

## **ENVIRONMENT, FARMING, WATER, WHALES & MUCH MORE..**

Written and Authorised by Julie Collins, Tamworth NSW.

Our nature is finely tuned and balanced. Everything we need to live sustainably, and healthily is here at our fingertips. But some of our innovations, as well as big mining companies, a consumer focused society have threatened and harmed the eco system.

I often hear people say it is a delicate balance. I believe that nature is more resilient than we give her credit for. But the massive ravaging of our land by mining companies, overfishing, short term solutions, a consumer focused disposable society, has led to the balance of nature and the environment being disturbed and interrupted so to speak.

I am not a scientist, but even I know that cutting down masses of trees will affect the balance of nature. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to realise animals will be displaced and endangered, that the trees that are part of the cycle of air purification and production if cut down on mass must have some impact.

Do I believe in climate change? I am not sure either way, but I do know that I value a healthy lifestyle, our environment being protected and have an awe for the creator of such marvellous and wonderful creatures that are so diverse and abundant that live on this planet.

I want to protect this environment for future generations to come and I want us to have optimum health and well being because our land is not polluted by toxins and chemicals.

How will we achieve this?

**Through Research and Innovation. Supporting our Scientific Community and Australian Grown Inventions.**

**We need to support the local scientific community both financially and by valuing their input, and encouraging our children to enjoy the scientific landscape through early education programmes.**

Many great innovations have come out of our own CSIRO. Wifi was first recognised by our CSIRO.

Currently there have been trials and research conducted by locals in the New England partnering with NSW University to offer alternative sources of energy so that electricity is more affordable, and we do not have to rely upon fossil fuels.

We have seen an ordinary Aussie Couple recently create a wrap that is not plastic and breaks down quickly.

## **Protecting our Environment**

Every individual must be committed to seeing change and changing the way we live. Governments need to support individuals, so they are able to afford to make the right choices.

Did you know that whales help reduce green house gases? <sup>1</sup> Currently our pristine waters of the Coast of WA are in danger of being polluted and invaded by Woodside Oil Rigging Company. The effect of this upon our finely balanced marine environment will be catastrophic. To understand more about the damage that this will do to our oceans and our whales visit the Greenpeace website. <sup>2</sup> You can do your part today. You will find a link on the Green Peace website to sign a petition to stop this oil rig going ahead.

## **Our Marine Environment and Plastics**

People travel long distances to Australia to enjoy the most beautiful oceans in the world. Chefs around the world make the most amazing culinary delights with Australia's seafood.

The UNEA is a gathering of all United Nations member states to discuss and adopt policies for tackling global environmental problems. It is the highest environmental decision-making body in the world.

On the 2 March 2022 in Nairobi a "shoal" of delegates, ministers and representatives from 173 countries met to agree on the terms for negotiating a plastics reduction treaty. These delegates formally adopted a resolution to start negotiations for a legally binding agreement to end plastic pollution.

The long term goal is to reduce the amount of plastic produced, and emitted into the Ocean. By 2024 the hope is to have thrashed out the specifics of this treaty.

Some plastics takes 1000 years to breakdown, and currently we produce over a billion kilos of plastic per day. Having been an avid Scuba Diver and Instructor, it is devastating to be confronted with the destruction that plastics can do.

Children will remember the movie "Happy Feet" and the penguin who had the beer plastic wrapped around his neck. Turtles mistake plastic for jelly fish, the preferred bliss inducing drug of those magnificent creatures.

Plastics not only impact our ocean, but ourselves and our children. We ingest broken down plastics through fish, and salt.

Green Peace have a great little video and song, that talks about the problem and what we as individuals can do to work towards the removal of plastics from our oceans.

In Victoria, there are a number of supermarkets and outlets, that have eliminated the use of washing detergent bottles, instead you can take your bottle in to re-fill directly. Thank you Coles and Victorians!

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<sup>1</sup> <https://news.mongabay.com/2021/03/to-fight-climate-change-save-the-whales-some-scientists-say/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.greenpeace.org.au/blog/why-we-must-stop-the-woodside-scarborough-gas-project-2/>

**I must ask why are our Governments is permitting our valuable water that is needed by our farmers to be used by mining companies?**

Why are our ports leased out to China?

**What is our Government doing? Are they committed to sensible solutions or just what will get them the vote?**

I intend to recycle and reclaim all the plastic corflutes sent out and upcycle them. They will not be going into landfill. I challenge all the other candidates to do the same.

If you elect me, I will strive to ensure to see that Australia's oceans, our vibrant marine parks, and Heritage Listed Great Barrier Reef, an environmental and economic asset, is protected and improved for generations to come.

I intend to promote sensible decisions when it comes to water, mining, fuel and our heritage listed forests and woodlands. On the Senate Ballot Paper, Vote no 1 under the line Julie Collins so I can actively follow up the plastics treaty, and put forward good legislation now, to start reducing the plastics Australia produces and emits.

Place me number 1 so I can lobby and advocate to pass legislation to stop the Woodside Oil Rig.

Place me no. 1 so we can encourage local innovation and scientific research to create alternatives to plastic.

Place me no. 1 to be a voice of reason for our farmers to encourage technology and research to drought proof our land and encourage sustainable farming practices.

Further references and acknowledgements:

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Awe.gov.au