**Round the traps: upcoming events and issues – ICYMI - #4**

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**Mob 0419 811 750 Feedback welcome. 23 August 2022**

## Upcoming RDA partner event:

* Royal Society of Victoria host with partner Invasive Species Council

*Next-Generation Biocontrol of Invasive Vertebrate Pests*

**Fri, 16 Sep 2022** 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM AEST – an in-person and Zoon event

[<https://rsv.org.au/events/invasive-pests-biocontrol/>](https://rsv.org.au/events/invasive-pests-biocontrol/)

[National Press Club addresses](https://iview.abc.net.au/show/national-press-club-address/series/0/video/NC2212C012S00) on ABC iView (time limited) – Podcast

**Minister Murry Watt** – Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Emergency Management & assistant Min Jenny McAllister [**until 8 September**]. Introduced by Lucy Baker, ABC national regional and rural affairs journalist.

* Minister announces **National Biosecurity Strategy** (adequacy for preparedness for Foot & Mouth Disease especially and Xylella fastidosa, (leaf scorch) bacterial disease of wide variety of plants, including native plants.
* The Senate referred biosecurity and fisheries quotas for inquiry to its Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee (also covering portfolios of agriculture, forestry and fisheries) - inviting submissions.

## [Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications)

Legislation Committee

* [Climate Change Bill 2022 and the Climate Change (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2022](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/ClimateChangeBills2022)                 **Reporting Date:** *31 August 2022*
* [Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Save the Koala) Bill 2021](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/SavetheKoala47th)         **Submissions Close:** *30 September 2022*.  **Reporting Date:** *08 February 2023*

References Committee

* [Australia's extinction crisis](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/ExtinctionCrisis) – Australia’s faunal extinction crisis - **Submissions Close:** *31 August 2022* ; **Reporting Date:** *28 June 2023*. Brought forward from previous government. No need for re-submission, *although now with release of SOER people may wish to supplement their submissions.*
* [Oil and gas exploration and production in the Beetaloo Basin](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/BeetalooBasin47th) -  **Reporting Date:** *14 February 2023*

[Podcast: Minister Plibersek interview with Katharine Murphy, Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/audio/2022/aug/12/tanya-plibersek-on-labors-plans-for-australias-environment?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other)

## Climate Council webinar 17 August with Minister Chris Bowen

Amanda McKenzie, CEO of Climate Council held a brilliant, live, one-on-one conversation with the Hon. Chris Bowen MP, Minister for Climate Change and Energy: the positive climate action already taken by the Albanese Government, as well as the policies and solutions that must be put in place for Australia to achieve deep emissions cuts by 2030 and avoid the worst impacts of climate change. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NUNV3wQ_t6s>

The Ministerial inquiry on carbon credits is headed by Prof Ian **Chubb**, following research by ACF and the Australia Institute on sham of the carbon credit program. [**https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/jun/30/former-australian-chief-scientist-to-head-review-of-carbon-credit-scheme-after-whistleblower-revelations**](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/jun/30/former-australian-chief-scientist-to-head-review-of-carbon-credit-scheme-after-whistleblower-revelations)

The Clean Energy Regulator wants to make it easier for landholders and land managers, including farmers and traditional owners, to participate in the **Emission Reduction Fund (ERF).** See web to give feedback, right click to open: [**https://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/About/Pages/News%20and%20updates/NewsItem.aspx?ListId=19b4efbb-6f5d-4637-94c4-121c1f96fcfe&ItemId=1139**](https://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/About/Pages/News%20and%20updates/NewsItem.aspx?ListId=19b4efbb-6f5d-4637-94c4-121c1f96fcfe&ItemId=1139)

## On tax reform: taxing gas exports, pressure continues…

Richard Dennis, 10 August 2022 *Guardian:* “It’s time to tax mining and energy giants properly. Struggling Australians should share in their record profits”.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/aug/10/its-time-to-properly-tax-mining-and-gas-giants-australians-shouldnt-suffer-as-those-companies-profit?CMP=soc_567>

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## RDA member Global Evergreening Alliance

Notes [Climate Dominoes. Tipping point risks for critical climate systems by David Spratt & Ian Dunlop](https://www.breakthroughonline.org.au/_files/ugd/148cb0_2a1626569b45453ebadad9f151e031b6.pdf) May 2022, with prospects for intervening and reversing trend toward climate breakdown.

And Finance sector specialists, **Rethink** suggest a startling 90% reduction in emissions by 2035 through **disruption** of energy, transport and food sectors using existing technologies - alternative meat implications for land restoration. [https://www.rethinkx.com/climate-implications](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.rethinkx.com%2Fclimate-implications&data=05%7C01%7C%7C106795ae332249c3848e08da84af62d3%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637968186078107186%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=1JEQZyRnSAIeuoPqIaQkkvNtBRfSZEKqU3FFq7ntdPo%3D&reserved=0)

## Sydney Environment Institute webinar – August – to be published.

[*Environmental Governance Failures in Australia: Probing Problems and Seeking Solutions:*](https://sei.sydney.edu.au/opinion/environmental-governance-failures-in-australia-probing-problems-and-seeking-solutions/?s=09)

Prof David Schlosberg chaired contributions from SEI researchers from Rosemary Lyster, Danielle Celermajer and Frank Stilwell, Gerry Bates, and EDO’s David Morris. Reflections on how Australia’s political, legal and economic context has propelled severe environmental decline in recent decades and where to now for democratic institutions, conversations, and legislation? Building partly on earlier work by Rachel Walmsley’s blogpost [*Our legal solutions for the dire state of the environment*](https://www.edo.org.au/2022/07/28/our-legal-solutions-for-the-dire-state-of-the-environment/)

## Forest news

* Eurobodalla Shire councillors have decided to advocate for creation of a plan for just transition away from native forest logging.
* ABC podcast: The History Listen: Maidens Eucalypts: <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/the-history-listen/maidens-eucalypts/13982500>

## Rehabilitation to protect waterways

* **Hazelwood brown coalmine.** Victoria’s biggest mine rehab project proposes to flood the mine pit with river water, requiring more water than all of Sydney Harbour. Environment Victoria is concerned for the Latrobe River system, Aboriginal cultural heritage, and Gippsland Lakes. With Friends of Latrobe Valley Water, Environment Justice Australia has submitted to Minister Plibersek to apply the “water trigger” under the EPBC Act – a requirement to scrutinise how coal mines might harm rivers, wetlands and groundwater, and impact drought-prone communities.

<https://environmentvictoria.org.au/2022/07/28/why-theres-no-just-transition-without-cleaning-up-hazelwood-coal-mine/>

* **NSW Power station closures.** Hunter Community Environment Centre hosts a forum **8 September** - on just transition with coal-ash recycling. Using existing critical mineral extraction processes could support the region to retain its skilled workforce, and protect water ways from contamination impacts.

<https://www.hcec.org.au/events>

* **Why is the decision on Mt Pleasant NSW coal expansion so vital?**

“Environmental groups raise concerns as NSW IPC receives final submissions…”

*Muswellbrook Chronicle*, 22 July 2022. This expansion would add 876 Mt CO2-e GHG pollution, hence opposition from many including Dr Penny Sackett, Australia’s former Chief Scientist:

<https://www.muswellbrookchronicle.com.au/story/7827198/ipc-set-to-receive-final-submissions-on-mt-pleasant-mine-expansion/>

## Marine Conservation

UN to develop a treaty on “[the conservation and sustainable use](https://www.un.org/bbnj/) of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction”. And in time for [UN Ocean conference](https://www.un.org/en/conferences/ocean2022) June-July 2022 in Lisbon, new book from Sarah Lothian at University of Wollongong: <https://www.routledge.com/Marine-Conservation-and-International-Law-Legal-Instruments-for-Biodiversity/Lothian/p/book/9781032228907>

## More good news

* Melbourne’s **pollinator corridor**:

<https://www.theheartgardeningproject.com/melbourne-pollinator-corridor>

* Sydney Harbour - Inspiring work by marine scientist Mariana Mayer Pinto. *Living seawalls bring back biodiversity*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qRc7HvzhgSA>

Overseas noteworthy actions

* **World Resources Institute report: US House of Representatives passes the *Inflation Reduction Act* with measures for the climate and clean energy**

[World Resources Institute statement](https://www.wri.org/news/statement-us-house-representatives-passes-inflation-reduction-act-historic-climate-measures): Once signed into law, the climate and clean energy measures will help the U.S. achieve its 2030 emissions reduction target, make historic investments in environmental justice and equity, and ensure progress toward the country’s goal to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. The U.S. still needs to deliver on other [international climate commitments](https://www.wri.org/insights/bidens-budget-request-does-it-make-good-climate-finance-pledges) such its pledge to provide $11.4 billion per year to support climate action in developing countries.

* **Germany**: Greenpeace activists block transport of Woodside’s Scarborough pipelines. The pipelines, built in Germany, will be transported to Australia & used for the Scarborough gas project.
* **Rivers and climate change in Europe**

John Henley in *The Observer* “Europe’s rivers run dry as scientists warn drought could be worst in 500 years” - Even Norway, which relies on hydropower for about 90% of its electricity generation, has said the unusually low levels of its reservoirs may ultimately oblige it to limit power exports.

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/aug/13/europes-rivers-run-dry-as-scientists-warn-drought-could-be-worst-in-500-years?CMP=share\_btn\_tw

* [**Portuguese young adults before European Court of Human Rights on climate policies – inadequate in 32 countries**](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/aug/11/its-a-human-rights-issue-young-adults-take-portugal-climate-crisis-to-court?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other)

Sandra Laville, *Guardian,* 11 August 2022. “As heat and drought plays out once more in her region [and across the country](https://www.euronews.com/green/2022/06/10/nearly-all-of-portugal-in-severe-drought-after-hottest-may-on-record), Agostinho, her siblings and her cousins are preparing to see a tenacious fight take centre stage at the European court of human rights. [After nearly five years](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/sep/25/portuguese-children-crowdfund-european-climate-change-case-sue-47-countries), their case against 32 European countries – arguing their climate policies are inadequate – will be heard in front of 17 judges in the autumn.”

 