

SUSTAINABILITY SPEAKING

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2015: FINAL COLLAPSE OF ARCTIC SEA ICE

One of the world's leading ice experts has predicted the final collapse of Arctic sea ice in summer months within four years. In what he calls a "global disaster" now unfolding in northern latitudes as the sea area that freezes and melts each year shrinks to its lowest extent ever recorded, Prof Peter Wadhams of Cambridge University calls for "urgent" consideration of new ideas to reduce global temperatures.



He predicted the imminent break-up of sea ice in summer months in 2007, when the previous lowest extent of 4.17 million square kilometres was set. This year, it has unexpectedly plunged a further 500,000 sq km to less than 3.5m sq km. "I have been predicting [the collapse of sea ice

in summer months] for many years. The main cause is simply global warming: as the climate has warmed there has been less ice growth during the winter and more ice melt during the summer.

"At first this didn't [get] noticed; the summer ice limits slowly shrank back, at a rate which suggested that the ice would last another 50 years or so. But in the end the summer melt overtook the winter growth such that the entire ice sheet melts or breaks up during the summer months.

"This collapse, I predicted would occur in 2015-16 at which time the summer Arctic (August to September) would become ice-free. The final collapse towards that state is now happening and will probably be complete by those dates".

Wadhams says the implications are "terrible". "The positives are increased possibility of Arctic transport, increased access to Arctic offshore oil and gas resources. The main negative is an acceleration of global warming."

"As the sea ice retreats in summer the ocean warms up (to 7C in 2011) and this warms the seabed too. The continental shelves of the Arctic are composed of offshore permafrost, frozen sediment left over from the last ice age. As the water warms the permafrost melts and releases huge quantities of trapped methane, a very powerful greenhouse gas so this will give a big boost to global warming." (From The Guardian 17 September 2012)

SAVE MOLINEUX POINT

At a recent Sydney Ports community meeting we were advised by a NSW Treasury official that the Tourist Lookout at Molineux Point and Prince of Wales Drive and Bumborah Point were likely to be included in the 99 year lease of Port Botany. This is the last leg of the Randwick Coastal Walk and the Lookout and Drive were a small piece of compensation for the loss of shoreline and recreational amenity when the Port was built in the 1970s. Banks Wall is Heritage listed. If you object to the loss of this public space please email the Treasurer, Mike Baird, at office@treasurer.nsw.gov.au (Photos: Left - Molineux Lookout; Right - Banks Wall).



There are now more foreign plants in Australia than native ones

- at least ones we know about, say scientists.

About 27,500 introduced species have made their way into the country, compared to our 24,000 natives. "This is a pool from which some plants will grow to become weeds," says Dr Richard Groves, researcher at CSIRO Plant Industry, who recently gave a public lecture at the Australian Academy of Science on the topic. And around 10 per cent of the invaders have become 'naturalised' or 'established', meaning they now grow by themselves and thrive in the wild.



Each species introduced to Australia needs to be considered as potentially dangerous for our biodiversity, says John DeJose, CEO of the environmental organisation, Invasive Species Council.

"The majority of introduced plants which have already become established in the wild are causing harm and are regarded as invasive",

he says. "Some of the seemingly harmless introduced plants of today may very well turn out to be the devastating weeds of tomorrow." (Photo: Woody Pear, found near Henry Head in Botany Bay National Park threatened by weeds such as Bitou Bush)

Jennifer Street Development in Little Bay



The Jennifer Street property previously owned by the La Perouse Land Council is proposed to be developed for 31 dwellings - in the first stage a complex of 24 units and in the second stage 7 town houses. A section of the Eastern Suburbs Banks Scrub is to remain and be rehabilitated in Stage 3. Development Application Enquiries to general.manager@randwick.nsw.gov.au and quote: DA 547 / 2012

Protection of the Ozone Layer A Global Environmental Success Story

MONTREAL PROTOCOL



Controls to protect the Ozone Layer implemented under the Montreal Protocol have enabled the global community to avoid millions of cases of fatal skin cancer and tens of millions of cases of non-fatal skin cancer and eye cataracts. The United States estimates that by the year 2065 more than 6.3 million skin cancer deaths will have been avoided in that country alone and that efforts to protect the ozone layer will have saved it an estimated US\$4.2 trillion in healthcare costs over the period 1990–2065. In addition, in 2011 the United States Environmental Protection Agency estimated that more than 22 million Americans born between 1985 and 2100 would avoid suffering from cataracts thanks to the Montreal Protocol.

South Ward Councillors Supporting the La Perouse Market Gardens

Robert Belleli: *I don't support any expansion of the cemetery. I think we need to protect the Chinese Market Gardens. (Southern Courier 11/7/12)*

Noel D'Souza: *My view on this important issue is the same as expressed by my Labour colleagues in Council that the land that has been zoned rural, must stay zoned rural. The Chinese Gardens at La Perouse must be saved." (Southern Courier 11/7/12)*



Noel D'Souza (Labor)



Robert Belleli (Liberal)



Pat Garcia (Labor)

Charles Matthews, who was a supporter of the Cemetery Trust was voted out and Pat Garcia has claimed his seat.

Lynda Newnam – September 2012