

Green Action News

MOBILISING PEOPLE TO SAFEGUARD OUR ENVIRONMENT

ISSUE 18 • SPRING 2012

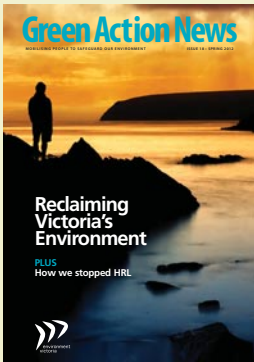


Reclaiming Victoria's Environment

PLUS

How we stopped HRL





Green Action News

Issue 18, Spring 2012

Design 2Fish Productions

Print Almar Press

Contributing writers

Alex Merory, Kelly O'Shanassy, Tom Hartney, Mark Wakeham, Victoria McKenzie-McHarg, Jean Young, Ayesha Cain and special guest Tammy Van Wisse.

Editor

Alex Merory
(03) 9341 8125
editor@environmentvictoria.org.au

Membership enquiries

(03) 9341 8100
admin@environmentvictoria.org.au

Media enquiries

(03) 9341 8127
mark.wakeham@environmentvictoria.org.au

Green Action News is an Environment Victoria publication. For more information, visit www.environmentvictoria.org.au



INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Taking stock on Hazelwood

3



Victorians take on new coal power and win

4



Brown Coal Disaster

6



Why Tammy van Wisse wants to save the Murray

7



A State in reverse

8



Reclaiming Victoria's environment

10



Environmental news from around Victoria

12



Thinking globally, acting locally

14



> **Kelly O'Shanassy**, Chief Executive Officer

Never say never

How do you make the seemingly impossible into something that seems inevitable? You never, ever give up.

WHAT A ROLLERCOASTER ride we've had over the past few months. From the highs of stopping HRL, the new coal plant proposed for Victoria, to the devastation of the Gillard Government reneging on negotiations to close polluting stations like Hazelwood.

Congratulations to everyone involved in Stopping HRL. Whether you donated to our campaign, signed a petition or attended a rally, you have made an enormous difference. Doesn't it feel great?

And while you may have been dismayed by the government's backflip on Hazelwood, I want you to remember three very important things:

Closing down one of the most

polluting coal plants in the world is both extremely important and incredibly hard. We know there will be setbacks along the way, but if we're going to create a safe climate future, we can't shy away from the tough stuff.

We've successfully set the agenda. We've created huge public momentum to shut Hazelwood, and journalists and politicians around the country now refer to Hazelwood as Australia's most polluting coal station. Right now the government is ignoring this community momentum but that can't and won't last.

People like you Stopped HRL. And we are going to shut Hazelwood (check out our plan on page 3).

These are the times we have to stay strong and remember the amazing wins that people like you are achieving all the time (see page 12). Our 2012 AGM and Environment Celebration has been created to do just that — celebrate these wins, recognise amazing efforts and gear

up to tackle the big challenges ahead. We'll also officially launch our Reclaim Victoria's Environment campaign, which aims to ensure our political leaders (of all key political affiliations) stop ignoring the overwhelming community support for our environment and a clean energy future and start taking action (page 10). We'd love you to come along on 24 October (see back cover for details).

People have asked us how we keep going after such a big disappointment. It certainly helps that we achieve so many wonderful outcomes like Stopping HRL, but most of the time I just reflect on Christopher Reeve's philosophy (after all, he was Superman): "At first dreams seem impossible, then improbable, then inevitable".

For now, I'm taking a few minutes to dream about the next big environmental outcome that we'll achieve together, and then I'm going to get stuck into achieving it!

Taking stock on Hazelwood

> Mark Wakeham, Campaigns Director

WEDNESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER was a tough day for anyone concerned about climate change and Australia's clean energy future.

At 9.15 Minister Martin Ferguson announced that the Gillard Government was walking away from its commitment to close 2000 megawatts of our dirtiest power stations like Hazelwood and Yallourn, known as 'contracts for closure'.

In the face of a low carbon price and huge compensation payouts to big polluters, 'contracts for closure' was critical to achieve the necessary transition to a clean energy future by getting rid of our dirtiest polluters. Unfortunately, it now seems that the Gillard Government wasn't trying particularly hard in its negotiations with power station owners.

One of the biggest obstacles to closing our dirtiest power stations like Hazelwood is the **\$5.5 billion** of taxpayers' funds they're pocketing as compensation for the introduction of the carbon price.



THANK YOU

for your continuing support of this important campaign. You helped get Hazelwood on the national agenda and together we can strike it off the list of Australia's heaviest polluters.

The price on carbon, or 'Clean Energy Future' package, was always a delicate balance with some contradictory elements. On the balance Environment Victoria supported the package, in large part because of the 'contracts for closure' commitment that Environment Victoria elicited from the federal government to retire our dirtiest power stations. However the ALP's decision to walk away from this commitment destroys the equilibrium of the carbon price package and makes hollow talk of Australia's clean energy future. You can't have a clean energy future if power stations like Hazelwood are allowed to pollute indefinitely and indeed paid by the government to continue operating.

Where to from here?

We've been on the brink of closing Hazelwood before. Remember back in 2010 when the Brumby Government committed to starting the process of closing Hazelwood only to lose the 2010 election? Back then we dusted ourselves off and came up with a new plan that has successfully put replacing Hazelwood on the national agenda - no small achievement.

We've also suffered significant campaign setbacks in the past. When we lost our court case to prevent the construction of the HRL coal-fired power station it was a huge kick in the guts. But in that defeat were the seeds of victory and we ultimately won that campaign.

At Environment Victoria we don't focus on what's easy, we focus on what is important. And with brown coal making up over 90 percent of our

electricity and more than half of the state's greenhouse pollution, it's clear that replacing our dirtiest power stations remains priority one.

'Contracts for closure' didn't happen. So the biggest barrier now to closing these dirty power stations and letting the carbon price do its job is the \$5.5 billion compensation that these same power stations are receiving from the federal government to keep polluting.

So we're going after these ludicrous compensation payments to big polluters. After all, if they were telling the government in the 'contracts for closure' negotiations that they have a profitable future and their asset value remains high, then why are we compensating them for asset value lost through the introduction of the carbon price?

Our 'paid to pollute' campaign will track taxpayers' dollars that are propping up polluters and pressure federal politicians to pull the \$5.5 billion compensation package in the lead up to next year's Federal Budget and the federal election.

We won't be letting the Coalition off the hook either. One of the main reasons 'contracts for closure' failed was due to uncertainty about the future existence of a carbon price if Tony Abbott becomes Prime Minister. We'll be highlighting the inadequacy of the Coalition's so-called 'direct action policy' and the Chicken Little nature of the Coalition's carbon price fear campaign over the coming year.

So the campaign continues. While this failure of leadership on 'contracts for closure' is deeply disappointing, with your support and people power we know we'll get there in the end.


Victorians take on new coal power and win

> **Victoria McKenzie-McHarg**, Safe Climate Campaigner

EIGHTEEN MONTHS AGO, Victoria was at a crossroad. A new coal fired power station - the first in 20 years - was approved for the Latrobe Valley. If it went ahead it would keep Victoria in the technological dark ages for decades to come, addicted to brown coal and shunning clean energy and the jobs that come with it. But if we could stop it, we knew that no new polluting coal-fired power stations would be built in Victoria again – a proud legacy for our environment.

Faced with this prospect, over 10,000 people like you took action in an

amazing display of people power. It involved years of hard work from people across the climate movement and Environment Victoria supporters in particular. And it was our legal challenge (that you funded and supported) against the EPA's approval of HRL, combined with the impact of community action that ultimately stopped HRL.

Despite many setbacks and decisions that made it seem like we'd lost, the determination of thousands of people resulted in a campaign win that at times had seemed impossible! Here's how it happened: 



YOU DID IT!

Stopping HRL, the new coal-fired power station destined for Victoria is a major victory for people power and a lasting legacy for our environment.

Your support made this happen. Thank you so much for caring enough to take action.

TIMELINE TO VICTORY

2002

The Bracks Government awards a new coal exploration licence to HRL for the development of a commercial scale power station. Environment Victoria and the Australian Conservation Foundation oppose the licence. The campaign to Stop HRL has begun.

SEP 10

You and almost 4,000 others submit formal objections to the HRL proposal – the most ever received by the EPA on a single issue. Just 13 submissions were made in support of the proposal.

JUN 11

Environment Victoria, community group Locals into Victoria's Environment (LIVE), Doctors for the Environment Australia (DEA) and Brunswick based individual Martin Shield launch a landmark legal challenge against the EPA's approval of HRL at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT). They also appeal the EPA's decision wanting the whole 600MW approved.

FEB 12

Labor MP Kelvin Thomson tables a petition with over 12,000 hand-signatures against government funding of HRL in Parliament, Canberra.



2006

Premier Bracks awards HRL a \$50 million grant for development of a 400 mega watt (MW) coal-fired power station.

MAY 11

The EPA approves 300MW of the 600MW proposal.



AUG 11

The amazing generosity of people like you means that over 1000 people (an all time record) respond to our urgent call to help fund this legal challenge and the supporting community action campaign to stop this new power.



FEB 12

Next day...: Federal Energy Minister Martin Ferguson announces another extension for HRL's federal government funding. But there are two important details – the extension is only for six months, and this time it's final.

JUL 12

Energy Minister Ferguson withdraws HRL's federal government grant of \$100 million, opening the door for the Victorian government to withdraw their \$50 million in grant funding. It's impossible for HRL to proceed without this government funding...

2007

The Federal Howard Government awards HRL a further \$100 million towards the costs of their \$750 million power station.

MAY 11

Australia's big four banks all reveal that they will not fund the project. Key international banks including HSBC and CitiBank also confirm that they will not invest in the project. HSBC notes that HRL's proposal exceeds their guidelines for pollution limits on new investments.

OCT 11

The four week long VCAT hearing begins. Environment Victoria and LIVE are ably assisted in their challenge by solicitors from the Environment Defenders Office (EDO) and pro-bono barristers Adrian Finanzio, Rupert Watters and Emma Peppler.



MAR 12

HRL win their legal challenge at VCAT, and are awarded full approval of their 600MW power station. Environment Victoria and her challengers lose. However an important condition is placed on the power station due to our challenge – HRL is not allowed to begin construction until another power station of the same size has signed a contract to close with the Australian Government.

SEP 10

HRL submit their application for a Works Approval for their now \$1.3 billion project to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

MAY 11

Hundreds rally against the EPA decision. Quit Coal (a community group opposed to the project) unfurl a massive banner from the roof of the building opposite Parliament House.



FEB 12

Hundreds rally in Melbourne against the state and federal government grants amounting to \$150 million for the HRL proposal. Greens MP Adam Bandt and Labor MP Kelvin Thomson speak at the rally in support of stopping HRL.

APR 12

HRL announce that they have halted development of their project indefinitely as a result of the VCAT condition.



WE WIN!



Brown coal disaster

> **Mark Wakeham**, Campaigns Director



Thanks to your generous donations to our recent appeal we've been able to crank up our campaign to prevent coal allocations and the establishment of an export brown coal industry. Your support is already having an impact!

THANK YOU.

ON JUNE 6, the state government's plans to allocate 13 billion tonnes and establish new export coal mines encountered a serious hitch. The Yallourn mine collapsed, taking the Morwell River with it. Yallourn power station ground to a halt. Serious flooding on site destroyed coal conveyor belts and the Environment Protection Authority issued an emergency licence to TRUenergy to dump contaminated water from the mine into the Latrobe River.

Coming on the back of a similar incident at Yallourn in 2007, and problems at the Hazelwood mine last year, the incident serves as a stark reminder of the danger and damage inherent in brown coal mining operations. For the Baillieu Government, trying to convince local farmers and communities in the Latrobe Valley that the environmental impact of new super-mines can be managed, the Yallourn failure couldn't have come at a worse time.

What's more, the interruption to Yallourn energy production had no impact on our energy supply, evidence that lights-out scaremongering about transitioning away from coal is just that.

Our research shows that Victorians don't want more coal mining or coal-fired

power, and thanks to your support we're working to prevent coal allocations and the establishment of an export brown coal industry. Here's what we've undertaken or are about to kick off so far:

- A public campaign to ensure that none of the Big 4 Banks fund these new coal mines, branding them as an investment too dirty and dangerous to touch.
- An independent assessment into the economic viability of these mines and export plans.
- Fighting for our right to information, we've mounted a legal challenge with the state government to enforce your Freedom of Information rights to know what dirty deals are being done with the coal industry behind closed doors.
- Holding the government to account by exposing these plans to the public and media via CoalWatch, the most comprehensive community coal monitoring resource in the state. www.environmentvictoria.org.au/coalwatch
- Funding regional forums in the Latrobe Valley to let the local community know that their back yard is being sold off and empower them into action.

Our efforts are starting to pay off.

In August 2012 the Baillieu Government confirmed that they have cancelled the Latrobe Valley mining licence held by Shell and Anglo American for the proposed Monash Energy project. This mining licence, covering billions of tonnes of coal, was allocated in 2002 for a coal to diesel and carbon capture and storage project that has gone nowhere. We've used this project in the media repeatedly as an example of why allocating more coal is not in the public interest. Government realised that failed and stalled coal projects were a bad look and withdrew the license and coal allocation. This is a step in the right direction, and we need to keep the pressure up to ensure that we don't end up with 13 billion tonnes of dirty brown coal dug up, exported and burnt to produce enormous greenhouse pollution.

We know we've got a battle on our hands to prevent the coal allocation, and any future export proposals, but we're already getting results and we're only just getting started.


Why Tammy wants to save the Murray

> **Tammy van Wisse**, River Champion

Tammy Van Wisse knows more than most about rivers. In her lifetime she has swum the circumference of the earth one and a half times! And that's not all. In 2001 she became the only person to swim the entire length of the Murray River. Starting from Corryong in Victoria's high country, it took her 106 days to reach the Murray Mouth in South Australia 2438 kilometres away. Since then she's been a passionate campaigner for the mighty Murray River and efforts to return the water it needs.

I BECAME INTERESTED in the Murray when I heard about Graham Middleton's swim down the length of it. It really captured my imagination as a marathon swimmer.

I had travelled overseas for many years, swimming marathons in different bodies of water and I suffered from gastro more times than I care to remember. Being immersed in a body of water for such a long period of time, I became like a human water quality tester – if the quality of the water was bad I would get sick.

This experience drove me to draw attention to water issues. When it came to doing something in my own back  our greatest waterway the Murray, seemed like the obvious choice.

The enormous challenge of swimming the entire length of the river generated a lot of media attention and allowed me to promote a much more important message about river health.


When I swam the Murray eleven years ago, there had been five years of drought and flows were very low, with red gums dying and wetlands under threat. Ironically, the week before I was due to start my swim there was a huge downpour and the river was up out of its banks up at Corryong.

As a result of the rain, a lot of water was flushed down the river and the extra flows made it change daily before my eyes as I swam.

I saw so much wildlife – at the start I was lucky enough to swim with a platypus! I also encountered ducks, wild pigs and was bumped under the water by carp. The worst thing was the snakes, particularly the Tigers and Browns. I had to be extracted quite a few times to avoid being bitten.

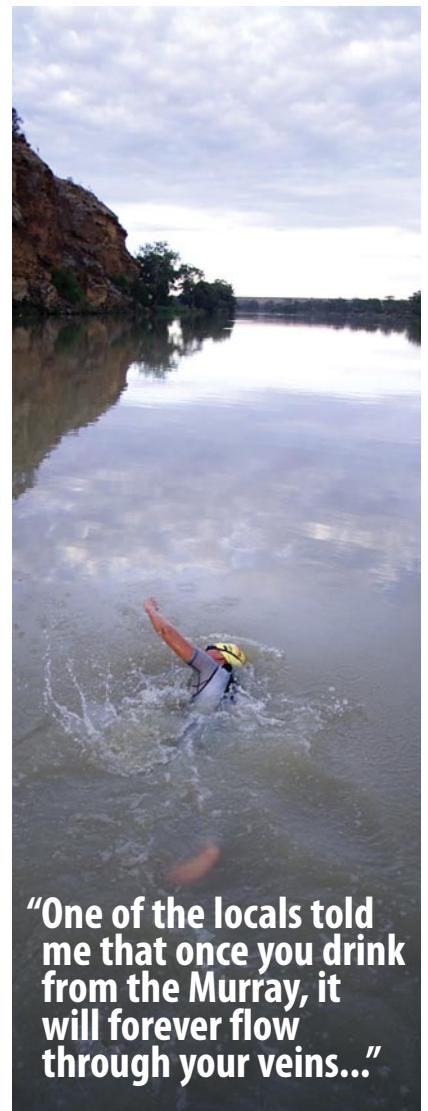
I swam through the “black water” in




Thank you so much to all of our dedicated supporters of Victoria's rivers, including those who've generously donated to help save our lifeblood, the Mighty  ray. We'll keep fighting so this remarkable river that has flourished for thousands of years can flourish for thousands more.

the Barmah Forest (near Echuca). It gets its dark colour from organic matter that builds up during droughts. This organic matter is periodically swept into the water during floods and then decomposes, taking oxygen out of the water. The effect is worsened by decreasing regularity of flows due to over-allocation, and many yabbies and crayfish in the Barmah had died after the rains. At one point it felt like I was the only living thing in the Murray.

As I crossed the border into South Australia, I actually tasted the water get saltier, testament to the huge salination problems that continue today. The lack of water in the system due to over-



allocation and salination are still the biggest threats to the Murray system.

Before my swim, one of the locals at Corryong told me that once you drink from the Murray, it will forever flow through your veins and you'll always be passionate about it. Aft  ending three and a half months submerged in it and swallowing quite a bit during that time, I can honestly say it's true. My passion for the Murray grew with every day of the swim.

Since then I've joined the Fight For the Murray campaign. It astounds me that people don't understand that without a healthy river system we have nothing.

Time is running out for us to take action on the Murray. So my message to Minister Burke is this: the time for treating the Murray as a political football must end or we will lose our river. It's critical that we get the Murray-Darling Basin Plan right and you have the opportunity to create history and do this for the Australian people.

Right now, the Murray-Darling Basin Plan is in Parliament. Get the latest, and what you can do to make it better, at environmentvictoria.org.au/save-the-murray

A State in

Regional snapshot of the action

North West Victoria

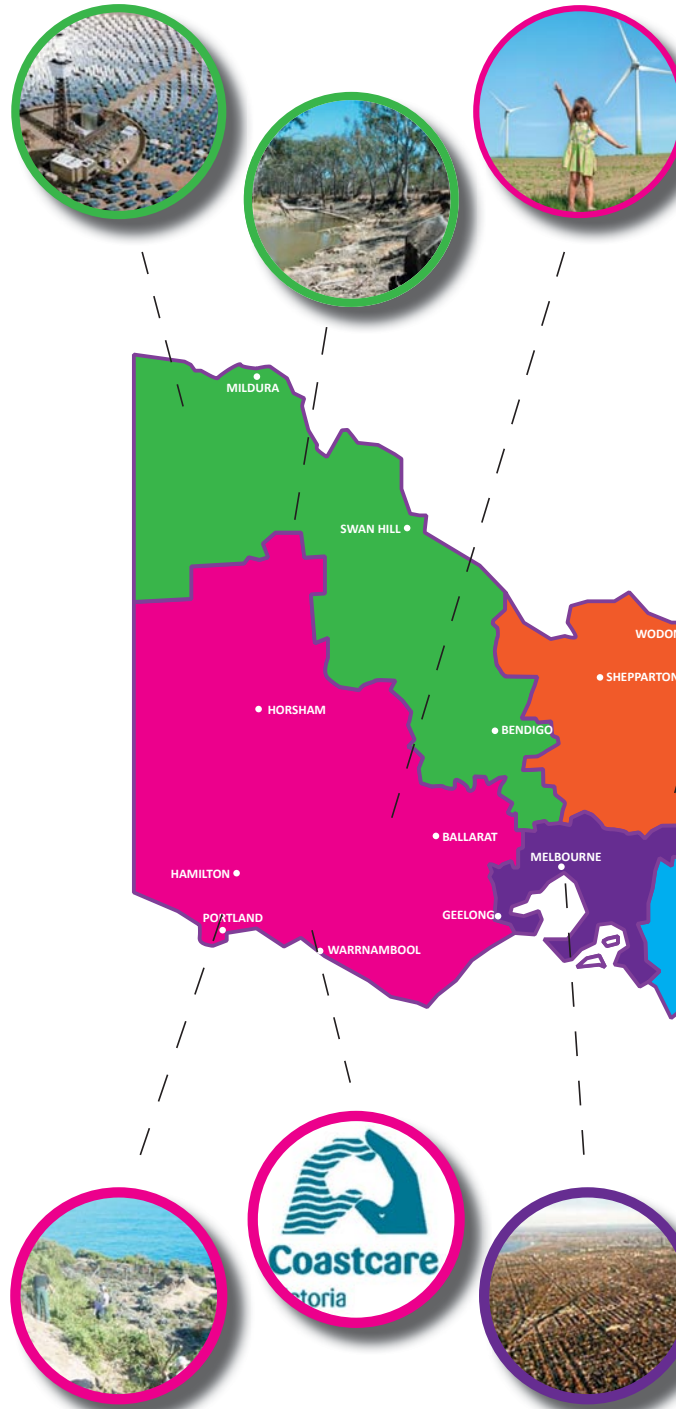
- Baillieu Government has reduced support for the Mallee Solar farm, refusing to commit the full \$100m promised prior to the election, and only providing the funds if the project receives Federal funding. The Mallee solar farm could be supported by federal Clean Energy Finance Corporation, though the Federal Coalition have promised to abolish this body if elected.
- No progress towards the 5% solar target by 2020 election promise which would deliver large scale solar projects in the north-west.

Western Victoria and Surf Coast

- Coastcare program slashed
- Renewed Alcoa's mining lease at Anglesea for 50 years with no further measures to reduce its pollution.
- 50 DSE jobs in Ballarat and 75-80 jobs in South-West cut in areas like bushfire prevention, wild dog and weeds control programs
- At least 10 jobs in threatened species protection in Horsham cut
- Department of Sustainability and Environment job cuts will reduce staff and program numbers at regional offices in Bacchus Marsh, Ballarat, Geelong, Gellibrand, Heywood and Maryborough. Staff cuts and office closures of Department of Primary Industries offices could also affect agricultural and environmental programs.
- New planning laws giving households power to veto wind turbines within two kilometres of their homes and declaring whole regions of the state out of bounds for wind farms lead to the Surf Coast community wind project, the Ben More wind farm, the Naroghid wind farm and the Pykes Hill wind farm being put on hold costing the region \$370m of new investment in clean energy projects. No such laws apply to coal-fired power stations or coalmines.
- Approving an open-cut goldmine in the heart of a wombat forest near Daylesford

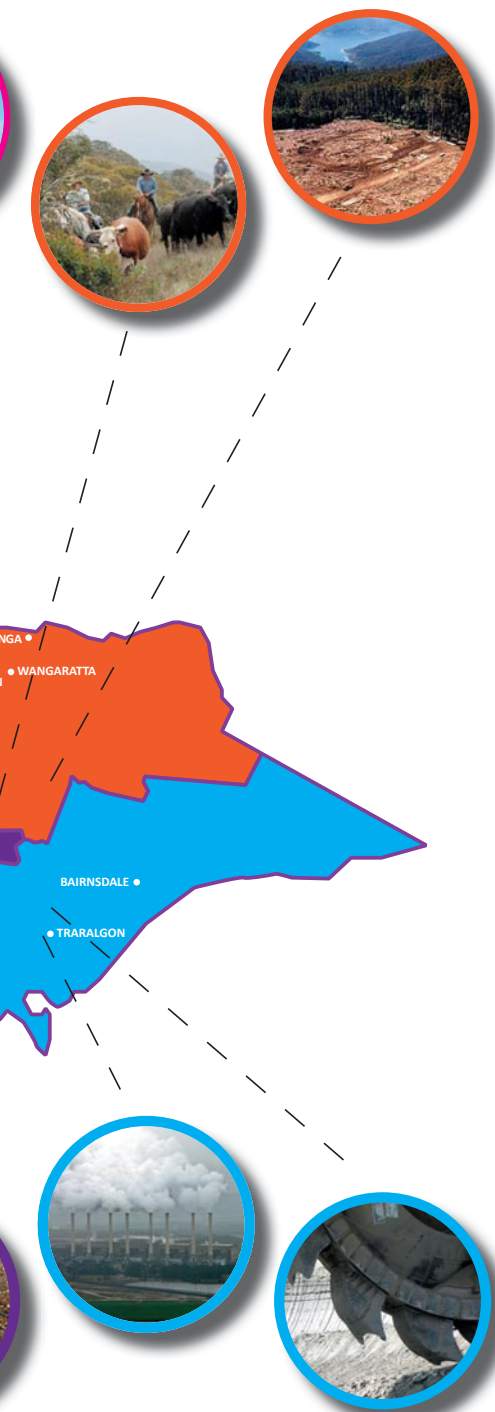
Northern and Central Victoria

- Attempting to weaken the national plan to restore the health of the Murray - Darling Basin Plan by proposing just 2100 GL be returned to the river instead of the MDBA's proposed 2750GL.
- Allowing firewood collection indefinitely from Gunbower and Barmah national parks.
- Backflip on pre-election promise to use Sugarloaf Pipeline water for the environment, instead auctioning it off to irrigators.
- Put on hold ban on cattle grazing in new Murray River Park. Cattle are being allowed to graze right up to the edge of the Murray River.
- Department of Sustainability and Environment job cuts will reduce staff and program numbers at regional offices in Alexandra, Beechworth, Benalla, Bendigo, Broadford, Corryong, Mitta Mitta, Nathalia, Ovens, Seymour, Tallangatta, Wangaratta and Wodonga. Staff cuts and office closures of Department of Primary Industries offices could also affect agricultural and environmental programs.
- New planning laws giving households power to veto wind turbines within two kilometres of their homes and declaring whole regions of the state out of bounds for wind farms lead to the Woodend community wind project, the Castlemaine community wind project, the Sidonia wind farm and the Baynton wind farm being put on hold costing the region \$373m of new investment in clean energy projects. No such laws apply to coal-fired power stations or coal mines.



n reverse

taken by the Baillieu Government



Gippsland and Alpine regions

- Walked away from a State Government commitment to begin closing Hazelwood, our most polluting power station, giving no certainty to workers, the community or for new investment .
- Plan to allocate the remaining 13 billion tonnes of brown coal in the Latrobe Valley for new mines and export in late 2012. This is the equivalent of 13 mines the size of the current Hazelwood pit.
- Returning cattle grazing to the Alpine National Park under the guise of scientific research when cattle grazing has been thoroughly proven to damage alpine biodiversity.
- Cutting funding for the West Gippsland CMA which has led to the loss of 17 frontline river health jobs.
- Supporting and funding a new polluting coal-fired power station just one kilometre from Morwell when a wind farm in the same location would be banned.
- Coal export plans would involve new pipelines across farms, infrastructure and port expansion in Westernport Bay or Port Anthony.
- Loggers can now seek exemptions from environment laws protecting endangered species under proposed changes.
- Provided \$1 million for a feasibility study for a new dam in the Lindenow Valley on the Mitchell River.
- Department of Sustainability and Environment job cuts will reduce staff and program numbers at regional offices in Bairnsdale, Bendoc, Cann River, Erica, Mansfield, Marysville, Noojee, Nowa Nowa, Orbost, Powelltown, Toolangi, Traralgon and Yarram. Staff cuts and office closures of Department of Primary Industries offices could also affect agricultural and environmental programs.
- New planning laws giving households power to veto wind turbines within two kilometres of their homes and declaring whole regions of the state out of bounds for wind farms lead to the \$31 million Yarram wind farm being put on hold. No such laws apply to coal-fired power stations or coal mines.
- Abandoned the voluntary Target155 water efficiency program putting more pressure on the Yarra and Thomson Rivers and increasing future use of the desalination plant.

Melbourne

- Urban sprawl set to continue with announcement of six more suburbs for Melbourne, covering productive farmland and green wedges, with less protection for threatened species in these areas.
- Abandoned the voluntary Target155 water efficiency program putting more pressure on the Yarra and Thomson Rivers and increasing future use of the desalination plant.
- Seeking federal funding to advance the East-West tunnel freeway instead of investing in public transport.

Statewide

- Broke a pre-election commitment to keep Victoria's legislated target to reduce greenhouse pollution by 20 per cent by 2020.
- Support for households and businesses to support solar power is slashed from 60c/kWh to 25c/kWh and then further slashed to 8c/kWh putting the brakes on the solar industry state-wide.
- Environment protection and jobs slashed in state budget. Slashed 400 Department of Sustainability and Environment jobs in threatened species protection, bushfire prevention, river health, weeds and feral animal programs and the Environment Protection Authority. DSE will suffer greater job cuts than nearly all other departments.
- Failed to deliver on a \$20 million election pledge to replace energy guzzling street lights with more efficient lighting.
- Weakening planning rules around sea level rise designed to reduce impacts of climate change.
- Opposing the creation of any new marine protected areas.
- Returning duck hunting season to 12 weeks in 2011 putting more pressure on duck populations recovering from drought.
- Undermining the integrity of National Parks by announcing an inquiry to extend prospecting and opening up National Parks for development
- Cutting all Victorian funding to the Native fish strategy which restores fish populations throughout the Murray Darling Basin.

Getting our environme



Since the Baillieu Government came into power our environment has been under attack, and the hit list keeps growing. In the last few months alone, they've further slashed the solar feed-in tariff, cut funding to the native fish strategy and they've signaled their clear desire to open up our national parks for development. So we've come up with a bold plan to stop the attacks and get the environment back on the agenda.

THANKS TO YOUR amazing support, our campaign to Reclaim Victoria's Environment has kicked off with a bang. Fact-based ads holding the Baillieu Government to account have been seen by hundreds of thousands of Victorians in local newspapers across the state.

“ I WAS SHOCKED WHEN I HEARD WHAT TED BAILLIEU IS DOING TO OUR ENVIRONMENT. ”

Already the Baillieu Government has:

- Scrapped plans to cut Victoria's greenhouse pollution
- Made solar power more expensive for Victorian families
- Supported polluting coal while destroying investment and jobs in wind and solar energy
- Reduced protection for national parks, forests and endangered species
- Undermined national efforts to save the Murray River
- Announced plans to dig up Victorian farmland for brown coal mega-mines

VICTORIANS ARE PROUD OF OUR ENVIRONMENT. WHY AREN'T YOU, MR BAILLIEU?

VICTORIA'S ENVIRONMENT: IN A STATE OF EMERGENCY

Get the full story at: environmentvictoria.org.au/emergency

environment victoria

Erika, mother of two, Victoria

Authorised by Kelly O'Shannessy, Level 2, 60 Leicester Street, Carlton VIC 3053

Thanks a bunch to Deb, Erika and families for stepping up for the campaign in a big way and being part of these ads.

nt back on the agenda

In August we released a report highlighting the contrast between what Victorians actually want for their environment and what the Baillieu Government has been up to. The report detailed how different regions of Victoria have been affected (see the spread of impact by region on pg 8), and created a media buzz forcing the government to defend their environmental credentials.

And the momentum is building. On 20 September an article in *The Age* covered our campaign and the government's growing concerns in response.

"The environment - particularly as it relates to local issues - is far more sensitive as a political issue than the government anticipated, particularly when the perception is that things are going backwards"

Now the pressure is on for the Baillieu Government to release an environmental policy that's up to the challenge of protecting our environment. This is an important step in our plan to get all of Victoria's environment back on the political agenda.

But getting them to take notice is just the beginning. We're working with behaviour change communications

specialists to hone our message to reach Victorians from across the political spectrum and inspire them to take action. In August we welcomed community campaigner Mick Power to engage more people through on-the-ground, face-to-face contact and mobilise them around positive solutions.

All of this is possible because of the incredible support of people like you! Thank you to all of our wonderful donors. Your support is making a difference.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

1. Sign the petition at environmentvictoria.org.au/emergency
2. Get involved with letterboxing and stalls in your area. We have posters, brochures and petition forms to get you started. Contact our new Community Campaigner Mick at michael.power@enviornmentvictoria.org.au
3. Why not get your friends to chip and fund an ad in your own local area! Contact us to find out how.

INTRODUCING MICK POWER



"My name's Mick, and thanks to your generous donations, I'll be working on the Reclaim Victoria's Environment grassroots campaign, using people power to stop the Baillieu Government's attacks on the environment, and put our issues back on the political agenda. I'll be doing a whole bunch of work with community groups and individuals, so I look forward to meeting and working with as many of you as possible!"

“ I WAS SHOCKED WHEN I HEARD WHAT TED BAILLIEU IS DOING TO OUR ENVIRONMENT. ”

Already the Baillieu Government has:

- Scrapped plans to cut Victoria's greenhouse pollution
- Made solar power more expensive for Victorian families
- Supported polluting coal while destroying investment and jobs in wind and solar energy
- Reduced protection for national parks, forests and endangered species
- Undermined national efforts to save the Murray River
- Announced plans to dig up Victorian farmland for brown coal mega-mines

VICTORIANS ARE PROUD OF OUR ENVIRONMENT. WHY AREN'T YOU, MR BAILLIEU?

Get the full story at: environmentvictoria.org.au/emergency

VICTORIA'S ENVIRONMENT: IN A STATE OF EMERGENCY

environment victoria

Deb, mother of two, Albert Park, Victoria

Authorised by Kelly O'Shanassy, Level 2, 60 Leicester Street, Carlton VIC 3053

Good news for a

> **Tom Hartney**, Communications Officer

It's always amazing to see some great wins and brave battles spearheaded by community and environment groups. So let's take a moment to enjoy the good news:



Our GreenTown sustainability program highly commended

16 August: Working with community leaders from the multicultural Collingwood housing estate, we're helping residents make changes in their homes, businesses and schools to live more sustainably. We're pretty proud of GreenTown, so we were chuffed when this fantastic program was 'highly commended' in the City of Yarra's annual Sustainability Awards. So far, GreenTown households have saved 4 tonnes of greenhouse emissions per year, 61,000 litres of water per year and 119kg of waste from going to landfill! Everyone's a winner!

<http://environm.entvictoria.org.au>



Hepburn Wind wins the world wind award!

5 July: A year after the Baillieu Government introduced strict anti-wind laws, there was a win for wind and for community action when the Hepburn wind farm was awarded the prestigious World Wind Energy Award 2012 in recognition of their work introducing large scale community wind power to Australia. Many other communities around Australia have been inspired by the 'Hepburn Model' to develop their own community power projects. Well done!

<http://hepburnwind.com.au>

Moratorium on fracking and coal seam gas exploration

24 AUGUST: Coal seam gas is often promoted as a 'clean' alternative to coal, but the health and environmental impacts of leaked methane gas and other chemicals used in the process can be devastating, for our climate and for our water resources. Far too little is known about the real impact of CSG on our health and environment. Environment groups like Friends of the Earth, concerned landholders and community groups have been calling on the state government to stop the expansion of this industry until more is known about the risks involved. In August the Baillieu Government announced a moratorium on new exploration licences for coal seam gas and a ban on any approvals for fracking. Well done to everyone involved!

<http://www.melbourne.foe.org.au>



change



Supertrawler stopped...

11 September: The news that one of the world's biggest factory ships was headed for our southern waters to potentially decimate fish stocks was met with alarm from all quarters! Environment groups formed an alliance with recreational fishing groups to launch an overwhelming campaign to 'Stop the Supertrawler', generating plenty of media coverage and almost 100,000 signatures. In response to the outcry, the federal government introduced special laws to stop supertrawlers until it can be proven that they will not damage our oceans. A win for marine life and a win for common sense!

<http://stopthetrawler.net>



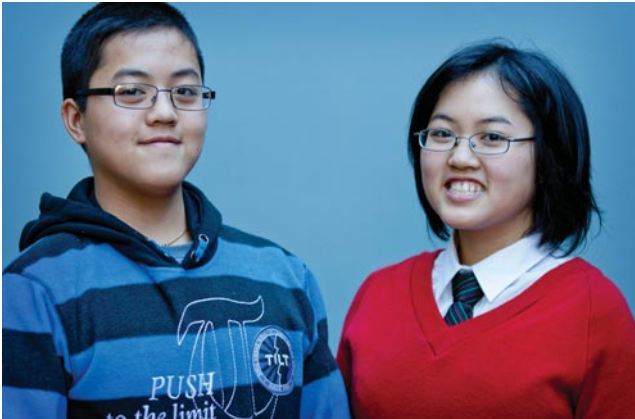
Inspirational battle to save our forests

The ongoing campaign by local environment group MyEnvironment has been truly inspiring. Their battle to save the remnants of Victoria's disappearing native forests from being turned into woodchips for office paper has not been without setbacks, but their passion and resolve have never waned. The Ash forests of the Central Highlands contain vital habitat for many endangered creatures, including Victoria's faunal emblem, the Leadbeater's Possum. With incredible community support they have taken VicForests to the Supreme Court over allegedly logging endangered species' habitat in Toolangi State Forest and have already saved many hectares from the chainsaw. Keep up the good fight guys!

<http://www.myenvironment.net.au/>

Thinking globally, acting locally

Through our sustainable living programs like HomePlanet and Multicultural Climate Action (MCA), we're taking the message of sustainable living to Victoria's culturally and ethnically diverse communities. We've been overwhelmed by the passion these new Australians show for safeguarding our environment and their enthusiasm in seeking to raise awareness of climate change in their communities! Here are some of their stories.



Jennie (14) and Bill (13) Ho, Delahey

For Jennie Ho, the most rewarding part of the Multicultural Climate Action Program was learning about the Carbon Price. "When you hear about it on the news, they only talk about it in a political perspective. You don't know where it will go in the future. So I got to learn about that in greater detail."

Together with her brother Bill, Jennie delivered a workshop on the Carbon Price and Energy Efficiency in the Home to 200 people at the Quan Min Temple in Braybrook, all in Vietnamese! According to Jennie, the community was interested to hear their message.

Bill saw the workshop as an opportunity to share their interest in the environment. "Young people want to live a greener future, so we told our parents to create a greener future for us to live in".

The two play Karate, Piano, Guitar, and learn Vietnamese.

Despite their busy schedules, Bill feels this experience will help prepare him for his future: "I want to build up our experiences; I want to build buildings that are greener for us in the future."



Hussein Milhem, Caroline Springs

Delivering workshops to small groups, Hussein found that many people were curious about the reasons for introducing a Carbon Price - why us, why now? "I presented them with the problem; the solution is up to them."

The father of two, feels strongly about environmental issues, "In Lebanon we live two-thirds of the day without power. The young generation don't

feel the cost of energy and power. "I don't like it when dad complains about the lights," he continued, "but you have to be persistent. Protecting the environment is essential for a better life and a better future."



Rimani Bhatia, 24, Dandenong

Rimani Bhatia moved to Australia from India just over three months ago. Rimani finds the HomePlanet teachers inspiring as they educate students to reduce their environmental impact. Already HomePlanet has changed the way Rimani manages her household - she is now recycling, donating her old clothes, taking shorter showers and saving energy by not using her heating and switching lights off when leaving rooms. Rimani now wants to share and inspire her family with her newfound knowledge and hopes to become a primary school teacher after the Home Planet program.



NasimJan, 24, Dandenong

In Afghanistan, NasimJan is particularly into learning about climate change and its solutions. During his schooling in Afghanistan, NasimJan was not taught about sustainability and environmental practices. HomePlanet has increased his knowledge of these areas and he has developed a passion for tackling climate change.

NasimJan's future aspirations are clear: "trying as much as possible to give the message of climate change to the people who don't know!"

"Protecting the environment is essential for a better life and a better future."

—Hussein Milhem



URGENT: Act now to stop 13 new polluting brown coal mines.

YES! I want to safeguard Victoria's environment, climate and clean energy future from devastating brown coal developments in the Latrobe Valley. Please accept my donation of:

\$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Surprise us \$ _____

Please find enclosed: Cheque or Money Order (payable to Environment Victoria Inc.)

Or charge my credit card as follows. Amex Mastercard Visa

Cardholder's name: _____ Expiry date: ___ / ___ / ___ Signature: _____

Card number:

Please send me information about how I can create a Victoria that's FOREVER GREEN by making a gift to Environment Victoria in my Will.

Please send me info about how I can safeguard Victoria's environment for the long term by becoming a green Action Partner

Are your personal details correct on your letter? Or are you moving soon? Please update your personal information here if necessary.

PERSONAL DETAILS

Title: _____ First Name: _____ Family Name: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Email: _____

Tel: (BH) _____ (AH) _____

Please complete this form, tear off this page and return it to Reply Paid 12575, A'Beckett Street, Melbourne, VIC 8006 or visit www.environmentvictoria.org.au/give and make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity!

AGM & CELEBRATION



You're invited to a very special celebration of our environment

Swanson Hall, Melbourne Town Hall

Wednesday 24 October 2012
from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm

There's no doubt it's been a tough year for Victoria's magnificent environment and for all of us who've watched our hard-fought wins unravelled by the new state government. But in the toughest times, we need to stick together, celebrate our achievements and get re-energised for the challenges ahead.

You're invited to a free night of laughs, celebration and community power as we gear up to Reclaim Victoria's Environment.

AGENDA

5:30: Environment Victoria AGM
Farewell our President Russell Fisher after over 10 years serving on the board

6:15: Environment Celebration
Special guest speaker Danny Kennedy, activist turned solar entrepreneur and author of Rooftop Revolution. Beamed live from the USA, Danny will talk about the global renewable energy revolution and why he's hopeful for the planet's future.

RSVP 5:30 Environment Victoria AGM RSVP essential by Friday 12 October. Please let us know if you're coming by calling (03) 9341 8100 or fill in the RSVP form at environmentvictoria.org.au/rsvp. If you can't make the AGM, we'd still love to see you at the celebration! 6:15 pm Environment Celebration Drinks and nibbles will be provided.

MC and Comedian Andrew McClelland, winner of Crikey's 'Best of the Fest' from the 2012 Melbourne International Comedy Festival

Environmental recognition ceremony where we'll celebrate the achievements, courage and persistence of community groups and leaders across the state to safeguard our environment Followed by entertainment and a chance to catch up with old friends and make new ones over drinks.

Official launch of the Reclaim Victoria's Environment Campaign

**WHO'S
WHO AT**



Chief Executive Officer
Kelly O'Shanassy

CAMPAIGNS & PROGRAMS

Campaigns Director
Mark Wakeham
Healthy Rivers Campaigner
Juliet Le Feuvre
Healthy Rivers Campaigner
Domenica Settle
Safe Climate Campaigner
Victoria McKenzie-McHarg
Community Campaigner
Mick Power
A/ Sustainable Living Manager
Charlie Davie
Sustainable Living Program Officer
Nina Bailey
HomePlanet Project Officers

Kat Gaita and Eva Gaita
Multicultural Climate Action Project
Officer
Hannah Smith
Program Assistant
Ayeesha Cain
Communications Manager
Alex Merory
Communications Officer
Tom Hartney

OPERATIONS

Organisational Services Manager
Ivan Kolker
Accounts Officer
Helen Vine
Administration Officer
Keran Fegan
Fundraising Manager
Amber Sprunt

Database Officer
Tony Cox

BOARD

President
Russell Fisher
Vice-President
Elizabeth McKinnon
Sue Noy
Amanda Nuttall
Robyn Murphy
Simone Zmood
Hugh Wareham
Alison Rowe
Dieter Schadt

REGULAR VOLUNTEERS

Paul Batey
Frank Burden
John Egan
Fran Henry

Polly Hughes
Peter Grogan
Janet Le Feuvre
Colleen Guggisberg
Lance Lessels
Bob Michael
Cathryn Ryan
Les Smith

Talk to us:

Phone: (03) 9341 8100
Email:
admin@environmentvictoria.org.au
Fax: (03) 9341 8199

PO Box 12575
A'Beckett Street, Victoria, 8006

www.environmentvictoria.org.au



Did you know you can donate online? www.environmentvictoria.org.au/give