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ANU Climate News & Events

May 2019

Dear reader

With the Australian federal election less than two weeks away, the debate about climate policy continues to rage.

Ideally decision-making would be based on robust comparison of the benefits and costs of various levels of emission reduction and climate adaptation actions, addressing economic, environmental and social angles.

Unfortunately the current debate is overwhelmingly focused on just the immediate economic costs. In doing so, it presents a negative picture which becomes intentionally or unintentionally a barrier to action.

As we've seen with the roll-out of renewables, the benefits of climate action can far exceed the costs. The same goes for climate impacts more broadly – the costs of not acting on climate change are huge. Ultimately, these will be in the tens of trillions of dollars a year globally, dwarfing the costs of action. The challenge here for policy is that short-term costs are far easier to calculate than the cumulative benefits over decades, particularly the non-monetary benefits.

Nevertheless, there is growing evidence that if we do it well, action on climate change will not only save us money, it will save many lives, improve quality of life and reduce environmental degradation. It will also open up huge opportunities for Australian innovation.

Finally I'd like to highlight some upcoming short courses being convened at ANU. [Climate Essentials](#) and [Energy Essentials](#) are one-day courses that have been designed to provide professionals with an overview of the latest climate and energy research, helping enable the rational decision-making that is so important in addressing climate change.

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Professor Mark Howden

Director, ANU Climate Change Institute

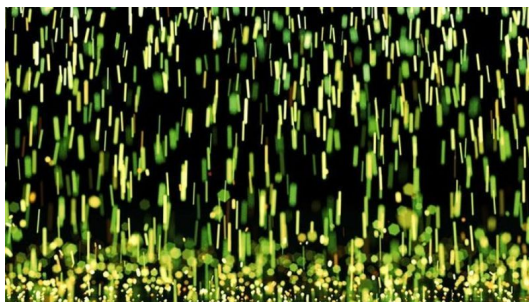
Events



Energy Conversations: The Role of Social Licence to Operate in a Just Energy Transformation

Thurs 30 May, 5.30 - 7.30pm

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Innovation needs for 2 degrees

Wed 19 June, 12.30-1.30

[Read more](#)



The State-of-Energy-Research Conference

News



El Niño has rapidly become stronger and stranger, according to coral records

Co-authored by Assoc Prof Nerilie Abram, The Conversation, 7 May

[Read more](#)



Young people won't accept inaction on climate change, and they'll be voting in droves

Hannah Feldman, The Conversation, 3 May

[Read more](#)



There is no future with coal

Prof John Hewson, Canberra Times, 11 April

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Early bird registration closes 31 May

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Short courses



Climate Essentials for professionals

Mon 17 June, 9-5.30pm

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Energy Essentials for professionals

Tues 28 May, 9-5.15pm

[Read more](#)

News



ANU experts comment on climate policy debate

2 May

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News



Policy matters more than targets

Prof Warwick McKibbin, Policy Forum, 24 April

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Modelling that shows Labor's climate policy could costs billions is ridiculous

Prof Frank Jotzo, The Guardian, 6 May

[Read more](#)

Our carbon budget is all but spent, but who in Canberra is counting?

Prof Penny Sackett & Prof Will Steffen, Sydney

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Other news

[Climate change takes on defining role in Aussie polls](#), featuring commentary by Prof Frank Jotzo, The Straits Times, 15 April

[Preventing disaster from striking Australia's economy](#), Dr Paul Barnes, Dr Anthony Bergin & Dr Robert Glasser, Policy Forum, 11 April 2019

[Climate change affecting vegetable crops in Canberra region for backyard gardeners and farmers alike](#), featuring Dr Steve Crimp, ABC News, 14 April

[Australian and New Zealand experts provide input into the next decadal international scientific ocean drilling plan](#)

New appointments

[Climate Change Institute appoints new Knowledge Exchange Specialist, Dr Ruth O'Connor](#)

Employment opportunities

[PhD in Energy Analytics: Battery Storage & Grid Integration Program](#) - Applications close 10 May



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