



**Nillumbik  
Climate  
Action  
Team**

## **Newsletter June 2025**

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### **1. Climate Cafe 2025**



Last Thursday we heard from **Dr. Lily van Eeden** on the topic of **It's all about us: Understanding people to protect the planet.**

Lily has devoted the latter part of her professional life to studying the **interface between humans and the environment**. She explained how **care for nature is not a priority for all**, and how an understanding of human behaviour can help to **target environmental campaigns** which engage audiences by appealing to people's values and identity. Lily also outlined strategies to help individuals **create systems change** with corporations and politicians, as well as highlighting the value of joining forces with grassroots and community groups, and larger environmental NGOs.

A full **summary of Lily's talk** is available [here](#).

Lily has kindly agreed to make her **slide presentation** available to NCAT supporters. Click [here](#) to view Lily's presentation. It includes a list of Lily's **research publications** near the end of her presentation.

Our next climate cafe will be presented by **Rosemary Storey** from **Kinglake Friends of the Forest**. We will hear about the state of the forests two years on from the official cessation of native forest logging in Victoria. What has changed and what hasn't? Here is an outline of Rosemary's talk, and some information about her.

### **The state of the forests - where are we now?**

Hooray! Native forest logging has been banned in Victoria! Or has it?

And what's going on with these seemingly endless **planned burns** across the forest landscape? Are they making us safer? Are they doing much harm to the environment? And anyway, **is there any alternative to protect us from bushfires in this warming world**? Rosemary will share what she's learnt about these sorts of issues, and will welcome questions.

**About Rosemary:** Rosemary, a former teacher, is secretary of **Kinglake Friends of the Forest** and a founding committee member of the **Victorian Forest Alliance**. She was, and still is, part of the campaign to end native forest logging, but now also campaigns to stop FFMV's (Forest Fire Management Victoria) practice of **broadscale planned burning of the forest**. Rosemary is on a constant quest to understand more about the living forest and its beautiful complexity. Along with other KFF members, she has had the privilege of learning a little about forest fire behaviour from many discussions and excursions into forests with **Dr Phil Zylstra**, former remote area fire fighter and current **forest fire behaviour researcher**.

The **program for the following two months** is as follows:

**June 26      The State of the Forests: Where are we now?**  
- Rosemary Storey, Kinglake Friends of the Forest

**July 31      Gardens for a Warming Climate**  
- Dr Peter May (Environmental services professional and horticulturalist)

**Where:** Platform 3095 Cafe, 965 Main Rd, Eltham

**When:** 7:30pm last Thursday of the month February to November

As always, you are welcome to join us earlier for a meal from 6pm onwards if you can, or come at 7.30pm for the speaker event.

[nillumbikclimateactionteam.org/ncat-climate-cafe/](http://nillumbikclimateactionteam.org/ncat-climate-cafe/)

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## 2. Edendale Film Night: Carbon - the unauthorised biography, 7pm Thursday 12 June



Join us in a free showing of: **Carbon - The unauthorised biography**. Brought to you by **Nillumbik Climate Action Team** and **Edendale Farm**.

This spectacular and surprisingly unorthodox documentary reveals the paradoxical story of **the element that builds all life**, and yet may end it all. Narrated in first person by **Sarah Snook** (Succession), Carbon tells of her birth in the violent core of an exploding star and of turbulent sagas through the fabric of our evolving Earth. Accompanied by **celebrated scientists, unique animations** and a **stunning orchestral score**, Carbon reminds us of our humble participation in the most extraordinary story in the universe.

After the film there will be a **facilitated discussion** to explore issues raised and ideas for personal and community action.

When: 7pm, Thursday 12 June

Where: Edendale Community Farm, Gastons Rd Eltham

**Book your ticket now!**

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### 3. North West Shelf gas project approval: Action outside Kate Thwaites office



On Wednesday of last week, the newly appointed **Environment Minister, Murray Watt**, approved the extension of the **WA Woodside North West Shelf gas project**, a 'carbon bomb' of massive proportions that is slated to push out gas production in the region to 2070. This project is predicted to produce [4.4 billion tonnes \(gigatonnes\) of greenhouse gas emissions](#) in its lifetime. It will also result in significant environmental and cultural impacts, including [damage to 50,000 year old petroglyphs](#), whose nomination for inclusion on the UNESCO for world heritage listing looks set to be knocked back due to concerns about emissions degrading the rock art. Further environmental collateral damage from this project threatens endangered marine life. The Browse Gas Basin is located close to [Scott Reef](#), a pristine reef ecosystem that supports a range of threatened species including sea snakes and the Pygmy Blue Whale.

The decision to approve this project is one of such magnitude that it **makes a mockery of the government's commitment to keep warming to within 1.5 degrees**, and verges on the criminally negligent in its lack of duty of care to future generations.

**Nillumbik Climate Action Team**, along with other climate and environment groups, met outside **local federal MP Kate Thwaites' office** in Heidelberg on Friday to protest against this decision, as part of a coordinated series of actions across several Melbourne electorates. The Heidelberg action was well attended with a large cohort of frustrated and angry (but respectful) protesters.



The protest was organised by **NCAT president Mitzi Tuke**. She concluded her speech with the following words:

"So in the first few weeks of office, the government has chosen **polluters over people**. They've chosen **dirty, expensive gas over affordable clean energy**. They've chosen **profit over nature protection and First Nations cultural heritage**. This is disappointing, and we are angry. The ageing Karratha gas plant might get a new lease on life in the rule books, but there are many organisations, activists, traditional owners and community groups who will fight to oppose the heavily polluting gas mined from Browse and the Scott Reef.

There are a number of critical fights coming up - nature positive laws, other coal and gas projects. The COP31 needs not to be a greenwash. **So we need to keep applying pressure and escalate to win!"**

A full copy of Mitzi's rousing speech can be found [here](#).

**There is still a chance to take action on this devastating decision.** Due to amendments from Woodside, the EPA has re-opened the project for [public consultation](#) until 10 June 2025. **Climate for Change** has provided **guidelines on how to complete the short online survey asking for public feedback**, as well as an **email template** for writing to the relevant politicians to express anger and disappointment at this decision. Click [here](#) for further information.

Click [here](#) to see a 13 minute video about the **Murujuga rock art**.

Click [here](#) to hear about **Traditional Custodian Raelene Cooper's** fight to to save the **Murujuga rock art**, and to **donate to her [Chuffed.org](#) campaign**.

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## 4. Post-election 2025: Where to from here?

As we wind down from the pre-election frenzy of speculation and predictions, and settle into the post-election reality of a Labor government returned with a whopping majority of seats in both houses, we have time to ponder what it will mean for the climate.

**Richard Denniss** from the **Australia Institute** has this to say about the election outcome: "After a resounding electoral victory, the big question for those inside and outside the Labor party who want to set Australia up for the enormous challenges of the 21st century is whether to push hard in parliament to deliver what the overwhelming majority of the population want, or to tread cautiously and, at best, waste precious time or, at worst, let a new, worse, right wing politics emerge.

Voters are yearning for a government **that will act on their very real concerns about climate change**, Trump's new world order and the rapid rise in wealth inequality in Australia, linked

overwhelmingly to the tax subsidies for investment housing. Luckily for Labor the policy to-do list has been largely written by Labor oppositions and governments, of which Anthony Albanese was himself a member.

**Labor's plan for a super profits tax on the mining industry** was a good idea in 2010 and an even better idea now. Back in 2019, Bill Shorten proposed a bold raft of tax reforms that would have closed tax loopholes, simplified the system, reduced inequality and would have collected a lot more money. Albo doesn't have to embrace all of Shorten's agenda, but it's hard to believe there will ever be a better time for Labor to spell out a plan for public health, education and housing systems that so many of its voters, and its caucus, clearly want.

And let's not forget that just last year Labor's **Tanya Plibersek had negotiated a raft of new environment laws with the Greens' Sarah Hanson-Young, reforms that Albanese torpedoed**, as he felt at the time that strengthening environment laws was too big a risk given his (mis)perception of the power of the mining industry.

The election result, combined with Kate Chaney's resounding victory in the WA seat of Curtin, is clear evidence Labor was jumping at shadows.

There is no need to be scared anymore.

Labor right has used the fear of irrelevance to control the Labor left for decades. Now that it is the Liberals who are irrelevant, the **biggest danger for Labor is that it is afraid to use the power voters have given it.**" (Edited extract reprinted from [The New Daily 6/5/25](#))

### **Labor's first big test**

And of course, Labor's first big test after being re-elected has been the decision it has made to go ahead with the proposed extension of **Woodside's North West Shelf gas project**, recently approved by the new environment minister, Murray Watt.

**This is a devastating decision.** As noted above, this project will **lock in gas production in the region until 2070**, and is expected to produce a whopping [4.4 billion tonnes \(gigatonnes\) of greenhouse gas emissions](#) in its lifetime. Australia is already suffering climate disasters that are having a severe impact on our life. Excessive flooding in the NSW mid-north coast and crippling drought in Australia's south-east are just the start. These will only get worse if emissions are not stopped at their source.

If this recent decision is anything to go by, there is deep concern that **Labor will not have the courage to go in hard on strong climate action**, and will continue to hold back in fear, pandering to the vested fossil fuel interests that have such a stranglehold on our political decision-making processes.

**It would appear that the Labor government has failed its first big test.**

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## 5. The cost of climate damage

When it comes to quantifying climate damage done by big corporations, the science has just got a lot better. Katharine Hayhoe in her blog, [Talking Climate](#), discusses a new [study](#) that could have long-lasting implications for bringing some of the biggest polluters in the world to account for their climate crimes.

"A new study puts a dollar amount on just some of the climate damage the world's biggest corporations have caused: **\$28 trillion**. Scientists looked at emissions for 111 companies, finding that **only 10 fossil fuel providers** — Saudi Aramco, Gazprom, Chevron, ExxonMobil, BP, Shell, National Iranian Oil Co., Pemex, Coal India and the British Coal Corporation — **caused half the total amount of damages**.

And those are the damages **only from extreme heat**. The number doesn't include the devastation from massive floods like the ones in [Spain](#) last year or the damages from stronger hurricanes like [Helene](#) and [Milton](#). It doesn't account for **crop and water losses** during [droughts](#); or the **infrastructure destroyed** by wildfires such as those that swept through [Los Angeles](#) earlier this year; or the **smoke from Canadian wildfires**, a single week of which was estimated to have cost the province of Ontario alone '**over \$1.2 billion in health impacts** such as premature deaths, increased hospital visits, and health emergencies,' the Canadian Climate Institute [reports](#).

All the same, 'climate attribution that goes **from emissions to impact at the corporate scale** is now possible, addressing a substantial hurdle to climate liability,' the authors wrote. And Fredi Otto, a climate scientist at Imperial College London who heads [World Weather Attribution](#) and guest-edited Talking Climate in March (read her edition [here](#)) agrees.

'All methods they use are quite robust,' she [says](#). 'It would be good in my view if this approach would be taken up more by different groups. As with event attribution, **the more groups do it, the better the science gets**.'

Ever since I read Fredi's book, [Angry Weather](#), which clearly shows how science can **quantify the share of the damages from extreme weather** caused by climate change, and became aware of Richard Heede's [Carbon Majors](#) work, which traces carbon emissions since 1850 to specific companies, I've been waiting for someone to connect the dots. I bet a lot of lawyers have been waiting, too. This new study finally does this, connecting polluter to impact and providing [legal efforts](#) with key evidence to help **recover economic damages in courts**."

Reprinted from Katharine Hayhoe, [Talking Climate, May 2025](#)

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## 6. Landmark 'greenwashing' legal case

In a **landmark 'greenwashing' legal case** brought by [Parents for Climate](#), EnergyAustralia has publicly acknowledged that offsets do not undo the harms of burning fossil fuels and apologised to more than 400,000 customers of its **'Go Neutral' carbon offsetting product**.

It is the first legal case of its kind in the country to protect the public from **'carbon neutral' greenwashing**.

EnergyAustralia and Parents for Climate have agreed to settle the legal action and to the publication of a statement (excerpts printed below).

The settlement is a **groundbreaking resolution** to this historic legal action, and represents a significant step forward in holding companies accountable for environmental claims.

EnergyAustralia has now withdrawn its Go Neutral product, and has acknowledged, "Greenhouse gases are harmful to the environment and contribute to climate change. While offsets can help people to invest in worthwhile projects that may reduce greenhouse gas emissions elsewhere, **offsets do not prevent or undo the harms caused by burning fossil fuels** for a customer's energy use. Even with carbon offsetting, the emissions released from burning fossil fuels for a customer's energy use **still contribute to climate change**."

In its public statement, EnergyAustralia says it, "... acknowledges the importance of consumers understanding the climate impact of products and services offered to them and that **offsets are not the most effective means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions**. There are legitimate concerns about organisations:

- using offsets instead of reducing their own emissions;
- using offset projects that do not permanently remove carbon from the atmosphere;
- supporting offset projects where climate benefits are uncertain or would happen anyway; and
- using carbon neutrality marketing claims based on the use of carbon offsets, which may cause some consumers to think there is no environmental impact from a product or service offered by a business. "

**EnergyAustralia's full statement** can be read [here](#).

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## 7. Quote of the month

**We don't have time to sit on our hands as our planet burns.** For young people, climate change is bigger than election or re-election. It's life or death.

*Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, US Politician & Activist*

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## 8. Former South Australian Premier Jay Weatherill on Citizens Assemblies



Across the globe, political leaders are increasingly using **Citizens' Assemblies** to involve people more directly in **solving some of the most pressing policy issues today**. They are a combination of two key elements: democratic lotteries and citizen deliberation. Hear **Jay Weatherill** talk about Citizens' Assemblies in this [Youtube video](#).

Find out more about Citizens' Assemblies [here](#).

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## 9. How to avoid the downsides of driving an EV in the summer



This data from this extract is taken from US publication [Recurrent](#), but the principles of EV battery performance in summer also apply to Australian conditions.

"Last summer, we untangled some of the many yarns that make up the issue of EV battery performance in hot weather. Since then, a surprising number of things have changed. It's true that, during the summer months, electric vehicles can temporarily lose a small degree of their maximum range, ultimately forcing drivers to charge a bit more often. However, things aren't as bad as they seem — and they're consistently getting better.

**The facts:** According to [data](#) from our friends at Recurrent, most EVs actually maintain 95% of their battery range in temperatures up to 90 degrees. It's only after exceeding that range when you may experience more significant effects.

**What to do:** Parking your EV in the shade and pre-cooling before driving can go a long way. Plus, charging can add heat — so avoid charging at the hottest times of the day, and be careful with using fast chargers, which can increase your battery temperature even more.

**What's changing:** Carmakers are conquering the issue, one technology at a time. The Ford Mustang Mach-E, for example, has smart cooling features that help the battery perform well in fairly warm temperatures. Tesla's models have similar capabilities.

Plus, solid-state batteries, which can operate in a much wider range of temperatures, are continuing to improve, giving us hope that they'll soon become the norm in EVs. In the meantime, you can manage your losses by picking the right model and using a few simple tips."

### **[Read more...](#)**

And for those who missed last month's **Clean Energy Nillumbik EV webinar with Bryce Gatton**, you can catch a recording of the event [here](#).

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## 10. Cartoon of the Month

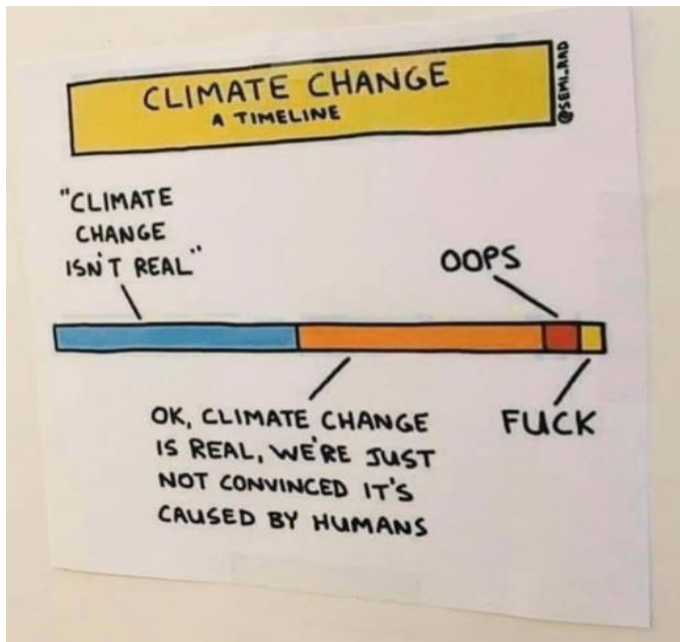


Image: [Facebook Science Page](#)

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## 11. Petition: Say NO to a waste to energy incinerator in Wollert

Concerned residents in the northern suburbs strongly oppose the installation of a **waste to energy incinerator in Wollert** (the proposed Melbourne Energy and Resource Centre [MERC] by Cleanaway Operations Pty Ltd). They believe that this facility, designed to **thermally treat 380,000 tonnes per annum of household, commercial, and industrial waste**, poses significant risks to their community and environment, and are concerned about the potential long-term impacts on the health of local families.

Click [here](#) for more information, and to sign the petition.

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## 12. NCAT membership

We warmly invite all newsletter readers to become **members of Nillumbik Climate Action Team**. We welcome all members to become involved according to their capacity. Some of the ways you can be involved include: tuning in to monthly meetings (online via Zoom where we catch up, plan and review); helping to promote events and activities (e.g. photos, social media, distributing flyers); or, helping with events when we hold them.

Membership of NCAT is free. **If you wish to become a member, please fill in the [membership form](#) and return to [info@nillumbikclimateactionteam.org](mailto:info@nillumbikclimateactionteam.org).**

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## 13. Upcoming Events

### **Rethink Nillumbik and Going Green Solutions: All Electrification events program**

A comprehensive lineup of electrification events to cover all your electrification needs!

Click [here](#) for more information and bookings.

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### **Energy and Sustainable Living Advice**

**Nillumbik Council offers a personalised advisory service for Nillumbik residents and businesses, on how to navigate the confusing world of energy and sustainable living.**

Click [here](#) for more information.

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### **Edendale Repair Cafe, 9.30am-12.30pm, 21 June 2025, Mummery Room Edendale Farm**

Get your household items repaired for free by our team of volunteers. Our aim is to help you fix things, learn new skills and keep waste out of landfill. Repair cafes are held on the third Saturday of every month. **For more information and to book, click [here](#).**

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## Support us

[Nillumbik Climate Action Team \(NCAT\)](#) is a small volunteer organisation. We rely on donations to support our work, and thank you to everyone who has donated to date. [Further details here](#). We'd be very grateful if you are able to support us, even in a small way. Note: you can now [donate online](#).

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## Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people as the traditional owners of Nillumbik and its environs, and that this land was never ceded. We thank them for their custodianship of the land over millennia.

We acknowledge that we are in a climate emergency; there can be no climate justice without First Nations justice.

We support First Nations peoples in their striving for complete recognition, truth-telling, treaty and justice, and we are sorry for the hurt and injustice we have caused.

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**[nillumbikclimateactionteam.org](https://nillumbikclimateactionteam.org)**