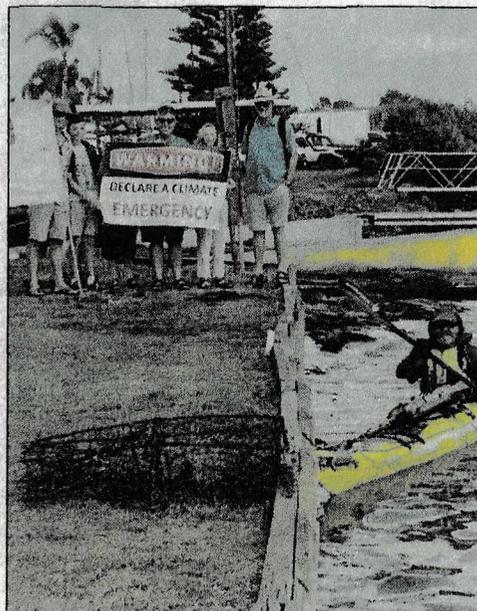


OPINION

portnews.com.au/opinion

KAYAKING FOR CHANGE

Steve Posselt paddles for climate change



HE'S a former Port Macquarie resident who is completing the final leg of an epic around the world kayak adventure.

And it's all in the name of climate change.

During his adventure Steve Posselt has battled, Canberra bushfires, Sydney fires, Hurricane Katrina, Superstorm Sandy, floods in England and droughts in France.

"This is the last leg of my connecting climate chaos journey and it's taken me around the world," he said.

"I've been doing trips and making presentations on climate change since around 2005 and even included information from Al Gore's Climate Reality talks too.

"During the connecting climate chaos tour, I've attended the Paris climate summit, paddled up the Mississippi River in full flood and encountered floods in England and

droughts in France.

"But not even paddling the Mississippi in full flood can compare to leaving this planet in my children and grandchildren in the mess it's in.

"This trip will complete the world loop and lets me retire."

Steve is paddling about 12,000 kilometres from his home town of Ballina to Moruya where he will 'turn right' and start a 10 day trek to Canberra with his beloved kayak 'Old Yella'.

Along the way he will continue to collect signatures - the target is 100,000 - for his Climate Emergency Declaration petition.

The petition Posselt will deliver to Canberra asks Parliament to declare a climate emergency and mobilise resources to restore a safe climate. It can be signed at <http://climateemergencydeclaration.org/>

sign

HIS JOURNEY

Steve's passion is water but our draining of Australia, our unsustainable water practices, are a long way second to the big issue we all must confront.

A majority of Australians want deep emission cuts to be the outcome of the Paris Climate Talks. They do not want to be world pariahs, and are very embarrassed with the stance taken by the current government.

The science is unequivocal. It's time to end fossil fuel extraction for export. It's time to wean ourselves off this climate changing energy source. Deep emission cuts must be made now.

You can read more about Steve and his kayaking campaigning at: <http://kayak4earth.com/>

WE NEED ENERGY PLAN, SAYS GROUP

CLIMATE Change Australia - Hastings branch president Harry Creamer calls it a 'vicious cycle.'

And, he says, the federal government's lack of action on climate change and an emissions intensity scheme is more about scoring cheap political points than policy.

"Without a national energy plan, there is no certainty for investors, and already there is a lack of forward commitment to building new power plants, which we need as we grow our economy," Mr Creamer said.

"This puts us back to the market concentration for the remaining coal power stations, the lack of competition, and higher electricity prices.

"It's a vicious cycle backed by the National Party and some Liberals who support the coal industry, at any cost it seems.

"They don't care about electricity prices or climate change. What they want is the chance to attack Labor on these issues."

Mr Creamer said the closing of nine coal-fired power stations since 2012 only increases the market concentration for the remaining coal power stations. "Basic economics tells us this lack of competition equals higher electricity prices," he added.

"An emissions intensity scheme would cost the carbon pollution coming from each power plant, with dirty brown coal paying more than black coal, which pays more than gas.

"Renewables would not be liable since they are a clean source of generation. This makes power from gas and renewables cheaper than from coal, and so more gas and renewable energy plants would be built.

"This would help provide the pathway we need to lower electricity prices and lower carbon emissions to meet the Paris Climate Agreement targets the government signed up to a year ago. There is currently no way at all the government can meet these targets - planting a few trees is simply not enough."

"Do people think we are getting a good deal now, from the current system? Probably not, and it's because the electricity



WHAT DO WE WANT?: Climate Change Australia - Hastings Branch president Harry Creamer (fourth from left) leading the charge against higher electricity pricing.

market is dominated by coal power," he said.

"We need to call them out, by ringing their offices, by going to see them while there is still time to get a National Energy Plan in place as part of the 2017 policy review."

Mr Creamer said he had put several questions to federal MP Luke Hartsuyker but was yet to receive a response.

The questions are:

- 1) Why is the National Party siding with owners of coal-fired power stations to push up electricity prices for everyone?
- 2) Why is the National Party blocking effective action on climate change when it's clear that the early effects of global warming are here already - witness Sydney last night - record overnight temperature of +28°C? Planting a few trees is just not good enough (this is what they do now!)
- 3) Why is the government giving \$1 billion to the Indian-owned and operated Adani coal mine in north QLD, when this will make matters worse, destroy the Great Barrier Reef, and waste money at a time when we are at risk of losing our AAA

credit rating? This money should be spent on infrastructure that meets the needs of Australians, not a mega coal mine. Like a rail link to Badgerys Creek airport, also helping millions of people in western Sydney.

CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP

Climate Change Australia Hastings (CCA-H) is a non party-political community group seeking outcomes that support a safe climate and more clean energy for our region, for NSW, and for Australia - now and for our children and grandchildren.

The group wants serious action immediately to tackle climate change and increase renewable energy and we will support any party or independent with effective policies. They also call on our political leaders at federal, state and local levels to act now for safe climate and more clean energy.

Our aims extend to encouraging greater sustainability in our community, including - energy efficiency, transport, agriculture, landcare, waste management, litter, recycling and re-using.

CONNECT WITH US

EMAIL
Send letters to:
portnews@fairfaxmedia.com.au

PHONE
Call us:
(02) 6588 6688

SOCIAL
[facebook.com/portmacquarienews](https://www.facebook.com/portmacquarienews),
twitter.com/portmacnews

POST
PO Box 5360,
Port Macquarie,
NSW, 2444

Letter writers to are reminded of the following:
1. Letters must be of a topical nature 2. A maximum of 300 words 3. Letters are published at the discretion of the editor 4. All letter writers must include a telephone number for verification. The News reserves the right to edit letters with respect to length, accuracy and legal implications.