

Sustainability Matters

Compiled and published by Ray Skinner, FCA

Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children

2 March 2023



Designed by
www.vecteezy.com

First Working paper on Managed Retreat Law Released by EDS

"EDS has released its first working paper as part of its Aotearoa New Zealand's Climate Change Adaptation Act: Building a Durable Future project. The project is focussed on developing recommendations for the content of the new Climate Adaptation Act, now taking on more urgency given recent climate-related disasters in Auckland and Tairāwhiti.

"Working Paper 1 focuses on why managed retreat is needed, its purpose, underlying principles and funding options.

"EDS is also releasing a separate report prepared for the project by Professor Boston which examines the design of a public compensation scheme for residential property losses from managed retreat in more detail.

"However, managed retreat raises many tricky issues around who should be compensated, how much it will cost and who will pay. These go to the core of our values as a society. Do we leave people to suffer losses and manage as best they can on their own? Or do we collectively provide the resources to assist those who are most affected?

"We welcome constructive feedback on our working paper which will be incorporated into our final synthesis report due later this year," concluded Ms Peart.

More: <https://eds.org.nz/resources/documents/media-releases/2023/eds-releases-first-working-paper-on-managed-retreat-law/> 95 pages 8.41Mb and 200 pages 4.53Mb

Plus: Forever Project 17th February; "A law could allow flood-hit homeowners to seek safer ground, if the Government would fund it"
www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/131184758/a-law-could-allow-flood-hit-homeowners-to-seek-safer-ground-if-the-government-would-fund-it

Source: *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 16th February 2023.

Environmental Defence Society Conference 2023 – Pivot Point

"We are entering a period of deep change as we transform our economy from carbon-intensive resource exploitation towards a zero-carbon future. This will involve restoring our natural world, rewilding at landscape scale and cleaning up our freshwater systems.

"At this year's conference we will challenge whether the traditional concepts of growth across activities such as tourism, agriculture, forestry, and fishing are still fit for the future.

"How should we measure progress in the next decades?

"EDS will also profile fresh thinking about oceans, conservation, resource management and adaptation.

"Central to *Pivot Point's* agenda will be how Te Ao Māori and Te Tiriti jurisprudence is evolving across all environmental domains.

When/Where: 22nd to 24th March, Auckland

More: <https://tcc.eventsair.com/eds23/>

Source: *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 23rd February 2023.

New Zealand Climate Clause Bank

"New Zealand Green Investment Finance [NZGIF] has developed the New Zealand Climate Clause Bank, a free resource which can help businesses make small climate-friendly changes that, across the economy, can have a big impact on emissions reductions.

"The New Zealand Climate Clause Bank builds on the work of The Chancery Lane Project (TCLP), a global collective of lawyers based in the UK, using contracts to help deliver climate solutions.

"Developed by NZGIF in collaboration with some of Aotearoa's leading national and regional law firms, the New Zealand Climate Clause Bank is a suite of template clauses for contracts which can help drive better climate outcomes.

"All businesses are encouraged to look at the New Zealand Climate Clause Bank and consider how the clauses might be able to assist in their own sustainability journey. ...

More: <https://nzgif.co.nz/investing/new-zealand-climate-clause-bank/> 24 pages, 1.5Mb plus <https://nzgif.co.nz/news-and-events/our-low-carbon-future-one-contract-at-a-time/> and <https://chancerylaneproject.org> 125 clauses

Source: *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 23rd February 2023

Editor: Contains 10 suggested items including for greenleases. All can be modified to suit individual situations, or used as seeds for ideas.

Finance Minister Fed Up with Some Reporting

"On 8th February, the Minister of Finance gave the IPANZ Annual Address. You can see it here.**

"Minister Robertson expressed his gratitude to all public servants and was particularly aware of the impact upon them of stopping policy programmes which they have been working on.

"There were some gems in his speech, especially an area where he requested help. He asked every public servant to articulate exactly what and how much difference they were making, not to describe what they do, but to evidence the outcome. How do you know you are making a difference and exactly how will we monitor it, and how will you demonstrate this to New Zealanders?

"The Minister is clearly fed up with performance reporting that is not meaningful. He referenced the work of the Auditor General – the next article is a blog from the Office of the Auditor-General to start you thinking## And we'll have more on this topic in the April issue of our Public Sector journal.

More:

** https://ipanz.org.nz/Article?Action=View&Article_id=150417

<https://oag.parliament.nz/blog/2022/performance-reporting>

<https://oag.parliament.nz/blog/2022/pce-public-accountability>

Source: IPANZ, 21st February 2023.

A Call for Balance for Sustainability Practitioners

Useful self-care advice or sustainability practitioners 😊

More: www.gcseglobal.org/gcse-essays/call-balance-sustainability-practitioners

Source: GCSE, 1st March 2023.

Films of Potential Interest

"One Earth Film Festival is a Chicago area film festival which creates opportunities for understanding climate change, sustainability and the power of human involvement through sustainability-themed films and facilitated discussion. We engage private, public and non-profit sector community partners in the sponsorship and production of the film festival.

Their Vision is to: Stimulate, energise and activate communities through deep involvement in the One Earth Film Festival, maximising citizen reach and expanding the movement.

"Through its streamed programs, One Earth now reaches audiences across the U.S., also attracting participant viewers in other countries.


"All One Earth presentations are designed to educate, inspire, and prompt action amid current environmental catastrophes. Screenings are accompanied by an expert panel discussion, offering ideas to equip audiences with ways to take action on the world's most pressing environmental problems.

"All films have a virtual viewing option;

- 2023 Opening Night Launch Party 3rd March
- Children's (age 3-6+) Short Film Program 4th March; *Cloud Chaos, Cool For You, Hush Hush Little Bear, and Sweet CoCoon*
- Children's (age 7 to 12+) Short Film Program 4th March *Birth of Form, Cracked and Hargila"*
- *The Seeds of Vandana Shiva*, 4th March
- *Devil Put the Coal in the Ground*, 5th March
- *Into the Ice*, 6th March
- *Wasteland: Iowa*, 7th March
- *No Climate, No Equity, No Deal*, 7th March
- *Going Circular*, 9th March
- *The Falconer*, 10th March
- *Mardi and The Whites*, 10th March
- *Utama*, 11th March
- *To The End*, 12th March.

When/Where: March 2023. Chicago and online

More: www.oneearthfilmfest.org/

Source: Green America, 20th February 2023. 

Wild Isles

"*Wild Isles* is a major new five-part natural history series from Silverback Films for BBC One and iPlayer (coming 2023) which aims to do for the wildlife of Britain and Ireland what the 'Planet' series have done for the wildlife of the world.


"Presented by Sir David Attenborough, co-produced by The Open University, the RSPB and WWF, and filmed over three years, the series uses the very latest technology to capture dramatic new behaviour, from battling butterflies to hunting sea eagles and killer whales – revealing a previously unseen wild side of the British Isles.

"Sir David said: 'In my long lifetime, I have travelled to almost every corner of our planet. I can assure you in the British Isles, as well as astonishing scenery there are extraordinary animal dramas and wildlife spectacles to match anything I have seen on my global travels.'

"The five-part series will have an introductory episode, explaining why Britain and Ireland are globally important for nature, while the remaining four episodes will celebrate our isles' four key habitats – woodlands, grasslands, freshwater and marine. Britain and Ireland have some of the most diverse and beautiful landscapes on Earth.

When/Where: Likely broadcast by BBC early March 2023

More: <https://silverbackfilms.tv/shows/wild-isles/> plus www.countryfile.com/news/wild-isles-david-attenborough/


Source: *Telegraph*, 21st February 2023. 

Bioengineering Repairs to Ecologically Fragile Landscapes

"A locally driven push to restore a Himalayan paradise preserved an economy, a community and an ecosystem all at once.

More: <https://reasonstobecheerful.world/himalayas-india-erosion-restore-ecosystem/>

Source: reasons to be cheerful, 15th February 2023

Editor: The approach may be useful for erosion prone areas in New Zealand and elsewhere. 

8 Easy Ways to Reduce Microplastic Waste

"Plastic is useful in many ways, but over time it breaks down, getting smaller and smaller. These tiny particles are called microplastics, and they're a big problem.

"Synthetic clothing, such as polyester, is a huge contributor to the microplastic problem. Every time you do a load of laundry, microfibers are released into the waterways. Some of these end up in our oceans and have been found present inside the fish and seafood we eat. It's estimated we eat a shocking 5grams worth of plastic a week, which is the equivalent of a credit card.

"Microplastics come from a variety of sources, both consumer products and industrial waste. But more than 35% of microplastic in the ocean comes from our washing machines.

"The amount of microplastics in the ocean is estimated to be 14 million tons.


"Microplastics are tiny, measuring less than 5mm in length, or about the size of a sesame seed.

"Microfibers are the plastic offshoots from clothing, and the most prevalent type of microplastic.

"Microplastics have been found in all corners of the world, in freshwater, soil, air, and even human blood, raising concerns for the associated environmental and human health impacts.

"Associate Professor Trisia Farrelly, a member of the United Nations Environment Programme's expert group on marine litter and microplastics, said: 'The plastic pollution crisis has been recognised as one of the triple threats to our planet alongside climate change and biodiversity loss.'


More: www.consumer.org.nz/articles/8-easy-ways-to-reduce-microplastic

Source: Consumer, 18th February 2023. 

Climate-related Financial Disclosure: CA ANZ Submission

This joint submission by CA ANZ and CPA Australia provides helpful insights in to the emerging direction of climate related reporting in Australia, with possible implications for NZ.

More: www.charteredaccountantsanz.com/news-and-analysis/advocacy/policy-submissions/submission-outlines-support-of-australias-progress-on-sustainability-reporting plus www.charteredaccountantsanz.com/-/media/84f72a00ed8440278eef95690d5c8c7.ashx 20pages, 262Kb

Source: Debbie Kandaau, CA ANZ, Weekly Digest for Climate & Sustainability, 26th February 2023. 

If you would like to support the production of *Sustainability Matters*

contributions would be much appreciated.

A/c No. 123 011 0249104 00

ASB Bank, Queen Street branch, Auckland.

Make sure you provide your name!

As a suggestion NZ\$55.00


Urban Trees Can Save Lives

"Trees don't just beautify residential neighbourhoods. In urban areas, they can save lives.

"A new study published last month [January] in the *Lancet*, a peer-reviewed public health journal, finds doubling the average amount of tree cover in European cities from 15 to 30% could reduce urban temperatures by 0.4°C – a small but powerful change which could cut heat-related deaths by more than a third.

"The findings are based on a new model of 93 European cities, home to about 57 million people. An international team of researchers found more trees could significantly mitigate the 'urban heat island effect', in which unshaded city blocks can get up to 22°F hotter than rural areas. They linked the phenomenon to 6,700 premature deaths in the 93 cities during the summer of 2015 – more than 4% of all summertime deaths – and estimated 2,644 could have been prevented by greater tree cover.

More: <https://grist.org/beacon/urban-trees-can-save-lives/> plus [www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(22\)02585-5/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(22)02585-5/fulltext)

Source: Orion, 17th February 2023. 

Circular Economy Boost Session!

"Hear from a diverse group of consultants who will discuss their most progressive pieces of work to help accelerate businesses towards a circular economy.

"Meet other businesses, like yours, that are striving towards a sustainable future.

"Impact Investors (SBN Members) and Circular Economy Directory Listers only.

When/Where: Wed. 8th March 5:50-7:30pm, Auckland

More: <https://sustainable.org.nz/learn/events/your-circular-economy-boost-session/>

Source: SBN, 15th February 2023. 

2023 Insights on New Zealand Sustainability Professionals Survey

"Oxygen Consulting, in partnership with the Sustainable Business Network (SBN), the Sustainable Business Council (SBC) and Auckland University of Technology (AUT), have launched their fourth annual survey on the sustainability profession in New Zealand and are inviting eligible participants to take part.

"Over the past three years, this research has observed the emergence of three distinctive sustainability role types. The 2023 research seeks to investigate these role types further so we might provide more granular and useful information for professionals seeking a specific career pathway in sustainability and for organisations seeking to recruit sustainability roles.

"The three sustainability roles being investigated include:

- General – Leads the strategic direction, facilitates coordination, and implementation of organisational sustainability
- Specialist – Delivers specialist expertise on specific technical or specialist aspects of sustainability
- Additional – Core role is in another part of the business, but has some sustainability responsibilities.

"With sustainability continuing to grow as a focus for organisations, having good information to help specify the right role(s) for the organisation's needs is critical to ensuring the appropriate capabilities are recruited.

More: <https://sustainable.org.nz/learn/news-insights/2023-insights-on-new-zealand-sustainability-professionals-survey-launches/>

Source: *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 9th February 2023. 

Sustainability Centres Community Workshop

"Around the world, business school sustainability centres advance sustainability research, teaching, and outreach. They're an essential part of meeting today's business sustainability challenges.

"The NBS Sustainability Centres Community exists to connect and support these centres in their work. It's a network of almost 200 centres, at universities on every continent but Antarctica.

"Every two years, these centres come together to discuss the challenges and opportunities of directing a sustainability centre.


"The 2023 Workshop focuses on the idea of 'Connecting for Impact'. For centres at the workshop, this will mean (1) building synergies and (2) using systems thinking to advance problems. These strategies for change can be applied between and within business schools – and with the world outside.

"As part of building synergies, the Workshop is held in partnership with the United Nations Principles of Responsible Management Education (PRME). Both PRME and the SCC are dedicated to advancing sustainability within business schools. This collaboration showcases the role of sustainability centres as change agents within business schools.

When/Where: 14th and 15th June, 2023. New York.

More: <https://nbs.net/sustainability-centres-community-workshop-june-14-15-2023/>

Source: CSEAR, 9th February 2023

Editor: The workshop is in the context of 2023 PRME Global Forum 12th to 16th June in New York under the main theme 'Connecting For Impact Worldwide', PRME, an initiative of the UN Global Compact, is now calling people from all corners of the world to join their global community. A global debate on how business education can help advance the sustainable development agenda worldwide. 

100 speakers with Impactful Ideas: Planetary Stewardship Highlights - TEDxBoston


"On 13th and 14th November, TEDxBoston brought together speakers for CERES inaugural Planetary Stewardship Event to elevate transformative ideas on climate and establish Boston as a hub for driving powerful ideas toward global climate and sustainability solutions.

"Timed to align with the United Nations' Climate Change Conference, this 2-day event spotlighted actionable ideas for human activity to achieve a sustainable relationship with the planet's natural systems.

"Explore 100+ talks from a broad range of experts who explore how research and scaling of technologies and practices can bring us closer toward planetary stewardship goals. The talks took place at 5 sites across Boston ...

"Mindy Luber CEO of CERES, delivered '7 Years to Save the Planet'. Mindy gives us hope we can still save the planet from the climate crisis, even though the timeframe to avoid more catastrophic climate change is shorter than ever.


More: www.ted.com/talks/mindy_lubber_7_years_to_save_the_planet plus www.youtube.com/@TEDxBeaconStreet

Source: CERES, 15th February 2023. 

ESG Factors – What They Are and Why They Matter

Although published in 2021 this blog provides useful insights about considering and managing ESG issues. In 20 years, ESG factors have grown into a series of indicators which represent more than \$US 23 trillion in value.

More: www.ecoport.com/blog/esgfactors

Source: ecoPortal, 27th February 2023. 

NZ App Helps Cut Commuters' Emissions

"How are you getting to work? By car, bike, bus or train? And what is it costing the planet to get workers to workplaces and home again?"

"It is hoped a new app will help businesses easily calculate the carbon cost of their workers' travel and encourage companies to cut the carbon footprint or offset it.

"CarbonWise has been developed by Christchurch-based transport technology company Abley.

"Sustainability specialist Benjamin Walch told *Checkpoint* the app involved employees filling out a quick survey on their recent travel modes. They can then see a summary of their emissions.

"On the employers' side for each workplace, they'll be able to see how the employees travelled to work and see the associated emissions, which is what they can use for sustainability reporting.

"Walch said if an organisation wanted to reduce emissions, dealing with its workers' travel modes was a good starting point.

"In France, where I'm from, there's a requirement for employers to contribute to employees' public transport passes, or to subsidise kilometres cycled. So there's a clear recognition in other places that the employer has a role to play.

"And what we've found working with clients is if you provide the right facilities to your employees, including cycle parking or car parking spaces reserved for carpoolers, then you can really change the behaviour.

More:

www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/checkpoint/audio/2018834797/nz-app-developed-to-help-cut-commuters-carbon-emissions

Source: Will Eason, Abley, 28th February 2023

Editor: Late 2022, the commuting emissions software CarbonWise™ was audited by Toitū Enviroware and certified as being Toitū Carbon Compatible. See <https://abley.com/abley-news/carbonwise-is-toitu-carbon-compatible/>

Central Queensland Coal Mine Blocked – An Australian First

"The federal environment minister has officially blocked mining magnate Clive Palmer's bid for a new Central Queensland coal mine.

"Key points:

- Clive Palmer's Central Queensland Coal Project was slated for near Rockhampton
- Tanya Plibersek's refusal is the first time a coal mine has been rejected under federal environmental laws
- The environment minister says there were unacceptable risks to the Great Barrier Reef, groundwater and freshwater creeks

More: www.abc.net.au/news/2023-02-08/tanya-plibersek-blocks-clive-palmer-central-qld-coal-mine/101945208 plus www.acf.org.au/people-stop-palmer-mine

Source: ACF, 8th February 2023.

The City Where Third Graders Train to Be Engineers

"Since Greenville, South Carolina started offering 'career education' for its youngest students, the number of graduates earning industry certifications has soared.

More: <https://reasonstobecheerful.world/career-education-third-grade-greenville/>

Source: reasons to be cheerful, 8th February 2023.

Directors' Duties: LKANZ Submission – Issues to Think About

"Mid-January LKANZI lodged a submission regarding the Companies (Directors Duties) Amendment Bill.

LKANZI supports the Bill as a useful clarification directors are not prevented by law from taking account of non-financial factors when determining the best interests of the company. However, they also believe the Bill does not go far enough to achieve the material change in corporate behaviour needed to address the climate emergency without supporting measures or further amendment.

It may be useful to read the submission as it provides food for thought for directors and others.

More:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5cf303912690500011c02b0/t/63d820baa6436e5a1320d4e1/1675108539717/2023-01-17+LKANZI+-+Director%27s+Duties+Submissions.pdf>

Source: LKANZI, 16th February 2023.

How Can we Rethink Climate Communications to Reach Deniers and 'Delayers'?

"A poll of 2,000 UK-based adults has revealed one-quarter do not think climate change is a real and present problem, uncovering common problems with climate-related communications which are breeding conspiracy theories, confusion and overwhelm.

"Conducted online by Opinium late last year, the poll was undertaken on behalf of the firstlight group, which published the results this week. [2nd week of February] The overarching conclusion is, while most adults in the UK do understand climate change is real and its physical effects are already being felt – with more to come in their lifetimes – 25% are either deniers or 'delayers'.

"This is equivalent to around 17 million people. While deniers outright believe climate change is not happening due to human activity, delayers believe we should not be overly concerned. They may believe climate impacts are less severe than scientists state, or will play out over a longer timeframe, for example.

"firstlight group has identified three broad reasons people may fall into this demographic. It has called the findings 'fascinating, worrying, even enraging, yet also illuminating'.

"The first is people may be highly sceptical of the science. These people are typically also distrusting of corporations, governments, mainstream media and scientists working on other issues.

"The second is people do not think climate change will impact them. unlike the 'conspirators', these people often do think climate change is happening

"The third and largest minority are those who are simply 'the overwhelmed'. They can usually be convinced to engage, but only if communicated with in the right ways. ...

"We pull out the headline stats and facts from the report – plus its key recommendations on what kinds of language to use.

"When engaging with those who are potentially deniers or delayers, the report cautions against the use of the following terms.

"Selected recommendations for improving climate communications from this report:

More: www.edie.net/how-can-we-rethink-climate-communications-to-reach-deniers-and-delayer plus www.firstlightgroup.io/app/uploads/2023/01/Rethinking-Climate-Comms-final.pdf 16pages 4.77Mb

Source: edie, 16th February 2023.