

BCCAN MISSION

A community based network of organisations and individuals that work together to promote action on climate change & equitable & sustainable development.

BCCAN AIMS

To involve the Bathurst Community & liaise & communicate on their behalf with Council.

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Achieve sustainable & equitable development in the Bathurst Region

Adoption of renewable energy technologies throughout the Bathurst region

Bio-sequestration of CO₂

Raise public awareness of associated problems



this issue

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Water More Precious than Gold – Bathurst community says no to water deal

One of the largest local campaigns ever was seen in recent months against Council plans to sell the town's recycled water to a gold mine near Blayney earlier this year. Regis Resources made a bid to purchase 8-10ML of Bathurst's recycled water which is currently released into the Macquarie Wambool River. The bid included plans to construct a pipeline to divert the water to their Kings Plain MacPhillamy's mine site.

Over 2500 people signed a petition urging Bathurst Regional Council to reject the purchase offer by Regis. 1035 people joined a Don't Mine the Macquarie / Wambool Facebook group actively campaigning to stop the sale and calling on Councillors to vote no to any diversion project. Another flood of 395 proforma letters and 30 speakers at the Council meeting opposed the sale and called on council to protect the town's water resources and the environmental services of the Macquarie (Wambool) River.

The campaign united scientists, fishing groups, local businesses, students, Aboriginal leaders, and community groups, Mums, Dads, grandparents, Sisters of Mercy, and young people of Bathurst in opposition to the proposal. The Council's brief and one-sided process for public feedback received 6.5 times more submissions against the proposal. (133 against as opposed to 20 for). These submissions to Council detailed significant issues with the proposed sale including serious long-term impacts on the Macquarie River, biodiversity, Bathurst water security and downstream users.

The high level of opposition stemmed from very real concerns among the community and local experts over the inordinate risk posed to Council, Bathurst and all those who rely on a healthy river system.

Wiradyuri elder, Bill Allen, Dinawan Djirribang, spoke out strongly against the sale and diversion of water away from the river. "We've got to stop being selfish. The river is already under stress. Why add to it?" "What do we do with the gold? How's that going to support a town when we run out of water? Enough is enough."

The Bathurst community have long put water security and environmental protections for the Macquarie River ahead of short term profit for the sale of its recycled water for mining. In 2008 strong community opposition led to Council voting against a sale of the town's recycled water to Cadia gold mine. The water has been released to the Macquarie Wambool River for over 100 years and in dry periods represents over 50% of the flow in the river.

Campaign leader and former Councillor Tracey Carpenter, pointed out that following the 2008 decision to not sell the recycled water the Bathurst economy continued to grow and diversify – Cadia found its water closer to home. "The result was that jobs came and went, housing prices in Orange lurched and lunged. Bathurst remained a growth centre based chiefly on its long-term water security and appeal as a place to live with its diverse economy," she said. The campaign to maintain the recycled water flow to the Macquarie River also questioned Regis Resources claim of economic benefit to the local Bathurst economy. "Regis want

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next BCCAN steering committee Meeting

17 May 2016
Bathurst Information and Neighbourhood Centre, (BINC) Russell Street at 4:30 for 5pm start

Bathurst Sustainable Living Expo

Sunday 23 April 2016
At the Bathurst Show Ground

Rahamim Ecology Summit

Friday 29th April 10am-2pm at the Goldfields Mt Panorama
Contact 63329950

Green Drinks with Neil Davidson

Rahamim 34 Busby St
Friday 29th April 5:30pm

Spirit of the River with John Fry

30th April 10:30am-3:30pm
\$40 bus/\$30 drive yourself from Rahamim 34 Busby St Bathurst to book call 63329950

over half the amount of water used by the entire Bathurst population and economy but offered a return to the local economy of only 2% at most". It was notable that Regis had made the offer of the same 150 jobs to nearby towns - Orange and Blayney at different times," Ms Carpenter said. Studies into the impacts of the diversion of water away from the Macquarie reflected loss of water to downstream irrigators and farms and a deterioration on the health of the river but failed to assess the value of the recovering fishery downstream, tourism or the amenity of the river to the community.

What had not been evaluated, said Ms Carpenter, is the cost to our community, our river our water security and the environment, and what value we should place on our precious water. The campaign adopted the popular slogan "Water More Precious than Gold".

Council voted to defer the decision and to call for an Environmental Impact Statement by the company. One councilor Monica Morse voted for an outright rejection of the sale.

Regis Resources board will decide whether to lodge a Development Application and to prepare an EIS without securing a water source for its proposed mine. This process would take up to eighteen months before any further offer for purchase of water is made. Plans for construction of a pipeline to the Kings Plain mine site are on hold.

The strong community lobby for protection of the Macquarie River and water resources continues. Bathurst's Mayor Gary Rush has agreed to address short-comings exposed in Councils' public consultation process and to establish a Water and River Management Committee of Council to consult with local experts and community leaders from the group.

The above is an extract from an article written by Tracey Carpenter

Community Art to Yarn about River



A community art project is taking shape to raise awareness about Council's proposed sale of water from the Macquarie River to Regis Gold Mine.

Local residents are concerned about the limited time that people have had to hear about this issue. Council have allowed only the standard 28 days notice for this a large-scale project which will effect irrigators and landholders downstream of Bathurst, as well as put further pressure on fish stocks, threatened frogs, water birds and native river-side flora species.

The large-scale yarn (knitting and crochet) project depicts the life that flourishes in the Macquarie River and the many species of flora and fauna under threat if the water is sold.

"For me this issue is deeply personal, not just a theory about a river out there somewhere. This is the river of my community and I need to do something to have a voice."

"We think most residents of Bathurst and landholders downstream would be opposed if they knew about the proposal, and we have such limited time to have our say, hence the need to spread the word." said organiser Tracy Sorensen.

The yarn project, inspired by the ongoing success of the Crochet Coral Reef project, one of the largest participatory science and art endeavours in the world, is one way the community can raise awareness, connecting with others who are concerned and inviting them to participate.

New participants, from Bathurst and communities downstream, are encouraged to contribute to the yarn project. Participants are asked to contribute crocheted or knitted lengths of 20cm wide by as long as they like. Joined "granny squares", lengths of ripple stitch, or any other interpretations that mean "river" to you will be gladly accepted.

During December and January, all are welcome to join a group meeting at Rahamim Ecology Centre each Thursday morning 10am-12pm (except Christmas Eve). The gathering is for those interested in learning more about the project, participating with others or learning how to crochet with other beginners.

Once complete, the art installation will be unfurled at Bathurst's Peace Park and progress will be on display at the region's Farmers Markets.

It will also be displayed in other communities along the Macquarie, with users from Wellington, Dubbo, Narromine and Warren asked to contribute.

For information contact:

Sally Neaves – Rahamim 0408703204 or Tracy Sorensen 0414955049

the above article by Sally Neaves was a media release from Rahamim in December 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cont.

Next Building & Energy APT meeting

Tuesday 3 May 2016 at the School of Teacher Education building, Charles Sturt Uni, Bathurst at 5pm

Nature Cons. Council Biodiversity Workshop

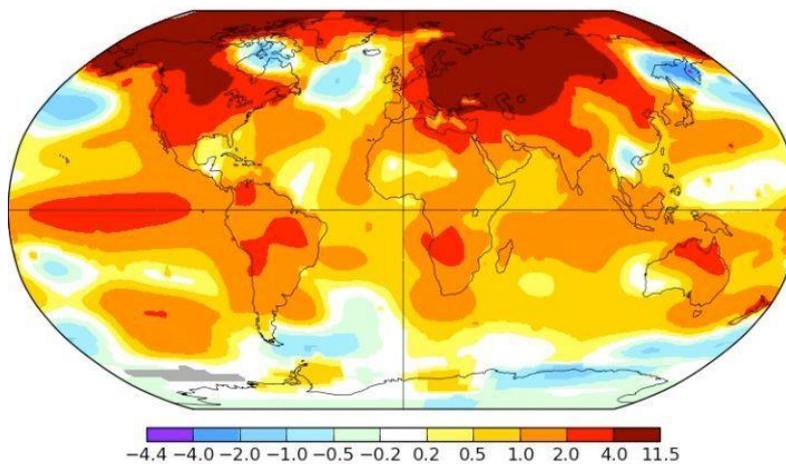
Hosted by Central West Env. Council at Dubbo RSL Saturday 7 May 12:30-4:00pm
For tickets <http://bit.ly/1qCEsLB>

The World keeps warming

February 2016

L-OTI (°C) Anomaly vs 1951-1980

1.35



NASA data: extreme hot spots across the Arctic, Russia and northern North America

February and March broke global temperature records by 'shocking' amount

The global temperature in March has shattered a century-long record and by the greatest margin yet seen for any month.

Compared with the 20th-century average, March was 1.07°C hotter across the globe, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) figures, while February was 1.04°C higher. The JMA measurements go back to 1891 and show that every one of the past 11 months has been the hottest ever recorded for that month.

Data released by NASA confirmed last month was the hottest March on record, but the US agency's data indicated February had seen the biggest margin. The NASA data recorded March as 1.65°C above the average from 1951-1980, while February was 1.71°C higher.

"This result is a true shocker, and yet another reminder of the incessant long-term rise in global temperature resulting from human-produced greenhouse gases. We are now hurtling at a frightening pace toward the globally agreed maximum of 2°C warming over pre-industrial levels." Said Meteorologist Dr Jeff Master and Bob Henson who analysed the February data.

The UN climate summit in Paris in December confirmed 2°C as the danger limit for global warming which should not be passed, yet we are steadily approaching that target.

NASA's data also showed that although October 2015 was the first month since 1880 to be more than 1°C warmer than average, every month since October has exceeded that mark

Dr Masters said the world is already 1°C warmer than the late nineteenth century, and heat stored in the oceans has already committed us to at least another 0.5 degrees of atmospheric warming.

Record-breaking temperatures 'have robbed the Arctic of its winter'

A record expanse of Arctic sea never froze over this winter and remained open water as a season of freakishly high temperatures produced deep – and likely irreversible – changes on the far north. With the ice cover down to 14.52m sq km, scientists now believe the Arctic is locked onto a course of continually shrinking sea ice.

Earlier in January this year the North Pole experienced an anomalous heat wave, temperatures were as much as 50 degrees Fahrenheit above average almost reaching 32 degrees Fahrenheit in portions of the Arctic Circle that average 20°F below zero at that time of year.

Greenland sees record-smashing early ice sheet melt in April

Scientists were 'incredulous' at abnormally high numbers for April, with melting across nearly 12% of ice sheet. Polar researchers thought their models were broken when they first saw the results.

It beat by almost a month the previous record for a melt of more than 10%, on 5 May 2010.

"We had to check that our models were still working properly," said Peter Langen, climate scientist at DMI. Temperature readings on the ice were in line with the numbers, however, exceeding 10°C in some places.

Even a weather station 1840 meters above sea level recorded a maximum of 3.1°C, which data analysts said would be warm for July, let alone April.

cont.

Australia's current Climate Change position

With the science clearly showing a warming in global temperatures there is a need to act on Climate Change. In the lead-up to the Paris Climate Change Conference last December, the Australian Government committed to the target of reducing greenhouse emissions by 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2030. But without investment in renewable energy and deployment of nation-wide energy reduction strategies the question mark remains of how will Australia deliver on its international commitment.

Local community fight to prevent Hill End becoming the site for National Nuclear Waste Dump



Tracey Carpenter and Sally Neaves from BCCAN and Robin Rayner head of the NO Central West Nuclear Dump group at the screening of 'Containment' a documentary about the issues of nuclear waste disposal – screen at the Rahamim Ecological Centre

On Feb 26 the Bathurst public got its first opportunity to hear from the Hill End community about their opposition to a listing for a nuclear waste dump site, at Rahamim Ecological Centre.

Robyn Rayner, Hill End fine wool farmer and head of the No Central West Nuclear Dump Group addressed the gathering on the group's struggle against the listing of a property 8 kilometres from Hill End as a potential site for the National Nuclear Waste Facility.

The Australian Government announced that Hill End had been shortlisted under a voluntary site selection process for a national radioactive waste facility last November. The listing has been strongly opposed by the Hill End community since the listing. The community has voted unanimously at three public meetings to reject the short listing and called for Hill End to be removed from the process. Bathurst Regional Council has also voted unanimously in support of the community to reject the proposal for the siting of a nuclear waste facility at Hill End.

Minister Frydenberg, the local Member John Cobb MP and departmental representatives have made repeated commitments that this facility would not proceed against the wishes of host community. However, the consultation has now been broadened out to communities through which the nuclear waste may need to be transported, including Bathurst and Mudgee.

Minister Frydenberg has sent information on nuclear waste to householders in the Bathurst region seeking any feedback on the proposal. "We take issue with a number of the claims in the documents particularly in relation that the waste facility is necessary for the disposal of nuclear medicines," said Ms Rayner.

The Medical Association for the Prevention of War state that a national radioactive waste dump is not necessary for low level medical waste. MAPW maintains that it is misleading to claim that these medicines need to be created in a nuclear reactor or require disposal in a National Nuclear Waste facility. "We do not need to produce radioisotopes in Australia MAPW states in its literature", said Ms Rayner.

Radioactive waste is currently securely stored in hospitals.

"The community object to the choice of the nominated property which drains directly into the Turon River at the head of the Macquarie River catchment, in a geologically unstable zone.

the above is an extract from an article written by Tracey Carpenter

A further update:

Whilst the Federal Government has acknowledged the strong community opposition to the proposal and has since stated that it will not build the nuclear Waste facility at Hill End, the process of selecting the nuclear waste disposal site is not concluded. The Government expects to narrow down the shortlist in the coming months, there is however strong local opposition at all six sites currently under consideration.

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