



Australian
National
University

CLIMATE CHANGE
INSTITUTE

ANU Climate News & Events

October 2020

Dear Paris

After last summer's unprecedented bushfires, smoke pollution and heat, many of us will be relieved to hear that we're now in a [La Nina phase](#), signalling that we could be in for a wet spring and summer. The likelihood of above-average rainfall is obviously good news, with fire risk lower than this time last year (but still not zero!). Unfortunately there's also an increased chance of heavy rainfall, storms, cyclones and floods. Last week, we held an event with emergency service authorities from all over the country exploring how we can prepare for flooding and cyclones even whilst COVID remains a health threat. We'll be releasing a report on our findings shortly.

Also last week, the Federal government released their Technology Investment Roadmap outlining their priorities for emission-reduction technologies. You can find expert commentary on the roadmap in the News section below. ANU are running two events exploring the implications of the roadmap, [both broadly](#) and [specifically on carbon capture and usage](#) (CCU).

In other important news, China has announced that they will move to [net zero emissions by 2060](#). This important long-term goal means that China's official targets are significantly more ambitious than Australia's, despite pressure from the States, business and civil society for Australia to do more.

Finally, as the national university, we have both responsibility and opportunity to demonstrate leadership on climate change, not only via our research and

teaching but also through our operations. Transitioning the university to below zero emissions is no small task and we're seeking innovative ideas to help guide this process. A core theme is ensuring that we're able to develop learnings from our operations for research, teaching and outreach and vice versa, magnifying the impact of any emissions reductions and providing a model for other organisations. I'd like to invite you to join one of our online [workshops](#) (including a discussion on [setting climate ambition](#) with the Vice Chancellor) or post your ideas via our [online platform](#). Consultation will close on 20 October.

Regards,

Professor Mark Howden

Director, Climate Change Institute

Online events



ANU Below Zero Emissions: Integrating operations, research and teaching

Tues 6 Oct, 12:30 - 1:30 pm

[More details](#)



Digging deeper into the Technology Investment Roadmap

Thurs 8 Oct, 4pm - 5:30pm

[More details](#)



Technology Investment Roadmap: Carbon Capture and Use as an emerging technology

Mon 12 Oct, 5:30pm - 6:30pm

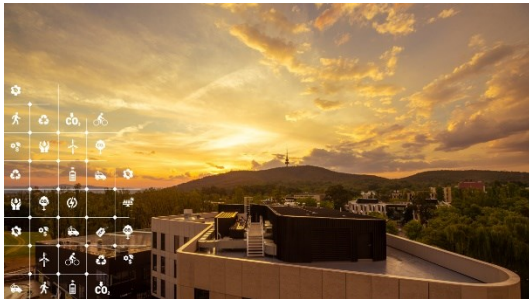
[More details](#)



ANU Below Zero Emissions: Finance, investment, and purchasing

Tues 13 Oct, 12pm - 1pm

[More details](#)



ANU Below Zero Emissions: Leadership and targets

Thurs 15 Oct, 12pm - 1pm

[More details](#)



TEDxANU Countdown - We can change climate change

Thurs 15 Oct, 5:30pm - 8pm

[More details](#)



Addressing climate change beyond the COVID-19 pandemic

Mon 19 Oct, 6pm - 7pm

[More details](#)



EPBC Act: Federal environment reform in an age of climate crisis

Wed 18 Nov, 6pm

[More details](#)

News



'The good, the bad and the ugly': here's the lowdown on Australia's low-emissions roadmap

By Assoc Prof Llewelyn Hughes and Dr Jorrit Gosens, The Conversation, 24 September

"Picking winners" has been anathema to Australian policy-making for decades. The federal government's technology investment roadmap bucks the trend, targeting public investments in specific low-emissions technologies.

[Read more](#)

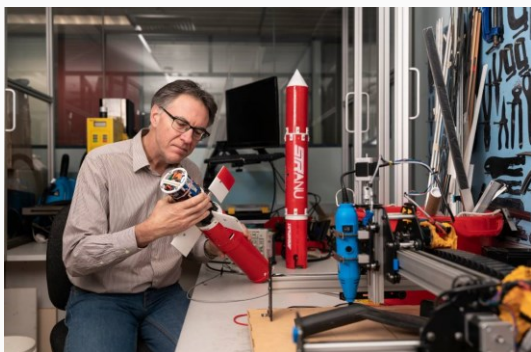


China's zero emissions target puts Australia on notice

Featuring Prof Howard Bamsey, The Sydney Morning Herald, 30 Sept

Australia's former top climate diplomat has warned China's net-zero emissions target will leave Australia behind, threatening future trade deals and its influence in the Pacific as the Morrison government becomes wedged between the US and China on climate action.

[Read more](#)



New ANU centre to target bushfires through satellites, GPS- guided water gliders

*Featuring Dr Marta Yebra and others from ANU,
1 Oct*

A centre of excellence will be established at the ANU in Canberra which will roll out a network of infra-red heat-sensing cameras, autonomous water-carrying gliders and, within a few years,



satellite systems to provide an early bushfire detection and suppression system.

[Read more](#)

Investing in early fire detection could save \$8 billion

Featuring Prof Matthew Gray and Prof Nicholas Biddle, 9 September

Early bushfire detection could save the Australian economy \$8.2 billion over the next 30 years, according to new modelling from The Australian National University.

[Read more](#)



What are the key technologies in the Coalition's low emissions roadmap, and can they deliver?

Featuring Dr Emma Aisbett, The Guardian, 27 September

The Coalition government this week released its much-anticipated Low Emissions Technology Statement that targeted five different technologies for rapid development: clean hydrogen, energy storage, low-carbon materials (steel and aluminium), carbon capture and storage and soil carbon.

[Read more](#)



The Morrison government wants to suck CO2 out of the atmosphere.

Here are 7 ways to do it

Co-authored by Dr Wolfram Buss. The Conversation, 21 September

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says negative emissions technologies

will be needed to meet the Paris Agreement goal of limiting warming to well below 2°C. In other words, just cutting emissions is not enough – we must also take existing greenhouse gases from the air.

[Read more](#)



'A dose of reality': Morrison government's new \$1.9 billion techno-fix for climate change is a small step

By Prof Frank Jotzo, The Conversation, 17 September

The Morrison government today announced A\$1.9 billion over ten years to develop clean technology in industry, agriculture and transport. In some ways it's a step in the right direction, but a far cry from what's needed to drive Australia's shift to a low emissions economy.

[Read more](#)



How Australia's meat industry could be part of the climate solution

Featuring work by The Australian National University, The Guardian, 17 September

It's the omnivore's dilemma: is there an environmentally responsible way to continue eating meat? Cattle farmers like Charlie Arnott are working on a fix.

[Read more](#)

Professional short courses



Energy Essentials for Professionals

30 Oct - 6 Nov

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



How do we certify the amount of carbon embedded in hydrogen fuels?

Catch up on this public forum and hear the latest results from the Australian Government's recent survey on Hydrogen Certification, from ANU research on hydrogen and ammonia certification, and an industry perspective.

[Watch here](#)



Preparing for flooding and cyclones in the time of COVID-19

In this event, we heard from climate scientists and emergency services practitioners about the prospects of a La Niña season with increased flood risk, along with the practical difficulties COVID-19 imposes on emergency service, other agencies, and communities.

[Watch here](#)

Videos and podcasts



TEDxCanberra - Moving climate change beyond politics

Dr Bec Colvin explores how communities can

move the climate change debate beyond politics, drawing on her extensive research into how people interact with each other when it comes to environmental issues.

[Watch here](#)



Aboriginal savanna burning in Arnhem Land: Regulation, uncertainty, postcolonial possibility

In this webinar, Emeritus Professor Jon Altman focused on the operations of Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (NT) Limited established in 2014, and outlined some of the institutional; environmental; cultural and economic challenges and barriers such as the regulatory uncertainty; that make this exemplary carbon farming project unnecessarily precarious.

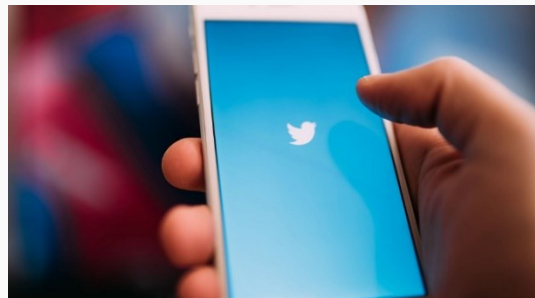
[Listen here](#)



Low emissions technologies and Australia's energy future with Kenneth Baldwin

On this Democracy Sausage Extra, Director of ANU Energy Change Institute Kenneth Baldwin joins Mark Kenny to discuss the five priority technologies in the government's new Technology Investment Roadmap, and whether they will put Australia on the right track to quickly and effectively reduce emissions.

[Listen here](#)



Twitter trolls, climate disinformation, and the 2016 US Presidential election

During the 2016 US Presidential election a disinformation campaign was run on Twitter - one of the main topics was climate change. Why, and what were the impacts? Lamis is joined by Indigo Strudwicke and Dr Will Grantin to our latest Climate Update podcast to discuss.

[Listen here](#)

Other news

[To reduce disasters, we must cut greenhouse emissions. So why isn't the bushfire royal commission talking about this?](#), by Dr Robert Glasser, The Conversation, 1 Sept

[The mystery of the Murray-Darling Basin's vanishing flows](#), featuring Prof Jamie Pittock, ABC News, 3 Sept

[Months after the fires, parts of Namadgi aren't bouncing back. Here's why](#), featuring Dr Ben Scheele, Dr Marta Yerba, and Prof Albert van Dijk, The Canberra Times, 6 Sept

[Dawn of 'green steel' and the revival of Australian manufacturing](#), featuring Prof Frank Jotzo, The Sydney Morning Herald, 7 Sept

[When will Australia's government act on the climate imperative?](#), by Dr John Hewson, Forbes Advocate, 10 Sept

[Biden's radical climate change plan could overturn the world's efforts](#), featuring Prof Howard Bamsey, The Sydney Morning Herald, 12 Sept

[The power of battery storage recharged with cash splash](#), ANU Media, 15 Sept

[Sydney's new suburbs are too hot for people to live in](#), featuring Dr Liz Hanna, Bloomberg Green, 16 Sept

['Science is political': Scientific American has endorsed Joe Biden over Trump for president. Australia should take note](#), by Dr Rod Lamberts and Dr Will Grant, The Conversation, 17 Sept

[COVID-19 response aims for food systems resilience](#), featuring Dr Steven Crimp, ACIAR, 17 Sept

[Melting Antarctic Ice Sheet could bring half a metre of sea-level rise](#), featuring Prof Eelco Rohling, GetStem, 17 Sept

[Work and energy transitions: Meet Mousami Prasad](#), Crawford School of Public Policy, 18 Sept

[Is Scott Morrison's gas plan a good idea for Australia?](#), featuring Prof Andrew Blakers, The Herald Sun, 18 Sept

[Why aren't we heeding mother nature's warnings?](#), featuring Dr Bec Colvin, BNN Bloomberg, 20 Sept

[Censored: Australian scientists say suppression of environment research is getting worse](#), featuring Prof Saul Cunningham, Nature, 21 Sept

[Malcolm Turnbull slams government's energy plans](#), featuring Prof Kenneth Baldwin, ABC Radio National Drive, 22 Sept

[Morrison's rejection of 2050 net zero emissions target is at odds with Paris agreement, experts say](#), featuring Prof Mark Howden, The Guardian, 22 Sept

['Clean' hydrogen and carbon capture: Will the government's energy roadmap drive down emissions?](#), featuring Prof Andrew Blakers, SBS News, 23 Sept

[Thirty countries have pledged to achieve climate neutrality - Australia is not one of them](#), featuring Emeritus Prof Will Steffen, SBS News, 24 Sept

[We looked at 35 years of rainfall and learnt how droughts start in the Murray-Darling Basin](#), co-authored by Chiara Holgate and Prof Albert Van Dijk, The Conversation, 25 Sept

["Yes we can": Energy experts plot path to fossil-free grid](#), featuring Dr Liz Ratnam, Prof Kenneth Baldwin, Prof Andrew Blakers and Assoc Prof Matt Stocks, Renew Economy, 25 Sept

[Putting a price on emissions is still the best way](#), by Prof Frank Jotzo, Australian Financial Review, 26 Sept

[Delivering water justice today](#), by Prof Quentin Grafton, Asia and the Pacific Policy Forum, 28 Sept

Other initiatives and events

[Evaluating the impact of the Climate Change Institute](#), results published, 30 September

[Citizen scientists called on to fill the gap in Australia's longest daily weather record](#), an initiative by Climate

History Australia

[Disaster fatigue: the implications of Black Summer + COVID-19 for Australia](#), webinar by the Disaster Risk Science Institute, 1pm - 2pm Wednesday 7 Oct

[Renewable fuels for rocket launches - part of World Space Week](#), webinar by the ANU Institute for Space, 6:30pm - 7:30pm Thursday 8 Oct

[Archives for a dry and drying land](#), webinar by ANU Archives and Friends of the Noel Butlin Archives Centre, 6pm - 7pm Tuesday 20 Oct

[Compound, cascading and lingering disasters](#) - panel discussion, webinar by the Disaster Risk Science Institute, 12pm- 1pm Wednesday 11 Nov



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