Dear reader

With Australia's East Coast blanketed in dangerous levels of bushfire smoke, we have a very real reminder of the hazardous effects of extreme weather events that will increase in frequency as a result of climate change.

As the world addresses climate change by transitioning to renewables, countries not as blessed with solar and wind as Australia are looking to import stored renewable energy in the form of hydrogen. Australia has some of the best solar and wind resources in the world, and is currently installing solar and wind electricity generation at the highest rate of any major economy. We are in the box seat to generate green hydrogen from water using renewable electricity, enabling us to future-proof our role as a global powerhouse in a decarbonising world.

Already countries like Japan, South Korea and Germany are knocking on Australia’s door. Recently the National Hydrogen Strategy was agreed to by the COAG Energy Council in order to address these opportunities. You can read comments from me and my colleagues on the strategy in the 'News' section below, along with an article that makes the case for green hydrogen - hydrogen produced from renewable electricity rather than fossil fuels.

In the Energy Change Institute’s Grand Challenge Zero-Carbon Energy for the Asia-Pacific, we have calculated that if we export (in energy terms) the same amount of green hydrogen as our current LNG exports, this will require renewable electricity generation that will dwarf our current national grid many times over.

Congratulations go to our sister institute, the ANU Climate Change Institute.
from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. This award is well deserved and recognises the talents of a cross campus team comprising ANU Media, ANU Multimedia and the CCI led by Professor Mark Howden.

Finally I would like to wish each of you a very safe and happy festive season. I hope to see you at Energy Change Institute events in 2020 starting with ECI Open Day on Monday 17th February.

Best wishes,

Professor Ken Baldwin
Director, Energy Change Institute

**Events**

**Deciphering the UN climate talks in Madrid**
**Wed, 18 Dec, 6 - 7.30pm**
[Read more](#)

**ANU Climate Update**
**Wed, 12 Feb, 2.45 - 6.30 pm**
[Read more](#)

**Energy Change Institute Open Day**
**Mon, 17 Feb, 9 - 1pm**
[Read more](#)

**ANU Energy Update 2019**
**Presentations now available**
[Read more](#)

**News**

For hydrogen to be truly 'clean' it must be made with renewables, not coal
The national hydrogen strategy released last month argues Australia should be at the fore of the global hydrogen race but it matters whether hydrogen is produced from renewable electricity or fossil fuels writes Prof Frank Jotzo, Dr Fiona Beck & Dr Thomas Longden.

Energy experts push for carbon price as Liberals soften climate stance

The New Daily, 11 Dec
As hazardous levels of smoke envelope Australian cities there are signs that political leaders are linking the current bush fires to climate change. Featuring commentary by Prof Ken Baldwin.

Days of haze caused by climate change a burning health risk

ANU Press Release, 22 Nov
As smoke haze hangs over Sydney, a leading environmental health expert warns toxic air from extreme bushfires, exacerbated by very dry conditions due to climate change, is a growing public health emergency. Featuring commentary by Prof Sotiris Vardoulakis

Here in Madrid, the view of Australia’s tricky tactics is not pretty

Sydney Morning Herald, 10 Dec
At the 25th UN climate conference, Australia’s plan to use leftover Kyoto credits is seen as an attempt to conceal that the government is not trying to meet the Paris target. We could do so much better writes Prof Frank Jotzo.

University Medal accolade for Master of Energy Change student

ECI website, 12 Dec
A Master of Energy Change student has received a prestigious ANU award in recognition of exceptional academic excellence.

Climate Change Institute wins award for impact & engagement

CCI website, 22 Nov
The CCI has been recognised with a Vice Chancellor's Award for Impact and Engagement for their work in communicating the findings of three Special Reports from the IPCC.
The COAG Energy Council agreed to the National Hydrogen Strategy at its meeting on 22 November 2019. Leading ANU experts comment on the strategy and what opportunities hydrogen energy provides Australia.

**Past Antarctic ice melt reveals potential for 'extreme sea-level rise'**

*Sydney Morning Herald, 6 Nov*

Sea levels rose as much as 3m per century during the last interglacial period as Antarctic ice sheets melted, a pace that could be exceeded in the future. Featuring commentary by Prof Eelco Rohling & Dr Fiona Hibbert.

**More news**

Renewable energy in agriculture: grid or off-grid?, featuring Prof Ken Baldwin, *The Land*, 12 December

NSW to tap billions in federal aid to support 2030 emissions goal, featuring Hon A/Prof Hugh Saddler, *The Age*, 13 December

Focus on renewable energy in Wagga Wagga, featuring Prof Ken Baldwin, *The Land*, 15 November

Finkel's national hydrogen strategy gets green light, but could be lifeline for coal, featuring Dr James Prest and Prof Frank Jotzo, RenewEconomy, 25 November

Fish kills and undrinkable water: here's what to expect for the Murray Darling this summer, Prof Jamie Pittock, *The Conversation*, 27 November

Climate change "a public health emergency": doctors, *ABC PM*, featuring Prof Mark Howden, 21 November

Podcast: Beyond declaring a climate emergency, With Hon A/Prof Imran Ahmad, Shane Rattenbury, Dr Liz Hanna, Dr Marja Tafaga & Martyn Pearce, *Asia & the Pacific Policy Society*, 15 November

ARENA and CEFC to kick-start Australia's 'clean' hydrogen industry, featuring Dr Fiona J Beck, RenewEconomy, 25 November

Tipping points push Earth toward hothouse climate, *ANU Press Release* featuring Emeritus Prof Will Steffen, 28 November

**More events**

Missed - Overcoming Fossil Fuel resistance to climate change with Dr Christian Downie? *View slides here.*