

Sustainability Matters

Compiled and published by Ray Skinner, FCA

Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children



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Want People to Care About Climate Change? Skip the Jargon

"If you're confused what the 'circular economy' is, or what it means for a company to go 'net-zero', you're far from alone. There's a big mismatch between what scientists, journalists, and activists are saying and what the public understands. This is hardly a new problem, but it's yet another obstacle to getting people to care about climate change: Obscure words in articles about rising sea levels and supercharged weather could discourage people from wanting to learn more about a planetary crisis.

"The solution is to put jargon and buzzwords into simple language that anyone can understand. ...

"Forget 'dumbing down'. Using more common language is 'smartening up', ...

"Jargon is good way to kill someone's interest in a particular topic Readers take it as a sign that the material isn't for them.

"If you limit your work to the people who really work hard to read it, you're probably missing out on the audience you actually need to be reading the work', Shulman said. 'You don't need the people who are already bought in'.

"Research shows the best way to communicate about science might just be to talk like a normal human being.

"Scientists use all this specialised terminology because for them, it's efficient – one word gets across a complex concept. But then scientists pass these same esoteric words on to journalists, who then turn them on an unsuspecting public. And it's not just academics complicating the climate lexicon: Politicians, companies, and activists use buzzwords that most people don't understand, too.

"I begged people on Twitter to tell me what words tripped them up the most while reading climate change articles, then asked Hassol to help me break down some of the most insidious terms. Here's a short list of the jargon and buzzwords that came up, along with some plain-English translations to help make sense of them. ...

"As they get picked up by companies and politicians, slippery buzzwords like 'sustainability' and 'resilience' are starting to lose their meaning. Deploying them now might even backfire. During testimony in the Senate last year, Frank Luntz – a messaging strategist who advises Republicans and advocates for climate action – said 'sustainability' rings of the 'status quo'. He explained: 'What American people really want is something that is cleaner, safer, healthier. What they're asking for is improvement, not the status quo.' ...

"Acronyms also get in the way of making sense.

More: <https://grist.org/climate/want-people-to-care-about-climate-change-skip-the-jargon/>

Source: *Carbon News*, 28th February 2020

Editor: If you read nothing else in this edition read this article!

PS: What should *Sustainability Matters* be called instead of *Sustainability Matters*? The prize? The possibility of being awarded an electronic chocolate fish.

What I Do – Katharine Hayhoe, Climate Scientist

"I began my career with a B.Sc. in physics and astronomy from the University of Toronto. My first published papers were in the field of observational astronomy, on variable stars and galaxy clustering around quasars. As I was finishing my degree, I took a class in climate science with Danny Harvey, who had previously been a postdoc at NCAR with Steve Schneider, and that class completely shocked me – and ended up changing my life. I didn't realise climate science was based on the exact same basic physics – thermodynamics, non-linear fluid dynamics, and radiative transfer – I'd been learning in astrophysics. And I definitely didn't realise climate change wasn't just an environmental issue – it's a threat multiplier. It takes the most serious humanitarian issues confronting climate change today – hunger, poverty, lack of access to clean water, injustice, refugee crises and more – and it makes them worse. How could I not do everything I could to help fix this huge global challenge?

"My TED talk, with more than 2.5 million views, and the book I am currently writing for Simon & Schuster, are both about one of the most frequent questions I get, 'how do I talk about climate change to ?' If you have a story you'd like to share about a conversation you had, good or bad, please send me a note via the contact page! ...

More: www.katharinehayhoe.com/wp2016/biography/

Source: Editor, 3rd March 2020 via Post Carbon Institute

Editor: There's much, much more.

Net Zero Goal 'Greatest Commercial Opportunity of Our Time', says Mark Carney

"Every private finance decision must take into account climate change and how to decarbonise the world economy to net zero, incoming UN special envoy on climate action Mark Carney has told banks and investors.

"Setting out strategies to mobilise private finance ahead of the UN climate talks in Glasgow, or Cop26, Carney said such investments 'could become the greatest commercial opportunity of our time'.

"The objective for the private finance work for Cop26 is simple', he said, 'to make sure every private finance decision takes climate change into account'.

More: www.climatechangenews.com/2020/02/27/net-zero-goal-greatest-commercial-opportunity-time-says-mark-carney/

Source: *Climate Home News*, 29th February 2020.

Donations – Are Welcome Here!

Sustainability Matters

It's almost the end of the financial year

The cupboard is almost bare

It's clear what needs to be there

Should you have \$46 or so to spare

It would be most welcome here;

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ASB Bank, Queen Street branch, Auckland.

Global Accounting Bodies Announce Climate Change Call to Action

"The chief executives representing 14 accounting bodies have signed a call to action in response to climate change. The bodies, who are all members of A4S's Accounting Bodies Network, represent over 2.5 million accountants and students globally.

"The statement includes eight actions which accountants are called upon to take in response to the climate emergency. It also includes commitments from the bodies themselves in support of their members. The call to action highlights that climate change represents an economic, social and business risk – a risk that accountants from across the world must take action on.

A STATEMENT FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF GLOBAL ACCOUNTANCY BODIES TO THE ACCOUNTANCY PROFESSION

"We are the chief executives of the global professional accountancy bodies listed below and members of The Prince of Wales's Accounting for Sustainability Project (A4S) Accounting Bodies Network. We represent over 2.5 million professional accountants and students across 179 countries. We call upon the accountancy profession to act now to help the organizations they work with respond to climate change with the urgency and scale required.

"The impacts of climate change are already being felt throughout the world and urgent action is needed to limit its negative effects. With climate change come potentially profound negative economic consequences including impacts on production, financial stability, living standards and employment, and more widely on social cohesion and political stability. We recognise mitigation and adaptation will rely, to a very substantial degree, on both macro and micro economic policies and the associated market mechanisms into which accounting practices are embedded. Climate change nevertheless presents transformation opportunities.

Role of the accountancy profession

"The accountancy profession can play a significant role in achieving both climate change mitigation and adaptation at individual business, industry sector and economy-wide levels. We acknowledge these are multifaceted challenges and will work with other professions and stakeholders in pursuit of solutions.

"Our profession can contribute positively. Professional accountants have a responsibility to act in the public interest. Many argue this responsibility must now include helping organisations to address climate change

"As the chief executives of the global professional accountancy bodies, we commit to:

- Provide our members with the training, support and infrastructure they need to apply their skills to the challenge.
- Support relevant market-based policy initiatives and incentives, consistent and well-considered regulation, and more useful disclosure.
- Provide sound advice to help governments to create the policy and regulatory infrastructure necessary for a just transition to a net zero carbon economy.

"As influential members of every sector of the economy, professional accountants are uniquely positioned to help effect meaningful and positive change in a collective effort.

....

More: www.accountingforsustainability.org/abn-climate-action.html plus www.charteredaccountantsanz.com/member-services/technical/business-issues/climate-change and www.charteredaccountantsanz.com/news-and-analysis/news/ca-anz-joins-climate-change-call-to-action

Source: Karen Williams, 25th February 2020. 

CA ANZ National Webcast Series – *The Financial Impact of Environmental Risks*

"There is growing awareness that climate change will have a material impact on asset values and income streams within the near and medium-term. However, the financial impact of climate change and other environmental risks on businesses is still not appropriately identified, valued and reported in New Zealand.

"This series aims to provide Chartered Accountants with independent and financially grounded advice on how to assess and report the implications of environmental risks.

"The series will explore:

1. *Why Environmental Risks Matter to NZ Businesses*

Date: Thursday 19th March

- ❖ Ministerial Address: Hon. James Shaw, Minister of Climate Change
- ❖ Moderator: Joe Consedine, General Manager - NZ Regions at CA ANZ

Panel Discussion:

- ❖ Daniel Kalderimis, Partner, Chapman Tripp
- ❖ Nicola Swan, Senior Associate, Chapman Tripp
- ❖ Jo Hendy, Chief Executive, Climate change commission

2. *Identifying Risks and Opportunities Related to Climate Change* Date: Thursday 26th March

3. *Reporting on Climate Related Risks* Date: Thursday 7th May

4. *Beyond Climate Change – Environmental Risks Impacting on NZ Businesses* Date: Thursday 21st May

Note: The four webcasts start 12.30pm for 1 hour and are available 'in person' in Wellington – select accordingly. Light lunch from noon.

More: <https://store.charteredaccountantsanz.co.nz/WG-Building-Knowledge-Series-The-Financial-Impact-of-Environmental-Risks> NOTE: Expand the page to see details of the full series. \$25/session for CA ANZ members and slightly more for non-members

Source: CA ANZ, 28th February 2019. 

Webinar: *Using the Power of Data to Reduce Environmental Risk in Your Supply Chain in China*

"Today, more and more US companies recognise their greatest climate and water risks are in their global supply chains. A recent upswing in Chinese government environmental inspections and enforcement has proven highly effective in reducing emissions from big polluters, but also has led to unexpected factory closures and supply chain disruptions.

"This prompts the question: How can companies which source in China reduce supply chain risks triggered by environmental non-compliance? To facilitate proactive oversight of factories in their country, the Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs (IPE), the leading environmental NGO in China, has created a comprehensive database of more than 1.5 million government environmental non-compliance records, along with a new, no-cost tool called Blue EcoChain which allows companies to 'follow' numerous suppliers and receive automatic notifications the instant compliance problems arise. By the end of 2019, approximately 100 multinational and domestic brands had registered more than 10,000 suppliers into this automated system.

"Join the webinar to learn how the IPE database and supply chain oversight tools work, and hear leading companies share their experiences in using the power of this data to inform their supply chain oversight programs.

When: 6:00 - 7:00 am NZDT, Thurs 12th Mar, 2020

More: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5966627796637678605>

Source: Ceres, 27th February 2020. 

Would EV Owners Buy Petrol Again?

"A new study in Canada has revealed what we sort of already know. The study which was conducted by the AAA has revealed that a vast majority of electric vehicle (EV) owners will not buy an internal combustion engine (ICE) car again. The participants were all current EV owners and 95% of them said that when the time came for them to buy their next car, they would definitely buy or lease another electric car.

"The same study also found that 75% of these EV owners charge their cars at home, a vast majority though one would have imagined the number would have been higher since owning an EV means your garage then becomes your local fuel station minus the pies of course.

"Let's move on to the question of range anxiety. It's often been used as some sort of axe to chop the EV tree down but it wasn't a problem for the American participants in a similar study who instead said price was the biggest barrier holding them back from EV ownership.

"The AAA found those people who did think range anxiety was an earth-shattering issue, had their questions quashed once they actually sat behind the wheel of an EV and drove it.

More: www.chargesmart.co.nz/post/would-ev-owners-buy-petrol-again plus <https://newsroom.aaa.com/2020/01/aaa-owning-an-electric-vehicle-is-the-cure-for-most-consumer-concerns/>

Source: ChargeSmart, 21st February 2020

Editor: This is a North American survey – results could differ in other countries.

Zespri Reveals Sustainability Commitments

"Zespri, the world's leading marketer of kiwifruit, has announced a new commitment to make all of its packaging 100% reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025.

"The announcement is one of a suite of sustainability commitments shared today [13th February] with growers, consumers and suppliers

"Zespri also revealed commitments that by 2025, any plastic packaging will be made from at least 30% recycled plastic, and that it will reduce its packaging footprint by 25% per kg of fruit produced by 2030, building on a track record of consistent packaging improvements.

"Chief Innovation and Sustainability Officer Carol Ward says the packaging announcements are based on the company's belief in respecting and enhancing our natural environment, optimising natural resources and fostering health and wellbeing.

"While we are already one of the lowest impact foods produced we can do even better. ...

"Outside of packaging, Zespri has also revealed a number of other sustainability commitments, including:

- Being carbon positive by 2035
- Disclosing climate risks and opportunities by August 2021 and develop an industry-wide climate change adaptation plan by December 2022
- By 2025, our industry will more effectively monitor nutrient inputs and losses as well as our impact on water – better protecting and enhancing water quality
- Partnering with local communities on healthy lifestyle programmes in all major Zespri markets by 2022
- Attracting and building a thriving workforce amongst its value chain by 2030, continually improving social practices ...

More: www.zespri.com/en-NZ/newsroomdetail/zespri-sustainability-commitments

Source: Rachel Depree, Zespri, 20th February 2020.

Plastic's Long, Long Way from Fantastic

"Once you get past TV's evening watershed, the shows on offer usually fall into one of the following categories: sexual content, violence or distressing, terrifying imagery.

"It's appropriate then that Three's new series *War On Plastic* has been screening close to 10pm all week - because it's one of the most horrifying shows I've seen in a long while.

"Hosted by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and Anita Rani, this BBC documentary tackles the plastic plague that's literally strangling life on Earth and the ways in which this scourge can be addressed from a personal, corporate and government perspective.

"Monday night's premiere certainly opened with a bang, as Fearnley-Whittingstall calmly directed one rubbish truck after another to dump its load of plastic waste directly into the sea.

"It was enough to make you sit up and yelp, 'That's outrageous! They can't do that!'

"Yet, while rubbish trucks

More:

www.nzherald.co.nz/entertainment/news/article.cfm?c_id=1501119&objectid=12305897 plus www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-48581669 plus www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0005xqz where series 'available to watch for 1 more month' and www.edie.net/news/5/Seven-things-sustainability-professionals-can-learn-from-Hugh-and-Anita-s-War-on-Plastic/ with numerous comments and www.packagingnews.co.uk/news/plastics-news/british-plastics-federation-responds-bbcs-war-plastic-27-06-2019

Source: *NZ Herald*, Wednesday 5th February 2019, page A32

Editor: Screened TV 3 Mon, Tues and Wed nights 3-5th February and although very different, of similar moment as Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* of 2006.

Cool Butterfly Effect: Insect Equipment Could Inspire Heat-Radiating Tech

"Butterfly wings contain complex thermodynamic structures that can teach us to make efficient – and colourful – cooling materials

"Devising better cooling materials has become a pressing issue as the climate warms, and some scientists are turning to nature for ideas. Small creatures with low body mass, such as insects, have to deal with the fact that they warm up much faster than large mammals. When butterflies land on tree branches to bask in the sun, for example, their relatively large wings can overheat within seconds. So they have evolved sophisticated ways to cool themselves. Researchers at Columbia University and Harvard University have now uncovered these colourful insects' built-in cooling mechanisms. Their wings behave a bit like nanoscale radiators and could inspire new lightweight materials to beat the heat.

"The researchers are already working to develop a cooling material based on their findings in butterflies, along with their similar research on sub-Saharan ants. They hope to devise a cooling polymer and spin it into forms resembling the butterfly wings' nanostructures. Although far from a commercial application, the resulting material could eventually be used for purposes such as painting buildings.

"Along with its light weight, a butterfly-inspired cooling material might have another advantage: working in a variety of colours. ...

More: www.scientificamerican.com/article/cool-butterfly-effect-insect-equipment-could-inspire-heat-radiating-tech/

Source: National Geographic, 20th February 2020

Editor: Another 'proof' of seeking solutions by using a biomimicry 'lens'.

Tiny Agency in CA Achieves Environmental Justice by Taking on Polluters

“California Attorney General Xavier Becerra announced today that his agency is suing the Federal Aviation Administration, the San Bernardino International Airport Authority, and the developer of an air cargo facility for unlawfully approving a controversial airport expansion without adequate environmental analysis. The nearly 700,000 square-foot warehouse, which is already under construction, is projected to generate at least 500 truck trips and 26 flights daily – and it’s right next door to a community that California’s Air Resources Board has already classified as disproportionately burdened by pollution.

‘In California we can’t have business-as-usual hurt distressed communities in our state’, ...

“Too often residents in these impacted communities say that the government ignores their needs and concerns. The bureau’s involvement has changed this dynamic’,

More: <https://grist.org/justice/this-tiny-but-mighty-california-bureau-is-taking-on-polluters/>

Source: Editor, 24th February 2020

Editor: Agency helps low income communities ‘take on’ their councils, helps provides oversight and guidance to adopt good practise and takes action where government agencies fail to fulfil their legislative responsibilities. 

Medium to High Density Housing Summit

“Urbanisation and population growth have fuelled the need to rethink the ‘quarter acre dream’ for New Zealanders in our largest cities. Medium and increasingly high-density housing provides an innovative solution to the increasing space issues faced by cities.

“Bringing together the leaders and influencers, the 2020 summit will explore how smaller, sustainable smartly designed homes, with community living within shared spaces, are the future of New Zealand’s cities.

“Two days of diverse and thought-provoking discussion covering urban design best practices, wellbeing and community in medium density, cohousing density to acoustic considerations and much more. Hear about International high-density design projects in Shanghai, Australia and local examples to learn what the future of housing might hold for New Zealand. ...

When/Where: Wed/Thurs 1st and 2nd April, Auckland

More: <http://mhdhs.adnz.org.nz/>

Source: NZGBC, 12th February 2020. 

World’s Second Green School Opens in Taranaki

“New Zealand’s first ever Green School principal has described the first week of the school year as phenomenal.

“Green School New Zealand in Taranaki opened with a powhiri for the 50 new students and eight teachers on Monday [10th February]. ...

“Fees range between \$12,000 and \$24,000 a year, while fees for international students can reach \$40,000. ...

“Green School NZ is only the second Green School in the world to be opened but another one in South Africa is currently in the planning stages.

More: www.stuff.co.nz/taranaki-daily-news/news/119521613/green-school-new-zealand-has-official-opening-to-end-first-week-of-school plus www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/green-school-in-taranaki-aims-change-way-we-look-education?auto=6132505873001 and www.schoolnews.co.nz/2019/07/nzs-first-green-school-build-is-underway/

Source: Editor, 14th February 2020. 

Responses to Australian Bush Fires are Just Plain Wrong

“Scenes of devastation from Australia’s fires have been heartbreaking. How do we stop this suffering? For many campaigners and politicians, the answer is clear cut: drastic climate policies. When we examine the evidence, this simple answer falls short.

“Australia is the world’s most fire-prone continent. In 1900, 11% of its surface burnt annually. These days, some 5% of the country burns every year.

“By the end of the century, if we do not stop climate change, higher temperatures and an increase in aridity will likely mean a 0.7% increase in burnt area, an increase from 5.3% of Australia to 6%.

“This increase is not trivial, and it is an argument for effective climate change action. By far the most impactful, practical policy is a dramatic increase in investment in low- and zero-carbon energy innovation. ...

“Suggesting Australia’s fires are ‘unprecedented in scale’ is wrong. Australia’s burnt area declined by more than a third 1900-2000, and has declined over the satellite period. This fire season at the time of writing, 2.5% of Australia’s area has burned compared to the last 10 years’ 4.8% average by this point.

“What is different this year is that fires have mostly been in New South Wales (home to Sydney) and Victoria (Melbourne)...

“Moreover, even if Australia were to dramatically change its climate policy overnight, the impact on fires will be effectively zero. If Australia had completely ended its fossil fuel use way back in 2012, the UN standard climate model shows the impact on fires this year would be literally immeasurable. Even if Australia could somehow be entirely fossil fuel free for the entire century, burnt area in 2100 would be 5.997% instead of 6%. ...

More:

www.nzherald.co.nz/opinion/news/article.cfm?c_id=466&objectid=12309425 plus https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bj%C3%B8rn_Lomborg

Source: *NZ Herald*, page A22, 19th February 2020. 

Rethinking Growth

“If ever there was an unassailable mantra in economics it’s that growth should be forever and above all else. However, the ethos of Pure Advantage has always been that a sustainable growth strategy is one that is green and regenerative. Some suggest a green economy might limit (or halt) growth but this is counter-intuitive.

“Our research indicates that acceleration away from fossil fuels into renewables as well as regeneration of our natural systems with simultaneous carbon sequestration, will improve our economy in the long term. This is the massive opportunity we must get after faster than ever before.

“We are thrilled to introduce self-described specialised generalist Lindsay Woods of ResilieNZ who has created a substantive two-part piece analysing growth in the New Zealand context.

“*Rethinking Growth Part One:* Is ongoing growth essential for a flourishing society and if so can such growth possibly be reconciled with solving the climate crisis?

“*Rethinking Growth Part Two:* Lindsay considers the long and tricky road we must travel on at speed, while negotiating the potholes of patch-protection, uncertainty and our growth focus...

More: <https://pureadvantage.org/news/2020/02/27/>

Source: Pure Advantage 27th February 2020

Editor: There are some ideas here which could challenge the thinking of many. 

Top Ten things You Need to Watch on Climate Change

"Keen to know more on climate change? We've got you covered with a selection of ten must-see movies, video clips, and documentaries discussing climate change and what we can do about it.

"Sometimes climate change is hard to explain, but a video can tell a thousand words.

"If you're struggling to make sense of our most pressing environmental issues, there is a wide range of video content across the web which can educate, inspire or re-motivate you to take meaningful action, and to help spread the message about climate change and what we can do to reduce its impact.

"We've rounded up ten movies, video clips, and documentaries take a close look at what climate change is, the causes of climate change and more importantly what we can do to stop it.

"We've provided the links to the full videos where we can, or the trailers where we can't. You may need to look to your streaming service of choice for the full versions;

- *An Inconvenient Truth*
- *An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power*
- *Years of Living Dangerously*
- *Chasing Ice*
- *Chasing Coral*
- *Before the Flood*
- *Dear Future Generations: Sorry*
- *The most important thing you can do to fight climate change: talk about it*
- *School strike for climate - save the world by changing the rules*
- *Climate Change- The Facts*

"Overall the key take-away of these movies, video clips, and documentaries is to educate us about the negative impact we are having on our planet. This is not to discourage us, but rather it should inspire us to do better.

"Hopefully these videos have inspired you to take action and reduce your own personal footprint. Use our calculator to figure out what it is first, so you can work on ways to reduce it. There are plenty of tips and tricks inside to help you make a difference.

More: www.toitu.co.nz/news-and-events/news/inspiring-action/top-ten-things-you-need-to-watch-on-climate-change

Source: Toitū Envirocare, 18th February 2020.

Earth Day 2020

"When is Earth Day 2020? Earth Day is 22nd April every year. 22nd April, 2020 will mark 50 years of Earth Day.

"What is the theme for Earth Day 2020? The theme for Earth Day 2020 is climate action. The enormous challenge – but also the vast opportunities – of action on climate change have distinguished the issue as the most pressing topic for the 50th anniversary. Climate change represents the biggest challenge to the future of humanity and the life-support systems that make our world habitable.

"What can I do for Earth Day 2020? The world needs you – and your actions – for Earth Day 2020. There's so much you can do to help protect and restore our planet, from joining a cleanup or climate strike, to taking part in the world's largest citizen science initiative, to hosting an event in your own community! Check out our map and learn more below. ...

More: www.earthday.org/earth-day-2020/

Source: NCSE, 28th February 2020.

Auckland Climate Response Unconference

"Generating Creative Responses for A Climate-Resilient Future

"An open space 'unconference' to share ideas and create new actions. You are invited!

"We are uniting local communities, artists, entrepreneurs, students, developers, scientists, engineers, start-ups, to come together and cooperatively explore practical, doable solutions for a climate-resilient future.

"We believe that by coming together, engaging in conversations, and sharing ideas we can inspire each other, discover new possibilities, and initiate new actions to make deeper positive climate impacts now.

"Facilitation team for the day; Mark Russell and Jakob Jurkiewicz – both professional facilitators ...

"A limit of 40 people – having an attendance constraint enables a small, intimate event where attendees can connect and forge long term associations. ...

When/Where: 9:00am – 6:00pm, Saturday 7th Mar 2020, Ellen Melville Centre, Auckland

More: <https://sustainable.org.nz/sustainable-business-events/auckland-climate-response-unconference/>

Source: SBN, 27th February 2020.

Fire Fallout: How Ash and Debris Are Choking Australia's Rivers

"Journalist Adam Welz travels to southeastern Australia to report on how in the wake of the country's devastating bushfires, a new threat has emerged – massive amounts of ash and debris have washed into rivers and waterways, killing fish and polluting water supplies. Rainstorms following the fires sent large pulses of ash into Australia's streams and rivers, causing rapid declines in dissolved oxygen levels and clogging fish's gills. Scientists have documented 14 ash-related fish die-offs in recent months. "We have never seen that extent of fire-related fish kills anywhere in the world", says one scientist.

More: <https://e360.yale.edu/features/fire-fallout-how-ash-and-debris-are-choking-australias-rivers>

Source: *Yale Environment 360*, 28th February 2020.

NZ Uses Accounting Trick to Seem Climate-Friendly

"Activists say the Government is using an accounting trick to make New Zealand appear climate-friendly. Marc Daalder reports the nation is actually on track to be up to 15 million tonnes over its Paris Agreement target. That's three million cars' worth of exhaust fumes each year.

"New Zealand's emissions targets under the Kyoto, Copenhagen and Paris climate accords have used an accounting trick to make them appear more significant than they actually are, activists say. Now, as the Government prepares to announce a new Paris target for emissions reductions, organisations like Greenpeace New Zealand are asking it not to reuse gross-net accounting.

"It's totally misleading. If your target is a net figure, then the base year needs to be a net figure as well', Russel Norman, Greenpeace's executive director, told Newsroom. 'They need to be clear about what their target is for gross emissions and what their target is for net emissions.'

"It was being done 'in order to make it look like they're cutting emissions when they're not. The Government's been consistently and, I think, deliberately misleading on it.'

"New Zealand is currently overshooting its targets by between four and 15 million tonnes of greenhouse emissions a year. Cutting 15 million tonnes of CO2 would be the equivalent to taking three million cars off the road for a year.

More: www.newsroom.co.nz/2020/02

Source: CSEAR, 18th February 2020.

UK's Heathrow Airport Expansion Ruled Unlawful over Climate Change

"Campaigners in the UK have hailed an 'historic' victory for climate change after three judges ruled expansion plans for the country's busiest airport to be unlawful.

"Activists erupted into cheers at the Royal Courts of Justice in London after successfully blocking plans for a third runway at Heathrow airport.

"Lord Justice Lindblom found the plans backed by MPs disregarded the UK's Paris Agreement pledge in 2015 to reduce carbon emissions to 1.5C or 'well below' 2C warming.

"We have concluded that the designation of Airports National Policy Statement was unlawful by reason of a failure to take into account the government's commitment to the provisions of the Paris Agreement on climate change', he told the packed courtroom in central London.

"The ruling could have an impact both in the UK and elsewhere around the world, emboldening campaigners to file legal challenges against other carbon-intensive infrastructure projects. ...

More: www.climatechangenews.com/2020/02/27/uks-heathrow-airport-expansion-ruled-unlawful-climate-change/

Source: *Climate Home News*, 29th February 2020

Editor: Auckland airport's proposed second runway should be similarly reviewed? 

The NZ Tourism Industry Cannot Afford to Ignore the Elephant in the Room

"While New Zealand may continue to prosper from the tourist dollar for a decade or two yet, there is the very real prospect that the climate crisis will drive international tourism down, writes James Renwick.

"The headline read 'Tourism industry working to ensure a sustainable future' but there was scant evidence of true sustainability thinking in the article. Looking forward to growth – as a tourism industry leader did in the piece – is a red flag for a start.

"Growth is ultimately unsustainable, wherever it is occurring. I wonder: does Tourism New Zealand have a maximum number of tourists in mind? It would be very interesting to know, and something that would form the basis for an excellent public discussion. The recent report from the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment on the environmental consequences of tourism growth was based on the assumption of a tripling in international tourist numbers, reaching 10 million visitors per year by 2050. Is that sustainable? Or even feasible? ...

"From what I can see, there is no serious consideration of climate change built in to planning around the future of tourism here in Aotearoa. We present an attractive destination, for sure,

More: <https://thespinoff.co.nz/society/20-01-2020/the-nz-tourism-industry-cannot-afford-to-ignore-the-elephant-in-the-room/> plus www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/407322/tourism-industry-working-to-ensure-a-sustainable-future

Source: *Carbon News*, 27th February 2020.

Editor: Agree totally. 

The Horizon is on Fire (with Life)

"Sam Keck Scott's *Living Light* was one of the most-read Lay of the Land articles in our Winter issue. This week, Sam shared a web-exclusive dispatch from his encounter with bioluminescence and the restorative effects of awe.

More: <https://orionmagazine.org/2020/02/bioluminescence/>

Source: *Orion*, 29th February 2020.

Editor: Two events featured in NZ and 6 in Australia. 

Celebration 50 years since Successful Campaign 'Save Manapouri & Te Anau Lakes'

"A special event to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Save Manapouri Campaign will be held on Sunday 8th March in Te Anau. A major environmental campaign won through the passion, commitment and energy of ordinary and extraordinary people using their 'people power' to ensure success. It marks a new era in caring for our unique and special places.

When/Where: 1:00 - 4:30pm, 8th March 2020, Te Anau

More: <https://southlandnz.com/events/celebration-50-years-since-successful-campaign-save-manapouri-te-anau-lakes>

Source: *Tieke: ECO Alerts & Events*, 26th February 2020

Editor: At the time of the construction of the project I worked in the Power Division of the then Ministry of Works Head Office which was contracted by NZED to build 'Manapouri'. The bulk of my role was related to this project. Did I fully understand what was going on about the lakes – 'No'. Other contemporary projects were; Benmore, Aviemore, Matahina, Marsden A, Tongariro, and studies for; pumped storage, the Wairakei reservoir, New Plymouth and Te Atatu. 

Design for Sustainability: A Sourcebook of Integrated, Eco-logical Solutions

"With radical and innovative design solutions, everyone could be living in buildings and settlements that are more like gardens than cargo containers, and that purify air and water, generate energy, treat sewage and produce food – at lower cost. Birkeland introduces systems design thinking which cuts across academic and professional boundaries and the divide between social and physical sciences to move towards a trans-disciplinary approach to environmental and social problem-solving.

"This sourcebook is useful for teaching, as each topic within the field of environmental management and social change has pairs of short readings providing diverse perspectives to compare, contrast and debate. *Design for Sustainability* presents examples of integrated systems design based on ecological principles and concepts and drawn from the foremost designers in the fields of industrial design, materials, housing design, urban planning and transport, landscape and permaculture, and energy and resource management.

More: www.amazon.com/Design-Sustainability-Sourcebook-Integrated-Eco-logical/dp/1853839000 plus www.goodreads.com/book/show/633071.Design_for_Sustainability 288 pages, Routledge April 2002

Source: Editor, 17th February 2020 via Janis Birkland. 

What's Wrong With a Bit of Good Clean Dirt?

In this edition of the *Sustainability Strategist*;

- Lessons from the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park 2020 state of the environment report
- Recipe for generating sediment to fill in an estuary
- Quotable quotes on action for change
- Links and some totally brilliant references on ecosystem-based management of marine areas!

More: <https://mailchi.mp/db998e2eb8b7/7-reasons-to-measure-roi-3907061?e=f7ca4c6c62>

Source: 'The Sustainability Strategist', Clare Feeney, 3rd March 2020

Editor: Excellent content – highly recommended reading. 