



**Nillumbik  
Climate  
Action  
Team**

## Newsletter December 2025

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### 1. Climate Cafe – November

#### Flying in the face of climate change: Aviation on a heating planet



At our Climate Cafe last Thursday our speaker **Geoff Collis** described the challenges that the aviation industry is facing in dealing with the need to decarbonise its operations.

The **carbon footprint of the aviation industry** is a topic that is rarely tackled in the conversation around the energy transition, mostly due to the fact that there are hardly any viable alternatives to fossil jet fuel, and people do not want to give up their freedom to travel easily and cheaply around the world.

But **former Jetstar pilot**, Geoff Collis, is not afraid to tackle the uncomfortable reality of an industry that is not only set on expansion, but is rife with missed targets, tokenism, double standards and greenwashing.

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

A link to Geoff's **presentation slides** can be found [here](#).

This was the **last climate cafe for 2025**, and we thank the staff of Platform 3095 for their continued support throughout the year. Their willingness to accommodate our needs has gone above and beyond! Above all, we thank you, our supporters, for attending our climate cafes, supporting our work, and participating in the wonderful conversations we have had about a wide range of climate and environment topics. The climate cafes would not exist without you!

Congratulations to our lucky raffle winner, **Alicia Polakiewicz**, and thank you to all who supported us by buying tickets for our fundraiser. Your donations contribute to the running of the climate cafe and to our operational costs throughout the year.

We will be back in **February 2026** with a packed program of discussion topics on a wide range of climate and environment issues.

The program for the **first half of 2026** is as follows:

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>February 26</b> | <b>Is a River Alive?</b> - Emma Barnett, Yarra Riverkeeper Association.   |
| <b>March 26</b>    | <b>Talking to Kids about Climate Change</b> - Dr Aimee Maxwell, Psychologist.   |
| <b>April 30</b>    | <b>Nurturing Local Biodiversity/Caring for Country</b> - Jill Kellow,<br>Friends of Moor-rul Grasslands, and Vicky Shukuroglou -<br>Friends of Biodiversity: Hohnes Hill. |
| <b>May 28</b>      | <b>Innovative Housing</b> - Teresa Dominik, Brougham St Co-housing Devt.  |
| <b>June 25</b>     | <b>Environmental Sociology</b> (topic TBC) - Assoc. Prof. Rachel Busbridge (ACU)  |

Looking forward to seeing you in 2026!

**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.

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

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## 2. Rapid response action outside Kate Thwaites' Office

Last week a committed group of **rapid response activists** (above) gathered outside Jagajaga MP **Kate Thwaites' office** in Heidelberg to keep up the pressure on the Labor government that we **must not continue to approve more gas and coal**. This pressure is matched internationally by gathering momentum from the recent world climate meeting in Brazil that **the world must phase out fossil fuels** (see also Item 4 below on COP30).



## 3. Our new Environment Laws - the good, the bad and the ugly

Analysis: What our new Environment Laws mean for climate

Key inclusions	Labor's initial bill	Greens/Labor negotiated outcome
Accelerate critical projects like responsible renewables, not polluting ones	✅ Measures to streamline project approvals	✅ Measures to streamline project approvals
	❌ Could also speed up fossil fuel approvals.	✅ Fossil fuel projects blocked from fast-track.
	❌ Allows the coal and gas "water trigger" to be delegated to states.	✅ No changes to the water trigger.
Measure and manage climate pollution in approvals	🟡 Direct emissions (scope 1 & 2) must be disclosed, but aren't verified	🟡 Direct emissions (scope 1 & 2) must be disclosed, but aren't verified
	❌ Full emissions (scope 3) not disclosed.	❌ Full emissions (scope 3) not disclosed.
	!! Climate pollution never considered in decisions, so coal and gas projects can be approved unchecked.	!! Climate pollution never considered in decisions, so coal and gas projects can be approved unchecked.
End land clearing and native forest logging loopholes to protect important carbon sinks	❌ Native logging allowed without assessment.	✅ Closes native forest logging loopholes within 18 months.
	❌ Loopholes allow continuing land clearing without assessment.	✅ Exemptions for high-risk land clearing will end.

Scorecard compiled by [Climate Council](#)

Late last week, the government passed historic environment laws which will enshrine reforms to Australia's 25 year old environment act, the **Environment Protection Conservation and Biodiversity (EPBC) Act**. The Labor government did a deal with the Greens to get the environment reform bills passed in the Senate.

The new laws are a **win for forest protection**, removing the loopholes that have up to now exempted forests from EPBC regulatory oversight, and ending exemptions for high-risk land clearing.

But, crucially, the new laws **fail to take into account the climate impacts when assessing approval of new coal and gas projects**.

"This deal strengthens protections for our native forests, and provides a faster yes to responsible renewable energy projects that cut climate pollution. That will help protect communities from rising power prices and climate damage.

"But this 2025 law **fails the climate test**. All new coal and gas projects still get a free pass on climate pollution. In fact, the law forbids the Environment Minister from considering a project's climate pollution when assessing whether it should go ahead. That is a gaping hole in a law that should protect nature from the ravages of climate change.

Climate Councillor Professor **Tim Flannery** said: "The Greens and Labor have been able to secure real wins, including better protection for native forests and a clearer path for renewable energy. That shows Parliament can work across the aisle to find solutions for the community, rather than get bogged down in politicking.

"The Greens have blocked fast tracking of coal and gas which would have been a disastrous outcome – equivalent to pouring petrol on a fire.

"But the job's far from done. In the assessment pipeline sit 42 coal and gas projects that could release 8.7 million more tonnes of pollution yearly in Australia, undermining our climate targets, and progress.

"Until we better regulate fossil fuel projects, one fifth of Australia's climate pollution, **a safer future for us and our kids will fall further out of reach.**"

Read the [Climate Council's analysis](#) of the new laws, and see the **table above for a quick rundown** of the recently negotiated outcomes.

There is still much work to be done to fully protect our threatened animals and ecosystems from climate harm.

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## 4. Global momentum for a fossil fuel phase-out puts Australia on notice for COP31

**COP30** in Belem has just finished, and **Climate Action Network Australia (CANA)** offers this summary of the proceedings:

**BELÉM Saturday 22 November 2025** - Australia can prove it is serious as the incoming lead of COP31 negotiations by **engaging with Brazil's new fossil fuel phase out roadmap** and leading wealthy fossil fuel producers to phase out coal, oil and gas first, according to Australia's network of not-for-profit climate groups.

"Despite the lack of a formal COP30 outcome on fossil fuels, huge momentum was built for a fossil fuel phase out roadmap in Belém," said Denise Cauchi, CEO of Climate Action Network Australia (CANA).

"Australia's Climate Minister Chris Bowen now has his priorities clearly set out for him in the lead up to COP31: **deal with the cause of dangerous overheating at the source – coal, oil and gas – and deliver climate finance to enable transition and adaptation for all.**

The adoption of the **Just Transition mechanism** at COP30 is a powerful outcome from Belém. For too long, workers and communities have managed the transition away from fossil fuels with no formal support or plan. The new Just Transition package will unlock the resources they need to build thriving new economies and community-led adaptation and resilience."

We are deeply frustrated that **Australia has been notably missing in action from much of the substance of COP30 negotiations**, instead being locked in meeting rooms with Türkiye over fine print for Türkiye's hosting of COP31.

CANA welcomes the wins that will have profound positive impacts, such as the **inclusion of First Nations rights** in the Just Transition text, as well as the inclusion of Free Prior and Informed Consent.

But make no mistake. The **Albanese Government has materially let down so many climate-impacted communities** and indeed, entire nations in the Pacific by failing to turn up when it really mattered to secure an Australia-Pacific COP31.

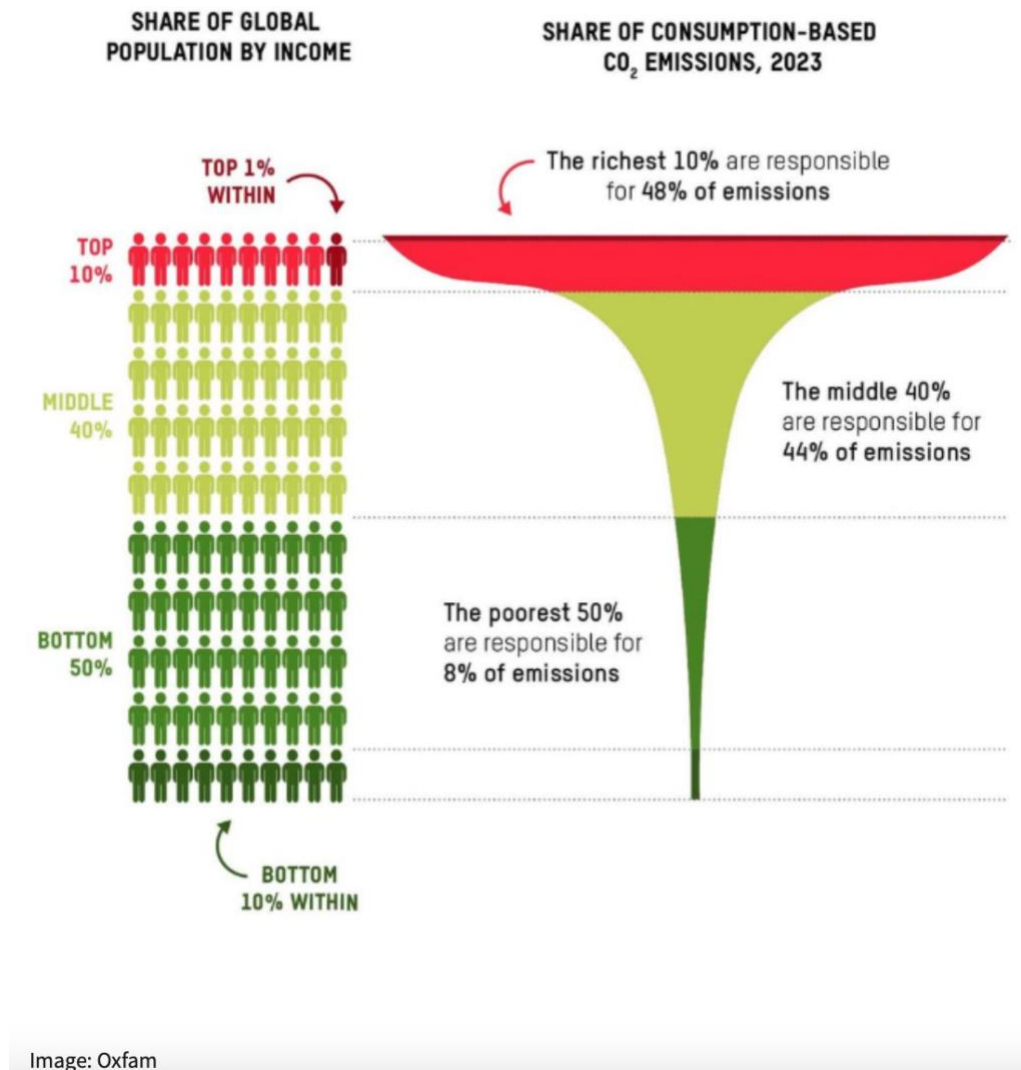
The **Australian government must now show strong leadership in working with other countries**, and in solidarity with the Pacific who have relentlessly championed the Paris Agreement, which saw the world come together to agree to keep our Earth at a temperature that supports life as we know it.

Reprinted from **CANACHAT**, 24 November 2025.

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## 5. Global climate inequality



**Josie Lee**, Policy and Advocacy Lead from Oxfam, presents data from Oxfam's latest **climate inequality report**.

"This year our report, [Climate Plunder: How a powerful few are locking the world into disaster](#), presents extensive new updated data and analysis which finds that globally, a person from **the richest 0.1% produces more carbon pollution in a day than the poorest 50% emit all year**. If everyone emitted like the richest 0.1%, the global carbon budget for keeping global heating to 1.5 degrees would be used up in less than 3 weeks.

**The super-rich are not just overconsuming climate pollution, but also actively investing in and profiting from the most polluting corporations.** Oxfam's research finds that globally, the average billionaire produces 1.9 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e a year through their investments.

Australia also has a climate inequality problem. We found:

- A person in Australia's richest 0.1% by income produces more carbon in a month than someone in the bottom 50% produces all year.

- The climate pollution of Australia's top 0.1% is 23 times larger than the emissions from the entire population of Vanuatu
- The emissions of Australia's top 0.1% is equivalent to emissions of 2.5 million cars in a year
- Average Australian billionaire's annual investment emissions equivalent to flying around the world 6757 times in a private jet.

**The climate crisis is an inequality crisis.** The very richest individuals in the world are funding and profiting from climate destruction, leaving the global majority to bear the fatal consequences of their unchecked power.

Please consider this as we head into the COP30 negotiations and do **support agendas that tackle inequality and progress a just transition, climate finance for those most impacted, and that platform Global South demands!**"

Read more [here](#).

Reprinted from CANAchat, 6 November 2025.

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## 6. Air travel is soaring, and so are emissions

**Ben Elgin** presents us with a reality check about **sustainable aviation fuel** in the following article:

"British Airways' parent company IAG SA surged ahead of other passenger airlines last year to consume the most sustainable aviation fuel, or SAF, according to a *Bloomberg Green* review of corporate filings from dozens of air carriers.

The company acquired 55 million gallons of cleaner jet fuel, which is derived from lower-emitting sources such as used cooking oil and animal tallow. That number exceeded the amount used by all US passenger airlines combined.



Photo: David Paul Morris/Bloomberg

But the promising performance is overshadowed by a troubling reality for the industry: The shift to SAF is [still minuscule](#), while **growth in passenger air travel is drowning out any climate gains so far**. For example, despite IAG's world-leading status, **cleaner fuel accounted for only about 1.9% of its overall fuel consumption last year**, and its emissions from fuel combustion still rose by 5%."

For the full article from [Bloomberg Green](#), click [here](#)

## 7. The elephant in the room



Image: [Green Agenda](#)

This year, forests and land use were more visible at what was framed as a '**Forest COP**' than at any in recent memory (but still without clear tangible outcomes). There is increasing awareness of the role that forest preservation and reducing land clearing plays in mitigating climate impacts, but much more work needs to be done! In the following article, **Violet CoCo** and **Brad Homewood** point to the **devastating impact of animal agriculture on global greenhouse gas emissions**, the 'elephant in the room'.

"We're living in the **era of climate breakdown** (Falk, 2023), we have **passed 7 of our 9 planetary boundaries** (PBScience, 2025), and what we manage to salvage now depends on us.

None of us want a planet that is uninhabitable and hostile to complex ecosystems. We all want a world that continues to sustain all this diverse and wondrous life, but if we're being honest with ourselves, the situation is only getting worse. **Emissions continue to rise and the world's forests are vanishing before our eyes.** With them we lose one of our **most critical carbon sinks**.

The low hanging fruit of climate action is **stopping the destruction of native forests**. COP30 has a particular focus on forests because of the latest research on the **cooling effect of forests** (Bunyard, and De Laet, 2024).

It's at this point that we'd like to address the elephant in the room of the broader climate movement; the **number one cause of deforestation both in Australia\*** (Vstats, 2023), internationally (Ritchie, 2021), and particularly in that treasured and critical ecosystem – the Amazon (Chávez, 2025).

This elephant is **one of the world's highest emitting sectors globally** (Foodrise et al, 2025), yet it only gets mentioned in 4% of media reporting on the climate crisis (Fassler, 2025) despite playing such a disproportionately huge role.

Within the climate movement itself it is largely ignored, and when raised is a sensitive issue to say the least. If you haven't worked it out yet **the elephant in the room is animal agriculture**, and if we're



serious about salvaging a liveable planet of some description, we need to start being honest about the problem, and not just the parts we're comfortable with.

The **global livestock sector is estimated to be responsible for between 12% and 19% of total human-caused greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions**, making it one of the world's highest emitting sectors (Foodrise / Friends of the Earth / Greenpeace Nordic / IATP, 2025)."

For the full article, reprinted from [Green Agenda](#), click [here](#).

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## 8. Monash ends partnership with fossil fuel giant Woodside

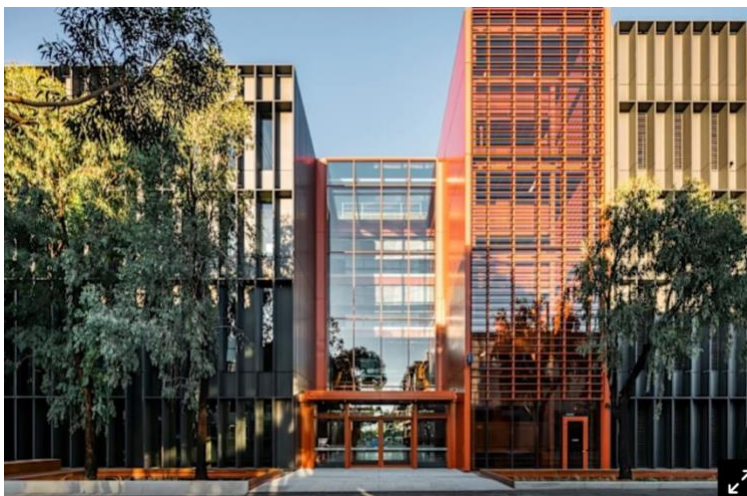


Photo: The Woodside building for Technology and Design at Monash University. The Age.

In a win for student and staff activists at Monash University, the grassroots group **Stop Woodside Monash** has been successful in its 2 year campaign to get the university to break ties with fossil fuel giant Woodside Energy.

Group spokesperson **Simon Campbell** says, "The deal between Monash and Woodside is **the** most lucrative corporate-university partnership in Australia, so we knew it would be tough. We even have a [building named after Woodside](#) on our campus! Grr... At the start of the partnership Monash told its staff and students Woodside was a 'good corporate citizen', and was 'decarbonising' (!!). In reality, during the partnership, Woodside has literally doubled down on its fossil fuel interests/expansion.

However we're very happy to report that last week we won a major part of the battle - Monash has decided **not** to renew its partnership with Woodside!! It will also take Woodside's name off the building!!"

Congratulations to **Stop Woodside Monash** in their fight to **remove the social licence for massive polluters like Woodside**.

Click [here](#) for the **group's media release**.

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## 9. The lonely fear of this climate catastrophe

Independent social researcher **Rebecca Huntley** investigated the effects on mental health and collective wellbeing of the **frequent, severe and escalating impacts of climate change**. She found that 'the most common form of distress is just the **overwhelm and the dread of what we are facing**. It's very isolating trying to function within a system that **isn't responding as it should to the extent of the threat**. There is this **profound sense of loneliness**.'

"The Australian government released its first-ever **National Climate Risk Assessment**. You could be forgiven for paying little attention to this 'first', as there was a flurry of climate announcements and news around its release, including the ongoing saga of whether the federal Coalition will walk away from its net zero commitments.

"The 284-page document is confronting to say the least, even for those of us in the climate change community who live and breathe this stuff. To have it all pulled together by the Bureau of Meteorology, the CSIRO and the Australian Bureau of Statistics feels a bit like an **official imprimatur for widespread panic**.

"Yet in the long, long list of impacts and risks in the report, **anything to do with the mental health implications of climate change is hard to find**. The report calls out the unique impacts of climate change on the social health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as well as the mental stress on responders and communities. Beyond this, however, it does not deal with the effects on mental health and collective wellbeing of the **frequent, severe and escalating impacts of climate change**.

"We are rapidly moving towards a scenario where instead of a single event involving recovery, **we now have 'domino crises'**, with recurrent and even overlapping climate events making it hard to recover because of the lack of breathing space between disasters. For example, more than 60 per cent of the communities that bore the brunt of the floods in 2022 were also still recovering from the extreme fires of 2019-20."

Extract reprinted from [The Saturday Paper](#). Click [here](#) to read more.

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## 10. Quote of the month

"How many extra possums does it take to compensate for a dead platypus?"

- Dr Richard Denniss on [Environment Minister Murray Watt's new 'environmental laws'](#)

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## 11. Breaking the climate silence: Predictors of discussing global warming with family and friends

A new US study has recently been released, [Breaking the climate silence: Predictors of discussing global warming with family and friends](#).

[Previous research](#) has shown that although a majority of Americans believe global warming is happening (72%), are worried about it (63%), and support various climate policies, **only about a third (36%) of Americans discuss global warming with friends and family**. Given the importance of interpersonal communication in spurring climate awareness and action, we sought to identify the factors associated with how often people discuss climate change.

Using data from three waves of our nationally representative [Climate Change in the American Mind](#) survey, we found that people are more likely to discuss global warming with family and friends when they:

- Believe global warming to be a risk
- Are worried about global warming
- Perceive that their peers find it important to take action to reduce global warming
- Hear about global warming in the media.

To read the full study, click [here](#).

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## 12. Abuzz! Nillumbio Trivia Night, Friday 5 December at 7pm, Hurstbridge Hub



Don't miss out on this **hilarious night of fun** - you'll meet fabulous locals, learn some interesting information, and share some laughs.

It's a **Trivia night** like no other - with donations going directly to support local action for our beautiful Nillumbik environment.

Whether you are a botanical boffin, a faunal aficionado, or an incredible ignorant, **smiles are guaranteed at Abuzz!**

Come along on your own or with friends - come if you know nothing, something or lots!

Everyone welcome!

To book your spot, go to the **Nillumbio website** <https://www.nillumbio.org/events>

### 13. 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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### Support us


[Nillumbik Climate Action Team \(NCAT\)](#) is a small volunteer organisation.

We rely on donations to support our work.

**Thank you** to everyone who has donated to date. We couldn't do it without you!

If you are able to [support us](#), even in a small way, we'd be very grateful.

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**Acknowledgement of Country**

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](http://nillumbikclimateactionteam.org)**