



## Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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ABN 48 036 173 161

### HOPE E-news Bulletin 2025 #03 --- March 2025

The following items have been gathered from various e: newsletters received by HOPE in recent times; and/or prepared specifically by HOPE members and supporters. If you have any news to contribute, please forward to [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au). Deadline for articles is 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month.

#### Editorial

Welcome to the March issue of the newsletter! Firstly, an article discusses water use and water security. Then the next two articles cover the importance of a circular economy. Next Inside Climate News (ICN) discusses reporting and analysis on climate change, energy, and the environment. Lastly, Mother Pelican covers [Pelican Web](#) is an open-access, free monthly web journal and newsletter dedicated to human development, solidarity, and environmental sustainability.

Kind regards,

Nina Stick, Newsletter Editor – HOPE Inc.

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#### 2025 Environmental Observances

##### March

- 3 [World Wildlife Day](#)
- 5 [International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness](#)
- 22 [World Water Day](#)
- 23 [World Meteorological Day](#)
- 30 [International Day of Zero Waste](#)

##### April

- 4 [International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action](#)
- 7 [World Health Day](#)
- 22 [International Mother Earth Day](#)

##### May

- 10 [World Migratory Bird Day](#)
  - 12 [International Day of Plant Health \(FAO\)](#)
  - 20 [World Bee Day](#)
  - 22 [International Day of Biological Diversity](#)
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More detailed information on 'environmental observances' may be found at:

- [International Days and Weeks | United Nations](#)
  - [International Years | United Nations](#)
  - [International Decades | United Nations](#)
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## Message from the President

Happy Autumn everyone!

As the months cool down and we settle into 2025 proper now is a good time to look at how we are progressing with the year. At the end of last year, I set out three goals; to analyse our outreach, explore revenue options and inspire more active volunteers. How are we faring?

We have now started tracking and collecting data on our outreach across all social platforms and our website. This information will be reviewed at the quarterly Ordinary meetings to analyse the demographics of our audience and what topics they are interested in. Last month we engaged a social media expert to analyse our outreach. She has provided excellent feedback on how to ensure HOPE's messaging is clear and engaging. The management team is now working to implement this feedback by gathering data about our posting and audience, revising our wording and use of key words to form pillars or themes that our audience will engage with.

So far this year HOPE has issued two sponsorship requests and is waiting on the outcome of a grant application in April. The grant request, if successful, will help HOPE upgrade computer equipment and launch a new accessible and intuitive website which we hope will help spread our message, attract more volunteers and sponsors.

Two 'Admin Support Team' roles have been listed by our Office Manager on Volunteer Queensland's website - Membership Officer and Volunteer Coordinator. These roles will help with office workflow as well as liaising and recruiting more active volunteers. If you are interested in either of these roles, please email Frank Ondrus, Office Manager on [office@hopeaustralia.com.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.com.au).

Not bad for two months in! While we are making great progress with our goals, we are always on the lookout for helping hands and suggestions on how we can improve our information sharing with you, our readers. So, if you have any recommendations on things we could improve on or are simply available to help please do not hesitate to contact me on [admin@hopeaustralia.com.au](mailto:admin@hopeaustralia.com.au).

Happy March everyone.

Anna Kula-Kaczmarek, President – HOPE Inc.  
[Facebook](#) / [Twitter](#) / [Instagram](#) / [LinkedIn](#)

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## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

**BIODIVERSITY** is a concept that is widely misunderstood. It pertains to the intrinsic value of natural areas having a combination of large size and high ecological integrity. Although it is often quantified by numbers of species, biodiversity is unlike material and mathematical concepts, in that it cannot be divided, cannot be fragmented, cannot be conserved or preserved out of its context. It is its context!

Conservation of biodiversity means conserving LARGE areas with relatively natural boundaries, not unnatural pockets or strips. It means no cleavage, no disruption or eruption, no disconnection, no hole-in-the-heart. There is no such thing as half a biodiversity. If divided, if fragmented, if pock-marked with antithetical activities, it simply ceases to exist. What remains are impoverished species assemblages, lower-order metaphors for biodiversity. These are different, grossly simplified, and vastly less valuable ecosystems. Although these remnants are valued highly in a world where species are vanishing at a catastrophic rate, and although these areas might still be aesthetically pleasing and refreshing to visit, such biologically degraded environments can never be considered acceptable substitutes for original biodiversity.

Biodiversity exists as a dynamic balance. It cannot be balanced against something that it is not. The biosphere can absorb fluctuations within unpredictable limits; unpredictable because human understanding of its complex inter-relationships is primitive, and because biodiversity is crashing so fast that investigating it is like chasing snapshots of ghosts; when you want to look at the real thing, it isn't there anymore.

Biodiversity lost cannot be reconstructed. The complexity and magnitude of relationships is beyond human fabrication; it is arrogant folly to pretend that human ingenuity can replace the processes of millions of years for millions of species bound together in billions of intricate subsystem relationships. Human engineering has not

*been able to create peaceful, healthful environments for its own species; on the contrary, it has overwhelmingly, stupidly, and needlessly poisoned the whole earth.*

*What activities are worth the destruction of biodiversity? Are there any? Every relatively intact system disrupted is another support pulled out from the scaffolding: because the whole lot doesn't come tumbling down at once does not negate the accountability attached to every such action.*

Margaret Moorhouse - **Alliance to Save Hinchinbrook Inc.**

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## **Your financial support is sought! – <https://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/donations/>**

We invite members and supporters to consider making an annual financial contribution to help cover our operating costs of approximately \$20,500 p.a.

Currently, our income is derived from project grants, fund-raising, corporate sponsorship and donations, but falls well short of our requirements.

Your financial support, by way of an annual pledge or donation, will considerably help us to achieve better financial viability.

Of course, if you 'cash in your containers', why not donate those monies to **HOPE Inc** | Member number: C11107170.

***Please help us to continue our efforts in advocating for responsible stewardship of the environment and supports adopting sustainable long-term solutions to the manifold environmental problems facing humanity.***

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## **Benefits of volunteering**

**Volunteering is of great benefit to the community; it also benefits you personally in a range of ways:**

- Gain work experience and develop new skills** – Boost your career prospects. Update your resume with a whole new skill set.
- Make new friendships and connections** – Meet like-minded people. Create professional networks.
- Enjoy new social & cultural experiences** – be immersed in all kinds of environments, people and causes.
- Be a part of your community** – Discover, connect, make an impact and have fun.
- Enjoy better physical and mental health** – Studies show volunteering makes us healthier and happier.
- Develop personally and build confidence** – Expand yourself. Enjoy a sense of achievement and fulfilment.
- Act on your values** – Try something new. Follow your passions and interests.
- Step out of your comfort zone** – Challenge yourself in a supportive environment.
- Stand up for what matters** – Be inspired and be an inspiration.
- Make a difference** – The feel-good factor of supporting Queensland communities.

**Enjoy the benefits of being a volunteer today!**

**To find out about volunteering opportunities in your area, please visit:**

- Volunteering Australia - <http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/>
  - Volunteering Queensland - <https://www.volunteeringqld.org.au/>
  - Householders' Options to Protect the Environment - <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/membership/volunteer-form/>
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## General

### **Population growth weakening Australia's water security: new report**

*Written by Simon Cols, Sustainable Population Australia (25 November 2024)*

Water demand due to population growth is outstripping improvements in Australians' efficiency of household water use, according to new research commissioned by Sustainable Population Australia (SPA) in a report titled *Big thirsty Australia: how population growth threatens our water security and sustainability*.

"Since 2010, per person water use in the household sector has remained relatively stable. It is becoming harder to find new efficiencies; the low-hanging fruit such as public educational campaigns, water efficiency labelling for appliances and reduced garden size, have been picked," says Dr Peter Cook, one of the authors of the report.

The report finds the demand pressures from population growth are coming at the same time as climate change is drying capital city water catchments in what is already the driest inhabited continent. Together these factors are making Australia's cities more vulnerable to extended droughts, the report says.

"Since the early 2000s, water demand in many Australian cities has exceeded what can be supplied reliably by conventional means, namely rainfall and groundwater," says another of the report authors, Dr Jonathan Sobels.

The report finds that water demand projections by mainland urban water authorities anticipate further population growth will require adding anywhere from 850 gigalitres (GL) to over 1450 GL to annual water supply to capital cities over the next several decades. (A gigalitre is equal to one billion litres of water, which would fill a cube 100 metres in each direction, or 400 Olympic swimming pools.) For purposes of comparison, 1450 GL is around the total volume of water currently supplied each year for Sydney, Melbourne and Perth combined.

"State governments and water utilities are turning to desalination of seawater to augment water supply to meet population growth. Yet desalination is hugely expensive. Per litre of water, desalination is at least 2.5 times the cost of rain-fed dam water, which means much higher water bills for households and businesses," Dr Sobels says.

"Desalination is also energy intensive; electrical energy costs are around 41% of the operating costs for these plants. Even if renewable energy is used, it will not be displacing fossil fuels used in other sectors, so it does not improve carbon footprint or sustainability. There are also risks with the siting of these coastal desalination plants, due to the likelihood of sea level rise because of climate change," Dr Sobels adds.

SPA national president Peter Strachan says official government projections see Australia's population growing by another 13 million in the next 40 years.

"The huge costs of desalination can be avoided simply by stabilising Australia's population. As this new report demonstrates, it is population growth that is driving water demand. Relying on more desalination to perpetuate population growth will introduce new vulnerabilities to our water security and further degrade our environment," Mr Strachan says.

"The report questions why State and Local governments simply accept population growth projections dictated by the federal Treasury department. Yet it is the States who are left to fund the infrastructure and provide the extra water. They need to understand that future population growth is a policy choice, not an inevitability"

"It would be far simpler, safer, greener and cheaper to stabilise our population, by bringing annual net migration back to the pre-2005 level of around 70,000, which is what it was before successive recent governments' foolish experiment with hyper-growth. Then we could direct our investments to fixing existing ageing water infrastructure and putting more water into greening our cities and regenerating wetlands," says Mr Strachan.

*The full report "Big thirsty Australia: how population growth threatens our water security and sustainability" can be read at [Big thirsty Australia: how population growth threatens our water security and sustainability - Sustainable Population Australia](#)*

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## National article

### Circularity 2024: Key Takeaways

The Circularity 2024 conference in Sydney from November 26 to 27 reinforced the urgent need to transition towards a circular economy. Organised by Planet Ark's [Australian Circular Economy Hub](#) (ACE Hub), the event brought together over 300 professionals from government, academia, and industry to explore resource-efficient value chains and discuss strategies for accelerating circularity in Australia.

#### Key Themes and Insights:

- **Circular Economy Progress:** While still in its early stages, Australia is taking small but significant steps towards circularity. Systemic change across industries and government is essential for widespread adoption.
- **Collaboration and Standardisation:** Cross-sector cooperation is crucial. The finance sector leads efforts to create clear standards, such as the newly launched [Australian Sustainable Finance Taxonomy](#).
- **Education and Workforce Development:** Building a workforce understanding circular economy principles is key. The introduction of [Circular Economy Labs](#) aims to develop future leaders.
- **Financing Circular Innovation:** Funding is available, but scaling circular solutions remains challenging. The newly launched [Circular Future Fund](#) aims to support businesses committed to circularity.
- **Innovation and Practical Action:** The conference showcased real-world circular solutions, from product stewardship initiatives to sustainable procurement practices. The Innovation Pitch Fest highlighted new business models driving change.
- **Data and Measurement:** Improved data systems are needed to track progress, measure impact, and support informed decision-making.

#### Looking Ahead:

The conference emphasised that achieving a circular economy requires a collective effort from policymakers, businesses, and consumers. Events like Circularity 2024 are critical in fostering dialogue, sharing knowledge, and inspiring action.

For more information, visit <https://circularitylive.com.au/>.

\*Material for this article has been sourced from [2024 Key Takeaways Report](#).



(Written by Shuri Matsumoto - HOPE admin volunteer Qld)

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***“A circular economy (CE) is a model of resource production and consumption in any economy that involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing, and recycling existing materials and products for as long as possible. The concept aims to tackle global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, waste, and pollution by emphasizing the design-based implementation of the three base principles of the model. The main three principles required for the transformation to a circular economy are: designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems. CE is defined in contradistinction to the traditional linear economy.”***

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## International article



### Together for a Circular Economy

Written by Shuri Matsumoto - HOPE admin volunteer (Qld)

Since its launch in May 2019 by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, [PREVENT Waste Alliance](#) has been at the forefront of global efforts to promote a circular economy. Bringing together organisations from the private sector, academia, civil society, and public institutions worldwide, the Alliance is a vibrant platform for exchange and international collaboration.



#### Vision and Mission

The PREVENT Waste Alliance aims to:

- Minimise waste generation.
- Eliminate pollutants from waste streams.
- Maximise the utilisation of resources in the economy.

Focusing on low- and middle-income countries, the Alliance develops innovative waste management solutions and scalable circular economy approaches. By fostering collaboration, it addresses key challenges in waste prevention, collection, and recycling while promoting the uptake of secondary resources.

#### How It Works

The PREVENT Waste Alliance operates through thematic working groups and pilot projects that bring together diverse perspectives to incubate and test sustainable solutions. It is committed to:

- Sharing knowledge on circular economy practices.
- Building international cross-sectoral partnerships.
- Influencing global guidelines and standards for sustainable waste management.

#### Key Areas of Focus

The Alliance's work is organised around three thematic areas:

1. **Closing Plastic Cycles:** Developing strategies to reduce plastic waste and promote recycling.
2. **Closing E-Waste Cycles:** Addressing electronic waste through effective collection and resource recovery systems.
3. **Improving Framework Conditions:** Enhancing the policy and regulatory environment to support circular economy initiatives.

Pilot projects in these areas are being tested globally to identify scalable solutions that can be implemented across different regions.

#### Get Involved

Engagement with the PREVENT Waste Alliance offers the opportunity to drive change toward a sustainable future. The Alliance invites individuals and organisations to collaborate, exchange ideas, and contribute to impactful projects.

#### Connect:

- [Website](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [Newsletter Subscription](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)

Together, the goal is to create a world with less waste and more opportunities for sustainable growth!



Online Flyer ►

*(Material for this article has been sourced from the PREVENT Waste website)*

## Resources

### Inside Climate News (ICN)

Written by Shuri Matsumoto - HOPE admin volunteer (Qld)

[Inside Climate News \(ICN\)](#) is a Pulitzer Prize-winning nonprofit and nonpartisan news organisation dedicated to providing essential reporting and analysis on climate change, energy, and the environment.



### Mission and Vision

ICN aims to serve as a watchdog over government, industry, and advocacy groups, holding them accountable for their policies and actions related to the climate crisis. They aim to inform underserved readers with accurate and balanced news about the environmental challenges affecting their daily lives.

### Content and Features

ICN offers in-depth coverage across various topics, including:

- **Science:** Reporting on the latest climate research and environmental studies.
- **Politics:** Analysing how local, state, national, and international politics and policies impact the response to climate change.
- **Justice & Health:** Exploring the intersection of environmental issues with social justice and public health.
- **Fossil Fuels:** Investigating the role of fossil fuels in the current energy landscape and their environmental implications.
- **Clean Energy:** Highlighting advancements and challenges in transitioning to renewable energy sources.

In 2015, ICN released a nine-part series titled "[Exxon: The Road Not Taken](#)," exposing how Exxon conducted cutting-edge climate research decades ago and then worked at the forefront of climate denial. This investigation was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service.

### Newsletters

ICN offers several newsletters to keep readers informed:

- **ICN Weekly:** A weekly roundup of climate and energy news, including original stories and top headlines from around the web.
- **Inside Clean Energy:** A weekly take on the energy transformation reshaping our world.
- **Today's Climate:** A digest of the most pressing climate-related news released twice a week.
- **Breaking News:** Daily emails featuring original, groundbreaking stories by ICN's national network of award-winning reporters.

Readers can subscribe to these newsletters to receive timely updates on climate news.

### Get Involved

ICN provides award-winning climate coverage free of charge and without advertising. They rely on [donations](#) from readers to continue their work. Contributions help maintain editorial independence and support their mission to provide accurate and balanced climate reporting.

For more information and to explore their reporting, visit Inside Climate News at <https://insideclimatenews.org>.

Stay informed and engaged with the critical issues shaping our planet's future through ICN's comprehensive coverage and analysis.



*(Material for this article has been sourced from the Inside Climate News website)*

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## Mother Pelican

Written by Shuri Matsumoto - HOPE admin volunteer (Qld)



[Pelican Web](#) is an open-access, free monthly web journal and newsletter dedicated to human development, solidarity, and environmental sustainability. It serves as a platform for disseminating information and fostering discussions on integral human development and the transition to clean energy.

The pelican symbolises selfless service, as described in the 4th-century Physiologus, where it appears to sacrifice itself to feed its young. Inspired by this, **the Mother Pelican Journal promotes values like justice, equality, and sustainability without specific religious affiliation.**

### Mission and Vision

Pelican Web's mission is to promote integral human development that is in harmony with the environment. It envisions a world where human progress aligns with ecological sustainability, ensuring a balanced and equitable future for all.

### Content and Features

Each monthly issue of the journal includes a variety of articles, research papers, and essays covering topics such as:

- **Sustainable Development:** Exploring pathways to achieve economic growth while preserving the environment.
- **Social Justice:** Discussing equity, human rights, and community development issues.
- **Renewable Energy:** Highlighting advancements and challenges in transitioning to clean energy sources.
- **Ecological Conservation:** Addressing the importance of preserving biodiversity and natural habitats.

The journal encourages contributions from scholars, practitioners, and activists worldwide, fostering a diverse and inclusive dialogue on critical global issues.

### Get Involved

Readers are invited to engage with the Pelican Web by:

- **Subscribing:** Stay informed by subscribing to the monthly newsletter. (Send email to [Subscribe](#))
- **Contributing:** Submit articles or papers that align with the journal's themes.
- **Sharing:** Distribute the journal within your networks to broaden the reach of these critical discussions.

For more information, visit the Pelican Web's website at <https://www.pelicanweb.org/>.

We can achieve a sustainable and equitable future through informed dialogue and collective action.



*(Material for this article has been sourced from the Mother Pelican website)*



***An environmental resource is any material, service, or information from the environment that is valuable to society. This can refer to anything that people find useful in their environs, or surroundings.***