



CROW Newsletter

March, 2019

Climate Action Wagga march and rally

On Saturday, March 9 at least 200 Wagga residents marched down Baylis Street to the Amphitheatre opposite Michael McCormack's office for a rally. This was a most impressive result and a credit to the enthusiasm and organisation of the new Climate Action Wagga group led by Pat Murray.

It also provided impetus for another new group, Stop Adani Wagga. Between them, Climate Action Wagga and CROW working towards the same goals from different directions we can ensure that the coming state and federal will respond to our community's concerns about the dangerous changes taking place in our climate.



It's raining in Greenland – and that's a problem

A new analysis of satellite and weather data shows that melting associated with rain in Greenland doubled in the summers and tripled in the winters from 1988 to 2012 as temperatures rose, scientists write in a [study](#) published Thursday in *The Cryosphere*, a journal of the European Geosciences Union.

The total precipitation over the ice sheet didn't change over the study period, but more of it fell as rain, the study found. The scientists estimated that almost a third of the total runoff measured was triggered by rainfall.

They also found that melting events triggered by rain lasted longer, lengthening from an average of two days to three in the summer, and from two days to five in the winter.

The striking thing about student strikes – they are in the right

The students striking from schools around the world to demand action on climate change have issued an uncompromising open letter stating: "We are going to change the fate of humanity, whether you like it or not."

The letter, [published by the Guardian](#), says: "United we will rise on 15 March and many times after until we see climate justice. We demand the world's decision makers take responsibility and solve this crisis. You have failed us in the past. [But] the youth of this world has started to move and we will not rest again."

The Youth Strikes for Climate movement is not centrally organised, so keeping track of the fast growing number of strikes is difficult, but many are registering on [FridaysForFuture.org](#). So far, there are [almost 500 events listed](#) to take place on 15 March across 51 countries, making it the biggest strike day so far. Students plan to skip school across Western Europe, from the US to Brazil and Chile, and from Australia to Iran, India and Japan.

But not Wagga??

Ikea goes EV

[The Driven](#)

The Australian branch of Swedish home furnishings giant Ikea is taking its transport fleet all-electric, with a commitment to have quit internal combustion engines for all of its delivery and assembly vehicles nationally by 2025.

Ikea, which has been one of the leading installers of renewables globally – and of commercial-scale solar in Australia – said on Friday that its shift to EVs would start immediately, reaching 5 per cent in FY19, 10 per cent in FY2020 and 100 per cent in FY25.

AEMO and CSIRO say renewables are cheapest

Australia's energy market operator and leading scientific research agency have released a report concluding that wind and solar are clearly the cheapest new form of electricity generation.

Providing estimates of the cost to generate electricity from new power plants, the inaugural GenCost report was released in the days before Christmas 2018 as a resource for decision makers.

Acknowledging the need to factor storage into new wind and solar projects, the study found that even when variable renewables are backed up with two or six hours of battery or pumped hydro storage, the renewable generators were able to undercut their competitors.

Looking ahead to 2050, the models show the gap widening further with the cost of solar predicted to fall dramatically.

Doing what we need to do – ClimateWorks says we can get there ...

This whole article is well worth the read – [see here](#)

Emissions are still above 2005 levels in the building, industrial and transport sectors, and only 3% below in the electricity sector, based on 2016 figures, the latest available. The overall fall was mainly delivered by the land sector, thanks to a combination of reduced land clearing and increased forestation. Increased energy efficiency and the growth of renewable energy also made modest contributions.

Unfortunately, progress in reducing emissions has now stalled in most sectors and reversed overall.

We calculated that:

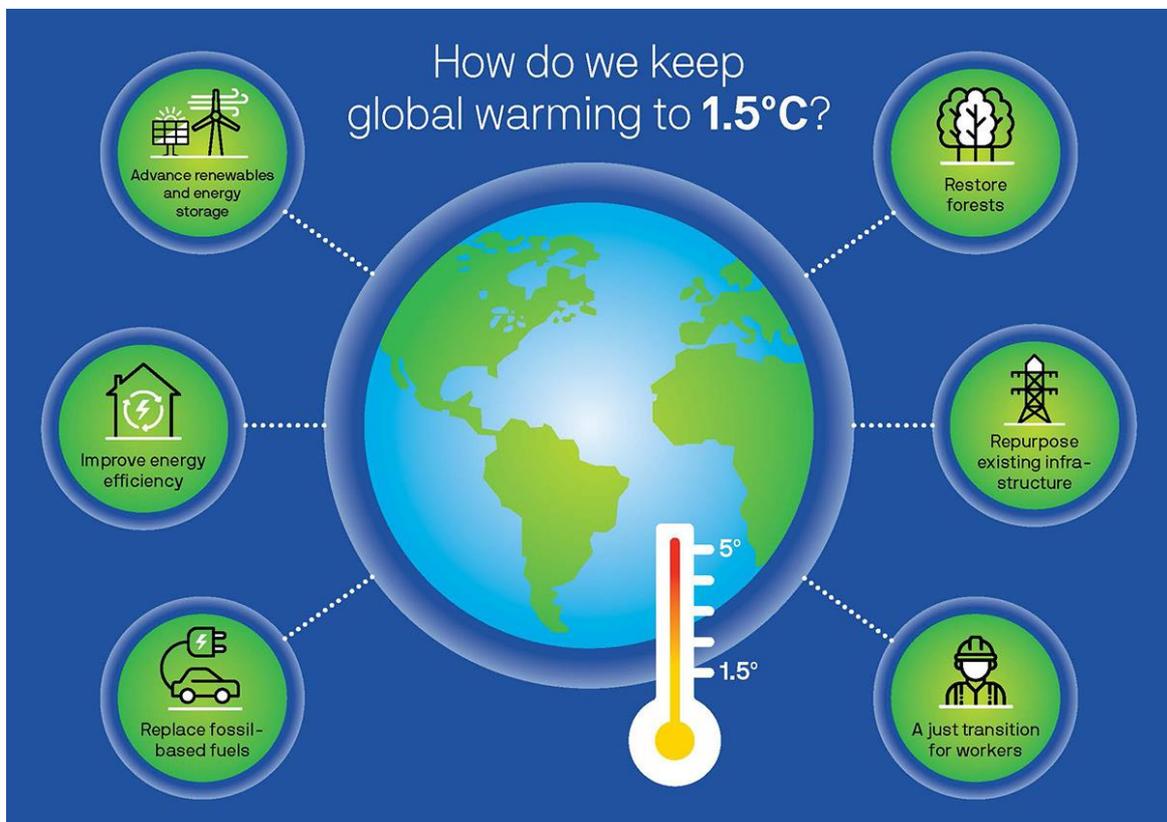
- the electricity sector was on track to cut its emissions by 21% by 2030, but could cut them by nearly 70%
- transport sector emissions are set to be 29% above 2005 levels by 2030, but with projected technology improvements could be 4% below
- the land sector is set to hit 45% below 2005 levels by 2030, but with more support for planting could be 103% below – well into “negative emissions” territory. The land sector would then be sucking up carbon and making up for emissions from other sectors.

... and Australia's UTS shows how.

We are already seeing the devastating consequences of global warming, with ever-rising sea levels, extreme storms, prolonged droughts and intensified bushfires. Now, after two years of research and modelling, scientists have come up with a groundbreaking new framework for achieving – and even beating – the target of limiting warming to 1.5°C.

Previous models have relied upon technologies that are expensive and not proven at scale.

The full article can be found [here](#), but the graphic below gives an outline of the steps involved.



Why focus on stopping Adani – follow these links for the reasons

Can't Trust Adani

Tax havens. Fraud and corruption investigations. Pollution disasters. We can't trust Adani.

[See More](#)

Coal Kills

The mining, transport, and burning of coal kills people. Pollution from burning coal is the single biggest contributor to dangerous global warming, threatening our way of life.

[See More](#)

Robs Our Water

Queensland is in drought. Adani's mine will suck out at least 270 billion litres of water over its lifetime. Draining rivers, ancient springs, and aquifers of the Great Artesian Basin.

[See More](#)

Fuels Global Warming

Burning the coal from Adani's mine will lead to more extreme weather and further destruction of the Great Barrier Reef.

[See More](#)

Trashes Indigenous Rights

Adani's mine, rail and port project will destroy the ancestral lands, waters and cultures of Indigenous people.

[See More](#)

Compressed air for high efficiency, low cost, large scale batteries

A new method of storing renewable energy is set to be trialled in South Australia, with funding last week announced for Australia's first compressed air energy storage project.

Canadian startup Hydrostor will build the 5 MW / 10 MWh compressed air storage facility at the old Angas Zinc Mine near Strathalbyn, about 60 kilometres south-east of Adelaide.

The company says that their compressed air system can provide the lowest cost bulk energy storage, undercutting more established methods available today.

The technology underpinning the new facility has been trialled and demonstrated that it stacks up, at least technically.

For a simple, short video explanation of the technology click here

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=244&v=kvyuzSto0vU

[Watch this; Greta Thunberg is an amazing person](#)



NSW Liberal NP plans for energy

A NSW Liberals & Nationals Government will:

- Support the rollout of up to 300,000 solar-battery and battery systems across NSW over 10 years, unlocking up to \$3.2 billion in clean energy investment.
- Provide the funding for solarbattery and battery system installations, at no upfront cost via an interest free loan, to help households reduce their power bills now and into the future.
- Enable households to re-pay the costs of the solar-battery and battery systems through their energy bill savings.
- Partner with manufacturers of solar-battery and battery systems that want to set up in NSW, where possible.
- Increase our energy security by adding up to 3,000 megawatt hours of storage once the program is fully rolled out.
- Continue energy rebates for around 900,000 low income households and families.

NSW Greens on energy and environment

As you would expect the Greens are much stronger and more extensive in this area than the other parties, but I couldn't find a brief overview.

The policies are covered [here](#) in a lot of detail.

NSW Labor plans for the environment

Here's a snapshot of our plan:



Deliver 100% renewable energy for all State Government agencies by 2025;



Hold a Climate Change Summit in our first year in office;



Develop the Climate Change Action Plan to achieve net zero emissions by 2050;



Deliver the single biggest investment in renewable energy in NSW history, creating 13,000 regional jobs;



☑ Help an additional 500,000 homes install rooftop solar panels;



Reduce greenhouse gas emission by 15 million tonnes - the equivalent of offsetting every car in NSW;



Establish a state-owned power company to drive down power prices and deliver cheaper and cleaner power; and

✓ Enshrine the outcomes of the Summit into a *Climate Change Act*.

We've also announced a raft of other policies to protect our environment in NSW, including the protection of our national parks, wildlife, trees, waterways, and urban environments.