

People want cooperation



It's no surprise that climate is again a big theme of this issue. In the build-up to December's UN COP15 international climate talks in Copenhagen, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has

warned that failure to reach a new agreement this year on mitigating global warming would be 'morally inexcusable', a sharp reminder that economic risk rationale and protective self-interest are becoming second priority to the humanitarian and ecological imperative for international climate action.

Most experts acknowledge that the window for effective policy is closing, and alongside scientists, over 500 major companies have now implored leaders to embrace this 'last chance' to forge a good faith agreement – for the sake of economic and social

futures. Can 'they' do it? The facts appear to be that humanity can no longer afford to ride the risk that we have more time to delay.

Neither can we condone it financially – it will cost more in the end to stall. In any case, recent wars and the global financial crisis have shown that enough money and will can be rapidly mobilised – when it actually counts.

On pages 24–27 Alexandra de Blas explores the growing social justice and moral arguments for climate action, including the views of the faith community and NGOs who are already seeing climate change exacerbate poverty in many regions.

Signals of community disquiet over lack of climate action are emerging. Pages 10–13 profile how younger people are taking advantage of 'social media' technology to

form dynamic networks, becoming a rising force for environmental policy adjustment.

'Adaptation' and 'resilience' are now key terms in climate discussion. On pages 28–29, Rachel Sullivan reports the latest research views guiding businesses and the community in preparation for these states.

Finally, on pages 18–19, Nick Alexander reports on Queensland's challenge of co-managing dingoes and people on Fraser Island.

Enjoy your reading.

James Porteous
Managing Editor

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