

**Divestment from fossil fuels:** is a movement that is sweeping the world encouraging individuals and organizations to divest their funds from the fossil fuel companies that are continuing to pour carbon into our world's atmosphere. For example, last year in **Norway**, Storebrand, a major Norwegian pension fund and life insurance firm, has announced it has **divested from 19 fossil fuel companies**. Its decision to divest came after the publication of UK-based think-tank **Carbon Tracker's latest Unburnable Carbon report**, which said some 60-80% of fossil fuel reserves need to be left in the ground if the worst effects of climate change are to be avoided.



In **Europe**, the Dutch bank Rabobank last year took the extraordinary step of enforcing a **blanket ban on loans** to firms involved with oil sands and **fracking** for shale gas. In both cases, it claimed the financial and environmental risks were too great for it to lend money.

While in **the U.S.**, where the movement has been strongest, the United Church of Christ is the latest notable organization to follow the trend and **approve a fossil fuel divestment strategy**, becoming the first national and religious body in the U.S. to do so. In **Australia** Market Forces <http://www.marketforces.org.au/> is encouraging individuals to consider carefully what we do with our money, both our Superannuation and our Bank deposits.

**Superannuation** allows Australians the opportunity to retire with a greater level of comfort and security. But what if the super that we retire with has been funding the environmental destruction and runaway climate change we need to avoid? What if, by being invested in fossil fuels like coal mining and coal seam gas, our super funds deliver us a polluted world to retire into? The reality is that many of Australia's superannuation funds are invested in these dirty industries. Market Forces is campaigning for super funds to divest from coal and gas. Want to know how your super fund is managing climate risk? Ask them: [super funds climate risk](#)

If you have your money in one of the **Big Four Banks** and you want to put your bank on notice, then you can at [banks on notice](#). Market forces just updated their tally of how much money has been put on notice by customers ready to leave the big banks over their fossil fuel investments. It's now over \$150 million (\$156,532,175 to be precise)!

With our governments repeatedly failing to protect the environment from new fossil fuel projects, like the Abbot Point coal port or Whitehaven Coal's Maules Creek mine, it's up to the banks to show leadership. [Maules creek](#)

The head of the mining lobby group Minerals Council of Australia, Brendan Pearson, has been trying to convince Australians recently that investing responsibly by ceasing investments in fossil fuels is bad; a desperate move from a man who represents the dirty fossil fuel industry, and who is seeing investments in fossil fuels considered more irresponsible, due to them causing climate change.

**In under a year, divestment has begun to prove itself to be a powerful and important part of the movement for action on climate change – but divestment is only one side of the coin, right?**

On the flipside, we need to ask: What tangible alternatives should we support and invest our resources in? What solutions can we envision, and how can we take practical steps towards them? How can we bring more people on board by articulating and building positive and inclusive alternatives to the fossil fuel machine? And with a government hell-bent on propping up the fossil fuel industry and dismantling support for renewable energy, what can we proactively do to create a better way? Market Forces has a community-led initiative to produce clean energy technology, and provide sustainable, wealth-creating jobs in manufacturing that empower local communities. It is called Earthworker and it is working to establish an Australia-wide network of not-for-profit community-owned cooperatives, beginning with Eureka's Future\*\* - a worker-owned factory that will manufacture high quality solar hot water systems in Victoria's coal heartland, Morwell, see [earth worker cooperative](#) .

**Sustainable Central Queensland** an initiative of CCC welcomes contributions on energy efficiency; technological options and actions individuals and groups can take help CQ lead the transition to a sustainable future. Opinions may not necessarily represent the policy of Capricorn Conservation Council.

As well as Market Forces, **350.org**, a worldwide climate action group is also promoting divestment as a way to help transition to sustainable energy. **350.org Australia** are asking people to thank **Bendigo Bank** for updating their response on lending to dirty fossil fuel projects: [www.350.org/bendigo](http://www.350.org/bendigo) "The bank does not lend to companies for whom the core activity is the exploration, mining, manufacture or export of thermal coal or coal seam gas."

**Fossil Fuel Subsidies:** G20 governments of the world first committed to phase out fossil fuel subsidies in September 2009, recognising that "fossil fuel subsidies encourage wasteful consumption, distort markets, impede investment in clean energy sources and undermine efforts to deal with climate change", but since Australia made that commitment, it has continued to deny that we, as a nation, subsidise fossil fuels, see [fossil fuel subsidies](#) .

**Tony Abbott**, the prime minister recently **cancelled** his US meetings with the head of the International Monetary Fund, Christine Lagarde, and the president of the World Bank, Jim Yong Kim. Could it be he's reluctant to have two more meetings with senior figures in the finance world who know climate change is a major economic issue? Lagarde and Kim have both declared climate change to be amongst the most serious threats to modern prosperity. As Lagarde **said**, "we are subsidizing the very behaviour that is destroying our planet, and on an enormous scale".



Kim has **gone even further**, calling for nations and individuals to divest from fossil fuels. He recently said, "We can divest and tax that which we don't want, the carbon that threatens development gains over the last 20 years ... its simple self-interest. Every company, investor, and bank that screens new and existing investments for climate risk is simply being pragmatic."

**Al Gore's take on Tony Abbot:** Al Gore specifically targeted Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott for his anti-climate change [record](#), ahead of Tony Abbott's [meeting](#) with President Barack Obama. This is what Al Gore had to say:



"I am not a citizen of Australia, and I don't feel I have the privilege of entering your political debate," Gore said. "But we have had deniers of the climate crisis in office in the U.S. as well. History will not be kind to those who looked away; much less those who sought to prevent [action on climate change]."

## **Great Barrier Reef**

When the World Heritage Committee met this week in Doha, the UN committee deferred a decision on whether to list the Great Barrier Reef as "in danger" until next year; **UNESCO defers decision on Great Barrier Reef danger status** thus giving our government a year to get their act together.

## **How Australia can Thrive in a Low Carbon World, Pathways to Prosperity in 2050**

This project draws on research and analysis from 13 participating country teams, which collectively represents more than 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Working within a coordinated framework, each country will explore the potential to achieve deep decarbonisation, while maintaining economic prosperity, with the goal of limiting a global temperature rise of 2° Celsius.

The broad objectives of the project are to:

- Prepare transparent and practical national pathways to help countries adopt and implement policies to achieve deep decarbonisation.
- Support international climate change negotiations by helping decision makers and the global community to understand how deep decarbonisation can be achieved.
- Support positive outcomes of the 2014 World Leaders Climate Summit, convened by the UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, and the 2015 Conference of the Parties (COP21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- Build an on-going global network to facilitate learning and promote problem solving in the implementation phase of national deep decarbonisation strategies after 2015.



There are a range of possible pathways, using existing technologies, to a 2050 decarbonised and prosperous Australia, with the project aiming to identify the best available options on how this can be achieved. Drawing on modelling undertaken by CSIRO and the Centre for Policy Studies (CoPS), ClimateWorks Australia and the ANU will submit their findings to the Sustainable Development Solutions Network in July. ClimateWorks will begin collaboration with industry and government stakeholders soon after, where Australia's possible low carbon pathways will be discussed. You can look at a video on this topic at '[How Australia can thrive in a Low Carbon World, Pathways to Prosperity in 2050](#)'

## Tractor Emissions Boost Plants Growth



The Bio-Ag-tive method of using tractor emissions to stimulate plant growth is a growing "carbon farming" practice around the world. President and founder of N/C Quest Inc. Gary Lewis says food security and climate change are some of the biggest issues facing governments and society. The relatively new method, which was invented by Canadian farmer and automotive mechanic Gary Lewis, arrived in Australia in 2007 and is practised by just 170 farmers worldwide [environment farmer pumped about improving crop quality](#)

## Explaining climate change science & rebutting global warming misinformation

*Explaining climate change science & rebutting global warming misinformation*

Scientific skepticism is healthy. Scientists should always challenge themselves to improve their understanding. Yet this isn't what happens with [climate change denial](#).

Skeptics vigorously criticise any [evidence](#) that supports man-made global warming and yet embrace any argument, op-ed, blog or study that purports to refute global warming <http://www.skepticalscience.com/>

