



Australian  
National  
University

CLIMATE CHANGE  
INSTITUTE

## ANU Climate News & Events

June 2020

Dear Paris

As countries have taken drastic measures to curb the spread of COVID-19, comparisons have arisen between responses to COVID-19 and climate change. Despite their fundamental differences, they both require immediate action based upon scientific evidence. Over June and July, we'll be hosting [a series of webinars](#), exploring how and why our responses have differed, and what we can learn from the handling of COVID-19 to apply to climate change, both more broadly and focusing in on public policy, communications and health.

In May, the Federal Government released a discussion paper on their [Technology Investment Roadmap](#). This will guide their emissions reductions policy. With the Energy Change Institute, we'll be co-hosting [a webinar](#) with a panel of experts covering different dimensions of the discussion paper - we hope you can join us. [Submissions](#) on the discussion paper are open until 21 June, and various ANU experts will be contributing their views.

Finally we're delighted to release our [new podcast series, \*Climate Update\*](#), building on our series of Climate Update events. Every two weeks, we'll discuss a new area of climate news or research with an expert, giving you an overview of what's happening in a bitesize podcast.

Regards,

Professor Mark Howden  
Director, Climate Change Institute

## Online events



### **COVID-19 and Climate Change - Online event series**

Starts Thurs 11 June, 12pm

[More details](#)



### **Which way for the Technology Investment Roadmap?**

Fri 12 June, 12-1:30pm

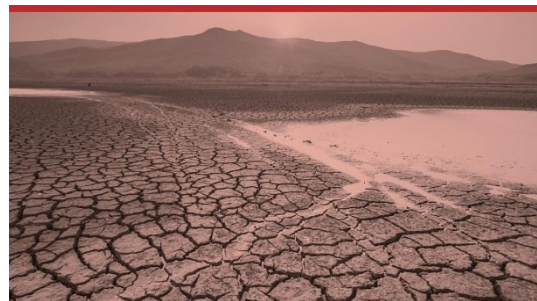
[More details](#)



### **How to recover from and rebuild better after the disasters and pandemic**

Wed 24 June, 1-2pm

[More details](#)



### **Australia, climate change and the pandemic**

Fri 19 June, 10:30-11:30am

[More details](#)

## News



## What Australia's COVID-19 Panic-Buying Tells Us About Climate Change

*By Dr Rebecca Colvin, New Matilda, 8 June*

There's always room for individual action aimed at solving big problems. But if the COVID-19 crisis has taught us anything, it's that a collective response is the best way forward to tackle a global issue that confronts us all.

[Read more](#)



## On World Environment Day, where are we at with Australia's climate movement?

*Featuring Prof Mark Howden, SBS, 5 June*

Clear water in Venice canals and views of the Himalayas from India have been an unexpected by-product of the COVID-19 pandemic, but activists and scientists are concerned about the impact of the crisis on the push for climate action in Australia.

[Read more](#)



## The coming recession is the best reason to step up the pace of renewables investment

*By Prof Frank Jotzo, The Guardian, 30 May*

It will not do to wait until the next power plant announces its closure. Building alternative infrastructure should start now.

[Read more](#)



## **We dug up Australian weather records back to 1838 and found snow is falling less often**

*Co-authored by Dr Joelle Gergis and Dr Linden Ashcroft, The Conversation, 4 June*

New research shows that as Australia continues to warm under climate change, cold extremes are becoming less frequent and heatwaves more common.

[Read article](#)



## **Our environment has always affected our mortality, should we add climate change to death certificates?**

*By Dr Arnagretta Hunter, The Guardian, 21 May*

As temperatures rise, experts are predicting increasing morbidity and mortality, particularly in the climate-vulnerable parts of northern Australia

[Read more](#)



## **Australia, it's time to talk about our water emergency**

*By Prof Quentin Grafton, Dr Matthew Colloff, Dr Paul Wyrwoll, and Dr Virginia Marshall, The Conversation, 22 May*

The last bushfire season showed Australians they can no longer pretend climate change will not affect them. But there's another climate change influence we must also face up to: increasingly scarce water on our continent.

[Read more](#)





## **New study shows wildfires increasing in size and frequency across Victoria**

*Featuring commentary by Prof David Lindenmayer, 19 May*

A new study by researchers at The Australian National University has shown for the first time the full extent of the areas burned by Victorian bushfires over the past two decades.

[Read more](#)



## **'A furphy': Gaping hole found in Murray River pledge, paper finds**

*Featuring commentary by Prof Jamie Pittock, The Sydney Morning Herald, 11 May*

Promises to keep the mouth of the Murray River open to the sea to meet salt removal and other environmental goals are impossible to achieve and will likely become more so as the climate warms.

[Read article](#)

## **Professional short courses**



### **Climate Essentials**

Our upcoming Climate Essentials course is sold out. Find out more and register interest for our next short course in September.

[Learn more](#)



### **Energy Essentials, 15-18 June**

This tailored course is aimed at professionals across government and industry who are interested in the energy transition, and seek an overview of the latest trends in energy

technology, economics, and policy.

[Learn more](#)

## Event recordings

**Prospering in a low-emissions world: Preparing Australia for the future**



### **Prospering in a low-emissions world - Preparing Australia for the future**

In this webinar, Prof Mark Howden is joined by Brad Archer, CEO at the Climate Change Authority, to discuss how Australia can succeed whilst accelerating climate action, lowering our emissions, and empowering individuals and communities to act.

[Watch here](#)



### **Energy Conversations - Developments in community-based battery storage**

In this webinar, Dr Marnie Shaw and Dr Hedda Ransan-Cooper are joined by panellists to explore the exciting developments in community-based battery storage that are occurring in the ACT and beyond.

[Watch here](#)

## Videos and podcasts



### **Climate Update podcast series**

Join us in the first episode of the Climate Update podcast as we discuss the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on global greenhouse gas emission levels.

[Listen here](#)



### **Governing cross-border clean technology dissemination - three scenarios**

In this audio recording, Dr Wenting Cheng discusses the challenges and potential solutions to disseminating clean energy technology to an optimal level, where it can assist with climate change adaptation and mitigation.

[Listen here](#)



**Dr Siobhan McDonnell -**

**Advocating for our most vulnerable**

In this interview, Dr Siobhan McDonnell from the Australian National University's College of Asia and the Pacific discusses her work on climate justice, the gendered impacts of the pandemic & why transformative change is possible.

[Watch here](#)



**Pint of Science AU -**

**Building a Resilient Environment**

This episode of Pint of Science AU features PhD scholar Melanie Pill, and discusses how we can make our cities more liveable, how can island states cope with ocean rises, and how can we secure water resources for our population?

[Watch here](#)

## Other news

[Government touts new emissions plan, but gas fight takes over](#), Canberra Times, featuring Prof. Ken Baldwin, 22 May

[Climate-related deaths going unrecorded, says doctor working in some of our hottest towns](#), ABC, 24 May

[Morrison government dangles new carrots for industry but fails to fix bigger climate policy problem](#), The Conversation, Prof. Frank Jotzo, 20 May

[Re-energising Indonesia's electricity policy during COVID-19](#), East Asia Forum, by Dr Abidah Setyowati, 27 May

[Off-river pumped hydro could provide lower costs for energy storage](#), by Prof. Andrew Blakers and Associate Prof. Matt Stocks, 22 May

[The 2020 Technology Investment Road Map](#), ABC Country Hour, radio interview with Prof. Ken Baldwin, 22 May

[What will win the race between renewables and fossil fuels to power the nation's energy needs?](#) ABC PM, radio interview featuring Prof. Frank Jotzo, 26 May

[Really Australia, it's not that hard: 10 reasons why renewable energy is the future](#), The Conversation, Prof Andrew Blakers, 29 May

[Hewson's View: COVID-19 presents an opportunity not to be squandered](#), by Dr John Hewson, 21 May

[Sun Cable survey contract awarded to Guardian Geomatics](#), featuring Prof. Andrew Blakers, 27 May

## Other initiatives and events

[Applications open for \\$20,000 hydrogen economy scholarship for Masters of Energy Change students at the Australian National University](#)

Visit the newly launched [ANU Battery Storage and Grid Integration Program \(BSGIP\) website](#) and [sign-up](#) to receive the BSGIP newsletter.

Registrations closing soon for the [ARC Centre of Excellence for Climate Extremes Virtual Winter School](#)

'This changes everything!?' Australia and the post-pandemic world, Interdisciplinary Virtual Symposium,  
ANU, 22 October 2020

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