

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE



WINTER 2019

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



CONTENT

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The Devils Advocate is the quarterly newsletter of the Arid Lands Environment Centre.

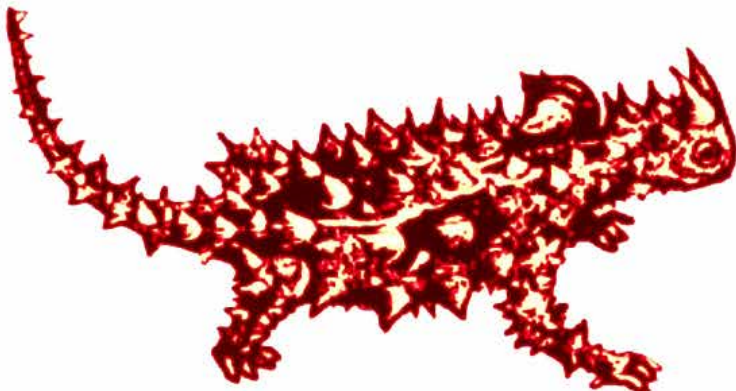
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The Arid Lands Environment Centre acknowledges and pays respect to the Traditional Owners and Elders who have and continue to stand up for and look after this country.

CEO'S Welcome
Donation Touch Points
Defending The Desert
Volunteer With Us
ALEC Media
EcoFair Shines A Light On Science And Sustainability
desertSMART EcoFair Program
ALEC Policy Update
40 Years Of ALEC
Lhere Mparntwe Walk Talk And Buffel Bust
What's Your 2040 Vision
Bonne Voyage
COOLMob Energy Efficiency Project
Arid Edge Environmental Services
Central Australian Frack Free Alliance
Have Your Say On Fracking No Go Zones
RePower Alice Springs
The 10GW Vision That Could Turn The Northern Territory Into An Economic Powerhouse
Alice Springs Community Garden
Food For Alice
Reducing Waste At The Show
Climate Crisis Not Climate Change
Donate to ALEC

**Arid
Lands
Environment
Centre**





CEO'S WELCOME

G'day folks and welcome to the Winter edition of the Devil's Advocate, the Arid Lands Environment Centre's quarterly publication.

From July, ALEC will be in its 40th year since being incorporated in 1980. Previously known as the Central Australian Conservation Council (CACC), the Arid Lands Environment Centre was originally the home of both the Conservation Council and the Alice Springs Peace Group. Both groups engaged the community on issues of importance to Central Australians.

While ASPG focused on the military-industrial complex and Alice Springs being the home to Pine Gap, CACC worked on National Parks, sustainable land management, protecting the Todd River and our natural resources. In 1991, the ASPG was wound up as the Cold War ended and in 1992, CACC was changed to ALEC.

ALEC has continued to stand up and speak up for Central Australia ensuring that our vision of 'healthy futures for arid lands and people' remains front and centre.

Many people who have been involved with ALEC over the years still live in Alice Springs, while many more have contributed and moved on to continue doing great work in other parts of Australia and the world. We're reaching out to all of these people to reconnect with ALEC and this country for what will be our 40th birthday celebrations in July 2020.

As we face the future both with courage and trepidation as we oscillate between hope and despair on a planet that is warming, increasingly polluted and in the midst of an extinction crisis – we recognise the need for transformation.

We need to transform the economy; our energy systems, transportation systems and our social

system; both in how we work and how we build resilience and adaptive capacity of our communities.

In order to do this, we need to transform the way that people engage on environmental issues. We need to ensure that we are standing up to put First Nations people first. Justice is a critical element of the work that we do and the advocacy needs to reflect this.

We need to build people power to fight the fossil fuel industry and its plans to pump ever more pollution into the air and our aquifers. We need to build people power to help restore ecosystems and our democratic institutions to ensure they are planning and acting to reduce the risks of climate damage on our communities.

We need to transform our organisations to ensure that we are capable of meeting these challenges. ALEC is no different.

As we approach our 40th year, we are undergoing the greatest transformation of the organisation since I've been at the helm (more than 11 years) and possibly in the history of ALEC.

The momentum and scale of our activity is unmatched for an organisation of our size but in order to sustain this, we need to transform.

As we say goodbye to some senior staff and thank both Carmel and Nicole for their 7 years of service, we have an opportunity to change the way that we operate, communicate and engage our supporters and the general public.

We need help to do this and we're putting the call out for volunteers to get involved.





You're invited to be a part of this transition.... please take 5 mins to complete the survey and let us know what you need to support your engagement in ALEC and what we need to do to keep you inspired, motivated and active in our collective work.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/alecsupporterssurvey2019>

Jimmy Cocking
CEO, ALEC

Take ten minutes to do the ALEC supporter survey. Scan the QR code.



DONATION TOUCH POINTS

Thankyou to our supporters at The Bakery, Page 27, Epilogue Lounge, Tourism Central Australia and Montes Lounge for hosting our tax deductible donation touch points.

More than \$1800 has been raised so far since February, the units cost ALEC approximately \$500 a piece and \$15 per unit per month.

Please support ALEC by making a small donation next time you buy a coffee, visit Montes or Tourism Central Australia.





DEFENDING THE DESERT

ALEC is an independent organisation that depends on financial support from people who care about the desert country and the work that we do in protecting it.

With our supporters and volunteers ALEC is working hard to ban fracking and for strong action on the climate crisis. We are working with a range of organisations, groups, volunteers and community members to work towards a safe, sustainable and prosperous future.

What we have done together in 2018-19

- Project managed the construction of the Alice Springs Community Garden kitchen, office and accessible toilet
- Completed translations of the Climate Change in Central Australia film into Arrernte and Warlpiri languages
- Completed the 'What is Climate Change?' brochure to inform desert communities of the local and regional impacts of climate change and what we can do about it
- Continued to campaign strongly for a ban on fracking in the Northern Territory keeping this important issue in the headlines
- Written submissions on the Environment Protection Bill, NT Climate Change Strategy, Petroleum Act Amendment Bill, Codes of Practice for Petroleum Activities, Water Act amendments, Alice Springs Climate Action Plan
- Coordinated the development of the Integrated Buffel Grass Management Plan for the Great Victoria Desert as part of the 10 Deserts Project
- Coordinated the 10th Ecofair with a focus on climate and clean energy
- Coordinated 35 signatories to the NT Climate Statement
- Supported Repower Alice Springs to develop a website and increase community engagement towards a 100% renewable

powered Alice Springs

- Supported the 2nd Southern Deserts Ranger Forum with 60+ indigenous rangers near Kalgoorlie
- Delivered the COOLmob Energy Smart project in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek
- Engaged in national dialogue on climate, fracking and environmental protection
- Campaigned strongly for the environment and climate in the Lingiari electorate in the recent Federal election
- Continued to build momentum towards our vision of 'healthy futures for arid lands and people.'

With your support in 2019-20 we will:

- Increase volunteer engagement and provide more opportunities for our supporters to be directly involved in our work
- Increase engagement with Aboriginal communities and pastoralists on the impacts of the climate crisis and how we can take effective action locally
- Engage with the Federal Government and our new Environment Minister to ensure the outback is not forgotten
- Ensure the implementation of the new NT Environmental Protection Act is universally applied to mining and petroleum projects in the region
- Push for a ban on fracking whilst ensuring the implementation of the NT Fracking Inquiry recommendations are completed
- Push for a ban on underground coal gasification in the Northern Territory
- Continue to campaign strongly for a 'Green New Deal' approach to economic development in the Northern Territory
- Coordinate the Buffel Free Great Victoria Desert project and the implementation of the management plan as part of the 10 Deserts Project



- Support the development of a community garden in the Gillen area
- Develop a business plan for the Alice Springs Community Garden to support its long-term sustainability
- Organise ALEC's 40th birthday celebrations for July 2020
- Establish an endowment fund to support ALEC's work into the future

Big problems require all of us working together. Your financial contribution will make a difference. Become a regular giver at https://www.alec.org.au/desert_defenders or make a one off donation at <https://www.alec.org.au/donate>

VOLUNTEER WITH US

We are taking on a new approach to engaging volunteers in our work at ALEC. We have held two volunteer onboarding sessions with a total of 18 people getting to know ALEC better and how they can get more involved.

It's very exciting to have so many people keen to step up and give their time to support our work. Volunteers will be working to support our policy work, events, promoting activities, strategising and campaigning for environmental protection, waste reduction and climate action.

We're looking to have regular volunteer catch ups that will help grow our active ALEC community. Sharing food, sharing ideas and sharing our efforts towards ALEC's vision of

'healthy futures for arid lands and people.'

Examples of ways you can contribute:

- Admin - excel spreadsheets, Nationbuilder website, data entry
- Outreach - phone banking, letterbox drops, door knocking
- Poster run - poster around town
- Market stalls – ALEC info stalls and plastic free markets
- Policy - letter writing, research, campaigns
- Events - events support, door, bar, cooking
- Garden/building - gardening, painting, odd jobs

Register your interest at www.alec.org.au/volunteer or give us a call on 08 8952 2497.



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





ALEC MEDIA

20.6.19; The 10 Gigawatt Vision – Repowering the Northern Territory

Environment Centre NT and Beyond Zero Emissions have today released the report ‘The 10 Gigawatt Vision: How renewable energy can power jobs and investment in the Northern Territory’.

The report has found that by pursuing a 10 Gigawatt Vision, the Northern Territory can put renewable energy at the centre of a sustainable growth strategy that could create over 8,000 new jobs and over \$2 billion in revenue by 2030.

By adopting the 10 Gigawatt Vision the NT Government could prevent over 20 billion tonnes of carbon emissions from entering the atmosphere and accelerating global warming.

“However you look at it, renewable energy is a strong and stable foundation for the Territory to build its economy on, unlike shale gas and other fossil fuels, which have a bleak outlook as investors and business fall out of love with fossil fuels,” said Shar Molloy, Director, Environment Centre NT.

“Should NT leaders back a resilient economy that has good future growth prospects and is good for people and the planet, or a polluting and financially risky economy that will make life more difficult, expensive, and unsafe? The answer is as clear as day,” said Molloy.

“This inspiring and properly costed report moves the renewable transition beyond the visionary and into the possible. It outlines a clear blueprint for growing a strong economy built on the employment and revenue that abundant solar power provides,” said Alex Read, Policy Officer from the Arid Lands Environment Centre.

“A solar power export industry offers significant advantages over gas including more local jobs without destabilising the climate and wrecking our water supplies.

“The future is renewables, not fracked gas and we urge Territorians to read the report and get behind this safe and sustainable growth strategy for the NT,” said Alex Read.

Download the report at: <https://bze.org.au/research/regional/repowering-nt/>


13.6.19; NT Ministers Muddy the Waters On Fracking

The Arid Lands Environment Centre is deeply concerned by comments in recent days by Minister Eva Lawler that fracking ‘commercial production will resume soon’, despite the Government’s own timeline stating the production of fracked gas will not occur until 2021.

In an ABC article yesterday, (<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-12/nt-fracking-exploration-could-begin-within-days-gas-wells/11204340>) Chris Shaw from the Territory Environment Department has stated that works are expected to start at sites in ‘coming days, if not weeks’.

This is despite the fact that there are still recommendations that have not been implemented, no go zones have not been finalised, the monitoring and compliance strategy has not been released, and there is no information on how the Northern Territory Government is going to offset the pollution that will be produced from the exploration.

The public were adamant that guidelines need to be revised to protect the environment but this call has effectively been ignored by government.





ALEC has concerns that the NT Government is approving Environmental Management Plans that are not consistent with recommendations from the Fracking Inquiry. The public needs certainty on when exploration will be permitted to commence.

“Based on Government statements yesterday, community members are confused on where the process is up to,” said Jimmy Cocking, CEO Arid Lands Environment Centre.

“Is commercial production going to start soon, or is it in 2021? The 135 recommendations are far from being completed, and a number of recommendations need to be completed before exploration can occur, including consideration of submissions in relation to the No Go Zones.”

“We are concerned that there is land clearing and a range of works that is commencing, before the necessary regulations and laws are finalized.”

“The NT Government does not have a climate strategy and there is no information on how the emissions are to be offset from exploration and production.”

“Most concerning is that the revised code of practice still allows waste water to be stored in ‘open tanks’ exposing local ecosystems to serious risks of contamination.”

“No further EMPs should be approved until it is clear that all recommendations are in place as required by the inquiry and there are strong laws to protect the environment.”

“Minister Lawler and Minister Kirby must clarify where the process is up to and where the line between exploratory fracking ends and commercial production begins.”

“The recommendations were clear that flowback water used in fracking must be stored in

enclosed tanks. The new Codes of Practice exempts water being treated for reuse or disposal. It is possible now that no water could be stored in enclosed tanks. This exemption muddies the water and is the first broken promise in the implementation of the fracking inquiry recommendations.”

ALEC is seeking clarity from Ministers and the Departments on these issues.

16.5.19; NT Conservationists welcome introduction of Environment Protection Bill

Conservationists welcomed the introduction of the Territory Government’s Environment Protection Bill to parliament today, citing broad community support for new laws to protect the natural environment and Territory way of life. [1]

“Strong environmental protections for the Northern Territory are a step closer today,” said Shar Molloy, director of the Environment Centre NT (ECNT).

“The Northern Territory has the weakest environmental protection laws in the country. For too long, these weak laws have paved the way for destructive development and shut the community out of important decisions.”

“It’s time for that to change. Healthy coasts, rivers and natural landscapes are central to our way of life, our culture and our livelihoods, and deserve to be better protected,” said Ms Molloy.

“These laws could be significantly improved by including provisions to comply with our responsibility under international law to require free prior informed consent. This will help ensure that Aboriginal people can have a genuine say about the development that is appropriate for their communities.”



During the consultation period on the proposed laws, more than 85 per cent of submissions supported the NT Government's commitment to introduce modern and effective environmental laws. [2]

"Over the years, we've seen firsthand the impacts of the Territory's weak environmental laws," said Jimmy Cocking, director of the Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC).

"From the MacArthur River to Pine Creek, our landscapes are littered with the legacy of an 'anything goes' approach to industrial development. Too often, local communities and taxpayers are left to bear the burden of this destructive development when industry walks away from their responsibilities." [3]

"Across the NT we are facing a number of mining projects that have been assessed and approved under the old regime. We need to modernise our environmental protection laws now and ensure these projects are included under the new system."

"The introduction of the proposed laws to parliament is an important step in the right direction, but we must be vigilant to ensure that industry lobbyists do not further undermine the protections contained in the draft legislation," said Mr Cocking." [4]

"With development pressures intensifying every year, including massive fracking proposals, we need strong laws to protect the natural values and way of life that make the Territory such a special place."

"Government needs to stay the course and deliver on its commitment to deliver fair and effective environmental laws, and spell out clear timelines for legislating stage two of these reforms rather than pandering to self-interested industry lobbyists," said Mr Cocking.

It is expected that the Environment Protection Bill will be reviewed by a parliamentary committee and debated by parliament in August 2019. Conservationists will be calling for further improvements to the proposed legislation, including mandatory consideration of climate impacts.

Notes

[1] Key features of the proposed laws include:

- For the first time, environmental approvals by the Environment Minister.
- Independent assessment of proposals by the Environment Protection Authority.
- Improved opportunities for public participation and access to information.
- Expanded compliance and enforcement powers, including civil remedies.

[2] NT Department of Environment and Natural Resources (2019) Outcomes of consultation on the draft Environment Protection Bill and Regulations.

[3] For example: ABC News, NT government failures allowed environmentally damaging mining to continue 'unchecked', 4 May 2019. URL: www.abc.net.au/news/2019-05-04/frances-creek-mining-mine-decision-nt-government-failures/11078994.

[4] ECNT and ALEC previously condemned a decision by the NT Government to remove community merits review rights from the draft legislation: New environment protection laws threatened by industry interference, October 2018. URL: www.ecnt.org.au/media-release-new-environment-protection-laws-threatened-by-industry-interference.



8th–11th August 2019
Science. Sustainability. Community.



FRIDAY 9TH AUGUST

4–6 PM

ABC Live Broadcast

@ Olive Pink Botanic Garden

6–8 PM

**Apmereke Akaltje-irreme
 (Learning from the Land)**

@ Olive Pink Botanic Garden



SATURDAY 10TH AUGUST

2.30–5 PM

**Our Bright Solar Future:
 Learning from Leaders**

@ Desert Knowledge Australia

7–10 PM

**Craig Reucassel's
 War On Waste**

@ Montes Lounge



SUNDAY 11TH AUGUST

9–1 PM

**EcoHub at Todd
 Mall Markets**

@ Todd Mall Markets

1–4.30 PM

**Growing Healthy
 Communities**

@ Alice Springs Community Garden



A National Science Week Event



For more information go to www.ecofair.org.au





ECOFAIR SHINES A LIGHT ON SCIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

desertSMART Ecofair will again provide a focus on science and sustainability in Central Australia in August 2019 after recently being announced as an official National Science Week event and grant recipient.

desertSMART EcoFair is in its 11th year and is organised by the Arid Lands Environment Centre. EcoFair aims to educate, inspire and activate the community around science and sustainability issues and features high profile speakers, engaging panels, workshops, and films.

In 2019 the desertSMART EcoFair keynote speaker is Craig Reucassel, the Australian writer and comedian who is best known for his work with *The Chaser* and for going through your bins on the ABC's *War on Waste* <https://www.celebrityspeakers.com.au/craig-reucassel/>

The War on Waste is a landmark series that sparked action across the country to cut Australia's staggering waste levels. Craig targets plastic water bottles, straws, e-waste, fast furniture, food waste and the recycling crisis.

"The Arid Lands Environment Centre is excited to again be a recipient of National Science Week funding, which supports key elements of the 3-day science and sustainability event," said Jimmy Cocking, CEO Arid Lands Environment Centre.

"The EcoFair event includes the EcoScience Schools Days program with hands on workshops for up to 600 local school children, the Future Energy Forum which will be shining light on renewable energy at the Desert Knowledge Australia Solar Centre, a focus on how technology is supporting Indigenous languages, and a keynote presentation from Craig Reucassel about his work on the ABC's *War on Waste*."

Science is a key driver of initiatives that inform how we can live sustainability in the arid zone. Innovation in waste management, renewable energy, and local food production is critical for Alice Springs to be a desertSMART town. EcoFair continues the community discussion on how we can work together towards a healthy, sustainable future," said Jimmy Cocking.

desertSMART Ecofair runs 9th-11th August 2019. More information at www.ecofair.org.au

This project received grant funding from the Australian Government. EcoScience Schools Days received grant funding from the Northern Territory Government.



Craig Reucassel, from ABC's War on Waste



DESERTSMART ECOFAIR PROGRAM

EcoScience Schools Days

Thursday 8th, Friday 9th August, 8.30am-1.30pm Olive Pink Botanic Garden

Local school groups participate in hands-on workshops. With workshops by the Arid Zone Research Institute, Olive Pink Botanic Garden, Engineers Without Borders, Land For Wildlife Central Australia, Alice Springs Town Council, Museum and Art Gallery NT, Ekistica, National Rural Health Students Network and local beekeepers.

ABC Alice Springs Outside Broadcast

Friday 9th August 4-6pm Bean Tree Cafe, Olive Pink Botanic Garden

Join us at the Bean Tree Café Courtyard for the ABC 783 Drive Outside Broadcast. With special guest speakers from EcoFair, live music and fantastic prizes up for grabs in the Great Science Quiz hosted by Costa Georgiadis. A family-friendly event Cost: Free

Apmereke Akaltje-irreme (Learning from the land)

Friday 9th August 6-8pm Gallery, Olive Pink Botanic Garden

Hear about local and regional projects that are connecting language and technology to ensure the continuation of Indigenous languages in the 21st century. Launch of the 'Climate Change in Central Australia' animations. Live music by Stuart Nugget. Food and drinks will be available. Cost: Free but please RSVP at https://www.alec.org.au/apmerek_akaltje_irreme_learning_from_the_land

Our Bright Solar Future: Learning from our Leaders

Saturday 10th August 2.30pm-5pm Desert Knowledge Australia Solar Centre

Join Minister for Renewables, Energy and Essential Services, Dale Wakefield, alongside industry leaders and the Intyalheme Centre for

Future Energy, to hear about the solutions that can ensure a bright solar future for the Territory. Afternoon tea provided from 2.30pm.

Cost: Free but please RSVP at https://www.alec.org.au/our_bright_solar_future

Craig Reucassel's War on Waste

Saturday 10th August 7-12pm Montes Lounge

In 2019 desertSMART EcoFair keynote speaker is Craig Reucassel, the Australian writer and comedian who is best known for his work for going through your bins on the ABC's War on Waste <https://www.celebritiespeakers.com.au/craig-reucassel/> With music by Madeline Hudson and Alex Pye. Cost: \$15 ALEC members, \$20 non ALEC members. Purchase tickets at: <https://events.humanitix.com.au/craig-reucassel-s-war-on-waste>

EcoHub at the Todd Mall Markets

Sunday 11th August 9am-1pm @ Todd Mall (Alice Springs CBD)

Learn more at the EcoFair Hub featuring sustainable living stalls on the Uniting Church Lawns as part of the Todd Mall Markets. Kids activities from 10am with special guests Zucchini Clan and Costa the Garden Gnome. Cost: Free

Growing Healthy Communities

Sunday August 11th 1-7pm@ Alice Springs Community Garden

1-3pm Costa's Healthy Gardens Workshop Costa Georgiadis (Gardening Australia) is a vibrant change maker, a connector of people and the host of the ABC's Gardening Australia program. 3pm Opening of garden kitchen and gaten. 3.30pm Garden Tea Party with Zucchini Clan, hip & funky advocates for positive, sustainable communities. Entertainment for the whole family! Cost for workshop: \$15 ALEC members, \$20 non ALEC. Purchase tickets at <https://events.humanitix.com.au/growing-healthy-gardens> Entry by donation from 3pm.



ALEC's Active Policy Engagement

In May this year the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services released a report on the state of global biodiversity and ecosystem integrity. It was the culmination of three years work across many countries that presents a harrowing picture of environmental health.

It found that the decline of natural systems and ecological processes is accelerating, and a million species are at risk of extinction. It did not however come without hope, finding that change is entirely possible if we strive for transformative, systems level change. This change will need to be a 'fundamental, system wide reorganisation across technological, economic and social factors, including paradigms, goals and values'.

It is the need for this fundamental shift that is the basis of our environmental work. This is about striving to put an ethic of environmental care and restoration at the forefront of democratic and political decision making. Environmental issues can no longer be neglected as externalities. They need to be front and centre of decision making, through issues like water, transport, land use, planning, food and health just to name a few.

Environmental policy can no longer be limited to the traditional natural sciences, it needs to

play a key role in determining broader political, economic and social debates about the kind of future we envisage.

Our policy advocacy is largely responsive to government reform as we engage in as many consultation processes as possible. This year we have been able to contribute to water reform, electricity market reform, climate change, environmental regulatory reform, fracking, housing, biodiversity and land management.

We continue to work with representatives from multiple government departments to provide input on many topical and public interest issues. The interface between environmental causes and issues of justice, wellbeing and health is now clearly established and is central to our theory of change.

A critical part of current policy work is holding government to account to their commitment to implement all the recommendations from the Fracking Inquiry. Many of those recommendations have required changes to key pieces of NT legislation. We have reviewed all of these and provided comprehensive submissions to ensure that the laws are as strong as possible.

While we continue to build momentum for a ban on fracking, it is nonetheless necessary to ensure





that government are held to account for their commitment to introduce a robust framework of environmental law. Petroleum activities are now subject to water law and regulated through the Department of Environment. This is a significant technical reform that will improve accountability and transparency across the petroleum industry.

Central to this accountability is appearing before the media to call out the NT Government when they attempt to shirk their responsibilities. We called them out on changes to the Water Act and the Petroleum Code of Practice. All this work adds to the weight of public pressure and scrutiny on the government.

The NT Government has been hit with significant challenges in responding to the budgetary crisis. This has led to a government crying poor and reluctant to commit significant funding that is necessary to support environmental programs. This includes for example, increased resourcing to properly manage the threats posed by buffel grass across the arid zone. This adds another level of difficulty in advocating for environmental issues but there are significant emerging opportunities to bolster the NT economy through large scale renewable energy projects.

Despite all the substantial reform to date, there are still significant policy uncertainties. We are yet to see the full transfer of the regulatory responsibility of mining from the Department of Primary Industries and Resources to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. This has occurred for petroleum but there is no certainty about when this will apply to mining.

We are still waiting on the development of a clear framework for monitoring and compliance of activities that will be regulated under the new Environment Protection Act. An environmental regulatory framework is only effective if there is political will and capability to monitor compliance and enforce breaches.

We are anticipating the release of the draft climate change framework to enable climate change to take a central role in policy and future planning across the NT. We know climate change is projected to severely impact the NT and the organisations and communities of the NT need certainty in how to manage and mitigate those threats. A climate change strategy is needed to provide the foundation on which to plan for the future and improve adaptive capacity and environmental resilience.

While there has been significant reform, there is still a long way to go. Public momentum to bring environmental issues to the front and centre of policy debates continues to grow.

We will continue to advocate for these issues through formal submissions, presenting before the media, meeting with decisions makers and building strong community networks committed to realising the vision of sustainable and healthy communities in central Australia.

Changes In NT Environmental Law

Reforming the environmental laws of the Northern Territory was a 2016 election commitment. Following multiple reviews and inquiries, the Government undertook a long and comprehensive process of consultation to modernise the legal framework for environmental protection and impact assessment in the NT.

This led to the development of the Environment Protection Act 2019 that will replace the current Environment Assessment Act 1982. The first Act introduced in the 80s came at a time of global shifts in environmental consciousness. It was the era of the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. It was visionary but has since become deficient and not fit for purpose.

As it has been several decades since systemic reform, a new Act is needed to bring the NT into line with other Australian jurisdictions and



ensure that we are equipped to handle the environmental challenges of this century.

The new Act introduces a legally enforceable framework of environmental impact assessment that will ensure activities that may have a significant impact on the environment will need to be approved by the Minister for Environment.

Currently, high impact activities, such as mining, do not require environmental approval and are regulated by the Department of Primary Industries and Resources who also promote the industry and opportunities for investment. This departmental conflict of interest is one of the core problems of the old framework. An environmental approval will bring desperately needed improvements to transparent and accountable decision making.

In addition to an environmental approval, the new Act will introduce a range of regulatory tools to ensure proponents' and operators fulfill their responsibilities to impacted communities and the environment. There are new powers for the NT Environment Protection Authority and the Department of Environment to scrutinise activities and enforce compliance with conditions of approval. There are also new mechanisms to ensure operators complete rehabilitation as required. This includes processes to recover the cost of environmental protection from a company to ensure that those costs aren't taken from public wealth.

The Act represents a significant shift in the level of rigour and accountability in environmental decision making. However, the introduction of the Bill is by no means the visionary reform that we need. It fails to properly balance public interest environmental values against the economic interests of a proponent or operator. There are many opportunities for an operator to influence the outcome of decision making and to reduce their obligations to comply with the law. The same rights to influence outcomes are not given

to the public more generally.

The Act also currently fails to explicitly mention climate change, fails to implement reforms from the Fracking Inquiry and outlines excessive transitional timelines. These weaknesses are largely the result of effective industry lobbying. Industry representatives are pulling their levers of political influence to weaken the laws that threaten their profitability.

As a result, the public have not been given rights to review decisions based on their merits, and there is limited ability for people to ensure that the law is properly applied during decision making.

This is not to say that the opportunity for reform is lost, the Bill will proceed through scrutiny committees which will include open debate on the merits and shortcomings of the reform. ALEC will remain engaged in the reform process and will continue to advocate for its strengthening up until it is expected to officially become law in early 2020.

We will push to have climate change acknowledged in the Act, ensure that Aboriginal communities have a right to determine the outcomes of decisions that affect them, ensure full implementation of relevant recommendations from the fracking inquiry and ensure that public wealth does not continue to compensate the cost of environmental harm caused by industry.

There is growing momentum for a paradigm shift in environmental law. While this Act does not shift the paradigm, it will nonetheless significantly strengthen accountable decision making in the NT and ensure that companies will bear the brunt of their costs rather than 'externalising' these costs onto the public and environments of the NT.

This paradigm shift in law will come as public



momentum continues to build. The Places You Love Campaign will continue to build the case for a complete overhaul of environmental laws. There are strong and committed networks of environmental lawyers who are making the case for change. A new generation of nature laws is therefore imminent.

We need to challenge the corporate influence over our parliaments and work towards a democracy that incorporates systems of law built on an ethic of environmental stewardship and care.

Alex Read
ALEC Policy officer

40 YEARS OF ALEC

This next year we celebrate 40 years of nature protection and environmental advocacy in central Australia. In July 1980, Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC) formerly the Central Australian Conservation Council became an incorporated association. Over the years ALEC/CACC members have shaped the discourse and the landscape in Central Australia.

Standing up for national parks in the early years as parks were being declared across the NT including Uluru/Kata Tjuta, Finke Gorge and West MacDonnells (Tjoritja) National Park. The next fight was to get mining and pastoralism out of the parks.

Recently ALEC has played an important role in largescale land management and connectivity conservation through initiating and coordinating the Ten Deserts Initiative which became the BHP Billiton Foundation funded Ten Deserts Project.

ALEC has stood for sustainability with COOLmob, Alice Water Smart and Alice Solar City as key projects we have been involved in. Standing with Traditional Owners, ALEC has supported the campaign against uranium mining and nuclear waste sites at both Muckaty and down the South Rd. We have campaigned against fracking since 2011 and put the environment firmly on successive election agendas.

In this 40th year, we're reaching out to the ALEC and Alice Springs diaspora across the country to dig deep, not just to support ALEC to establish an endowment fund but to also remind, reflect and reaffirm our commitment to our vision of 'healthy futures for arid lands and people.'

We want photos, videos, newspaper clippings, stories, soundbytes whatever we can find for the ALEC History Project to document the rich and vibrant history of ALEC to inform and inspire our next chapter.

We're going to have a month of celebrations in July 2020. Stay tuned and please get in touch if you want to make a contribution. Email: [**director@alec.org.au**](mailto:director@alec.org.au)





WHERE MPARNTWE WALK TALK AND BUFFEL BUST

On World Environment Day, 40 community members gathered on the banks of Lhere Mparntwe – the Todd River to listen and learn from esteemed botanist Peter Latz and Olive Pink Botanic Gardens Curator Ian Coleman.

ALEC organised the event in partnership with Olive Pink Botanic Gardens and Alice Springs Landcare. The walk and talk took us along and through the river to an area that Landcare extraordinaire Ken Johnson has been treating buffel grass near the Mercure hotel and allowing a beautiful pocket of biodiversity and natural habitat to remain.

We learned about the immense importance of river red gums in the river system through providing habitat in hollows for a range of animals including birds, reptiles and microbats. We learned about the impacts of buffel grass on these sacred trees and how fires can destroy the trees as they become chimneys drawing air

through them and becoming almost impossible to extinguish.

We then were met by Central Arrernte Elders Aunty Elaine Peckham and Nana Doreen Carroll who came down to support the event at the Olive Pink Botanic Gardens. Here OPBG staff handed out mattocks as we got to work on a sunset buffel bust. It was a great scene with a long stretch of people working to remove buffel grass from around the base of sacred river red gums. It was a cold evening and it was good to get a sweat up while helping mother nature.

We're hoping to organise some regular evening buffel busts through the cold season. In the meantime, Alice Springs Landcare and Olive Pink Botanic Gardens will be hosting regular working bees. If you want to get more involved: Olive Pink Botanic Gardens www.opbg.com.au Alice Springs Landcare <https://www.alicespringslandcare.com/>



WHAT'S YOUR 2040 VISION?

On June 13, ALEC held a fundraising film screening at the Alice Springs Cinema with Damon Gameau's 2040 film. The show was booked out with 170 people attending.

The film takes a look at what is described as 'factual dreaming', a future where effective climate action is taken and we have transformed our energy, food, transport and economic systems to reduce carbon emissions and avert dangerous climate change.

The film focuses on Damon's 4 year old daughter and explores how existing technology and practices can transform her future over the next two decades.

It is an optimistic film that presents a rare positive outlook. Microgrids, renewable energy, ocean permaculture, gender equity, electrified transport and the circular economy are explored in the movie. The opportunities are well presented and it is well worth seeing.

It was great to see the likes of Paul Hawken, founder and editor of Drawdown www.drawdown.org, appear in the film and highlight some of the many opportunities to avert climate chaos referred to in the book.

The film is a commendable approach to show people what the future could look like if the will is there. It doesn't go deep on resisting fossil fuels or the vested interests in politics but it does give us what we need right now, a positive outlook and a reminder that we still can.

Check out the film website and dive into the future <https://whatsyour2040.com/>



ALEC SOCIALS

Like the ALEC Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/aridlandsec/>

Join the ALEC Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/aridlands/>

Follow us on Instagram

@aridlandsec

Follow us on Twitter

@AridLandsEC





BONNE VOYAGE!

At the end of May, we said goodbye to Carmel Vandermolen. Carmel had been the Business and Operations Manager of ALEC since 2012. Carmel came into ALEC as we undertook the biggest project in ALEC's history, the Alice Water Smart Homes and Businesses project. She went on to develop and grow the EcoScience Schools Day and was critical in building the EcoFair into a multiday festival. She ensured we had the funds to do our work and provided strategic and frank advice as we needed it. Carmel was instrumental in the transition and growth of Arid Edge Environmental Services from desertSMART COOLmob and played an important role in all elements of ALEC's operations.

Carmel will be missed by the ALEC team. She made financial and project management easier for all of us by doing the financial and tedious work that is critical in the functioning of an organisation. We wish her all the best on her new adventures in South Australia and we will all have to lift that little bit higher to fill the gap left. Thanks Carmel for your dedication and commitment to ALEC. We're in a much better place as an organisation for your willingness and preparedness to say 'no' when needed and put your shoulder to the wheel when we needed to. Best wishes and good luck.

It is with heavy hearts that we also farewell ALEC's Communications Manager, Nicole Pietsch in August. Peachy came to ALEC in 2012 and has been instrumental in organising 7 EcoFairs, countless market stalls, hundreds of events from film nights, presentations, to community meetings. Peachy played critical roles in the starting up of the Central Australian Frack Free Alliance and the Repower Alice Springs groups. Peachy has overseen the development and transition of two ALEC websites. Peachy also developed and oversaw the development of two Community Garden websites and more recently the Repower website. She has provided communications support to the wide range of groups supported by ALEC and always provided consistent advice, mentoring and leadership for all of the ALEC staff.

Peachy has been a driver in ALEC moving to Nationbuilder as a platform for website and supporter engagement. Peachy has been the stalwart of the Devil's Advocate magazine and the fortnightly Thorny News e-newsletters. If you read something about ALEC anywhere in the recent history, it is likely she has been behind it being published, if not having written it herself. We wish her well on her next chapter with the Mental Health Association of Central Australia.





COOLMOB ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT

The COOLmob Energy Efficiency Program ran in Alice Springs from September 2018 to June 2019. The project included educating three different target audiences; primary school students, householders and the broader community.

As part of this project, the Arid Lands Environment Centre delivered an Energy Efficiency Schools Program to seven schools in the region, reaching a total of 193 students. Schools in town participated in a five week program, which included four face-to-face educator sessions, which was a substantial amount of time to build relationships with the students and grow a solid understanding of energy efficiency.

The Schools Program targetted the leaders of the school (Year 5 and 6) and students had a high level of engagement and interest in the program. Students clearly understood that they were learning about energy efficiency to save their families and school community money and also to reduce their environmental impact.

The student learning was practical, with students measuring the temperature of different coloured roofs and learning about the importance of good building design. Students enjoyed learning to use

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

a watt meter to conduct a classroom energy audit and identify energy savings for the school.

One school identified significant energy savings in their classroom, by improving their classroom lighting. At Bradshaw Primary School, an audit of three rooms found a total of 110 lamps using 36 watts per lamp over a nine hour period. Retrofitting this with a 10.5 watt lamp would result in annual savings of \$1,770 for the three rooms and a payback of less than one year.

The school is currently investigating making these changes.

Rachel O'Leary
COOLmob Project Officer





The Arid Edge team have been busy across town, across the NT and even Internationally this last few months! Completing the landscaping at the Sue Dugdale and Associates award winning Braitling School Redevelopment, designing new landscapes and shade with Tangentyere designs for the Hermannsburg Heritage Precinct, repairing tracks with Snapper John Tracks at Trephina Gorge and Kata Tjuta's Valley of the Winds Walk, and consulting for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on civil society in East Timor. No time to put the feet up!

In particularly exciting news, Arid Edge's landscape designs and constructions were featured in two award winning sites at the recent Australian Institute of Architects NT Chapter Awards night. Sue Dugdale and Associates won the Sustainability award for their redevelopment of Braitling School, in which Arid Edge's water harvesting native landscapes and food gardens featured prominently.

MPH and Sue Dugdale and Associates jointly took out the main award for the evening for their



bold design and construction of the new MPH offices on the corner of Smith and Brown Streets, also featuring landscape design and construction by Arid Edge's team.

But for the best photos of the month, it's hard to go past the photos of the team working on the trails at Trephina Gorge and Kata Tjuta's Valley of the Winds Walk. Nobody complains with an office like that!

Alex McClean
Arid Edge Manager
www.aridedge.com.au





Where are we up to with fracking?

The NT government is in its final stages of implementing the 31/135 recommendations committed to for the exploration stage of fracking to begin. The most recent round of consultation had strong input from across the NT. CAFFA maintains its position that the entire NT should be a no go zone to fracking, and particularly highlighted the importance of ensuring that the Alice Springs Water Control District is off limits. In its current proposal the NT government still leaves Alice Springs water unprotected from fracking now and in the future.

Thankyou to all who have been involved in the many submissions and reports that have been put together as part of the regulatory reform process. It may seem slow and small - but it has made a difference with many loopholes

being adjusted and strengthened as part of the process.

What can you do?

Recent legal challenges to Origin Energy's plans to frack the NT, and a report that shows just how the NT could become powered by 100% renewable energy are reason to hold on to hope and maintain the fight for a frack free future here in the NT. Origin and Santos are on the brink of commencing their fracking exploration in the Beetaloo basin, just North of Elliott. With the NT government already backflipping on key recommendations from the fracking Inquiry we're getting some insight in to what the "strongly" regulated gas industry looks like.

With the NT government so clearly letting down the majority of Territorians who have long been saying NO to fracking- there is a growing people's movement against Origin Energy, the company leading the charge on fracking the NT. Traditional Owners have not given consent, a pastoralist has lodged a legal challenge, and precious water and wildlife is at risk. Millions of customers right across Australia rely on Origin energy for their gas- what would happen if they spoke up? Origin Energy relies on their "clean energy" brand to promote their company- what might happen if they were held to account on this?

Here in Central Australia residents are working together to STOP origin from fracking the NT. Whether you're a shareholder, customer, or just someone who is rightly concerned about fracking, your involvement in this campaign will make a difference. Head to goodenergy.net.au to check out how you can get involved.

CAFFA will be hosting a community discussion soon to map out the next steps for the Origin campaign locally. If you would like to be involved in this get in touch at **frackfreecoordinator@gmail.com**.



TAKE ACTION: MONDAY JULY 8th

ORIGIN ENERGY



**dirty
energy**

DON'T FRACK THE NT

Origin are holding a community briefing in Alice Springs to spruik their plans to frack the NT. Traditional Owners have not given consent, a pastoralist has lodged a legal challenge, and precious water and wildlife are at risk, join concerned Territorians to send a clear message to Origin...

DON'T FRACK THE NT



Where: Star of Alice Function Centre
When: 4:30-5:30pm Monday 8th July
Contact: frackfreecoordinator@gmail.com
Bring a banner and a friend!

HAVE YOUR SAY ON FRACKING NO GO ZONES

Companies like Origin Energy and Santos are planning to start fracking as early as July this year, yet critical farming, fishing, tourism areas and natural and cultural assets remain under threat. More than 51% of the Territory remains at risk from dirty and dangerous oil and gas fracking.

The Gunner Government's recently released proposal for 'no-go-zones' mapping shows there are only pockets of protection from oil and gas fracking on offer to some of our most iconic and important places.

The drinking water supply for Alice Springs and surrounding communities is at risk from gas exploration in the catchment area. Submission for this part of the process have now closed-

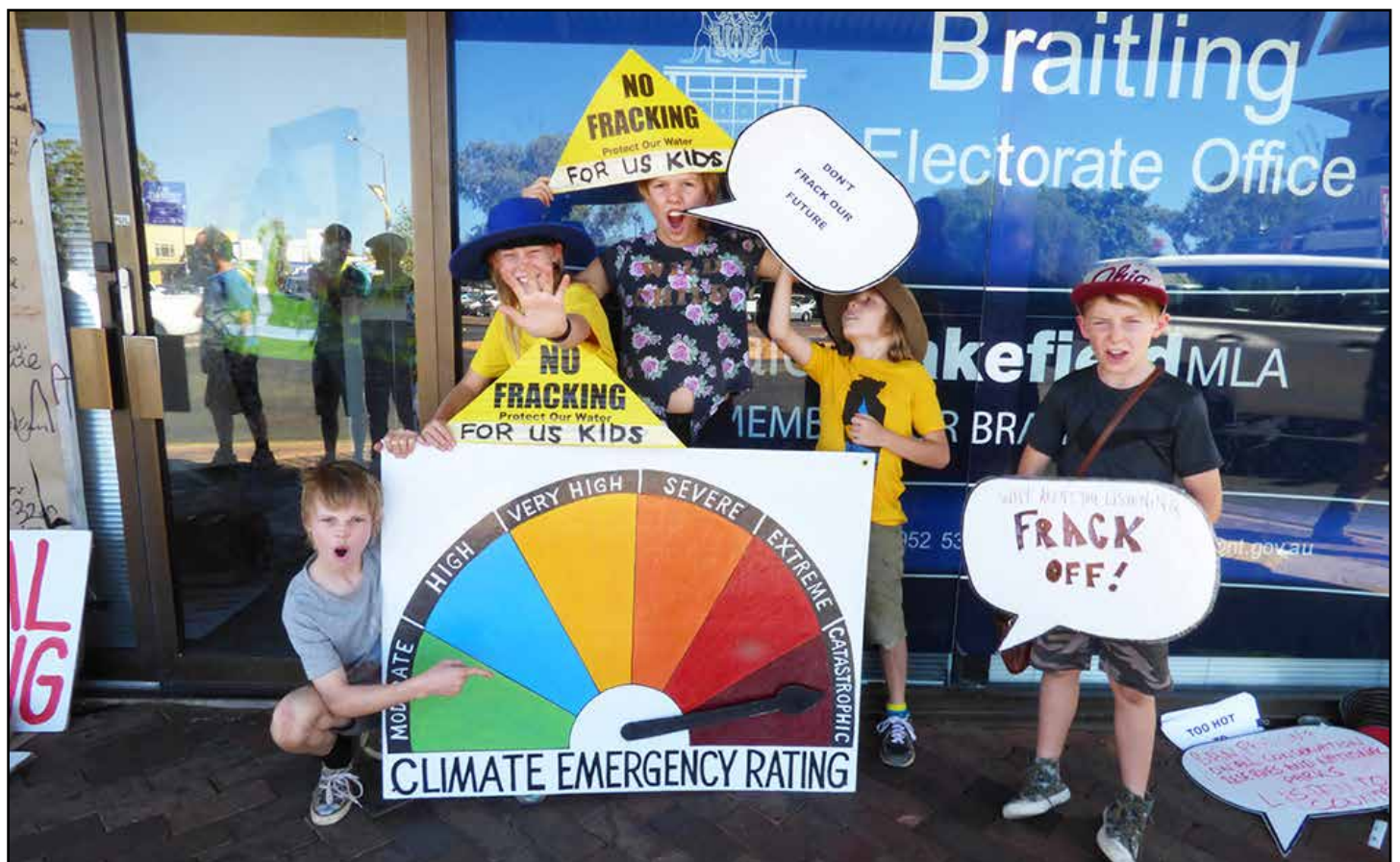
but there are other ways to make sure you are heard.

Check out the map to see just how close oil and gas fracking could happen to Alice Springs!

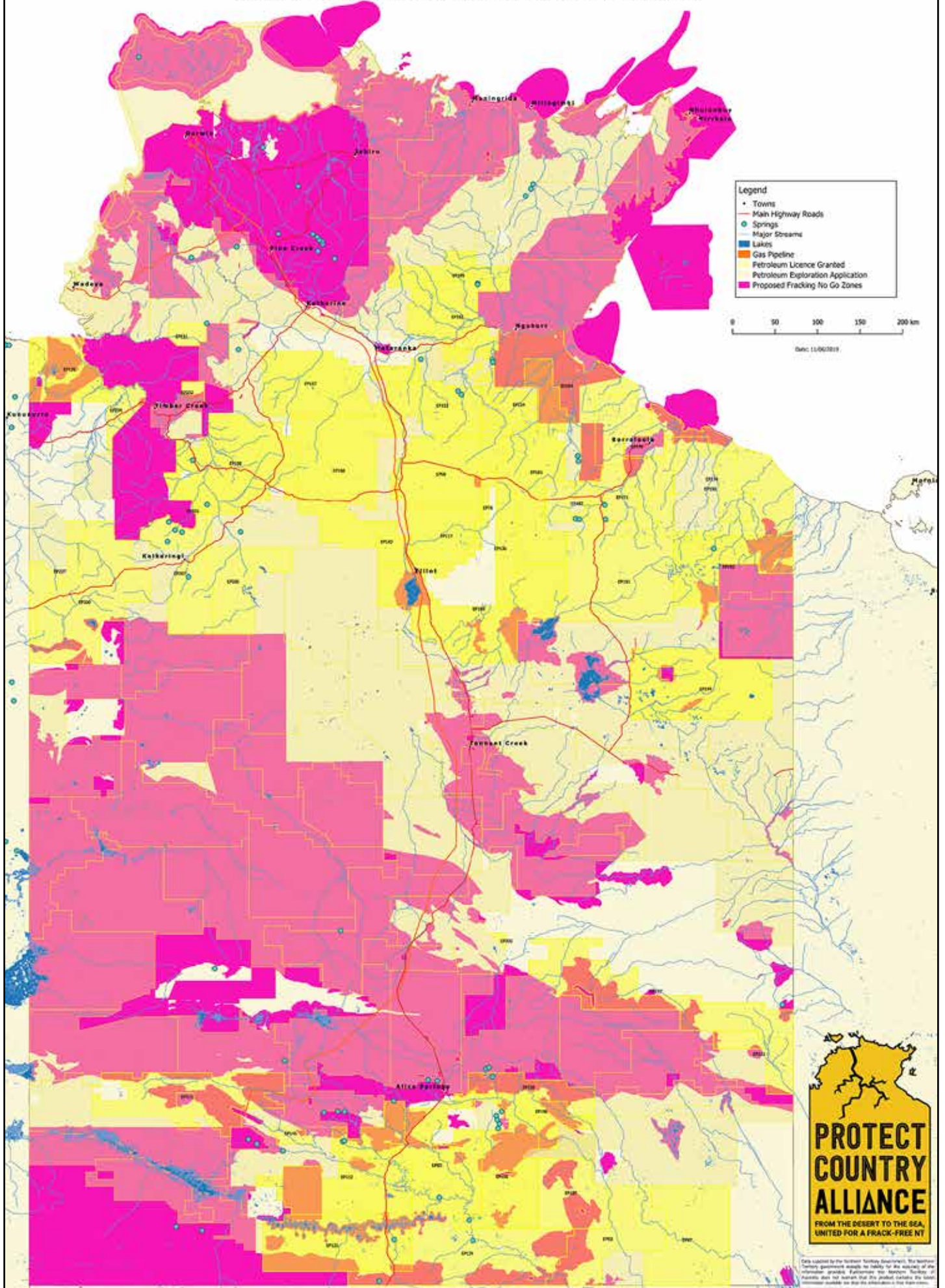
Submissions as part of the process have now closed- but there are other ways to make sure you are heard. Arrange a meeting with your local MLA and let them know that our drinking water needs to be protected. You could also write a letter to the editor at letters@aliceadvocate.com.au

Jesse Hancock
Frack Free Coordinator

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



Map of gas fracking permits and proposed fracking no go zones





The Beyond Zero Emissions 10GW Vision offers a roadmap and opportunity for all of us working towards a renewably powered future for Alice Springs and the broader region.

The opportunities for a high voltage direct current (HVDC) line from Alice Springs to the Top End and across to the east coast could provide a market for electrons produced from sunlight here in central Australia. The key for us living here is ensuring that the benefits from this plan are enjoyed by Territorians.

The mining sector transitioning to solar plus storage power will reduce the carbon emissions of the industry. The potential for minerals that support the energy transition like rare earths and lithium will provide other opportunities for downstream processing in the Territory.

The key to moving forward will be that the impacts are not borne by Territorians without any measurable or felt benefits. We need to be thinking and planning how we deal with end of life solar panels and batteries as part of the transition.

Alice Springs is a solar city and we're well positioned to benefit from the opportunities presented in this plan. We want our local leaders to be on the front foot for our town and region and make sure we're making the most of it.



If we want to get ahead we need to be aiming high. 50% is a middle of the road target, let's lift our ambition and bet on a future powered by the sun and not fracked gas.

We can't have both, we have to choose. Repower Alice Springs will continue to advocate for 100% renewable energy by 2030 as demonstrated is technically feasible with this Plan. Download the report at: <https://bze.org.au/research/regional/repowering-nt/>

If you want to get more involved, check out our new website and sign up to volunteer at www.repoweralicesprings.org.au

Harshini Bartlett
RePower Alice Springs Chair





THE 10GW VISION THAT COULD TURN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY INTO AN ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE

The Northern Territory has a multi-billion dollar opportunity to invest massively in renewables, create a new hydrogen export industry, and create thousands of jobs, rather than following the controversial path of fracking vast reserves of gas.

That is the conclusion of a new report from Beyond Zero Emissions (BZE), entitled the “10 Gigawatt Vision for the Northern Territory”, which outlines a plan for the creation of up to 8,000 new jobs, by tapping into the territory’s rich solar resources, and supporting the creation of new energy export industries, including renewable hydrogen.

BZE predicts that renewable hydrogen could generate \$2 billion in export revenues by 2030, should the NT government embrace renewables, and put in place a target for 10GW of renewable energy by 2030. The report was launched at Parliament House in Darwin on Thursday by the territory’s minister of renewables Dale Wakefield, who was supportive of the project after being briefed on Wednesday. The launch was followed by a business round-table.

“Tapping into the NT’s nearly unlimited potential to generate renewable energy is an ideal solution to the territory’s quest to build a strong, resilient economy for its people and give them a good quality of life,” CEO of Beyond Zero Emissions, Vanessa Petrie said.

“A renewables-powered electricity system would make energy-intensive sectors like mining and manufacturing more cost-efficient, and attract businesses to the territory. Replacing diesel machinery and vehicles with electric models would reduce health risks for workers. An ambitious renewable energy goal, combined with the Territory’s strategic location, can also

unlock new opportunities such as meeting the world’s growing hunger for renewable hydrogen, exporting renewable electricity to growing Asian economies and adding significant value to exports through mineral processing.”

The Northern Territory has had a mixed experience with renewable energy. Parts of the territory have strongly embraced renewables; Alice Springs in particular, which has passed 40 per cent renewable energy penetration within its grid. At the same time, the previous NT government ran scare campaigns over the costs of taking the grid to 100 per cent renewables, using an over-the-top figure of \$2 billion, and openly backed the growth of gas fracking.

The current Labor government has a 50 per cent renewables target by 2030 for the electricity grid, but not much has happened to see that realised.

The BZE report paints a new vision; not only does renewable energy provide a huge opportunity for the NT to lower its energy costs, it could also provide a huge boom for its struggling economy. An abundance of high-quality solar resources, and close proximity to Australia’s south-Asian neighbours, means the NT is ideally placed to serve as an Australian hub for renewable energy exports.

These exports might not just come in green hydrogen, it could include using cheap wind and solar to value add products, such as turning manganese ore into manganese metals, as Element 25 is proposing to do at the Butcherbird project in the Pilbara region, in Western Australia.

BZE sees the NT government’s headlong push into shale gas and fracking as a substantial risk to the territory’s economy, that it says would



undermine otherwise beneficial measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while only providing a short-term sugar hit to the NT economy.

The report points to the Ichthys LNG project at Baldwin Point near Darwin. Employment in the \$34 billion project has slumped to just 300 ongoing full-time jobs, after an initial boom of 8,000 workers during construction. The subsequent decline in employment had serious flow-on effects for the NT economy, with house prices and government stamp duty revenues collapsing.

BZE points out that the Ichthys project received a \$150 million loan from the federal government's Export Finance and Insurance Corporation, and suggests that such financial support would be better directed towards enabling growth in the renewables sector.

"The best option for such assistance is often planning and funding of supporting infrastructure. One example might be an HVDC transmission line between Darwin and Alice Springs. Other possibilities are ports, road and railways to facilitate transport of minerals," the report said.

BZE estimates that by growing the NT's renewable generation capacity to 10GW, the NT government could stimulate the production of renewable hydrogen, representing a multi-billion dollar export opportunity, that could deliver dividends for the territory, while also creating thousands of jobs.

The benefits of lower energy prices that can be achieved through greater renewable energy adoption would have flow-on benefits for the manufacturing and minerals extraction and processing facilities located within the Territory. By shifting operations from costly gas and diesel fuel supplies, industries located within the territory would benefit, supporting additional job opportunities.

The Northern Territory currently pays some of the highest electricity prices in Australia, which is due, in part, to the remote nature of large parts of the territory's electricity network and a large dependence on gas and diesel for electricity generation, which has left consumers exposed to rising fuel costs.

BZE sees strong investment in renewable energy as an opportunity to achieve significant cost reductions for energy users, including substantial decreases in household electricity costs.

"However you look at it, renewable energy is a strong and stable foundation for the Territory to build its economy on, unlike shale gas and other fossil fuels, which have a bleak outlook as investors and business fall out of love with fossil fuels," director of Environment Centre NT Shar Molloy said.

"The NT is also feeling the impacts of climate change, which is driven by the burning of coal, oil, and gas. Keeping fossil fuels in the ground and pursuing low-carbon growth instead will mean that economic growth in the NT won't come at the cost of people's welfare."

The Northern Territory government has set a target of reaching 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030, and has entered into agreements for the construction of new large-scale solar and battery storage systems throughout the territory.

This includes government owned Jacana Energy securing a power purchase agreement with a 25 MW solar farm near Katharine, and issuing a request-for-tender for the installation of up to 45MW of energy storage capacity to support the Darwin-Katharine power grid.

Michael Mazengarb
Renew Economy

Reprinted from: <https://reneweconomy.com.au/the-10gw-solar-vision-that-could-turn-northern-territory-into-economic-powerhouse-27728/>



Table 3: The 10 Gigawatt Vision provides the basis for future economic development in the NT

Opportunities	Energy required (GW)	New operations and maintenance jobs	Construction jobs	Economic benefits
1. Renewable hydrogen	4.9	960 direct jobs 2,830 indirect jobs		\$590 million direct economic contribution (>\$2.9 billion FOB)
2. Renewable energy exports	3.2	200	766	\$840 million in exports
3. Renewable powered manufacturing	0.2	200 (clean manufacturing)	820 (renewable energy build out)	-
4. Mineral processing	0.7	750	1,500	\$800 million in additional exports
5. Renewable powered mines	0.3	-	-	Securing 3,600 mining sector jobs by making sites safer, healthier and more sustainable
6. Reduced cost of living	1.0	-	Included with renewable energy build out	Reducing household electricity bills by >30%
7. Repower remote communities	0.01	-	Included with renewable energy build out	Cheaper energy, Aboriginal-owned energy businesses.
Total	>10 GW	>8,000 jobs		>\$2 billion revenue





Our Community arden is now 8 years or 32 seasons young. Our plot soils are 'good enough to eat' (or so our plot holders and worms think) incorporating many, many ute loads of buffel grass and hundreds of tons of cow manure and compost. We are pretty much couch grass and root knot nematode free and our Garden's development has now surpassed the original ambitious vision and strategic plan. We have 45 individual plot holders and many other volunteer contributors.

Is this a sign of our community's growing desire to find meaning and purpose in life through thinking and acting locally to produce healthy, nutritious food and create a beautiful and rewarding space for young and old and the creatures and plants we share it with?

In the coming months and years let's look forward to seeding and growing community interest and engagement across town and beyond. Without much exaggeration, our future depends on it!

Exciting News. Garden Open On Fridays.

For the next three months local gardening expert Kim Mackay will be employed at the Garden on Fridays to encourage greater local and tourist visits to the Garden. He'll welcome visitors, show them around and between times work to make the Garden more vibrant and productive. He'll always welcome helpers if you're free.

The new kitchen and toilet will be available to visitors and our aim will be to offer both a lovely time in the Garden and practical information and

advice on best desert gardening practices.

We're very keen to encourage many more individuals and groups to come along, so please spread the word. We would like everyone in Alice to know about the Garden. There will be a small charge of \$50 for group visits. Visits can be organised through emailing info@alicecommunitygarden.org.au

By opening up the Garden and its new facilities we hope to further demonstrate the high value of the Garden to the Alice Springs community and allow us to look for more outside funding to keep the Friday employment going along with the benefits it offers.

A New Entrance Gate And New Paving!

With the aid of a Town Council Community Assistance Grant, the Garden has commissioned local artist and Garden plot holder, J9, to sculpt us a new front gate. We're highly grateful to J9 for her offer and keenly looking forward to its installation. Along with the new building and new gate will come paving to enable improved wheelchair access to the Garden facilities.

A New Irrigation Controller

The NT Power and Water Corporation has donated to us a Hunter smart irrigation controller that we will install and commence using over the next few months. It means some work to connect the controller to eight sites where we currently run Galcon timers but it will be worth it.

EcoFair – Sunday August 11th

Costa Georgiadis will be back in the Garden for the EcoFair Healthy Gardens Workshop from 1-3pm (\$15 for ALEC members and \$20 non-ALEC members) which will be followed by the official opening of the new gate and building at 3pm. From 3.30-4.30pm there will be a family show by sustainability children's entertainers Zucchini Clan. Chai tea, tea, nibbles and cakes will be on sale early with our cob oven sizzling pizzas to follow from mid-afternoon. Garden





tours will be offered.

The Winter Community Garden

Most plots are flourishing after a mild autumn. Rewards have been plentiful for those gardeners who have been out and about planting the winter veggies, herbs and flowers. We've obtained new loads of cattle manure which we've combined with water, grass clipping from St Philips' school oval, green waste from our gardens, spoilt Rhodes hay, kitchen scraps and coffee grounds to make some wonderful compost that most gardeners would die for! For those interested, we turn new heaps twice more, allowing a couple of weeks between turns for the contents to cook up to around 60C and produce around a cubic metre at a time.

Working Bees

Working bees have been held on most Sunday mornings and those people who can attend are Garden champions. Bruce, our Garden Convenor will be away for a couple of months from July 1st, so Sunday morning working bees will revert to twice monthly on the first and third Sunday until further notice. Kim and Plots' Rep Hannah Maljcov will share leadership roles and Kim will happily organise jobs on Fridays for anyone who can't make it on a Sunday. Working bees are great opportunities for interested people to come along, meet other keen gardeners and receive an orientation to the Garden. If possible, come dressed to join in. Winter bees are held between 9 and 11 generally with a shared cuppa at the end.

Garden Committee

The Garden committee continues to meet at 5pm on the second Tuesday of the month at the Garden. ALEC and Garden members are always welcome to come along and may join the committee at any time. Our next meeting is on Tuesday July 9th.

Plot Holder Update

Hannah, our Plot Holders' Rep, has a busy

time ahead of her as 30 of our 46 individual plot holders are due to renew their plot on June 30th. We're hoping for a high proportion of renewals, preferably for 12 months rather than 6. We do have a short waiting list but are happy to add more to ensure all the plots stay active. Anyone interested in getting a plot can make a request via info@alicecommunitygarden.org.au or go along to ALEC.

Last Friday of Month 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 June 28th.

Communications

If you're looking for more information, Adele Millard regularly posts Garden news and updates for us on Facebook. If you want to contact the committee at any time email

info@alicecommunitygarden.org.au

Bruce Simmons
ASCG Convenor



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.



Arid
Lands
Environment
Centre

8CCC **com**
au
102.1 FM COMMUNITY RATED
100% volunteer & community owned



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

REDUCING WASTE AT THE SHOW

The Central Australian Show Society (CASS) has been successful with an environment grant from the Northern Territory Government for an environmental assessment of the 2019 Show.

Arid Edge Environmental Services is supporting the Show to benchmark how much waste the Show makes each year and what types of resources are available for recovery.

Rosemary Gibbons, President of the Central Australian Show Society said, "The key objective is to reduce what our event puts in to landfill each year, and to see what we can recover and reuse. First we need to identify what waste we get, and how much. Then we can identify areas to focus on at future events".

The Show has organised for six waste & recycling stations at the Show this year, with a Waste Ambassador to support the public with its recycling.

Rosemary Gibbons explained, "We encourage everyone to use the right bin at the Show this year – yellow bins for recycling drink containers and red rubbish bins for general rubbish".

Behind the scenes, show vendors will be encouraged to separate out their cardboard waste this year, which will be recycled by JJ Richards.

Food waste from the 40 food stalls will be collected, along with other organic waste from the animal sections, and will be composted by the Happy Farmer.

Drink containers under the Container Deposit Scheme will be collected and sorted onsite by a team of volunteers raising money for their club projects - Youth and Community Centre Boxing

Club, Alice Springs Netball Association and R U OK.

Sponsors of the project with the Show Society are Arid Edge Environmental Centre, Alice Springs Town Council, SUNFM/8HA, supported by JJ Richards, the Happy Farmer and Blatherskite Park.

Rachel O'Leary from the Arid Edge Environmental Services congratulated the Show, "It's exciting to see such a big event as the Show so committed to understanding and reducing its' waste footprint. The Show is showing great leadership to all large scale events and has the potential to make a big impact around this issue".

The Alice Springs Show runs Friday and Saturday the 5th and 6th of July, 2019 at Blatherskite Park.





CLIMATE CRISIS NOT CLIMATE CHANGE

There is a shift in the way that many scientists and organisations are communicating about climate change. “Climate emergency, crisis or breakdown” and “global heating” are now favoured over the terms “climate change” and “global warming”.

The Guardian states:

“We want to ensure that we are being scientifically precise, while also communicating clearly with readers on this very important issue,” said the editor-in-chief, Katharine Viner. “The phrase ‘climate change’, for example, sounds rather passive and gentle when what scientists are talking about is a catastrophe for humanity.”

“Increasingly, climate scientists and organisations from the UN to the Met Office are changing their terminology, and using stronger language to describe the situation we’re in,” she said.

The United Nations secretary general, António Guterres, talked of the “climate crisis” in September, adding: “We face a direct existential threat.” The climate scientist Prof Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, a former adviser to Angela Merkel, the EU and the pope, also uses “climate crisis”.

In December, Prof Richard Betts, who leads the Met Office’s climate research, said “global heating” was a more accurate term than “global warming” to describe the changes taking place to the world’s climate. In the political world, UK MPs recently endorsed the Labour party’s declaration of a “climate emergency”.

The scale of the climate and wildlife crises has been laid bare by two landmark reports from the world’s scientists. In October, they said carbon emissions must halve by 2030 to avoid even greater risks of drought, floods, extreme heat

and poverty for hundreds of millions of people. In May, global scientists said human society was in jeopardy from the accelerating annihilation of wildlife and destruction of the ecosystems that support all life on Earth.

Other terms that have been updated, including the use of “wildlife” rather than “biodiversity”, “fish populations” instead of “fish stocks” and “climate science denier” rather than “climate sceptic”. In September, the BBC accepted it gets coverage of climate change “wrong too often” and told staff: “You do not need a ‘denier’ to balance the debate.”

Earlier in May, Greta Thunberg, the Swedish teenager who has inspired school strikes for climate around the globe, said: “It’s 2019. Can we all now call it what it is: climate breakdown, climate crisis, climate emergency, ecological breakdown, ecological crisis and ecological emergency?”

“Levels of CO2 in the atmosphere have risen so dramatically – including a measure of that in our daily weather report is symbolic of what human activity is doing to our climate,” said Viner in April. “People need reminding that the climate crisis is no longer a future problem – we need to tackle it now, and every day matters.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/may/17/why-the-guardian-is-changing-the-language-it-uses-about-the-environment>





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