

CASPI: NEWS

Climate Adaptation - Science and Policy Initiative

August 2008



CASPI to skill-up key people in business

CASPI has been working with the University of Cambridge Programme for Industry to create a training day for senior executives in business and government, to help them understand climate change, carbon markets and emissions trading, and their likely implications for their organisation. The Climate in a (Business) Day intensive one-day seminar will take place on Wednesday October 8, featuring presentations from Prof David Karoly and others. The Cambridge Programme for Industry runs sustainability leadership programs in the UK, Australia and South Africa. It is hoped that the October 8 seminar will be the first in a series of intensive seminars for decision makers in the private and public sectors. Details are on the web at www.caspi.unimelb.edu.au/climateinaday.php.



Image by Martin Goss, sourced from Wikimedia Commons

How do we govern sustainability and how could we do it better?

CASPI is currently involved in two projects on governance of sustainability and climate change. The first is the Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies (CMAS) work being carried out for the Asia Pacific Rim Universities World Institute, on integrated water management in the context of climate change, emissions from water

management and related governance issues. The team looking at these issues for the Melbourne case study is Assoc Prof Andrew Western and Dr Graham Moore of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Dr Leigh Glover of the Australasian Centre for the Governance and Management of Urban Transport, Prof Lee Godden of the Law School and Prof Jim Falk and Domenica Settle of the Australian Centre for Science, Innovation and Society. At this stage they are having some productive discussions on the topic and scoping the terrain for this research. The second governance project CASPI is involved in is a preliminary study for the City of Melbourne on how sustainability is governed in the Melbourne metropolitan area, and how it might be done better.

No news yet on climate adaptation research network proposals

University of Melbourne staff have been waiting eagerly for an announcement on their bids to host networks associated with the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility. Despite initially promising responses in July, the facility now says these proposals are yet to be presented to the minister, and a formal response is more likely to occur in late August or early September.

Steering committee to discuss strategic direction

With climate change action a rapidly changing area, the CASPI Steering Committee will be getting together in the next fortnight to discuss where CASPI and climate academics at the University of Melbourne should strategically place themselves. Stay tuned for news on meeting outcomes in the next CASPI newsletter.



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Cartoon by Nicholson from "The Australian" newspaper www.nicholsoncartoons.com.au

Suspensions of the Apocalypse: Global threats, sustainability and human wellbeing

On August 12, The McCaughey Centre is hosting a seminar by Richard Eckersley, director of Australia 21 Ltd and a visiting fellow at the Australian National University. The seminar will first discuss three different responses to climate change and other global threats - nihilism, fundamentalism and activism. Which response dominates will have an important bearing on how well humanity deals with these hazards. The seminar will then look more broadly at how the growing understanding of health

and happiness can contribute to efforts to create a high, equitable and lasting quality of life. This research can provide a framework for integrating and balancing environmental, social and economic goals and priorities. Author of *Boiling Point* and *The Heat is On*, Rob Gelbspan, said of Eckersley's work: "I really appreciate the way you codify and analyse the different responses. This is immensely useful to me...Just a terrific piece of insight." The seminar is happening from 1-2pm on Tuesday August 12, in room 515 of level 5, 207 Bouveries St (just south of the main Parkville campus). For more information contact Dr Melanie Davern on 8344 3180.

Events

Please find below information on climate events organised by CASPI associates and others.

Saving a Sunburnt Country? Abstracts Due August 11

The Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales is holding a conference called "Saving a Sunburnt Country? The challenge of species adaption in a heating land", on November 19 and 20 in Sydney. The conference will bring together policy makers, representatives of all levels of government, academics, non-government organisations, landholders and the general public. Abstracts are due on August 11. For more information, see www.nccnsw.org.au/sunburntcountry.

The birds and the bees (and trees) and climate change

On Monday August 4, Prof David Karoly will be giving a free public lecture on "The birds and the bees (and trees) and climate change: Attributing observed changes in natural systems to anthropogenic climate influences." This lecture is part of the Vice-Chancellor's Research Lectures, and will happen from 6:30-7:30pm in Theatre A of the Elisabeth Murdoch Building (building 134) at the Parkville campus. For enquiries, please contact Kerry Grieser on 8344 3238 or kerryh@unimelb.edu.au.



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international journals. The early bird fee to participate in the event is \$350, to be paid by 31st August (including free accommodation for students). For full details, see www.apgc.eu.

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Cartoon by Nicholson from "The Australian" newspaper www.nicholsoncartoons.com.au

Events (continued)

APGC Symposium: Plant Functioning in a Changing Global Environment

On behalf of the organising committee, Assoc Prof Michael Tausz of the School of Forest and Ecosystem Science would like to invite you to contribute to the Plant Functioning in a Changing Global Environment Conference, part of the international Air Pollution and Global Change Symposia series. The conference will be held at the Creswick Campus on 7-11 December 2008, and is being jointly organised by institutes in four different countries. The aim of the APGC Symposium Series is to bring together scientists of various disciplines, who are actively involved in research on responses of plant metabolism and functioning to air pollution and global change. Abstracts for the symposium in Melbourne are due by August 31, and contributors to the conference will be given an opportunity to publish their work in peer reviewed

Please forward any comments, contributions and information about related events to:

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