

# Peak Water, Peak Oil...Now, Peak Soil?

By Stephen Leahy [Reprint](#)    [Print](#) [Send by email](#) 



Healthy soil looks dark, crumbly, and porous, and is home to worms and other organisms. It feels soft, moist, and friable, and allows plant roots to grow unimpeded. Credit: Colette Kessler, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

REYKJAVÍK, Iceland (IPS) - Soil is becoming endangered. This reality needs to be part of our collective awareness in order to feed nine billion people by 2050, say experts meeting here in Reykjavík.

And a big part of reversing soil decline is carbon, the same element that is overheating the planet.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/05/peak-water-peak-oilnow-peak-soil/>



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## Energy in Australia: Peak oil, solar power and Asia's economic growth

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Sunday 20 July 2014 7:45AM

Graham Palmer, an industrial engineer from Melbourne, discusses energy use and needs. He predicts that the declining energy surplus of fossil fuels will be one of the defining features of energy systems in the twenty first century.



IMAGE: ARE FOSSIL FUELS ABOUT TO HIT THE ASHCAN OF HISTORY? (GETTY/JESSE SWALL LOW)

**Sundays 7:45am**  
Presented by Robyn Williams

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/ockhamsrazor/energy-in-australia3a-peak-oil2c-solar-power-and-asia27s-eco/5598796>

## Environment: green policies casualties of Abbott's vengeance mission

GILES PARKINSON | MAY 14, 2014 10:47AM | [EMAIL](#) | [PRINT](#)

Tony Abbott seems to have taken personal umbrage as a result of Greens and green-minded MPs denying him power in 2010. Now he's in charge, and our sustainable programs are on the chopping block.



For Prime Minister Tony Abbott, his was not so much a budget as a settling of old scores.

Cast your mind back to 2010, when Abbott was denied power in a hung Parliament by Labor, the Greens and two country independents who wished to advance policy on climate change and renewable energy. Ever since, Abbott and the right-wing faction that put him there — the people Paul Keating famously described as “right-wing nutcases” — have vowed revenge.

<http://www.crikey.com.au/2014/05/14/environment-green-policies-casualties-of-abbotts-vengeance-mission/>

## Opinion

### Address soil infertility concerns Published Date: Jul 11, 2014

newvision



By Annet Adong

**The current government efforts are directed towards having Uganda transform from a low income to a middle income country.**

The agriculture sector has been identified as one key sector to drive the vision 2040. This is because of its potential role to uplift majority of the population, who depend on it as their livelihood source, out of poverty.

African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) estimates that a 6 percent per annum growth in agricultural sector is sufficient to not only reduce by one half the population below the poverty line, but also to substantially reduce the number of the population in absolute poor.

<http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/657425-address-soil-infertility-concerns.html>

## The Frankenstein monster that was Australia's price on carbon

*Sara Phillips ABC Environment Updated 17 Jul 2014 (First posted 16 Jul 2014)*



Frankenstein's monster was a thoughtful, tragic figure in the original book.

Cobbled together from the parts of dead climate policies, Australia's now-dead carbon tax got about as much love as a horror movie monster.

"You will rejoice to hear that no disaster has accompanied the commencement of an enterprise which you have regarded with such evil forebodings."

This is the first sentence of a classic novel which I think rather neatly sums up the whole sorry tale of Australia's carbon tax: Frankenstein.



**Sara Phillips** has been an environment journalist and editor for eleven years. Learning the trade on environmental trade publications, she went on to be deputy editor of 'Cosmos' magazine and editor of 'G', a green lifestyle magazine. She has won several awards for her work including the 2006 Reuters/IUCN award for excellence in environmental reporting and the 2008 Bell Award for editor of the year.

<http://www.abc.net.au/environment/articles/2014/07/16/4047098.htm>

## Purists and pragmatists clash on climate action

By Paula Matthewson

Posted Mon 21 Jul 2014, 8:42am AEST



Photo: [Will Christine Milne take a pragmatic or purist approach to Tony Abbott's Direct Action policy?](#) (AAP: Lukas Coch)

*When it comes to climate policy there is a struggle between idealists and realists, and soon these groups will confront the question on Direct Action: is some climate action better than none at all? Paula Matthewson writes.*

The harrowing events that began to unfold in Ukraine at the end of last week firmly put into perspective the preceding fortnight's wrangling in the Senate. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-07-21/matthewson-purists-and-pragmatists-clash-on-climate-action/5610576>



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

# Sorry carbon history heralds need for compromise

July 17, 2014

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## EDITORIAL



"Australia must rely on crossbenchers, especially from the Palmer United Party." Photo: Alex Ellinghausen

History will judge harshly those who have led Australia's response to global warming.

John Howard as prime minister held out against effective action for years.

When he begrudgingly took an emissions trading scheme to the 2007 election, voters didn't

<http://www.smh.com.au/comment/smh-editorial/sorry-carbon-history-heralds-need-for-compromise-20140717-zu2ju.html>

# Lessons and hope from the Senate carbon tax mess

July 11, 2014

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## EDITORIAL



It is time for thorough examination of PUP's plans. That means the Coalition has to tread slowly and carefully. Photo: Alex Ellinghausen

The Senate plays a crucial role in Australian democracy. No matter its make-up, it is the voters' safeguard. It ensures laws are passed that say what they mean and do what they say. It vets policies to ensure there are no unintended consequences. It improves proposed reforms and even generates the odd good idea itself.

## We're turning our land to sand

Luc GnacadjaABC Environment



Drought master cattle on the move, Ulcanbah Station, west of Collinsville. Australia makes good use of its dryland areas. *Credit: Paula Heelan (User submitted)*

While concerns about food security grab headlines, one of the key drivers of the problem is overlooked. No one seems to notice that good farm land is being lost to the desert winds.

ON SUNDAY IT WAS THE World Day to Combat Desertification and I suspect the term desertification will conjure up images of expanding deserts or shifting sand dunes. This is what I often hear, followed, almost predictably by the statement, "why should I care since we cannot do much about it."

<http://www.abc.net.au/environment/articles/2012/06/19/3527907.htm>

## e360 digest

### Five Questions for Jeffrey Sachs On Decarbonizing the Economy

15 July 2014

*Thirty scientific institutions from 15 countries last week released a report for the United Nations outlining how the world's major carbon dioxide-emitting nations can slash those emissions by mid-century. Called the [Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project](#), the initiative aims to provide government leaders with a plan of action in advance of a UN climate summit in September and climate negotiations in Paris in late 2015. Yale Environment 360 asked Jeffrey Sachs, director of Columbia University's Earth Institute and a key player in the decarbonization project, five questions about the initiative and the prospects for global action on the climate front.*

**1. Why do you believe the Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project has a chance of succeeding where other global carbon-cutting initiatives have failed?**

[http://e360.yale.edu/digest/five\\_questions\\_for\\_jeffrey\\_sachs\\_on\\_decarbonizing\\_the\\_economy/4194/](http://e360.yale.edu/digest/five_questions_for_jeffrey_sachs_on_decarbonizing_the_economy/4194/)

## What should we do with Australia's 50,000 abandoned mines?

### AUTHOR



**Corinne Unger**  
Industry Fellow, Centre for Mined Land Rehabilitation  
at University of Queensland

### DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Corinne Unger is a Churchill Fellow who undertook research into leading practice abandoned mine rehabilitation and post-mining land use in Europe and Canada during 2009. She is currently employed part-time in an unfunded position at CMLR (Centre for Mined Land Rehabilitation), SMI (Sustainable Minerals Institute) at The University of Queensland where she is a researcher aiming to establish a national hub for abandoned mines. She is also an environmental consultant providing advice to the mining sector, governments, NGOs and landholders on mine rehabilitation, closure and abandoned mine management.

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

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Australia has a strategy for abandoned mines – but it needs implementing. [Creative Commons BY-NC-ND](#)

Wandering around Australia, you might want to watch your step — the country currently has more than 50,000 abandoned mines. Some represent a significant threat from contamination; others may pose safety risks; and still others may be losing their value as cultural heritage.

<http://theconversation.com/what-should-we-do-with-australias-50-000-abandoned-mines-18197>

## Moylan's moment cost millions

By [Elke Nagy](#) - posted Tuesday, 15 July 2014

In 2012, Australian environmental activist, Jonathan Moylan, sent out a fake press release which caused the share price of a coal company to crash by A\$3 million.

He was back in the NSW Supreme Court in Sydney last Friday for his [sentencing hearing](#). Over 50 supporters were gathered outside and the court room had to be changed to accommodate the crowd.

**Elke Nagy** is a freelance writer and visual artist with an academic background in law, philosophy and science.

<http://www.onlineopinion.com.au/view.asp?article=16499>

23 July 2014, 5:56am AEST

## Affordable batteries for green energy are closer than we think

### AUTHORS



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### DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

This article was co-authored by Anun Vishwanath (research scientist) and Sivakumar Kalyanasuman (chief scientist) at IBM Research - Australia.

Valentin Muenzel receives funding from the Australian Research Council via a linkage grant. He also provides consulting services on the topic of batteries to several companies.

Iven Mareels receives funding from The Australian Research Council, under the Linkage Grant Scheme, in support of research on the integration of electric vehicles into the grid.

Julian de Hoog receives funding from the ARC, Better Place Australia, and Sonogy E-Connect as part of a linkage grant.



Battery costs can make up a quarter of the cost of an electric car such as this Tesla Model S. [Shai Frenkel/Think](#), CC BY-SA

At the heart of the current debate around energy is the question of storage. In cars, how to build batteries that run for hundreds of kilometres; in electricity, storing energy from solar panels for **when the sun doesn't shine**.

<http://theconversation.com/affordable-batteries-for-green-energy-are-closer-than-we-think-28772>



25 July 2014, 1:06pm AEST

## Our cities need more green spaces for rest and play — here's how

### AUTHORS



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Senior Lecturer - Environmental Planning at Griffith University



**Christoph Ruppelch**

PhD Candidate at Griffith University

### DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Jason Byrne is a member of the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Peter Brock Alliance. He does not receive funding from these organisations, but he is an active advocate for parks and green-space.

Christoph Ruppelch received funding from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and Griffith University.



Seoul's Cheonggyecheon Stream was once a freeway. [View the Cheonggyecheon, CC BY-ND/SA](#)

Your local park is likely playing a vital role in your city's health, and probably your own too. Parks and other "green spaces" help **keep cities cool**, and as places of recreation, can help with health issues such as obesity. Even looking at greenery can **make you feel better**.



Provided funding as a Member of The Conversation.  
[griffith.edu.au](http://griffith.edu.au)

<http://theconversation.com/our-cities-need-more-green-spaces-for-rest-and-play-heres-how-28271>

## Science was rigorous for Tasmanian World Heritage listing

Peter Hitchcock *ABC Environment* 21 Jul 2014



The World Heritage listing process is scientifically rigorous, says Hitchcock.

Contrary to a recent assertion, the scientific assessment of Tasmania's World Heritage area was protracted and rigorous.

IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT [Mark Poynter](#), in his attempt to establish that politics rather than science has determined the World Heritage decision in favour of the Tasmanian forests, fails to focus on the science and instead attacks the people providing the science. In the familiar sporting aphorism, he plays the man not the ball.

*Peter Hitchcock is an environmental consultant and a member of the Order of Australia (AM).*

<http://www.abc.net.au/environment/articles/2014/07/21/4049273.htm>

## Science the biggest loser from Tasmanian World Heritage decision

By [Mark Poynter](#) - posted Thursday, 17 July 2014

Last month, the United Nation's World Heritage Committee took less than 10 minutes to reject the Abbott Government's bid to delist part of a 170,000 hectare, so-called 'minor' extension to Tasmania's Wilderness World Heritage Area (the TWWHA) that had been engineered by the former Gillard Government.

In announcing the decision, the Committee described our Government's attempt to delist a 74,000 hectare portion of the 2013 extension as 'feeble' and said that delisting part of a World Heritage Area would have a set a bad precedent for other countries.

**Mark Poynter** is a professional forester with 30 years experience. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Foresters of Australia and acts for it in a voluntary capacity as a media spokesperson. His book *Saving Australia's Forests and its Implications* was published in 2007. <http://www.onlineopinion.com.au/view.asp?article=16506>

25 July 2014, 6:24am AEST

## Will 2015 be the year the world agrees how to live sustainably?

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John Thwaites works for the Monash Sustainability Institute, which is conducting workshops and research on the Sustainable Development Goals. Some funding for this work is received by the Harold Mitchell Foundation.

David Griggs works for the Monash Sustainability Institute, which is conducting workshops and research on the Sustainable Development Goals. Some funding for this work is received by the Harold Mitchell Foundation.

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<http://theconversation.com/will-2015-be-the-year-the-world-agrees-how-to-live-sustainably-29578>

## On hazards and climate

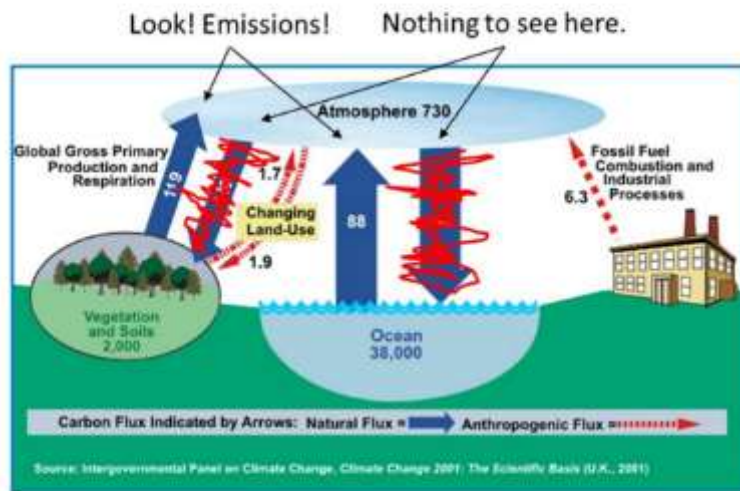
By [Chas Keys](#) - posted Monday, 7 July 2014

Let me make a confession. As a neophyte academic at the University of Wollongong in the late 1970s, I greatly admired Don Aitkin's work when he was Professor of Politics at Macquarie University. In particular I always read his weekly column in the *National Times*, a wonderfully refreshing newspaper now long gone. Don's compass was broad, and he was an acute observer of Australian life and society who brought to bear the insights of the historian, the economist, the sociologist and the political scientist. Periodically I quoted his observations approvingly to my students in lectures. I even read his novel about university life, *The Second Chair*, but I never met the man behind the words.

So I was pleased to find that Don became in retirement an insightful and prolific contributor to *On Line Opinion*. Judging from the usually positive responses to his pieces, which range at least as widely as he did in the *National Times*, his writings have stimulated and challenged many in recent times. I am one who has found his contributions to be interesting, thought-provoking and generally highly worthwhile.

# Get Fact: how accurate is Ian Plimer's new book?

IAN MCHUGH | JUL 11, 2014 12:50PM | EMAIL | PRINT



The climate sceptics' hero, Ian Plimer, has a new book out. Climate academic **Ian McHugh** fact-checks some of his claims about climate change. And did Plimer plagiarise?

<http://www.crikey.com.au/2014/07/11/get-fact-how-accurate-is-ian-plimers-new-book/>

## Climate sceptic HQ: undercover at Ian Plimer's book launch

MARGOT SAVILLE | JUL 15, 2014 12:55PM | EMAIL | PRINT

Ian Plimer's latest book argues manmade climate change is not real and environmentalists are damaging the planet. *Crikey* infiltrated the book launch to see Plimer's fans in action.



If I were an estate planner, I would definitely be sponsoring Professor Ian Plimer. Judging by the age of the audience at the launch of his latest book last night, they must need some help with their wills. And while they can't help being old — it comes to us all — I'm still not sure why they were so angry. Surrounded by about 70 choleric, red-faced elderly blokes (there were only three women), I was terrified that one of them was going to have a stroke.

<http://www.crikey.com.au/2014/07/15/climate-sceptic-hq-undercover-at-ian-plimers-book-launch/>

22 July 2014, 6:24am AEST

## The challenge of sorting fact from fiction on coal seam gas

AUTHOR



**Alex Worthas**  
Executive Director, Energy & Resources at CSIRO

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Alex Worthas oversees a team that receives funding from the Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance (GISERA), which is a collaborative vehicle co-funded by CSIRO, Australia Pacific LNG Pty Ltd and QOC to undertake research that addresses the social and environmental impacts of Australia's natural gas industry. The partners in GISERA have invested more than A\$14 million over five years to research the environmental, social and economic impacts of the natural gas industry. GISERA projects are overseen by an independent and publicly transparent Research Advisory Committee and made publicly available after undergoing CSIRO's peer-review process.



A coal seam gas pilot well from the Santos Narrabri Gas Project in New South Wales, which has divided opinion in the local community. AAP Image/Geoff Leason

<http://theconversation.com/the-challenge-of-sorting-fact-from-fiction-on-coal-seam-gas-28955>

24 July 2014, 6:17am AEST

## Environmentalists have a right to protest – but not at all costs

AUTHOR



**Sinclair Davidson**  
Professor of Institutional Economics at RMIT University

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sinclair Davidson is Professor of Institutional Economics at RMIT University and an honorary senior fellow at the Institute of Public Affairs. His opinion pieces have been published in The Age, The Australian, Australian Financial Review, The Daily Telegraph, Sydney Morning Herald, and Wall Street Journal Asia. His report 'A critique of the coal investment campaign' was published by the Minerals Council of Australia.



Provides funding as a Strategic Partner of The Conversation  
[rmit.edu.au](http://rmit.edu.au)



Environmental activist Jonathan Moylan (centre) with supporters as he leaves a Sydney court in 2013. Moylan has been charged over a hoax email that affected the share price of Whitehaven Coal. AAP Image/Geoff Leason

Here is a tough question – what are the limits of legitimate protest? As Lord Keynes is famously reputed to have said, everything depends on everything else. What is protest?

<http://theconversation.com/environmentalists-have-a-right-to-protest-but-not-at-all-costs-28322>



<http://www.smh.com.au/photogallery/federal-politics/tandbergs-view-20100513-v02b.html>

02 Jul 2014: *Interview*

## Where Will Earth Head After Its ‘Climate Departure’?

*Will the planet reach a point where its climate is significantly different from what has existed throughout human history, and if so, when? In an interview with Yale Environment 360, biogeographer Camilo Mora talks about recent research on this disquieting issue and what it means for the coming decades.*

**BY DIANE TOOMEY**

The term “climate departure” has an odd ring, but its meaning is relatively straightforward. It marks the point at which the earth’s climate begins to cease resembling what has come before and moves into a new state, one where heat records are routinely shattered and what once was considered extreme will become the norm.

[http://e360.yale.edu/feature/interview\\_camilo\\_mora\\_where\\_will\\_earth\\_head\\_after\\_its\\_climate\\_departure/2783/](http://e360.yale.edu/feature/interview_camilo_mora_where_will_earth_head_after_its_climate_departure/2783/)

## Obituary: Australia's carbon price

### AUTHOR



#### Paul Tynan

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### DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Paul Tynan does not work for, consult, own shares in or receive funding from any company or organisation that would benefit from this article, and has no relevant affiliations.

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### JOB

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Lowell Joo (top left), the carbon price had plenty of fans – and lots of enemies. [Photo credit](#)

The **Carbon Pricing Mechanism**, known to its friends as the carbon price and its critics as the carbon tax, passed away today in Canberra, aged two, after a long battle with slogans.

While it won praise from most **academic** and business economists at home and abroad, it will perhaps be best remembered for its controversial relationship with Australian voters, the stinging criticism it endured from certain politicians, and comparisons with its nemesis, **Direct Action**.

<http://theconversation.com/obituary-australias-carbon-price-29217>

## WA shark killing only scratches the surface

Michael Kennedy *ABC Environment* 23 Jul 2014



Great white sharks are listed as vulnerable under Australian environment laws. *Credit: Keith Flood (iStockphoto)*

The WA policy of baiting and shooting great white sharks has been met with outcry. But it is just the beginning of a series of regulatory failures that could be devastating for many shark species.

FOR MANY YEARS NOW, we've known of the alarming downward trends in populations of the world's large predatory fish: cod, tuna, swordfish, marlin, grouper, halibut and shark. Some estimates suggest the decline has been in the order of 90 per cent.

Michael Kennedy is director of [Humane Society International](http://www.humane-society.org)

17 July 2014, 10:13am AEST

## Despite its imminent demise, the carbon price has cut emissions

### AUTHOR



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### DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Frank Jotzo receives funding from the Australian Research Council.



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Emissions from Australia's power network fell sharply as a result of the carbon price. Photo: Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA

Carbon emissions in Australia's national electricity market would have been 11 to 17 million tonnes higher if Australia had not introduced a carbon price.

**New research** using the latest data indicates that the policy was working despite its imminent Senate repeal.



18 July 2014, 10:16am AEST

## UK shows how Australia can cut emissions without a carbon tax

### AUTHOR



**Alex Kazaglis**

Master of Science Project Supervisor, Imperial College, Senior Analyst Power Sector, UK Committee on Climate Change at Imperial College London

### DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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A tourist train from Sheringham to Eastbourne passes an offshore wind farm, one of many that have sprung up along the UK coast. (Image: Sheringham, CC BY-NC-ND)

Australia's carbon price has gone – but a UK review released this week shows that to lay the foundations for a low-carbon economy, pricing carbon is far from the whole story.

<http://theconversation.com/uk-shows-how-australia-can-cut-emissions-without-a-carbon-tax-29357>

# Direct Inaction: nothing much green in Hunt's white paper

BERNARD KEANE | APR 28, 2014 12:41PM | [EMAIL](#) | [PRINT](#)

Greg Hunt's Direct Action white paper makes a bad policy even worse by ensuring there'll be no consequences for businesses lifting CO2 emissions. No wonder it came out on the eve of a holiday ...



Remarkably, the government's "Direct Action" climate policy appears to become even worse with the release of Environment Minister Greg Hunt's "white paper".

<http://www.crikey.com.au/2014/04/28/direct-inaction-nothing-much-green-in-hunts-white-paper/>

## Back to Permian: US oil comes full circle

By [James Stafford](#) - posted Friday, 18 July 2014

Much larger than Eagle Ford and once thought to have reached peak production, new technology has brought us full circle back to the Permian Basin in Texas and New Mexico, where the recent shift to horizontal well drilling has rendered this play the unconventional ground zero.

Determining where the next real oil boom will be depends largely on following the technology, and while the Permian Basin has been slower than others to switch from vertical well drilling to horizontal drilling, horizontal has now outpaced vertical, and investors are lining up to get in on the game.

James Stafford is the publisher of [OilPrice.com](#).

<http://www.onlineopinion.com.au/view.asp?article=16510>

# The world is cooling, Abbott's biz adviser insists. Bunkum

GILES PARKINSON | APR 24, 2014 12:25PM | [EMAIL](#) | [PRINT](#)

Despite all evidence to the contrary, Tony Abbott's business guru Maurice Newman is still convinced the world is cooling. Here's some facts to add to his case.

The release of the voluminous, three-part update of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change appears to have had no impact on Tony Abbott's conservative government, nor its advisers. Rather than accepting the conclusions of the IPCC's 1250 international experts — approved by every major government in the world (including, apparently, Australia's) — that the world is warming and there is little time to act, Abbott's chief business adviser is still insisting that the world is, in fact, cooling.

Maurice Newman — who heads a triumvirate of climate change sceptics heading key Abbott advisory bodies (Dick Warburton on the renewable energy review and David Murray on banking) — was interviewed on [ABC TV's \*Lateline\* program](#) on Tuesday night. He said, in part:

<http://www.crikey.com.au/2014/04/24/the-world-is-cooling-abbotts-biz-adviser-insists-bunkum/>

21 July 2014, 2:13pm AEST

## Renewable energy is ready to supply all of Australia's electricity

### AUTHOR



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### DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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Centres for Low Carbon Living.

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Even when the wind doesn't blow, it is technically possible for Australia to get all its electricity needs from renewable sources. [Photo: iStockphoto.com](#)

In a [recent article](#) on The Conversation, University of Melbourne Professor Emeritus Frank Larkins wrote that Australia's targets to increase renewable energy will make electricity more expensive, thanks to problems with consistency and storage.

<http://theconversation.com/renewable-energy-is-ready-to-supply-all-of-australias-electricity-29200>

24 July 2014, 2:24pm AEST

## The 'pre-Holocene' climate is returning – and it won't be fun

### AUTHOR



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### DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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Teaching)



The polar vortex played havoc with Niagara Falls (and much of the rest of North America too). [Photo: iStockphoto.com](#)

A string of events earlier this year provided a sobering snapshot of a global climate system out of whack. Europe suffered **devastating floods**, Britain's coastline was **mauled**, and the **polar vortex** cast a **US\$5 billion economic chill** over America. Meanwhile, an abnormally mild winter in Scandinavia **disrupted bears' hibernation**, while Australia was ravaged by **fires** and **record-breaking heat**.

<http://theconversation.com/the-pre-holocene-climate-is-returning-and-it-wont-be-fun-27742>

# Does Australia need a 'climate policy' at all?

By [Don Aitkin](#) - posted Tuesday, 22 July 2014

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A few days ago I thought I heard an MP or Senator saying, in an exasperated tone, that 'this means Australia needs a climate policy!', as though a climate policy was something that every decent citizen should have, like clean water. Since the repeal of the carbon tax has passed the Senate, it is worth having a look at what such a state of *ungrace* might have been.

Don Aitkin has been an academic and vice-chancellor. His latest book, *What Was It All For? The Reshaping of Australia* was published by Allen & Unwin.

<http://www.onlineopinion.com.au/view.asp?article=16520>

17 July 2014, 12:07pm AEST

## Who gains most from axing the carbon tax – and at what cost?

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### DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Stephen King does not work for, consult to, own shares in or receive funding from any company or organisation that would benefit from this article, and has no relevant affiliations.



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High-emission brown coal power generators including Hazelton are not to be among the short-term winners from the carbon tax repeal. AFP Image/David Crossling

When the carbon tax was introduced, there was a lot of discussion about **winners and losers**. The Labor government **limited the number of businesses** that had to pay the tax, while it also gave carbon tax relief to large carbon emitters and large energy users. There were **tax cuts for households** to shield them from the effects of the carbon tax.

<http://theconversation.com/who-gains-most-from-axing-the-carbon-tax-and-at-what-cost-29203>

# How Citizen Scientists Are Using The Web to Track the Natural World

By making the recording and sharing of environmental data easier than ever, web-based technology has fostered the rapid growth of so-called citizen scientists — volunteers who collaborate with scientists to collect and interpret data. Here is a sampling of some of these projects. [READ MORE](#)



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ABOUT EXPLORE POLLINATOR INFO ADD A COUNT MY DATA STORE

SAFE GARDENS FOR POLLINATORS PROGRAM

For people concerned about the health of bees and other pollinators, the Great Sunflower Project asks participants to grow Lemon Queen sunflowers and monitor pollinators, particularly bees, to better understand how certain pesticides might affect them. Researchers correlate pollinator sightings with pesticide usage data for different regions (the maps above show where four neonicotinoid pesticides were used in 2009). For citizen scientists who can't plant and monitor sunflowers, the project enlists their help in counting and identifying pollinators visiting a variety of plants in yards, parks, and wilderness areas. ([greatsunflower.org](http://greatsunflower.org))

[http://e360.yale.edu/slideshow/how\\_citizen\\_scientists\\_are\\_using\\_the\\_web\\_to\\_track\\_the\\_natural\\_world/325/1/](http://e360.yale.edu/slideshow/how_citizen_scientists_are_using_the_web_to_track_the_natural_world/325/1/)

"Australia is a land of droughts and flooding rains. Always has been, always will be,"

*Prime Minister Tony Abbott on the subject of climate change.*

Australia is a land of ..*weird Prime Ministers*..  
Always has been, always will be.

Australia is a land of ..*DEPRESSING POLITICIANS*..  
Always has been, always will be.

*Have your say:*

Australia is a land of .....  
Always has been, always will be.

Leunig

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

**"Soils are like a bank account. You should only draw out what you put in."** -- Rattan Lal of Ohio State University