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The pace of change

Since our last issue, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has met again and followed through with some significant decisions on climate change adaptation measures, most of which were under-reported in the general media. These moves not only signal that the threat of climate change is now being fully acknowledged by government, but that the pace of commitment to counter measures has shifted too.

A mandatory national greenhouse gas emissions and energy reporting system is to be established, a significant initiative on its own. Beyond that, a 5- to 7-year National Adaptation Framework was adopted as the basis for jurisdictional actions 'to assist the most vulnerable sectors and regions, such as agriculture, biodiversity, fisheries, forestry, settlements and infrastructure, coastal, water resources, tourism and health to adapt to the impacts of climate change.'

Also, the Commonwealth Government has committed \$126 million to set up and run an Australian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation, which will work, guided by the Framework, to help states and local authorities apply assistance to priority areas.

Backing this up is a further \$44 million for a new CSIRO-led Climate Adaptation Flagship, aimed at providing detailed research on localised climate changes, and four technology roadmaps to plan out hydrogen, geothermal, coal gasification and solar thermal development. Together, these initiatives constitute the beginnings of a coordinated national response.

This issue of *Ecos* leads with news of another climate change buffering effort, driven by coordinating land trusts: the ambitious Gondwana Link project, which, along with the Kosciusko to Coast project in the east, aims to provide a secure habitat corridor for flora and fauna as climate changes.



On page 10 we also look at how local councils have led the way with climate and water initiatives under ICLEI, and page 27 discusses national and international leadership in emissions reduction commitments.

In Focus this issue is the advance of aquaculture technology, production and understanding as the industry grows to fulfil the world's rising protein demand.

'Lapse of luxury' on page 14 considers the sustainability of the hotel industry and the opportunities it has for both educating guests and saving significant costs.

Finally, *Ecos* recently conducted an environmental audit of its production services. One change from that is the new wrap that subscribers will notice on their magazines. Biowrap* is a 100% degradable plastic designed and developed by D&D Mailing Services. Made from a unique formula including an additive produced by EPI Environmental Technologies, Biowrap* will completely degrade in a short space of time. It's another step in the right direction.

Enjoy your reading.

James Porteous
Managing Editor

Thank you to readers who participated in our extended and valuable reader survey. Winners of voucher prizes are being notified by mail.

* Patent pending



CSIRO PUBLISHING

Next, in issue 137

June-July's issue reports on assessments of sea level rise and its implication for Australia, the fate of the RAMSAR-listed Macquarie Marshes in NSW, and the outcomes of this year's National Business Leaders' Forum on Sustainable Development.