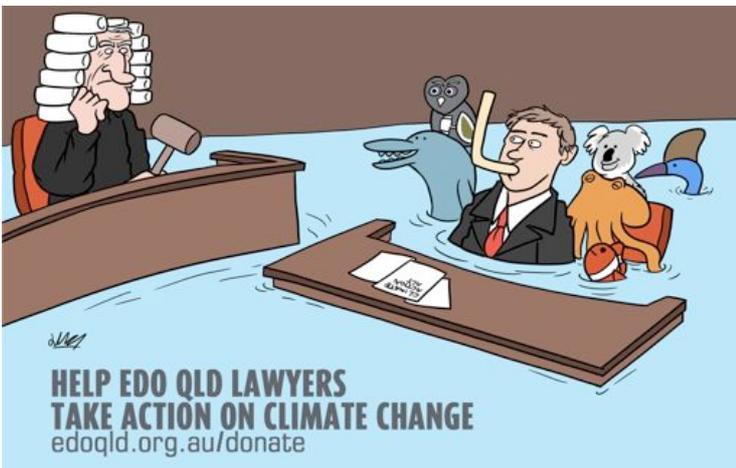


BIEPA RECEIVES ASSESSMENTS ON THE STATUS OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL ASSETS FROM MANY ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS. THE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS THAT MAY INTEREST MEMBERS .



It's been more than two years since the Abbott LNP Government suspended Australia's world-leading national network of marine sanctuaries. That's two years of uncertainty for local communities. Two years of the creeping industrialization of our oceans, while precious marine life remains unprotected. And two years our sanctuaries should have been in place providing resilience in the face of coral bleaching.

This election is an incredible opportunity to show MPs and local candidates that Australians want their sanctuaries restored. They're listening *right now* because they want your vote. [So please show them you care about our sanctuaries by signing the petition today.](#) Click to sign.



<http://www.edoqld.org.au/>

Environmental Defenders Office Qld (EDO Qld) an independent community legal centre, empowering the community to use the law to protect the environment.

We are your lawyers for the environment, driven by a commitment to justice and a passion for nature. Our goals are to protect clean air, soil and water for safe and healthy communities; to restore and preserve nature, the Great Barrier Reef and wildlife; to advance clean energy and to keep our climate safe. ****It's been more than two years since the Abbott and Newman LNP Governments stopped funding the EDO Australia wide. BIEPA recently wrote to leaders and Environment Ministers/Shadow Ministers for Federal & State LNP, Labor and Greens as well as MPs for Longman and Pumicestone electorates, requesting that funding be restored to the EDO so Australian citizens could be represented in a court of law to protect their environmental, social and economic assets.



WHERE CAN THEY FIND REFUGE, SHELTER AND FOOD??? HOW CAN THEY SURVIVE WHEN WE RAGE THROUGH THEIR HOMES LIKE A CYCLONE???



Watch Wilderness Society video of clearing at Olive Vale, Cape York Peninsula.

<https://www.wilderness.org.au/articles/large-scale-land-clearing-returns-queensland> **SCROLL DOWN TO VIDEO**



QUEENSLAND LAND CLEARING BILL STALLED

The Queensland [Vegetation Management \(Reinstatement\) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016](#) is fulfillment of a 2015 election commitment by the Palaszczuk government to reinstate vegetation protection laws weakened under the Newman government. [See here for history and background.](#) [You can read EDO Qld's full submission on the Bill here.](#)

This Bill is essential to ensuring the Great Barrier Reef, wildlife, soils, waterways and our climate are protected from the devastating impacts of broadscale clearing.

EDO Qld understands farmers and landholders need to do essential or routine maintenance clearing on their properties. That clearing won't be restricted by this Bill.

Reinstatement of "reversal of the onus of proof" sounds complicated, but the EDO's legal opinion is that this reinstatement is nothing to fear for responsible landholders. This was part of the law for years, without even one example of a problem, until the Newman LNP changes.

EDO advises that "reversal of the onus of proof" means, unless proven otherwise, a landholder is considered responsible for any clearing on their own land. Just like if the car you own was to run a red light, it would be assumed that you were driving, unless you could show otherwise.

You are strongly encouraged to meet with your Federal, State and Local representatives and candidates to talk about why you want vegetation protected in Queensland, the species you are concerned about and the importance of vegetation etc. Land Clearing is a Federal issue when Australia's natural assets are protected under Federal Acts and international conservation treaties.

FLOGGING AN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL DEAD HORSE

COAL MINING

EDO Qld lawyers recently filed a Federal Court challenge to Environment Minister Greg Hunt's re-approval of the Adani Carmichael coal mine.

You may have seen EDO Principal Solicitor Sean Ryan in the news alongside Geoff Cousins, President of EDO client, the **Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF)** Go to: <https://www.acfonline.org.au/> Change the story on the Reef this election. **Be informed Get involved**

Why have the EDO filed the case? Because like you, and millions of other Australians, they care deeply about protecting the magnificent **Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Site**.

Australia has an international legal obligation to do all it can to protect our Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Site. Your question must be, has the Environment Minister properly applied this legal obligation when considering the impacts of the burning of coal from this mine on the Reef.



GRAB THE POPCORN - World Wildlife Fund documentaries about the links between food and farming, and the places we love. **for a Watching Weekend, 18-19th June**, Communities across Australia want to see the majority of people said they are more likely to support a party with a plan to transition Australia to 100% renewable electricity within twenty years [1]. Together through conversations with our nearest & dearest, each of us can help put climate change on the policy agenda this election. **Sign up to watch now, and you'll receive unique links to download the 3 documentaries, our Watching Weekend guides, and access to WWF's analysis of the policies currently on offer by the major parties.** With a month until the election you have the opportunity to protect the reef, the places you love, Aussie food and farming, and so much more. Working together you can help put climate change on all major parties' policy agendas.



has put together a fantastic collection of climate change, the Great Barrier Reef, Aussie **Gather your friends, family, and neighbours and host a screening in your living room.**

stronger action on climate change. In a recent poll, a party with a plan to transition Australia to 100% renewable electricity within twenty years [1]. Together through conversations with our nearest & dearest, each of us can help put climate change on the policy agenda this election. **Sign up to watch now, and you'll receive unique links to download the 3 documentaries, our Watching Weekend guides, and access to WWF's analysis of the policies currently on offer by the major parties.** With a month until the election you have the opportunity to protect the reef, the places you love, Aussie food and farming, and so much more. Working together you can help put climate change on all major parties' policy agendas.

16 BILLION REVELATION MUST “RESET” ELECTION COMMITMENTS ON THE REEF

Posted on 02 June 2016

According to the ABC, a leaked report prepared for the Queensland Government, estimates it will cost \$16 billion to stop the water pollution harming the Great Barrier Reef.

The ABC today published details of a leaked copy of the report which was written by economic and water quality experts.

“This report must jolt the main political parties into lifting their investments to secure the Reef’s future,” said WWF-Australia spokesperson Nick Heath.

“The costings estimate hits the reset button on the whole issue of Reef funding.

“The money pledged so far by both sides of politics falls far short of what’s required,” he said.

“This is not just an investment in the future of the Reef it will provide a major boost to the agricultural and tourism industry – securing the jobs and economic benefits they bring to regional Queensland.

Mr Heath said there was precedent in Australia for a rescue package of this magnitude.

“Australia is spending almost \$13 billion on the Murray-Darling Basin.

“The Reef is a national treasure - the jewel in the crown of Australia’s tourism industry.

“It must have a similar-sized rescue package to the Murray-Darling Basin,” he said.

“The Reef is an asset which brings \$6 billion a year to the economy and 70 000 jobs – this level of investment is simply good business.”



<http://www.marketforces.org.au/ffs>

PUBLIC MONEY PROPPING UP FOSSIL FUELS

Each year, the Australian government spends billions of dollars of public money on programs that encourage more coal, gas and oil to be extracted and burned. Market Forces estimates that these tax-based fossil fuel subsidies amount to around \$12 billion per year federally. This figure includes subsidies that support both the production and consumption of fossil fuels.

But tax-based subsidies aren’t the only government financial support afforded to fossil fuels. Direct handouts and contributions to the fossil fuel industry are doled out at both federal and state levels. On top of this, public money is used to finance fossil fuels through our national export credit agency EFIC, as well as our involvement with international financial institutions.

Australia has built a bad reputation as one of the world’s biggest supporters of the dirty fossil fuel industry, a point that was reiterated at the **Paris Climate Talks** when our delegates refused to sign an agreement that would phase out fossil fuel subsidies. (*Refer BIEPA April Guest Speaker, Dr Adrian Ward for more information*) Once again, our **government put the interests of big polluters ahead of our environment, climate and health.**

Click through the buttons below to find out more about the different ways the Australian government is using our money to prop up dirty fossil fuels. You can also sign the petition below, calling on the government to end polluter handouts.

For more information about the US\$452 billion worth of subsidies that support global fossil fuel production each year, check out the joint report from Oil Change International and Overseas Development Institute: *Empty promises: G20 subsidies to oil, gas and coal production.*

GetUp!

<https://www.getup.org.au/campaigns>

Is an independent movement to build a **Progressive Australia** and bring participation back into our democracy



Current Campaign Actions

Federal Election 2016
Taking the Power Back

Opinion polls are close - that means our movement can have a big impact on the outcome of this election. From now until July 2nd, GetUp members around the country are getting together to make sure **Climate Change, Economic Fairness and Human Rights** are at the top of the political agenda. We'll be targeting key electorates and making sure voters know how to make their voices heard. [Find out how you can get involved.](#)

Environmental Sustainability

Protect the Great Barrier Reef [Join the Campaign](#)



**The Great Barrier Reef
World Heritage Site
is under threat.**
**Join hundreds of thousands
of Australians and add your
name to the petition for the
Great Barrier Reef
World Heritage Site**

[Click here to sign the petition.](#)

Don't Risk Coal Seam Gas



What do Australian farmlands, healthy families and drinking water all have in common? They're all under threat from unregulated coal seam gas mining. **GetUp** members from NSW and QLD have bravely shared their story of what it's like to live in a community affected by CSG mining

[Click here to watch the video](#)

The ACF campaigns on climate change, rivers, oceans, forests, and for a nuclear free, sustainable Australia.

Change the story for the Reef this election!
Be informed! Get involved!



**AUSTRALIAN
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION**

<https://www.acfonline.org.au/>



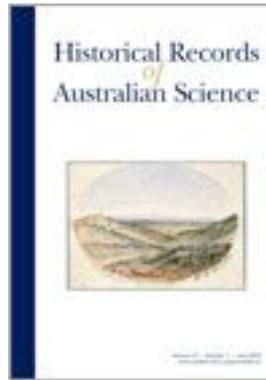
Election Scorecard

Do political parties have a plan for what you care about?

<https://scorecard.acf.org.au/>

Environment scorecard: Coalition woeful, lags behind Labor and Greens

May 31, 2016 The Australian Conservation Foundation's scorecard rating political parties' environmental policies out of 100 points has given the [Liberal/National coalition 11](#), [Labor 53](#) and [The Greens 77](#) based on measuring parties' policies on clean energy, cutting pollution and protecting Nature using ACF's [National Agenda](#). There is still time for improvement. "A recent poll showed climate change is one of the [top four issues for voters](#)". "It's not as if conservatives can't be good conservationists – Liberal cabinet minister Garfield Barwick was ACF's first president; Robert Menzies signed the first Antarctic Treaty; Malcolm Fraser made Kakadu a national park; John Howard established the National Greenhouse Inventory and the National Water Initiative.



<http://www.csiro.au/>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-04-20/csiro-changes-risk-losing-millions-in-grants-scientists-say/7343750>

Australia 'reneging' on Paris agreement, ex-CSIRO manager says.

Research manager Dr Peter Craig retired from the CSIRO just over two weeks ago. He believes as well as the loss of reputation and capacity, Australia is also at risk of breaching commitments made at last year's climate talks in Paris.

"The COP21 agreement actually requires an increase in climate science, not a decrease in climate science," he said.

"Within months of the agreement being reached in Paris, Australia is reneging on the agreement."

New CEO, Mr Marshall, explained the move in an email to staff in February by describing climate science as "proven".

"That question has been answered, and the new question is, what we do about it, and how can we find solutions for the climate we will be living with," he said.

Dr Craig is no longer gagged by any employment agreement.

"[It's] a transparently false reason for stopping climate science. Somebody compared it with cancer research," he said.

"We know what cancer is, we can stop cancer research. It makes no sense whatsoever."

Some of Australia's leading scientists say the CSIRO is at risk of losing millions of dollars in international grants due to [changes being implemented under CEO Larry Marshall](#).

****CSIRO staff fear they will lose grants due to the new CEO**

****Former manager says CSIRO at risk of breaching Paris climate agreements.**

Billions of dollars worth of grants were pledged for climate research and mitigation at the Paris Climate Talks last year. ABC's Lateline has spoken to a number of scientists who fear the CSIRO's new innovation and industry focus is leading to a "dramatic reduction" in "public good" science.

Australian Academy of Science



Australian Science takes back seat after 50 years

2013: The country's peak science bodies have expressed concern over Tony Abbott's new ministry, which has omitted a dedicated science minister for the first time in more than 50 years.

Not since 1931 has an Australian government been without a science minister.

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/technology/sci-tech/science-takes-back-seat-after-50-years-20130916-2tv59.html#ixzz4AURLZb8W>

The Australian Academy of Science said it was disappointed.

"A scientifically literate society is a society which is equipped to hold informed debate and make intelligent decisions about big issues that affect us all," the Academy's secretary for science policy, Les Field, said.

The head of Science and Technology Australia, Catriona Jackson, said: "Science and technology are central to virtually everything government does, from industry to universities, to agriculture to health, to creating the kind of jobs that will ensure a prosperous future," she said.

BIEPA News Editor comments: It follows that governments at all levels, making decisions directing the future of Australia as a nation, must have a percentage of representatives who are scientifically literate. Presently, the major Parties (LNP and Labor) have very few representatives who are scientifically literate. However, the Greens have a higher than average percentage of representatives who possess science literacy.

To quote an excerpt from David Suzuki's Autobiography:
Chapter: ***Reflections on Science and Technology***

"Today the most powerful force affecting our lives is not politics, business, celebrity, or sports, despite the coverage they receive in the media. By far the greatest factor shaping the world is science as applied by industry, medicine and military. We can't go anywhere on the planet without using the products or encountering the debris of science and technology Without a basic knowledge of scientific terms and concepts and an understanding of how science differs from other ways of knowing, I don't believe we can find real solutions to such issues. Scientists and educators alike have failed to ensure that scientific literacy is as much a part of what is considered a core value as mathematics, reading and writing. The consequences of scientific illiteracy among the general public are not trivial.



<http://www.davidsuzuki.org/>

"In the fall of 1987, I was part of a group that examined the degree to which our elected representatives comprehend science. Looking at the thirty-eight Cabinet ministers of the Canadian federal government, we found that of the thirty-two who could be assigned a profession outside politics, twelve were from business, ten from law, three from farming, and two from engineering. Thus 70 per cent of those thirty-two were from business or law, perhaps explaining why governments are so preoccupied with economic and jurisdictional issues.

"In a related study in 1987, fifty members of Parliament were administered a very simple test of their comprehension of scientific terms and concepts. Those with backgrounds in business and law scored absolutely rock-bottom. Yet these people will have to make informed decisions about climate change, alternative sources of energy, farmed versus wild salmon, intelligent machines, space research, space missile defense

shields, biotechnology, stem cells, cloning and other issues that require at least a basic grounding in science. No amount of simplification by technical staff will overcome the barrier of scientific illiteracy.

“So decisions will end up being made for political reasons. How scientifically literate do we believe U.S. president George W. Bush is apropos of space-based missile defenses, teaching of intelligent design in science courses, foreign aid for HIV/AIDS, or responses to avian flu? Do we believe Australian prime minister John Howard understands the science behind global warming as he opposes the Kyoto Protocol?”

“Given the degree of scientific illiteracy among politicians, it’s not surprising that we can’t reach informed, rational decisions on these issues. I have spent a lot of time trying to bring new ministers up to speed when they are appointed, but they get moved around, and we have to start from scratch when a new person is put in the job. Only when scientific literacy is a central part of our education and culture will we have the possibility of a government that can make fully informed political decisions.”

ONTARIO REVS UP SUZUKI TO PUSH CLIMATE PLAN

The Ontario government enlists the help of David Suzuki to sell its climate change plan.

By **ROBERT BENZIE** Queen's Park Bureau Chief
Wed., June 1, 2016

The Ontario government has enlisted the help of David Suzuki to sell its *Climate Change Action Plan*. Canada’s most famous environmentalist is front and centre – literally – in a slick new 30-second [commercial](#) promoting the forthcoming scheme. “*What does climate change mean?*” Suzuki intones from the lectern in a voice known to millions of Canadians. “*Simply: that we’re in trouble and not enough adults are listening.*” says Suzuki, “*And if we don’t act now, the damage could be irreversible,*” he says, against a backdrop of highway traffic gridlock and a soon-to-be-homeless beaver and a caribou.

WHAT A GREAT IDEA!!

