

Spotlight on Sustainable Gloucester



Renewable manufacturing could bring 1,000's of jobs to NSW

NSW could enjoy a net increase of 7,500 to 10,700 jobs if we make the switch to 100% renewable energy. The job figures come from a Centre for office of Full Employment (CoFEE) report, first released in 2008 and revisited at a May 2014 forum on a just transition from fossil fuels. According to the report, many more renewable energy jobs could be created in manufacturing, design, installation, maintenance and export.

It seems the transition to renewables is closer to becoming a reality. According to a Bloomberg New Energy Finance Report, wind generated power is now competitive compared with coal or gas.

'Electricity can be supplied from a new wind farm in Australia at a cost of A\$80 (\$84) per megawatt hour, compared with A\$143 a megawatt hour from a new coal-fired power plant or A\$116 from a new station powered by natural gas ... AGL suspended the development of the first stage of its 1,000-megawatt Dalton gas-fired power station in New South Wales after reviewing the economic viability for several months.'

www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-02-06/australia-wind-energy-cheaper-than-coal-natural-gas-bnef-says.html

Check out the CoFEE report on post-fossil employment here:

www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/energy-consumers/solar/sustain-renew-fit-subs/sustain_renew_fit_subs_greenpeace_australia_pacific_attach_a.pdf

Gloucester Rivercare is helping to improve the local environment by undertaking weed removal and bush regeneration on the banks of the Gloucester River. The group has already achieved a lot and works once a month. More volunteers are needed and are very welcome. If you might like to help please call John on 0438 346 544.



Reduce, reuse and freecycle!

Freecycle is a global drive to keep stuff out of landfill. Each local group is autonomous and members communicate via email, through a moderator, to offer stuff they don't want and look for things they do want. Items range from soft toys to building materials – anything really. There is no cost, no swapping and no strings attached. Just goodwill, courtesy and a feel-good common purpose. Go to www.freecycle.org and search for Gloucester NSW. Happy Freecycling!

Good News for Clean, Green Dairy Producers

'A new milk export industry is aimed squarely at the top echelons of Chinese society; where parents and grandparents have enough money and education to be concerned about the safety, purity and healthiness of the milk they and their children are drinking and can afford the steep \$7 to \$9 a litre price tag the fresh milk will cost.' (The Australian, May 6, 2014). Although cautious about the net profit farmers can expect, the Director of Milk export firm LianHe, Chris Hsu, makes a point of **advertising Australia's clean, green pastures to consumers anxious about pollution levels in China.** *ABC Bush Telegraph online transcript 17.3.2014*

Beef farmers may have to cover the cost of CSG contamination

Beef farmers who sign National Vendor Declarations (NVDs) may be liable for any contamination caused by CSG operations on their own properties, or on neighbouring properties, according to a Cattle Council of Australia (CCA) communiqué:

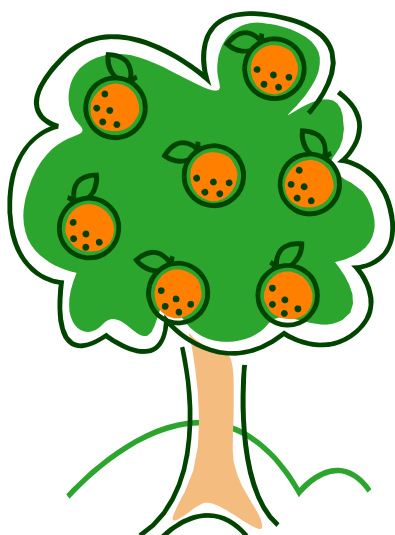
‘CSG operations create a new risk of environmental harm. The major concern, which is still being researched, is the potential for groundwater pollution. However it is clear that apart from groundwater pollution, contamination of soil and pasture can occur as it can with any mining operations. For this reason, it is important that the landowner press for a contract which allocates responsibility for managing the risk and any adverse outcome onto the CSG operator. Contamination of soil, pasture or groundwater could have also result [sic] in **contamination of neighbouring properties as well as livestock** which, if then processed and consumed, could cause illness. While a landowner may have some recourse against a CSG operator, the **landowner may still have primary liability**. Environmental regulatory authorities may also exercise statutory powers to impose clean-up obligations on the landowner if contamination occurs.’ - [www.beefcentral.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/CSG%20Communique%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.beefcentral.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/CSG%20Communique%20(1).pdf)

Property Rights Australia (PRA) said: Landowners who have had specialist legal advice and where precise provision has been allowed for in a Conduct and Compensation Agreement may or may not have some protection in an event of coal seam gas contamination but not so neighbouring properties. PRA believes that landowners need to be guaranteed complete indemnity for all adverse impacts, both immediate and consequential, upon their business, land, water and assets. Landowners need the assurance that redress is not just available for the life of the resource project. – Joanne Rey, Property Rights Australia.



Phil Laird, beef producer and chair of Lock the Gate said: “The beef and dairy industry in Queensland and northern New South Wales are most at risk but this is potentially devastating for Australia’s entire cattle industry including the export trade...We’re talking billions of dollars and thousands of livelihoods at stake here and the Federal Government and the miners must give us straight answers.”

View the article at: www.beefcentral.com/news/article/4447#sthash.r6KEJYyQ.dpuf



Griffith and District Citrus Growers raise CSG concerns:

‘Of particular concern to the citrus industry would be the fugitive hydrocarbon emissions ... it is known that soil exposed to even low concentrations of natural gas over time has altered ability to sustain vegetation.

‘Studies have shown that the soils exposure to natural gas resulted in tree death and excessive ethene (=ethylene) produced by microbes in the soil. The Riverina has marketed itself abroad as a “clean and green”, particularly to newly found Chinese and other Asian nations as they do not take uncontaminated food for granted like we do in Australia ... We have been able to say to visiting delegations that visit our part of Australia that we are mining free and free from all other polluting industries.’

Griffith and District Citrus Growers Inc: agricultural competitiveness white paper submission IP586, 17 April 2014

Fonterra vows to stop sourcing milk from land affected by oil and fracking waste

By Mark Astley, 19 Jun 2013
Fonterra has vowed to no longer accept milk from any new dairy suppliers based in areas of New Zealand where oil industry and fracking waste has been spread and covered.

www.dairyreporter.com/Manufacturers/Fonterra-vows-to-stop-sourcing-milk-from-land-affected-by-oil-and-fracking-waste

Groundswell Gloucester is a group of locals who want the right for our community to have a say in the decisions that determine the economic, social and environmental future of the Gloucester Valley.

www.groundswellgloucester.com

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