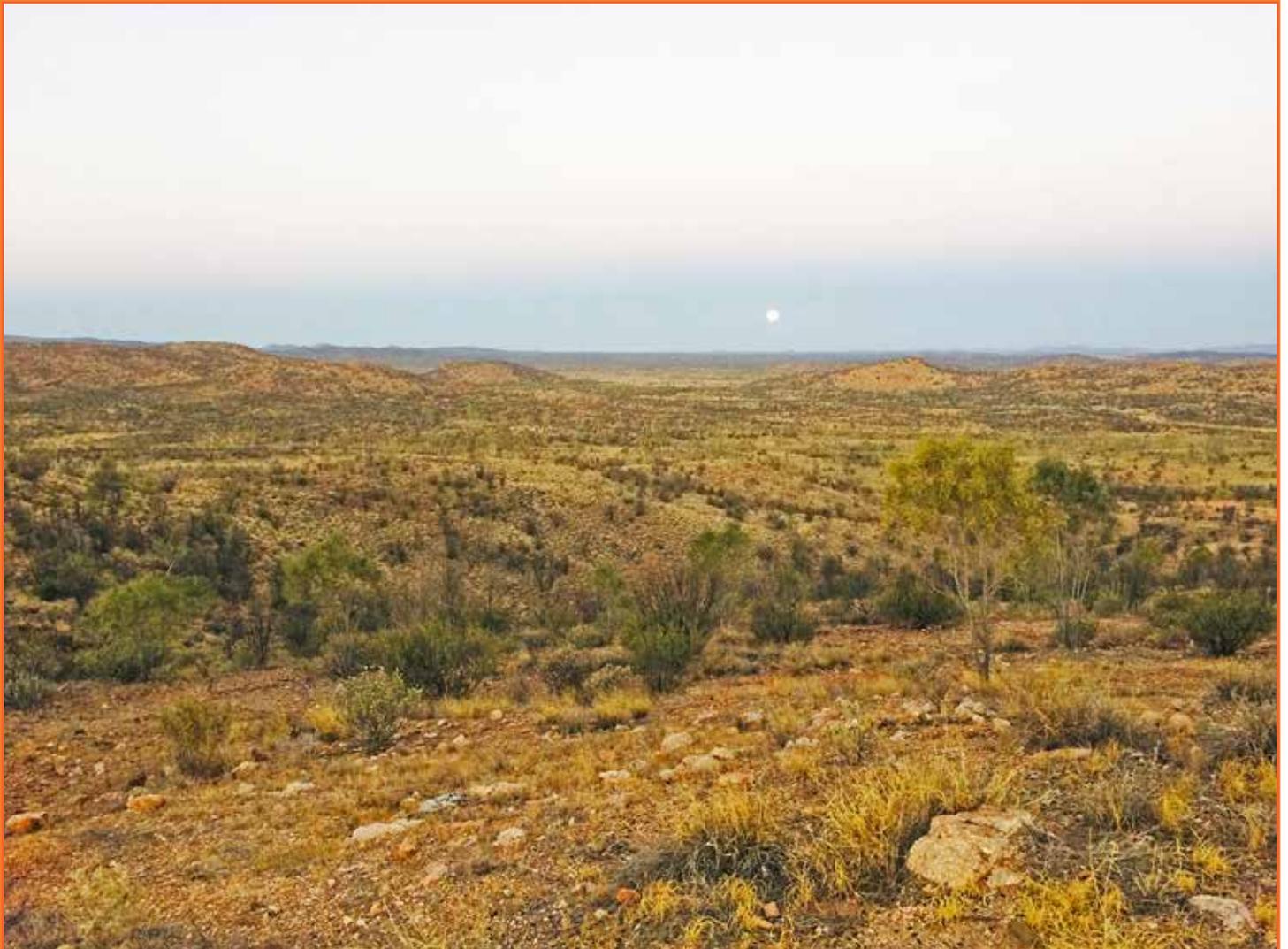




DEVIL'S ADVOCATE



AUTUMN 2019



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



CONTENT

The Arid Lands Environment Centre
90 Gap Road, Alice Springs
PO Box 2796 Alice Springs NT 0871
Ph: (08) 89522497 Fax: (08) 89532988
www.alec.org.au info@alec.org.au
The Devils Advocate is the quarterly newsletter of
the Arid Lands Environment Centre.

**The deadline for submissions for the next
Winter edition is Friday 17th May 2019.**

Articles, pictures, poetry, letters, welcome.
Email communications@alec.org.au

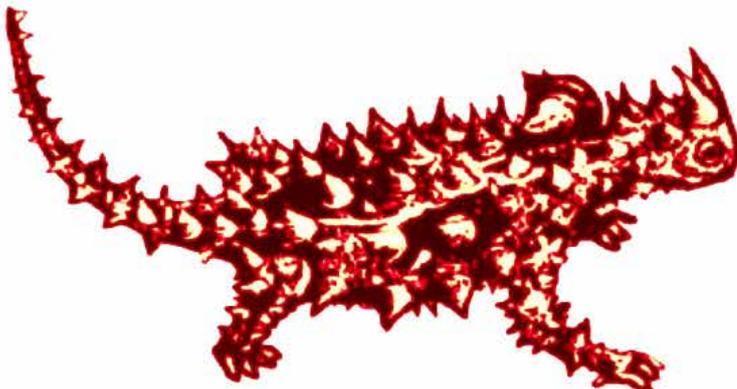
All opinions expressed within Devils Advocate
are those of the author alone, unless explicitly
expressed.

The Devils Advocate is edited and designed
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Communications Manager. It is printed on 100%
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*The Arid Lands Environment Centre
acknowledges and pays respect to the
traditional owners, past, present and
emerging of this region.*

CEO'S Welcome
2019: The Year Ahead
Pledge to Stop Origin
Protecting Tjoritja
Climate Change in Central Australia
Animations
Territory Needs Strong Laws For Nature and
People
ALEC Policy Update
What You Can Do About Climate Change
Coal in the Desert
ALEC Shines Light on Underground Coal
Project
Having Trouble Paying Your Power Bills?
Live EnergySMART Lunchtime Presentation
Arid Edge Environmental Services
Summer Garden Tune Ups
COOLMob Energy Efficiency Project
Alice Springs Community Garden
Food For Alice
RePower Alice Springs
Central Australian Frack Free Alliance
Climate Change, The World Congress
of Accountants and Financial Reporting
Frameworks
Degrowth: A Good Life For All
Nothing Should be Certified as Waste
Buy A Coffee For Nature
Donate to ALEC

**Arid
Lands
Environment
Centre**



CEO'S WELCOME

G'day folks and welcome to the first DA for 2019. I hope you had a good summer spent with family and friends.

It was a scorcher across Australia and particularly here in central Australia. Not only was it a record breaking for the hottest average temperature across December- February, but here in Alice Springs we broke other records.

This included longest run of days over 42C, with 16 days between 42.1C and 44C, and in December the hottest day on record was reached at 45.6C, breaking a 78 year record.

Central Australia Climate Snapshot

- **Hottest summer on record**
- **Longest heatwave – 16 days over 42 in a row – January 2019**
- **Hottest Day on record 45.6C – December 29th 2018**
- **2018 – 161 days without rain record**

Not only was it a very hot summer, it was also extremely dry. The heatwaves combined with dry lightning lead to the devastating burning of much of the West MacDonnell Ranges National Park/ Tjoritja.

Climate change is here. These heatwaves and this fire are a result of climate change. Increasing carbon emissions are contributing to this warming which will make life much more difficult out here.

ALEC has been approached by a number of organisations wanting to know more, do more in the face of climate change. We are responding.

We have just completed the second of our Climate in Central Australia films with Arrernte and Warlpiri languages translated and working

on a third. We have engaged a local illustrator to compile a visual brochure to help people understand the challenges and the opportunities to make a difference.



We are also talking to a range of civil society groups to support local and regional action on climate.

While we're trying to reduce pollution, the NT Government is allowing it to expand immensely by positioning the NT as a gas hub.

One excuse for not taking significant action is that the Federal Government is responsible for Greenhouse Gas reporting. Our emissions are continuing to rise under the Federal Government and the NT must come in line with the net zero by 2050 emissions reduction targets of most other states.

We all have a responsibility to reduce emissions but the Northern Territory is choosing to increase them. We have fracking on the horizon this year, Inpex flaring and processing gas in Darwin and the Tri-star Pedirka coal to gas (or liquids) project moves forward while evading public scrutiny.... again.

ALEC is on the case but we can't do this by ourselves, we need your support. We have a huge year ahead of us and it's going to take all of us to make a difference. If you don't have the time, please donate at www.alec.org.au/donate

If you want to get involved, sign up at www.alec.org.au

Jimmy Cocking
CEO, ALEC



2019: THE YEAR AHEAD

With fracking on the horizon, increasing climate impacts being felt, the development of a NT Government Climate Strategy, NT environmental laws being under reform, renewable energy in the spotlight and a Federal Election, 2019 is shaping up to be another big year.

ALEC is working across the following key areas;

Safe Climate

- Campaigning for the Northern Territory Government to adopt a climate policy with a target of net zero emissions by 2050.
- Working towards local adaptation planning measures and climate action plans
- Campaigning to ban fracking

Clean Energy

- Working on the transition towards 100% renewable energy
- Supporting an alternative economic plan for the NT
- Debunking myths on the economic benefits of fracked gas

Protecting Country

- Working in partnership to support large scale land management projects
- Advocating for better laws and more resources to protect nature in the NT
- Monitoring new mining and development proposals

Living desertSMART

- Share knowledge and drive innovation for living sustainably in the arid lands
- Support communities to be more energy efficient, reduce waste, grow food locally and conserve water
- Identify opportunities to catalyse systemic change





PLEDGE TO STOP ORIGIN FRACKING

Origin Energy and other fracking companies are lining up to frack the NT after wet season, but together, we won't let them. People should have the final say about what happens to their land, but Origin Energy has ignored the concerns of Traditional Owners and failed to tell communities about the risks involved with fracking.

Communities across the NT have clearly said no to the dangers of fracking, and won't step down. If we're going to take on one of Australia's biggest gas companies and win, we need to build a powerful movement of people willing to have heaps of conversations, take on Origin's brand, and get through to their executive from every angle.

The Protect Country Alliance (PCA) is working with landholders, traditional owners and communities to stop fracking in the NT.

Sign the pledge:

<https://www.protectcountrynt.org.au>

A delegation of Northern Territory farmers, tourism operators, traditional owners and concerned community members travelled to Canberra at the end of 2018 to call for national leadership to ban fracking and protect our climate.

The group met with federal MPs and Senators during the final sittings of parliament for the year, concluding a 4800km fact-finding tour from the Northern Territory through Queensland and Central NSW gasfield impacted regions.

Gadrian Hoosan, a Borroloola-region Traditional Owner said "Our communities stand united in the fight against fracking. We know clean water and healthy country is worth more than the scraps



of gas royalties could ever buy. After seeing the damage gasfields have done elsewhere in Australia we are more determined than ever to make sure the frack rigs never roll into our regions."



PROTECTING TJORITJA

40 years ago ALEC, formerly the Central Australian Conservation Council, played a central role in campaigning for the establishment of the Tjoritja/West MacDonnell Ranges National Park. ALEC has also played a role in advocating for the protection of the Park's heritage values in both its nomination for world and national heritage listing.

ALEC has been engaged over the decades in consultation with joint management plans and conservation strategies for the Park. We have also supported and organised volunteer workshops to raise awareness of the international significance of Tjoritja for its ecological, geological and cultural values.

This January we have witnessed what is likely to be the worst fires in the Park's history as the combination of heatwave conditions and high fuel loads caused tens of thousands of hectares of the Park to burn.

The scale of the fires is devastating, and after

three significant fire events in the last two decades, some areas of the Park may not recover fully.

Climate change is a threat to our natural systems and special places like Tjoritja, and brings more extreme weather, heatwave events, increased spread of weeds like buffel grass and an increase in bushfires.

The Northern Territory Government must urgently invest in greater planning and resources for the Park. An increase in fire events put tourism infrastructure, dedicated park and bushfire volunteers and government employees at great risk.

To the credit of all involved, the Glen Helen, Ormiston Gorge and Standley Chasm ranger stations and visitor centres were protected from the fire, unfortunately however, much of the ranges and the plains were burned.

There are reports of some recovery already





underway, which is welcome, however the fire sensitive *Callitris glaucophylla* (white cypress pine) among other species will not recover in these areas and we have grave concerns about the highly endangered Central Rock Rat *Zyzomys pedunculatus*.

The impact of buffel grass on the spread and intensity of the fire cannot be understated. Buffel grass has continued to infest creek lines and the ranges throughout the Park. The spread of weeds, buffel grass in the south and gamba grass in the north, that cause high fuel loads is a Territory wide issue.

The management of these noxious grasses within the context of climate change is an urgent and critical need to protect what makes our Territory parks special and destinations in their own right. We know these risks are exacerbated by reduced capability and capacity within Parks and Wildlife due to limited resources.

ALEC representatives have visited areas of the Park to bear witness to the impacts of the fires and have spoken to volunteer firefighters, Parks employees and ecologists about the damage done.

All of the people that we have spoken to agree that more needs to be done to protect the values of the Park from regular fire and the expected expansion of buffel grass. Targeted approaches to protecting the ecologically and culturally significant sites from buffel grass and fire are required.

The joint management process for the Park has been disbanded. This poses additional challenges in terms of identifying the target areas for buffel control and protecting the cultural values and special sites on the park.

It is important that this tension is addressed in a timely manner to ensure management moving forward will incorporate the knowledge of local custodians and traditional owners as required by the joint management plans.

There is a need for support and training to develop a confident culture around fire management and to educate tourists of the need to manage fuel loads throughout the cooler months.

NT Parks and Wildlife needs to be funded to





protect the ecological and cultural values without having to trade these off against the demands of visitor management.

ALEC is urging the Northern Territory Government to increase the budget for Parks and Wildlife to protect the Territory's natural icons from the threats posed by weedy grasses, wild fire and ultimately climate change. This will need to be in the order of several hundreds of thousands of dollars each year.

Our key asks are that:

- Climate policy will become a key management priority for national parks.
- Parks services are properly funded so that they can protect the environmental assets and all of the cultural and ecological values of the Park.
- A focus on driving research and innovation into buffel management and understanding how climate change is exacerbating all other threats to the Park.
- Increase research and monitoring into how landscapes are being impacted by these fires and invest in building resilience to climate change.

- This park be properly joint managed through participatory planning, which means bringing in the perspectives of the Arrernte custodians and traditional owners of that country early in the process, not in the later stages.
- Regular controlled burns in mild seasons are carried out to replicate as best as possible traditional burning practices.
- Research and training is funded to better understand these changes in order to be prepared as the impacts of climate change continue to emerge.

The key to success here is timely investment into the health and management of our parks to protect the cultural, environmental and economic values that the Tjoritja/West MacDonnell brings to Central Australia and the Northern Territory.

ALEC has written to Minister Moss, Minister for Tourism and Culture and Minister Eva Lawler, Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources, Minister for Climate Change to advocate for greater resources for Tjoritja.

*Jimmy Cocking, Nicole Pietsch,
Alex Read*





CLIMATE CHANGE IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA ANIMATIONS

ALEC is translating the Climate Change In Central Australia animations into local Aboriginal languages to help Aboriginal people further understand the concept of climate change and its impacts.

The Climate Change in North Australia animation was originally developed by Live and Learn Environmental Education to raise awareness of climate change causes and impacts in the Pacific (translated in Fijian, Vanuatu Bislama, Solomon Island Pidjin).

Together, NAILSMA (North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance) and Live and Learn adapted the animation to be relevant to north Australia and recorded this in English and Kriol in 2015.

See the original English version here.
<https://vimeo.com/114197188>

With funding from the Desert Science Network (Inspiring Australia Programme) and support from the Central Land Council, ALEC has worked with the original project partners, including David

Pennay the original animator from 3 Hands Studios and the Aboriginal Interpreters Service, to have this animation translated into the Arrernte and Warlpiri languages.

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

For effective climate adaptation in remote communities it is essential that Indigenous people are able to understand the implications of climate change.

See the Arrernte version here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=URWUnKD7jd0&feature=youtu.be>

See the Warlpiri version here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9B80MXyilx4&feature=youtu.be>





TERRITORY NEEDS STRONG LAWS FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE

It has been both welcoming and worrying to witness the NT Government undertake a long overdue review of our environmental protection laws.

The Territory needs an open and strong framework that protects and maintains healthy coasts, rivers, deserts, wetlands and natural landscapes that are central to our way of life, our culture and our livelihoods. These places deserve robust, transparent and accountable protections that reflect the high value that Territorians place on our unique natural environment.

Put forward as an election commitment, the laws being proposed by the government provide a range of important new tools for environmental regulators and represent a welcome commitment to increased independence, transparency and accountability in environmental decision-making.

But the self-interested industry influences that are always prevalent within politics are rearing their heads and attempting to derail this important opportunity for genuine reform. It has been worrying to witness the speed at which

the NT Government rolled over to reduce public review rights at the first sign of pressure from industry lobbyists.

Even whilst public consultation was still under way, the Government moved to restricting the right of the community to challenge unlawful and inappropriate environmental approval decisions. Such a move reduces public accountability, increases corruption risk and places public health and the environment at risk.

The NT Government needs to stay the course and deliver on its commitment to introduce fair and effective environmental protection laws. The public needs to trust that this system will deliver and not be undermined by backroom deals. This is increasingly important as shale gas fracking appears on the horizon this year, and we among many others will continue to campaign to ensure that this industry is not allowed to damage our landscapes, groundwater and ecosystems.

We know from history that weak environmental laws have paved the way for destructive development and shut the community out of



<https://aridlands.nationbuilder.com/donate>



important decisions. From the McArthur River to Port Melville, our landscapes are littered with the lasting legacy of an 'anything goes' approach to industrial development – an approach that is enabled by the Territory's outdated and weak environmental laws.

We are witnessing what happens when industry lobbyists determine what happens to natural systems with the ecological disaster currently unfolding in the Darling River catchment.

Hundreds of thousands of native fish have been killed along a stretch of the Lower Darling River in New South Wales, with man-made water mismanagement for irrigation needs the likely culprit. The die-off of fish and other species dependent on the river system is a harsh wake-up call for all of us, and we must ensure that similar avoidable destructions do not occur here in the Territory.

With talk of new extractive industries has come increased pressure for bulldozing native bushland, a large expansion of irrigation programs and heightened pressure on water sources, which in turn create a threat to our rivers, fish stocks and other water users.

With development pressure intensifying every year, we need strong environmental laws to

protect the natural values and way of life that make the Territory such a special place.

Decision-makers need to ensure communities and the natural systems that they depend on are protected from the impacts of the industrialisation of our landscapes that are being proposed. The role of the NT Government is to protect the needs of the community and the environment and understand that these are not to be sacrificed for private interests. Without a healthy environment and strong communities, there is no economy.

The lesson for policymakers here is simple - implement strong, effective protection measures and they will be welcomed and championed by the community, by industries that rely on our rivers, oceans and land, as well as those on the front lines of the environment movement.

The current reforms proposed by the government offer the opportunity to create a strong environmental framework - a critical step in ensuring that development works for all Territorians and secures a healthy future for the Territory environment and its people.

Jimmy Cocking
CEO, ALEC





ALEC Policy Update

2019 is shaping up to be a monumental year for environmental issues. We are regularly hearing about the need to take decisive action to address climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation and water security but are grappling with the institutional, political and individual responses to this awareness.

Confidence in our democratic institutions is waning as our political leaders continue to govern in the interests of a select few rather than for the public interest and interests of nature. Instead we need to strengthen accountability, provide for full transparency and elevate environmental issues so that they are core to economic decision making.

There is ongoing reform across all key policy areas in the Northern Territory; including water, climate change, energy and environmental protection.

This year the Northern Territory will see the introduction of an updated framework for environmental regulation through the Environment Protection Act. This Act will shift the entire system of environmental law to bring it in line with other jurisdictions. A draft of the Bill has been released: it's a comprehensive and strong bill. While there are sections that could go much further, all in all it's a serious improvement. ALEC is working to maintain the pressure on

government to deliver on this key election commitment. See our submission at https://www.alec.org.au/alec_submissions

The key concern following the Bill becomes political in ensuring that the government holds firm and commits to resourcing the Act. There are a whole range of new powers and tools to enforce compliance against strong standards of environmental protection. Compliance and monitoring will be crucial to deliver these improved standards.

The industry lobbyists and commercial interests are already rearing their heads in opposition to these reforms as their influence is challenged. These industries have been operating under the weakest environmental protection laws in Australia.

ALEC is working as part of a broad coalition to advocate for a shift in the narratives around environmental protection. Ultimately the condition of development in the NT should be environmental protection and rehabilitation following closure.

While ALEC will also continue to work with a broad coalition of groups to ensure fracking is banned in the NT, there is also a need to hold the government to account for their commitments to implement a strong regulatory framework.





Policy advocacy in this space means providing another layer of accountability to monitor the progression of legislative amendments so that they comply with the intent and form of all recommendations from the Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing. There is a need to ensure strong systems are in place to prevent any environmental harm from potential exploration activities.

Later in the year we are expecting to see more reforms around waste management, mining law and pollution control. This shift in environmental law is occurring alongside a national conversation about the next generation of environmental laws. A new paradigm in environmental law is drastically needed to elevate environmental issues alongside economic values. These changes will need to be in place to monitor and enforce strong standards of environmental protection against five potential new mines for Central Australia.

Economic imperatives for growth continue to push for the expansion of extractive industries. A condition of operation for these projects must be free prior informed consent and a legal commitment to comply with all rehabilitation requirements. Monitoring these mining developments will continue to be part of the core work of ALEC.

Following on from an entire review of ground water extraction licences granted under the Giles Government, the NT Government is progressing water reform. This will begin with a scoping paper to outline the top issues for water governance and a call to the public to contribute to this list. Aided by the recent operationalising of the Independent Commission Against Corruption, it appears as if there is a serious shift towards accountable and sustainable water use. Water in arid NT will remain a critical issue as the shocks from the Murray Darling catastrophe continue to reverberate.

The Northern Territory does not have to follow that same path, where mining aquifer water is seen as a reasonable cost for economic growth. The groundwater resources are largely non-renewable in the arid zone, but most are intact.

Our advocacy will continue to ensure that aquifers are not mined where possible and the groundwater dependent ecosystems are protected from extraction. This means elevating demand management as a key policy priority for management of aquifers in the Alice Springs Water Control District.

Our policy advocacy will continue through organising meetings with Ministers and senior bureaucrats from various NT Government Departments, engaging the general public on reform and contributing to formal consultation processes.

Policy reform for the first quarter includes:

- Amendments to the Petroleum Act and Water Act for fracking reform.
- Scoping paper for Water reform.
- Guidelines for engaging with stakeholders during environmental assessment.
- Beginning of electricity market reform.

5 things you can do to help protect nature:

- **1. Commit to writing at least one submission on policy consultation.**
- **2. Lobby the federal Environment Minister for more funding for threatened species and biodiversity conservation.**
- **3. Speak to a friend who is on the fence about fracking.**
- **4. Speak to people in your workplace about taking on environmental issues.**
- **5. Engage in a political party and advocate for environmental issues.**

Alex Read
ALEC Policy officer

What You Can Do About Climate Change



Get active in your local community

Collective action is the key to making a difference. Be involved with local groups who are working on addressing climate change.

In Central Australia:

- Become a member and donate to the Arid Lands Environment Centre, a leading voice on climate action in the arid lands
- Join Repower Alice Springs, local renewable energy advocates
- Join the Central Australian Frack Free Alliance, working to ban fracking

Be engaged in politics

Change won't happen unless politicians are aware of public concerns.

- Speak to or email your local member
- Speak to or email key decision making politicians and their advisors
- Engage with government submissions, and climate consultation processes
- Engage with politicians via social media
- Support campaign groups that target political climate action 'blockers' like Get Up
- Vote for climate action

Support renewable energy

Renewable energy is now the cheapest form of new energy, with rapid uptake around the world.

- Support local and national campaigns

like Repower Alice Springs and Repower Australia

- Become a renewable energy advocate
- If you can, switch to renewable energy in your home, and buy an electric vehicle
- Support a fair transition to renewable energy that will benefit all

Support campaigns against new fossil fuel projects

Every dollar invested in fossil fuel projects is money not spent on the transition to renewable energy.

- In the NT banning fracking will help stop emissions rising. Support Aboriginal communities and campaign groups - ALEC, CAFFA, ECNT, Lock The Gate, SEED
- Support campaigns against new coal mines including the Stop Adani campaign, and new fossil fuel projects and infrastructure

Support environment groups leading climate actions

Our inboxes are all full but key climate campaigns and actions need our support.

- Australian Conservation Foundation, The Climate Council, Greenpeace, 350.org, Beyond Zero Emissions, Farmers For Climate Action, SEED



Alice Springs community members at the global Rise For Climate event, September 2018

Support independent journalism

Mass media is owned by conservative billionaires and climate sceptics. We need journalism that reveals the power structures at play and the real impacts of climate change.

- The Guardian Australia, The Conversation and New Matilda

Build strong communities

Work with others to create strong, resilient and sustainable communities.

- Support your local community garden - Alice Springs Community Garden
- Attend sustainability workshops and skill shares
- Be part of community adaptation planning processes
- Volunteer some time towards community projects

Be a climate advocate and inspire others to act

Now is the time for courageous action, and leading by example.

- Educate yourself on the latest climate news and solutions
- Write letters to editors, opinion pieces, and share articles on social media
- Be a climate action advocate amongst your friends, family and work colleagues
- Make art, build gardens, join climate groups, share a positive vision and inspire people!

Make responsible personal choices

Every action towards a more sustainable world helps, and we can all make a difference.

- Increase your energy and water efficiency
- Reduce your transport emissions by reducing flying and vehicle use, increase bike riding, public transport and consider an electric vehicle
- Reduce buying single use plastics and packaging
- Divest from fossil fuels through your choice in banks and insurance companies
- Eat less meat, buy organic where possible, grow your own food if you can
- Consider having a smaller family
- Buy less things

Look after your physical and mental health

A fit and healthy body is more likely to cope with the stresses of the modern world, including anxiety and depression, and climate impacts like heat stress.

- Increase healthy food, reduce processed foods, take aways, alcohol and smoking
- Regularly exercise, try to invest in a standing desk if you work with computers
- Prioritise sleeping and develop good sleep habits
- Detox from constant technology and social media
- Regularly connect with nature and your community
- If you are feeling down or are despairing seek help from support services

Maintain a positive attitude

The future is not yet written, and despite the doom and gloom we can still make a difference.

- Understand climate solutions
- Understand that millions of people around the globe are taking climate action
- Share a positive vision of the future



Rachel and Lilly volunteering on the Plastic Free Stall at the Rise For Climate event, 2018



For more information
www.alec.org.au



COAL IN THE DESERT?

In August 2016, hours before the Giles Country Liberal Party Government went into caretaker mode, 15 000km² of land on the southern border of the NT was packaged and essentially given to a private family company, Tri-star Petroleum as 'special reserved land' for 'coal'.

This decision was made after Mines Minister had travelled to Texas to meet with the company in 2015. ALEC and the Environmental Defenders Office NT made comments at the time. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2016/aug/23/timing-of-nt-governments-secret-deal-with-tri-star-coal-company-queried>

In February 2017, it was reported that TriStar had made a \$5600 donation to the Country Liberal Party on July 29 2016. http://www.territorystories.nt.gov.au/jspui/bitstream/10070/266413/10/Northern%20Territory%20News_20170221_page09_NTNews_News_9.PDF

In September 2017, ALEC represented by the EDONT lodged a Freedom of Information request to the Department of Primary Industries and Resources 'seeking any correspondence which details the type of activities TRI-STAR ENERGY intends to undertake in their Northern Territory tenements'. The request was challenged by Tri-Star and it was eventually referred to the Information Commissioner.

The Information Commissioner found in our favour and recommended that the 224 pages

of information be handed to ALEC in the public interest. On February 28 2018, lawyers representing Tri-Star Energy have appealed this decision and now it will be referred to NT CAT for consideration.

In the meantime, the Federal Government has conducted a Bioregional Assessment for the Pedirka Basin <https://www.bioregionalassessments.gov.au/assessments/pedirka-subregion>. It has found that there could be impacts on Witjira-Dalhousie Springs or possibly the Great Artesian Basin if dewatering for coal extraction occurs. This is not acceptable.

Meanwhile, we have reports from Finke community that the Native Title holders, under some stress have signed an agreement with the company. ALEC does not know the details of the agreement but we have concerns that the decisions made will not benefit the community and will lead to conflict.

ALEC has concerns about the nature of this project and suspects it may be a proposed coal-to-gas or coal-to-liquids project which is highly experimental and greenhouse gas intensive. ALEC has grave concerns for the approach taken by the then Mines Minister and Mines Department head that lead to this situation.

We need help on this project - email info@alec.org.au if you can offer time or funds.





MEDIA RELEASE: ALEC SHINES LIGHT ON UNDERGROUND COAL PROJECT 18.3.19

The Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC) faces an NT Civil and Administrative Tribunal hearing alongside the Department of Primary Industries and Resources in relation to a Freedom of Information request.

ALEC submitted a Freedom of Information request to the Department of Primary Industries and Resources in September 2017 requesting the release of information in regards to the 'proposed activities of Tristar Petroleum in the Pedirka basin'. The company has used lawyers to continually impede this process and had the case referred to the Information Commissioner.

On February 1 2019, the Information Commissioner found in ALEC's and the Department's favour ultimately finding no justification for the withholding of the information. On February 28, the company through its lawyers have appealed this decision and ALEC and the Department will be defending the release of the information at NTCAT at a date yet to be decided.

ALEC is preparing to defend the public interest in an NT Civil Administrative Tribunal appeal by the company against the release of information in regards to the proposed activities at the site near Apatula (Finke) community. ALEC has raised concerns about this project and the process since it was first discovered in the NT Government Gazette on August 5, 2016.

The decision to grant the 'general reserve' for coal was done hours before the Giles Government went into caretaker mode in August 2016. Tristar Petroleum, a private company from Texas, was granted a mineral authority over 15000km² of land in the Pedirka Basin, on the Northern Territory border. This granting of land was made days after a \$6000 donation was made to the Country Liberals and several months

after Mines Minister and Treasurer at the time, Dave Tollner, allegedly visited the managers of the company as part of a taxpayer funded trip to the United States.

In the meantime, it is understood that some Native Title Holders for the area have signed an agreement with the company in support of the project. The Australian Government's Bioregional Assessment for Coal basins for the Pedirka basin found that any dewatering of the aquifers in the Pedirka basin would have negative impacts on National Heritage-listed Dalhousie Springs in Witjira National Park.

'This is a clear case of a private company using legal avenues to slow and hinder the release of important information in the public interest. ALEC has concerns that the banned practice of Underground Coal Gasification is being considered for this project. We are concerned that Traditional Owners have not been given the whole story in relation to this project' said ALEC CEO Jimmy Cocking.

'We have serious concerns about the nature of the granting of land for this project and the risk that this project poses to the natural and cultural heritage of this region. The pollution risks of coal gasification either above or below the ground are unacceptable.'

'The world is abandoning coal. We need to be focusing on a clean energy future, not a dirty coal and gas fired one. ALEC will continue to shine a light on projects and issues shrouded in secrecy that have clear public interest. The NT Government has the power to clean up this mess – by not allowing it to proceed.'

A date for the NTCAT hearing is unknown at the time of writing.





Having trouble paying your energy bills?

If you currently receive Centrelink assistance, you are eligible for a FREE home energy audit. Audits help you to save power and save money. Contact the COOLmob team to find out more.

Register online at www.coolmob.org
Or contact Rachel O'Leary on 8952 2497.



Arid
Lands
Environment
Centre

COOLmob

Environment Centre NT

protecting nature | living sustainably | creating a climate for change





LIVE ENERGY SMART

Lunchtime Presentation

12pm-1.30pm Tuesday 26th March
Andy McNeill Room, Alice Springs Town Council

A COOLmob lunchtime presentation on the top energy efficiency tips and ways you can reduce energy use and save money in your home.

With:

Sue Dugdale, Architect

Housing design features to improve the liveability of your home

Rachel O'Leary, COOLmob

Top energy efficiency tips to save money on your power bills

Lunch provided. Please RSVP for catering. https://www.alec.org.au/live_energy_smart
For more info email rachel.oleary@alec.org.au or call 08 89522497





It's been a hot summer, but that hasn't stopped the Arid Edge team. We've been keeping busy with all sorts of projects.

It's been planting time at Braitling school, where we've been putting the finishing touches on the landscaping for the redevelopment of the primary school. Incorporating water harvesting dry creek beds, a paved citrus orchard and musical play equipment for the toddlers, this beautiful playground has been designed and installed by our amazing landscaping team. We just want to know when we get to come back and have a play in it!!

We've also been busy this summer knocking back the buffel at the Ilparpa claypans. Working with local Arrernte families, Friends of the Ilparpa Claypans, Landcare and funded by the Department of Environment, this project has seen almost 3 ha cleared of buffel cleared in a few weeks.

Beautiful big old coolibahs, ghost gums, corkwoods and ironwoods are being protected



from the threat of intense buffel fires, and local Arrernte workers are being employed to look after country. Great results all around!

Alex McClean
Arid Edge Manager





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COOLMOB ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT

The COOLmob Energy Efficiency Project is well underway here at ALEC. The school education part of this project has been the highlight of this project. We are working with four schools in Alice Springs and one school in Tennant Creek, teaching a variety of classes across the Year 5 and 6 level.

The first lesson focused on how we make electricity, the different ways we generate electricity and their impacts and how this is contributing to climate change. As part of this class, students brainstorm different solutions, coming up with actions they could take (or are already taking) to live more sustainably.

Some of their ideas have been ingenious. Ideas such as combining solar and wind technologies, so when it's not windy the turbine is still generating (solar) power, a call to action to eat less beef and more kangaroo, inspiration to ride bikes to school, and an idea to tell the Prime Minister about climate change (he obviously doesn't know about it yet or else he'd be acting on it), and brainstorming ways to use less energy at home and school!

They look surprised when I share with them that by the time they are my age (in 30 years) they

SAVE POWER SAVE MONEY

- \$ Use a fan before an air conditioner
- \$ In summer set your air conditioner to 23°C (or higher)
- \$ In winter set your temperature to 18°C (or lower)
- \$ Clean your air conditioning system twice a year
- \$ Close blinds/curtains when you leave the house
- \$ Turn off lights, fans, air conditioning when you leave
- \$ Install a water-saving showerhead
- \$ Keep showers under 5 minutes
- \$ Wash clothes on cold setting and with a full load
- \$ Use low energy lights (eg. LEDs)

COOLmob

will most probably be driving an electric vehicle!

The future indeed feels bright to me with these smart and capable young people who are the young leaders of the future. Let's hope that over the next ten years Australia can take significant climate action; to use our resources as efficiently as possible, to transition from fossil fuels to a clean renewable energy source for homes, businesses and cars, and to provide a safe, comfortable and equitable future for these young people.

Rachel O'Leary
COOLmob Project Officer





The Summer Garden

Summer's torrid heat has been reflected in the Community Garden! Many plots have been languishing but quite a few are staying productive, mostly those with shade cloth. For those plots fully exposed to the heat of the sun, it's probably both wise and kind to new plants to wait at least until mid-March before planting.

Meantime we're composting, spreading manure and generally preparing as comprehensively as we can to be ready to start autumn planting with a vengeance. A week or two of cooler weather and soaking rain may be too much to ask?

Appropriately, as a member of Gardens for Wildlife, the shade, protection, water and vitality of our Garden continue to attract lizards large and small and similarly many birds that appear wedded to us. Our beautiful friends are also keeping the grasshoppers down.

Garden Committee

The Garden committee has recommenced meeting at 5pm on the second Tuesday of the month at the Garden. Garden members are always welcome to come along and may join the committee at any time. **Our next meeting is on Tuesday March 12th.**

Plot Holder Update

Hannah Maljcov has taken over from Philippe Freidel as the Plot Holders' Rep and she's been busy signing up new plot holders and orientating them. At this stage all 45 individual plots have been leased and there's a short waiting list, an excellent position for the Garden's ongoing

productivity and sustainability.

We have 8 community plots that are popular with members. Hearty thanks should go to the small number of members who actively maintain them. Food for Alice has a plot and we are considering allocating them another as a means of fundraising for the Garden.

Working Bees

Working bees are a rewarding necessity. They're **held every Sunday morning and volunteers buzz around busily between 8-11**. On the Garden white board there's generally an up to date list of jobs that can be done at any time .

The Committee has agreed to holding **a working bee on the third Thursday each month from 5pm to dusk** to provide people with an alternative to volunteering on a Sunday morning. Thursday March 21st will be our first afternoon tryout. Anyone and everyone welcome! Garden inductions are always available to new members

Friday Social Get Together!

From 5pm on the last Friday of each month we hold a 'bring your own and share' social get together at the Garden. It offers an hour or two of fun, meeting young and old, munching, drinking and friendly chatting and is open to all. **Join us on Friday March 29th.**

Fundraisin' Fun Run

Starting at the Garden at 7am on Sunday 24 March, the Alice Running Club in partnership with the Garden will be holding a 5km run and walk event in the hills behind Kurrajong Drive. \$15 entry will include breakfast (muesli, fruit salad, BBQ sausages). A coffee van will attend and we hope musos. All profits will go to the Garden. Look out for a poster. We'd love to attract 100 people or more. John Bermingham is organising the event and he'll need at least 6 volunteers – 3 for breakfast and 3 for water tables out on the course.





Communications

ALEC keeps an email list of all those ALEC members who have expressed an interest in being members of the Garden community. Garden members should receive regular Garden news and updates, including events. They can contact Bruce Simmons the Garden Convenor at info@alicecommunitygarden.org.au with any ideas or concerns. This address can also be used for plot applications.

What's Coming up??

Mostly lots more productive business as usual as highlighted above but we will hold a grand opening of our new office/kitchen and disability toilet in a couple of months' time.

**Bruce Simmons
ASCG Convenor**



A recent Perentie friend visiting the garden

Support ALEC by making a donation as a gift for a friend or loved one. Email business@alec.org.au for more details.



**THE GIFT OF A DONATION
TO THE ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE**

TO: FROM:

PROTECTING COUNTRY, GROWING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES



FOOD ALICE

FOR

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.

MARKET STALL
EVERY SATURDAY MORNING!
9-11AM @ ALEC



Join the Facebook group to see what produce we have!

Arid Lands Environment Centre,
90 Gap Rd, Alice Springs
contact Carmel: 0409 180 614

Food For Alice is proudly supported by Arid Lands Environment Centre & 8CCC Community Radio



BRINGING LOCAL FARMS & BACKYARD GROWERS OF ALICE SPRINGS TO THE TABLE.



RePower is committed to our mission of having Alice Springs 100% solar by 2030. This goal has been made more urgent with the IPCC report of November 2018 stating that the world goal must be a limit of 1.5oC warming.

This year we have decided to take a multi-pronged approach to realising our mission. These approaches include:

- Advocating a solar power system for the Roe Creek pumping station – one of the towns biggest power user
- Developing nano-grids, including battery back-up for Alice Springs suburbs.
- Developing a web site which will include educational tools that can be used by groups,

schools and other interested parties to promote our mission.

- Advocating to government to set a 100% renewable energy target, along with renewable grid backup solutions and renewable transport goals.
- Advocating for a making Central Australia a Renewable Energy hub for the nation
- Providing submissions to the NTG review of electricity management

We will continue to have a presence at the Todd Mall markets to increase our active membership and to inform the people of Alice Springs about the bright solar future of our town.

Our next meeting will be at 5pm Monday 1st April at the Arid Lands Environment Centre (corner of Kraegen and Gap rd.)

If you want to take action on climate change and are not sure how, attending a meeting and joining in could be your first step.

Like our facebook page and keep updated
www.facebook.com/repoweralicesprings/

Harshini Bartlett
RePower Alice Springs Chair





Right across the NT local groups and communities are building power in the fight to protect the NT from shale gas fracking.

The fracking industry eagerly awaits the NT government passing numerous pieces of legislation as they scramble to satisfy the fracking Inquiry recommendations.

And in other parts of the world investors are bailing out of fracking operations after a decade of loss-making, with hundreds of companies filing for bankruptcy, taking local economies with them.

The powerful sway that industry has with this NT government becomes clearer by the day.

You can act right now to influence some key regulatory reform that is underway. There are

currently amendments being made to the NT Water Act. There are three key things that are wrong with the Bill – and your help is needed to make sure the NT Government fixes it! It's critically important to add your voice.

Jump on to the Lock the Gate website and spend a minute to personalise your quick submission on fracking in the Water Act (lockthegate.good.do/ntwateract2019/)

Here in Central Australia there is an ongoing push to ensure that the Alice Springs Water Control District is zoned off limits to fracking. Minister Wakefield has committed to working with CAFFA to protect Alice Springs water once and for all.

Want to help out? **Give Dale Wakefield a call on (08) 8951 5463** and let her know that she has your supporting protecting the Alice Springs water supply and remind her of the urgency of making this happen NOW.

The Alice Springs community ended 2018 by coming together as a community and planning forward how we would best work together to stop





fracking in 2019.

As a result of this meeting, and in recognising that this is a diverse movement with many people and skills to contribute there are now a number of smaller groups that are focussing on different elements of the campaign.

You might be a creative, a legal/policy head, a politics nerd..or just a good old fashioned do-er. Whatever it might be- get in touch with CAFFA at frackfreecoordinator@gmail.com to link in and talk about where you might like to contribute. This is the year to stop fracking and your help will make a difference.

A big thanks to community members who doorknocked streets in Larapinta about fracking and the Alice Springs water control district. More than 90% of all households on the streets surveyed wanted the Alice Springs Water Control District to be frack free.

CAFFA will continue to work as part of the Protect Country Alliance NT. The alliance brings together impacted landholders, communities, and

civil society groups concerned about gas fracking proposals or projects in the Northern Territory.

Check out the Protect Country NT website at protectcountrynt.org.au to stay up to date with the campaign and for those key moments when a strong community response is called upon.

The ongoing resilience and strength of the Central Australian community in the fight to protect water, country and culture is inspiring. Keep up the amazing work.

Jesse Hancock
Frack Free Coordinator

frackfreecoordinator@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/CentralAusFrackFree/





CLIMATE CHANGE, THE WORLD CONGRESS OF ACCOUNTANTS AND FINANCIAL REPORTING FRAMEWORKS

Why do the words Climate Change, the World Congress of Accountants and Reporting Frameworks have any business being in the same sentence? Easy. As part of my membership to the CPA (Certified Public Accountant) I need to keep up with current accounting information. Most times I have to admit to this being a bit, well, boring.

If you can imagine it, I sat down recently with my popcorn, notepad and toothpicks holding up my eyelids to watch a panel of experts talking about “Converging Reporting Frameworks” that was part of the Congress. To my surprise it was a very interesting, engaging and thought-provoking panel discussion on climate change.

There were some very interesting bits of information in the discussions. Like the fact that under Australian Accounting Standards the mining sector disclose value drivers such as reserves and resources outside of the financial statements, which means that this information is not required to be tested to the same standard as the financial statements.

In non-accounting language, these are assets (things they own, like a house) and liabilities (things they owe, like a mortgage) that are not being disclosed in an area that is audited (imagine going for a home loan and not disclosing that you have a second income, or a loan already and it never being picked up).

Whilst it is a bit more complicated than this when incorporating intangible's, the principle is the same. How can an investor choose wisely if they can not trust the information? There is growing evidence that investors want to know about climate change. Movements are happening towards investments that show they are working towards addressing the risks of climate change

on the world stage. The words ‘Climate Risk’ are being used more and more and investors want to know their investments are safe.

As one of the Panellists Mardi McBrien puts it, ‘Climate change is as much an economic problem as it is an environmental or scientific problem’. The economic costs of not addressing the risks of climate change are substantial and business are already feeling it.

It is estimated by the UN that by moving now to address the risks of climate change it would help avoid over half of the economic costs that would be felt if we don't. Just to put a figure on it, the estimated economic cost of not keeping world temperatures to a maximum of 1.5-degree increase is 35 trillion US dollars.

What excites me about all of this, is this was the WORLD Congress, high level accounting delegates from all over the world coming together to inform, discuss and help mould the future of accounting worldwide. These are the people influencing world accounting standards, which influence country accounting standards.

The message was pretty clear. Our current accounting standards are not good enough and we have to move quickly to get them up to speed to address the issue of climate change. The aim is to create more sustainable, holistic and connected businesses and markets with secure longer-term returns. This is powerful and influential financial information that is affecting investment and is happening beyond governments on a global scale.

Change is happening!

Carmel Vandermolen
Business Operations Manager





DEGROWTH: A GOOD LIFE FOR ALL

Climate change, pollution, species extinctions, depression, crime; we all know the problems.

Degrowth is a worldwide movement. Degrowth is not recession. It is about having the essentials in life: food, shelter, medical care, modest amounts of (renewable) energy, etc. People will have fewer possessions but more time with family, friends and community. They will be more self-reliant and have more self-respect. This generally means less crime and better mental health.

Politicians aim for 3% growth in GDP which is a doubling every 24 years. But this roughly equals growth of materials – timber, metals, fossil fuels, fish, etc; and the waste they produce.

Corporations strive to keep growing using “efficiencies” like automation and layoffs. This increases social problems such as unemployment, under-employment, meaningless jobs, inequality, etc.

The Degrowth movement is rapidly building. There are university degrees in Degrowth and the EU government have had their first Degrowth conference (they used the alternative name “Post-Growth”). There are many similar movements: Permaculture, Regenerative Farming, Transition Towns, Community Gardens, Eco Villages, The Simpler Way, etc.

Let's look at a typical city then consider Alice Springs separately. The changes needed are radical but achievable. In overdeveloped countries we need to massively reduce our consumption of stuff and fossil fuels. Our lives will become more local: less commuting (most people won't own cars), fewer imported products, and many people will grow a lot of their own food. Fancy a three day week anyone? Many changes require government action, but that won't happen till enough people demand

change, and research shows that enough is only 3.5%.

Many people talk of “collapse”, with empty supermarket shelves, and other dire outcomes, but breakdown (environmental, financial and social) is already happening, at unprecedented levels: floods, bushfires, cold snaps, fish deaths, insects disappearing, depression, drug use, and global debt higher than at the GFC. But Degrowth is more about action than dwelling on the bad news.

What about renewable energy, recycling, and the many things we are already doing to improve the environment? They are all part of Degrowth because they reduce material and energy use, so keep doing them, but as long as the economy is growing they won't save us.

Alice Springs has some good things for transitioning to Degrowth. It's not too big (no long commutes), is great for cycling, has a good community spirit. It even has its very own Degrowth facebook group, called “Degrowth - Alice Springs”.

However, many things make our environmental footprint even higher than the Australian average. The need to beat the heat with air conditioning and car travel, high water use, not much local food production, and the big one – our reliance on air travel, both for our tourism industry, and for flights to visit family and escape the summer heat (the writer doesn't fly). Nevertheless, we still need to do whatever we can. As conditions worsen we could be more affected than most towns.

Both population and consumption are problems. The population growth rate is decreasing and every effort should be made to reduce it further. Over the last century population grew 4 fold but



real GDP rose by a factor of 24.

People feel overwhelmed by the large populations of China and India, but their environmental footprints are 3.7gha (global hectares) and 1.1 gha compared to Australia's 6.9 gha. Convergence is necessary as our consumption decreases while the living standard of developing countries increases.

Countries must "wake up" and take action; but why risk our economy when Australia is only a tiny fraction of global consumption? Because one country must lead. If that doesn't happen, then recession will be the least of our worries – we are currently on track for 3 degrees warming, or much more, which means dire consequences for humanity. Doubtless, some countries won't follow, so we can expect trade wars based on environmental issues. Who better to lead? Yes, we all have our daily problems but Aussies are well educated, resourceful, and have one of the highest standards of living of any country.

What should we do?

Learn about Degrowth and Permaculture. Raising awareness is the most important action we can take. We need a "critical mass" of people so that the media and politicians wake up. Spread the message with family, friends and on social media.

We must adjust our thinking. Our lifestyle isn't normal, either historically or now. The majority of the world's people live on between \$US2 and \$8 a day. Degrowth doesn't mean poverty but we can change our outlook. "I don't need that car/clothes/thing to feel good about myself". We must realise that the "environment" is our life support system (Mother Earth). Change can be difficult, but we must accept that it is coming; either by disaster or design.

Continue the well known actions you are probably already doing. Reuse, repair, recycle,

compost. Eat less meat. Give up dairy. Buy local. Don't have more than two children; one is even better. Drive less. Plant some veggies and fruit or nut trees.

If you have a higher income you can do more. Divest your investments from fossil fuels. Don't fly unless it's really important (most people have never flown). Move to a smaller house with a bigger yard for veggies. Lead by example. If family and friends see you make major changes then they will notice and consider their own actions.

Degrowth is also known as Post-growth, Décroissance, Postwachstum, and Doughnut Economics. There are many websites, such as:

- www.degrowth.info/en
- www.resilience.org

And many books:

- George Monbiot "Out of the Wreckage" 2017.
- David Owen "The Conundrum" 2012
- David Holmgren "RetroSuburbia" 2018
- Tim Jackson "Prosperity Without Growth" 2017

Kirk Hall

<https://www.facebook.com/Degrowth-its-urgent-156038284954858/>



"Anyone who believes in indefinite growth on a physically finite planet is either mad, or an economist"

- David Attenborough





NOTHING SHOULD BE CLASSIFIED AS WASTE

Veena Sahajwalla was an inspiring guest speaker from ALEC's desertSMART EcoFair event in 2016. This article is reprinted from The Guardian Australia on Veena's latest work.

Author: Alexandra Spring

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/mar/06/nothing-should-be-classified-waste-veena-sahajwalla-sees-crisis-as-opportunity>

Veena Sahajwalla has a solution for the waste crisis. While for most people the ever-growing mountains of rubbish stockpiled around the world seems like an overwhelming problem, the materials scientist and engineer sees the crisis as an opportunity that could help us to rethink the way we make and dispose of everything in our lives.

Take textiles. Australians send around 88% of textiles to landfill, with around 6,000kg of clothing dumped every 10 minutes. Earlier this year, there was a nationwide clearing-out flurry, leading to charity shops being inundated with unwanted goods. Most were destined for landfill.

Sahajwalla is already on it. She and her team at University of New South Wales's centre for sustainable materials research and technology (SMaRT) in Sydney have been working on a manufacturing process to create building materials from old textiles, paper and glass. These waste materials are stripped down to their basic elements, then reformed into floor tiles, ceiling tiles or sound-absorbing wall tiles.

The idea of reforming waste is what drives her. She was first recognised for inventing "green steel", a process in which old rubber tyres were melted down to be used to replace some of the coke in the production of steel. Millions of tyres were diverted from landfill and used by OneSteel,

an Arrium company, now owned by Sanjeev Gupta's Liberty House Group, to manufacture steel.

The way she sees it, while things get old or damaged at a superficial level, their basic elements still exist and can be reused to create new products. "All of these products will come to the natural end of their lives as the macro product but at the micro level, the basic elements – the fibres in garments or the actual elements that exist in plastics and tiles – they are still there. Your tyres [may be] worn down, that doesn't mean the carbon has disappeared, and the hydrogen, it's all in there, it's part of the molecular structure."

She adds: "Ultimately we want to get to the point where nothing should be classified as waste but [instead] it's a product that's reached the end of its life and ... it's just waiting to be reformed into something else."

One of her next projects was tackling e-waste and she applied the same thinking. Discarded laptops, smartphones and circuit boards were transformed into valuable metal alloys such as copper and tin by exposing them to heat, while the glass and plastic could be converted into materials used in industrial-grade ceramics and plastic filaments for 3D printing.

She also came up with another piece to the puzzle by inventing a way in which these processes could be done by small local businesses. Micro factories are single or a series of small machines that use technology to transform waste. They can be incorporated into just about any existing manufacturing businesses, from a car workshop to a local window frame maker, and they can be switched around to process different types of waste, depending on what is required or what waste



products are available.

It's the opposite of mass production, Sahajwalla explains, with things produced at a smaller scale and customised to what is needed. "The notion of reform is that you've got so much agility and flexibility, that you're not producing the same thing all the time and you've got the ability to be able to change your supply chain any time you wish to."

Her team has turned their minds to other waste materials, including glass. Glass is a huge waste problem in Australia: we consume about 1.36m tonnes of glass per year and in 2017, it was reported that hundreds of tonnes of waste glass were being stockpiled because it's cheaper to import glass bottles than recycle them. And while it's widely believed glass is easy to recycle, most common forms of glass create problems.

These are the limitations of traditional recycling, says Sahajwalla, because nothing is ever truly pure in real life. "A glass recycler will take your nice clean bottles and clean domestic cups – but don't put in architectural glass, don't put in coloured glass. Suddenly you start to see why glass recycling is not so simple."

In reality, glass products are always made of mixed materials. "You will always have labels and the different colours, the jam jars will always have lids ... There is always going to be that level of cross contamination."

In Sahajwalla's more advanced recycling process, cross contamination is a virtue rather than a problem. Those walls, floors and ceiling tiles created by microfactories are a blend of different materials so having labels on the glass isn't a concern. In fact the blends are what give the tiles their unique properties, with wood adding strength and textiles offering sound absorbency.

The tiles can also be truly smart too, with inbuilt

electronic componentry for wireless charging, plug and play devices, sensors and smart lights. And because this is all about minimising waste, Sahajwalla says tiles can be replaced individually, rather than necessitating a complete overhaul whenever technology is updated or colour schemes changed.

Next on her list of problems to solve is that of food waste. In Australia, one in five shopping bags ends up in the bin each year, according to OzHarvest, and while some of it could be diverted to compost, there's already an oversupply. Speaking at the recent Times Higher Education summit, Sahajwalla revealed that the team had worked with Planet Ark to create a tile made with a high proportion of old coffee grounds. And she promises that there's more to come.

The thing that frustrates her most is the idea of burning or burying waste. "You are losing those elements forever by burning it. There are some things where by burning it, you are completely ruining the whole thing ... You have taken everything backwards by putting it in an incinerator just in the quest to get rid of the waste."

Instead, she says it would be better to deal with the reality of modern products and how they end up as waste. "We're never going to go back," she says "That is the product, this is life, now let's be clever."



Image: Anna Kucera/UNSW



BUY A COFFEE FOR NATURE?



Do you ever find yourself at a café wishing you could do more to protect nature?

Well now you can!

The Arid Lands Environment Centre has been generously supported by The Bakery and Page 27 through hosting our new touchpoint donation system.

Now you can make a tax deductible donation whenever you're feeling generous or wanting to contribute to protecting the beautiful arid lands that we call home.

The tap system allows you to 'buy a coffee for nature' by donating \$5 that goes directly to supporting the work of ALEC to protect nature and grow sustainability in our communities.

A huge THANK YOU to the 25 or so wonderful people who participated in **Clean Up The Claypans for Clean Up Australia Day 2019!** This year's efforts removed approximately one tonne of assorted waste. One participant commented with a frown "I didn't realise how much rubbish was here til I looked closer".

Thank you to the Friends of the Ilparpa Claypans, Alice Springs Landcare, Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC) and Arid Edge Environmental Services who helped organise and promote the day.

Also thank you to the Outback 4wd Club for dragging out a rusty old car wreck and collecting larger rubbish from the bush areas.





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

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

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



Donate at www.alec.org.au



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