

CLIMATE ALLIANCE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Climate Alliance ran its national conference in Melbourne on the 7 October, 2010. It was a very successful event attended by a large number of delegates. Ambassador Daly, Head of EU Delegation in Canberra, gave the keynote speech. He spoke about the EU approach to managing its carbon emissions and the many opportunities for Australian business. Luke Chamberlain from the Wilderness Society provided some very large dollar numbers that represented the economic value of forests. His talk was based on work done by the Deutsche Bank. City of Port Philip Mayor, Frank O'Connor spoke about the challenges facing the city from the potential of sea level rise. He spoke eloquently about risk management and mitigation strategies.

Professor John Thwaites spoke about work done by Climate Works and identification of opportunities for business to reduce costs - even in the absence of a carbon price.

Jon Jutsen from Energetics led a panel of discussion on climate change and business. Participants included Jeremy Baskin, University of Cambridge, Peter Binks, Ceramic Fuel Cells Ltd, Merv Jones, Orbital Corporation, Nathan Fabian Investor Group on Climate Change and Paddy Manning, Fairfax. It was an interesting and lively discussion!

Ian Dunlop, Chair of Safe Climate Australia spoke about taking a holistic approach to the problem of climate change by referring to the work of the Club of Rome. Liz Bossley, director of CEAG London spoke about her experience as a carbon trader and her role as an expert witness in cases involving the litigation of company directors.

Lloyd Fleming, Chair of Board of Advisors of Climate Alliance had the pleasurable task of announcing the winners of the Climate Alliance Awards - see below.

CLIMATE ALLIANCE LEADERSHIP AWARD



Climate Alliance was delighted to have received many quality nominations. The Board of Advisors had the difficult task of picking winners from the excellent submissions.

The Board Leadership award goes to a Board of a listed or unlisted company, based and trading in Australia, that has made a noteworthy contribution during the last year and

has demonstrated outstanding leadership. The Board of the National Australia Bank won the award in 2010. The selection panel felt that the Board, in conjunction with the leadership of Cameron Clyne and his executive team, has made exemplary efforts to reduce its carbon footprint. To underscore this award, the Bank also recently received an excellent rating by the Carbon Disclosure Leadership Index.



The second award goes to a director or executive of a listed or unlisted company based and trading in Australia, that has made a noteworthy contribution during the last year and has demonstrated outstanding leadership over this period. Mr Rob Grant, CEO of Pacific Hydro, won the award from a strong field.

The third award was for an Innovator/Exporter of the Year. An Australian listed or unlisted company that has developed an innovative product or service, that can be shown to be an effective



CLIMATE ALLIANCE

A business essential.



alternative to "business as usual" or is a market leader. Hepburn Wind won this award because of its innovative strategy to gain community engagement.

The nominations were of such good quality, the selection panel gave a Special Commendation to Sydney Water for freely distributing its "Cost of Carbon" abatement tool to other water authorities around Australia.



MEXICAN MASTERSTROKE

13 Dec 2010 - The two-week meeting in Cancun was rapidly approaching an end date. Patricia Espinosa, the Mexico foreign secretary who presided over the Cancun climate summit, didn't get to meet her 6pm Friday deadline to wrap the talks - that didn't occur till 3am Saturday - but the hour did deliver salvation.



It was at that moment that the several thousand negotiators in the main plenary session at the Moon Palace recognised what Espinosa

had achieved on the last day and gave her a massive ovation. Negotiators and ministers had been unable to bridge their divides in the previous 13 days, so Espinosa did it for them.

See full article at: <http://www.climatespectator.com.au/commentary/cancun-calling-mexican-masterstroke>

SEA LEVEL RISE PROJECTIONS FOR AUSTRALIA

Residents with property on the coast in Byron Bay have been facing this issue for a number of years and much argument has been had over how to arrest the advance of the sea on people's properties. Greg Combet released a report on 16 December that attempts to predict the extent of sea level rise and its impact on low-lying Australian properties.

The government has released high-resolution maps that show the areas in Australia most under threat from sea-level rise.

See full article at: <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/rising-sea-levels-will-swamp-parts-of-sydney-20101215-18yak.html>

The report identifies a number of areas in Australia - including the Gold Coast:

http://www.ozcoasts.org.au/climate/Map_images/SthEastQld/OCGC_South/2.2/jpeg/150dpi/Brisbane_22_150_Map_37.jpg

DAVID SUZUKI

If you have an extra hour watch this video over the coming holiday period - I would strongly recommend that you should take the time. It is David Suzuki's talk about his last book. He speaks eloquently as an elder, giving his perspective of how we humans are treating our home.



Highly recommended viewing or listening. Available from Radio National - of course!

See link at:

<http://www.abc.net.au/tv/bigideas/stories/2010/11/16/3066634.htm>

PWC STUDY ON BUSINESS

London, 6 Dec 2010 -- Business believes that adapting to climate change is no longer an issue for governments to resolve alone and that they can play a valuable role in advising on

what policies would encourage action by business, according to a new study by PwC.

The study, launched to mark the Global Business Day at the UN Climate Summit in Cancun, presents the views of a range of businesses, from major multinationals to local enterprises, on adaptation to climate change. It was conducted in collaboration with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and supported by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the UK Department for International Development.

It concludes that business has an important role to play in adaptation and that better engagement of business is needed in the policy-shaping process. The role of business is not just in preparing its own assets and operations for anticipated climate change, but also providing know-how, solutions and resources to the adaptation challenge. This ranges from climate risk assessment, to designing disaster risk management and financing vehicles, and designing and deploying new technologies.

See full article at: <http://www.pwc.com/gx/en/press-room/2010/adaptation-climate-change-not-for-public-sector-to-solve.jhtml>

GRATTAN INSTITUTE FINDS THE COSTS ARE MANAGEABLE

Technology innovation is the key to reducing carbon emissions cheaply. Grattan Institute investigated the experience of six pollution pricing schemes in Australia and overseas. In each case, costs to reduce pollution, and actual prices, were much lower than governments and their experts expected. Governments consistently got it wrong when picking in advance which technologies would deliver the cheapest reductions. Environmental markets routinely led to innovation to reduce emissions at lower cost in practice than in forecasts.

See full article at: http://www.grattan.edu.au/pub_page/064_report_cheaper_pollution_markets.html

BUSINESS IN THE UK IS NOT ACTING PRUDENTLY

A new survey of UK businesses and other organisations carried out for Defra by Ipsos MORI has found that while many businesses have been affected by the type of weather that climate change may bring, preparations for the impacts of climate change are not well advanced.

Three quarters of the businesses surveyed were concerned about the effects of climate change on the UK and one in three had been significantly affected in the last three years by extreme weather such as flooding and drought. However, less than a quarter had actually started to do something about the risks and opportunities that climate change poses.

See full article at:

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news05301.html>

RISK MANAGEMENT MAGAZINE IDENTIFIES CLIMATE CHANGE AS AN IMPORTANT RISK TO AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS

Over the past year, a number of extreme weather events have highlighted the increased risk of climate change within Australia. Droughts, bushfires, floods, water scarcity and other such events are increasingly commonplace and business is concerned.

The Victorian bushfires, Sydney dust storm, major flooding in Victoria and Queensland and hailstorms are becoming more characteristic of climate change in Australia, according to Rosenthal. "We're hearing that across the insurance industry as a whole," he said.

"Climate change has always been a kind of nebulous risk; it's kind of like dealing with recession as a financial risk. But the 100 year storm is now happening once every year, and events like this are having an impact."

KPMG insurance partner, Ian Moyser, agrees that severe weather events have become more prevalent during the past five years, to a point where they are now beginning to feel like the norm for insurers. "Australia has always had extreme weather, however, as population and wealth increases, claims and costs from these events rise," he said.

A global Business Continuity Institute survey also found that adverse weather was the main cause of disruption around the world, with 53 per cent of companies experiencing such an event.

See full article at: <http://www.riskmanagementmagazine.com.au/articles/a6/0c06dba6.asp>

URBAN MYTH - AUSTRALIA WILL BE THE FIRST COUNTRY TO PRICE CARBON

It is disquieting that this urban myth continues to do the rounds and is perpetuated by beguiled reporters. There are at least 30 other countries that have priced carbon - including our cousins in New Zealand.

Climate Alliance Membership

Business leaders are cordially invited to join Climate Alliance and benefit from networking opportunities, invitations to events and access to information that deals with the opportunities and risks of climate change. See website for details and registration forms.

About Climate Alliance

Climate Alliance is a not-for-profit, membership based company that collects and disseminates information on climate change. Our primary focus is to provide independent, business-oriented information to Company Directors, to help them inform themselves about the opportunities and risks resulting from climate change. We do not consult, lobby or develop policy.

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