

# CLIMATE ACTION NEWCASTLE

Newsletter 9<sup>th</sup> September 2008

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## *Submissions due 10<sup>th</sup> September*

### **Green Paper Submissions**

The Australian Government is asking for public comment on its discussion paper (also known as a "Green Paper") on a Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme. It's important that lots of people write in demanding real action, because powerful industry groups like coal and aluminium will be pushing hard to continue business as usual.

CAN's two key messages are:

- Peak Emissions by 2010 &
- Auction ALL Permits

To make a submission, following the instructions on the attached document from Rising Tide Newcastle, or go to:

[www.climatechange.gov.au/greenpaper/consultation](http://www.climatechange.gov.au/greenpaper/consultation) & follow the instructions.

*This is one of the most important contributions we can each make as an individual to the future direction of Australia Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions profile*

Climate Action Newcastle's submission to the Green Paper can be found at the bottom of this Newsletter.

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### **Garnaut's Draft Supplementary Report – Targets & Trajectories**

Garnaut has delivered a dangerous and misleading supplementary report suggesting a 2020 emissions target of between 5-10% below 2000 levels. To be quite blunt, John Howard could have done better than this!

Garnaut is advising of a very dangerous course of action for Australia which would leave us out in the cold in international negotiations. He suggests that the world should



*aim* for 550ppm GHG emissions concentration in the atmosphere which would send us over every tipping point we know of and eliminate any chance of a safe climate future for our kids and all species on this earth.

To remind everyone, pre-industrial carbon dioxide levels were 280ppm, we are already at 387ppm, and Garnaut wants to aim for 550ppm. At 387ppm we are seeing a rapid melting of the Arctic Sea Ice where we could have an ice free summer by 2013. *It doesn't take an economics professor to tell you that GHG emissions concentrations are already too high!*

To read the full report (49 pages), or read the Transcript from Professor Garnaut's National Press Club Address on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September visit:  
[www.garnautreport.org.au/#Supplementary%20Draft%20Report](http://www.garnautreport.org.au/#Supplementary%20Draft%20Report)

CAN's media release is attached to this Newsletter below.

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### ***Update:* Newcastle is Going Solar**

CAN held a very successful evening at Newcastle High School on Friday night (5/9/08) for the start of the *Newcastle's Going Solar!* project. Torrential rain did not stop more than 150 people turning up to hear about the project and approximately 80 people completed their application on the evening to have solar power installed on their home.



Maurice & Thomas from the *Sydney Energy Cooperative* also braved the wild weather on the train and then their bicycles to bring affordable solar to Newcastle.

The closing date for the first round of installations has closed, however if you are interested and have not yet registered your interest with CAN, please send an email to [can@climateaction.org.au](mailto:can@climateaction.org.au) as we will be continuing this project for as long as we can.

For people who have registered their interest, you should have received further information with instructions on how to complete your application for pre-approval with *Sydney Energy Cooperative*.

For more information on this project visit the CAN website:

<http://climateaction.org.au/campaigns/newcastles-going-solar>



## Green Jobs for a Greener Hunter

CAN & LMCA (Lake Macquarie Climate Action) jointly held a successful forum at Charlestown on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August at St Albans Church Hall.

Approximately 50 people attended the forum with the key message that came out of the evening that we need to make a fast transition to a renewable energy industry in the Hunter, whilst ensuring that this transition is fair to workers.

Professor Bill Mitchell from [CofFEE](#) at the University of Newcastle spoke eloquently about the rigour of the economic modelling he used in the report “A Just Transition to a Renewable Energy Economy in the Hunter Region, Australia”. His analysis clearly showed that significantly more jobs would come from the replacement of the power generation industry with renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Geoff Evans (Newcastle University & Greenpeace) delivered an excellent appraisal of the situation and the options available to us in moving forward.

Tim Ayres (AMWU) discussed at length the overwhelming support in his union for the move to a renewable energy economy and the array of government policies needed to get there.

Mark Fogerty (SEDA) also discussed the policy settings and the situation from the perspective of private investors.

Congratulations to all CAN & LMCA members involved, especially to Ben & Bob for organising the Forum.

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## CAN's working with local schools

CAN members are working with local schools Hamilton Public School, Newcastle East Public School and Newcastle High School to assist in conducting energy audits throughout the school and prepare an application for funding under the Federal Government's *National Solar Schools Program*.



Photos by Hamilton Public Photographic Club

Ian Wilcox & Roger Reece (CAN members and parents at Hamilton Public School) has been working with parents and teachers at Hamilton Public School with an audit now complete with a number of no cost and low cost options available for the school to implement. Hamilton PS has now secured funding for a 2kW Solar PV array as well as energy efficiency measures to further reduce the schools energy use, including

lighting retrofits, timers for hot water systems, removing outdated and unused equipment.

*Congratulations to Ian and Hamilton PS for their efforts to bring people together to reduce energy.*

Further updates as these projects progress will be included in later newsletters.

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## **Newcastle Local Government Elections**

Don't forget to vote at the upcoming local government election (whether you are in Newcastle or a nearby LGA) on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September.

***VOTE for a SAFE CLIMATE FUTURE***

For a full list of Candidates for the Newcastle Local Government Elections visit the NSW Electoral Commission website at:

<http://election.nsw.gov.au/ElectionWebService/GetCandidate00A024C67143.aspx?eventid=SLG%202008&redistributioncode=LG2008&areacode=Newcastle&contestid=&groupnumber=&ballotname=>

There is a lot more our local government can be doing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions directly, put pressure on State and Federal Gov't, and importantly make it easier for Newcastle residents to reduce their emissions through improved planning provisions, improved public transport options and bicycle opportunities amongst many others.

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## **Small Islands to World: S.O.S**

Imagine the sea rising around you as your country literally disappears beneath your feet, where the food you grow and the water you drink is being destroyed by salt, and your last chance is to seek refuge in other lands where climate refugees have no official status. **This is not a dream, it's the fearful reality for millions of people who live on islands around the world, from the Maldives to Papua New Guinea.**



That is why these small islands are planning the unprecedented step next week, ahead of the UN General Assembly meeting, of **calling on the Security Council itself to address climate change as a pressing threat to international peace and security.**

This is a creative move born of desperation, a challenge to global powers to end their complacency and tackle this lethal crisis with the urgency of wars. This effort could help shift the tenor of the world's debate -- from a far-off storm cloud to a life-threatening crisis here and now. But **the island states' campaign will meet fierce opposition from the world's biggest polluters**, so they need our help. Sign the petition now to raise a worldwide chorus of support for this call -- our signatures will be presented to the UN by the islands' ambassadors as they introduce their resolution next week:

[http://www.avaaz.org/en/sos\\_small\\_islands](http://www.avaaz.org/en/sos_small_islands)

With 127,000 signatures already, this should send a very powerful message that time has run out for many small island states. Make your voice heard too!

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### **Turn the Tide – Peak Carbon by 2010**

Another grassroots climate action group called *Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle* in Sydney have come up with this exciting project to send a clear message to our elected leaders that Greenhouse Gas emissions must start to decline by 2010 at the latest if we are to have any chance of stopping runaway climate change.



This project is easy for anyone to get involved. All you need to do is gather a group of friend and either make a banner, or email Climate Action Newcastle (CAN) ([can@climateaction.org.au](mailto:can@climateaction.org.au)) to borrow a banner, and have a photo taken with your group of friends and send the photo to [turn.the.tide.kevin@gmail.com](mailto:turn.the.tide.kevin@gmail.com)

Go to [www.climatechangebr.org/page20.htm](http://www.climatechangebr.org/page20.htm) for more details on this exciting project.

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### **Ken Sprague International Cartoon Competition 'Earthworks 2008'**

For those who say “a picture tells a thousand words”, here is my favourite of the winners (3<sup>rd</sup> prize) of the above biennial cartoon competition. Check them all out at:

<http://www.kenspraguefund.org/competition.html>

### **See next page for CAN Calendar**

Comments and/or suggestions on this Newsletter can be directed to:

Duncan Jinks (Committee Member, CAN)  
[pumpkinstinks@hotmail.com](mailto:pumpkinstinks@hotmail.com)



## 2008 Calendar

Last updated 9<sup>th</sup> September 2008



### SEPTEMBER

- 10<sup>th</sup> Submissions due to Federal Government Green Paper  
[www.climatechange.gov.au/greenpaper/consultation](http://www.climatechange.gov.au/greenpaper/consultation)
- 12-14<sup>th</sup> Dungog Pedal Fest [www.pedalfest.com.au](http://www.pedalfest.com.au)
- 13<sup>th</sup> Local Government Elections
- 14<sup>th</sup> Sustainable House Day [www.solarhouseday.com](http://www.solarhouseday.com)
- 17<sup>th</sup> CAN Meeting – NEW VENUE! Hamilton Public School (Corner of Steel St & Denison St, Hamilton) 6:30pm (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays)
- 21<sup>st</sup> Climate Bill Rally (Canberra) [www.climateride.org.au](http://www.climateride.org.au)
- 28<sup>th</sup> Climate Emergency Rally – Collaborative rally and speeches at Civic Park at 2pm, march to Sharon Grierson's office on Hunter St (approx 100m from Civic Park) by 3pm, then finish at Wheeler place 3.30-4pm  
contact Zoe Rogers [zoetiarerogers@gmail.com](mailto:zoetiarerogers@gmail.com)
- 30<sup>th</sup> Final Report – Garnaut Review Released [www.garnautreview.org.au](http://www.garnautreview.org.au)

### OCTOBER

- 1<sup>st</sup> CAN Meeting – Hamilton Public School – 6:30pm
- 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> NSW Grassroots Climate Summit, Sydney (proposed by Rising Tide, to be confirmed) contact Rising Tide at [risingtide@risingtide.org.au](mailto:risingtide@risingtide.org.au)
- 15<sup>th</sup> CAN Meeting – Hamilton Public School – 6:30pm

### NOVEMBER

- 5<sup>th</sup> CAN Meeting – Hamilton Public School – 6:30pm
- 19<sup>th</sup> CAN Meeting – Hamilton Public School – 6:30pm
- 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> SMART ENERGY EXPO NEWCASTLE 2008 (Honeysuckle)

### DECEMBER

- 1<sup>st</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> United Nations (UN) Conference of the Parties (COP14) – Poland
- 3<sup>rd</sup> CAN Meeting – Hamilton Public School – 6:30pm
- 17<sup>th</sup> CAN Meeting – Hamilton Public School – 6:30pm