



ENVIRONMENT
INSTITUTE OF
AUSTRALIA AND
NEW ZEALAND

Newsletter Autumn 2009

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EDITORIAL

Welcome members to our Autumn 2009 edition of the ELIANZ Victorian Division newsletter!

This edition we have a special article for you on the very topical Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, brought to you by two of our committee members.

We have a busy couple of months coming up with events for our members and their guests, including a CEnvP briefing session in May and our 'Meet the Policy Drivers' forum in June.

Also in the pipeline is our Climate Change Boot Camp, and of course our Members Networking Drinks. Stay tuned for dates on these!

Don't forget if you have a case study or article which would be of interest to our members, or if there is a topic you'd like to see covered here, please e-mail us at vic-events@cianz.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CEnvP Briefing Session

28th May 2009 12pm - 2pm at Parsons Brinckerhoff, Melbourne

The CEnvP program is Australasia's first accreditation scheme for environmental practitioners.

Now its 5th year, the program boasts almost 250 qualified professionals in its ranks throughout Australia and New Zealand, and is growing with each intake, held twice a year.

On May 28th we are holding a briefing session on the program presented by our CEnvP Chairman, Nigel Murphy.

Also present will be a number of current CEnvP's who can answer questions on the application process and the benefits of becoming a CEnvP from a career viewpoint.

The CEnvP program ensures environmental professionals are given due recognition in line with their professional counterparts from engineering, accounting, planning and architecture, whilst providing a higher level of assurance to the community, employers, clients and professional associates.

The event will be held at lunchtime at the offices of Parsons Brinckerhoff, Level 7, 457 St Kilda Road Melbourne - email Melissa Grant vic-events@cianz.org if you would like a registration form. Cost is just \$12 to cover lunch.

Mention this ad for a 10% discount on your application fees for the next intake!

Meet the Policy Drivers

11th June 2009 2pm - 7pm at Melbourne Marriott Hotel

We are thrilled to confirm that we have secured the following speakers for our upcoming 'Meet the Policy Drivers' Event on June 11th:

Peter Harris - Secretary - Department of Sustainability and Environment

Terry A'Hearn - Director of Sustainable Development - Environmental Protection Authority

Jeff Gilmore - Exec. Director Planning, Policy & Reform - Dept Planning & Community Development

Rebecca Falkingham - Director - Office of Climate Change

Anita Roper - Chief Executive - Sustainability Victoria



Ben Furnage - General Manager Strategic Planning - Melbourne Water

This is a rare opportunity to hear directly from the key Victorian Government environmental policy drivers on a range of topics including water, climate change, energy, planning and regulation, with a panel discussion where delegates can ask questions directly of the speakers.

Members price is \$95 per person, which includes the forum, afternoon tea and a cocktail and canapés networking session at the conclusion of the forum, at the Melbourne Marriott Hotel. Students are also welcomed with a special price of \$55pp. Places are filling fast so please email Melissa Grant at vic-events@cianz.org for your registration form.

Further Upcoming Events

Stay tuned for more details on our upcoming Members Networking and Drinks Evening, and the Climate Change Boot Camp.

PAST EVENTS

Carbon trading in the Australian Context & the Global Financial Crisis

On March 31st The Victorian Division in conjunction with the ACEA presented a successful evening seminar on carbon trading and what this means for Australia in the current economic climate. The key speakers at this seminar were Dr Ian McPhail (inaugural commissioner for environmental sustainability in Victoria) and Dr Ben Wheaton (Executive Director Wheatonbeer).

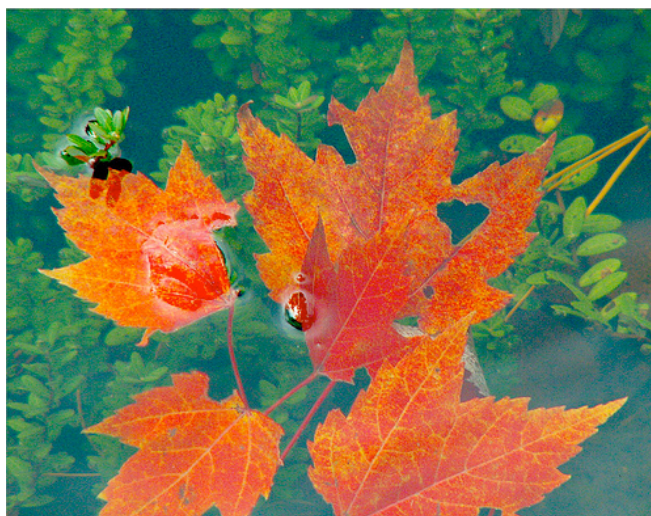
EIANZ joins the "Car Free CBD" debate at the Sustainable Living Festival

On February 21st, as part of the Sustainable Living Festival at Federation Square, the EIANZ pitted their wits against the Young Engineers of Australia, in a friendly debate on the topic "A car free CBD". In an interesting twist, the EIANZ argued the negative (cars in the CBD), whilst the YEA argued the affirmative (car free CBD). Moderated by the hilarious and witty columnist and author, Catherine Deveny, this debate was highly entertaining. The EIANZ debating team line up included our very own Victorian President of the EIANZ, Elizabeth Hurst, Corey Watts from the Australian Conservation Foundation, as well as leading environmental lawyer and scientist, Arnold Dix.

The YEA debating team line up included former YEA-V State Chair Mark Williams, Phillip Vrettakis Co-Chair of YEA-V and Shell Chemical Engineer Darren Pace.

Judges Jon Ward (Manager Environmental Policy - Toyota) and Alison Dodd (Environmental Lawyer - DLA Phillips Fox) summarised the debate, but felt that the only way to decide the winner of such a close contest was by audience applause.

YEA-V was awarded the debate, but the real winners were the Sustainable Living Foundation as the host of the Sustainable Living Festival, and those there to witness Catherine Deveny's hilarious role as moderator.



ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHANGES TO THE CPRS

by Alison Dodd and Sri Patnaikuni

On 4 May 2009, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd announced a package of reforms to the Australian Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) including a one year delay on its commencement until 1 July 2011. Other reforms include:

- Setting a fixed price for Australian Emissions Units or carbon permits of \$10 per tonne for the first year of the Scheme (2011-12), with full market trading not commencing until 1 July 2012.
- Providing a "Global Recession Buffer" consisting of additional assistance measures to emissions intensive trade exposed industries (EITEs).
- Provision of funding to eligible businesses to undertake energy efficiency measures from 1 July 2009.
- An increased greenhouse gas reduction target for Australia of a 25% reduction below 2000 levels by 2020 (up from 15%). This target is contingent upon an international agreement being reached to stabilise levels of CO₂-e in the atmosphere at 450 ppm or less by 2050. The target of a 5% reduction in



Australia's greenhouse gas emissions, regardless of the outcome of international negotiations, remains.

- The establishment of the Australian Carbon Trust to invest directly in reducing Australia's emissions and to drive energy efficiency in buildings.

Prime Minister Rudd said the changes were made because of three factors - the impact of the global financial crisis on the Australian economy, the need provide an impetus in the lead up to the Copenhagen climate meeting and to provide "business certainty and investment certainty for the future". Commentators have suggested that the reforms were also introduced to alleviate concerns raised by industry groups and businesses about the 2010 starting date in the context of the economic situation. The changes are also suggested to be due to a lack of political support for the CPRS and to place pressure on the Federal Opposition to pass the CPRS legislation through the Senate.

The reforms have, as expected, drawn a mixed reaction from various stakeholder groups.

- Support for additional assistance for EITE industries in adapting to higher energy and carbon emission costs at the commencement of the CPRS (Victorian Farmers Federation, BCA, BlueScope Steel).
- Introducing the CPRS legislation in advance of the commencement of the CPRS will provide greater certainty to business and assist organisations in making investment decisions (AI Group, Climate Group, Shell Australia).

There has also been some support for the reforms from the environmental sector, with Chief Executive of the Climate Institute John Connor stating that although the one year delay was not ideal, the package 'strikes middle ground' by providing credible emission reduction targets, greater transparency for transitional assistance and sending signals to investors about the risks of investing in high-polluting industries. Other groups such as Environment Victoria also indicated their support for measures such as the increased conditional emissions reduction target and the creation of the Climate Change Action Fund.



The case for

Organisations that have come out strongly in favour of the reforms have included the Business Council of Australia, AI Group, La Trobe Valley power generators, and the Australian Workers Union. Key issues raised by these groups have included:

- The introduction of a poorly considered scheme could put certain industries and jobs at risk (Bluescope Steel).
- The 2010 start date is too aggressive and unrealistic due to the global financial crisis and its impact on business confidence, cashflows and the availability of credit (AI Group).
- The delay will provide an opportunity to enable details of the CPRS to be better addressed, including the treatment of waste (Australian Local Government Association) and appropriate regulatory and business infrastructure (CPA Australia).

The case against

There has been an equally strong reaction from many parties against the reforms, although the reasons for their opposition differ.

The Federal Opposition and others, including Independent Senator Nick Xenophon, have stated that they would still not support the CPRS even with the changes because it goes too far. This was echoed by Ian Nethercote, CEO of Loy Yang Power, who declared that compensation for power generators were "considerably short of where they need to be" and greater transition time is required.

However, the Greens have declared that the changes make the CPRS even worse and that the reduction targets are still too low and do not go far enough. This was echoed by a number of groups, including Greenpeace and Environment Victoria.



Environment Victoria declared, among other things, that the price cap on permits in the first year of the CPRS and the increased assistance as part of the ‘Global Recession Buffer’ initiative would mean that EITEs would get 95% of their permits for free and effectively be required to pay only 50c per tonne for their greenhouse gas emissions.

Other groups opposed the reforms primarily due to impacts of the delayed start to the CPRS. The Investor Group on Climate Change (IGCC) stated that the potential costs of delaying the CPRS included:

- increased and ongoing investor uncertainty, resulting in a reduction in investment and economic activity,
- an inability to harness the opportunities from transitioning to a low emissions economy,
- higher costs associated with the physical impacts of climate change, and
- potentially compromising Australia’s standing in the international community which is committed to addressing climate change.

Other groups, including the Energy Supply Association of Australia and Environment Business Australia, stated that they supported the implementation of a well-designed emissions trading scheme but these reforms fail to address other ‘critical’ flaws of the CPRS, and the delay to its commencement would not address these issues.

EIANZ position

Whilst the one year delay to the commencement of the CPRS is not optimal, the increased emissions reduction target of 25% of 2000 levels by 2020 is welcomed by EIANZ. This more ambitious target provides greater international credibility and an improved negotiating position for Australia to influence an effective global agreement. However, EIANZ considers the unconditional 5% target to be too low to achieve the environmental outcomes that provide the basis for the CPRS and therefore ineffectual for entering future international negotiations.

The reduced fixed carbon price in the first year of emissions trading and the establishment of a “Global Recession Buffer” to provide further assistance to emissions intensive trade exposed industries is met with caution. Other less polluting businesses and individuals may be disadvantaged and left to subsidise the assistance provided to the EITE industries. This provides less support for innovation and development of clean-tech industries and an associated “green collar” workforce.

EIANZ supports government provision of funding to eligible businesses to undertake energy efficiency measures and investing in emissions reduction activities through the Australian Carbon

Trust, including building energy efficiency. EIANZ supports the earlier introduction of legislation to provide greater certainty to business in preparing for its response to emissions trading, long-term business planning and decisions in investment.

Conclusion

The decision by government to delay the start date of the CPRS, increase the emissions reduction target and introduce an associated package of reform has been met with mixed responses. Whilst some will view the Rudd government’s changes to the CPRS as pragmatism in the face of a worsening economic crisis others will be left wondering whether the government has caved in to the pressures of big polluters.

EIANZ PROFILE

Meet our Committee Member – Michael O’Neill



1. You work for ARUP – how long have you been with them and what is your current role?

I’ve been with Arup for about 18 months now and work as an Environmental Specialist in the Water team. In this role I work on a variety of projects from cleaner production advice for Industrial clients to policy advice for the ACCC regarding the Murray Darling Basin.

2. Where do you see the new challenges of sustainability in the environment profession?

Sustainability is at risk of being marginalised from over use in corporate and government rhetoric. We, as a profession, need to define exactly what sustainability is and stick to it! While there are many issues affecting the planet, they all stem from one thing, too many people consuming without much thought of the impact this is having. We need to engage in an open and honest discussion about the carrying capacity of this planet with regard to human population, once we’ve addressed this we can move forward, but this is the root cause of our problems today and it needs to be addressed in a pragmatic, non-emotive way.

3. How do you personally incorporate sustainability into your everyday life?

Every morning I catch my overcrowded brown coal powered train to work! I have a bucket in the shower to capture grey water for watering my herbs and when undertaking site visits for work I often car pool with my clients in one of Arup’s hybrid vehicles. I recycle, don’t own a clothes dryer and try to stay educated and informed regarding sustainability realising that it’s not always



black and white! That said, there's a lot more I could do personally - long, hot showers are my vice, and I love meat... I'm trying to incorporate one vegetarian meal a week into my diet, but haven't succeeded yet.

4. How do you wind down at the end of a hard week?

Lots of beer.

5. What do you enjoy most in your role as Committee member?

Organising events at which though provoking ideas are exchanged and trying to ensure our members get value from their membership. So if you have any suggestions about how we can improve our service offering let me know!



JUNE 2009 INTAKE FOR THE CERTIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTITIONER PROGRAM (CENVP)

CENVP Mid Year Intake deadline June 30th 2009

The Certified Environmental Practitioner (CENVP) Program is inviting suitably qualified practitioners to participate in this important initiative for the environmental profession. Don't miss this opportunity to apply for CENVP status and be recognised! There are already over 240 practitioners certified across Australia and New Zealand and the number is steadily growing, with the December 08 intake applications due to add another 30+ Practitioners to the scheme.

Completed applications including application fee and referee reports should be submitted to the CENVP Registrar prior to the closing date. As the process is rigorous and the application thorough, be sure to get started now.

EIANZ members and fellows receive significant discounts on application and annual certification fees.

Please review all application materials and requirements prior to submitting an application. If you have any questions regarding

the requirements or your eligibility, the Registrar will be happy to speak with you to determine whether you should apply during this intake.

Please post signed hard copies of applications to:

CENVP Registrar
c/- EIANZ
GPO Box 211
Melbourne VIC 3000
Australia

Digitally scanned copies can be emailed to:

applications@cenvp.org. For more information, please direct enquiries to: registrar@cenvp.org.

INAUGURAL INTERNATIONAL HEALTHY PARKS HEALTHY PEOPLE CONGRESS 2010

With the increasing recognition of the value of nature to human health and wellbeing worldwide, Parks Victoria will host the first International Healthy Parks Healthy People Congress in 2010. This will be a unique opportunity to bring together delegates from all relevant sectors (i.e. planning, community development, physical and mental health, tourism, climate change, education, recreation, ecology and park management) to explore how we can take better advantage of the way nature significantly contributes to our wellbeing and broader societal benefits.

The Congress will raise awareness of recent research, highlight case studies and facilitate discussion regarding the advantages of, and opportunities for, future collaboration across sectors at local through to global levels. It will be a memorable event in all senses with inspirational speakers, innovative techniques to involve delegates, creative workshop and discussion sessions, enjoyable



INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS 2010

**Healthy Parks
Healthy People**



networking opportunities and social activities. With the focus on nature some sessions will be held in outdoor settings.

By reinforcing the connections between the health of our community and the health of our parks, we can nurture a truly sustainable society, one which recognises its dependence upon and place within the natural environment.

The Congress will be staged at the new Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (Australia), 11-16 April 2010 and the call for proposals is NOW OPEN and will remain open until June 22nd 2009 – see the website for details.

The event already has the endorsement of the International Conservation Union (IUCN), the UN World Tourism Organisation, Natural England, the Australian Government, and beyondblue (Australia's national depression initiative).

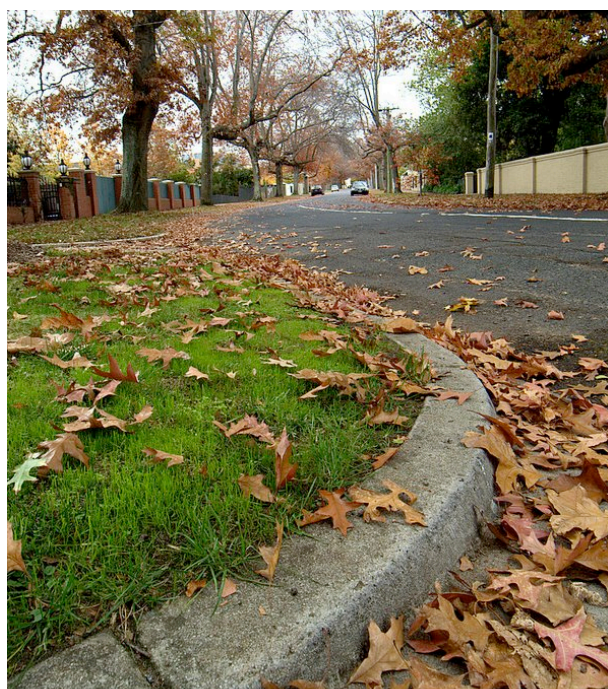
All in all this is an exciting opportunity not to be missed!

For more information go to: <http://www.healthyparkshealthypeoplecongress.org> or email John Senior, Manager Strategic Partnerships, Parks Victoria - jsenior@parks.vic.gov.au

FACEBOOK

Don't forget to check out the EIANZ Facebook page! You can become a fan of EIANZ, read about upcoming events, as well as the CEnvP program, initiate discussions with other members online, read wall posts and view photos from our latest events

Click here for the link to the [Facebook](#) page.



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