

## 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 CO<sub>2</sub>

Raise public awareness of associated problems



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## Global Weirding – what's happening at the poles

### Fast-growing moss is turning the Antarctica peninsula green



Icebergs dot the sea off the moss-covered coast of Green Island in Antarctica

The Antarctic Peninsula (the peninsula that juts North towards South America) is one of the most rapidly warming places on Earth, not only is it getting warmer, it is getting dramatically greener with a sharp increase in plant growth over the last 50 years.

UK scientists led by University of Exeter's Dan Charman have been studying moss cores from sites along the Antarctic Peninsula found a sharp increase in plant growth and microbial activity along a 600-kilometre stretch of coastline, particularly since the 1950s.

Antarctica is generally considered arid, that's because its large amounts of freshwater are frozen

and thus unavailable for life. However warmer global temperatures have caused considerable ice-melts, more water is now available to moisten the mosses, and the rising heat provides longer growing seasons for the plants.

The sensitivity of moss growth to past temperature rises suggests that ecosystems will alter rapidly under future warming, leading to major changes in the biology and landscape of this iconic region," Charman said in a statement. "In short, we could see Antarctic greening parallel to well-established observations in the Arctic."

Based on these patterns, the researchers surmise that further warming could quickly tip the region into a very different ecological landscape.

**Source: ABC science**

### Svalbard Global Seed Vault in the Arctic threatened by Climate Change

It was designed as an impregnable deep-freeze to protect the world's most precious seeds from any global disaster and ensure humanity's food supply forever. But the Global Seed Vault, buried in a mountain deep inside the Arctic Circle, has been breached after global warming produced extraordinary temperatures over the winter, sending meltwater gushing into the entrance tunnel.

The vault is on the Norwegian island of Spitsbergen and contains almost a million packets of seeds, each a variety of an important food crop. When it was opened in 2008, the deep permafrost through which the vault was sunk was expected to provide failsafe protection against "the challenge of natural or man-made disasters". But soaring temperatures in the

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Hot Dry and Deadly A report by the Nature Conservation Council

Wednesday 19 July 2017  
6pm at Rahamim  
34 Busby St, Bathurst  
RSVP to  
[jmumford@nature.org.au](mailto:jmumford@nature.org.au)

### Next BCCAN steering committee Meeting

Tuesday 18 July 2017  
Bathurst Information and Neighbourhood Centre, (BINC) Russell Street at 4:30 for 5pm start

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The Global Seed Vault in the Arctic Circle

Arctic at the end of the world's hottest ever recorded year led to melting and heavy rain, when light snow should have been falling. "It was not in our plans to think that the permafrost would not be there and that it would experience extreme weather like that," said Hege Njaa Aschim, from the Norwegian government, which owns the vault. "A lot of water went into the start the tunnel and then it froze to ice, so it was like a glacier when you went in," she told the Guardian. Fortunately, the meltwater did not reach the

vault itself, the ice has been hacked out, and the precious seeds remain safe for now at the required storage temperature of -18C.

But the breach has questioned the ability of the vault to survive as a lifeline for humanity if catastrophe strikes. Major works have been undertaken to waterproof the 100m-long tunnel into the mountain.

Aschim said there was no option but to find solutions to ensure the enduring safety of the vault: "We have to find solutions. It is a big responsibility and we take it very seriously".

**Source: The Guardian**

## The backlash following Trump's withdrawal from the Paris Accord

As we've all learnt President Trump embracing an isolationist policy, has announced that the United States will withdraw from the Paris climate accord, citing threats to the US economy and to American sovereignty.

Mr. Trump has said the landmark 2015 pact imposed wildly unfair environmental standards on American businesses and workers. He vowed to stand with the people of the United States against what he called a "draconian" international deal.

But within minutes of the president's remarks, the leaders of France, Germany and Italy issued a joint statement saying that the Paris climate accord was "irreversible" and could not be renegotiated.

Former US president Barack Obama has come out urging US cities and States to take the lead where Trump would not.

Also several US states have been upfront in stating that they would honour the goals of the Paris agreement with the state of Hawaii being the first to legally support the Paris climate agreement by codifying its pledge.

Hawaii Governor David Ige signed two landmark laws that would require the island state to honour the 'commitments and goals' to reduce greenhouse gas emissions laid out in the accord. The two Hawaii bills commit Hawaii to cut emissions by publishing greenhouse gas contribution levels every five years to promote "environmental integrity". The state hopes to protect forests, wetlands, and nature reserves while providing incentives for companies to become carbon-neutral. A certification scheme for farmers will be implemented to measure and promote carbon-neutrality as well.

Furthermore Trump's Paris Climate pull-out puts him on a collision course with Market Forces. His move was largely met with derision by big business, even fossil fuel giants Exxon Mobil and Conoco Phillips, the reason being that the business world has moved on with most businesses now accepting the argument about climate change and the inevitability of a carbon price. America has always been in the business of creating opportunities through innovation and by reinventing itself not by looking backwards. Moreover, American business is at the forefront of renewable energy development with about three million people employed in the renewable energy sector, its design, installation and manufacture.

Finally a legal headache awaits Donald Trump over his Paris climate decision, with legal experts saying that his vow to immediately 'cease all implementation' of the agreement may prove more troublesome than he imagines, leaving America open to all sorts of legal problems. The legal nature of the agreement, means that the US could still be part of the accord right up to the next presidential election in 2020.

**Source: NY Times, the Independent (UK), Financial Times**

## BCCAN supports the Stop Adani Movement

BCCAN has joined the nation-wide movement to stop the giant new Adani coal mine. A film screening of “Guarding the Galilee” and a discussion about the Adani situation took place at Rahamim on Tuesday May 9, these were followed by protest action in front of the Commonwealth Bank where there was a great turnout for the Bathurst #StopAdani action on June 8, 2017.



BCCAN members at the film screening at Rahamim and protest action at the Commonwealth Bank

## Aside from the environmental issues, Adani's proposed coal mine makes no financial sense.

Indian mining firm Adani has announced that its board had approved plans to proceed with the controversial Carmichael coal mine in Queensland's Galilee Basin last month.

But it is still far from clear whether Adani has actually obtained the finance to proceed with the A\$16.5 billion project.

That hasn't stopped the Queensland state government hailing the announcement as an economic win for Queensland, on the basis of job creation and for the signals it provides to potential investors in the region. But this amounts to little more than short-sighted politics. The government appears to be steadfastly ignoring the realities of the current energy landscape.

Let's recap: coal mining is not economically viable within the constraints of a global carbon budget, while renewable energy production is rapidly expanding as the world moves to more sustainable investments.

Just to highlight this point, in its homeland, Adani is India's major solar power producer, with government contracts to produce the world's largest solar power plant in the southern state of Tamil Nadu.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi has prioritised solar to meet the renewables target and the Indian government is very clear about its solar plan, and large installations are key to this plan according to Aruna Kumarankandath of the Centre for Science and Environment in Delhi.

As a signatory to the Paris Agreement on climate change, India is committed to ensuring that at least 40 per cent of its electricity will be generated from non-fossil-fuel sources by 2030.

While coal still provides the lion's share of India's energy, officials forecast the country will meet its Paris Agreement renewable energy commitments three years early - and exceed them by nearly half.

A 10-year blueprint released last month predicts that 57 per cent of total electricity capacity will come from non-fossil sources by 2027.

This is a commendable commitment on behalf of the Indian Government who sees renewables as the way to the future, meanwhile Australia is still stuck with coal.

It is little wonder that the risk of the controversial Adani Carmichael coal mine becoming a stranded asset has increased in the last 12 months, according to a new report.

The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA), says the Carmichael project is likely to be “cash flow negative” for the majority its operating life, even with concessional loans.

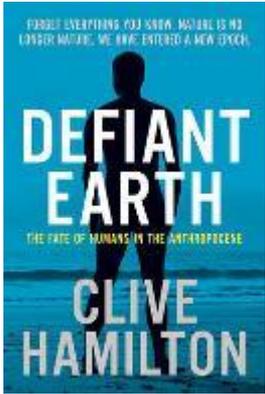
The IEEFA's new report, Adani's Remote Prospects, warns Adani Enterprises is not in a Strong financial position.

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It has thrown into doubt the wisdom of lending the project \$1bn worth of taxpayers' dollar through the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF) needed for the construction of the mine's railway. Even former Liberal party leader, John Hewson, has warned the Carmichael coal mine was already a 'stranded asset' and the last thing the Turnbull government should be doing is lending Adani \$1bn.

Source: [Huffington post](#), [India Times](#), [The Guardian](#)

## Clive Hamilton's "Defiant Earth: the fate of humans in the Anthropocene, reviewed by Tracy Sorensen



In *Defiant Earth*, Clive Hamilton invokes Mother Nature as the opposite of passive and fragile.

If Earth is our mother, it's clear we've been very naughty children, taking advantage of her goodwill for far too long. If she's holding out her arms to us, Hamilton says, 'it is not to embrace but to crush us'.

This book makes the case for a new philosophical stance as we face the possibility that the climatically benign Holocene epoch could be coming to an end being replaced by the Anthropocene (the 'age of humans'). It is not a badge of honour The changes wrought to Earth's processes by humans have led to a rupture on two levels. First it's a rupture in the material world 'out there' and

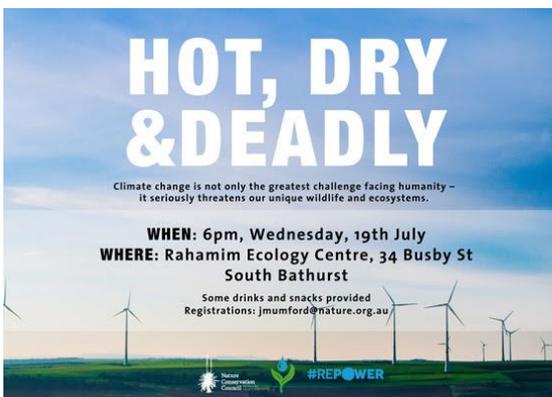
secondly, it's a rupture in our collective sense of self.

Much of Hamilton's book is an exploration of what this means. To tease it out, he argues against both the "eco-modernist" position which holds that the market can be trusted to come up with solutions to global warming and against the "deep green" philosophies that seek to overturn a sense of human beings as the most important creatures (for good or ill) on the planet.

Clive Hamilton was in Bathurst on 6 June for the launch of his book. It is available from Books Plus.

(Tracy's complete review is available via [BCCAN's facebook page](#))

## Hot Dry and Deadly – a new report from the Nature Conservation Council of NSW



The Nature Conservation Council (NCC) is one of the peak environment groups in New South Wales and BCCAN is a member of this group.

NCC members Jacqui Mumford and Daisy Barham will be at Rahamim in Bathurst at 6pm on Wednesday July 19 to launch a new report, *Hot Dry and Deadly*. The report is about how climate change will affect the environment in this state including the Central West.

It makes the case for "repowering" the state using renewable energy to lower greenhouse gas emissions.

There will also be an update on BCCAN's Electric Car Race for Mt Panorama project, which is aimed at taking the renewable energy message to a wider local audience.

Drinks and snacks available will be available. RSVP to [jnumford@nature.org.au](mailto:jnumford@nature.org.au).

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