



Climate Action Coogee

A group of locals in Coogee working to prevent the causes of human-induced climate change

“Our actions over the coming few decades could create risks of major disruption to economic and social activity, later in this century and the next, on a scale similar to those associated with the great wars and the economic depression of the first half of the 20th Century.”

– Stern Review, *The Economics of Climate Change*.

Proportional to the amount of warming, climate change would...

- **increase severity and length of droughts** - with even a 1°C rise, likely to be a 70% increase in droughts in NSW;
- **damage or destroy** forests, coral reefs, alpine ecosystems, mangroves and wetlands;
- **devastate up to 97% of the Great Barrier Reef** each year with rises of 2-3°C.
- **increase frequency** of storms, bushfires and flooding (Newcastle July 07, Lismore October 07);
- **threaten** iconic areas such as the Great Barrier Reef, Kakadu, and the Snowy Mountains - Australian snow cover will shrink by 10-40% with just a 1°C rise in temperature.

“And it will be difficult or impossible to reverse these changes. Tackling climate change is the pro-growth strategy for the longer term, and it can be done in a way that does not cap the aspirations for growth of rich or poor countries. The earlier effective action is taken, the less costly it will be.”

– Stern Review, *The Economics of Climate Change*.

Australian impacts cntd:

- disproportionately affect Aboriginal communities – health, concentration in areas of Australia with already extreme weather patterns (dry/wet);
- increase in insurance premiums, cost of housing, fresh vegetables and the cost of living generally;
- damage many industries in Australia which supply hundreds of thousands of jobs, esp. those sectors most vulnerable to climate change e.g.: tourism and agriculture;
- increase vector- and food-borne disease and temperature-related illnesses;
- impact where it is practical, safe, affordable, comfortable and healthy for Australians to live.

[Source: Climate Action Network Australia website www.cana.net.au]

So...

Coogee Got Active!



Climate Action Coogee now...

- 200+ people on our email list;
- Core group of about 13 people;
- Meetings once a month in the local hall;
- Runner up for “the www.climatemovement.org Award” at the NCC World Environment Day dinner 2006

But that’s not how it started...!

- 4pm Sunday 26 November 2006;
- I booked a local hall and posted fliers around Coogee, called the local paper and sent out emails on a few lists;
- Invited Ben Pearson from Greenpeace to talk about climate change.
- 4.02pm, nobody there.
- 4.05pm, nobody there. Oh well, a flop.
- 4.08pm – 50 people!
- And only 8 of them were my friends.

Australia Day Event 2007

- 300+ people lined up on the Coogee promenade to show where the sea level would rise to under unfettered CC
- Speakers including Peter Garrett MP, Paul Pearce MP, Lee Rhiannon and Bernie Hayes as MC
- Interactive audience participation quiz



- Ben Pearson from Greenpeace gave a presentation;
- I broke the crowd up into small groups and started projects based on a brain storm:
 - Australia Day event;
 - Renewable energy subgroup;
 - Public transport subgroup;
 - Getting local businesses on green power subgroup.





Climate Protection Bill

- Inspired by the success of a community driven Climate Change Bill in the UK;
- In 2005, communities across the UK decided they wanted their politicians to take action on climate change;
- They seized on a draft Climate Change Bill put together by green groups, and 130,000 people across the country contacted their MP to support it.



Climate Protection Bill cntd

- Implementation of a carbon accounting scheme;
- No nuclear fission reactors (all stages of the nuclear power production process other than actual fission produce CO2 emissions);
- An end to logging of old growth forests (land clearing causes massive amounts of CO2 emissions);
- Annual greenhouse report from Prime Minister against these requirements;

Climate Protection Bill

- Bill consists of 19 points:
 - Ratification of the Kyoto Protocol;
 - 30% cut in emissions by 2020; 80% cut by 2050;
 - Adoption of a national strategy to meet these cuts;
 - Energy efficiency strategy;
 - Removal of tax breaks and subsidies to fossil fuel industry;
 - Government agencies to purchase 100% accredited renewable energy for government operations;

Climate Protection Bill cntd

- Actions that would generate 100 000 tonnes or more of greenhouse gases to be made subject to Commonwealth approval and assessment processes;
- By 2050, 80% of all electricity consumed in Australia to be generated from renewable sources;
- Establishment of a Just Transitions Committee to ensure the transition to a decarbonised economy is fair and equitable.

- At last count the Bill has been endorsed by 777 individuals and climate action groups nationwide;
- We are now actively engaged with communities around Australia to help them visit their local MP and seek their endorsement of the bill in the lead up to the 2007 election.



Other things we've done...

- Meet the candidates fora for State and Federal Elections;
- Meetings with local and state MPs;
- Endorsement by Randwick Council as a positive community initiative;
- Despair & Empowerment Roadshow w. Ruth Rosenhek;
- Stalls, stalls, stalls...!;
- "You've Got the Power" presentation with & for school children, where they take on a project as a result of the presentation & continue it for the rest of the year;



Take home message...



The world
can't afford the
luxury
of our despair

-> get active:
www.climatemovement.org.au
for a climate group in
your local area, or start
your own...!

What's next?

- Climate Action Coogee website up and running soon;
- Tshirts!;
- Handing out leaflets about where the parties stand on climate change in the lead up to the Federal Election;
- Participation in the Walk Against Warming

Sunday November 11



The Time Is Now.

1. Let your politicians know you want change **NOW**!
2. Support the Climate Protection Bill*
3. Get involved in climate action*
4. Switch to 100% Green Power.
5. Be energy efficient.
6. Walk, ride your bike, catch a bus or train

www.climateactioncoogee.com.au

*See www.climatemovement.org.au
*See www.climatecampaign.info

www.climateactioncoogee.org.au

**CLIMATE
ACTION
COOGEE**