



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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HOPE E-news Bulletin 2023 #06 --- June 2023

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 . Deadline for articles is 15th day of the month.

Editorial

Hello Everyone,

We officially welcome winter and as you get warm and cozy for hibernation mode, we have prepared some optimal reading material for you!

This month, we have the opportunity to reflect on World Environment Day (5th) and World Oceans Day (8th), observances that underscore the importance of preserving our natural heritage and protecting our precious ecosystems.

In line with these observances, our volunteer researchers have provided articles which raise awareness and advocate for policies and practices that foster sustainability and conservation.

In the month of June, let us harness the collective energy and passion to protect our environment!

Stay warm,

Daniela Dal'Castel, Newsletter Editor – HOPE Inc.

2023 Environmental Observances

June

- 5 [World Environment Day](#)
- 5 [International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing](#)
- 7 [World Food Safety Day](#)
- 8 [World Oceans Day](#)
- 9 **HOPE quarterly Ordinary Meeting (both in person and via ZOOM)**
- 17 [World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought](#)

July

- 1-31 [Plastic Free July](#)
- 26 [World Mangrove Day](#)
- 28 [Schools Tree Day](#)
- 31 [World Ranger Day](#)
- 30 [National Tree Day](#)

August

- 1-7 [Landcare Week](#) (TBC)
- 7-13 [Keep Australia Beautiful Week](#)
- 12-20 [National Science Week](#)
- 19 [World Humanitarian Day](#)
- 20-24 [World Water Week](#)

Food for thought

“Every day should be a Clean Up Australia Day activity.”

Are you able to play your part in keeping our ‘environment’ free from pollution?

Feature Article

Plastic Bags: To Use or Not To Use? Either Way You Are Going To Be Wrong!

By Rod Pitcher, HOPE researcher ACT

I sometimes have trouble working out what Governments want us to do about reducing, or not reducing, the number of plastic bags that end up in the landfill. Sometimes they tell us one thing, and at other times they tell us the exact opposite.

Sometimes there are contradictions about the use and disposal of the plastics. At other times the information provided proves wrong when investigated. I do wish they would make up their minds, get rid of the contradictory rules and just keep the ones that work for the reduction of plastic bags in the landfill. It would make life so much easier if we only had one set of suggestions and rules, instead of two, where we can't go along with both, because they contradict each other. We need these guidelines to be straightened out so we can all do our best to reduce the number of plastic bags we use and can all be successful in helping to improve the environment.

A while back the ACT Government made moves towards reducing the number of plastic bags provided in shops and supermarkets. After a few weeks the Government announced the 'success' of the move in that it greatly reduced the number of plastic bags being used by people and which eventually end up becoming part of the landfill marring the countryside around Canberra.

From my observations at the time and in the following months I came to strongly disagree with all the media celebrations of the successful effort at reducing the plastic bags going into the landfill, because it did no such thing. I might be a bit biased, but to me it seems to have made matters worse!

To test out my feeling that the celebration was unfounded, over a period of a couple of months, I checked the rubbish bins at the complex where I live a couple of times a day, and a large number of other bins randomly found in the street while out walking. I did not notice any reduction in the number of plastic bags used to hold rubbish in the bins. In fact, to me, the situation seemed to have got worse. I could see that many people were now buying bigger stronger green (a bit misleading there!) plastic bags to hold their rubbish when they put it in their bins. These plastic bags are made of much thicker, stronger plastic than the lightweight ones obtained when shopping at the supermarket, and hence they contribute much more and heavier plastic material to the landfill. I see this as not a gain, but as a definite step in a backward direction.

Thinking about it, I looked around for some sort of explanation of why such a good idea had gone wrong.

I think I found my explanation in the instructions stuck on the rubbish bins in the complex here. The notices on the bins stipulate that rubbish **MUST** be put in plastic bags and not just thrown into the bin as loose bits and pieces. Here the instruction for using the bins is directly opposite to the Government's aim in reducing the number of plastic bags in the landfill, and directly oppose any intention and desire that householder might have to help reduce the use of plastic bags. In fact, it is not possible to support the Government in its wish to reduce the number of plastic bags in use while at the same time doing what the Government says, to put all rubbish going into the bin into plastic bags.

So, long story short, we have a Government claiming a success that didn't happen. It didn't happen because the Government's own rules made it logically impossible for people to conform to the desired change. The Government has actually told people not to be good citizens and care for the environment but to use more and more plastic bags, that is, to follow a set of rules which work against their own plans for the environment.

It was logically, and practically, impossible for people to comply with both sets of rules at the same time. So, everyone had the predicament of deciding on whether to use fewer plastic bags for the good of the environment and landfill, while at the same time using more plastic bags to put their rubbish in. It's enough to drive any reasonable conservationist to the point of putting his or her head in a plastic bag and hiding out in the garden shed! In effect, and in fact, it was now impossible for anyone to dispose of their rubbish without ignoring one or other sets of instructions.

As far as I can see, at the time of writing, the situation has not improved greatly. Most people just seem to be carrying on using one sort of plastic bag or the other for their rubbish. Realistically, they don't have much of a choice.

I have to hope that in the future, Governments will be more careful in making their rules for helping the environment. And hopefully, more truthful. It would help everyone to know exactly what they are supposed to do to comply with the instructions and rules regarding recycling, and how they can cut down the number of plastic bags going into the landfill.

Queensland News

Darling Downs Moreton Rabbit Board www.ddmrp.org.au

Statement from Cr Janice Holstein, Chair - Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board

The Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board (DDMRB) has been in existence in one form or another for 130 years. Our role in protecting Queensland's agricultural productivity and environmental values is as important today as it was in the 1890s

So much of our productive and natural landscapes have changed since then, but the impacts of rabbits, or the threat of their resurgence has remained constant. The rabbit fence has stood for 120 years, creating a physical and strategic barrier preventing the establishment of rabbits in Queensland at levels seen in the southern States. The introduction of biological controls has seen plague-like rabbit populations crash, only to once again flourish thanks to the unique ecology of the rabbit and its ability to breed, adapt and survive. We have learnt that the most effective way to control rabbits is to destroy their warrens and remove their harbour. There is no silver bullet and we continue to educate and encourage land managers to adopt these best practice methods.

We know from scientific research that the fence continues to work and we know biological controls are vitally important. Similarly, a regulatory compliance framework that places responsibility on all land managers to control wild rabbits on their land, and that prohibits the ownership of pet rabbits is critical.



These three factors hold the key to ensuring the impacts of rabbits are suppressed in the DDMRB area and beyond in Queensland.

1. The rabbit fence must be maintained in a rabbit proof condition, in its current extent, noting its importance where rabbit pressure is high and its strategic value as an insurance policy where rabbit pressure is currently low, but would see a resurgence should any or all of these other factors be allowed to decline.
2. Continued funding into biological control research must be assured. History tells us that bio-controls can work extremely well, but also that rabbits have the capacity to overcome them.
3. Continued support from all levels of government is needed to ensure a contemporary regulatory compliance framework is in place. Land managers, regardless of the tenure of their land must be held to account and assisted to remove rabbits where they exist. This must be backed by best practice control measures. The risks posed by ownership of pet rabbits must be acknowledged and countered by unwavering support for the prohibition on pet rabbit ownership.

Like the Boards that have gone before us, we are committed to ensuring the impacts of rabbits in South East Queensland and beyond are kept to a minimum and that we do so through the effective delivery of operational and strategic plans. We acknowledge the support of our partner local governments and strive to provide value for money in our operations and transparency and collaboration in our approach. The rabbit is arguably Australia's most damaging invasive pest and effective partnerships are needed to continue to successfully manage its impacts.



J Lockwood Graham - first Inspector



Large warren

Introduction

History of Rabbits

The European Rabbit arrived in Australia with the first fleet in 1788 and extensive feral populations had established in Tasmania by 1827. Twenty-four rabbits arrived on mainland Australia in 1859 and by 1866 they had become a significant problem for landholders in Victoria and South Australia. By 1900 rabbits had spread to Western Australia and the Northern Territory. The rate of advance varied from 10 to 15 kilometres per year, but deliberate releases assisted the rapid spread of rabbits to all states in Australia. The spread of rabbits throughout Australia was the fastest rate of any colonising mammal anywhere in the world.

The Threat

Rabbits cost the Australian economy and environment (natural and built) \$2 billion annually (Bradshaw et al, 2021). They compete with native animals, destroy the landscape, cause erosion by preventing the regeneration of native vegetation, reduce pasture availability for livestock, and impact on predator numbers. Therefore, rabbits pose a constant threat to the sustainability of our natural resources and the economic viability of highly productive agricultural land. Rabbits have been listed by the Australian Government Department of Environment and Heritage as a "key threatening process".

Creation of the Darling Downs–Moreton Rabbit Board

When rabbits first reached Queensland from the southern States in the 1880s, a fence was quickly constructed along the border in an attempt to keep them out. Unfortunately, the rabbits had already invaded some districts before the fence was complete. Some of the district rabbit boards had inadequate financial and technical resources to cope with the problem.

In 1930, all existing rabbit boards were abolished except for Leichhardt, Darling Downs and Moreton. In 1963 the Leichhardt Rabbit Board closed and the Darling Downs Rabbit Board took over their 80 km fence. In 1964, the two remaining boards merged to become the Darling Downs–Moreton Rabbit Board.



Rabbit fence near Killarney

Our Role

The Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board (DDMRB) is an *Invasive Animal Board* established under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* and is responsible for managing European rabbits in the rabbit district (Figure 1) so as to minimise their number and impact.

The DDMRB employs 15 staff to provide a rabbit control and compliance service to 8 local governments and their rate payers within the 28,000 km² rabbit district (the board's operational area) of south east Queensland. The delivery of this service is achieved through the maintenance and upgrade of the 555km rabbit-proof fence, and the provision of expertise and technical information to assist landholders to control rabbits on their land. Approximately 40% of the rabbit fence is now constructed to 'dog height'; providing a dual-purpose fence that is a highly strategic barrier to wild dog dispersal.

Our vision is to enable our productive and natural landscapes and our residential and recreational spaces to be free from the impacts of rabbits.

Our mission is to control the impacts of rabbits by efficiently managing our assets and effectively communicating with our stakeholders.

The DDMRB plays a strategic role in reducing the spread of rabbits into and within Queensland by maintaining the rabbit fence and educating and assisting land managers to remove rabbits from their land.

Our objectives are:

1. To successfully suppress the wider environmental effects of rabbits;
2. Communicate the value of the organisation that encourages consistent support from landholders, local government and other stakeholders; and,
3. To maintain the infrastructure which has successfully mitigated the environmental and economic impact of rabbits for over 130 years.

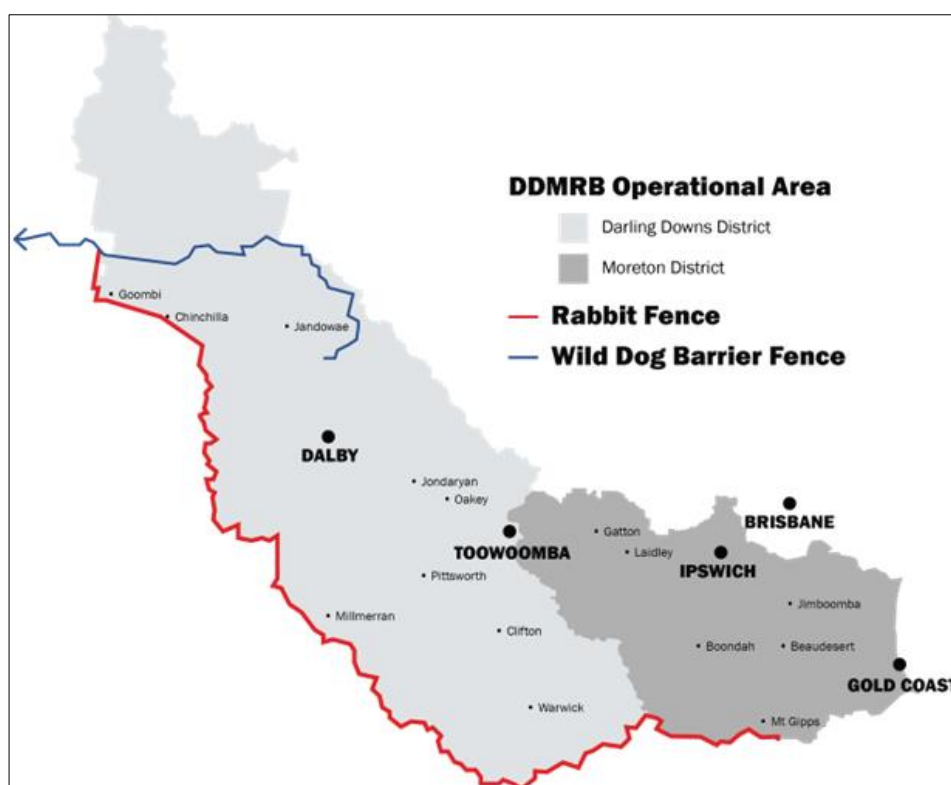


Figure 1

The DDMRB is a statutory body of the Queensland Government under the portfolio of the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities. The DDMRB's operations are fully funded by local governments.

The DDMRB area is a significant part of Australia encompassing a substantially sized, highly productive agricultural area that is ideal for rabbits, but has not yet suffered the impact of large numbers of rabbits. The value of horticultural and cereal crop production in the area exceeds one billion dollars per annum. Outside the DDMRB area, plants and animals experienced incredibly high grazing pressure from rabbits, particularly up until myxomatosis arrived. These impacts continue today, albeit to a lesser extent due to the effectiveness of biological controls.

Fox and feral cat numbers are generally highest where there are rabbits and these introduced predators have caused considerable damage to native small mammal populations. By keeping rabbits out, the DDMRB has probably protected native animals from introduced predators. We suspect there are more healthy populations of native mammals in the DDMRB area, and to the north east of the area, because rabbits have been prevented from establishing.

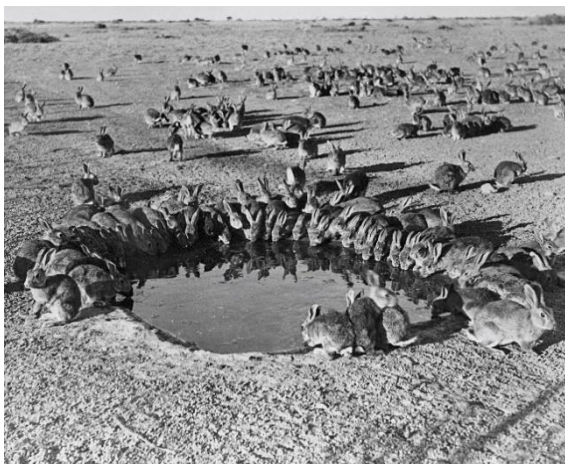
The value to agriculture of keeping rabbits out is considerable and has been estimated to be hundreds of millions of dollars per year. Although rabbit infestations are discovered within the DDMRB area they have not been allowed to properly establish large warren systems. Without warren systems rabbit populations are unlikely to survive.

DDMRB's role can be considered one of prevention, as it relates to the economics of the biosecurity invasion curve. The extent to which rabbits are established in Queensland is very low when compared to their potential distribution. Current impacts are therefore very low when compared to the impacts that would be felt should rabbits establish in Queensland to potential levels. The return on investment in preventative rabbit control is high.

Powers and responsibilities

Rabbits are restricted animals (Categories 3, 4, 5 and 6) under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

The Act, and the *Biosecurity Regulation 2016* provide powers for the management of declared pests in Queensland. Specific provisions include powers for the DDMRB to maintain the rabbit fence, and to appoint authorised persons who in turn have the powers to inspect land, seize declared pests, and require landholders to undertake rabbit control.



Rabbits at waterhole

Core Principles

- DDMRB is in the business of prevention; the biosecurity approach with the greatest economic return.
- Wild or domestic European rabbits remain a major threat to the Australian economy and environment. Continued enforcement of compliance with legislation requiring their removal from land, regardless of tenure, and their ownership as pets is critical.
- The DDMRB's operational area is the premier agricultural region in Queensland.
- The ongoing commitment of DDMRB, its partners and other stakeholders is essential to protecting south east Queensland and beyond from the impacts of rabbits. This includes continued funding for research into biological controls.
- The rabbit fence remains a vital asset in providing a physical barrier to the incursion of rabbits into south east Queensland and beyond. It is also an important strategic barrier to wild dogs and other invasive animals.
- The DDMRB recognises that funding is provided by ratepayers through their local governments and as such we strive to provide value for money in our operations.
- The DDMRB is committed to environmentally sustainable practices and has adopted an Environmental Sustainability Policy.

More Information

More information can be found by visiting DDMRB's web site at www.ddmrp.org.au.

DDMRB has recently published a book on its 130-year history and of rabbits in Australia. *Beyond the Fence: Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board 1892-2022* is a thoroughly researched and beautifully illustrated book that offers a fascinating account of rabbits in Australia, how they helped shape the nation, as well as the 130-year history of the DDMRB. It is available for purchase online at www.ddmrp.org.au/beyond-the-fence/.



National News



Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) -

<https://www.arrcc.org.au>

By Anna Kula, HOPE researcher QLD

ARRCC who are they?

ARRCC is an Australian multi-faith network committed to action on climate change, founded 15 years ago. The current President is Sydney-based practicing Catholic Thea Ormerod. Thea has been actively involved in peace, justice and ecology for over 30 years, with various organisations. The management committee consists of people from many faiths including Buddhism, Christianity, Quaker, Muslim and believers of Judaism. Over 60% of members are Christians, 10% Buddhist, 5% Quaker, 3% Jewish, <2% Muslim and ~15% unknown or other minor faiths.

How did ARRCC come about?

ARRCC founding members saw climate change as a deeply moral and spiritual issue. The group hopes to bring together Australians from all religions together in their mission 'to promote ethical, environmentally sustainable, healthy and contented lifestyles which respect the Earth's precious natural resources', and 'to advocate from a faith perspective for public policies which contribute to climate justice'.

ARRCC views on climate change and their point of difference

ARRCC gives in some instances a fresh perspective on the responsibility of humans to guard and protect their environment. ARRCC believes that "common to all faiths is [the] teaching that ...human beings, while having the responsibility to care for creation, are also part of it. Humanity's health is directly related to the health of the whole created order...the relationship between man and nature should be like that of a just ruler and his subjects. Abuse of his power shifts him from being a ruler to a tyrant."

With this philosophy in mind ARRCC challenges people of faith to review and alter their carbon-intensive lifestyles to help care for the earth and work to hasten a transition to clean energy. At a political level ARRCC wants to help come to agreement on climate action and justice for people at the mercy of climate impacts. At a corporate and community level ARRCC is urging to shift investment away from fossil fuels towards renewable energy and sustainable industries.



Young people in Kiribati with a clear message.

ARRCC has published climate action kits for the Hindu, Buddhist and Islamic religious communities which have been backed by their representative councils. These kits outline some basic starting steps for religious communities to take action to protect the earth. Jewish and Christian climate action kits are also available.

The organisation is a part of and supports the objectives and strategies of Climate Action Network Australia (CANA) to help environmental organisations work together across Australia. ARRCC also supports the work of GreenFaith International and its focus on a proposed Fossil Fuel Non- Proliferation Treaty.

What do they do? What are their past and present projects? How successful are they?

- ARRCC members are involved largely as advocates and spokespersons against the investment and use of fossil fuels in Australia. In this last year ARRCC helped reform Stop Adani into Move Beyond Coal, congregating for the 26 January 2022 Re-occupation day, attended the grassroots coal strategy workshop and facilitated First Nations solidarity workshops. ARRCC met with partners in the anti-coal movement to discuss the current state of coal mining in Australia and to organise future campaigns.
- ARRCC organised protests at several NAB branches, seven NAB branch protests were led by people of faith. ARRCC instigated discussions with NAB staff and representatives about their corporate lending to Whitehaven Coal and protested the Whitehaven Annual General meeting. This exposure led NAB stakeholders in Dec 2022 ask NAB to demonstrate how the Whitehaven's financing would not be used for new or established fossil fuel projects.
- In the last year ARRCC put forward three submissions regards to Woodside's North West Shelf Project in WA, the Climate Bill and a call from the Environment Minister for public comment on 18 different new coal and gas projects currently under consideration. Currently the project extension is awaiting State and Federal Minister's decision and issues or conditions for operation.
- ARRCC has written and co-signed nine letters which included three letters to the Prime Minister and one to the Environment Minister calling to stop new gas and coal projects.
- In the lead-up to COP27, ARRCC wrote an open letter to government advocating for the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty signed by First Nations and faith leaders across Australia and the Pacific. To date Sydney, ACT as well as the cities of Darebin, Maribyrnong, Moreland and Yarra have endorsed the Treaty.
- On 18 October 2021 people of faith held vigils outside 14 federal MP offices, in action that sought MPs committing to halving Australia's emissions by 2030. Later that year Labour Party announced their target to reduce emissions by 43% by 2030.



ARRCC supporters outside NAB Branch is Pitt St, Sydney

What are their plans for future work?

We need your help to block coal mining in the Galilee Basin, to make climate the top priority for voters in the federal election and to continue to inspire people and communities to make commitments to Living the Change.

Going forward into 2023 ARRCC's primarily focus will be on:

1. Advocating the Federal Government to move away from supporting coal and gas mining in terms of regulation and public subsidies.
2. Campaigning to move private sector finance out of coal and gas mining industries through the Move Beyond Coal and fossil fuel divestment campaigns.
3. Advocating for substantial contributions to adaptation financing for low-income, climate-vulnerable countries via the UN Green Climate Fund.
4. Advocating the Labour Government to implement and improve its plans to transition workers in the coal and gas industries.

How can you join?

ARRCC hopes to attract more people of faith to fight for climate justice by reaching out to local faith communities and organising for senior faith leaders to meet with key MPs in their electorates.

Individuals for families can become a member via https://www.arrcc.org.au/individual_arrcc_membership at a cost of \$18 per year for a concession up to \$54 per year for a family or couple.

Council of Australasian Weed Societies

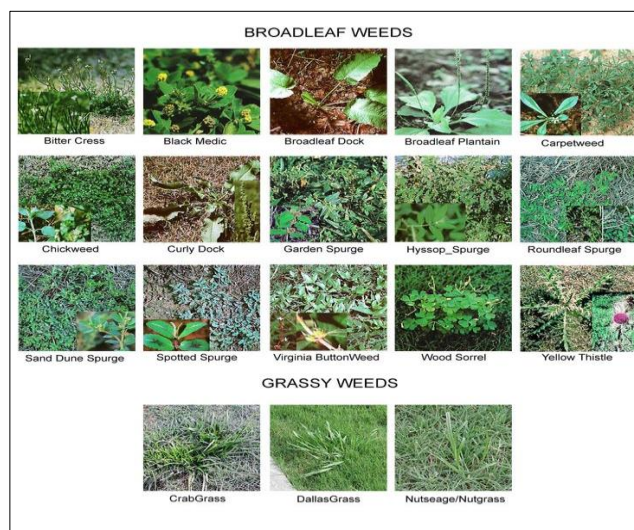
A major problem when conserving the environment is to deal with weed species that can often dominate environments. Throughout Australia there are people and groups involved with determining how best to control weeds, whether these be environmental weeds or agricultural weeds. Within each state of Australia there is a weed society in which people involved with weed control issues meet from time to time to discuss efficient and effective methods of weed control. Once every 2 years, all of these societies meet at the Australasian Weeds Conference, and New Zealand weed control specialists also attend this meeting. The most recent conference was in Adelaide in September 2022, and the next conference is in Brisbane in August 2024.

The Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS) is a group that helps coordinate these conferences, and is comprised of representatives from each of the societies. They also host a website (<https://caws.org.nz>) which holds useful information for people trying to deal with weed problems. For example, copies of every paper that has been presented at the Australasian Weeds Conference since 1954 can be found at: <https://caws.org.nz/proceedings-of-the-australasian-weeds-conference/>

Also, a series of links are available to useful sites that help with identifying weeds and then controlling them: <https://caws.org.nz/links/>



Dr Michael Widderick addresses the final session of the Adelaide conference (2022) to let delegates, know about the next Australasian Weeds Conference in Queensland



International News



Earth Charter

By Julie Mammitzsch, HOPE researcher NSW

The Earth Charter (EC) is an ethical foundation that was established in 1997. The foundation launched the Earth Charter Document in 2000 which was a result of a decade-long, global conversation on shared beliefs and targets. Earth Charter is calling for 'a more just, sustainable, and peaceful global society in the 21st century.'

The document itself includes 16 principles and emphasizes global interdependence and collective accountability. The primary focus lays on the promotion of the adoption of environmentally responsible ways of living. It highlights:

- environmental protection
- human rights
- equitable human development
- and peace

The Earth Charter document may be used as:

- an aid for improved laws on environmental and sustainable development
- an assessment tool to measure progress on accountability systems and codes of conduct
- A resource for further education on more sustainable ways of living

Resources: Earth Charter (2023), About the Earth Charter, available: https://earthcharter.org/about-the-earth-charter/?doing_wp_cron=1681288076.6209011077880859375000 [accessed: 12 April 2023]

REDD+ program -- Reduces Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation

By Frank Lee – HOPE researcher NSW

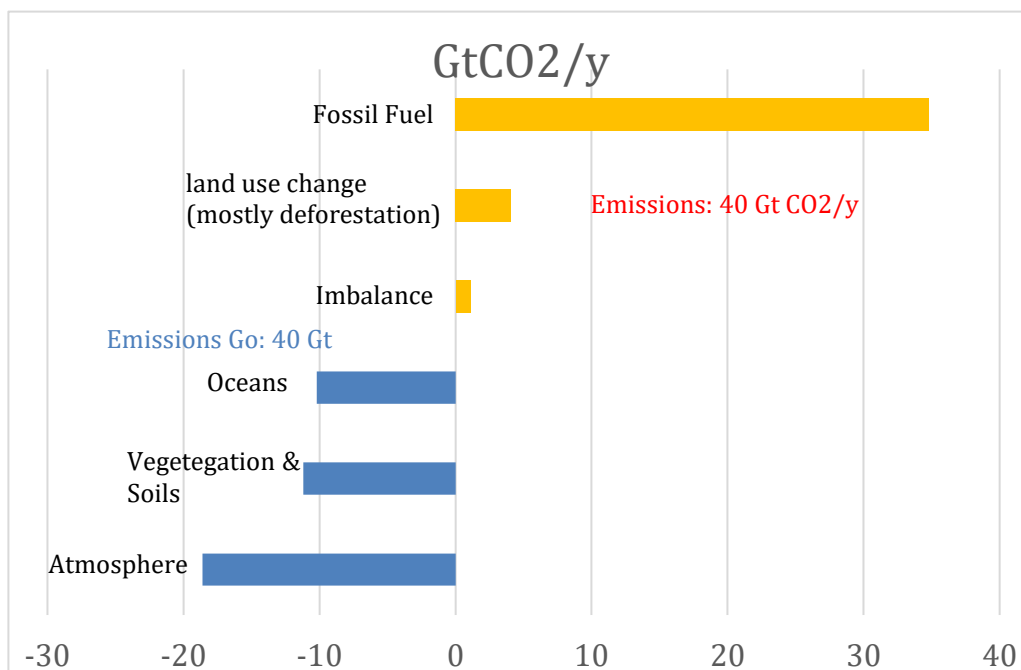
REDD+ is a climate change mitigation solution developed by Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The framework, Warsaw Framework for REDD+ (WFR), provides the complete methodological and financing guidance for the implementation of REDD+ activities (1). REDD+ aims to incentivize developing countries, providing results-based payments for verified emissions reductions, to contribute to climate change mitigation actions in the forest sector by (2):

- reducing carbon emissions from deforestation;
- reducing carbon emissions from forest degradation;
- conservation of forest carbon stocks;
- sustainable management of forests; and
- enhancement of forest carbon stocks

Forests around the world are under threat by agriculture and illegal logging. Deforestation and forest degradation are significant sources of carbon emissions as trees store carbon. In 2019, the tropics lost close to 30 soccer fields' worth of trees every single minute. In the last 50 years, around 17% of the Amazon forest has been lost - mostly due to forest conversion for cattle ranching (3). Apart from carbon storage role, forests' functions include water regulation, soil protection, non-timber forest products including food and fibre, climate regulation and biodiversity.

Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) directly accounts for 18.4% (9.1 GtCO₂-eq) of greenhouse gas emissions (4). Figure 1 shows land use change mostly deforestation is around 11% of global carbon emissions (8).

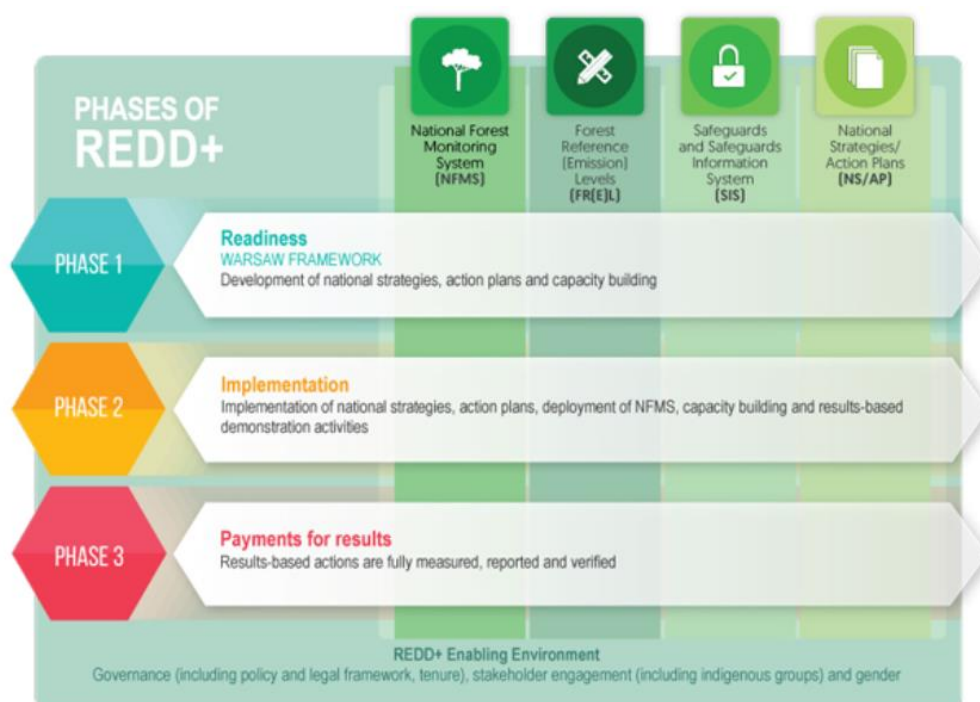
Fig. 1 Global Carbon Budget 2021



REDD+ implementation requires sufficient funding, institutional support, local buy-in, and clear metrics for measuring, reporting and verification of effectiveness of measures taken (5). The IPCC identifies REDD+ as the activity with the largest potential for reducing AFOLU emissions (0.4–5.8 GtCO₂-eq yr⁻¹) (5). Parties agreed that REDD+ should be implemented in phases (Fig. 2)(6) (7):

- (1) Beginning with the development of national strategies or action plans, policies and measures, and capacity-building,
- (2) Followed by implementation of national policies and measures and national strategies or action plans that could involve further capacity-building, technology development and transfer and results-based demonstration activities,
- (3) And evolving into results-based actions that should be fully measured, reported and verified, allowing countries to seek and obtain results-based payments.

Figure 2Phase of REDD+



Information that needs to be eligible for results-based finance includes (7):

- The assessed results for each relevant period;
- The assessed forest reference level;
- The summary of information on how all of the REDD+ safeguards are being addressed and respected;
- A link to the REDD+ national strategy or action plan;
- Information on the national forest monitoring system.

Current status of REDD+ implementation, as of January 2020 (7):

- 50 developing countries, covering more than 70% of the total forest area, have submitted a REDD+ forest reference level or forest reference emission level,
- 15 countries have submitted a summary of information,
- 12 countries have submitted a national strategy or action plan.
- 6 countries are listed in the Lima Information Hub for REDD+, having all elements in place to be eligible to seek and obtain results-based finance for REDD+.

In total, the REDD+ activities listed in the Lima Information Hub for REDD+ resulted in emission reductions of 6.3 Gt CO₂ eq. This is a significant improvement on reduce carbon emission if we can fully implement of REDD+ activities.

References:

1. UN-REDD Programme: <https://www.un-redd.org/about/about-redd#:~:text=REDD%2B%20is%20a%20climate%20change%20mitigation%20solution%20developed,of%20forests%20and%20enhancement%20of%20forest%20carbon%20stocks>
2. UN-REDD Programme Fact sheet About REDD+: <https://www.un-redd.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/Fact%20Sheet%201-%20About%20REDD3.pdf>
3. Deforestation and Forest Degradation | Threats | WWF (worldwildlife.org): <https://www.worldwildlife.org/threats/deforestation-and-forest-degradation>
4. Emissions by sector - Our World in Data: <https://ourworldindata.org/emissions-by-sector#agriculture-forestry-and-land-use-18-4>
5. United Nations Climate Change – REDD+ : <https://unfccc.int/topics/land-use/workstreams/reddplus>
6. Food and Agricultural Organization of United Nation: REDD+ Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation: <https://www.fao.org/redd/overview/en/>
7. United Nations Climate Change – What is REDD : <https://unfccc.int/topics/land-use/workstreams/redd/what-is-redd>
8. Global CO₂ Emissions: <https://www.co2.earth/global-co2-emissions>

(1)

The [Conference of the Parties](#) (COP) invited Parties, relevant organizations and stakeholders to share outcomes, experiences and lessons learned from their efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD+). The REDD+ Web Platform, mandated by the COP in decision 2/CP.13, was established with the purpose of making available such information on the outcomes of activities relating to REDD+, including activities on capacity building, demonstration activities, addressing drivers of deforestation and mobilization of resources.

Since the launch of the REDD+ Web Platform after COP 13, both the COP and the [Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice](#) (SBSTA) have recognized the Platform as a useful tool and have mandated additional functions to be developed. (1)

REDD +- Web platform: <https://redd.unfccc.int>

What is the difference between REDD and REDD+?: <https://forestindustries.eu/content/what-difference-between-redd-and-redd>

Resources



Professor Andy Lowe (Prof Andy Lowe or Andy) – Sustainability thought leader and change maker

By Cassandra Adofo-Kissi - HOPE researcher ACT

Prof Andy Lowe is a British-Australian scientist who is the *Interim Director of the Environment Institute at University of Adelaide*.

Prof Andy Lowe has solved some of the most pressing global resource, production, and landscape sustainability challenges through the application of technology innovations delivered in a responsible and economically realistic framework.

Professor Andy Lowe is an expert in plants and trees, including in the management of genetic, biological and ecosystem resources.

Achievements:

- *Prof Andy Lowe has discovered lost forests, campaigned to eliminate illegally logged timber, is a lead author of The Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services- Land Degradation and Restoration Report. He worked in the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC).*
- *Prof Andy Lowe has helped to secure a quarter of a billion dollars' worth of research funding in his field.*
- *He is an experienced and respected executive leader, board member, and mid-career mentor.*
- *Andy was a Scientist in Residence at The Australian Financial Review and The Advertiser and is an enthusiastic science communicator, speaker, writer, and podcast host.*
- Experienced and accomplished, Prof Andy Lowe was a TEDx and Pecha Kucha speaker presenting to public audiences and delivering keynote and plenary speeches at over two hundred international and national meetings. For instance, Prof Andy Lowe has presented speeches at COP22, UNODC Expert Working Group, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and Asia Pacific Rainforest Partnership meetings.
- Andy has delivered plenary scientific presentations, large public or more intimate speaking engagements. This includes giving public addresses and being a part of panel discussions with well-known individuals such as Cate Blanchett, Terry Irwin and David Suzuki.

Current Projects/Campaigns

The work of Prof Andy Lowe centres on several key areas that impact environmental sustainability and our response to it. This work includes examining and drawing urgent attention to the issues pertaining to food, biodiversity, water, conservation, innovation, and the role of technology. By putting forth workable solutions to address these concerns collaboratively in global and local communities, the hope is to avoid or limit the harms of an environmental crisis. These issues are explored in-depth on <https://andylowe.org/>.

Biodiversity

Prof Andy Lowe recently engaged in discussions with Ecologist Prof Hugh Possingham about conservation and the need to set aside 30% of every type of habitat for conservation. Essential questions asked include:

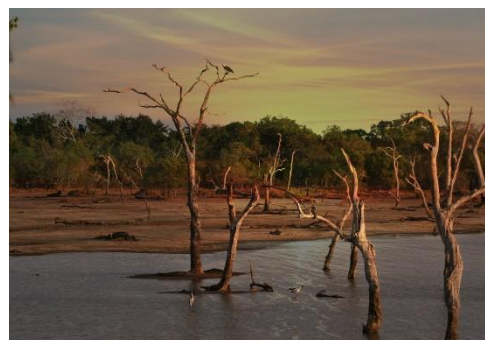
- How do we get the scale of investment required to restore our degraded land?
- Can we create markets for nature?
- Where does the money come from?
- Who are the buyers?

To listen to the podcast, click this link <https://andylowe.org/2023/04/06/markets-for-nature-whats-the-currency-of-biodiversity/>

Water

Currently Prof Andy Lowe is also focusing on water and how its scarcity is impacting us in all areas, including agriculture, food security, equity and access issues, freshness and quality, pollution and how with so little water to go around, can we support our dependent ecosystems?

Water is a focus area that impacts both the present and the future. As water resources are increasingly scarce, it places humanity in a difficult predicament. Prof Andy Lowe draws attention to this issue through this article <https://andylowe.org/2023/03/19/water-water-everywhere-but-not-a-drop-to-drink/>.



He also recently led a panel discussion at the [Uraidla Sustainability Fair](#), about water issues. Emphasis was placed on how to deliver water smart solutions in nature, agriculture, cities, garden, and water courses.

Other topics covered included:

- conflict over water- who is using what and where are the tension points
- How about more efficient systems for agriculture?
- What happens when we degrade our rivers and water ways? What can we do about improving them?
- How can we use water more efficiently in our cities?
- What about reducing the impact of storm water and runoff?
- Is plastic pollution a problem?
- How do we get community involved?

Some key take home points were:

- Get involved in your local water allocation planning process. There will be community consultation as part of the process and the more voices input the higher the likelihood of a more equitable outcome.
- A key aspect of any landscape is to slow the passage of water over the surface, whether it be in the paddock, garden, or city. Physical infrastructure can be used, but plant covers is a key component that also stops erosion.
- For paddocks, try planting native perennial grasses or herbs instead of short-lived species. Their root systems dig deep into the soil improving aeration, water holding and carbon sequestration, while helping bring biodiversity back into our landscapes.

Please see the following link to find out more about this panel discussion and the issues and concerns raised. <https://andylowe.org/2023/03/19/water-water-everywhere-but-not-a-drop-to-drink/>

In addition, by clicking this link for the Sustainability Fair ([here](#)) you can access a range of resources to help guide water smart solutions distributed by the panel.

For a closer look at the impact of these issues, the drivers of environmental sustainability, local and global solutions please view prof Andy Lowe's podcasts and written articles at <https://andylowe.org/>.
