



Update 23 – October 2021

Welcome to our newsletter combining news and information on renewable energy and climate change adaptation in north east Victoria and beyond.

The Victorian Government is committed to being climate ready and resilient by 2050 and is helping regional communities and organisations across Victoria to work together to adapt to the impacts of climate change.



The Victorian Climate Change Strategy and supporting resources are available online [here](#).

Climate Ready Hume update

The Climate Ready Hume Team is excited to announce that the second round of Community Mini Grants program is now open for 2021/22. If you're part of a community group in north east Victoria that is passionate about climate change adaptation and want to make a difference on your local community apply now. Last year's successful grant recipients implemented a range of innovative projects that increased climate change awareness, preparedness, and adaptation capacity within local communities.

Scroll down to our grants section to read more – grants are open until **17 December 2021**, we look forward to reading your applications.

Have your say

Renewable energy inquiry

The Legislative Council's Environment and Planning Committee is seeking submissions to its inquiry on renewable energy in Victoria. "We want to take a snapshot of what steps Victoria needs to take to prepare for a clean energy future," said Committee Chair Sonja Terpstra.

"We're seeking to explore what resources will be needed to transition to 100 per cent renewable energy, as well as the economic benefits and job creation opportunities," she said.

The inquiry is seeking input from the community particularly on:

- measures to enable Victoria to transition to renewable energy
- jobs and economic benefits and implications of the transition
- investment required to achieve 100 per cent renewable energy generation
- further opportunities for Victoria to reduce emissions
- government action that would be needed to support workers in impacted industries
- the economic risks of not urgently reducing emissions by transitioning to renewable energy.

Submissions are due by **26 November 2021**. The Committee prefers short submissions (up to 20 pages). Please visit [here](#) for more information.

Proposed changes to conservation planning decisions



The Australian Government's Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment is seeking feedback on proposed changes to the decision for each threatened

species or ecological community ('entities'). You can provide your comments by following the instructions and prompts [here](#). Consultation closes on **02 November 2021**. This [article from The Conversation](#) outlines the proposed changes.

Land management strategy

| Parks Victoria

Land Management Strategy

Be part of shaping the health and direction of our parks estate for the benefit of future Victorians.



Parks Victoria has developed a draft Land Management Strategy that sets out a clear vision and long-term strategies and priorities for the protection, management and use of Parks Victoria managed land for the next decade. This is the first time Parks Victoria has embarked on preparing a state-wide land management strategy. Once finalised, the Land Management Strategy will provide us with an overarching and consistent state-wide guide for the management of our parks across the state. As visitors and supporters of Victoria's parks and reserves, your understanding and experience of the parks estate is critical to the finalisation of the Land Management Strategy. You can participate by following this [link](#) and making a submission before **01 November 2021**.

National Construction Code (NCC) 2022 public comment draft (stage 2)

Increasing energy efficiency helps reduce emissions which is an important part of our climate change adaptation strategy of the Victorian Government including DELWP's work on the [energy sector emissions reduction pledge](#). For some local examples of sustainable homes please visit the Facebook page of [Wangaratta Landcare and Sustainability](#). The National Construction Code (NCC) is updated every 3 years, based on industry research, public feedback and policy directions from governments to the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) between publishing cycles. The ABCB is now seeking comment on proposed amendments to energy efficiency and condensation technical provisions, via this second and final stage of public consultation. To [read more about the proposed changes](#) and to make a comment please visit [here](#). Responses are being invited until **11:59 PM 17 October 2021**.

News

Eastern Barred Bandicoot back from the brink of extinction

One of the state's most endangered native animals has been brought back from the brink of extinction thanks to a [conservation program backed by the Victorian Government](#). The re-establishment of the Eastern Barred Bandicoot on Phillip Island is the first time in Victorian history a species declared extinct in the wild [has had its decline successfully reversed](#).

New yabby discovery 15 years in the making



A new species of freshwater crayfish, known as the Swamp Yabby, has been formally named and described after 15 years of rigorous fieldwork. It's the first time in 80 years that a new yabby species in the Murray-Darling Basin system has been formally described, making the Swamp Yabby only the third species known to naturally occur in the Basin. It's found in deep clay soil burrows in northern Victoria's Goulburn, Broken and Ovens River catchments, and as far north as Deniliquin in New South Wales. To read more about the discovery please click [here](#).

Renewable Energy first for Zoos Victoria

Victoria's iconic zoos are the first in mainland Australia to be powered by 100 per cent renewable energy. Healesville Sanctuary is powered by renewable energy produced by the Crowlands Wind Farm, near Ararat and Melbourne Zoo and Werribee Open Range Zoo use 100 per cent [GreenPower](#). This builds on the 675 kilowatts of on-site solar already installed at the three zoos. For more information, please click [here](#).



Renewable Energy Zones (REZ's) across Australia

In 2020, the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) released its 20-year vision for the National Electricity Market (NEM). Including the state-led networking of Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) – regional hotspots with renewable potential. To read the article from Energy Magazine click [here](#). To understand how regional communities can benefit from the REZs and the renewable energy boom, download the [Re-Alliance Community Benefits Handbook](#) and the Victorian Government [Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing Guide](#).



Grants

Climate Ready Hume Community Mini Grants now open

The Climate Ready Hume Team is excited to announce that the Climate Ready Hume Community Mini Grants program is now open for 2021/22.

The grants program aims to support local communities to adapt to a changing climate by:

1. Empowering community groups in the Hume region to lead climate change adaptation activities
2. Building skills and capacity among local communities to promote positive climate adaptation actions
3. Increasing community awareness and understanding of climate change and the possible future impacts
4. Encouraging partnerships between organisations and groups in adapting to climate change.

This year, Climate Ready Hume has \$70,000 available for grants up to \$10,000. Projects should seek to do one or a combination of the following:

- Encourage and enable local communities to participate in climate change adaptation events or activities.
- Build skills and capacity among local communities to lead positive climate adaptation actions.
- Support community conversations exploring what the future of Hume region might look like in a changing climate and how our communities can adapt locally.
- Create or collate climate information that is trusted, accessible and relevant for a range of communities, including vulnerable and cultural communities.

Email us at climateready.hume@delwp.vic.gov.au for the grant guidelines, FAQs sheet and an application form. Applications are now open and close **at 5pm 17 December 2021**.

Recycling Victoria Innovation Fund- information session

The Circular Economy Business Innovation Centre (CEBIC) is delivering the second round of the Recycling Victoria Innovation Fund. There is \$750,000 available in funding to support collaborative projects that design out waste to improve environmental and economic outcomes for Victoria. An information webinar will be held **at 3pm 21 October 2021**, to register please click [here](#).

Grant applications can be made [here](#) and close **16 November 2021**.

Events

Online resources to support local action on climate change

Victorian governments, businesses and communities are working together on climate change. The best outcomes for our climate and the greatest opportunities for the people of Victoria come from working together on climate action. Many local councils, businesses, households, and communities across Victoria are already playing an important role in our collective response to climate change. To read more adaptation and access resources please click [here](#).

Kickstarting Sustainability in your school online workshop

[ResourceSmart Schools](#) is a free award-winning Victorian Government program that assists schools to embed sustainability in everything they do. The program is available to all Victorian schools P – 12. Find out how to (re) engage with ResourceSmart Schools by attending a 30-minute online workshop **at 4pm 10 November 2021**. To register for the workshop please visit [here](#).



National Water Week 2021



[National Water Week 2021](#) is being recognised this October with the theme *Caring for water and Country*, a celebration of the vital and cultural role that water plays in our lives. Recognising the importance water plays in our lives, *Caring for water and Country* aims to deepen the

understanding of Australian First Nations people's knowledge in protecting and sustaining water and lands for over 65,000 years.

Dennis Golding produced the artwork "Our Waters". The artwork is inspired from Dennis' strong connection to Country, from the freshwater and saltwater regions of northern and north-west NSW.

The Great Southern (Backyard) Bioblitz

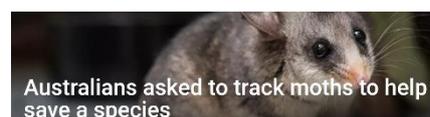


Help discover what wild things inhabit the Southern Hemisphere in 2021 for the second Great Southern Bioblitz! The purpose of this event is to highlight and capture biodiversity across the Southern Hemisphere, as well as to engage in citizen science and learning about the biodiversity within Victoria.

Join people from more than 160 regions, cities, and towns across the Southern Hemisphere to discover and record as many plant, animal, and fungus species as possible over a 4-day observation period. The link is [here](#).

Moth Tracker

Launched by Zoos Victoria, [Moth Tracker](#), is the latest device being employed to help brighten the future of the adorable, but critically endangered, Mountain Pygmy-Possum. The easy-to-use platform allows everyday Australians to photograph and log any potential sightings of migrating Bogong Moths, which are the possums' main food source this spring.



Podcasts

Green sport and footy banners

The Forest Green Rovers in the UK are the world's first carbon neutral football club. In Australia, a large group of athletes led by former rugby star David Pocock is pushing for more action on climate

change - from the Federal government, and from sporting organisations. To listen to this podcast please visit the ABC Sporty podcast with Amanda Smith [here](#).

Have climate change predictions matched reality?

In this episode of The Conversation Weekly, three climate change experts speak about how predictions of a changing world are holding up against the reality we're living through. To listen to this episode and explore other episodes please visit [here](#).

Do you have any item to share for the next month's newsletter?

[Please click here](#) to let Climate Ready Hume know before **21 October** for the November newsletter.

Do you know someone else who would appreciate this newsletter?

Please forward this update to a friend and invite them to [subscribe to this monthly update](#).

For further information about Climate Ready Hume contact:

Email: climaterady.hume@delwp.vic.gov.au

Climate Ready Hume | Hume Region

Forest, Fire and Regions | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

