



Newsletter

Number 30 October 2026

From the editor (John Gwyther)

Here is what we are doing in the lead up to the **State Election** on November 28th:

Our [policy analysis documents](#) analyze and question the major party's policies on climate and energy. Plenty of helpful questions to use when discussing politics with neighbours or friends or if you happen across a candidate. Check out the [One Nation](#) one to get a feel for the content.

We have heaps of our **scorecard postcards** and Environment Victoria's **"clean energy" flyers** for handing out, letter-boxing, etc. If you can help out with a couple of streets, please [email us](#).

How do the major parties' election policies measure up on climate & energy?			
Action Required	Greens	Labour	Liberal-NP
Continuing renewable energy deployment	✓ 65% 2030, 95% 2035 ✓ build 4.5Gw of public energy infrastructure	✓ legislated targets for wind, energy & storage ✓ 95% renewables 2035 ✓ SECV all green energy ✓ ending coal by 2035	✗ kill new grid links ✗ no solar/wind policy ✗ no costed plans ✗ scrap gas ban ✗ expand gas use ✗ drill/frack for more gas ✗ have no stated policy ✗ higher emissions
Phasing out fossil fuels	✓ phase it all out ✓ end all support	✓ ban new home gas ✓ ending coal by 2035	✗ kill new grid links ✗ build coal & nuclear ✗ no offshore wind ✗ no costed plans ✗ expand gas use ✗ extend old coal plants ✗ build new coal plants ✗ call it a "scam"
Emissions reduction and net zero by 2050	✓ full net zero 2050 ✓ stationary energy to get to net zero by 2030	✓ legislated targets ✓ net zero by 2045 ✓ 5 year action plans for key sectors	✗ have no stated policy ✗ have no stated policy ✗ lot higher emissions
Electrifying homes, transport & business	✓ Govt EV chargers ✓ Govt cars 100% EV ✓ boost home solar ✓ solar for renters	✓ no new gas homes ✓ electric hot water only ✓ \$1.3b Solar Homes ✓ VEU program	✗ prefers gas ✗ burn more home gas ✗ no plan for cheaper electricity ✗ ignores net zero ✗ no plan for cheaper electricity
Protecting us from climate impacts	✓ climate clear planning ✓ 8-star energy rating ✓ expand SES funding	✓ Published 5-year plan ✓ \$384m for fire mgmt ✓ Flood plain strategy	✗ have no stated policy ✗ ignore climate impact & threats to society ✗ denies climate change ✗ ignores rising threats ✗ anti-science & experts
Overall rating	Strong	Good Track Record	Harmful

Authorised by John Gwyther of 311A Ryans Rd, Coongulla on behalf of Wellington Climate Action Network

www.welcan.org.au

Keep the bigger picture in mind when voting

We all want **affordable, reliable energy**. We all see the damage from **climate change**. We know that we must **reduce emissions** to ensure our kids have a liveable planet. So, **ask yourself**:

- How will **ditching renewable energy** lower electricity prices when utility solar averaged \$27, wind \$50 (together, 47% of all supply), coal \$72 and gas \$137 per MWh over the last year?
- How will spending billions on **coal plants** lower energy prices and reduce emissions?
- How will **new coal or nuclear** in 10-15 years help when Yallourn closes in under 2 years?
- How will shutting down **offshore wind** preserve our farmland and increase electricity supply?
- How will **fracking for gas** on our food-producing farms lower energy and food prices?
- How will **cancelling transmission** lines help with soaring energy demand & supply reliability?

Wellington Climate Action Network are non-partisan locals concerned about slow action on climate change and ensuring reliable, affordable and clean energy. **We want to stop the flood of disinformation and simplistic, uncosted policies** at this election.

We need workable, affordable solutions not ill-thought out "answers"

Find Out More

You can keep up with the party policies via these **policy trackers** from [One Gippsland](#) and [Environment Victoria](#).

[Yes2Renewables](#) ran a **"combatting disinformation"** workshop at Eagle Point last month which four of us attended; see their [presentation materials here](#).

This a fairly pivotal election for Victoria and no more so if you are concerned about maintaining progress on the energy transition and climate. The only good thing I can see resulting from it is that Victoria may well be showing the rest of Australia exactly how One Nation operates when they have some form of balance of power. That will be informative for the rest of Australia ahead of the 2026 Federal election but maybe not so good for Victorians in the meantime. We might be the "guinea pigs" here.

What's On?

Oct 30: Coffee'n'Climate conversations 11am at **Sale Library** downstairs on the last Friday of each month. An informal chat amongst friends about all things climate and energy (or whatever), all welcome.

Oct 31: Sale show postcarding: walking around handing out our climate and energy scorecards. One hour slots, volunteers needed ([email us](#)).

Federal Coalition Energy Policy

We are a long way out from the next Federal election, but campaigning seems to be underway already. That is why it is important to tackle policies which are not good for the climate or the energy transition. Here are the LNP's key priorities:

- Repeal the Climate Change Act 2022, which commits Australia to net zero emissions by 2050.
- Remove the safeguard mechanism, which requires heavy industry to cut emissions or face penalties.
- Repeal the New Vehicle Efficiency Standard, which requires car makers to import more fuel-efficient and electric vehicles or face penalties.
- Revoke four offshore wind energy zones across the Hunter, Illawarra, Southern Ocean and Bunbury regions.
- Repeal all legislative prohibitions on nuclear energy.
- Introduce a renewable energy code of conduct "to ensure developers earn their social licence from the community that they operate in".
- Require that any energy funding provided to the states and territories is conditional on prioritising energy affordability and reliability.
- Redirect the Australian Energy Regulator to have primary regard to affordability and reliability, which will put households and businesses at the centre of regulatory decision-making.

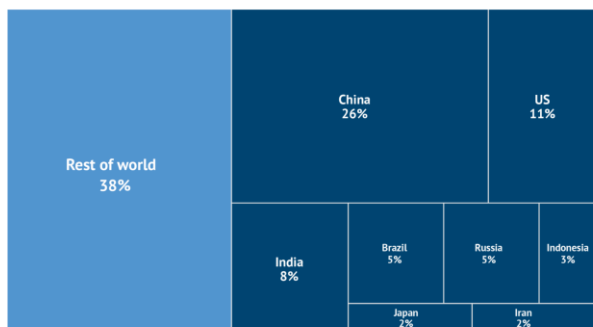
The more things change.....

One Lie At A Time.....

No, how about 45 at a time? This Carbon Brief report ["Factcheck: Reform UK's 45 false or misleading claims about climate and energy"](#) fact-checks 45 statements by the Reform UK party. Although based on UK data, the claims are familiar and we have local data to refute them. Here's a familiar one: **"We're only responsible for 0.9% of CO2 emissions."** Ture

but we “one percenters contribute the largest chunk of total emissions so we all need to act.

More than a third of global emissions come from countries that produce less than 1% of annual emissions – including the UK
Annual greenhouse gas emissions, including LULUCF, from countries



Source: Jones et al. (2025)

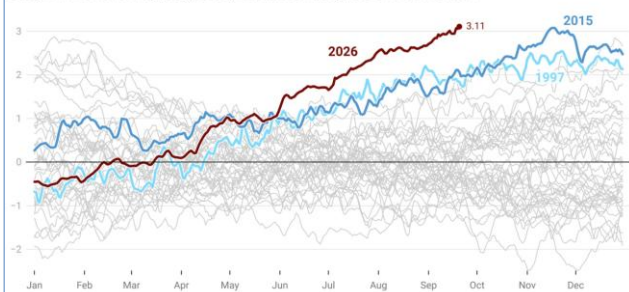
CarbonBrief

Record-breaking Super El Niño

Just how strong the current El Niño event is can be seen from these two charts from [Carbon Brief](#). The first shows the trend to date for a measure called the Oceanic Nino index (ONI):

The 2026 El Niño has hit an all-time record for daily strength

Daily Niño 3.4 anomaly, degrees C, calculated using the ONI convention



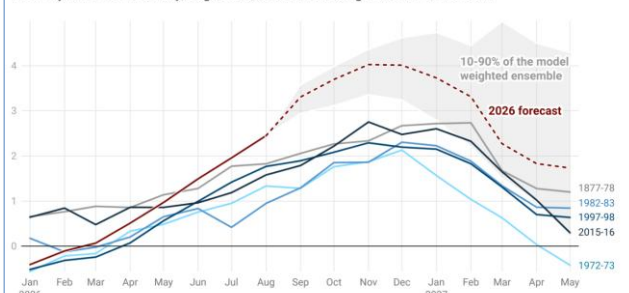
Source: NOAA OISSTv2.1

CarbonBrief

The second shows the monthly evolution of the five strongest El Niño events on record alongside 2026, as well the current forecast from 14 seasonal forecast models:

The 2026 El Niño is on track to smash the all-time record

Monthly Niño 3.4 anomaly, degrees C, calculated using the ONI convention



Source: NOAA CPC, Copernicus C3S, ECCO and JAMSTEC

CarbonBrief

Personally, this is a bit scary and here we are with fire restrictions starting on the fifth. As my Dad used to say, “things are crook in Tallarook”!

Little Rays of Sunshine (the “good”)

Renewables hit more than 80% of grid demand for first time – despite heavy throttling of wind and solar ([Renew Economy](#)): Renewable energy as a share of total demand reached 80.5 per cent at 12.25 pm on Saturday 19/9. The record might have been a lot higher: More than one half of available wind output was being curtailed and nearly half of large scale output was being curtailed, despite near record levels of storage, particularly from the growing fleet of big batteries on the grid.

Solar farms great for birds ([The Pulse](#)): Scientists left microphones running at 12 midwestern solar farms...and heard twice as many grassland birds as in the adjoining corn and soybean fields. Most solar farms use single axis trackers, panels that tilt through the day on a horizontal steel tube running the length of each row. That tube sits a few feet off the ground and carries brackets, junction boxes and cable trays every few yards.

To a barn swallow or a robin, that is a cliff face with ledges on it. Underneath, the seeded mix grows up through the array and out into the strips between rows. The two things together give a bird both cover and structure, a combination neither a crop field nor a plain grassland offers.

Batteries help cut solar curtailment in half, as PV output hits monthly record ([Renew Economy](#)): more batteries mean less wasting of peak solar and wind output. In August 2025, we wasted 18% of all generation but that has halved to around 9%.

India’s power-sector emissions flat for two years due to clean-energy surge ([Carbon Brief](#)): A surge in clean energy has kept CO2 emissions in check across India’s power sector, with no growth from the first half of 2024 to the same period in 2026.

This is the first time in more than 50 years that there has been no growth in India’s coal power over a two-year period, even as electricity demand grew by 7%.

At the same time, both oil and gas consumption have fallen for two years in a row, helping alleviate the shock of the Hormuz crisis.

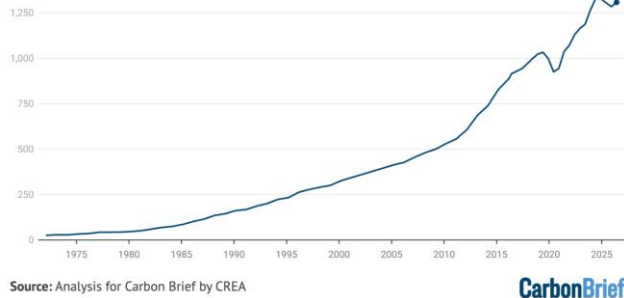


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Clean energy caps India's coal power for first time in 50 years

Electricity generation from coal, TWh per 12 months



Has the electric vs petrol reliability debate been settled? ([Which Car](#)): an immense reliability study that evaluated data from almost 50 million vehicles has shown that EVs with 145,000km to 193,000km on the clock are far more durable than internal-combustion vehicles that have travelled the same distance – and the gap widens as the mileage increases. Another reason to buy an EV!

Storm Warnings (the “bad”)

Data Centres heating neighborhoods ([ASU News](#)): Heat pollution from data centers can boost air temperatures in downwind neighborhoods by as much as 2° C, a new study conducted in the Phoenix area shows. The waste heat produced by a single data center can surpass the amount emitted by 40,000 households. Air-cooled condenser arrays discharge air heated to 8 to 14° C above the surrounding air temperature, creating thermal plumes that move downwind over neighboring areas.

A landmark UN report says the world will overshoot the 1.5°C climate target. What happens now? ([The Conversation](#)): A temporary breach of the 1.5C global-warming limit is now “inevitable” following “decades of insufficient climate action”, and “current country policies would cause 2.8C by the end of the century”.

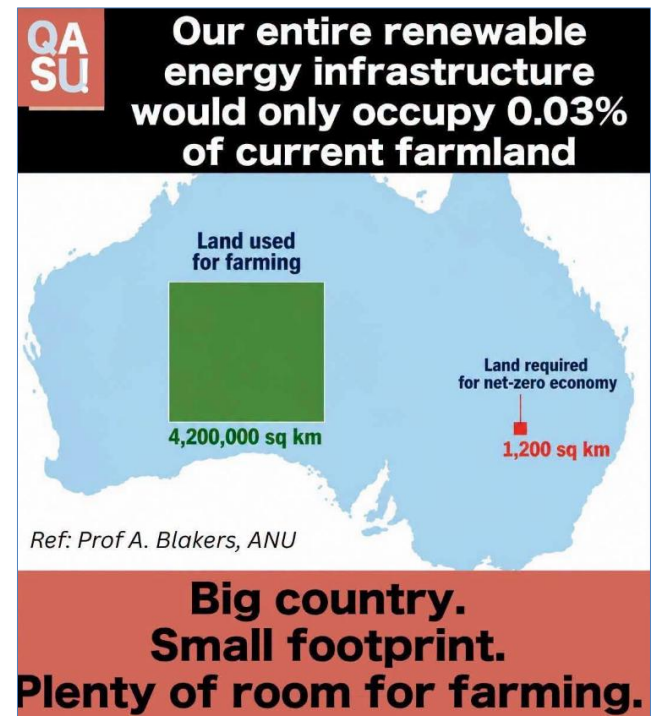
In Between (the “interesting”)

Why smart people believe the myth that natural gas is clean ([Heated](#)): How the gas industry turned a half-truth into one of the most successful PR campaigns in fossil fuel history.

What happens when renewables approach end of life? ([Re-alliance](#)): a handy toolkit for understanding what happens when a renewable energy project reaches its end of life. Designed to help you navigate

conversations about renewable energy project lifespans.

Wrecking irreplaceable farmland? Maybe not.



Maybe a better way to express this is “renewable energy can power Australia with just 3 ten-thousands of our farming land; that is hardly going to kill our ability to feed the nation.”

About Us

WelCAN is a group of Wellington Shire residents determined to accelerate the pace and direction of action on climate change at all Government levels. For more information, email info@welcan.org.au or call me on 0419 309 158. You [can sign up for this newsletter here](#). Note: Any opinions herein are mine and are not necessarily endorsed by WelCAN.