.

Finally, I want to thank and acknowledge the ALEC management team (Peachy and Carmel) and ALEC staff for their commitment and dedication to our cause of 'healthy futures for arid lands and people.' We can only do this with the support of the community behind, beside and leading us towards a better future for all people who call the desert home.

**Jimmy Cocking**  
**ALEC CEO**





desertSMART

# ECOFAIR



**9th-12th August 2018**

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**[www.ecofair.org.au](http://www.ecofair.org.au)**

**A National Science Week Event**





# ALEC MEDIA

## **WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY - A CHANCE TO REFLECT AND DREAM 29.5.18**

Alice Springs community members are invited to acknowledge and celebrate World Environment Day on Tuesday June 5th with two Alice Springs events; a tour of the new 5 MW Battery Energy Storage System installed by Territory Generation, and the Better Together Art Exhibition hosted by Watch This Space.

World Environment Day occurs on the 5th of June every year and is facilitated by the United Nations Environment Programme. It provides a global focus for raising awareness on emerging environmental issues. In 2018 the theme is "Beat Plastic Pollution" acknowledging the enormous impact of single use plastics on our environment.

"Many communities in countries all over the world come together on World Environment Day to both reflect on the challenges to our global environment, and to dream up a future where our most precious asset is both valued and protected," said Nicole Pietsch, Strategy and Communications Manager at the Arid Lands Environment Centre.

"One of the most exciting things that we can reflect on this World Environment Day is how cheap and accessible renewable energy is becoming," said Nicole Pietsch.

"It is now predicted that renewable energy will be cheaper than fossil fuels by 2020. With climate change impacts already being felt we urgently need to curb carbon emissions and to transition to renewable energy. It's great to see Territory Generation take a lead on battery storage and for Alice Springs to be able to host this facility."

"The new 5 MW Battery Energy Storage System installed by Territory Generation is one of the

largest battery energy storage facilities in the Southern Hemisphere."

The Better Together Exhibition, which opens at 6pm on June 5th at Watch This Space, has invited local artists to reflect on the wonder of our environment, the strength of our communities and the work of millions of people across the planet working to create positive change.

"Having seen 25 years of arts practice in Central Australia, Watch This Space knows that art - and particularly artists - play a huge role in raising awareness of complex and important global issues, like climate change and protecting our environment," said Zoya Godoroja-Prieckaerts Coordinator at Watch This Space.

"The Better Together exhibition will see artists once again coming together to rally for the environment and not only raise awareness of the many issues we face, but also raise funds to support climate action and the sustainability of our desert communities."

## **NT LABOR CONFERENCE VOTES FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE AND TO BAN FRACKING 15.5.18**

The Northern Territory Labor Party is to be commended for voting to adopt a policy of net zero emissions generated in the Northern Territory by 2050, and to ban fracking at their annual conference in Darwin over the weekend.

The vote to support the NT adopting a policy of net zero carbon emissions by 2050 indicates strong support for taking serious climate action, at a time when the Northern Territory's emissions continue to rise, and will rise significantly if fracking goes ahead.

The majority of the 120 party branch and union delegates voted to ban fracking, and whilst this vote doesn't mean a reversal of the decision to lift the moratorium, it does demonstrate that the





decision is deeply unpopular amongst Michael Gunner's own party.

"Australia's most eminent scientists, including Prof Will Steffen of the Climate Council have stated that a decision to allow fracking in the NT will significantly increase Australia's greenhouse gas emissions," said Shar Molloy, Director of Environment Centre NT.

"With INPEX coming online and the planned large scale land clearing, the NT urgently needs a strong climate policy with emission reduction targets to demonstrate how the Territory is going to stop emissions from rising."

"This result shows strong support from NT Labor Party members to bring the Territory in line with most other states of Australia that also have net zero emissions by 2050 targets," said Shar Molloy.

"The Northern Territory is highly vulnerable to climate change with a predicted increase in the number of extreme weather events and heatwaves, which will exacerbate existing health, housing and liveability issues and have a significant impact on remote communities," said Jimmy Cocking, CEO of the Arid Lands Environment Centre.

"As we start to see litigation happen across the world due to inaction on climate change, the Northern Territory Government must take responsibility for Territory emissions and have a plan for how they are to be reduced. To accept that emissions are to continue to rise is simply not tenable."

"Not creating the emissions in the first place is the most sensible thing to do, and banning fracking will not only prevent emissions rising significantly, but is supported by many Territorians and even Michael Gunner's own party."

"The Arid Lands Environment Centre and Environment Centre NT will continue to work towards a future with clean groundwater, a safe climate and strong communities. We urge Michael Gunner to listen to his party members, reverse the decision on fracking and take strong action to mitigate and adapt to climate change," said Jimmy Cocking.

### **FRACKING DECISION WRONG WAY FOR TERRITORY 17.4.18**

The Northern Territory Government has made the wrong decision in announcing the lifting of the moratorium on fracking this morning. Chief Minister Gunner has buckled to pressure from the Federal Government and the gas lobby when most Territorians want a ban on fracking to protect the Territory's water, land and climate.

"At the very least, the moratorium should have been extended until all the recommendations are implemented and all the baseline studies are completed in the 51% of the Territory that is now open to be fracked," said Jimmy Cocking, Director of the Arid Lands Environment Centre.

"Opening up large new fossil fuel industries, when urgent action is required to mitigate climate change, is the wrong way for the Territory."

"Northern Territory emissions have risen 28% over the last ten years, and are continuing to rise. A single NT gas field would increase Australia's overall emissions by 5%, which is completely unacceptable."

"It is doubtful that a 5% increase in Australian overall emissions can be offset, and that there





could be no net increase in emissions from any onshore shale gas produced in the NT.”

“Fracking the Territory could be equivalent to 100 times more than the emissions savings under the Northern Territory Government’s Roadmap to Renewables: 50% by 2030 policy which completely undermines that process. Renewables are the future, and the NT government is choosing to be on the wrong side of history with this decision.”

“Regardless of regulations, some risks will always remain. Accidents can and do happen. There will be impacts on some Indigenous communities. There will be impacts on tourism in certain areas and businesses that rely on our clean environment.”

“The profits will be taken out of the Territory and the short term financial gains will be nothing in compared to the economic challenges that climate change will bring.”

### **FRACKING THE CLIMATE NO SOLUTION FOR THE TERRITORY 27.3.18**

Northern Territory communities will continue to advocate for a ban on fracking regardless of the recommendations from the final report of the Northern Territory Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing, which has been released today.

The Arid Lands Environment Centre welcomes the comprehensive detail in the Final Report,

however disagrees that the myriad of risks exposed by the Inquiry from the process of fracking could ever be mitigated to an acceptable level.

The Inquiry has also recommended that the moratorium could be lifted without an implementation plan to mitigate the risks for the first three months - which would leave Territorians shouldering the risk.

“Implementing the recommendations in full is a huge task which would require a lot of time and resources, and allowing the moratorium to be lifted before an implementation plan is in place is not in the spirit of mitigating risk,” said Nicole Pietsch, Strategy and Communications Manager at the Arid Lands Environment Centre.

“There is significant doubt that the gas industry could comply with and finance many of the proposed recommendations, and that the NT government has the capacity to implement and enforce compliance of the recommendations.”

“The Northern Territory Environmental Regulatory reforms are still not clear, and we don’t have a climate policy for the NT, which should underpin any decisions about investments in these kind of large fossil fuel projects.”

“The Inquiry itself assessed the unmitigated risks to climate change to be either ‘medium’ or ‘high’. The fact that the NT carbon emissions continue to rise is now getting national media attention,



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and opening up the Territory to fracking will make emissions rise even further. Fracking the Territory would be a climate carbon bomb and we should not be heading down this path.”

“A ban on fracking is the best option for the Territory to reduce the risks. We urge the NT Government to take the precautionary principle seriously and maintain the moratorium.”

### **TERRITORY EMISSIONS RISE, PRESSURE ON NT GOVERNMENT HEATS UP 22.3.18**

Pressure on the NT Government continues to rise with the imminent release of the Scientific Inquiry Into Hydraulic Fracturing Final Report and recently released figures showing a 28% rise in the NT emissions over the last ten years.

Some of the Territory’s biggest economic contributors and also the largest contributors to carbon emissions met in Alice Springs last week.

Reducing carbon emissions and climate action was not on the agenda of either the AGES Mining Conference or the NT Cattleman’s Association Industry Conference.

“The Northern Territory is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. We can’t just stand by and watch emissions rise from new gas projects, land clearing and lack of industry innovation,” said Jimmy Cocking, CEO of the Arid Lands Environment Centre.

“Whilst Territory emissions only represent 3 per cent of the national total, we are only 1% of the national population. In contrast South Australia, who has had a strong focus on renewable energy, contributes only 5% of the emissions with 7% of the population.

“If the Beetaloo Basin is fracked it is estimated that the carbon emissions will be 4-5 times that of the Adani project. When the INPEX Ichthys gas project comes online it will produce 280Mt of carbon over its 40-year lifetime. We have also got large scale land clearing projects that have just been approved that will also increase emissions.”

“The Territory has ample opportunities to reduce carbon emissions. Through supporting land managers to account for and build carbon stock in the land while also changing management practices to increase carbon sequestration, significant climate gains can be made.”

“With climate impacts already being felt, our government can simply not accept that emissions will continue to rise unabated. We need a comprehensive climate policy that has emission reduction targets, we need to ban fracking, stop investing in new fossil fuel infrastructure and transition to a low carbon economy.”

The Arid Lands Environment Centre is calling on the NT Government to take serious action on climate change. **Go to [http://www.alec.org.au/alec\\_climate\\_action](http://www.alec.org.au/alec_climate_action) for more details.**







# Fracking and NT emissions

## Key points

The Final Report of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory reported that unconventional gas development in the Northern Territory could result in greenhouse emissions that:

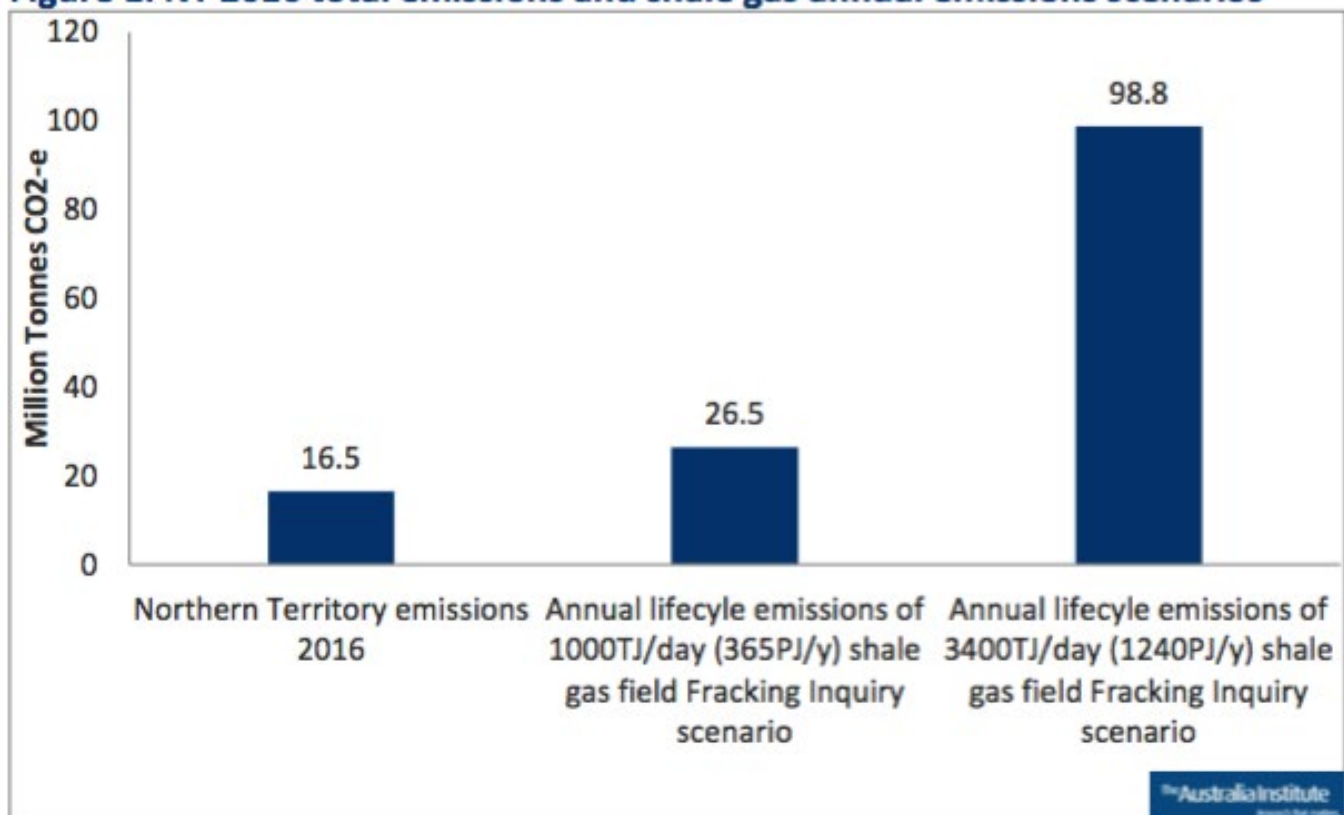
- Increase Australia's total greenhouse gas emissions by over 5%.
- Are equivalent to six times the Northern Territory's total 2016 emissions
- Are equivalent to 100 times more than the emissions savings under the Northern Territory Government's Roadmap to Renewables: 50% by 2030 policy.

## NT Shale gas emissions vs Australia's emissions

The Final Report of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory assessed the emissions potential of an NT shale gas industry. It explored two production scenarios in its risk assessment: 365 PJ/year and 1240 PJ/year.

The 365 PJ/year scenario was assumed to be combusted entirely in Australia and found to increase Australia's greenhouse gas emissions by 26.5 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e per year. The Inquiry reports this as a 4.5% increase in Australia's total

**Figure 1: NT 2016 total emissions and shale gas annual emissions scenarios**



Sources: Australian National Greenhouse Accounts (2017) *State and Territory Greenhouse Gas Inventories, 2015*; Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory (2018) *Final Report*; author's calculations



emissions (Table 9.4, p228). In fact 26.5 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e is equivalent to 4.9% of Australia's 543.3 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions to December 2016 cited in the Final Report (p209).

The higher 1240 PJ/year production scenario was found to result in 98.8 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e per year (100 year GWP), which is equivalent to 18% of Australia's 2016 annual emissions.

However in this scenario, 875PJ is assumed to be exported resulting in 58.9 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e from combustion in customer countries and 38.9 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e from lifecycle emissions within Australia, being equivalent 6.6% of Australia's 2016 emissions.

### **Northern Territory electricity emissions**

In 2016, emissions from electricity generation in the NT were 1.8 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e, or 11% of the Territory's total emissions. This is a lower proportion than in other Australian States and Territories, largely because land use emissions make up a much larger proportion of emissions in the Northern Territory than in other states and Territories.

The Northern Territory Government has committed to a target of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030. The target is focused on the electricity sector.

No modelling has been undertaken to estimate the emissions reductions of the target. However, a simple comparison the annual emission scenarios from shale gas fields identified by the Fracking Inquiry with the annual emissions from electricity generation in the Northern Territory illustrates the magnitude of shale gas emissions compared to the potential emissions reduction of the renewable energy policy.

Electricity generation in the NT has increased from 2922 GWh in 2009 to 2997 GWh in 2015. This is an overall increase of 75 GWh, an

average increase of 0.4% per year.

In order to provide a Business as Usual (BAU) case to measure potential emissions reductions against, we assume the same rate of growth in electricity generation from 2015 to 2030 and that the emissions intensity remains constant. Under these assumptions, emissions from electricity generation would increase by approximately 6% from 1.8 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e per year in 2016 to 1.9 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e per year in 2030.

Currently only 4% of the Northern Territory's electricity generation is from renewable sources, with 96% coming from gas and diesel.

If we then assume the renewable energy target reduced the Northern Territory's emissions from electricity generation by 50% from the BAU case by 2030, the emissions reduction in the year 2030 would be around 0.95 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e per year.

### **Comparing electricity and shale emissions**

As noted above, The Fracking Inquiry Final Report found that emissions under two shale gas production scenarios would reach 26.5 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e per year or 98.8 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e per year. These levels would be reached before 2030 when the Roadmap to renewables policy would see 50% renewable energy generation.

As shown in Figure 2, under the Inquiry's 365 PJ per year scenario, the emissions would be equivalent to 27 times the estimated emissions reduction of the 50% renewable energy target.

Figure 2 also shows that under the higher 1,240 PJ per year scenario, emissions from shale gas would be over 100 times greater than potential reductions under the renewable energy target in 2030.





**Conclusion**

The Northern Territory Government’s 50% by 2030 Roadmap to Renewables policy is commendable. If it is not negated by contradictory policies, it will position the Northern Territory well to develop a clean, efficient and low-cost energy system suited to the 21st Century.

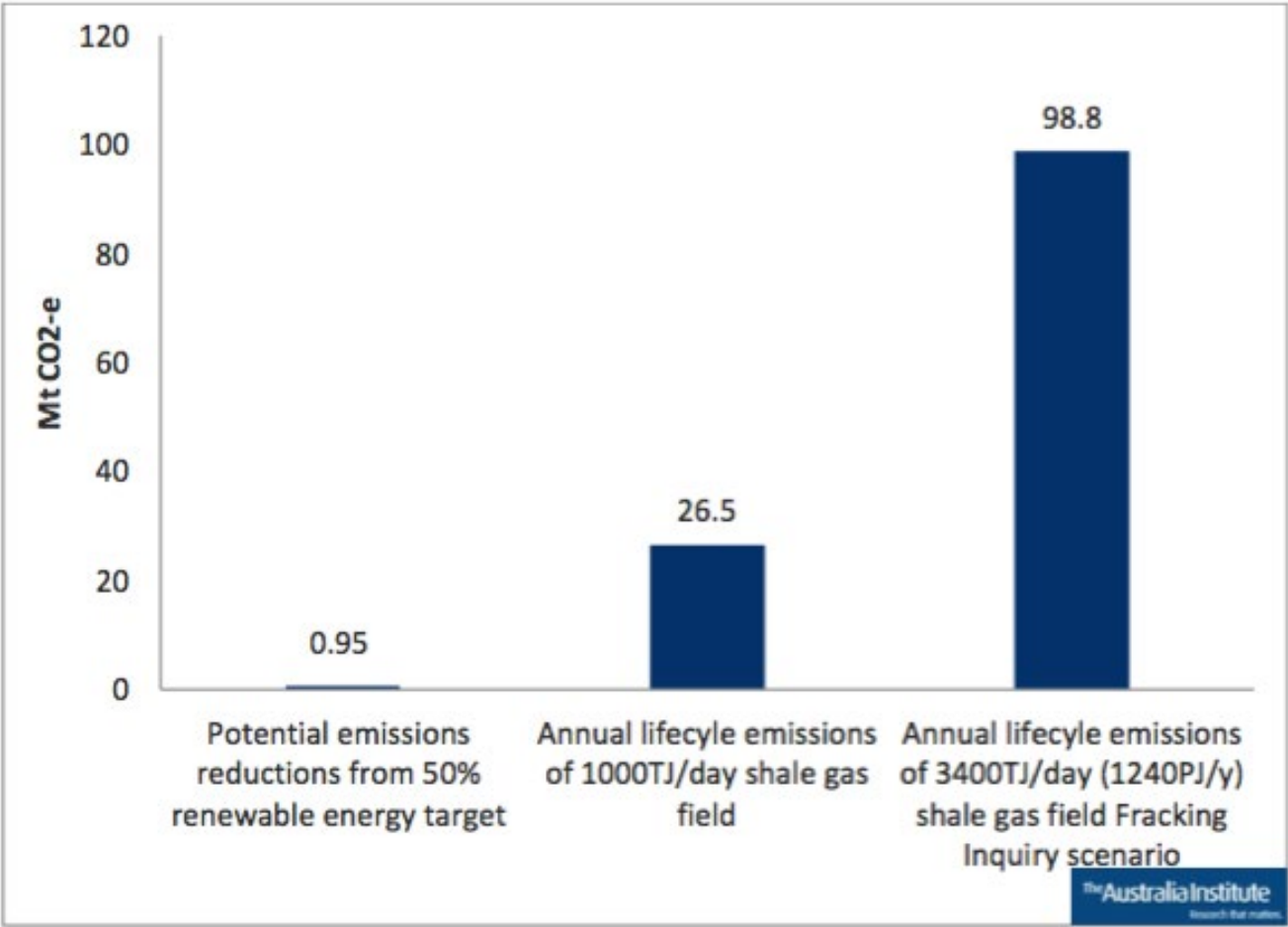
The Northern Territory is likely to be heavily impacted by global warming. The threat of increasing extreme weather events and extreme heat mean that global emission reductions are vital to the health and wellbeing of all Territorians, its unique environment and the viability of many of its most important industries.

If the Northern Territory Government allows unconventional gas development to proceed, the resulting emissions will dwarf the potential emissions reductions achieved by other climate policies including the 50% by 2030 renewable energy policy.

**Report by the Australian Institute**

For report references or to download it go to <http://www.tai.org.au/content/nt-fracking-emissions-would-dwarf-renewables-target>

**Figure 2: Emissions impact of NT 50% renewable energy target and shale gas**



Source: Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory (2018) *Draft final report*, p 210; authors calculations





# 'MERNE MERDE' FOOD GARDENS PROJECT

## More plants, more healthy food for Utopia gardeners

A new plant nursery in the Utopia Homelands is helping gardeners grow more delicious, home-grown vegetables to enjoy with their kangaroo tail.

The nursery is the latest addition to the Merne Merde Food Gardens Project which was established in 2009 to improve food security and nutrition in the Homelands.

The project is a joint initiative of PHN Northern Territory, My Pathway and Arid Edge Environmental Services. Its aim is to help reduce diet related chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart and kidney diseases by increasing access to fresh fruit and vegetables, and promoting healthy eating.

Arid Edge Environmental Services manager Alex McClean says the nursery is raising vegetable seedlings for distribution among the 14 Homelands gardens. It also supplies plants to other Homelands projects such as school gardens, the aged care and the clinic.

"Jan, our nursery horticulturalist lives in Arlparra and visits the gardens regularly to help set up, maintain and extend garden projects, to give advice and to ensure the gardens are fully productive," he said.

"Another integral part of Merne Merde is to educate on how necessary a nutritious diet is

for a long, healthy life and to encourage healthy food choices. Our nutritionists regularly provide cooking sessions in the Homelands with tasty food ideas using the fresh fruit and vegetables the gardeners have grown themselves," Alex said.

Since it started in 2009 the Merne Merde Food Gardens Project has built wicking beds and shade shelters, has planted fruit trees, installed irrigation systems and has provided fencing to keep animals out of the gardens.

All people in the Homelands, including children and the elderly, are welcome to join in the gardening activities so that gardening becomes an integral part of community life - a fun project that everyone benefits from and enjoys.



*Enthusiastic young gardeners from Soapy Bore Tilayla Jones and Carissa Walker about to plant some of the vegetable seedlings grown at the nursery in Arlparra.*

**Alex McClean**  
**AEES Manager**  
[www.aridedge.com.au](http://www.aridedge.com.au)







# LAUNCH OF THE TEN DESERTS PROJECT

On March 26, ALEC CEO Jimmy Cocking and ALEC Board member and Wangkangguru Traditional Owner, Brenda Shields attended the launch of the Ten Deserts Project at Old Parliament House. ALEC has been involved in the Ten Deserts projects since its conception and is a Steering Committee Member.

ALEC will be coordinating the Buffel Free GVD which will develop a collaborative bioregional plan for the control of buffel grass in the Great Victoria Desert and support broader stakeholder engagement alongside the annual Indigenous Desert Alliance meeting. ALEC is proud to be a part of this game changing indigenous led partnership for healthy country and people.



*Jimmy Cocking, NT Senators Malarndirri McCarthy and Warren Snowden, and Brenda Shields in Canberra*



The Ten Deserts Project is an exciting new Indigenous land management collaboration across Australia's desert country. Sustaining the largest Indigenous-led connected conservation network on Earth, the project aims to keep Australia's outback healthy for the benefit of the entire world.

The project is led by Desert Support Services (DSS), part of the Central Desert Group, and involves some of Australia's most successful Indigenous organizations supported by international and regional conservation partners.

The project is enabled through the BHP Billiton Foundation's Environmental Resilience Global Signature Program.

Sustaining the largest Indigenous-led connected conservation network on Earth, the project aims to keep Australia's outback healthy for the benefit of the entire world.

## Unique ecosystems under threat

The Ten Deserts of Australia are one of the few great natural places remaining on Earth. The area represents the world's largest connected network of protected areas and spans over 35 per cent of Australia (2.7 million km<sup>2</sup>) across five state and territory jurisdictions.

The area is of immense cultural value to its traditional owners who have a history of occupation spanning more than 50,000 years. Australia's 'deserts' are well vegetated with highly diverse ecosystems, including sand dune deserts, sandstone ranges, vast plains of Mulga



woodland, grassland and stony 'gibber' desert, and ephemeral wetlands which fill with life when rains come.

Rich in unique plant and animal life, the landscape is home to many of Australia's threatened animals including the Night Parrot, the Greater Bilby, the Great Desert Skink and Black-flanked Rock Wallaby.

Despite being relatively intact, these unique desert ecosystems and the values they contain are under increasing threat due to vast destructive wildfires, invasive noxious weeds and feral animals. The impacts of these threats are further exacerbated by climate change.

### **Delivering outcomes for Indigenous communities**

The Ten Deserts Project will enable traditional owners to address these threats through the work of Indigenous rangers and land managers.

The benefits of Indigenous land management programs are well documented and reinforce their broader social, cultural and economic benefits. These benefits are derived through the provision of employment and training opportunities, reinstatement of cultural authority, and increased pride and confidence for both individuals and communities.

On-ground activities will be complemented by

an effective and representative structure for Indigenous land management into the future.

The Foundation has committed significant funding to this multi-year project.

The project is led by Desert Support Services (DSS), part of the Central Desert Group, and involves some of Australia's most successful Indigenous organizations supported by international and regional conservation partners.

To deliver the project outcomes over the life of the project, DSS will work with:

- Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Board
- Central Land Council (CLC)
- Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa (KJ)
- Kimberley Land Council (KLC)
- Nyangumarta Warrarn Aboriginal Corporation
- Indigenous Desert Alliance (IDA)
- Pew Charitable Trusts
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC)

Other Indigenous organizations will be involved and supported by the project for discrete activities at both a local and regional level.

The involvement of international partners will enable the lessons learned to be shared with the broader global community.







## Support and empowerment

Supporting and empowering the Aboriginal traditional owners who live in this landscape to look after country is critical to improving Indigenous livelihoods and building the environmental resilience of the desert region.

The project will build on people's connection to country and integrate Indigenous cultural and ecological knowledge with contemporary natural resource management best practice to enable new approaches to be developed to respond to both existing and future threats.

Providing employment opportunities and growing the network of Indigenous rangers will help to sustain remote communities for future generations.

The project will also complement and enhance highly successful government programs for Indigenous rangers and protected areas.

An enduring outcome will be the creation of a representative structure for Indigenous land

management organizations in the desert which will raise the deserts' profile and provide the enabling conditions to help secure future long-term funding and revenue streams.

These funding streams include increased government commitments, carbon abatement and tourism that will attract additional revenue for Indigenous organizations and communities.

Collective action to build environmental resilience Enhancing the environmental, cultural and socio-economic resilience of Indigenous peoples' lands is a key focus of the BHP Billiton Foundation's Environmental Resilience Global Signature Program.

This project is a unique opportunity to demonstrate collective action to build environmental resilience at an unprecedented scale worldwide, led by Indigenous organizations with the support of external stakeholders.

**For more information, films and partners see [www.tendeserts.org](http://www.tendeserts.org)**





Environmental policy touches on so many aspects of life in the arid zone and is a big part of the work that ALEC engages in. Policy priorities for ALEC over the next few months will still be environmental regulatory reform, climate change policy, water policy and mining.

ALEC is actively advocating for a strong, effective and holistic climate change policy that sets a target for emission reductions and facilitates appropriate adaptation planning. The lack of a climate policy for the NT is holding back organisations and government departments that could otherwise be taking action on reducing emissions and strengthening their adaptive capacity. This policy uncertainty is stifling our ability to protect people and country from the impacts of a changing climate.

Climate change is projected to have severe impacts on the ecology of the desert and liveability of arid communities. Working to improve the adaptive capacity of our communities will provide positive economic opportunities and protect human wellbeing. To make this a persuasive case to government, a cross sectoral approach is needed that advocates through a unified voice.

The Chandler salt and hazardous waste storage facility has not received final government approval. While the EPA has reported that the risks of the project can be adequately mitigated, there are still many questions about the nature of those risks and whether there is sufficient

regulatory capability. This project is inextricably connected to a broader issue of hazardous waste management in Australia. Our current capacity to manage and process hazardous waste is woefully inadequate. There are vast stockpiles and on going environmental and human risks from leaching.

Australia has obligations under international law to transport and process hazardous waste that produces net positive environmental outcomes. Best practice waste management principles provide that waste movement should be minimised, permanent isolation is a last resort and producers should ultimately bear the full responsibility for risks of that waste. These principles are not enforced, and the Chandler facility is certainly not going to fulfill any of the criteria for the sustainable and equitable management of hazardous waste.

ALEC is working with the National Toxics Network to raise the profile of this issue and highlight the flaws in the Chandler project. We urgently need a national hazardous waste strategy as waste projections are continuing to rise and there is no solution in sight. Federal interest in this topic is minimal; the government relies on a piecemeal approach to management, of which Chandler is but another example.

Central Australia is not a dumping ground for the toxic legacy of the east coast. Titjikala would be taking on all the risk without any proportional economic benefit.







Strong water policy is a constant priority in the arid zone. There has been a considerable shift in the priority given to research into the interactions between groundwater extraction and groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs).

Knowledge of GDEs in the central arid zone is greatly improving which will allow for proper water governance that protects the health of GDEs and maintains cultural and environmental flows into the future. Top issues for groundwater management will ongoing participation in water allocation planning and overseeing the implementation of water law which is finally becoming enforceable for mining companies.

It has been a year since the Government began the process of reforming the environmental regulatory system. We are expecting a draft bill on a new Environmental Protection Act in the third quarter of the year, however this process is going to be complicated by the implementation of the recommendations of the final report of the Fracking Inquiry.

The report has recommended substantial changes to petroleum, water and environmental administration which will need to be incorporated into the reforms that are already underway.

Part of our advocacy in the regulatory space will be to hold the Government accountable to every single regulatory recommendation and ensure they are implemented properly. There are key recommendations that are big shifts in environmental and petroleum regulation.

While we will not stop advocating for a ban on fracking, in the alternative, it is imperative that the Government is not able to weaken any of the reports recommendations. There are early indications that this is already occurring, as they have accepted some recommendations 'in principle'.

Government and Industry are hoping for a return to boom times for mining exploration and production. NT Government, Federal Government and mining companies are working in tandem to develop petroleum and mineral resources across the Territory. This includes an increase in the exploration and production activities of conventional gas in the Amadeus basin and the potential approval and assessment of several significant mines in this region.

We have been meeting with representatives from these projects and communicating with the Department of Mines to try and delay approvals until each project can definitively prove they do not pose an unacceptable risk to human and environmental health. This has included collaboration with the Public Health Association of Australia and the Environment Centre NT. In arid Australia, ALEC is often a lone voice in this field that is largely silent on the issues of legacy contamination and sustainability.

This year we have made submissions on the commonwealth governments ten-year Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (a total disappointment), the National Energy Guarantee (environmentally reckless), an In-situ gasification trial operation in South Australia, a submission to the WA Fracking Inquiry and planning reform. Up-coming submissions include the second review of the Lake Eyre Basin Intergovernmental Agreement, A National Product Stewardship strategy and draft environmental objectives for environmental assessment.

ALEC will continue to advocate through formal submissions, working groups and committees to push the agenda for ecologically sustainable development. We welcome any contributions to our research and advocacy work. Our message is only strengthened with broad community support.

**Alex Read**  
**ALEC Policy Officer**



# Climate change in the Northern Territory: emissions, projections and strategy

There is no aspect of life that will be unaffected by a changing climate. Every component of society, economy and environment will have differing levels of resilience and exposure to change than others and will respond to varying degrees to the stressors of climate change.

Impacts will be far reaching and unpredictable, from heat waves, extreme weather events, bushfires, soil erosion, invasive species, food production, diseases and impacts on financial markets, levels of crime, mental health to name a few. It is vital that we are preparing for climate change, so here is a snap shot of what we know about climate change in arid Australia and what we need to know going forward.

## NT Emissions

Total annual emissions for the Northern Territory are 16.5 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e. This is a 27.6% increase on 2005 emissions. Total emissions of the NT are 3.1% of Australians annual emissions. The single largest source of emissions is through Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry. This is followed by Stationary Energy and then Agriculture.

The forward outlook projects significant increases in NT emissions by several orders of magnitude. The single largest confirmed addition to NT emission will be due to the INPEX Ichthys project coming online. This offshore gas and processing project in Darwin is projected to produce a whopping 280Mt of greenhouse gases over the 40-year lifetime (Inpex EPA Assessment Report).

With the moratorium on fracking having been lifted, if an onshore unconventional gas industry develops in the NT this will significantly increase the emissions of the NT. Resource estimates suggest development of an industry could triple emissions for the NT.

Emissions are projected to rise in the Land Use, Land Use Change, and Forestry if several large land clearing permits are acted on. There has been a tenfold increase in land clearing applications in the last two years, with the most recent being the largest in history for the NT, potentially emitting 2-3 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e or about 20% of total annual emissions.





Stationary energy emissions are projected to decrease as the Roadmap to Renewables 50% by 2030 policy is implemented. This will also improve the resilience of our energy systems to heatwaves as adaptive responses are expected to put our grid system under increasing strain.

### **Predicted Climate Impacts**

Climate change is expected to impact the north and arid areas greater than southern regions. The number of days over 35 expected to rise considerably. Average days over 40oc could triple in Alice Springs by 2090 (LEB Assessment report). Average temperatures could rise as much as 7oC by the end of the century under a high emissions scenario.

Current emission trajectories place us on the high scale of warming modelling which could cause of rise of between 2.9-5.3 degrees by 2090 (BOM).

The heating and cooling energy requirement of an average energy efficiency household is project to rise 66% by 2050 and over 200% by 2100 (Want et al 2010). As a certain degree of warming is already occurring, adaptation is now an essential aspect of climate policy.

The table below summaries the latest climate projections for the rangelands of Australia.

### **Adaptation: what we need to know**

Climate change in the arid zone is characterised by high levels of uncertainty. Our understanding of how various elements will interact in response to climate stressors is largely unknown. Our ability to therefore assess the effectiveness and suitability of adaptation strategies is limited.

A holistic, integrated approach to adaptation is required to bring together broad information sources as well as wide public participation. Strategy needs to identify unforeseeable impacts, such as increases in crime during heatwaves. A methodology is needed to evaluate policy actions to ensure inbuilt adaptive capacity when responses are identified. At the same time, it is important to frame adaptation as a positive potential for transformation. Positive opportunities include carbon capture and storage, renewable energy and resilient crops.

If a certain level of industrial activity is inevitably going to progress, then we need to heavily scrutinise offsetting and carbon sequestration strategies. An effective offsets policy is one that priorities prevention and ensures net positive environmental gains over the long term. This could look like the establishment of conservation reserves in perpetuity and the restoration of heavily degraded landscapes.

<b>Climate variable</b>	<b>Projected change</b>	<b>Confidence</b>
Temperature	Increase in all seasons	Very high
Extreme temperatures	Increase in hot days and warm spells	Very high
	Decrease in frosts	High
Rainfall variability	Remain high	High
Extreme rainfall events	Increased intensity	High
Winter and spring rainfall	Decline in south	High
Summer and autumn rainfall	Trend unclear	
Drought	Increase over next century	Medium
Potential evapotranspiration	Increase in all seasons	Very high

Source: Healy 2015, [ninti one](#) Climate Change report.







There needs to be a concerted effort to identify and address the barriers to effective adaptation. Whole of government processes should be reviewed against the ability to facilitate and implement adaptation strategies. For example; the processes around gaining approval for water recycling from Government should be reformed with a view to enabling greater uptake of recycling initiatives.

#### **Where we are headed, what we need to do**

Life in the desert under unmitigated warming will see the extremes of weather become more extreme. It is imperative that we commit to reducing our emissions and keep carbon in the ground. There is an urgent need to develop pioneering adaptation strategies that demonstrate the potential for transformational change that maintains liveability in the region and manages environmental risks.

Adaptation strategy must strive for transformational change rather than incremental changes if we are to prevent significant losses and harm. We need to strengthen multidisciplinary, interdepartmental and civil

collaboration and communication. Indigenous engagement with climate policy is vital. The connection between native title and land rights with carbon rights, interests in water and biodiversity is largely unexplored but needs to play a key role in the direction of climate planning.

Human rights must become a key theme in climate discussion and policy formulation. Climate action is as much an issue of justice as it is environmental action. Climate change has serious cultural implications because of the ongoing importance of connecting and caring for country.

Adaptive decision-making processes will need to be incorporated into everyday decision making over all areas of civil, government and corporate affairs. We need to strive for policy and regulatory structures that create incentives for improving adaptive capacity while reducing emissions. Only then will we be able to begin safeguarding our communities and landscapes from a changing climate.

**Alex Read**  
**ALEC Policy Officer**

**LOOKING FOR A  
GREAT GIFT IDEA?**

**GIVE AN ALEC  
MEMBERSHIP  
AS A GIFT!**





There's much to celebrate in the Garden community. Our recent Autumn Fete and Concert fundraiser was a wonderful success drawing around 400 visitors and raising \$7600 to be equally split between the Garden and Dr Farida Khawaja's Pakistan: Emergency Care Education project.

The event relied on the contribution of multiple large and small donations of time and energy from many of our Garden community. Major thanks go to Farida and three members of our Garden committee, John Bermingham, Sue Gregory and Kim Mackay.

We have all 45 private garden plots allocated and action aplenty as the cooler weather encourages more time spent outdoors preparing beds and planting out. We're holding working bees every Sunday morning and are most grateful to both the regular salt of the earth stalwarts and occasional attendees for the essential work they do to manage the Garden's health and development as a whole. Without the regular weeding, tidying up, composting, fertilising, mulching and planting in community beds, all

through the orchard areas, and around paths, our outside fence and communal areas the Garden would be much less than it is!

As winter approaches and days shorten we have moved to an 8.30 start. There's always plenty to do for a couple of hours with a cuppa, biscuit and chat to close and celebrate our achievements. Everyone's welcome!

Meditation at the Bodhi Tree commences at 7.30 Sunday morning for an hour. A small fire to warm the legs will be an added attraction from now on. New meditators are encouraged to join Kay Smith. The peace, changing early morning colours and circling sounds of nature awakening make it a memorable spiritual experience.

Our Community plots are continuing to make a healthy contribution to Food for Alice. Once again we are reliant on our regular volunteers, Jana and Kim in particular, for preparing the beds, planting out and keeping a constant vigil on progress.

Progress on the new kitchen/office and disabled toilet is well underway with the concrete flooring poured. In a couple of months we won't know ourselves when the building is completed and access to power and lighting, cooking facilities, etc is expanded.

**Bruce Simmons**  
**ASCG Convenor**

<http://alicecommunitygarden.org.au>







Food for Alice is bursting with a fresh range of local produce. Gardens are being reinvigorated as temperatures cool, so yields are steadily increasing.

Produce is beginning to come in from the Community Garden after plantings over the last couple of months. We still have an amazing steady supply of produce from Bruce Simmons and the Happy Farmer including capsicums, zucchinis, kale, spinach and rocket.

Food for Alice is constantly looking at improving its profile and demonstrating the viability of local agriculture. Food security for Alice is only going to become more and more precarious as the climate changes and transport systems adjust.

This local produce market is currently the only way to purchase a broad range of fresh strictly local produce. Reducing the carbon miles stored in our food is one of the key ways individuals can

make a difference to their carbon footprint.

We will continue to look at ways to improve the customer service experience and attract more suppliers, so we can ensure a constant supply of new, exciting and sustainable veggies and fruits that strengthens the future food security for Alice Springs.

We have also been helped by a couple of wonderful volunteers recently that have been a fantastic addition to the experience.

Saturday mornings at Food for Alice is a wonderful way to start the weekend, stock up for the week ahead and have some great chats with the wonderful characters of Alice.

**Food For Alice is open every Saturday 9am-11am at ALEC, 90 Gap Road.**

**Join the Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/108715702520033/>**

**Alex Read  
FFA Coordinator**







# WORKSHOPS AT ALEC

## MAKE YOUR OWN DISH CLOTH

Crochet your own dishcloth as part of the Arid Lands Environment Centre's Sustainability Workshop series for Plastic Free July.

Plastic Free July aims to raise awareness of the problems with single-use disposable plastic and challenges people to do something about it. Making your own dishcloth is just one small step you can take to reduce plastic products in your life.

Bring your own crochet hook and coarse cotton (cotton must be 8 ply and provide the hook to match), or materials (a bamboo hook and ball of cotton) can be purchased as part of the workshop.

Beyond being able to make socks, scarves and beanies Crochet is a meditative process that can help you unwind and relax. No crochet experience necessary! It's pretty easy once you get taught how.

Please purchase tickets here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/alec-workshop-make-your-own-dishcloth-tickets-47010315118>

### DETAILS

Saturday July 14, 2018 at 9:30am - 11:30am  
Arid Lands Environment Centre  
90 Gap Rd, Alice Springs, NT 0870  
For more info:  
[info@alec.org.au](mailto:info@alec.org.au) 08 89522497



Join the challenge and 'Choose To Refuse' single-use plastic during July.

Imagine a world without plastic waste. That's our mission – to build a global movement that

dramatically reduces plastic use and improves recycling, worldwide. Will you join us and give up single-use plastic this July?

<http://www.plasticfreejuly.org>



RePower Alice Springs is an independent community organisation with a mission to achieve 100% solar power for our town by 2030, through: advocacy; building community capacity; and community power projects and partnerships.

In our 2017 community solar survey, three-quarters of the 816 respondents wanted 70 to 100% solar for Alice by 2030. The NT Government has a target of 50% renewable power for the Territory by then.

Thanks to ALEC's continuing auspicing of Repower Alice Springs, we have been able to continue our strong start to 2018.

Our achievements so far this year include:

- Receiving an NT Government Environment Department grant which we will use to continue developing a community power initiative.
- Holding a joint planning workshop with Territory Generation in February to scope out a joint community power project and holding the first two joint project management committee meetings.
- We are developing a survey to determine detailed public interest in investing in a community solar farm, to be released in May.
- Attending the Todd Mall markets once a month, to grow our membership, to start

growing community awareness of renewable power and the benefits of community driven power initiatives.

- We are doing presentations to community groups, so if you would like us to present at any groups you are a member of send us an email.
- Organising an event for World Environment Day on the 5 of June, so if anyone would like to be involved, please let us know.
- Abstract accepted for the Developing the North Conference which will be held in Alice Springs from 18 – 19th June.

### **What are community solar projects?**

Community renewable energy projects (usually solar and/or wind) are those where the community develops, delivers and benefits from the project. The environmental benefits are joined by education and awareness and a return to community investors. One example among many now internationally is Hepburn Wind in Victoria: [www.hepburnwind.com.au](http://www.hepburnwind.com.au) The business model of each project depends on its particular circumstances. Some projects partner with established entities to help develop and deliver the benefits.

### **MEDIA RELEASE 17.4.18**

#### **Government fracking decision condemned. Time to seriously support solar power**

RePower Alice Springs strongly condemns the NT Government's lifting of the Territory's moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, of onshore shale gas fields. RePower calls on the Government to support the group's community solar energy project to partly offset the damage fracking is predicted to cause.

RePower is a community group working towards 100 per cent solar power for the Territory by 2030. The Government wants 50 per cent of the Territory's power from renewable sources by



then to reduce the greenhouse gases emitted from fossil fuels now causing dangerous climate change. The Government recently released a major Roadmap to Renewables report to help it reach this target.

“It makes no sense having a target and a roadmap to reduce climate change on the one hand, then a policy on fracking that will do the opposite,” said RePower chairperson Harshini Bartlett.

In an open letter to the Government’s inquiry into fracking in the NT, 35 eminent scientists suggested the inquiry’s own assessment of a 5 per cent increase in Australia’s greenhouse gas emissions from a single new onshore gas field is just the start of the damage. “Given the amount of shale gas identified, emissions could be higher still,” the scientists said.

The scientists said: “The consequences of global warming are already extremely serious; including loss of human life, extreme weather, destruction of natural ecosystems and property damage. The Northern Territory is in the region likely to experience the most severe impacts of global warming.

“As scientists and experts concerned about the wellbeing of the people of the Northern Territory,

Australia, and the rest of the world, we strongly urge that onshore shale gas and shale oil development does not go ahead in the Northern Territory under any circumstances.”

Ignoring this scientific advice, “the Government now must now take the initiative to much more seriously support renewable energy,” said RePower’s Ms Bartlett. “One of the Roadmap to Renewables recommendations, supported in-principle by the Government, said it should take immediate action to kick-start the rollout of renewable energy projects.

“RePower is developing a 10 megawatt community solar project. With investments from the community, this would power about 2,000 Alice Springs homes without fossil fuels and bring environmentally friendly economic development and jobs to town.

“At that scale, the project needs Government support. We strongly urge that support now to partly offset the damage of fracking, including the electoral damage,” said Ms Bartlett.

**Harshini Bartlett**  
**RePower Alice Springs Chair**

[repoweralicesprings@gmail.com](mailto:repoweralicesprings@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/repoweralicesprings/](http://www.facebook.com/repoweralicesprings/)



# **Renewables** **NOT** **Fracking**







“This is just beginning” is the chant that could be heard throughout the Alice Springs mall the day after Chief Minister Gunner and his government decided to lift the moratorium on fracking. This update comes from a place of disappointment and sadness for the NT, but also from a place of great hope, pride, and renewed energy.



The sadness and disappointment are for all those who feel as though they have been let down by a government and a leader that assures the people of the NT that it is listening to their community and has their best interests at heart. Clearly this has not happened.

Since the beginning of the year the core focus of CAFFA has been to make sure there is no allusion at all, as to where Central Australians stand when it comes to the issue of fracking. Our voice has been loud.

CAFFA and many members of the Alice Springs and Central Australian community presented



*Images are from the community rally the day after the announcement to lift the moratorium on fracking.*







to the final round of hearings in the Inquiry, collected and submitted a petition from residents of Braitling calling on a ban for fracking, hosted a morning tea in which hundreds of actions were taken calling on a ban for fracking, held a public vigil outside an event with Gunner, and put huge amounts of pressure on Dale Wakefield to publicly state her position on fracking.

It is not that we were not loud enough. It is that our cry for sanity and justice was falling on deaf ears. CAFFA is proud of this huge effort from the community and thankful to everyone who gave up their time to contribute to this important decision.

It has been clear from the responses of Territorians that this is not a decision taken lightly. At the rally held in Alice Springs the day after the lifting of the fracking moratorium the message was clear. If Gunner and his government will not protect the territory, the people will. There is reason to hope.

Communities in other parts of Australia were covered in active onshore gas licences. Drill rigs were rolling. But through peaceful determination, they were able to protect their regions. We can do the same. We have time to build our strength, to get organised and to make a plan to stand with impacted communities to protect the NT. If we put our best foot forward, we can do this.





**Unhappy about the decision to**  
**FRACK THE NT?**  
**Call NT Chief Minister**  
**Michael Gunner - he has a**  
**dedicated line for feedback!**  
**08 8936 5500**

This issue unites a wide variety of the NT community. We know that the scientists assessing the climate impacts of proposed fracking gasfields have said this simply cannot go ahead. We know the Aboriginal communities on the front line of these gasfields do not want their country and water torn up for an industrial polluting gasfield.

It is really important that we take this opportunity as a community to plan how we will build power and continue the fight to make sure the NT is never fracked. The best campaigns are those that involve the community from day one and that is exactly what we intend to do.

CAFFA looks forward to continuing to work with you, it has been a huge effort from everyone to get to where we are today and a journey that we should all be very proud of.

**Jesse Hancock**  
**Frack Free Coordinator**

**[frackfreecoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:frackfreecoordinator@gmail.com)**  
**[www.facebook.com/CentralAusFrackFree/](http://www.facebook.com/CentralAusFrackFree/)**







# REPAIR CAFE 2018

With funding from Inspiring Australia, the second Repair Café was held on Saturday 21st April, 2018 at the Arid Lands Environment Centre and heralded a success by attendees.

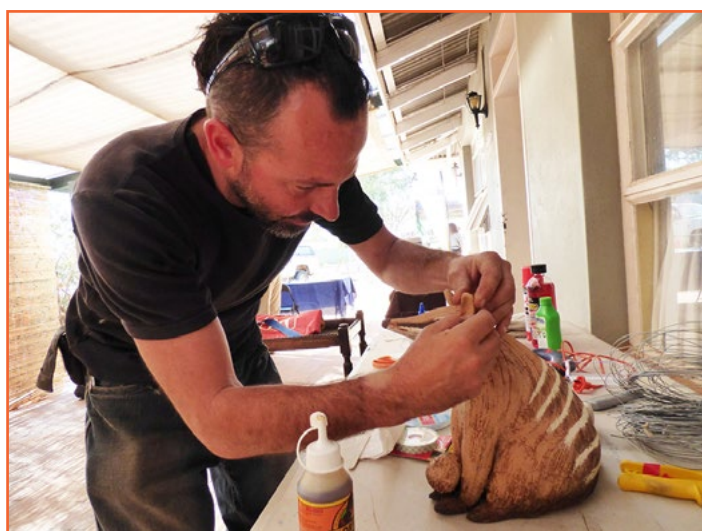
The Repair Café met its aim to engage the community in the science of repair in an effort to keep waste out of landfill and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Community members were encouraged to work with the repair expert to help fix the object and learn new skills, with people learning how to change a tyre on their bicycles, how to sew a button and how to glue a shoe back together.

A strong repair team of 20 people volunteered to fix the public's household items. A total of 100 people visited on the day, with 77 items being repaired.

Bikes, electronic goods, clothing, and general goods were oiled, soldered, sewed and glued back into operation.

There is great enthusiasm for this event to continue as an annual event.

**Rachel O'Leary**  
Science Engagement Officer







# ZERO WASTE WARRIORS FROM NEW ZEALAND

Werte!

This is Lili here, I am volunteering as a Sustainability Project Officer for ALEC. This week I would like to share the story of a couple my partner Pepe and I thought were our doppelgangers when we first met last year in Wellington.

Hannah and Liam have a philosophy to live Zero Waste; that means they haven't thrown anything in a recycling or waste bin for more than 3 years. Not one thing.

They are currently cycling around New Zealand sharing tips to live a Zero Waste lifestyle with communities they visit.

Here are some of their tips for reducing household waste that inspired us:

- 6 Rs Hierarchy. Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Rot, and Recycle. Note that recycling is way down on the list. Recycling still takes enormous amounts of energy and water, and with the exception of glass, no household products are infinitely recyclable.
- Make your own cleaning products, toothpastes, deodorants, shampoos, face masks, etc. There's a booklet on their website with their favourite recipes.
- If purchasing, only go for compostable/ reusable products like bees wax wraps instead of cling wrap, pencils instead of pens, paper instead of plastic, second-hand instead of new.
- Buy food in bulk and bring your own containers whenever you shop.
- Plan ahead. Always carry you own cutlery and lunchbox with you for those takeaway snacks you just can't resist.
- Aim for the low hanging fruit. According to Hannah and Liam, transforming to a Zero



Waste lifestyle overnight would be too difficult. Start with the easy actions, such as refusing plastic bags, then gradually change when you can.

We hope Hannah and Liam's Zero Waste message will inspire you to make a change the same way it inspired us.

Want to know more? Visit the landfill and their website <http://therubbishtrip.co.nz/>

Haere rā!

Pepe and Lili





# WHERE IS YOUR SUPER INVESTED?

While one of the objectives of superannuation is to help Australians have a nest egg for their retirement years, another important function that superannuation provides is the investment possibilities that help support our economy.

According to the Association of Superannuation of Australia in the December quarter for 2017 (October to December) Super assets totalled \$2.6 trillion. That is \$2,600,000,000,000 currently being invested by ordinary everyday Australians via superannuation. When you look at your own super it does not feel like that much at times, when you look at everyone's super you can start to see how your decisions on where your superannuation is invested matters.

For a number of years now the number of people stipulating that there superannuation can only be invested in environmentally conscious investments has been growing. Both superannuation companies and banks have started to feel the pressure of their customers demanding ethical investment. Recently I was at a Superannuation Forum held by Australian Super, which is one of the biggest superannuation funds in Australia, who made a point of telling everyone that they now had an option for all their customers to opt into green investments for their superannuation.

When you think about it, removing the possibility of fossil fuel companies and unethical company's having any access to the \$2.6 trillion really does help create a big barrier for these types of businesses. One of the main four banks, National Australia Bank has also started making a shift towards removing investments into fossil fuels.

When I talk to people about this individually, I do hit some barriers with regard to the effort people believe it will take to make the change. In the past it was also more difficult to switch

super funds. Some employers stipulated which superannuation fund you had to have.

However all of this has changed. It is now completely up to you which superannuation fund you would like to use, and even the Australian Tax Office is now making it easy for people to switch between superannuation funds and help you find any lost super. Some super funds will even roll over your super for you, if you give them permission to do so.

If you are unsure if your superannuation fund has the option to invest environmentally and ethically give them a call. Maybe you are the customer they need to prompt them to make the switch for all their customers? If they don't, then look into changing, and when your old fund rings you up to find out why you are no longer investing with them, tell them why (again this feedback will help push them towards doing it anyway).

Google Ethical Super Funds for your options, or check out the Choice article <https://www.choice.com.au/money/financial-planning-and-investing/superannuation/articles/australian-ethical-super-funds>

Now there will always be a small amount of the population that don't care where their money is invested, and there will be superannuation funds that will cater to them.

But just imagine how much harder it will be for the fossil industry if the amount of superannuation investment pie was reduced by half, or even better, a quarter. All of a sudden the same amount of companies are fighting for a much smaller piece of the pie, their life gets even harder and they feel the pressure from the community even more. All of this will help to further push these industries along the path of decline.



Here are 4 tips that I learnt from the Superannuation forum that I went to earlier this year.

### **Lost Super**

- Over \$21 million of lost super allocated to the area of Alice Springs.
- That means \$21 million sitting at the ATO with no home to go to that could belong to you
- The ATO has also been working with superannuation funds to make it a lot easier to find lost superannuation and nearly 95% of lost super funds now can be identified with your Tax File Number (TFN).
- So if you have looked for lost super in the past and found it too hard, or you have never bothered because you thought it would be too time consuming, now is the time.
- Go to [https://www.ato.gov.au/forms/searching-for-lost-super/?=top\\_10\\_forms](https://www.ato.gov.au/forms/searching-for-lost-super/?=top_10_forms)
- Download the form, fill it out with as much information as possible and send it in.
- Don't have all the information – no worries, do the best you can.
- The most important information to give them is your TFN.

### **Wants to set and forget your super?**

- Have one Super fund, otherwise you are giving your money away.
- Strong recommendations from the industry to go for Industry Super Funds. The basic difference between Industry and Retail Superannuation funds are - Industry Superannuation Fund – Not for profit, they cover their costs only, Retail Superannuation Fund – For profit – have to make money to pay owners of company (shareholders)
- Check the insurances and other products that come with the superannuation fund. Things like life insurance etc, most set this up default which you will pay a fee for, some don't. If it is an automatic set up you may be purchasing a product you don't want, or, is inadequate for you – check it.
- If you are not sure what to do go to this

Website from ASIC which will give you more information and a tool to compare Superannuation Funds

- <https://www.moneysmart.gov.au/superannuation-and-retirement/how-super-works/choosing-a-super-fund>

### **First Home Buyers**

- Did you know that you can salary sacrifice into your superannuation fund to help save for a deposit for your 1st Home??
- You can put the savings in to your superannuation, get interest on it and then pull the savings out to help pay for a deposit on your 1st home.
- There are criteria you have to meet (like it has to be your 1st home)
- To find out more go to <https://www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/Super/Super-housing-measures/First-Home-Super-Saver-Scheme/>

### **Finally**

If unsure at all go and talk to an expert. You can talk to the superannuation fund directly (remembering that you are talking to a representative of that fund) or see a superannuation expert which you will pay for.

And last of all, if you have found this information useful or even better, have found millions of dollars of lost super (or even a few hundred, we are not fussy) remember to say thank you by giving a donation to ALEC. Go to the following website and follow the prompts <https://aridlands.nationbuilder.com/donate>

**Carmel Vandermolen**  
**Business Operations Manager**

Please note, while Carmel is a qualified accountant and deals with many Human Resources issues, she is not a superannuation expert or allowed to give advice on superannuation. This is for general knowledge. If you are uncertain in any way about your superannuation, Carmel strongly advises you to consult a superannuation expert.



## Congratulations to ALEC CEO Jimmy Cocking

In April ALEC Board and staff officially acknowledged that CEO Jimmy Cocking has devoted 10 years of his life working for ALEC and leading positive change here in Central Australia.

Jimmy is not only leading ALEC, he is an Alice Springs Town Councillor, an Australian Conservation Foundation Board Member, and is on numerous organisational boards and committees in Alice Springs.

It is a significant achievement - well done Jimmy!



## Launch of the Arid Lands Outback Trek

75 community members come along to the Walk to Wigleys and Launch of the Arid Lands Outback Trek on Sunday 24th June.

ALEC provided a BBQ, and Aunty Pat Ansell Dodds provided a short history on the historical campaign to save Wigleys Junction from the proposal to be dammed.

Walkers of all ages then trekked the 5kms to Wigleys Gorge, and were met with afternoon tea whilst they waited for the ALEC bus to transport people back to Telegraph Station. It was great weather and many people were appreciative to be out walking in nature, with a large group of

people who all have an interest in preserving it.

The Arid Lands Outback trek is a fundraising adventure for ALEC in June 2019, where participants walk some of the best sections of the Larapinta Trail over a week, whilst raising vital funds to support the work of ALEC.

Find out more information about the Arid Lands Outback Trek at <https://inspiredadventures.com.au/events/alec-outback-trek-2019/> and please spread the word to anyone who you know may be interested in fundraising for ALEC whilst having a great adventure on one of the worlds best walking trails.





# ARID LANDS OUTBACK TREK

- > Visit Central Australia > Challenge yourself on a 5-day trek
- > Help protect and preserve Australia's outback
- > Raise funds for ALEC to support vital programs

Join ALEC for the Arid Lands Outback Trek and help raise vital funds to protect and preserve Australia's outback. You will witness the work of ALEC first hand, learn more about desert living and support vital campaigns to ban fracking, strong climate policies and support communities to take action.

## THE DIFFERENCE YOU'LL MAKE

Desert Australia depends on clean groundwater, clean air and strong communities.


Unfortunately, 85% of Australia's Northern Territory is under application for exploration for petroleum and gas. More than half of the Territory is at risk of fracking.

Mining and fracking threaten to industrialise our wild landscapes, contaminate precious groundwater supplies and contribute to climate change. Furthermore, invasive weeds and feral animals threaten our unique biodiversity, and unbeknownst to many, climate change brings many challenges to life in remote communities.

With vast landscapes and small populations, the Territory needs strong voices to protect our arid heartland. Every kilometre you cover in this life changing challenge will enable the Arid Lands Environment Centre to continue their fight to ban fracking, protect country and support desert communities to prepare for climate change.


By taking part in this incredible adventure, you will be helping us to continue our fight against dirty and dangerous developments, and help communities living in desert Australia adapt to climate change.



 10 – 15 June 2019


 Moderately challenging


Registration fee: **\$770**  
(non-refundable)

 Fundraising target: **\$3,500**

Travel quote:  
*No Alice Springs accommodation* **\$2,100\***

*Pre & post accommodation in Alice Springs* **\$2,350\***

 Comfortable camping

 [www.inspiredadventures.com.au/events/ALEC-outback-trek-2019](http://www.inspiredadventures.com.au/events/ALEC-outback-trek-2019)

*\*Subject to change*





## ABOUT ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

The Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC) is Central Australia's peak environmental organisation, who have been advocating for the protection of nature, and growing sustainable communities in the arid lands since 1980.

We are a strong and trusted voice for Australia's iconic desert country. We stand up and speak out for the protection of land and water, animals and plants, special places and the communities that depend on them.

We demonstrate courageous leadership and work with partners across vast landscapes to deliver solutions to the ecological challenges we face.

We understand the importance of knowledge, science, research, education and engaging the community on the issues that matter.

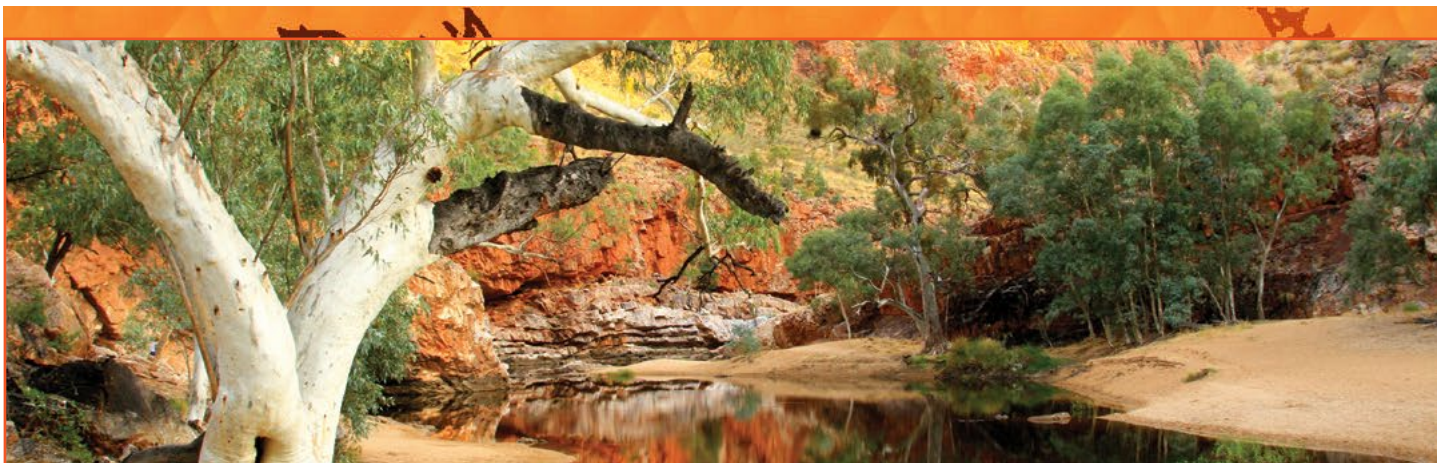
ALEC is catalysing change and building momentum with our supporters towards our vision of healthy futures for arid lands and people.



**"The Arid Lands Environment Centre is the only voice speaking up for nature from the heart of Australia. We've been standing up for the desert country since before 1980. We're a trusted voice and we are solutions focused. Nature protection, sustainable living and working together for the future of Australia's heartland – ALEC is a small organisation working on a continental scale."**

– Jimmy Cocking, ALEC CEO





# 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.

## Can you help?

### **Become an ALEC 100 member:**

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](https://aridlands.nationbuilder.com/desert_defenders)

### **Become a Desert Defender:**

Desert Defenders give monthly or one off tax deductible donations that provide critical funds to support ALEC programs and campaigns.

[https://aridlands.nationbuilder.com/desert\\_defenders](https://aridlands.nationbuilder.com/desert_defenders)

### **Make an Electronic Transfer**

Account Name: ALEC Inc - Gift Fund

Bank: Alice Springs - Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633 000 Account #: 1343 58688

### **Join or renew your ALEC membership**

[http://www.alec.org.au/become\\_a\\_member](http://www.alec.org.au/become_a_member)



**Donate at [www.alec.org.au](http://www.alec.org.au)**



*Healthy futures for arid lands and people*  
**ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE**  
[www.alec.org.au](http://www.alec.org.au)



**ALICE SPRINGS COMMUNITY SAYS #WEWILLPROTECTNT**



**THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING #BANFRACKING**

*Healthy futures for arid lands and people*  
**ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE**  
[www.alec.org.au](http://www.alec.org.au)