



SUBSCRIBER NEWSLETTER

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ENERGY MINISTERS NEED REFORM TORCH From Jeff Angel & Jane Castle, TEC

Australia's energy ministers seem more preoccupied with safeguarding the place of coal power under climate change policies than changing the rules to allow more renewables and energy efficiency. They have directed the Australian Energy Market Commission to investigate whether the National Electricity Market (NEM) will be affected by the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme and the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target. It should be about how the NEM could stop blocking climate change policies and start being part of the solution;

but ministerial communiqués indicate otherwise.

Embedded in the National Electricity Law is an explicit exclusion of environmental considerations – and its retention is defended by energy ministers and agencies. It's a truly bizarre disconnect between the goals of Energy Ministers and the goals of the rest of the nation.

TEC has called on COAG to get the energy ministers into line. For too long the NEM has been a protected species.



[Click HERE to download a booking form for 'Carbon Ethics: Who Wins, Who Loses?'](#)

COMING EVENTS :

↳ **'Carbon Ethics: Who Wins, Who Loses?'**

↳ **Sydney**
Thurs Nov 20th
The Hilton

↳ **Melbourne**
Tues Nov 18th
The Arts Centre

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A Word from our Partners...

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP ON WASTE AND THE CPRS From Catherine Johnson, Manager—Marketing & Communications, WSN Environmental Solutions

We welcome the inclusion of waste in the Australian Government's proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS). In fact, WSN Environmental Solutions is the only waste company to recommend that landfill waste emissions be included in the CPRS. However there are some necessary changes to the scheme in its current form if there is to be a competitive and sustainable waste industry.

Although the waste sector in Australia only accounts for 3% of national greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, technical improvement means that we have the potential to abate more than 6%. This is an impressive figure considering the suggested national

target of 10 - 15% emissions by 2020.

The majority of waste emissions come from biogas which is produced when waste decomposes inside landfills. Biogas is about 50% methane — a GHG around 22 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

To deal with GHG from landfill waste there are essentially two accepted ways to reduce emissions. Firstly, capturing biogas at the landfill; the government estimates the national average of landfill gas capture at 26%. (WSN's average capture rate is around 60%). Secondly, through new technologies effectively capturing up to 100% of GHG emissions. These advanced technologies not only capture GHG but also by using anaerobic digestion turn gas

into green electricity - effectively doubling the GHG savings.

The downside to the proposed Scheme is the inclusion of GHG emissions from legacy waste. You see, waste buried in landfill takes up to 50 years to break down. This is extremely problematic for existing landfill owners and will result in market distortions.

Logically it makes no sense to include legacy waste emissions. For instance, the coal-fired power stations are not being asked to get permits for the tonnes of carbon dioxide emitted from the past generation of electricity. Also, you cannot drive the cost back to the community for permits for

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

↳ **Executive Internship (TEC)**



For more information on Carbon Offsets, click on the logo to visit the Carbon Offset Watch website



GARNAUT: "FAILURE TO ADDRESS GLOBAL WARMING WILL HAUNT HUMANITY UNTIL THE END OF TIME"

Cameron Eren, Climate Change Industry Partnership Program, TEC

With the release of his Final Report, Professor Ross Garnaut has issued a challenge to governments throughout the world: rise to the challenge of climate change or succumb to a defeat that 'would haunt humanity until the end of time.'

The review confirmed the need for atmospheric concentrations of CO2e to stabilise at 400ppm and showed that a policy of strong emissions reductions was the most attractive option for both Australian society and the Australian economy.

Despite going to great lengths to highlight the high costs of failure, and painstakingly demonstrating that the Australian

economy would actually benefit from strong emissions reductions, the Final Report had a sting in its tail, expressing doubt that the governments of the world would rise to the challenge.

The problem, as Garnaut sees it, is what he calls 'the awful arithmetic of developing country emissions.' That is, the developed nations might all agree to an international climate pact but he is doubtful that the developing nations will follow suit.

His response is to advocate a series of defensive fallback positions. If the world agrees to stabilise atmospheric emissions at 450ppm then Australia

should commit to reduce emissions by 25% on 2000 levels by 2050. If the world agrees to 550ppm then we'd commit to 10% cuts. If the world fails to agree on anything then we should only take on 5% cuts.

In what is an almost flawless report this is the point at which Garnaut's logic falters. In attempting to respond to what he perceives as the international deadlock on climate talks he advocates that which would cement the deadlock. It was agreed in Bali that the starting point for international negotiations was emissions reductions of 25-40% on 1990

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SNAPSHOT ON EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR)
From Irmine van der Geest, Sustainability Advisor, Green Capital

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a policy principle that aims to improve environmental performance of products and their connected systems. It is based on producers taking responsibility for the end-of-life management of their products.

EPR is a lifecycle approach, which means returning products, parts and materials at the end of a product's life cycle for reuse or (re)manufacturing into the existing or a new product stream. EPR is largely in use in Europe and is in sharp contrast with the current Australian take-make-waste approach, in which products end up as waste in landfill at the end of their life cycle (see figure 1).

GOALS OF EPR

1. Design improvement of products
 If a producer is financially responsible for its own product at end-of-life, then he has an incentive to improve design to minimise these costs. This means designing products for improved environmental performance from a life cycle perspective with a specific focus on avoiding end-of-life

2. High value use of product and materials through effective collection and re-use or recycling. This goal can be sub-divided into:
 - ↳ effective collection (helping avoid contamination and maximising the amount)
 - ↳ environmentally-sound treatment of collected products; and
 - ↳ high use of products and materials in re-use and recycling.

Case Study: Fuji Xerox Design for Remanufacturing

Fuji Xerox products are designed to support remanufacturing and recycling at end-of-life. Every piece of equipment is built to allow the disassembly of standardised, long-life parts and the use of high-rigidity materials that can be easily remanufactured or recycled. Fuji Xerox recycle 99% of resources gathered from end-of-life products across the Asia Pa-

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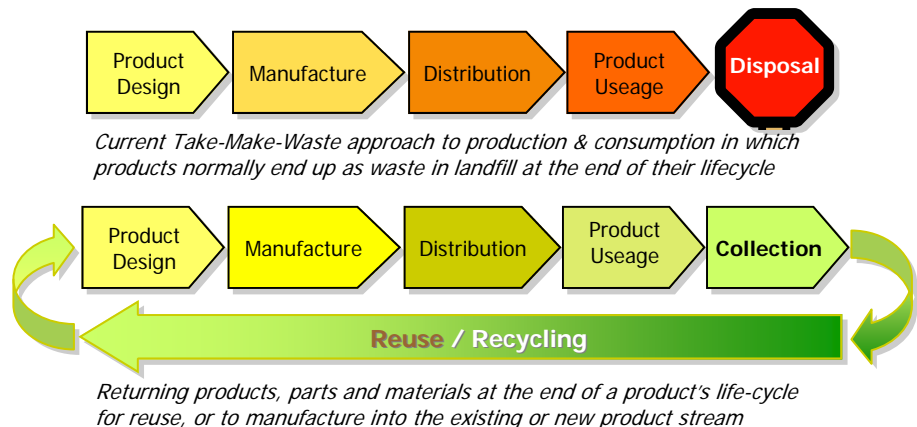


Figure 1: EPR has a lifecycle approach contrasted by Australia's current take-make-waste

NEWS FROM THE SUSTAINABLE STAFF TRAINING TEAM

From Danielle Domone, Joint Program Manager, Green Capital

GREEN SKILLS

It has become obvious across the globe that in the next few decades the growth in Green Jobs will be significant, as we shift to a low carbon economy. CSIRO have recently launched a report that looks at the opportunities ahead for Australia <http://www.csiro.au/resources/GreenCoalitionReport.html>. The NSW Department of Education and Training have also recently developed an Implementation Plan for the Vocational Training system (https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/industryprograms/pdf_docs/indprogs/pdf/greenskills_strategy.pdf). The unions are working hard on skills development in green skills areas and we support a structured system that encourages a shift into these exciting new areas of technology and development. The Southern Cross Climate Coalition will be discussing some of these opportunities at our next event, 'Carbon Ethics: Who Wins, Who Loses?'

SUSTAINABILITY SESSIONS

The Sustainable Staff organisational development program of TEC has recently run an interactive 2 ½ hour workshop with sustainability champions from Roche Products Australia to catalyse change and to encourage deeper thinking around sustainability initiatives for

the business. The workshop identified opportunities and developed ideas into initiatives as well as challenges ahead and pathways forward. It was a very energetic session with many great ideas for the future.

Reactions from workshop participants:

"Very useful initial presentation to cement the exercises to motivate and encourage discussion."

"The workshop helped us look at ideas outside the Roche world. Great ideas & I found it very motivating."

NEW INITIATIVES

We are now offering a range of Educational Sessions for businesses, focusing on corporate sustainability, staff and stakeholder engagement. If you are interested in discussing what options might best fit for your organisation, please call the Sustainable Staff Training team at Green Capital.

1. **Sustainability and Organisational Change** - half day workshop (presentation + tailored exercises to

catalyse change)

2. **SME sustainability workshops** (2 hours) - the why and how of sustainability for small business - how to keep ahead in the marketplace.
3. **Steps to Sustainable Staff** - Workshop for Executives: A 2.5 hour workshop for executives covering organisational steps, systems & frameworks, culture change and staff engagement.
4. **Tailored supplier, stakeholder and staff engagement sessions for your business:** We help your business identify sustainability issues, create dialogue and provide NGO insights for your sector to avoid risks and embrace opportunity.
5. **Corporate briefing sessions:** NGO business/sector specific executive briefings, tailored for your business Corporate Sustainability for your sector? 2-3 hours - Presentation and workshop activities - NGO speakers provide sector specific perspectives/ insights on market trends, risks and opportunities ahead and sugges-



GARNAUT: FAILURE TO ADDRESS GLOBAL WARMING WILL HAUNT HUMANITY UNTIL THE END OF TIME (CONT'D)

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levels by 2020. Were Australia to place a meaningful 5-25% (on 2000 levels) target on the table it would be seized upon as disingenuous and self-serving - a pattern of behaviour that has dogged the international climate negotiations.

In the lead up to the Bali Summit the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) revealed that to even stabilise at 445ppm industrialised nations, as a whole, would have to reduce emissions by at least 40% on 1990 levels by 2020. Even this target would only give the world a 50% chance of avoiding dangerous climate change.

It is only the leadership of individual nations that will break the international deadlock. An 'averages' approach will lead to a race to the bottom that will

only compound the deadlock. Nations need to demonstrate leadership and unilaterally commit to a science based 2020 emissions reduction target. For Australia, this means reducing emissions by at least 40% on 1990 levels by 2020.

Despite his pessimism and questionable logic, Garnaut points out that there's 'just a chance' that we will rise to the occasion and reminded the world that 'there are moments in the history of humanity when fateful choices are made' and that "the decision over the next few years on whether to take strong action to mitigate human-induced climate change is one such moment."

The Australian government will announce its 2020 emissions reduction target in 8 weeks time. Only then will we know whether the Australian government heard his plea.



THOUGHT LEADERSHIP ON WASTE AND THE CPRS
From Catherine Johnson, Manager—Marketing & Communications,
WSN Environmental Solutions

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old waste that's long buried.

Retrofitting old landfills is possible however expensive and often limited by physical constraints. The national methane abatement achievable is more likely to be around 50% at a price of up to \$30 per tonne of carbon dioxide, with a much greater price to avoid 100% of emissions.

If a business which has owned landfills for many years is penalised for waste from the past, it will mean that they will struggle to compete — and there are already a limited number of players in the market.

For example, it is projected that in the 2014/2015 financial year, carbon permits as a percentage of gate fees for mixed waste will be around 61% for a disadvantaged operator compared to around 18% for the advantaged one. If the new Scheme includes only new waste emissions the percentage of gate fees is closer to 13% for both competitors.

What are the implications of this? Well simply if there is only one competitor providing

the service in a local area the cost will directly flow to the community. It will also wipe out many players that encourage a competitive market. WSN made a profit of \$18.3 million in the 2007/2008 financial year — however the annual cost for permits from legacy waste could cost as much as two to three times this profit.

We are optimistic about the future if the program only includes new waste emissions. The economics of including new waste in the scheme looks promising under the scheme for those businesses and communities that opt for sustainable waste management solutions.

We have recently opened the Macarthur Resource recovery Park in Sydney's South West. By processing up to 90,000 tonnes of mixed waste through mechanical and anaerobic treatment we are able to prevent 33,000 tonnes of GHG emissions — creating a net carbon offset for four councils through the recovery of recyclables and production of green energy. These energy savings can be used to offset other GHG emitting activities such as vehicle fleets and coal-fired energy.

Another positive aspect to the proposed CPRS is the softly, softly approach to emissions measurement. It really needs to start from a fairly standard measurement and then develop more sophisticated methodol-

ogy over time. This is particularly relevant as each landfill is unique in profile and therefore emissions.

The exclusion of recycling in the Scheme has met with lively opposition by the recycling industry and local government and rightly so. The Scheme in its draft form does not recognise the carbon benefits from recycling. It is generally agreed in the waste industry that a Scheme must include the real carbon abatement of recycling and be integrated into a business emissions liability.

The scheme also disadvantages businesses that have taken the lead on resource recovery. If you have already implemented environmental performance it is not acknowledged in the Scheme. It is only fair to provide full credits for existing GHG abatement.

Waste, like other industries has its complications— however we must move forward. While WSN was the only waste company to recommend the inclusion of landfill gas in the scheme it will have detrimental effects to our business, and others like us, if we are punished for the accepted practices of the past. If constructed well the Scheme has the potential to enable the waste industry to "punch above its weight" in helping to reach national abatement targets.



FOCUS ON CPRS THREATS TO GREEN ECONOMIC SECTORS
Jeff Angel, Executive Director, TEC

TEC is working with recyclers, carbon offset providers, GreenPower companies and the energy efficiency sector to remove any threats from the proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) to their future growth.

There is furious debate over the timing, targets, carbon price and permit allocation of the Rudd Government's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme. A lot of comment is from those sectors that are carbon intensive and believe they will be disadvantaged. They are seeking a 'soft landing' or even in some cases virtual protection from the scheme.

The voice that is not being heard enough by government is the growing green sectors that will be severely disadvantaged if current proposals to protect carbon intensive sectors are not amended; and a more secure place for the

recycling, energy efficiency, GreenPower and carbon offset businesses, not found. The competitive position of these important industries and consumer confidence in them is at stake.

Action is urgent as the government is moving to finalise its white paper on the CPRS.

Our first roundtable was with carbon offset providers and a communiqué was agreed by 18 companies and TEC. The alliance reiterated the importance of retaining an active and viable voluntary carbon market in driving innovation in the origination of

emission reductions, and their marketing; the established capacity of the voluntary market to reduce emissions, in the order of millions of tonnes per annum, by appealing to individuals, businesses and other organisations to pay for

emission reductions where they are not required to do so by law.

The key ask was to ensure that voluntary carbon offsets originated from Australian projects are additional to Australia's mandatory targets under Kyoto (national cap) and the CPRS.

TEC has also developed a policy on recycling which recognises recycling can achieve fast cuts to Australia's carbon emissions because the technology already exists and is proven, and the lead time to construct infrastructure is relatively short. Given the intention of the CPRS to reduce emissions, it would be an ironic outcome for a sector that is able to deliver reductions for over 5% of Australia's net emissions by 2020 to be under threat because competitors that use virgin product and emit more carbon receive free permits.

More meetings with other sectors are planned.

EPR at a glance...

Designers, Engineers, Producers, Importers	Retail	Consumers and Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Improving design through Design for Environment (lifecycle focused product development) stimulates innovation, offers a competitive advantage and better preparation for the future. ✦ Design according to EPR principles can help reduce resource use, hazardous substances; improve logistics and quality of products; and lower energy use. ✦ EPR will help to combat climate change and related costs by saving embodied energy through recycling of materials and product parts. ✦ Showing leadership/ best practice will contribute to good corporate citizenship, improve community buy-in and bring reputational benefits. ✦ Creates opportunities to engage consumers, which can help in understanding and attracting new consumers. ✦ Helps to stay ahead of draconian regulations and to be internationally compliant, opening up the opportunity of international trade ✦ Can lower company risk profile and increase shareholder/ investment value. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Showing leadership/ best practice -> good corporate citizenship, improved community buy-in, long term viability/ survival of the company, reputational benefits. ✦ Opportunities to engage with consumers -> better understanding, attract new consumers. ✦ Helps to stay ahead of draconian regulations and to be internationally compliant, opens up international trade opportunities ✦ Lower company risk profile and increase shareholder/ investment value. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Will help to reduce waste/ litter, which can result in cleaner neighbourhoods and less waste going to landfill. ✦ With related schemes (eg: RoHS) will help to reduce the amount of hazardous materials being released into the environment, reducing the health risks in using the product and handling the end of life products ✦ Will help to conserve non-renewable resources ✦ Will help to combat climate change and related costs by saving embodied energy through recycling of materials and product (parts) ✦ Helps communities to recycle and reuse in order to become more sustainable

SNAPSHOT ON EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (CONT'D)

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cific region. In 2007, 14,000 products were manufactured with reused parts, increasing the total number of such products to 290,000. As a result the manufacturing operation's new resource input was reduced by 2,000 tons and carbon emissions were reduced by 15,500 tons.

The table below highlights opportunities for EPR along the supply chain for designers, engineers, producers, importers,

retail, consumers and community

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

- ✦ Take responsibility for the products you manufacture after the consumer has used them.
- ✦ Convince your industry association to support EPR policies and embrace sustainability.
- ✦ Measure/ calculate your environmental footprint (product, company).

- ✦ Develop/ implement your reduction action strategy/ plan.
- ✦ Start designing for the environment.
- ✦ Lobby government for comprehensive industry coverage so there are no free riders.
- ✦ Cooperate with and influence your supply chain.
- ✦ Interact with your consumers about environmental and social issues related to your product.



Green Capital News

TEC's New "Waste Warriors"..



GREEN CAPITAL

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Sarah van Erp—Waste Campaigner— TEC

Sarah Van Erp recently joined the Total Environment Centre's waste minimisation campaign, and is working on resource recovery of commercial and industrial waste and TEC's position on waste and the incoming CPRS. Sarah has worked for the the past eight years in the environment sector, initially for government in New Zealand and, more recently, in the UK for an NGO delivering behaviour change through business sustainability programmes. With recycling battling to overtake a waste sector historically dominated by cheap landfill, Sarah is working to decouple the trend of increasing waste with economic growth.



Helen Kerley—Waste Campaigner— TEC

A graduate from Monash University, Helen completed majors in Environmental Science and Human Geography. Her passion for both subjects saw her undertake environmental field research as a community development tool, as well studying regional sustainability issues in rural South Africa. As an environmental consultant she worked with Bayside City Council, the Victorian Department of Human Services, and Monash University. Helen also worked with World Vision Australia, on the establishment of an environmental management system, staff engagement activities and strategy and policy development. Helen looks forward to her work with TEC, focusing on extended producer responsibility schemes and state waste strategies.



Green Capital is proud to thank its Program Partners

Partners



GREEN CAPITAL IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE LAUNCH OF JEFF ANGEL'S NEW BOOK 'GREEN IS GOOD'.

For over three decades, Jeff Angel has been on the frontline of Australia's most important environmental battles. From the green movement's modern beginnings and major campaigns such as saving the rainforests and the Snowy River, through to combating air pollution, scrutinising the 'Green Olympics' and the issues facing us today, Jeff chronicles the turbulent history of our growing environmental awareness.



In 'Green is Good' he exposes the real face of environmental change: the twin pressures of politics and industry groups; the ongoing tensions between fundamentalism and pragmatism in the environment movement; and the ineffectiveness of many environmental laws and government agencies. He takes us inside some of the most pivotal events in Australian political history and predicts what will happen next in the fight to save the environment.

On sale now at good bookshops and online from ABC Books

Green Steps

Environmental Consultancy and Training

GREEN STEPS PROGRAM

The Green Steps program provides host organisations with expertise, energy and creativity to develop their sustainability projects/actions. Students from Macquarie University will work with you to deliver quality outcomes. Our students benefit from having a work context in which to frame their learning, while you gain a student who is supervised & mentored by experienced sustainability practitioners from the Monash Sustainability Institute (MSI).

Students receive intensive training in organisational sustainability and change management run by MSI in partnership with the Australian Greenhouse Office.

Training covers five key competencies which focus on environmental

issues, auditing, project planning and management, communication for change and behaviour change management. Presentation skills and teamwork are also practiced throughout the demanding training sessions.

Your organisation elects the project/action, hosts one student during the summer between December 08 and February 09 for 12 days, negotiated between you and the student.

Macquarie University covers their insurance for the duration of the project.

For further information please contact Sheila Mylvaganam on 02 9850 7372 or sheila.mylvaganam@mq.edu.au*