

SHOOTERS AND THE GAMES THEY PLAY

In return for supporting NSW government legislation, the Shooter's Party Upper House members want the favour returned in government support for their Game and Feral Animal Control Amendment Bill that would permit game hunting in our national parks.

On behalf of its affiliates (including EcoNetwork), the Nature Conservation Council (NCC) of NSW is conducting a public campaign exposing the real and potential nature of this Bill which is expected to go to parliament in September. Executive Director Cate Fahrman reports:

- State parks have been a testing ground , allowing licensed hunting of feral animals
- Reports of hunters releasing feral animals into parks so they then go in and *'fix the problem'*
- The Bill not only targets ferals, but also several species of kangaroo and native birds.

Please help ensure the defeat of this deplorable Bill so that open season is not declared on our parks and wildlife. Help defeat the Shooter's Bill, raise with your organisation the need for a donation to the NCC. Send donations to:

- **The Nature Conservation Council of NSW – Level 2, 301 Kent St. Sydney 2000.**
- **Send an email to: NSW Premier Nathan Rees – the premier@www.nsw.gov.au**

CLIMATE ACTION & THE NEXT STEPS

Thinking GloballyActing Locally

Newcastle climate action group **RISING TIDE** will conduct a workshop addressing the **United Nations Copenhagen World Conference for a Climate Treaty**

WEDNESDAY 30th SEPTEMBER 09...3.30PM.

Tomaree Community Centre – Salamander Bay

The nations of the world will gather in Copenhagen in December and will hopefully lead to a binding, just and effective international climate treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol.

WHAT SHOULD BE OUR NEXT STEP? IS THIS THE LAST CHANCE TO GET IT RIGHT?

TURNING DOWN or TURNING UP THE HEAT ?

Keeping rising temperatures below two degrees will be an objective at Copenhagen in December. But according to NASA climatologist James Hansen two degrees is already unavoidable. If this is so, it becomes clear that political leaders have no idea of the size and scope of the climate problems confronting the planet. This means that climate impacts have in general, been grossly underestimated.

To climate activists, this is not news. That's why the call for stronger targets is now so relevant. The Australian Government's target of 4 to 15% reductions by 2020 and up to a 25% conditional target if pressured at Copenhagen, falls far short of what the science now advises.

To avoid a two degree increase, a 25 to 40% reduction to 2000 levels by 2020 should now be a global imperative. The Ross Garnaut 537 page report supporting an Emissions Trading Scheme and based on containing carbon levels between 450 and 550 parts per million (PPM), is now considered to be irrelevant.

The conventional wisdom has held that global carbon emissions are currently at 387ppm and rising by 2ppm a year, but as we approach the critical Copenhagen talks the call is for a reduction target of 350ppm.

A new PPM measure equivalent (of CO₂e) which includes not only carbon dioxide but a whole range of atmospheric pollutants including methane and aerosols, now has the current pollution level at 450ppm CO₂e. This explains that we must never give up. A century of **'a just transition'** is the course to set.

Says Barak Obama, "...confront this challenge once and for all. Delay is no longer an option".

SO, HOW CAN WE GET IT RIGHT AT COPENHAGEN ?

..../2

COUNCIL AWARD FOR PRESIDENT HELEN

Putting aside the gender wars for now, we convey our congratulations to our EcoNetwork President Helen Brown who was awarded a FREEMAN of PORT STEPHENS, at the Council on Tuesday 15th September for distinguished service to Port Stephens.

This follows Helen's retirement from Council last year after serving sixteen years as a Councillor. With the extra time for more relaxation, we wish Helen and John well, and on behalf of the EcoNetwork membership, our best wishes and good health for an enjoyable future.

WHAT THE CLIMATE SCIENTISTS & AUTHORS ARE SAYING

- The UN's climate chief Rajendra Pachauri and British economist Sir Nicholas Stern have called for a tougher target that will reduce atmospheric pollution to 350ppm CO₂e.
- Erwin Jackson, Climate Institute research director: *"We need concentrations to peak below 550ppm CO₂e, and peak soon".*what's that ???
- David Spratt, co-author of Climate Code Red, says hitting 550ppm CO₂e is a recipe for disaster.
- David Spratt again: 550ppm?....".that's like saying we can have catastrophic temperatures above 2 degrees warmer for two centuries and we'll get back to where we should be once we've destroyed half the world's ecosystems".
- A group of international scientists recently toured the Lower Murray and warned the iconic Coorong was in danger of losing its status as a wetland of world significance. One scientist, Richard Kingsford told the ABC: *"We are looking at a system that's in a state of ecological collapse."*

With such scientific advice, where does this leave the Australian Government's Emissions Trading Scheme which is predicated on the Garnaut climate change review based on model scenarios of 450ppm CO₂e and 550ppm CO₂e ? The Greens asked Garnaut to model a 350ppm CO₂e scenario, but were denied. **Australian climate scenarios, as we approach the critical Copenhagen talks in December, are still so much out of date as our climate action groups claimed they were, more than a year ago.**

POPULATE AND PERISH – SLEEPWALKING TO DISASTER

(Sydney Morning Herald 19.9.2009)

While Prime Minister Rudd welcomed the report that Australia's population will reach 35 million by 2050, Labor backbencher Kelvin Thompson said we are ***"sleepwalking into an environmental disaster."***

On September 13 climate protesters converged on Australia's most heavily polluting coal-fired power station, Hazelwood, in the La Trobe Valley. On scaling a fence to present a "community decommission order" 22 people were arrested including doctors, scientists and teachers, charged for trespass.

Demand - an end to fossil-fuel dependency – a just transition to renewable technologies.

THE NELSON BAY 2030 PROJECT REVISITED

A contribution to discussion from EcoNetwork for an aesthetically appealing, well-managed and welcoming town. We don't have to wait for 2030, what we are proposing can begin to happen in 2010.

Its five pages, available on request on 4981 0170 – email: econet@nelsonbay.com include:

- Creating a town ambience and town amenity, dispensing with grandiose vision & outcomes
- Nelson Bay Traffic and parking management
- An internal representative Town Advisory Group with its hands on the driving wheel.

MELBOURNE CUP DAY – enjoy sailing on the Port's Marine Park – 1.30pm to 4.30pm.

Under full billowing sails with the big-cat 'Imagine' TUESDAY 3RD NOVEMBER, 09.

Cup sweep.....big screen.....food.....bar service.....\$39.00.

BOOK EARLY FOR A DIFFERENT CUP-DAY EXPERIENCE!.....ROGER ON 4982 0699.

- **NEXT ECONETWORK MEETING....SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2009.**