



Australian  
National  
University

ENERGY CHANGE  
INSTITUTE

## ANU Energy News & Events

September 2020

Dear Paris

As Australia contemplates recovering from the COVID-19 recession, calls for a [renewables-led recovery](#) to address climate change continue to increase, aiming to build on the urgency of a science-led approach to the pandemic.

The transition to a 100 percent renewable energy system will be the focus of two upcoming events. Our [public forum on 8 September](#), featuring experts from ANU, the Australian Government and industry, explores the challenges in certifying how much carbon is embedded in hydrogen and hydrogen-based fuels such as ammonia.

Australia is a world leader in installing solar and wind [generation per capita](#). Our [public forum on 24 September](#) will discuss Australia's role as the global renewables pathfinder.

There are many aspects to the energy transition and a warming climate, as our extensive list of online events below shows. We hope you'll be able to attend to hear a range of perspectives about Indigenous carbon emission mitigation efforts, the "regulatory sandbox" of Australia's National Electricity Market, and preparing for more intense floods and cyclones.

At ANU next week, we will launch a consultation process to generate ideas on how the University can reach [below zero emissions](#). Consultation will take place

over 6 weeks and will be open to ANU students, staff and the public – we will share details on how you can participate when consultation opens.

Finally, we're accepting registrations for new professional short courses on [energy](#) and [climate](#), and encourage you to let your colleagues know about the opportunities.

Regards,

Professor Ken Baldwin

Director, Energy Change Institute

## Online events



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

Tues 8 Sep, 12:30-1:30pm

[More details](#)



### **Adapting to a changing energy sector: Australia's new regulatory sandbox framework**

Tues 8 Sep, 2-3pm

[More details](#)



**Public forum: How do we certify  
the amount of carbon embedded  
in hydrogen fuels?**

Tues 8 Sep, 4-5:30pm

[More details](#)



**Householder perspectives on  
community batteries**

Thurs 10 Sep, 12-1pm

[More details](#)



**Preparing for flooding & cyclones  
in the time of COVID-19**

Wed 23 Sep, 9:30am-11am

[More details](#)

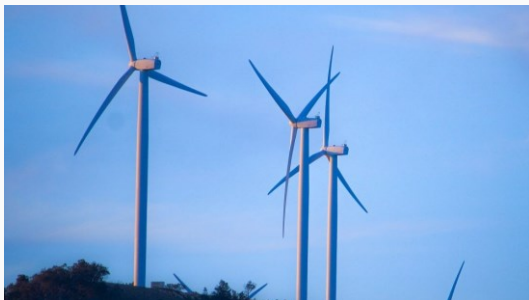


**Public forum: Australia, the global  
renewable energy pathfinder**

Thurs 24 Sep, 4-5:30pm

[More details](#)

## News



**Australia leading the world in  
deploying renewable energy**

Australia continues to lead the world in the per capita roll out of energy generated by solar and wind, resulting in lower greenhouse gas emissions and falling electricity prices, according to a [new analysis](#) from the ANU.

[Read more](#)



## Revving up community engagement remotely

How do you prepare to engage diverse industry, user and community stakeholders to get their views about an energy project that's never been attempted in Australia, and approach them during a pandemic? That's the challenge facing researchers working in the [Battery Grid and Integrated Storage Program](#) (BSGIP) at ANU.

[Read more](#)

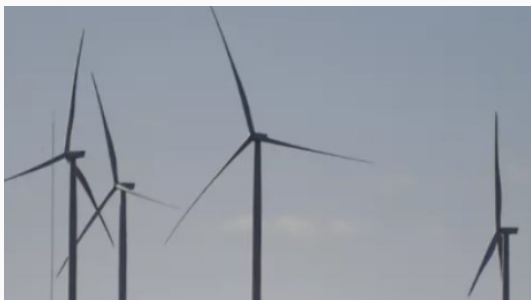


## Japan is closing its old, dirty power plants – and that's bad news for Australia's coal exports

*By Assoc Prof Llewlyn Hughes, The Conversation, 24 August*

Last month, the Japanese government announced a plan to retire its fleet of old, inefficient coal-fired generation by 2030. And what happens to coal power in Japan matters a lot to Australia.

[Read more](#)



## Why Angus Taylor's electorate would make an excellent renewable energy zone

*By Prof Andrew Blakers, Renew Economy, 21 August*

The NSW government is busily announcing new renewable energy zones and calling for interest from wind, solar and storage developers to meet the capacity needed to replace the state's ageing coal fleet. It turns out that the Goulburn district – in the heart of federal energy minister Angus Taylor's electorate of Hume – is also highly suitable to be a designated REZ.

[Read more](#)



## **After the fires - what do they mean for Australia?**

*Featuring commentary by Dr Nerilie Abram, Prof Sharon Friel, Prof David Lindemayer, Dr John Hewson, and Prof Sotiris Vardoulakis, ANU Reporter.*

The devastating summer bushfires have led to intense reflection about their many impacts. ANU Reporter asked some of our academics for their perspectives on how the fires will affect our present and our future. They cover the role of climate change in the fires, and the impacts on society, biodiversity, politics, and health.

[Read more](#)



## **'Enormous opportunity': how Australia could become the Saudi Arabia of renewable energy**

*Featuring Prof Ken Baldwin, The Guardian, 27 August*

The remote Western Australian town of Kalbarri could find itself at the bleeding edge of a renewables revolution

[Read more](#)



## **'A story of hope': how the COVID downturn could help Australia rebuild from its black summer**

*Featuring Prof Mark Howden, The Guardian, 13 August*

Rebuilding bushfire-ravaged areas during a pandemic has been a huge challenge. One group





of survivors is embracing the opportunity to roll out sustainable fire-proof homes.

[Read more](#)

## **Push for green-driven COVID-19 economic recovery**

*Featuring Prof Frank Jotzo, The Canberra Times,*

*23 August*

With flights grounded, highways free of cars and animals taking back city streets it follows the pandemic should - environmentally - be a positive for the planet. Prof Frank Jotzo, Director of the ANU Centre for Climate and Energy Policy, said reduced emissions were likely a temporary blip and there was potential for private industry to tighten purse strings in regard to sustainability

[Read more](#)



## **Australia's Chief Scientist is wrong on gas, say leading experts**

*By various ANU climate researchers, The Sydney*

*Morning Herald, 25 August*

A group of leading Australian scientists has taken the unusual step of writing to the Chief Scientist, Dr Alan Finkel, saying his support for gas as an energy source "is not consistent with a safe climate".

[Read more](#)



## **Need a mood lift? We've tracked 4 ways Australia's environment has repaired itself in 2020**

*By Prof Albert Van Dijk, The Conversation, 27*

*August*

When the clock ticked over to 2020, Australia

was in the grip of a brutal drought and unprecedented bushfires. But in the months since, while many of us were indoors avoiding the pandemic, nature has started its slow recovery.

[Read more](#)

## Professional short courses



### **Climate Essentials for Agriculture**

28 Sept - 1 Oct

Join us for this short course, designed to provide an overview of the latest developments around climate change for those working in agriculture and on food security. It will cover both climate impacts and how the agricultural sector can respond.

[Learn more](#)



### **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



### **COVID-19 and Climate Change - Strategies for Emotional Wellbeing**

As we consider our changing climate and what it

means for our future, we can experience a wide variety of emotions, ranging from feeling connected, energised and hopeful to despair, anger and frustration. In this event, clinical psychologists Dr Bronwyn Gresham and Dr Susie Burke discuss techniques and strategies for dealing with the complex emotions associated with climate change.

[Watch here](#)



### **COVID-19 and Climate Change: Pacific impacts and climate negotiations**

In this event, international relations experts Hon. Prof Howard Bamsey and Prof Meg Keen discuss lessons from and implications of COVID-19 for global climate negotiations, and climate action and responses in the Pacific.

[Watch here](#)



### **Towards a Long-Term Emissions Strategy for Australia - ANU Centre for Climate and Energy Policy panel**

On 26 February 2020, the Centre for Climate and Energy Policy convened a discussion between experts and stakeholders on Australia's national 2050 emissions strategy. ClimateWorks CEO Anna Skarbek joined Investor Group on Climate Change's Erwin Jackson, Australian Industry Group's Tennant Reed, and ANU professors Nerilie Abram and Frank Jotzo.

[Watch here](#)



### **Requiem for a Reef**

Requiem for a Reef is a collaborative and immersive work of advocacy for the endangered Great Barrier Reef by artist Ngaio Fitzpatrick, composer Alexander Hunter and nine musicians. The event consists of a performance, followed by a Q&A with Ngaio, and a panel discussion with Dr Jennie Mallela (FHEA) who is a Marine expert from the Research School of Biology College of Science at ANU And Professor Mark Howden, Director of the ANU Climate Change Institute.

[Watch here](#)

## **Videos and podcasts**





### **The Green Recovery: how Australia can ditch coal (without ditching jobs)**

In this video for The Guardian's Green Recovery series, Prof Ken Baldwin explains how Australia can transition from shipping coal to exporting renewable energy.

[Watch here](#)



### **From droughts to floods - water security in Australia**

Australia has always experienced natural booms and busts of droughts and floods, but these cycles are becoming increasingly unpredictable as the climate warms. Lamis Kazak is joined by Professor Jamie Pittock from the Fenner School of Environment and Society to discuss Australia's water security, and what we could do to improve it.

[Listen here](#)



### **The truth about carbon pricing and how to capture CO2**

Does carbon pricing work? It's long been a contentious issue, but Australian researchers have crunched the data from 142 countries and now have what they reckon is the definitive answer. Assoc Prof Paul Burke features in this episode of the Future Tense podcast

[Listen here](#)



### **The Green Recovery: how Australia can clean up its act on energy**

In this video for The Guardian's Green Recovery series, Prof Ken Baldwin shares how Australia can reach 100% renewables, what the future grid will look like, and how energy policy must be coupled to climate policy.

[Watch here](#)

## **Other news**

[Gas is not a transition fuel to a safe climate. That ship has sailed](#), *The Sydney Morning Herald*, by Prof Penny Sackett, 26 August

[Sir Roland Wilson Foundation Scholar Symposium: climate change action amidst a pandemic](#), Sir Roland Wilson Foundation, featuring Prof Mark Howden and Dr John Hewson, 7 August

[Pressure builds on Australia despite delay to international climate talks](#), *The Sydney Morning Herald*, featuring Prof Howard Bamsey and Prof Frank Jotzo, 9 August

[Leadership on climate needed: CSIRO report](#), *The Canberra Times*, featuring Prof Mark Howden, 4 August

[Narrabri Gas Project should be blocked, says ex-chief scientist](#), *The Sydney Morning Herald*, featuring Prof Penny Sackett, 10 August

[How Australia is suffering a resource curse](#), *The Wellington Times*, by Dr John Hewson, 13 August

[Renewable Rocket Fuels – Going Green and Into Space](#), *Space Australia*, featuring Prof Wojciech Lipinski, 21 August

[Antarctic melt 'to cause 50cm sea level rise': new study](#), *The Australian*, featuring research by The Australian National University, 25 August

[New study warns: We have underestimated the pace at which the Arctic is melting](#), ScienceDaily, featuring research by The Australian National University, 26 August

[Australia's economic response to COVID ignores aged care, climate crisis and housing, report finds](#), *The Guardian*, featuring research by The Australian National University, 27 August

[CSIRO embraces transition to net zero emissions, "without derailing our economy"](#), *Renew Economy*, featuring ANU Vice Chancellor Prof Brian Schmidt, 12 August

[Warming threat to tropical forests risks release of carbon from soil](#), *EurekAlert*, featuring Prof Patrick Meir, 12 August

## **Other initiatives and events**

Training: Emergency Management in the Australian Federation: Legal and Constitutional issues, Tuesday 4 - 6pm, 15, 22, & 29 September. [Register here](#).

[Call for survey participants - ANU study tracks impact of COVID-19 and bushfires on new mums and babies](#)

[Applications open until 30 September - ARC Centre of Excellence Undergraduate Scholarships in Climate Extremes](#)