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ENERGY CHANGE
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ANU Energy News & Events

March 2020

Dear reader

The extreme weather that has affected large parts of Australia in recent months is causing more people to think about the consequences of climate change, and ask themselves what actions they can take.

We've seen that recently at the [Energy Change Institute \(ECI\) Open Day](#) last month that attracted hundreds of people from across the University, government, industry, and the wider public. There's a real thirst to learn more about the energy transition projects our ECI researchers are leading, and what industry and government are doing to reduce their emissions.

The ANU Council and Vice Chancellor have recently made [major announcements \(and in our news section\)](#) on the University's climate actions to reduce carbon emissions, including our aspirational goal of being [carbon negative](#). The ECI and our sister institute, the ANU Climate Change Institute (CCI), will play crucial roles in achieving that, and we look forward to working with the University executive and the wider campus community as we all take action together.

Last week, along with Dr Emma Aisbett, I had the pleasure of briefing more than 70 public servants in the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources on the ECI's Grand Challenge, [Zero-Carbon Energy for the Asia-Pacific \(ZCEAP\)](#). This was an opportunity to answer many excellent questions

and discuss in detail the various challenges and opportunities that both Australia's energy export and domestic electricity transformations pose.

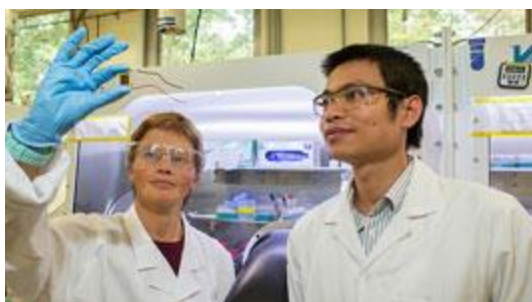
Also last week, researchers led by Professor Kylie Catchpole [announced a breakthrough](#) in perovskite solar cell technology which set a new record for the conversion of sunlight into energy of 27.7 per cent. By comparison, the average solar cell being installed today has an efficiency of around 20 per cent. This is very exciting news! Professor Catchpole and her colleagues continue working toward the goal of around 30 per cent efficiency before the technology can be rolled out around the world.

Finally, our congratulations to the ANU Climate Change Institute for its successful Climate Update 2020 in Melbourne on 12 March. This was a well-attended event and is another example of ANU researchers taking their expertise on the road to share it with the wider community.

Best wishes,

Professor Ken Baldwin
Director, Energy Change Institute

News



New record could usher in new era for solar energy

[ANU media release](#), 11 March

The future of solar technology is almost reality, with ANU researchers led by Professor Kylie Catchpole setting a new record for the conversion of sunlight into energy.



Taking US oil in a global crisis sounds good on paper, but it won't do much for Australia's energy security

[The Conversation](#), 12 March

The federal government this week signed a deal with the US to access their oil reserves should global supplies be disrupted and we eat into our meagre reserve, writes Dr Christian Downie.



Funding boost to float Australia's hydrogen energy future

[ANU media release](#), 17 February

A 20-year investment worth \$1.5 million will help boost Australia's hydrogen economy, powering new research on this form of renewable energy storage at the ANU Energy Change Institute.



Hydrogen - Fuelling the Future?

[ABC Radio](#), 5 March

A special panel of experts explored what Australia is doing to develop a hydrogen industry. Features Dr Fiona Beck, Convenor of the Hydrogen project for the ANU Zero-Carbon Energy for the Asia Pacific Grand Challenge.



The end of coal-fired power can be managed or messy

[Sydney Morning Herald](#), 26 February

It is in the hands of government to make this transition palatable, write Prof Frank Jotzo and Prof John Wiseman.



ANU Council calls for urgent action to address climate change

[ANU media release](#), 19 February

The Australian National University Council has called for urgent action to address the growing challenge of climate change.



'Strong links' between worsening bushfires and climate change: experts

[Sydney Morning Herald](#), 3 February

ANU Professor Nerilie Abrams was one of eight lead signatories and a co-author of [a letter signed by hundreds of scientists](#) from Australia and overseas which drew together peer-reviewed literature on the "strong" and "unequivocal" links between worsening bushfires and human-induced climate change.



We're facing a climate crisis but there is good news

[Sydney Morning Herald](#), 12 February

Prof Mark Howden and Assoc Prof Carolyn Hendriks write that Australia can emerge as a global leader by setting strong emission targets, developing new low-emissions industries & growing innovative community initiatives.



Microgrids: how to keep the power on when disaster hits

[The Conversation](#), 11 February

It's timely to consider how we can build a better system – one that's more resilient in times of disaster and also doesn't contribute, through carbon emissions, to making disasters more frequent, writes Dr Bjorn Sturmborg.



A rare natural phenomenon brings severe drought to Australia. Climate change is making it more common

[The Conversation](#), 10 March

Weather-wise, 2019 was a crazy way to end a decade. Fires spread through much of southeast Australia, fuelled by dry vegetation from the ongoing drought and fanned by hot, windy fire weather, write Dr Nicky Wright, Bethany Ellis and Prof. Nerilie Abram.



Australia must overhaul its energy grid to stop 'the lights going out'

[The New Daily](#), 24 February

Prof. Ken Baldwin said the need for more storage and transmission was so great, and the challenges so complex, that the federal government must urgently develop "a national plan for the energy sector" that aligns with action on climate change.



Nearly 80% of Australians affected in some way by the bushfires, new survey shows

[The Conversation](#), 18 February

New research by The Australian National University is the first of its kind to gauge how people were affected by the crisis and how it changed their views on a range of subjects, from climate change to the government response.



Australia's unprecedented fire season, and how we can respond

[ANU Climate Change Institute](#), 9 March

Australia's climate is already becoming hotter, more extreme and uncertain, and it's projected to become increasingly inhospitable and dangerous unless we take transformative, timely and positive action. [Watch 1 min video.](#)

More news

[After more than a year, Kennedy renewable energy farm still not fully connected to grid](#), featuring Prof. Andrew Blakers, ABC News, 4 March

[The world's best fire management system is in northern Australia, and it's led by Indigenous land managers](#), The Conversation, 10 March

[Taking care of mental health after bushfires](#), ANU Research School of Population Health, 10 February

[Sure, save furry animals after the bushfires – but our river creatures are suffering too](#), by Prof. Jamie Pittock, The Conversation, 6 March

[Research confirms climate link to Australian bushfires](#), features Prof. Mark Howden, Eco-Business, 5 March

[Global finance leaves Australia behind in the march to net-zero emissions](#), by Prof. John Hewson, Sydney Morning Herald, 27 February

[Bushfire smoke: urgent need for a national health protection strategy](#), Medical Journal of Australia, 24 February

[Urgent action needed to boost Australia's preparedness for disasters](#), ASPI Strategist, 13 February

[ANU Professor Andrew MacIntosh appointed a commissioner to Australian Bushfires Royal Commission](#), ABC News, 20 February

[Promising future for renewable energy in Australian agribusiness](#), featuring Prof. Ken Baldwin, The Land, 1 February

[Warning of collapse in renewable energy investment](#), featuring Prof. Frank Jotzo, ABC News, 24 February

[We won't have fusion generators in five years. But the holy grail of clean energy may still be on its way.](#) by Associate Prof. Matthew Hole, The Conversation, 24 February

[Japan's risky new resource strategy](#), by Associate Prof. Llewelyn Hughes, East Asia Forum, 10 February

More events

Climate Change: Green New Deal? Public forum, Mon 23 Mar, 6.00-9.00pm. [Tickets.](#)

Missed - *ANU 2020 Climate Update?* [View presentations here](#)

Missed - *Energy Change Institute Open Day 2020?* [View presentations here.](#)

Missed - *The Hydrogen Transition Pathway* webinar with Dr Fiona Beck? [View it here.](#)

Missed - *Imagining Australia with 100% renewable energy: how do we get there?* [Listen to the podcast and download slides.](#)

Podcasts

[MJA Podcasts 2020: Bushfire smoke exposure, with Prof Sotiris Vardoulakis](#)

[Climate change and the high price of doing nothing](#), Policy Forum

[Climate change – policy perfect vs policy possible](#), Policy Forum

Job opportunities

[ANU Climate Change Institute seeking climate Adaptation Researcher](#)

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