



We need to plan for the future

Professor Ian Chubb, Australia's chief scientist, has put forward a science plan for Australia. He outlines why we need to be forward thinking.

A few years ago, the European Roundtable of Industrialists decided to find out what students across the world thought about science. They came to a clear conclusion: the more developed your country, the less likely you are to see science as a good career.

In other words, the young people most richly rewarded by science — with the best access to new medicines, technologies and ideas, underpinned by the best education systems, with the best records of science achievement and the best starting position in the global innovation race — were the least enthusiastic about pursuing jobs in science fields.

That might ring a few bells at home.

Do we assume that science will serve us in the future, simply because it has done so in the past? Do we imagine that the world won't change? Or do we honestly believe that 'she'll be right' is all that this 'lucky country' requires to



"We do not want to repeat the experience of the past: a legacy of promises made, risks taken on and expectations ultimately dashed. We have to keep our eye on the horizon" (Source: olm26250/Stockphoto)

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2014/09/02/4079051.htm>

Proposed changes to environment laws are a 'retrograde step'

Tony Windsor ABC Environment 26 Aug 2014



The Boggabri coal mine. Farming and mining are both impacting the groundwater in this region.

Senators are due to debate changes to environmental laws this week. But removing the 'water trigger' would be a bad move, writes Tony Windsor.

THE AUSTRALIAN SENATE is due to debate changes to the *Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act* (EPBC Act) 'water trigger' legislation this week. Senators

would be well advised to consider the technical aspects of the changes than fall for the 'one-stop-shop' slogan that the Prime Minister using. The so called red-tape-reducing one-stop-shop may well become a 'community roadblock' if the water trigger is altered.

I was instrumental in the introduction of the Water Trigger Amendment to the EPBC Act towards the end of the previous parliament and worked extensively with Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Environment Minister Tony Burke to bring in the changes.

Tony Windsor was the federal member for New England from 2001 to 2013.

<http://www.abc.net.au/environment/articles/2014/08/26/4073959.htm>

A dark future sprouting from sealed soil

☆☆☆☆☆ ⓘ Rate This



A view of Quito (Ecuador). Credit: Martin Mergili. Click on the image to see the original picture and details in Imageo.

Every year in Europe, soils covering an area larger than the city of Berlin are lost to urban sprawl and transport infrastructure. This unsustainable trend threatens the availability of fertile soils and groundwater reservoirs for future generations. A new report made public today by the European Commission recommends a three-tiered approach focused on limiting the progression of soil sealing, mitigating its effects and compensating valuable soil losses by action in other areas.

<http://gsoil.wordpress.com/2014/09/12/a-dark-future-sprouting-from-sealed-soil/>

The ten billion population question

▶ Listen now ▶ Download audio ▶ show transcript

Sunday 7 September 2014 7:45AM

The United Nation's population division suggested that the global population could peak at seven to eight billion by the middle of the century. The mid-range scenario has the population at around ten billion. Feeding this many people, particularly in the poor countries, will pose huge problems. Bruce Edgerton, who works with the ACT government in Climate Change, Energy and Sustainability Policy, has some ideas on how to tackle these difficulties.



IMAGE AT PRESENT THERE IS PLENTY OF GRAIN IN THE WORLD. HOWEVER, THIS MAY CHANGE WITH A GROWING GLOBAL POPULATION. (GETTY/ANTHONY LEE)



Sundays 7:45am
Presented by Robyn Williams

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/ockhamsrazor/the-10-billion-population-question/5713792>



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

Balance needed between bushfire risk and tree conservation

SMH Editorial

Date

31 August 2014

EDITORIAL



The risk that residents will use the excuse of bushfire protection to remove a tree that obscures a harbour view is real. *Photo: Peter Rae*

An early and intense start to the bushfire season shocked NSW last year. Who can forget the images of the burnt remains of houses and the grief of their distressed owners, the scenes of exhausted fire fighters, the two lives lost fighting the flames?

Government would be negligent not to take steps to protect communities from further destruction and to prepare for the more ferocious fires and longer bushfire seasons that climate change threatens to bring.

But, as *The Sun-Herald* has reported, one reform designed to do just that is having serious unintended consequences, which cannot be ignored.

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/comment/smh-editorial/balance-needed-between-bushfire-risk-and-tree-conservation-20140829-109xjf.html#ixzz3DSIFkkLq>

RET review doesn't reflect what the Government has been saying

BY SARA PHILLIPS

ABC Environment | 29 AUG 2014

Comments (14)

The recent review of the Renewable Energy Target does not reflect the Government's repeated statements in favour of renewable energy.

WELL THIS IS AWKWARD, isn't it? Before last year's federal election, and all of this year, Greg Hunt has been swearing black and blue that Australia's Renewable Energy Target (RET) has bipartisan support.

Even when self-confessed climate sceptic Dick Warburton was appointed to head the review panel of the RET, Hunt reiterated the government's support for this long-standing initiative.

But when Mr Warburton's report was made available <http://www.abc.net.au/environment/articles/2014/08/29/4077328.htm>



The review of the RET was not favourable to renewable energy.

SEE ALSO

Slashing revenue? Why stop at the mining tax?

By [Ian Verrender](#)

Posted 8 Sep 2014, 7:57am Mon 8 Sep 2014, 7:57am



Photo: [Despite all the noise, the short-lived mining tax didn't deter new projects. \(ABC News\)](#)

If you seriously believe that ridding the country of a minerals tax will boost income and create jobs, it stands to reason the same logic should be extended to the petroleum tax, writes Ian Verrender.

The mining tax is dead!

As the nation rejoiced over the removal of yet more potential budget revenue last week, basking in the reassuring glow that foreign investors can now reap the benefits from Australia's mineral export boom, one can only hope the Government turns its attention to eliminating the one remaining impediment to national development: the dreaded Petroleum Resources Rent Tax.

Ian Verrender is the ABC's business editor.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-09-08/verrender-why-stop-at-the-mining-tax/5726276>

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10 September 2014, 3:30pm AEST

Japan turns to floating solar islands as it seeks to end reliance on nuclear power

AUTHOR



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DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Jon Major receives funding from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC).



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liverpool.ac.uk/

JOBS

Professor / Associate Professor, Fine Art (Art Theory)



Kagoshima power plant: is floating solar the future? [View more](#)

Two companies in Japan **recently announced** they are to begin building two huge solar power islands that will float on reservoirs. This follows Kagoshima solar power plant, the country's largest, which opened in late 2013 and is found **floating in the sea** just off the coast of southern Japan.

These moves comes as Japan looks to move on from the

<http://theconversation.com/japan-turns-to-floating-solar-islands-as-it-seeks-to-end-reliance-on-nuclear-power-31483>

Uranium deal could make Indian nuclear power safer

By [Catherine Mei Ling Wong](#)

Updated 5 Sep 2014, 3:48pm Fri 5 Sep 2014, 3:48pm



[Photo: Australia is poised to export more than just uranium, but also knowledge and expertise.](#)
[\(AAP: Dan Himbrechts\)](#)

Australia is poised to export more than just uranium to India, but also the knowledge and expertise to make its nuclear power industry safer, writes Catherine Mei Ling Wong.

Australia's Prime Minister Tony Abbott is set to [sign a deal](#) with India that will allow the export of uranium to the country.

There are [concerns](#) that some of the uranium will be used to produce nuclear weapons in India. It's not likely, though the possibility remains. Critics have also pointed to poor regulation and the lack of transparency in India's nuclear industry.

But Australia can play a bigger role in improving India's nuclear industry than just exporting uranium. It can also provide expertise in risk governance and communication.

Catherine Mei Ling Wong is a senior research officer at The Cairns Institute. She did her PhD at the Australian National University on risk governance in the nuclear power industry in India.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-09-05/mei-ling-wong-uranium-deal/5722862>

11 September 2014, 4.05pm AEST

China shows there's more to renewable energy than fighting climate change

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DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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



The Tangshanpeng Wind Farm in China. Flickr/Land Rover Our Planet, CC BY-SA

With the failure of international agreements to fight climate change, the way is open to viewing the role of renewables as more than agents for reducing carbon emissions. Indeed is it possible for countries to build their manufacturing industries, enhance their energy security — and contribute to reducing carbon emissions?

In an article published today in [Nature](#), we argue that China shows us just such a way. By boosting markets in water, wind and solar power, China is driving down costs and accelerating the uptake of renewable energy.



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<http://theconversation.com/china-shows-theres-more-to-renewable-energy-than-fighting-climate-change-31471>

Science for a better society and a stronger economy

SMH Editorial

Date

15 September 2014

EDITORIAL



"If Australian science were a cricket team, you could say we have a few great players but a pretty average team."
Photo: Rohan Thomson

It must have been quite a sight: an angry mob of scientists confronting the prime minister on a rainy day in Canberra about his government's treatment of science.

Incensed at budget cuts and poor working conditions, the scientists forced the prime minister to admit that before the minerals run out, Australia must become "the clever country".

That was November 1988. Bob Hawke was the country's leader.

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/comment/smh-editorial/science-for-a-better-society-and-a-stronger-economy-20140914-10griy.html#ixzz3DSkmJNWd>

Soil contamination

If [environmental](#) pollution has been compromising people's quality of life in China, soil contaminated with heavy metals is eroding the foundation of the country's food safety and becoming a looming public health hazard.

The government is reportedly making a detailed map of the extent to which the country's soil has been contaminated with heavy metals. This will hopefully facilitate action to address and remedy the problem.

A [Beijing](#) lawyer's request for information about soil contamination was turned down. The latest attempt to map out polluted areas will be conducive to more sensible and truthful responses to such requests. http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/bizchina/2013-06/14/content_16621389.htm

FactCheck: does Australia have too much electricity?

AUTHOR

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DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dylan McConnell has previously received funding from the AEMC's Consumer Advocacy Panel.

Alan Pears AM has carried out consulting work for many sustainable energy organisations and provides policy advice to a variety of organisations. At present he has no paid roles for such organisations. He is an honorary adviser to the Energy Efficiency Council, Climate Alliance and Alternative Technology Association.



Australia does have the capacity to produce more electricity than it needs - but that's not a reason to scale back the Renewable Energy Target. *Indigo Skies Photography/Flickr, CC BY-NC-SA*

*We have 9,000 megawatts (nine big power stations equivalent) of excess capacity in electricity generation ... We have more than 15% overcapacity in generation in Australia - Industry minister Ian Macfarlane, **ABC Radio**, September 9.*

<http://theconversation.com/factcheck-does-australia-have-too-much-electricity-31505>

'One-stop-shop' plans would wind back 30 years of legal protection for the environment

Rachel Walmsley ABC Environment 3 Sep 2014



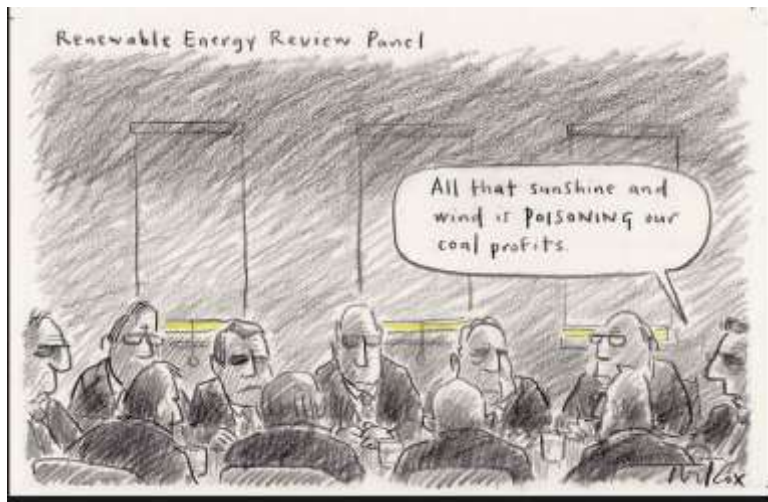
Australian icons such as Kakadu were made possible by federal environment laws.

Environmental assets cross state boundaries and are prey to greedy state governments. Only Federal environmental laws have so far prevented their destruction.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S handover of environmental approval powers to the states for development projects will wind back 30 years of legal protection for the environment and put at risk Australia's World Heritage areas such as the Great Barrier Reef, Kakadu and the Tasmanian forests.

Rachel Walmsley is policy director of the [Australian Network of Environmental Defenders Offices](#).

<http://www.abc.net.au/environment/articles/2014/09/03/4079497.htm>



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

12 September 2014, 1:28am AEST

After 30 years of protecting the ozone layer, some reasons to be cheerful

AUTHOR



Nigel Paul
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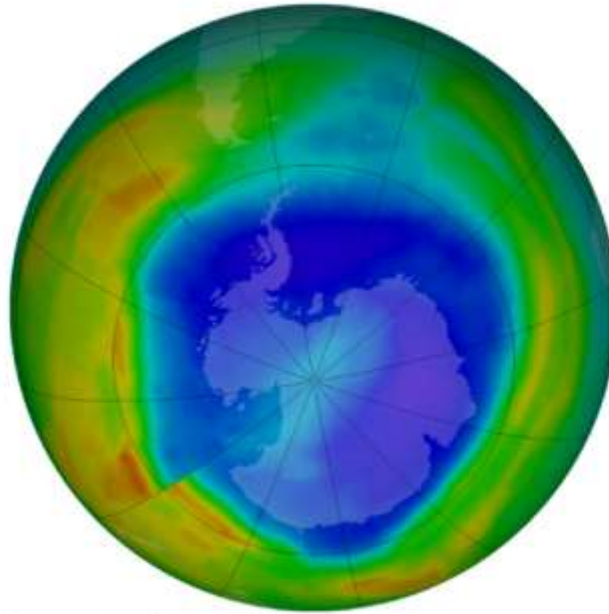
DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Nigel Paul is co-chair of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) panel on ozone depletion, but he writes here in his personal capacity. During the 1990s he received funding for research in to the effects of ozone depletion from UK research councils and the EU.



Provides funding as a Founding Partner of
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083



Ozone conditions as of September 7, 2014. NASA

It sometimes feels as if environmental news is never good news, but that certainly isn't true when it comes to the ozone layer. The UN has announced that the ozone layer is showing "signs of recovery". Evidence has pointed to recovery for some time, but researchers have waited until they were confident that the hole in

<http://theconversation.com/after-30-years-of-protecting-the-ozone-layer-some-reasons-to-be-cheerful-31604>

Australian World Heritage: keeping the outstanding exceptional

Tim Badman ABC Environment 8 Aug 2014



Coral Credit: GBRMPA (GBRMPA)

What does it mean to care for natural World Heritage in 2014 and beyond? With the current debate over the future of the Great Barrier Reef, this question is particularly relevant to Australia, the host of this year's World Parks Congress.

THIS YEAR, THE World Heritage List has reached 1,007 sites. All are recognised as of 'outstanding universal value': something so important to humanity that it deserves recognition and protection beyond borders and beyond short-term interests. Among them, 228 are listed for their outstanding natural value — including world-renowned areas such as Ha Long Bay in Vietnam, the Tropical Rainforest of Sumatra, the Serengeti in Africa, or the Central Amazon.

Tim Badman is director of the World Heritage Program at the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

<http://www.abc.net.au/environment/articles/2014/08/08/4063029.htm>

Climate science mistakes betray the poor

By [Tom Harris](#) and [Tim Ball](#) - posted Monday, 15 September 2014

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“Mega-droughts and deadly heatwaves. A year’s rainfall in a month.

Coastal cities under water. Destruction of ocean life. Invasive pests.”

This is how the United Nations’ World Meteorological Organization (WMO) describes “weather reports from the future”, a series of films depicting what they claim are realistic scenarios for the year 2050.

Tom Harris is an Ottawa-based mechanical engineer and Executive Director

<http://www.onlineopinion.com.au/view.asp?article=16677>

Why zero deforestation is compatible with a reduction in poverty

Tony Juniper: Jonathon Porritt's suggestion that poor countries should be able to cut down trees presents false notions about trading environmental for development goals

Live chat: What's the role of business in preventing deforestation?



Tony Juniper

Guardian Professional, Monday 8 September 2014 16.00 AEST

 Jump to comments (7)



A young girl sits where teak trees once grew in the Bago Region of Burma, after the land was scorched ahead of replanting. Photograph: Ye Aung Thu/AFP/Getty Images

Jonathon Porritt, the environmentalist, last week attacked fellow Greens who back the ambition of "zero deforestation". He accused colleagues of "absolutism", holding back development, perpetuating poverty and even colonialism. He suggested that the aim of stopping deforestation is simplistic and unrealistic.

<http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2014/sep/08/zero-deforestation-poverty-jonathon-porritt-prince-charles>

Bureau caught in own tangled web of homogenisation

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology now acknowledges that they change the temperatures at most, if not all, the weather stations that make-up the official station network from which national temperature trends are calculated. Indeed, earlier in the week, 28 pages of 'adjustments' were released online following a series of articles in *The Australian* and *The Weekend Australian* by Graham Lloyd. Scrutinise the detail in this document of adjustments and not only is the rationale and methodology indefensible, but it contradicts information published in the official [Station Catalogue](#) which is meant to be the go-to document for understanding this official network known as [ACORN-SAT](#) (Australian Climate Observations Reference Network –Surface Air Temperature).

That the Minister has not yet intervened, and that many within the Australian scientific community attempt to justify the practice of homogenisation that creates these 'adjustments' that changes cooling trends to warming trends at a whim, is reason for national shame. It all amounts to corruption of the scientific process on a grand scale, with significant economic implications. But not even a whisper about the scandal can be heard from the Australian national broadcaster or the many other typically righteous institutions and individuals that claim to be motivated by the truth.

Jennifer Marohasy is a biologist and adjunct research fellow in the Centre for Plant and Water Science at Central Queensland University.

<http://www.onlineopinion.com.au/view.asp?article=16680>

Politics trumps physics in climate change frenzy

By [Mike Steketee](#)

Posted Fri at 7:48am Fri 12 Sep 2014, 7:48am



[Photo: The Renewable Energy Target broadly met its objectives, thanks in part to wind farms. \(dbking: flickr.com\)](#)

Given the relentless long-term trend towards global warming, it should be a case of all hands on deck. But the world of politics appears to have trumped the laws of physics, writes Mike Steketee.

"THE laws of physics are non-negotiable," [observed Michel Jarraud](#), secretary-general of the World Meteorological Organisation, this week.

You wouldn't think so listening to the often frenzied debate about global warming or, according to Tony Abbott's senior business adviser Maurice Newman, what is really [global cooling](#).

Mike Steketeer is a freelance journalist. He was formerly a columnist and national affairs editor for The Australian. View his full profile [here](#).

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-09-12/steketeer-politics-trumps-physics-in-climate-change-frenzy/5738548>

15 September 2014, 2.48pm AEST

Ferals, strays, pets: how to control the cats that are eating our wildlife

AUTHORS



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DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Tim Doherty receives funding from Earthwatch Institute Australia and the Holsworth Wildlife Research Endowment.

Mike Calver receives funding from the Australian Pet Welfare Foundation. He is affiliated with the Cat Welfare Society of Western Australia. This article represents the views of the authors and not of the society.



A feral cat in the bush. Tim Doherty, Author provided

Feral domestic cats are a global threat to biodiversity and were **recently named** as the biggest threat to endangered Australian mammals.

<http://theconversation.com/ferals-strays-pets-how-to-control-the-cats-that-are-eating-our-wildlife-31182>

Soros signals Argentina's shale is biggest place to be

By [James Stafford](#) - posted Monday, 8 September 2014

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One of the world's legendary investors is upping his bet on Argentina's shale oil and gas industry in a show of confidence for shale production in South America's largest unconventional prize - and a big boost for both supermajors and smaller players making big waves in the heart of new discovery areas.

George Soros has [doubled](#) his stake in YPF SA, the state-owned oil company in Argentina, which sits atop some of the world's largest shale oil and gas resources, and is about to get even larger following a new discovery over the last couple of weeks of a second key shale play.

Argentina holds an estimated 27 billion barrels of technically recoverable oil and [802 trillion cubic feet](#) of technically recoverable shale gas, much of it located in the Vaca Muerta, an

enormous shale formation in the Neuquen basin -- the second-largest shale gas deposit and the fourth-largest shale oil deposit in the world.

James Stafford is the publisher of OilPrice.com.

<http://www.onlineopinion.com.au/view.asp?article=16660>

Should democracy be abandoned to respond to the climate crisis?

Peter Burdon ABC Environment 5 Sep 2014



Is the 'endless meeting' that is our democracy up to the task of addressing climate change?

Some have argued that the crisis associated with climate change puts the world on war footing and that democracy should be abandoned in order to rapidly address the situation.

"THE STRONGEST ARGUMENT against democracy is a five minute discussion with the average voter." This glib remark supposedly from Winston Churchill encapsulates a scepticism that many people have about democracies and their ability to respond to a crisis. Democracy, according to this view, is an endless meeting that provides everyone (regardless of their expertise or ignorance) an equal say.

The inefficiency of democratic governance in responding to crisis is acknowledged in the wartime practice of increasing executive power and [suspending debate](#) and ordinary decision-making mechanisms.

Peter Burdon is a lecturer in law at the [University of Adelaide](#).

<http://www.abc.net.au/environment/articles/2014/09/05/4081208.htm>

The Guardian view on the unchanging message from climate scientists

When the science is so rigorous, politics must be equally vigorous



Editorial

The Guardian, Monday 15 September 2014 04.54 AEST

 Jump to comments (277)



A view of leading edge of remaining part of the Larsen B ice shelf. Photograph: Ho/Reuters

Climate scientists have just established what did not make a vast chunk of Antarctic ice shelf break off 12 years ago and start floating northwards. They report in the journal *Science* that they can rule out instability in the bedrock on which the Larsen-B sheet was grounded. That leaves "surface warming" as the most likely explanation: in other words, it could have been climate change as a consequence of increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide that made the 3,250 square kilometres of ice up to 200 metres thick break off from the rest of Antarctica.

This was pretty much the conclusion that many people jumped to at the
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/sep/14/guardian-view-unchanging-message-climate-scientists>

Climate change drove me to politics: Janet Rice

Janet Rice ABC Environment Updated 28 Aug 2014 (First posted 27 Aug 2014)



Janet Rice gives her maiden speech.

In this edited transcript of the maiden speech of new Greens senator Janet Rice, she focuses of climate change as being one of her primary concerns.

I clearly remember the moment when my journey to being in the Australian Senate began. It was 1980. I was studying science at Melbourne Uni. I had just left a climatology lecture given by Dr Barrie Pittock and the implications of what I had learnt were still spinning in my brain.

Barrie had just explained the emerging understanding of the greenhouse effect, and the likely impact it was going to have on our climate and our planet. I walked out of the lecture into warm spring sunshine, past other students who were having lunch. All I could think was, 'This is serious! The world needs to be doing something about this!'

Janet Rice is a Greens senator for Victoria.

<http://www.abc.net.au/environment/articles/2014/08/27/4075555.htm>

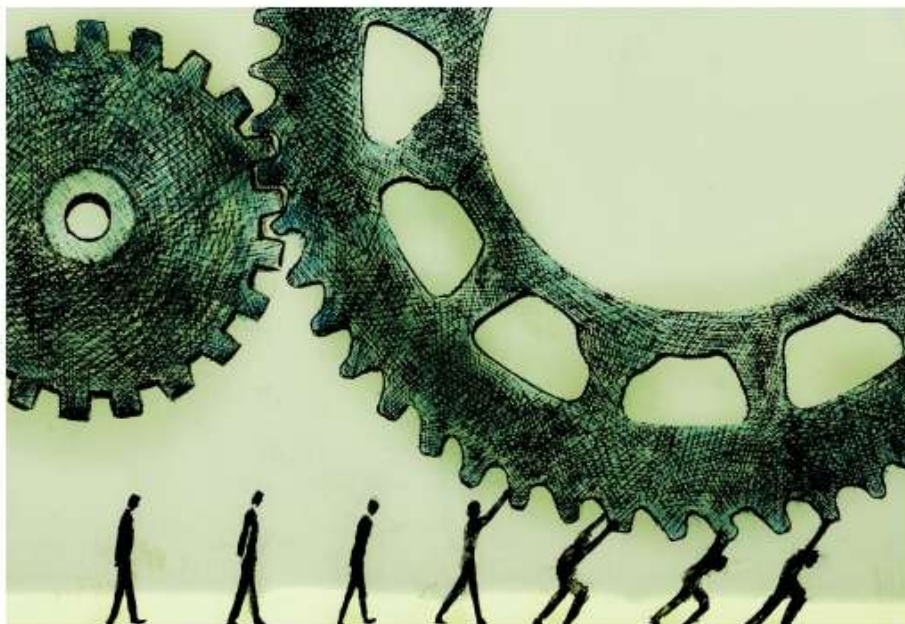


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The new Luddites: why former digital prophets are turning against tech

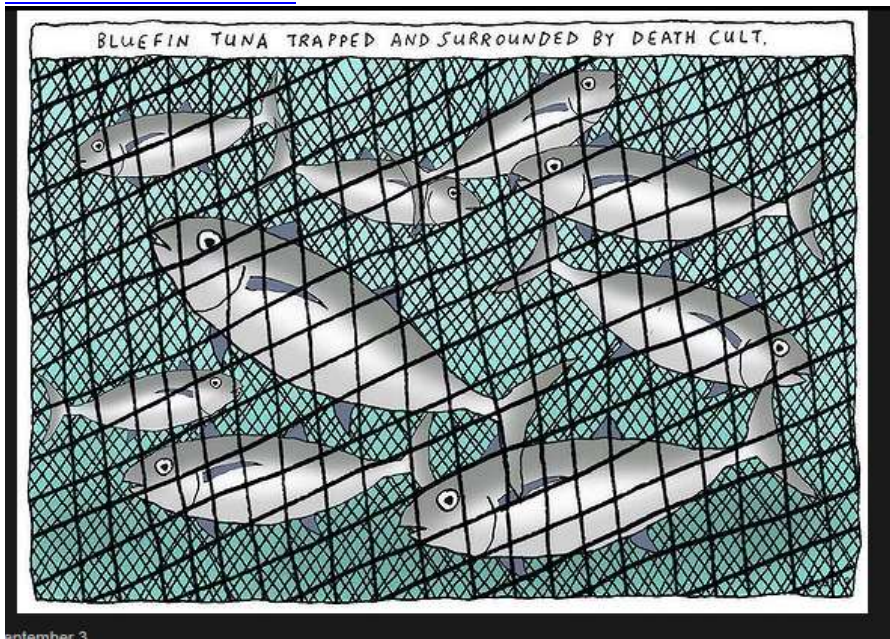
Neo-Luddism began to emerge in the postwar period. First after the emergence of nuclear weapons, and secondly when it became apparent new computer technologies had the power to change our lives completely.

BY [BRYAN APPELYARD](#) | PUBLISHED 29 AUGUST, 2014 - 15:18



Crushed by the wheels of industry: critics increasingly see new tech as one of the free market's most dangerous tools of oppression. Image: Ikon Images

Very few of us can be sure that our jobs will not, in the near future, be done by machines. We know about cars built by robots, cashpoints replacing bank tellers, ticket dispensers replacing train staff, self-service checkouts replacing supermarket staff, telephone operators replaced by "call trees", and so on. But http://www.newstatesman.com/sci-tech/2014/08/new-luddites-why-former-digital-prophets-are-turning-against-tech?utm_source=The+Shortlist+Daily&utm_campaign=46ec0de0d2-



September 3

<http://www.smh.com.au/photogallery/federal-politics/cartoons/michael-leunig-20090711-dgl6.html>

11 September 2014, 6.29am AEST

How to get renewable energy into the grid — without losing power

AUTHOR



Anthony Vassallo
Delta Electricity Chair in
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DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Anthony Vassallo receives funding from the ARC for a linkage project with a flow battery developer. He is a co-director for a company that helps advise potential users of energy storage on commercial systems.



There are numerous methods for maintaining electricity supply when renewables are in the grid.
Johan Douma/Flickr, CC BY-NC-SA



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sydney.edu.au

The **recent review** of the Australian Renewable Energy Target has once again raised the issue of the “unreliability” of some renewable power sources such as wind and solar power.

Their variability, which arises from the weather or daily and seasonal cycles, leads some to conclude that they will only ever be able to supply a minority fraction of Australia’s electricity.

<http://theconversation.com/how-to-get-renewable-energy-into-the-grid-without-losing-power-30961>

15 September 2014, 6.22am AEST

The oceans are full of our plastic – here’s what we can do about it

AUTHORS



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DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Britta Denise Hardesty's research was co-funded by Shell Australia's National Social Investment Program and CSIRO's Oceans and Atmosphere Flagship. TeachWild is an innovative national partnership between CSIRO, Earthwatch and Founding Partner Shell Australia to gather the data needed to bridge the information gap and tackle the global issue of marine debris.

Chris Wilcox's research was co-funded by Shell Australia's National Social Investment Program and CSIRO's Oceans and Atmosphere Flagship. TeachWild is an innovative national partnership between CSIRO, Earthwatch and Founding Partner Shell Australia to gather the data needed to bridge the information gap and tackle the global issue of marine debris.



Parts of Australia's coastline are littered with plastic rubbish, which finds its way into the oceans.
CSIRO

By 2050, 95% of seabirds will have plastic in their gut. That is just one finding from our [national marine debris research project](#), the largest sample of marine debris data ever collected anywhere in the world.

The statistic is just one prediction of what's in store if we don't come to grips with the growing problem of rubbish at sea.

<http://theconversation.com/the-oceans-are-full-of-our-plastic-heres-what-we-can-do-about-it-31460>

5 September 2014, 6.04am AEST

Finally, some light relief for the Renewable Energy Target

AUTHOR



Iain MacGill

Co-director, Centre for Energy and Environmental Markets at UNSW Australia

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Iain MacGill is an Associate Professor in the School of Electrical Engineering and Telecommunications at UNSW Australia, and Joint Director of the University's Centre for Energy and Environmental Markets. The Centre receives funding from a range of government sources including the Australian Research Council and ARENA. He contributes unpaid expert advice to a number of government organisations, industry associations and not-for-profit groups in the clean energy area within Australia and internationally.

UNSW Australia does not contribute to the cost of running The Conversation. [Find out more.](#)



Renewable energy is an excellent way to hedge against the impacts of climate policies. Indigo Skies Photograph

The Australian government has just received a vitally important report to guide their decisions on the future of Australia's Renewable Energy Target (RET).

But it's not the RET review [report](#) of the Coalition-appointed expert panel, led by Dick Warburton, which was released last week.

<http://theconversation.com/finally-some-light-relief-for-the-renewable-energy-target-31278>

Why the debate over energy storage utterly misses the point

By [Chris Dalby](#) - posted Friday, 5 September 2014

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The [debate](#) over which energy storage technology will prove to be the best in the long-term is woefully misguided.

Many technologies have been tested in the field or been fully installed, but their real-world applications have created constant questions around a number of fixed themes: the three-points concern cost, technology, and potential environmental impact, as well as the need for specific regulation and end-of-life management.

Here, engineers have run into the dilemma of energy storage technology. It is difficult for any energy storage method, at least at the current stage of development, to produce the amounts of power and energy required at a cost-effective price. However, passing judgment on energy storage by using this equation alone is simply incorrect. After all, we do not expect renewable energy to provide a one-size-fits-all solution to help us move away from fossil fuels.

Chris Dalby writes for [OilPrice.com](#).

<http://www.onlineopinion.com.au/view.asp?article=16654>



<http://www.smh.com.au/photogallery/federal-politics/cartoons/michael-leunig-20090711-dgl6.html>

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Drought and fire threaten WA's famous spring wildflowers

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Annual show: each spring, thousands of people make the road trip north from Perth to see the wildflowers. [See photo](#)

Spring has sprung. This time of year is peak wildflower season in the area around Perth, and the display is a major tourism draw card. People flock to places like [Lesueur National Park](#) and the [Eneabba sandplain](#) in search of stunning displays of flowers and vistas that change from yellow to white to pink over the spring months.



Murdoch

<http://theconversation.com/drought-and-fire-threaten-was-famous-spring-wildflowers-31167>

Farmers are less than 1% of the Australian population today. In 1950, an Australian farmer fed 20 people, in 1970 200 people and today, an Australian farmer feeds 600

people -Lynne Strong, Bega ABARES Regional Outlook Conference
30/08/12.