

Act On Climate Change to Stop Deadly Bushfires!

By Quinn AL

Do you want future generations of Australians to grow up witnessing horrific bushfires every year of their childhood? Do you want Australia to be burnt to a crisp in a few years time? This is what will happen if nobody acts on climate change. We must stop destroying our beautiful country and our children's future.

As climate change escalates, terrible bushfires like the ones in 2019-2020 are way more likely to happen. Climate change increases the risk of bushfires by a whole 30%! Scientists at the world renowned Oxford University predict that if the global temperature rises by 2°C, it makes the risk for bushfires 4 times more likely. We must act on climate change if we want these figures to decrease.

Australia's economy is dropping because of us not taking action on climate change. After the horrid 2019-2020 bushfires, Australia owed 100 billion dollars for things such as fire fighting equipment and holiday refunds. Because of us not taking action on climate change, bushfires are more likely to happen and businesses lose a lot of money.

Australia's wildlife suffers hugely from us not taking action on climate change to stop deadly bushfires. In the 2019-2020 bushfires, over 1 billion animals died that were vital to our ecosystem. If these bushfires keep happening, a number of our native animals could end up extinct. 5.8 million hectares of trees and plants were also burnt. These trees take in carbon dioxide and give out clean, fresh, cool oxygen. If we burn all of these trees, too much carbon dioxide will end up in the air, leading to more climate change and a higher risk of bushfires.

In summary, if we want to stop deadly bushfires tearing through our land, we must act on climate change. As stated previously, if we act on climate change, we can reduce the risk of devastating bushfires, grow Australia's economy and save Australia's flora and fauna. It's time that Australia takes action on climate change to save this beautiful country.

Facebook, Instagram and TikTok are an invasion of privacy

By Isabelle Del Rio

Imagine someone following you around, watching everything that you do and knowing everything that you think about! Creepy right!

This is what social media does! Platforms like Facebook, Instagram and TikTok are a huge invasion of privacy. They are always watching you! People need to stop putting so much trust into big companies like these. Protect your personal information!

People need to read terms, conditions and cookies. Although you may see no damage in clicking accept instead of reading through a long folder of T&C's, it is perfectly designed for that. Cookies are shown to be "silent stalkers" and they can use a whole lot of your information. You have to take action!

If you thought your searches were only viewed by yourself, you would be wrong. Your search engine tracks everything that you search. You can even try it. If you start searching about cruise ships, there is a very high chance you will get ads about discounts on cruises. People have jobs as data harvesters to collect your data.

Social media doesn't care about you personally and definitely isn't your friend. People believe empty lies that social media tells. The truth is that they don't make apps like, Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok for the enjoyment of users. Instead they sell your personal information to companies for advertisement. So if you have been on social media then the probability is that, that company made money from you.

I strongly believe that social media is destroying your privacy. Platforms like, Facebook, Instagram and TikTok are selling your information and secretly scamming you using your interests and getting away with it! You know that social media is tracking you, why would you let that happen?. We must stop before every bit of our data is leaked.

Should schools be closed during covid-19?

By Basma

Yes they should.

How would you feel if your family got Covid-19 simply by going to school? It would be devastating for the family. If the parents and /or guardians really understood the consequences of not taking all necessary precautions they would not send their children to school.

Some may argue that children do not suffer badly due to strong immune system but they can be super spreaders. This means, that they can pass it on to other adults and students without even knowing. But others may have a weak immune system which means they will not be able to fight off the virus. This group of children could include those who have poor nutrition or may have another illness such as cancer. Kids who have serious illness are more likely to get covid-19.

How do you socially distance at a school? Schools have hundreds of children in them. Classrooms are packed with 20, 25 and even up to 30 children, all sitting closely to each other and their teachers. Outside in the yard it is almost impossible to socially distance because there is not enough room. Children playing on monkey bars, play equipment and in sand pits, sharing equipment. They are not socially distancing and can easily spread the virus.

At the moment the weather is warm to mild and we have not entered flu season. With the coming of cold weather and winter more children and adults get sick with the flu. When you have the influenza, you have a runny nose, sneeze more and are spreading more germs. This means if you have the virus you are more likely to spread it to more people. Children in particular have runny noses and get the flu easily, they touch their faces a lot this then results in the virus being spread to others more easily and quickly. At school children can pass on the virus to each other and then go home and give it to their families.

Although schools are important places where children should go to learn, they are also places where the deadly covid-19 virus can easily be spread and infect hundreds of children. So, it is for the benefit of the children and their families that schools are closed to protect the students and their loved ones.

Australia is not doing enough recycling to help the environment.

By Vanessa Lochert

How would it feel to see your descendants be forced to flee an Australia coated in rubbish because of your actions? If Australia does not do more to recycle, that nightmare will become a reality. It is imperative to the survival of future generations that we protect our planet.

Recycling is a gateway to a sustainable future. Around 20 million tonnes of waste make it to thousands of landfill sites around Australia and about 70% of it shouldn't be there! By recycling we can completely empty most of those sites and replace them with recycling centres and clean energy generators such as wind turbines and solar panels. This is vital to reaching the goal of Australia using 92% renewable sources by 2030.

Recycling more will help our economy and our ability to be independent from other countries. The Victorian Government plans to introduce a four-bin system that will be fully functional by 2030. The system includes expanding the green bin to admit food scraps and having a separate purple bin for glass containers. According to experts, a system that is much more efficient, effective and economical is required if we want to successfully invest in our future waste management. Many households are confused about what can be recycled, so a comprehensible guide is necessary. Victoria also needs a soft plastics bin and a more competent collection timetable- the red bin should only be collected fortnightly, as 60% of waste is organic. More recycling leads to more employment. One recycling centre creates over 9 new jobs!

Recycling significantly reduces carbon emissions. Everyone can agree, regardless of their views on climate change and global warming, that we need to minimize the effects of pollution. I mean, who would want to breathe contaminated air? Australia has one of the world's highest levels of carbon dioxide emissions, with our 0.33% of the human population releasing 1.07% of the Earth's greenhouse gasses!

Over 20 million trees are felled every year for the paper industry, and that is just in Queensland. We must have trees to survive; a single tree can get rid of 113 kilograms of carbon dioxide every year. By recycling paper, we can help save the trees and their ecosystems.

In conclusion, Australia needs to put much more effort into recycling and helping our planet. For the sake of our economic, sustainable and environmental future, we must reduce, reuse and recycle everything that we can. It is the only way to ensure that Earth remains healthy and plentiful for as long as possible.

It is important for kids to play outside.

By Anita Mrkonjic

How would you feel if you saw all your friends playing in the rain and jumping in puddles and you weren't allowed to join them? Would you be sad? I believe that it is important for kids to play outside. There are so many benefits for health, adventure and especially fun!

Playing outside is critical because it benefits children's well-being. Don't kids today spend too much time indoors on screens? Experts say that kids aged 2-5 should only have one hour per day and children aged between 5-17 should only have two hours per day on screens, that includes, tv, movies, iPads and laptops. Staying on screens is also bad for children's eyesight. More kids today are developing "nearsightedness". To prevent this, kids need to play outside because looking long distances strengthens eyesight. Also when you stay inside too much you don't get enough fresh air or sunlight. Sunlight is important because that is how we get vitamin D and this is important for our bones. Don't you feel better when you go outside after doing a long test on the iPad at school? I know I do! When we go outside and get active we release endorphins. Everyone knows that endorphins put us in a good mood and make us feel happy.

Outdoor play is essential for children's physical health. Playing outside is being active. This is important because exercise strengthens our muscles, bones, heart and lungs. Kids need to be outside running, riding bikes and swimming at the beach. What would you rather do, play at the beach or sit in front of a computer all day? More importantly, isn't that why kids are encouraged to play sports? At a young age many children are playing sports such as tennis, soccer and football. One of the main reasons is for fitness and being outdoors. If kids play outside and play sports from a young age aren't they more likely to stay fit as adults?

Playing outside is also FREE play and this is vital for young people because they can learn through exploring the natural world and make up their own games. Do you remember how much fun it was to play with dirt, water and sticks? Outside children see butterflies, ladybugs and ants. Did you ever try to catch a butterfly or follow an ant to its nest? Aren't these all unique experiences that we can only have when playing outside? Playgrounds are important too because children learn new skills like jumping, climbing and swinging. Playing in playgrounds also develops children's social skills because they have to learn to share and take turns.

Playing outside is full of possibilities and adventure. Imagine you were inside playing a quiet board game and you looked out the window and saw a full playground of kids laughing, screaming and running a-mock, what would you want to do? The answer is obvious to me and it should be to you too!