

GREEN

MAGAZINE OF THE AUSTRALIAN GREENS

Food
glorious
food

Ethical eating:
how we can
manage our
food impact



The effect
of mining
operations on
fertile soil



The fair food
movement

ED: Our best piece of correspondence so far, from Amy of Chiltern, Victoria. Thank you, Amy - we totally agree with your concerns, and will do our best to protect them.
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the australian greens wish to acknowledge that we are on indigenous ground – this land is the spiritual and sacred place of the traditional owners and their ancestors and continues to be a place of significance. further, we thank them for sharing this land with us and agree to respect their laws and lores.

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Welcome to *Green* magazine for 2011. Our first cover image for the year comes from the gardens of CERES, featured in this edition in our article on their Fair Food revolution. The gardens are in urban Brunswick, Victoria, and are a rare oasis in the concrete surrounds. While many people are growing their own produce at home, the places where most of our food come from are far removed from us, both literally and figuratively. In this edition we touch on some of the many issues of food production (and the wider implications of these industries) for Australia, exploring the serious consequences of mining in our food basins, the question of the Murray Darling and the choices we make about what we put on our plates.

Of course, the tragedy of the recent floods in Queensland and Victoria is still central to our concerns. On behalf of the Communications Working Group I would like to offer our sympathy and support to those in affected areas now facing the daunting recovery from such a natural disaster. On top of these local events, we have also seen catastrophic climate disasters in Brazil

and Sri Lanka. While our country rallies behind the victims of floods here in our own country, we hope there will also be attention and support for the people of these nations, too.

Our local floods will have far reaching repercussions for our nation as a whole. Along with the tragic loss of life, there have been countless homes, and businesses swept away. The rebuild will be a massive effort, not just in the flood-affected areas, but for all of us. Given the topic of this edition, the loss of so many local crops is a timely issue, which raises many questions. How will we support the farmers and industries directly affected? Will we turn to further importation of cheap products from overseas to fill the voids? Will consumers pay higher prices? Basic food prices rising will, as always, be felt the most by those already struggling.

The foods that we eat, perhaps our most basic daily choices, are influenced by all of these issues and as such have far reaching consequences. *Green* magazine aims to stimulate discussion and debate on these matters and more.

Lefa Singleton Norton - Editor
greenmag@greens.org.au ▲

Queensland Floods Appeal



The tragic loss of life in the Queensland floods, as well as the shocking images of besieged cities, evacuated suburbs, homes and cars swept away and farms ruined, leaves us luckier Australians asking how we can help.

Please give to the Queensland Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal by visiting:
www.qld.gov.au/floods
or calling: 1800 219 028



Comments (*Green*, ed. 32) from public figures such as Murdoch and Howard demonstrate the views of those who have shaped the past. The type of anti-Green opinions they espouse are responsible for the state of emergency the planet is now in. Murdoch's quote, 'Whatever you do, don't let the bloody Greens mess it up' obviously refers not to any environmental concerns but to his economic goals of wanting more of the same to reach multinational targets at any cost. The Murdochs and Howards of this world are still wrapped up in the old dichotomy. However, the federal election results in 2010 indicate that a growing number of people realise that we can have Green jobs and a strong economy without jeopardising the future by gross exploitation.

CHRISTINE BENNETT
Maroochy Greens



Well, Saturday 27 November must have brought some of us back down to earth with quite a bump. It was assuredly ironic that I received *Green* ed. 32, full of euphoria and hoopla reporting of the federal election results, two days after the Victorian elections. I thought that

the, well shall we say "smug", representation on the front cover was particularly painful.

It has to be said that we, who are dedicated to a long-term commitment to the values that the Greens have espoused, must recognise the fact that things are never going to be easy. Pursuit of what we believe in will continue to draw criticism and vitriolic comment from a number of quarters. It will always be heads down and noses to the grindstone. Every small success must be celebrated, but with humility, gratitude and reserve - this is not sport. True believers must be in this for the very long term and contribute as best they can for a hugely worthy cause.

I have never voted for Labor and never shall, and so it was with some disenchantment that I listened to our federal and state representatives signing their lives away in support of two governments that could hardly be held up as worthy of our support. While I would certainly not advocate support for the other lot, were those quite unequivocal commitments really fair to the membership at large?

The real test will come at the next elections. Let's see how well the "machine" has worked in the intervening period; let's focus our attention on the matters that are of real

importance to the people of this nation; and let's see which of our elected representatives has the commitment and has done the necessary hard grind to win back the support we need - and deserve.

MALCOLM FYFE
ACT Greens



Thank you Bob for continuing to provide such inspiration for me, my partner & our 4 kids... We love reading your back page and the balance you hold between politics and getting out there and enjoying the bush. I was especially moved when you offered to anyone who couldn't afford it, a copy of your new book. (We look forward to buying it & reading it!) We feel so grateful that we have someone like you fighting for our kids' future... If you are ever in Alice Springs and want to go out bush look us up sometime... Hope you get some quality bush time this Christmas.

SARA PHILLIPS &
PHIL RUDD
*Formerly residents of
South Hobart*



If nuclear power is the answer, then it must have been a pretty stupid question. How can such an industry be so brazen as to claim to be the solution to anything?

I believe the green movement has lost its focus. Once upon a time it focussed on pollution and environmental degradation. Recently it has become obsessed with climate change, or global warming. Cradle to grave environmental cost-benefit analysis has given way to "what can we do to prevent global warming?" or more narrow still "how can we reduce carbon dioxide emissions?"

Recently Australia's drought has broken. I wonder how many people now doubt climate change, who were just beginning to believe in it? Yet if we were to go back to grass-roots green issues, and frame our arguments in terms of pollution and abuse of finite resources, no drought-breaking rains would challenge the faith of our new-found supporters. And nor would nuclear power be the answer to any questions other than "how to make money" and "how to make nuclear weapons".

It's the Green Party, not the Climate Change Party.
PETER MARSHALL
Braidwood Greens

ED: Thank you to all our letter writers. We encourage you to write a letter to the editor on any issue. Letters are requested to be no longer than 400 words and will be edited for length. Please email them to greenmag@greens.org.au ▲





the fair food movement

The Melbourne based Centre for Education and Research in Environmental Strategies (CERES) recently launched their Fair Food program, providing organic, locally-produced food. Lefa Singleton Norton spoke to them about the program and it's aims.

What are the aims of Fair Food and how do they fit with the ethos of CERES?

Fair Food is a Social Enterprise which helps support CERES and our mission to promote sustainable living and alternative energy systems. Our primary objective at CERES is education, with over 50,000 school kids coming to our park each year to learn all about the need for sustainability, community and cross cultural awareness. CERES also has a strong focus on organic food production with a propagation centre, nursery, market gardens and regular organic market.

Fair Food has a number of goals: first and foremost we wanted to create an alternative to supermarket shopping, which, as we all know is dominated by two major players in Australia. Supermarkets supply nearly 80 per cent of all groceries sold in Australia and we see this as a major threat to the environment, local economies and our food culture in general. Market concentration in the supermarket industry has been cited as the main culprit for food price inflation over the past 10 years and often, supermarkets use bullying tactics to dictate prices and business terms to farmers.

This has led to smaller farmers going out of business because of reduced margins or an inability to supply to supermarkets specifications.

This is coupled with a supply chain which has a disturbing dependence on long distance transport, fossil fuel and cold storage. Carbon emissions from supermarket related food transport alone account for more than 2 per cent of the total carbon emissions in Australia. Shopping at supermarkets will generally mean that customers have no idea who produced the produce, how it was transported, stored and what environmental considerations were taken in its production.

CERES Fair Food is almost the antithesis of this model.

We work almost exclusively with Victorian farmers, the closer to Melbourne the better. We want to build long lasting relationships with our farmers and growers, based on trust and sticking by them right through the growing season and not chasing the lowest price just because there is an over-supply in the market.

Fair Food provides a link between farmers and customers. Our members care about where their food comes from and how it's produced. They can see the

advantage of buying local - the produce is fresher, in-season and whatever they spend with us stays within the Victorian economy. All of our suppliers are organic certified, which means our customers know that their food is produced without chemicals or GMO. However, we also try to get to know our growers and understanding their land care credentials. This is something that we are keen to spend more time doing as we mature as an organisation. Ideally we would introduce our own standards which would also take into consideration a component of social justice, for instance, ensuring farm workers are treated fairly.

Where did the concept for Fair Food come from?

CERES have always been a big promoter of local food and have spent years supplying and supporting fledgling food co-ops (essentially buying clubs where people can get together to buy bulk organic food and take advantage of lower prices). After researching various models we decided that we would adopt a distribution system similar to Food Connect in Brisbane. This model has elements of CSA (Community Shared Agriculture) and co-ops. It uses pick-up points instead of door-to-door delivery which saves on food miles and encourages people to get know like-minded folk in their neighbourhood. Rob Peakin (Food Connect Founder and all round clever bloke)

has a solid vision for alternative food systems and was very instrumental in helping us get systems in place in the early days.

How do you see schemes such as Fair Food influencing the marketplace?

Well, with supermarkets dominating the marketplace there's obviously a big job to do before we can say that we have any real influence. However, we see it as a big opportunity too, with more and more people waking up to the fact that local and organic food systems aren't just fads but have tangible social and environmental benefits.

So where is the CERES produce grown?

We have two main market gardens - at CERES itself (managed by Farmer Steve) and another plot about 4km up the Merri Creek at our Harding Street garden (managed by Silke Genovese).

Much of the food in the weekly boxes is grown on site at CERES in Brunswick.

Do you find consumers are interested to come and see where their food is grown, or to be more educated about the process by which their food arrives on their plate?

Both. We have a lot of interest in farm visits, which we will be starting up when it cools down a bit, and people are also responding positively to articles and

“Fair Food provides a link between farmers and customers - we also try to get to know our growers and understanding their land care credentials.”

links we publish online. We try to give our members as much information about how food is really produced as possible by giving members access to information which they may not be aware of. For instance last year we hosted a free showing of Food INC - this is something we will be doing a lot more of in 2011.

You have staff from the Adult Multicultural Education Service (AMES) working at Fair Food. Can you explain how this shapes what you do and why it works so well with the overall motivation of the scheme?

This is another example of our commitment to providing a social outcome from what we do. We have employed a number of people through AMES and it's exciting to see the guys develop new skills and become better equipped to deal with the Australian workplace. In fact everyone we have had through AMES has been an asset to Fair Food, making working at Fair Food an extremely inclusive and fun place to work.

How has the scheme created new links and relationships between growers, sellers and consumers?

It's about developing trust really. We already share a lot of information about our farmers via our website, Facebook, newsletters and in farm visits. It's empowering for growers to meet customers and vice versa. We are planning more ways of getting information to our customers, such as asking farmers to write guest blog articles, producing podcasts and videos, so that our customers can get a feel for some of the realities of growing food and are more in tune with the growing seasons.

Is it true that you are already fielding questions from other organisations over Australia who want to emulate the scheme in their own locations? If so, how do you offer advice and support?

Yes we are open to providing help to individuals or organisations who would like to set up something similar to Fair Food. So far this has ranged from fact-finding meetings and tours of our warehouse, to sharing information and systems.

What is the future for Fair Food?

There is still so much for us to do... but more happy customers and farmers would be fantastic! ▲



PIC COURTESY CERES FAIR FOOD



PIC COURTESY CERES FAIR FOOD



Find out more about CERES Fair Food at
www.ceresfairfood.org.au

ethical food

What makes ethical food? In this section, three very different ideas are presented. Michael Croft delves into the very concept of ethics in food consumption, whilst Rheyra Linden investigates the eating of our national emblem. Finally, Jeff Perz looks at the green credentials of veganism.

In the affluent minority world we are daily faced with a barrage of facts, misinformation, infotainment, scare mongering and manipulation about food. In a time of super abundance we are confused and often feel guilty about our food choices. Have we done the right thing socially/ethically, environmentally and economically? Are we being true to “green” values with our food choices? Can we really save the planet one meal at a time? Do our food choices determine the fate of our planet? Consider the following examples.

Imagine for a minute that you are a devout vegetable-only eater and you have a craving for asparagus cooked with a little salt and margarine. You are convinced that by eating unprocessed, natural food you are doing well: no animals are harmed and it is socially responsible, and so ticks all the “green” boxes. End of story? Unfortunately it isn't.

If you purchased the asparagus outside its natural season from one of the two supermarket chains that controls over 70 per cent of the fresh food market, this giant corporation has likely imported the asparagus from overseas (where it is also cheaper). The asparagus was almost certainly grown using artificial fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides, and the residual effects on the environment (and you) are unknown. Illegal immigrant and child labour may also have been used in the growing and harvesting of this asparagus.

Once harvested overseas, asparagus is transported to a central distribution and packaging facility, it is then air freighted some 15,000 kilometres to Australia, and being “fresh produce” it is sprayed by the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service with Methyl Bromide. Once safely in Australia the asparagus leaves the airport in a refrigerated van and moves to a refrigerated central distribution warehouse. Here it is re-palletised and dispatched to a secondary state based distribution centre. From here it goes to the supermarket, again in refrigerated transport, where it ends up on the refrigerated shelf having travelled a further few thousand kilometres. Unfortunately, due to all the travelling, handling and time, the shelf life has been compromised, and often 40 per cent of this “fresh” produce ends up in the rubbish hopper and goes to landfill.

Perhaps you have added salt and margarine to your ‘fresh’ asparagus. Did you notice the anti-caking agents on the salt container that are suspected to induce migraines and other ills? Margarine also comes with GM canola or soy, herbicides, pesticides and the effects of land clearing, topsoil losses and stubble burning to name but a few, not to mention the trans fatty acids it contains.

Margarine is what Michael Pollan, in his excellent book *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, calls “an edible food like substance”, and the description of how it is made should be a warning. First the oil is extracted under high temperature and pressure, with the remaining fraction

of oil removed with hexane solvents. Then the oils are steam cleaned, a process that removes vitamins and antioxidants, but the solvents and the pesticides remain. These oils are then mixed with a nickel catalyst and put into a huge high-pressure, high-temperature reactor.

What goes into the reactor is a liquid, but what comes out of that reactor is a semi-solid matter that looks like grey cottage cheese and smells terrible. Emulsifiers are mixed in to smooth out the lumps. The product is then steam cleaned a second time to get rid of the smell, and bleached to remove the grey colour. The product is now vegetable shortening. To finish artificial flavours and synthetic vitamins are added. Colouring such as annatto is added to make it look appealing. Finally it is packaged in blocks and tubs and sold via the usual distribution system with attendant food miles.

So has the vegetable only meal ticked all the “green” boxes? The issue is not as simple as it may have first appeared. For some people, the issue of eating meat also seems clear cut. Meat is inefficient protein, ethically and socially questionable, and sure to have caused immense environmental degradation during production. However there are also a variety of issues to be taken into consideration in this example.

If you choose to purchase your meat from a local, pasture based, free-range farm that is farmed organically and practises holistic management, that meat could tick more “green” boxes than the asparagus described

previously. Buying at a farmers’ market gives you the ability to look farmers in the eye and ask questions of her farming practices, or visit the farm to see for yourself how she farms and treats her animals. You’re also guaranteed your farmer received a fair price for their product and run little risk that child labour has been involved.

On these kinds of farms all the cattle move frequently to fresh pastures. The moves are timed to maximise animal and pasture wellbeing, and to maximise carbon sequestration in the topsoil. The cows are always humanely treated and only milked once a day with their calves being allowed to suckle naturally. The beef cattle are treated humanely throughout their lives and are given a stress free, quick and painless death when the time comes. Whilst alive the cattle are free to exhibit their biological distinctiveness and are kept in familial groups. The beef is also much honoured in the eating and the entire animal is consumed and put to good use as part of the cycle of life.

If the farm is only used for grazing, the cattle only eat grass and have a symbiotic relationship with the pasture.

As a result the animals fats have the same healthy ratio of Omega 3 and 6 fatty acids as fish. Being pasture based and holistically managed, the cattle sequester more carbon in the soil than their rumens generate CO₂e. As they move frequently they have no parasite or pest burden and so require no chemical treatments.

Many of these farms have rare breeds which are threatened with extinction. They represent nearly a thousand years of cultural history that is increasingly under threat by industrial agriculture’s single-minded pursuit of profits. Without a market for the milk and beef they will be lost forever and it is a truism to say that you have to eat them to save them. In so doing you are helping to preserve genetic diversity and cultural history.

So was the above meat meal “green”? On many factors the answer can be considered to be yes and, as good as it is, this example represents significantly less than one per cent of the meat based meals in Australia – but a socially, environmentally and economically responsible meat meal is possible. The key issue is to pay attention not only to

the what, but also the why, when, where, how and by whom of your food choices. ▲
Michael Croft is a biodynamic farmer in the Canberra region

“Going vegan is easy. Vegan foods are healthy, diverse and absolutely delicious. All we need is information and to give this issue the serious attention that it merits.”

Greens, and the population of Australia at large, are being asked to consider the kangaroo meat industry as a viable meat alternative. We’re told it provides those amongst us not yet willing to replace meat in our diets with a ‘green’ and ethically acceptable protein

alternative. This is merely a comforting myth as severe in its implications as the ones about ‘clean coal’ and ‘scientific whaling’.

From a Greens perspective a “clean and green” product would need to comply with at least three minimal standards; that it be ecologically sustainable, ethically acceptable (compliant with the Green’s Charter of respect for all life) and without detrimental effects on human health. Let’s apply these standards to kangaroo meat.

One reason kangaroo meat is considered preferable to beef, and other intensively farmed products, is that kangaroo populations do not compact the soil to the degree that cows and sheep do, move in numbers through established corridors across a wide range (thus avoiding over-browsing on indigenous flora) and have digestive systems that do not release high levels of methane into the atmosphere.

However, we need to embed the biological and evolutionary characteristics of kangaroos within the current environmental landscape, taking into account



PIC: CC LICENSED FLICKR USER KING DESMOND



PIC: CC LICENSED FLICKR USER EDWIN 11

incremental loss of habitat such that kangaroo moves are frequently fenced in by farms and urban fringe developments which significantly decrease their range and block their movement corridors. This can create implosive population growth, overgrazing and ultimately death by starvation or gunfire from irate farmers bent on damage mitigation. Drought and disease also take their toll, resulting in dramatic population crashes.

As a recent report by wildlife ecologist Dr Dror Ben-Ami makes clear to introduce a commercial kill into this formula is to threaten the viability of the species altogether. "In Queensland, the commercial kangaroo industry has access to 94 per cent of the state, leaving only six per cent of the state as protected habitat for kangaroos. Red Kangaroos are quasi-extinct across 70 per cent of Queensland, and at densities of less than 1.6 kangaroos per square kilometer across forty per cent of the state. Despite these critically low levels the Queensland Government has set a harvesting quota of 15 to 20 per cent of the remaining Red Kangaroos in 2008."

Similar trends are evident in other states where commercial kangaroo killing takes place. Dr Ian Gunn, of the Animal Gene Storage Resource Centre of Australia, believes that driven by market pressures "the current situation will ultimately reduce the mature weights and sizes of future generations and could lead to a decrease in the ability of the population to survive".

A Queensland Department of Primary Industries study "puts the maximum potential supply of kangaroo meat at just 57,000 tonnes per year...In comparison cattle supply over 1,700,000 tonnes of beef each year. To get 1,700,000 tonnes of kangaroo meat for human consumption, we would need...to be killing the entire kangaroo population hundreds of times over each year."

Thus kangaroo harvesting, far from alleviating environmental degradation while producing a sustainable meat source, employs commercially-expedient methods that undermine fundamental ecological principles. Dr Ben-Ami believes "harvesting

removes the largest and therefore fittest kangaroos (whether male or female) from the population – the ones most likely to survive extreme climatic conditions and other detrimental unpredictable events."

Nor is building up kangaroo populations through farming a viable option: not only were sheep and cows once wild and the environmental degradations we now attribute to them the result of our farming practices, kangaroos suffer capture myopathy.

Greens have traditionally condemned the domestication, commercialization and killing of wild species yet many of us remain blinkered with regard to our most iconic native animal. A useful reminder is the fate of the Brushtail Rock Wallaby, hunted for fur in the 1900s, now extinct in the wild and found only in captive breeding programs. With over 30 per cent of our native mammals gone and many more on the precipice, it is foolish to think that the kangaroo can somehow survive the combined factors inexorably leading to its destruction.

Clearly the realities of kangaroo meat do not reflect their folksy "bush food" branding: we are looking at a commercial industry annually worth \$400 million, \$270 million from export income alone.

The commercial kangaroo industry disregards the nature of the animal it kills. Its 'take' of individuals fulfils allowable quotas but ignores the complex social and family relations of the kangaroo mob upon which the group's survival depends.

The animal welfare issues are considerable and cannot be monitored due to the remoteness of outback locations. Dr Ben-Ami says that by conservative estimates 440,000 joeys die every year. There is also evidence, he says, that 40 per cent of the adults are not killed by a clean shot to the head, but by a more painful and illegal shot to the jaw or neck, and consequently take off with their injuries or "are left in the field because their carcasses will not be accepted by the meat processors." The levels of suffering escalate when we consider the fate of joeys. "Every year some 440,000 dependent young kangaroos are either clubbed to death or left to starve after their mothers have been killed".

“Australia is presently slaughtering kangaroos at the same time the Minister of the Environment, Peter Garrett, is condemning Japan for killing whales... the Minister is supporting the slaughter saying that the kill is ‘humane’ and ‘properly administered’... The Japanese say the exact same thing about their whale slaughter.”

- Captain Paul Watson, Sea Shepherd Conservation Society.

Kangaroo joeys are the industry's by-products whose numbers are not even counted in the kill quotas; their treatment, enshrined in the industry's voluntary Code of Practice, has earned us an international reputation for brutality. Minister Garrett's claims about a "humane" and "well-administered" kangaroo harvesting industry are countered by a recent article in the UK's *The Daily Mail* "these little victims are bludgeoned to death and left for trash when their mothers are shot in the outback".

Dr Desmond Sibraa, former chief food inspector for the NSW Health Department said of the kangaroo meat industry "they are killed in the dirt in summer in high temperatures. How can you produce a clean meat under those conditions?" Russia was our biggest export market for kangaroo products but in 2009 banned the import of kangaroo meat following recurring instances of bacterial contamination. If kangaroo meat is deemed a health risk for Russian citizens, why is our government so hell-bent on marketing it to us?

"Toxoplasmosis and salmonellosis are two bacterial infections that affect kangaroos and which also have significant public health implications...and as many as one in two kangaroo carcasses may harbour the salmonella bacterium".

Bob Brown recently explained the voter shift to the Greens by saying that we are the thinking-person's party. Indeed what makes the Greens unique is our ability to think with our hearts as well as our heads and place a non-negotiable value on wilderness for its ability to nourish the human spirit as well as provide the ecological basis for a rich diversity of life on our planet. In the face of this unique political positioning what future do we, as Greens, envisage for our kangaroos? Disappearing into plastic-encased cuts of meat on the supermarket shelf as we continue to swallow the greenwashing of the "clean and green" myth?

Surely the only sustainable commercial use of kangaroos worthy of Greens support is the development of environmentally-sensitive tourism coupled with

restoration of wildlife habitat and movement corridors. Only then can we preserve the kangaroo's rightful place in this wild and challenging continent we share. ▲

Rheya Linden is a member of the Victorian Greens Animal Working Group

Greenhouse gas emissions from animal agriculture contribute a staggering 51 per cent of total global emissions, more than all other factors combined. This is the conclusion of a highly esteemed recent report from The World Watch Institute, entitled *Livestock and Climate Change*.

Furthermore, the amount of carbon stored in living animals is trivial compared to the amount stored in forest cleared for grazing land and in grains and legumes used to feed domesticated animals. Carbon entering the atmosphere from animal respiration and soil oxidation exceeds that absorbed due to plant photosynthesis by 0.9 to 1.8 billion tonnes per year. Animal agriculture is a major contributor to soil oxidation. In short, the impact of animal products on human-induced global warming is devastating, and this conclusion fully accounts for the natural carbon cycle.

Australia, the driest continent on Earth, is also the world's leading fresh water exporter. We are draining the Great Artesian Basin to water cows whose body parts are sent to Japan, or consumed locally. In a prolonged drought, not only do we export water in the form of meat, but animal agriculture uses three-fold more water than all household uses of water combined.

Eating animal products significantly contributes to land degradation, soil erosion, air pollution, water pollution and extreme loss of biodiversity. Impoverished subsistence farmers the world over know that it takes between six and 12 kilos of plant protein to produce one kilo of animal protein. It takes 1.3 hectares of land to feed one omnivore for a year, whereas it takes 0.4 hectares of land to feed 20 vegans for a year. Eating animal products, even in small amounts, is associated with significantly increased incidences of cancers,

diabetes and heart disease. Whether in so-called “free range,” “certified organic” or “humane choice” labeled farms or not, virtually all animals used for food are subjected to abhorrent pain and suffering.

In response to the above litany of facts, some people have decided to go vegan. Aware of the above facts, however, many more have varied their diets to whatever degree but continue to eat animal products.

There are four pillars that form the basis of Greens philosophy. The second of these, ecological sustainability, can explain the non-vegan responses to the wholesale disaster of animal agriculture, and animal-use generally. Consider the following analogy.

To reduce greenhouse emissions, we should always turn off the light before leaving a room. Sometimes, however, for personal preference or convenience, we leave lights on as we move from one room to the next. We know it is unhealthy to smoke and drink alcohol to excess. Sometimes, however, we indulge in “cheats” with cigarettes or a night of drinking with our mates. Similarly, although we absolutely embrace the Greens pillar of ecological sustainability, and although we are acutely aware of the severe ecological devastation caused by animal agriculture, we can only do the best we can. We can only do so much. So, we do not go vegan; we continue to eat animal products, in whatever form.

If we are to move away from a human-centric worldview, we must ground the question of veganism in the first Greens pillar; social justice. It is from this perspective that the various non-vegan responses to animal agriculture are significantly problematic. When asking “is it ethical to inflict unnecessary suffering or death upon animals?” the vast majority of us answer “no.”

What does “necessary” suffering and death mean? If it means anything with respect to animals, “necessity” cannot include actions done for amusement, pleasure or convenience. For, if we had a moral rule that said it is wrong to cause animals unnecessary suffering and death unless doing so would be amusing, pleasurable or convenient, then we would have an exception that swallows up our rule. Thus, it can never be necessary to kill or cause suffering to animals for reasons of amusement, pleasure or convenience.

Yet, the overwhelming majority of the suffering and death we inflict upon animals can only be justified by appealing to amusement, pleasure or convenience. The environmental, global hunger and human health reasons for going vegan discussed earlier illustrate one thing: the extent of just how unnecessary eating animal products really is. Putting that aside and stripping the present point down to its bare bones, one need only note that

the American Dietetic Association, Dietitians of Canada and World Health Organisation conclude that we can satisfy all of our nutritional requirements with a vegan diet. This fact alone entails that our only justification for eating animal products is that they taste good.

So, on the one hand, we claim that it is unethical to inflict unnecessary suffering and death upon animals. On the other hand, we contradict ourselves by causing enormous suffering and tens of billions of animal deaths per year for wholly unnecessary reasons. In order to avoid this self-contradictory behaviour, we must treat similar cases similarly, or like cases alike. For example, my interest in not being

subjected to pain, forcefully confined and killed – my interest in not being used as a resource – is protected by my basic right not to be property. In other words I am a person, legally defined and morally recognised as such. I am a member of the moral community. I – along with every other human animal – am

the proper subject of social justice. The Greens pillar of social justice applies to every human.

Non-human animals also have an interest in not being subjected to pain, forcefully confined and killed. In short, non-human animals have an interest in not being used as a resource. Since both human and non-human animals have this interest, and in order to treat similar cases similarly, both human and non-human animals must have the right not to be property. The legal property-status of animals must be abolished so that their personhood can be recognised.

According to animals the right not to be property would change everything. It means that we would no longer domesticate them, breed them into existence, eat them or their products or otherwise use them for our purposes. At the level of the individual, abolishing the property status of animals means going vegan. The principle of justice, at the very least, means treating like cases alike.

Going vegan is easy. Vegan foods are healthy, diverse and absolutely delicious. All we need is information and to give this issue the serious attention that it merits. As Greens, we claim to be deeply concerned with the principles of justice, non-violence and respect. Each of us should research veganism and animal rights further, and come to our own informed decision. An excellent place to start is Gary Francione’s text-focused (not gory) slideshows at www.abolitionistapproach.com/video.

For the sake of our fellow sentient beings with whom we share our environment, think critically about veganism and find out more. ▲

Jeff Perz is a member of the Alice Springs Greens

“The commercial kangaroo industry disregards the nature of the animal it kills.”

killing bees

Global bee populations have been rapidly decreasing, and evidence points to chemical company Bayer as having some responsibility. AVAAZ is co-ordinating a global campaign against the company.

Silently, billions of bees are dying off and our entire food chain is in danger. Bees don’t just make honey, they are a giant, humble workforce, pollinating 90% of the plants we grow.

Multiple scientific studies blame one group of toxic pesticides for their rapid demise, and some bee populations are recovering in countries where these products have been banned. But powerful chemical companies are lobbying hard to keep selling these poisons. Our best chance to save bees now is to push the US and EU to join the ban - their action is critical and will have a ripple effect on the rest of the world.

We have no time to lose - the debate is raging about what to do. This is not just about saving bees, this is about survival. We need to build a giant global buzz calling for the EU and US to outlaw these killer chemicals and save our bees and our food. If you join the campaign by going online to sign the emergency petition now, and send it on to everyone, we’ll deliver it to key decision makers.

Bees are vital to life on earth - every year pollinating plants and crops with an estimated \$40bn value, over one third of the food supply in many countries. Without immediate action to save bees many of our favourite fruits, vegetables, and nuts could vanish from our shelves.

Recent years have seen a steep and disturbing global decline in bee populations - some bee species are already extinct and recently we learned that some US species are at just 4 per cent of their previous numbers. Scientists have been scrambling for answers. Some studies claim the decline may be due to a combination of factors including

disease, habitat loss and toxic chemicals. But increasingly, independent research has produced strong evidence blaming neonicotinoid pesticides. France, Italy, Slovenia and even Germany, where the main manufacturer Bayer is based, have banned one of these bee killers. But, Bayer continues to export its poison across the world

This issue is now coming to the boil as major new studies have confirmed the scale of this problem. If we can get European and US decision-makers to take action, others will follow. It won’t be easy. A leaked document shows that the US Environmental Protection Agency knew about the pesticide’s dangers, but ignored them. The document says Bayer’s “highly toxic” product is a “major risk concern to non target insects [honey bees]”.

We need to make our voices heard to counter Bayer’s very strong influence on policy makers and scientists in both the US and the EU where they fund the studies and sit on policy bodies. The real experts - the beekeepers and farmers - want these

deadly pesticides prohibited until and unless we have solid, independent studies that show they are safe. Let’s support them now.

We can no longer leave our delicate food chain in the hands of research run by the chemical companies and the regulators that are in their pockets. Banning this pesticide will move us closer to a world safe for ourselves and the other species we care about and depend on. ▲

Sign your name to AVAAZ’s petition to outlaw chemicals that threaten global bee populations:
https://secure.avaaz.org/en/save_the_bees/

“Bayer’s highly toxic product is a major risk concern to honey bees.”

proper egg signage

ACT Greens MLA Caroline Le Couteur is sorting good eggs from bad in our nation's capital.



PIC COURTESY OFFICE OF CAROLINE LE COUTEUR

The Greens in the ACT are making good progress in the battle to end battery cages – the torturous farming method that sees hens treated as egg-laying machines, permanently confined to small wire cages.

Past attempts were unsuccessful, but since the 2008 election, when the Greens took balance-of-power in the ACT, we've had success with legislation which is already having a positive effect.

In 2009 I introduced legislation requiring retailers to separate the different types of eggs on shop shelves into "cage eggs", "barn eggs" and "free range eggs". Retailers in the ACT must also display point of sale signage making it clear which eggs are which, and giving a brief description of the production method.

Indications so far are that these laws have been a success. Sales of free range eggs have risen sharply in the ACT since the new laws started on 1 January 2010. Canberra retailers are reporting increases as high as 90 per cent in the sales of free-range eggs since the laws began. Canberra free range suppliers are also reporting increased demand in the ACT.

The new signage laws are a local cure to the problem of deficient national egg labelling laws. In the rest of Australia, the store shelves are still lined with egg cartons that are allowed to say things like 'vegetarian eggs', or 'farm fresh eggs'. The boxes might even show pictures of open fields on them. But in reality, these eggs were often produced in a factory farm system, which is about as far away from open fields as you can get.

The changing trends in egg sales are part of a wider shift in consumer behaviour towards ethical purchasing, proving that people don't want their food produced in inhumane conditions.

Big sellers of eggs are picking up on this trend as well. Both Woolworths and Coles recently agreed to reduce their product lines of battery cage eggs. The UK arm of McDonald's has stopped using cage eggs, and similar moves are being considered for their Australian stores.

Although the new signage laws have been a success story, there is still plenty of work to do on this issue.

At the national level, we still need a legal definition of 'free range' to ensure that eggs marketed as 'free range' are the real deal. It doesn't matter how good the information on the carton or sign is if the egg inside the 'free range' box isn't really free range at all. NSW Greens MP John Kaye's work, which found that more 'free-range' eggs were sold than were officially produced, has helped show the deficiencies of our national labelling and monitoring laws.

The new signage laws also encourage consumers to consider the conditions in which their food was produced right at the point of sale. This helps to strip away the secrecy of the factory farming industry. The last thing the industry wants is for consumers to be thinking about the fact that the egg they are about to purchase may have been produced in horrible conditions. Give people the right information and they are much more likely to make a good choice.

The egg signage legislation was part of a package to reform the egg industry. I also tried to ban battery cage production in the ACT. Liberal and Labor combined to defeat that, as they did when MLA Deb Foskey put forward similar legislation in 2007. The ACT still operates one large battery cage farm, which holds around 250,000 hens. We'll be reintroducing legislation to ban cage egg production in the next term of the Assembly (after 2012).

Internationally, nationally, through the checkout, and in the community, pressure is really mounting on the Liberal and Labor parties and exposing just how out of touch they have become. It is time for them to concede, and to do away with this inhumane practice. In the meantime, incremental changes like the new signage laws in the ACT are continuing to build the pressure and momentum. I hope that Greens can help this trend continue around the country. ▲

Caroline Le Couteur is the Territory and Municipal Services Spokesperson for the ACT Greens in the ACT Legislative Assembly.

mining vs food

All over our country areas people are protesting the move towards mining in our food zones. Jim McDonald from the Wide Bay Greens in South East Queensland outlines the problem.

The effects of irreversible environmental damage are just one of the factors in the battle against the excesses of the coal mining industry. Top quality farming land faces devastation by coal mining or coal seam gas (CSG) extraction, and that of course has been the focus of the campaigns against coal mining and its expansion.

To my mind, it is not only the environmental vandalism that is evident in the Hunter Valley, for example, but also the absence of Federal and State food security policies that is the most shocking context of this impetus to expand mining and extraction into productive land in the Hunter Valley (agricultural productivity is already decimated), the Liverpool Plains and the Darling Downs. I am outraged that any Australian Government allows foreign companies owned by foreign governments (Shinghua 67 per cent by the Chinese Government) or any mining company to buy up agricultural land for mining and CSG extraction.

It is equally outrageous that the Government allow the sale of top quality agricultural land to foreign companies owned by foreign governments whose mission statements refer to the food security of the foreign country (Hassad Foods & Qatar). Is Australia allowing foreign governments to purchase Australian land for their food security, in the absence of a food security policy – let alone a strategy – for Australia? If so, this is a betrayal of Australia and future generations of Australians.

The campaign against coal needs to shift gears and address the failure of food security planning as a matter of urgency while the Labor Party and the Coalition are failing the nation. Indeed I would argue that the campaign against coal mining and CSG should also adopt the discourse of betrayal of our national interest. Even though there has been much made of the nonsensical proposition of allowing

mining of top agricultural land, it might be seen as a matter of self-interest on the part of farmers by an un-engaged city audience.

The failure of planners to take account of the impact of alienating productive land has been a long-standing problem on the verges of urban expansion with the disappearance of large market garden areas around our cities and towns. It doesn't only happen in the capitals: it happens in regional cities such as Toowoomba.

The food security policy vacuum is locked into the other two major issues of our time and for the next generation (ie to 2030) and the next (to 2050): population and climate change. The population grows as we see the prospect of productive land diminished by greed, coal and CSG. Our best agricultural land must be preserved to feed our rapidly growing population, especially in the face of shifting climate characteristics and extended and more severe weather events. But governments are sitting on their thumbs.

Take the Queensland Government, for example. It now owns the agricultural land in the upper Mary River Valley while coal miners plan open-cut pits along the river's major tributaries and the river itself. What does the Bligh Government do about planning food security for South-East Queensland and in particular, what does it do about the land it ill-advisedly purchased for the Traveston Dam? It has run a food cropping land "inquiry" that does not specifically address food security nor specifically address the best use of the land it now owns, and it can't re-sell to the farmers it pushed off the land. Is there a panel of agricultural scientists, environmental experts, and the local community nutting out a model plan for food security in the Mary Valley and planning for climate change? Unfortunately, it appears not. ▲



PIG: CC LICENSED FLICKR USER PROPER DAVE



saving the basin

As people across Australia watch with horror at the destruction wrought by the Queensland floods, it is difficult to comprehend the amount of water involved, building on a year of comprehensive rain that has saturated large parts of three states.

The mechanics of Australia's river systems mean that in time, much of this water will inevitably find its way down the Murray-Darling Basin.

The danger with this very visible change in conditions is that some may see the breaking of the drought and recent floods as a sign that water reform through the Murray-Darling Basin Plan is less important or less urgent than it was before. Sadly, nothing could be further from the truth.

Regardless of what water levels are in the river system at this stage, or in the near future, the fact remains that we cannot guarantee what rains will come next month, next year or next decade. What we can be sure of, however, is that if we continue to over-allocate water from the river system, then we will fail to safeguard one of Australia's most vital natural resources for future generations.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority tells us that water extraction from the rivers of the Basin has increased by 500 per cent in less than a century. We can't go on like this anymore.

The solution will have to involve a combination of factors. We need to see better use of stormwater harvesting - particularly in urban communities, more efficient use of the water we have, and most importantly we need to get the balance right by cutting overall water use so we are not left taking more water out of the system than what Mother Nature puts into it.

The Authority has already come up with three scenarios relating to the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. These scenarios plot the effects of the return of 3,000, 3,500 and 4,000 gigalitres of water to the river system. These are the minimum amounts of water that can be returned to give us even a chance to save the Murray-Darling. But the fatal flaw in these minimum figures is that they don't take into account the effect of climate change in a drying climate.

The Authority has made our job harder by going with the lowest figures. We should all be looking at the 7,600GL option which the science tells us the system needs for its survival. In particular the Authority has to

spell out what the socio-economic effects of failing to return that amount of water will be.

A lot of attention has focused on the understandable anxieties of communities along the Murray-Darling about what a new Basin Plan will mean for them. Lost in the reporting, however, has been the reality of the true extent of the water that we will need to secure the system.

If we want to see reform succeed, then it is vital that governments and authorities go about reforms the right way, giving local communities ownership of creating the solutions to this major problem. Australians are ingenious people - we are capable of achieving amazing results if we are given the opportunity and the support to do so.

For example, leading scientist Quentin Grafton has pointed to the recent drought, where between June 2001 and June 2008 water availability fell by almost 70 per cent, yet the gross value of irrigated agricultural production only fell by barely one per cent. The water reductions were entirely due to drought, with no compensation package - more efficient water use and the existence of water trading helped hold the line.

The idea that this is a question of a choice between the environment and jobs is out-of-date.

There will be no jobs on a dead river. Communities, industries and the environment will all lose out if we don't commit to serious reform.

We need loud voices broadcasting the true situation and we need the Federal Government to take the lead in

the debate by committing to returning enough water to secure the system's future, not just a minimum amount which will only result in a short-term fix, at best.

For decades we have underestimated the value of a healthy river. Now, more than ever, we need to paint a clear picture for everyone of what the benefits of reform are, and what the costs of inaction and further delay will be.

For example, the Australian Conservation Foundation has estimated that the value of restoring environmental services in the Murray-Darling Basin's 16 internationally significant wetlands would be \$2.1 billion. Acting to reduce salinity and improve water quality would have a sizable impact on food

production, estimated at \$350 million.

Improving the health of native vegetation across the Basin by 15 per cent and increasing the numbers of native fish by 10 per cent is also estimated at \$2.1 billion.

The Greens stand squarely behind the need to protect the Murray-Darling, and we want to see the Federal Government commit to securing the environmental flows we need and a whole-of-government approach to make reform work.

We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to bring the Murray-Darling back to health. Let's not waste it. ▲

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Senator Sarah Hanson-Young, is the Greens' Federal spokesperson on the Murray-Darling Basin

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public opinion

Sometimes the most interesting comments about the Greens come from unlikely sources. In this section, we feature both praise and criticism of the Greens and our issues, to spark and fan the flame of healthy debate and encourage readers to get involved in the public debate through the mainstream media.

Brown's commitment to the environmental cause and his role in guiding the Greens to their elevated position on the Australian political landscape make him a worthy nominee for The Australian's Australian of the Year award, which has been celebrating our nation's top achievers since 1971.

James Madeen
The Australian, 15 January 2011

Largely through uncritical media publicity given to environmental activism, we have become a society in which "green" urban myths are accepted as absolute truths, while rural realities are dismissed as self-serving myths. With regard to forestry issues, it is clear that the influential city-based media is predisposed to reporting from the sensational "green" angle.

Mark Poynter
Quadrant Magazine, 12 December 2010

[Leading into the NSW State Election] the predicted Labor vote is down a massive 15 percentage points (a fall of 38.5% for goodness sake!) but the Coalition has only gained eight of those points (a 13.5% increase). The big beneficiary appears to be the Greens and together with independents and other parties the non-major-party share is put at 31% by Newspoll. That suggests a major disillusionment with the traditional two-party system of government.

Richard Farmer
Crikey, 21 December 2010

[The Greens] say they want overseas donations banned, yet take them. They complain big donations will influence parties, yet they take them. What they always want to do is curtail everybody else to try to make up for the fact that they do not enjoy major support across the electorate.

Bronwyn Bishop, opposition spokeswoman on electoral matters
The Australian, 13 January 2011

I suspect Bob Brown and the Greens go to sleep at night praying to Mother Earth for some hapless premier to announce a new dam. The Greens could use a divisive enviro-stink to campaign around, to re-assert their independence and remind voters - and themselves - what they stand for.

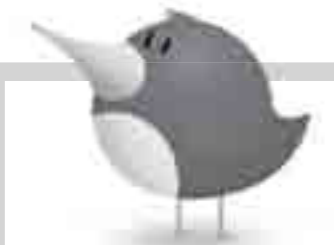
Claire Harvey
The Sunday Telegraph, 9 January 2011

Opposition to dams has been a key success in the development of the green movement and the Greens party since the early 1980s. But the term opposition understates the situation: it is really demonisation of dams. In the Green quasi-religion, dams are evil, akin to a Satanic force. Thus, there must never be any big new dams built. Not ever... To the Green mentality and ethos, changing nature is destroying nature, dams are an assault on the "delicate balance" in nature, an example of human arrogance going too far.

Barry York
The Australian, 14 January 2011 ▲

"We have become a force of nature... Not long ago, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, drought, forest fires, even earthquakes and volcanic explosions were accepted as 'natural disasters' or 'acts of God.' But now, we have joined God, powerful enough to influence these events."

- David Suzuki,
Sept 2010



tweetin' green



@SenatorMilne
Australian Greens
Senator for Tasmania

Looking forward to a productive 2011 on climate action, after Greg Combet's positive statement on interim carbon price



@ChappleMLC
Greens WA MLC for
Mining & Pastoral region

EPA approves Pankaj Oswal's Burrup explosives plant as the man himself does a runner.. Good luck collecting any fines!



@ClrChris
Greens councillor for the
City of Sydney

The road to urban sustainability: When one thinks of sustainable infrastructure, roads are one of the last things...



@TammyMLC
Greens SA MLC

Greens call for Adelaide's Rundle Mall smoking ban. Imagine the sales, smoke-free next year!



@SenatorBobBrown
Australian Greens
Senator for Tasmania

Woodside CEO Don Voelte & I disagree over his Browse Basin gas factory

Find these green tweeps and more at www.greens.org.au



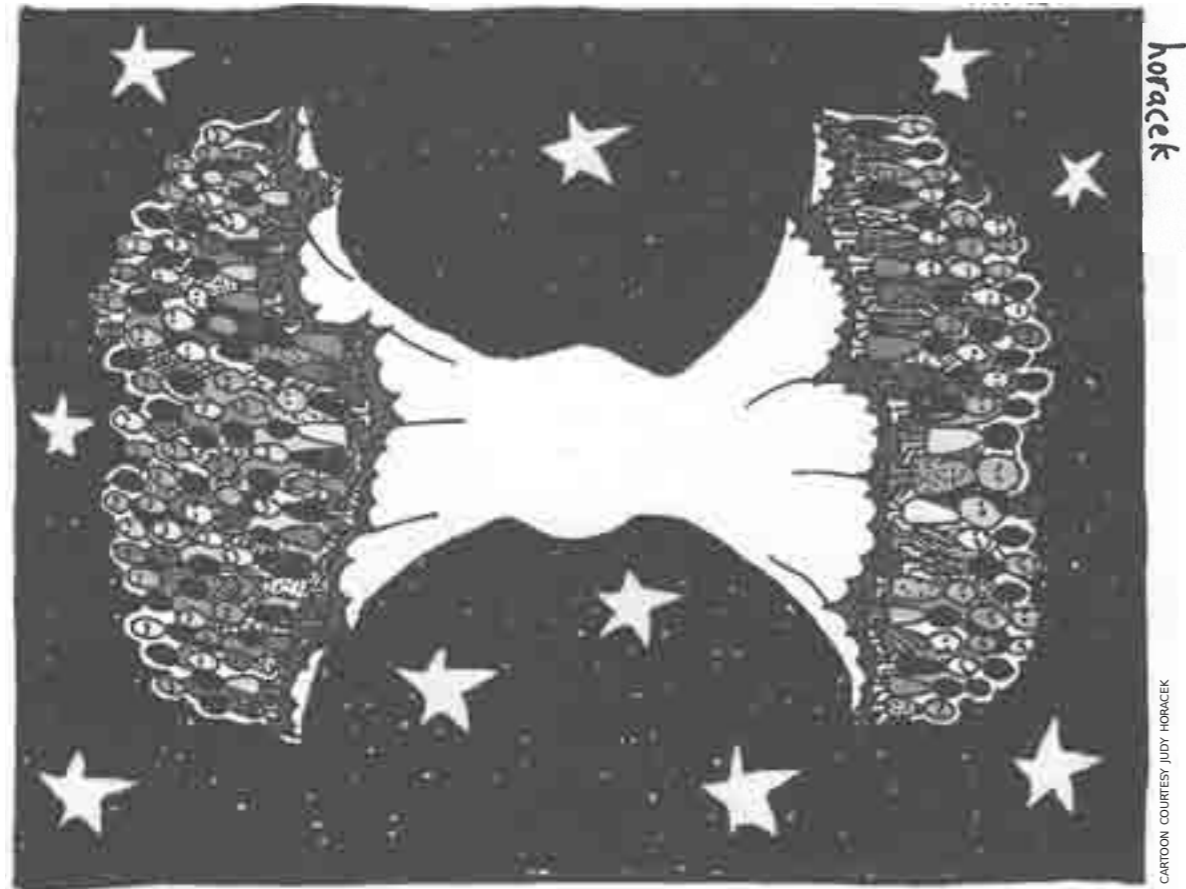
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jeremy buckingham

Being a Greens candidate, campaigner and representative in rural and regional New South Wales does have its differences from being based in the city or suburbs, but at the end of the day there are probably more similarities.

Some commentators think that Greens are increasingly a city based party and that we are increasingly urban intellectuals.

There's no doubt that we get higher votes in urban areas. Just look at the fantastic win in Melbourne last August. In NSW next March we have the real prospect of picking up the inner-west seats of Marrickville and Balmain.

But this success doesn't mean that support in rural and regional NSW is not growing too. In fact, the growth of support for the Greens in regional and rural areas has matched the growth in urban areas.

The challenge is there for us to breach that gap, but we're keeping stride with our more high-profile friends in the cities in attracting people to the Greens.

In rural areas, the Greens have stepped into the breach abandoned by the major parties. Successive Labor and Liberal governments have progressively abandoned services like rail transport and public education.

Many regional communities have problems attracting and maintaining health facilities, keeping schools open, maintaining roads. In terms of transport, NSW Government policy is seeing more and more freight on roads, the closing of regional branch lines and reduced levels of passenger rail services.

With our progressive policies in these areas supporting public funds for public services, people are beginning to see the Greens as the defenders of public services and utilities.

A key perception that people in rural areas have is that governments are increasingly seeing the needs of big corporations in front of their own.

This is playing out explicitly in terms of the expansion of mining interests, particularly coal mines. The land being given over to coal mines is increasingly our prime agricultural land, like the Liverpool Plains.

This threatens our food security, our indigenous heritage, and also the aquifers and waterways so many families and businesses rely on.

Agriculture is a key industry in regional NSW, so the threat to the land from mining operations will directly impact the livelihood of many in our communities. Mining companies are always talking about creating jobs, but they rarely tell us how many are going to be taken away.

In the long term, the erosion of our statewide agriculture industry also means increased environmental impact, because the people in cities within NSW who rely on us as their food source will have to increasingly import food from interstate and overseas.

In the past the Nationals have been very successful in promoting themselves as the party that represents the values and sentiment of the people living in rural and regional NSW.

However, people are beginning to realise that the Nationals won't deliver the realities of good government. The Liberal/National coalition increasingly prioritise big business and mining companies over regional interests. The more they do this, the more people will look to the Greens for answers. ▲

Jeremy Buckingham is a Greens Councillor in Orange and has the very real possibility of being elected to the NSW Upper House in the March NSW Election.



Bob Brown



BOB'S BACK PAGE JANUARY 2011

Tucson OK

In Tucson, Arizona, they're holding a guns bazaar with thousands of customers rushing to buy semi-automatic handguns and rifles, much like the Australian shoppers' rush for bedding and whitegoods on Boxing Day. Outside the bazaar, the stars-and-stripes is at half-mast commemorating the eight people murdered just down the road and, one supposes, others wounded including a congresswoman. Immediately, National Rifle Association members were broadcasting their mantra that it is not the gun, but the person holding the gun, that was at fault. The right says so, so that's OK.

Queensland not OK

However, weeks after Queensland's flood first struck Theodore (twice ravaged by the highest flood crests in history) and six days after the "inland tsunami" in the Toowoomba region, it is taboo for Australians to talk about the causes - at least the unmistakable contribution of global warming which is a consequence of burning fossil fuels, primarily coal. The right says so, so it's not OK. The oceans off Australia are hotter than ever before in recorded history and so are evaporating faster and some of that water is flooding parts of our country. My call for the coal mining barons - and 75 per cent of coal mining is owned outside Australia - to pay a super profits tax as proposed by Treasury, has the Abetz-Ferguson front screaming "foul"! They do not want debate on a root cause of the calamity.



I make no comment except to say be 'careful what you wish for'!

Thank you for helping

Meanwhile, our request for our supporters to donate to the Queensland government's flood relief fund has seen more than 3,500 people follow our link to the donation site, so far. Maybe the critics could follow suit. If you haven't donated, go to our website at <http://bob-brown.greensmps.org.au/>

Liffey awash

The biggest flood in the 38 years I've been at Liffey, in northern Tasmania, roared down the River Liffey on 14 January, a couple of weeks after Russell and Ninka Haseler finished the new walking bridge. We had 174.2mm rain in the 14 hours preceding the flood crest at 4pm. Russell took the photo on this page. He's a good engineer: the steel arch with wooden footway withstood the maelstrom and its battering logs. The fences didn't fare so well. But, with this sturdy little bridge, Dean's Track up Drys Bluff is open again and, already, dozens of walkers have enjoyed the 1,000-metre climb and grandstand view of northern Tasmania from the top since the flood.

2011

This will be a rambunctious year. One only has to look at the parliamentary sittings calendar to see that most divisions will take place in the second half - after our four new senators take their seats. For the first time in my 14 years, the Senate will sit in the first week of July to induct the new members - you can come along! We have a robust, intelligent team and are ready for the fray. Our aim: to add vision, humanity and a long-sighted component to designing Australia's future. It is noteworthy that the Greens and Independents can join with either Labor or the Coalition to pass laws for our nation. However, we made it clear right after the election that we will not back Opposition bills which go beyond the Senate remit, preserving the government's right to legislate where there will be a burden on taxpayers.

Rupert reads *Green*

Rupert Murdoch's *The Australian* has taken to reprinting selective snippets from this August journal. Perhaps he's trying to bump up circulation, although he recently made grumpy reference to us as the "bloody Greens". Perhaps that was just a bad day at the office.

Have a great summer. ▲

Bob



'A company we can invest ethically with is music to our ears.'



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