



## Update 22 – September 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 project update

With the Hume Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy now complete, following a positive community consultation process, the Climate Ready Hume (CRH) team has developed this year's Yearly Delivery Plan. The plan outlines the key adaptation action activities for the next year with some of your favourite and most successful activities from previous years hopefully making a return!

Highlights include a second round of Community Mini and Youth Grants, screening events, climate change festivals and forums, and many more. So get your innovative adaptation minds ready and we hope to see you at one of our events.

## Release of the Productivity Commission report into National Water Initiative

The Productivity Commission's (PC) final report into Australia's progress towards reforming the water resources sector commissioned by the Commonwealth Government in May 2020 is now [available](#). The report finds that "good progress" has been made against the National Water Initiative (NWI) reform agenda highlighting the "material benefits" that has lowered average water use by households, driven more efficient use by industry, provided more water for the environment, and enabled stakeholders to better adapt to uncertainty. The NWI is a shared commitment by Commonwealth, State and Territory governments, which aims to increase the efficiency of Australia's water use, provide investment confidence, supply security for rural and urban communities, and provide greater certainty for the environment.

## Goulburn Murray Irrigation District Drainage Management Strategy: Consultation now open

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority and North Central Catchment Management Authority have a lead role in

identifying irrigation drainage and salinity mitigation needs across the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District through the development of Regional Catchment Strategies and Land and Water Management plans. The collaborative, partnership approach to drainage issues, and a positive approach to working



with regulatory agencies, has proven to be an effective way to manage drainage needs. Comment on the draft strategy is invited until 24 October at [EngageVic](#).

## Shifting Victoria to a Circular Economy: 10 year plan



Recycling Victoria: a new economy is the circular economy policy and 10-year action plan to deliver a cleaner, greener Victoria with less waste and pollution, better recycling, more jobs and a stronger economy. By 2046, Victoria is expected to produce 40% more waste than it did in 2017–18. If we don't act now this will put pressure on the waste and recycling system, increase landfill, and create more greenhouse gas emissions. To learn more about the plan please visit [Recycling Victoria: a new economy](#). For more information about circular economy Monash University have also developed [A better t-shirt, a circular economy guide](#).

## Electrify Everything

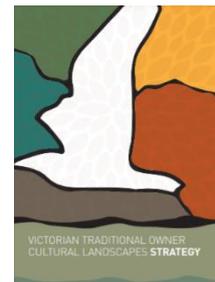
Sydney-born inventor Saul Griffith explains how Australia can rapidly get most of the way to net zero emissions using existing technology. To read the full article please click [here](#). Saul also spoke at the recent NSW Smart Energy State Summit to view the recording please follow this [link](#).



## News

### Victorian Traditional Owner Cultural Landscapes Strategy has been launched

Victorian Traditional Owners recently launched the Victorian Traditional Owner Cultural Landscapes Strategy (Strategy), redefining the connection to Country for the world's oldest living culture. Facilitated by the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations (Federation) and developed in Partnership with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Parks Victoria, the Strategy is the first of its kind in Australia and sets out a framework to systematically enable Victorian Traditional Owners to lead planning and activate cultural knowledge and practices to manage Country. For more information about the strategy please click [here](#).



### Solar on Public Buildings (SoPB) Update

The Solar on Public Building Program has been ramping up during July and August with several more sites receiving solar installations. Everton Upper Community Centre, Freeburgh Public Hall, Tatong Memorial Hall and Myrtleford Golf Club have received a total of 36.3 kW of solar PV (which is over 90 solar PV panels). These installs, funded by the Victorian Government's Solar on Public Buildings



program, are expected to save these volunteer community groups around \$8,000 each year in electricity costs, whilst also reducing green house gas emissions by almost 40 tonnes every year. That's about the same greenhouse gas emissions produce by 10 cars in a year! For more information please click [here](#).

Figure 1: New solar PV system being installed at Tatong Memorial Hall (DELWP).

### Changes to the use of fruit netting

From 1 September 2021, netting used to protect household fruit-trees, vegetable gardens, or other fruiting plants must have a mesh size, of 5mm x 5mm or less at full stretch. If you use netting to protect your household fruit or vegetable harvest you will need to comply with this new mandatory requirement introduced under Victoria's Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 2019 (POCTA Regulations). Any existing household fruit netting that does not meet this specification must be

replaced with appropriate netting from the 1 September 2021 commencement date. For more information about the changes please click [here](#).

## Victorian Renewable Energy Target 2 (VRET2) Auction Now Open

The purpose of the second Victorian Renewable Energy Target Auction (VRET2) is to drive new investment, create thousands of jobs across the State and to help meet its commitment of sourcing 100% renewable electricity for all Victorian Government operations by 2025. The government is seeking a minimum of 600MW of new sources of renewable energy. The VRET2 auction will close at 2pm on Tuesday, 9 November 2021. It is anticipated that the Victorian Government will announce the successful VRET2 projects around mid-2022. More information, including details of the process, the Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing guide, fact sheets and FAQ sheet can be found [here](#).



## Warby-Ovens Park earns international recognition



Warby-Ovens National Park has become the first site in Victoria to be admitted to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas – a global standard for nature conservation recognising the best-managed sites on the planet. The park was added to the Green List because of its outstanding natural values, including some of the best examples of Box-Ironbark Forest and Riverine Forest and Woodlands in Victoria and world-class governance with input from Traditional Owners. The national park is a haven for nature lovers and offers a wide range of recreational, educational and social opportunities including bushwalking, birdwatching, cycling, camping and canoeing. To read more please click [here](#).

## Australian Local Power Agency Bill 2021

Dr Helen Haines, Independent MP for Indi, in February this year introduced the Australian Local Power Agency (ALPA) Bill 2021. ALPA was recently the subject of a public hearing held by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment and Energy. The Committee heard evidence from many of the individuals and organisations – such as Farmers for Climate Action, the Clean Energy Council, City of Greater Bendigo and Repower Shoalhaven – who contributed more than 1,000 submissions received on the bill over two weeks mid-year. To read more about ALPA click [here](#).

## Grants

### Investment Support Grants – Packaging

The Investment Support Grant – Packaging (ISGP) supports Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), Not for Profits (NFPs) and social enterprises to pursue packaging waste reduction or recovery opportunities. The objective is to support businesses and organisations that generate, recover or reuse packaging waste to transition to more circular business models or activities. The fund supports purchasing of equipment and infrastructure to enable and accelerate the diversion of packaging waste from landfill. Applications must be submitted **by 11:59 pm, 30 September 2021**. For more information please click [here](#).



### Murray–Darling Healthy Rivers Program: Large Grants

The Australian Government is inviting applications for funding under the Large Grants stream of the Murray–Darling Healthy Rivers Program. There is \$10 million available in total funding for this round, with grants ranging between \$100,001 and \$2,000,000. This is an open, competitive grants round. Successful applicants will have 12 months to complete their grant activity from the date the grant

agreement is signed.

The intended program outcomes are:

- improved health and ecological conditions of rivers and wetlands in the Murray–Darling Basin
- improved community involvement in restoring the environmental health of the Murray–Darling Basin
- increased economic activity and employment in Basin communities as a result of grant funding.

Applications close **6 October 2021**. The link is [here](#).

## Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Applicant Support Workshop



This workshop will introduce the Australian Government's Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program, give an overview of the guidelines and cover tips on how to write good grant applications. Many different types of projects are eligible for support through this grants program – but they must be about the recovery and/or resilience of communities impacted by the 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires. The Zoom event is Thursday 23rd Sep 2021, 1:00 pm - 3:00

pm AEST for more information please click [here](#).

## AGL Hydro Community Support Fund is now open

The next round of the AGL Hydro Community Fund is now open and will close on **Thursday, 30 September 2021**. The program is designed to reinvest a portion of revenue earned into nearby communities by way of financial support for community-based initiatives, projects, and events. The program is available to community groups in and around the Mount Beauty and Eildon regions. The link for further information is [here](#). If you have any questions about the application process, contact Lachlan Sturt on 1800 039 600 or [AGLCommunity@agl.com.au](mailto:AGLCommunity@agl.com.au)

## Events

### The Great Australian Platypus Search

One of Australia's most unique and iconic creatures is now at risk of extinction. Suffering under the impacts of habitat loss, drought, climate change and last summer's bushfires, there is now

mounting evidence showing rapid platypus population decline. By volunteering as a citizen scientist in The Great Australian Platypus Search, you will help map platypus populations across Victoria and fill a critical gap in our knowledge of this notoriously elusive species. To find out more please click [here](#).



## NaturePact



The People and Parks Foundation is calling on everyone to make a #NaturePact, and to feel the difference in their mood, energy and wellbeing when spending time outside in fresh air. Time spent with nature makes us healthier, happier, and better connected to what each one of us is born a part of – life on earth. So, this September, schedule some time with nature every day. To learn more about #NaturePact please click [here](#).

## Webinars

### Bioenergy Webinar Series

To support Australia's participation in the International Energy Agency (IEA) Bioenergy Tasks, Bioenergy Australia each year organises a webinar series. The most recent topic was Global Transitions to Cleaner Fuels presented by Dr. Chris Greig, Timothy Goodson, Praveen Bains and Dr. Felix Leach. To view the recording and upcoming webinars please click [here](#).

## Podcasts

## My Rain Gauge is Busted- AgVic

My Rain Gauge is Busted talk about all things climate and farming. Exploring stories from farmers, researchers and innovative folks, about: our weather, the seasons, the climate, what's normal and what isn't. They also explore the great work underway that is setting us up well for the future. To listen to the podcast please click [here](#).

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

[Please click here](#) to let Climate Ready Hume know before 5 October for the October 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:

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Climate Ready Hume | Hume Region

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

