



## Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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ABN 48 036 173 161

## HOPE E-news Bulletin 2025 #06 --- June 2025

*The following items have been gathered from various e: newsletters received by HOPE in recent times; and/or prepared specifically by HOPE members and supporters. If you have any news to contribute, please forward to [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au). Deadline for articles is 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month.*

### Editorial

*Welcome to the June issue of the newsletter! Included in this newsletter is an article on HOPE's Strategic Plan. This month focuses on sustainability and the economy. But firstly, if you don't already know, we find out about Birdlife Australia. We visit Beyond Zero Emissions again. We then learn about CORENA, a charity "dedicated to climate action". We then start learning about the importance of a circular economy; Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is an approach that makes producers responsible for their products along the entire product lifecycle. Then we meet John Dee, the cofounder of Planet Ark! More on sustainability, is the Solving Plastic Waste Cooperative Research Centre (CRC). For more on the economy, is The Next Economy, the Brisbane-based non-profit that works with communities, industries, and governments to design pathways toward a low-carbon, sustainable economy that works for people and the planet*

*Kind regards,*

*Nina Stick, Newsletter Editor – HOPE Inc.*

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### 2025 Environmental Observances

June

3 [World Bicycle Day](#)

5 [World Environment Day](#)

7 [World Food Safety Day](#)

8 [World Oceans Day](#)

14 **HOPE quarterly Ordinary Meeting**

17 [World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought](#)

20 [World Refugee Day](#)

July

11 [World Population Day](#)

August

9 [International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples](#)

29 [International Day Against Nuclear Tests](#)

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More detailed information on 'environmental observances' may be found at:

- [International Days and Weeks | United Nations](#)
  - [International Years | United Nations](#)
  - [International Decades | United Nations](#)
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## Message from the President

*As always, a lot has happened since my message to you all in March! Over the last few months, I have been particularly impressed by the high-quality articles, media releases and reports produced by our dedicated volunteers. We have issued 4 media releases on: plastic waste targets, the importance of bees by Stasia Byers, as well as our government's promise to 'build back better', a call to volunteering and the WA livable neighbourhood policy all written by the talented Meet Karan Rana. Samy Andres Leyton-Flor has also produced a report on Abandoned Mines of Australia sent last month.*

*I would like to thank everyone who contributed articles for the special edition newsletters this year. It was a pleasure to reread those as I took note of HOPE's work for our draft 'Key Focus' tracker. This document has been produced to ensure that we continue our commitment to cover the Key Focus areas outlined in our 2024-29 Strategic Plan. The draft version of this tracker will be presented at the next Ordinary Meeting held on 14 June at 10am via Zoom. You will have all received an invitation and a copy of the meeting agenda by email and we encourage you to come along to the meeting! The tracker will be updated and will be available on our website following the meeting.*

*By the time you read this message HOPE will have issued another three sponsorship requests to help fund our proposed website upgrade, computers and pending projects. We hope these are successful so that we may continue our efforts in raising awareness of environmental issues locally and globally. In April HOPE was successful in receiving a grant from Queensland Gives for governance training! I am very grateful to Queensland Gives and our Office Manager, Frank Ondrus for acquiring this grant which I hope will develop my skills and knowledge as President to steer HOPE to a brighter future.*

*Lastly, I would like to welcome our new volunteers. Thank you for joining us and I cannot wait to see your articles and contribution to HOPE over the coming months.*

Anna Kula-Kaczmarek, President – HOPE Inc.

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

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## **Your financial support is sought! – <https://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/donations/>**

We invite members and supporters to consider making an annual financial contribution to help cover our operating costs of approximately \$20,500 p.a.

Currently, our income is derived from project grants, fund-raising, corporate sponsorship and donations, but falls well short of our requirements.

Your financial support, by way of an annual pledge or donation, will considerably help us to achieve better financial viability.

Of course, if you 'cash in your containers', why not donate those monies to **HOPE Inc** | Member number: C11107170.

***Please help us to continue our efforts in advocating for responsible stewardship of the environment and supports adopting sustainable long-term solutions to the manifold environmental problems facing humanity.***

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## National articles



### BirdLife Australia – Protecting Australia’s Feathered Future

Australia is home to some of the world’s most unique and beautiful bird species — from the vibrant Superb Fairy-wren to the critically endangered Orange-bellied Parrot. At the forefront of efforts to protect these birds and their habitats is **BirdLife Australia**, the country’s largest and oldest bird conservation organisation.

With a legacy dating back over 100 years, BirdLife Australia combines rigorous scientific research with grassroots community action to address the biggest threats facing native birds: habitat destruction, climate change, invasive species, and urban development. Their work not only benefits birds but supports the overall health of Australia’s ecosystems.

Notable programs like the *Powerful Owl Project*, *Birds in Backyards*, and *Aussie Bird Count* encourage citizen science and help everyday Australians contribute to national data collection and conservation goals. Their *Key Biodiversity Areas* program identifies and protects critical bird habitats, while advocacy efforts influence environmental policy at local, state, and federal levels.

What sets BirdLife Australia apart is their deep connection with community. Through education, volunteer opportunities, and partnerships with local groups, they empower thousands of people to take meaningful action for wildlife.

**Why support them?** Because when we protect birds, we protect the ecosystems we all rely on. BirdLife Australia shows that real change takes flight when science, passion, and people come together.

🔗 Explore their work, join a survey, or become a member: [www.birdlife.org.au](http://www.birdlife.org.au)

(Written by Taelum Slijderink - HOPE researcher Qld)

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### Beyond Zero Emissions – A Blueprint for a Cleaner, Stronger Australia



Imagine an Australia powered entirely by renewable energy. An Australia where regional towns thrive on clean industries, where millions of new jobs are created, and where we lead the world in climate-smart innovation. That’s the future envisioned by **Beyond Zero Emissions (BZE)** — and they’re not just imagining it, they’re showing exactly how we can make it happen.

**Beyond Zero Emissions** is an independent, not-for-profit think tank that develops bold yet achievable plans to transition Australia to a zero-emissions economy within a decade. Their work is deeply grounded in research, but it’s all about real-world impact — how we can cut emissions *and* create jobs, attract investment, and boost regional economies at the same time.

Their landmark reports — like the *Million Jobs Plan* and *Renewable Energy Industrial Precincts* — lay out step-by-step strategies for electrifying our industries, modernising infrastructure, and turning Australia into a global clean energy superpower. These are practical roadmaps that show how we can upgrade everything from transport to manufacturing, while keeping costs low and opportunities high.

One of BZE’s most powerful strengths is its **solutions-first approach**. Rather than focusing on problems, they focus on what’s possible — and back it up with rigorous modelling, consultation, and collaboration. Their research is trusted by policymakers, businesses, and communities alike, and they’re helping shape real policy at both state and federal levels.

**Why it matters:** In a time of climate urgency and economic uncertainty, BZE offers hope grounded in evidence. They show that the shift to net zero isn’t a burden — it’s an enormous opportunity for innovation, prosperity, and national pride.

**Why support them?** Because building a cleaner, fairer, and more resilient Australia is within reach — but it needs clear vision, smart planning, and public support. Beyond Zero Emissions is lighting the way forward.

🔗 Explore their plans or get involved: [www.bze.org.au](http://www.bze.org.au)

(Written by Taelum Slijderink - HOPE researcher Qld)

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CORENA is a charity “dedicated to climate action”. The organization has a renewable energy fund which donates to projects aimed at reducing carbon emissions. CORENA offers zero-interest loans and technical assistance to not-for-profits to fund ‘green’ projects such as switching to renewable energy by installing solar panels. The savings made from the decreased operating costs of operating solar panels are used to pay off the loan. The loan is then essentially paid off at no ‘extra’ cost to the borrower and the fund is restored to its original sum creating a revolving fund.

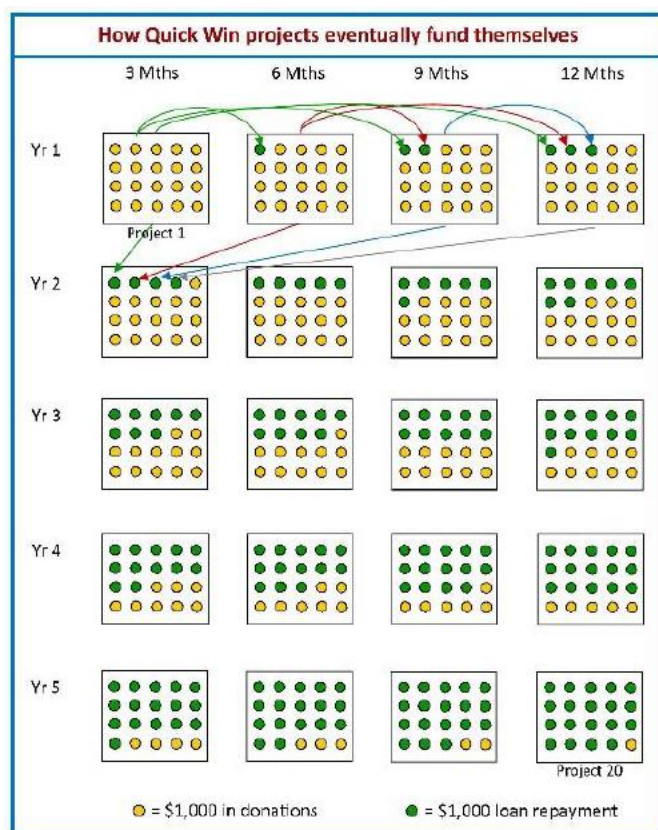


Donations made by the public increase the sum available to borrowers from this fund, thereby increasing the capacity for CORENA to fund more projects simultaneously. A one-off donation can be used again and again for example, a \$100 donation in 2013 would have paid for \$407.80 in project costs. Individuals have the option of making one-off, weekly or monthly donations.

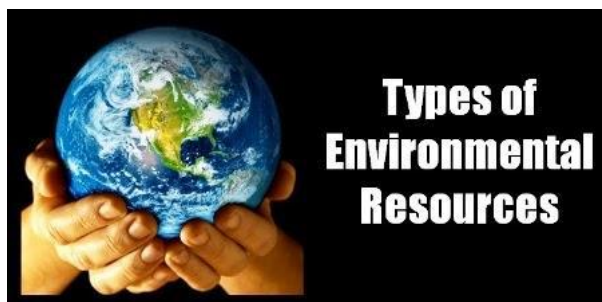
At CORENA’s inception in 2013 the goal was to provide a simple mechanism for the collective to support climate change projects in a practical way. Projects are chosen by their ability to reduce carbon emissions cost-efficiently as well as operating costs. Examples include; switching to solar, an electric fleet of cars, purchasing newer more efficient appliances or acquiring a battery loan.

CORENA has now funded 57 projects across 7 states, of those 45 were solar projects, 1 electric vehicle project, 4 solar and efficiency projects, 3 battery projects and 2 energy efficiency projects.

The \$803,022 worth of donations made (as at February 2025) to the fund has paid for 1,344 kW of solar energy (the equivalent to 377 households use of electricity) and has reduced 4,447 tonnes of carbon emissions.



## Food for thought



***An environmental resource is any material, service, or information from the environment that is valuable to society. This can refer to anything that people find useful in their environs, or surroundings.***



## Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Written by Jason Dingley, HOPE media officer VIC



Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is an approach that makes producers responsible for their products along the entire product lifecycle. Including at the post-consumer stage. Ultimately, new products need to be designed with environmental considerations in mind.

A combination of financial and operational approaches can be used to encourage producers to offer products that are more environmentally sustainable.

*Financial EPR:* here, the public sector (i.e. Government) operates the collection of the various products covered and recoup the cost of collection from the producers. Producers may consider it a tax but this is not so. The producers pay a fee for collection and further processing.

*Operational EPR:* this is where the producers are responsible for establishing the collection of waste and recovery whilst also covering the operating costs.

Ultimately, producers will be held to some form of performance target (collection, recycling; reuse), which may be done individually or cooperatively.

Within Australia, there are a number of national EPR schemes that are either in operation, being considered for operation or being revised:

- Used oil; Consumer packaging; Beverage containers; Newsprint; Tyres; E-waste; Compact fluorescent lamps; Paints; Mattresses; Batteries; Aluminium cladding; Child car seats; Plastics' and Clothing

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) provides the following figures for waste during the period 2021-22 ([Product Stewardship - DCCEEW](#)):

- Approximately 56% of all packaging was recovered, with paper and cardboard at 68% followed by glass at 63%. Plastic packaging recovery was a disappointing 20%.
- Container deposit schemes continue to expand, with Victoria starting its scheme in November 2023, but with restrictions on what is eligible for rebates.
- Oil recycling and recovery has been operating since 2001, and is recovering 320 megalitres of oil per year (which is equivalent to 160 Olympic-sized swimming pools).

Some may remember the failure of REDcycle; an industry-led program operating to recover soft plastics. In November 2022, REDcycle announced the suspension of operations due to limited processing capacity. In excess of 100 000 tonnes of plastics had been accumulated. In February 2023, REDcycle was declared insolvent. Essentially, the production of new soft plastics was cheaper and easier than recycling existing soft plastics.

Despite the failure of REDcycle, there are many schemes in operation and are having real impacts on product recovery and the waste stream. However, due to the often State-specific nature of schemes, there can be considerable variation on the effectiveness of the schemes.

A major concern with EPR is whether the end consumer will be charged more for products that have higher levels of recycled materials and recoverability designed into them. With cost-of-living pressures being a major socio-political issue, anything that is perceived to be costing families more is likely to be viewed negatively. At the same time, recycling of materials needs to be easy and convenient. Whilst container deposit schemes are fairly convenient and a useful revenue source for families, and general household batteries can be dropped-off in battery boxes in many locations, other schemes require more planning and travelling to utilise them; thus, the effectiveness of this schemes and the participation is going to be less.

It would be great if the major retailers – such as Bunnings, Mitre10 and so on – had collection boxes in their stores for recycling used bulbs and lamps; especially as these retailers sell the items in the first place. Unfortunately, it appears that drop-off locations seem to be waste transfer stations, which may not be conveniently located for people to use.

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## **Jon Dee: Leading the Charge Towards a Sustainable Future**

### **--- A Champion for Business & the Environment**



Jon Dee has spent decades proving that **business and sustainability go hand in hand**. From co-founding [Planet Ark](#) and leading campaigns to phase out **plastic bags, microbeads, and incandescent globes** to help plant **millions of trees** through National Tree Day, Dee's influence is widespread.

But his latest mission? **Getting corporate Australia to go 100% renewable.**

#### **Bringing [RE100](#) to Australia**

As the head of the **RE100 program in Australia**, Dee works with major corporations to **transition their operations to 100% renewable electricity**. Companies like **Woolworths, Atlassian, and all five major banks** have already signed on, proving that a **clean energy future isn't just possible—it's happening now**.

"More than **320 of the world's biggest companies** are going fully renewable. They use more electricity than Australia—so if they can do it, why can't we?" – Jon Dee

#### **The Business Case for Sustainability**

Dee has spent years showing that **sustainability isn't just good for the planet and business**. Companies that **reduce energy use, cut emissions, switch to renewables**, lower costs, and future-proof themselves against climate change risks.

Big brands like **Apple** are leading the way, running their operations on 100% renewable energy and pushing their **suppliers** to follow suit.

#### **The Future is Now: Solutions Already Exist**

Jon Dee remains **optimistic about the future** because the solutions to climate change **already exist**—we need to scale them up.

"Almost every solution we need has already been invented. **We just need to crank them up and get them out there!**" – Jon Dee

#### **How You Can Get Involved**

- Are you part of a business that could make the switch? Check out **RE100** and start your journey to renewables.
- **Want to stay updated?** Follow [@JonDeeOz](#) and [@Smarter Futures](#) on Twitter for the latest corporate sustainability news.

Together, we can create a **brighter, greener future**.

\*Material for this article has been sourced from [JonDee.com](#) and [Work for Climate](#).

*(Written by Shuri Matsumoto - HOPE admin volunteer (Qld))*

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## Solving Plastic Waste Cooperative Research Centre (CRC)

A summary by Karyne Maurmann, HOPE researcher Qld



In a significant stride towards environmental sustainability, the Solving Plastic Waste Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) commenced operations on July 1, 2024. This 10-year initiative aims to tackle Australia's escalating plastic waste dilemma through collaborative efforts spanning the entire plastics value chain.

A recent study highlights the urgent need for a systemic shift towards a circular economy for plastics, emphasizing that innovative policies, industry collaboration, and advanced recycling technologies are essential to reducing plastic waste and harmful environmental impacts (Sharma *et al.*, 2022).

The Australian Government has underscored its commitment by allocating \$40 million in federal funding to the CRC, as announced by Minister for Industry and Science, The Honourable Ed Husic. This contribution forms part of the CRC's total resource pool of \$140.6 million, bolstered by investments from various partners.

Plastics play an indispensable role across numerous sectors of the global economy. However, the prevalent linear approach—designing plastics for single-use without considering recovery or reuse — has led to significant environmental challenges, including pervasive plastic pollution and concerns over microplastic-induced health risks.

According to Australia's National Waste Report 2020, the country generated approximately 2.5 million tonnes of plastic waste in 2018-2019, with only 9% being recycled while 84% was sent to landfill (Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, 2020).

Addressing these issues, the Solving Plastic Waste CRC is poised to revolutionize the lifecycle of plastic products. Its mission encompasses the development of improved product designs, innovative materials, advanced technologies, and sustainable processes. By fostering industry-driven collaboration among researchers, governments, and stakeholders, the CRC aims to transform how plastics are designed, manufactured, utilized, recovered, and recycled.

The CRC's objectives align with Australia's national targets of eliminating plastic pollution and establishing a circular, climate-neutral economy for plastics. Moreover, it seeks to bolster a competitive and sustainable advanced manufacturing sector within the country.

A diverse consortium of partners supports the CRC, including plastic manufacturers, processors, major brand owners, recycling companies, industry associations, councils, government bodies, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions. This extensive network ensures a comprehensive approach to addressing the multifaceted challenges of plastic waste.

The Solving Plastic Waste CRC stands as a testament to Australia's proactive stance in combating plastic pollution. Through innovation, collaboration, and a commitment to sustainability, it aspires to reshape the nation's plastic economy, paving the way for a cleaner and safer environment for future generations.

## References:

- Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. (2020). *National Waste Report 2020*.
- Sharma, R., Jaiswal, A. K., & Samal, S. K. (2022). Circular economy approach in solid waste management system to achieve UN-SDGs: Solutions for post-COVID recovery. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 367, 133065. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2022.133065>
- Solving Plastic Waste Cooperative Research Centre. (2024). *Solving Plastic Waste CRC*. <https://www.plasticwastecrc.com/>

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## The Next Economy – Building Resilient, Regenerative Futures



As Australia faces the dual challenges of climate change and economic transition, **The Next Economy** is stepping up with bold, practical solutions. This Brisbane-based non-profit works with communities, industries, and governments to design pathways toward a low-carbon, sustainable economy that works for people and the planet.

Founded by social entrepreneur Dr. Amanda Cahill, The Next Economy specialises in regional economic development, helping towns and cities transition away from fossil fuels while creating new jobs and industries in renewable energy, regenerative agriculture, sustainable transport, and the circular economy. Their approach centres on justice, inclusion, and local empowerment — ensuring no one is left behind in the transition.

Through research, community engagement, and policy advice, they've supported regions across Queensland, New South Wales, and beyond. Projects include energy transition roadmaps, resilience workshops, and economic development planning that centres both climate science and community needs.

What sets The Next Economy apart is their focus on **place-based solutions** — they don't just talk about change; they facilitate it directly in the communities that need it most. Their work fosters collaboration between traditional industry workers, First Nations leaders, councils, entrepreneurs, and everyday citizens.

**Why support them?** Because creating a fairer, cleaner, and more resilient economy doesn't happen by chance — it takes vision, listening, and leadership. The Next Economy is helping shape that future, one community at a time.

🔗 Learn more and get involved: [www.nexteconomy.com.au](http://www.nexteconomy.com.au)

(Written by Taelum Slijderink - HOPE researcher Qld)

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