

YOUR VIEW

Readers' opinions should be concise and no more than 250 words. Occasionally longer letters will be published at the discretion of the Editor. Letters should be typed or in neat handwriting. Writers should include their full name, address and business and after hours telephone numbers for confirmation of letters. Letters and web comments may be edited for length, clarity or for legal concerns.

Email: letters@bordermail.com.au Fax: (02) 6024 0600 Post: PO Box 491, Wodonga, 3689

Letters

Small price now or pay big later

AUTHORITATIVE studies have demonstrated the costs of carbon abatement and adaptation to climate-related damages will increase dramatically over time.

Therefore, strong policy action is clearly the cheapest method of addressing the climate threat.

Up until now, businesses have been free to pollute the atmosphere free of charge, while the cost of addressing the impacts of that pollution have been borne by governments and taxpayers.

It is not unreasonable to ask that those who make the mess be responsible for cleaning it up, which is exactly the objective of pricing carbon.

It's not matter of the false choice between pricing carbon and business-as-usual.

The real choice we face is between uncomfortable but relatively mild up-front costs now or the increasingly monumental costs of last-ditch climate mitigation and adaptation measures in the future.

Our economy is important, it is the engine and the measure of our prosperity.

However, we need to remember the indisputable reality that our economy and our society are wholly owned subsidiaries of the natural world.

The more we damage the natural world, the more we damage our economy and ultimately ourselves.

Through pricing carbon, we have an opportunity to integrate this understanding into our economic system and make it properly sustainable, in a way it has never been in the past.

— DR BENJAMIN HABIB, Wodonga

Loud TV ads put lives at risk

I AM so sick and tired of those lousy, shouting, screaming ads that beg for an automatic muting device that no one seems to want to invent.

And to make matters worse we have this horrible little voice telling us to buy Australian when there is nothing in his store that is made in Australia.

For heaven's sake, please redo all your ads, we do not want you or need you.

These businesses that have loud ads are doing the general public a great disservice.

Most people mute their TVs when these ads appear, therefore making it impossible to hear any emergency service announcements that could result in the loss of life.

It's time for something to be done regarding these ads.

— DEREK ROBINSON, Wodonga

THE HOT TOPIC

How do you think the sentencing of criminals could be improved?

VIRGINIA MANSEL LEES BEECHWORTH

There has to be a balance between the crimes people commit and how they are sentenced. There has to be an understanding that people need to go back into their communities

at some stage, whatever age they are. I think we have to prepare them. They really need to have some sort of therapeutic intervention that gets them to understand why they do what they do and hopefully then that stops from reoffending.



ROB WOODWARD WODONGA

I think that sometimes we get carried away in terms of our concerns and our natural concerns about our own property and children and sometimes lose sight of the fact perhaps things are less bad than they are. If you really want to look for a real solution you've got to look at the reason people do things and the best ways that going to bring about rehabilitation.

OWEN KEYLOCK BEECHWORTH

I think there needs to be more consultation. Judges have rules that they do follow, but there could be a bit more community consultation so things are not so black and white.

Where: Kerferd Oration, La Trobe University, Beechworth. Time: 1.30pm yesterday.

Facts prove the guilt-trip false

AS a strong opponent of the Gillard Government's carbon tax policy, I am fed up with having my intelligence disparaged by those seeking to impose this ridiculous tax on our nation's economic well-being.

Many advocates of the tax appear to believe that anyone who disagrees with them is somehow lacking in intellect, or is ignorant of the facts.

As a result they appear to think they can get away with quoting whatever figures they please without being held to account for their veracity.

For example, there is a long line of individuals writing to this paper who have made the claim that Australians are the world's worst polluters per capita.

This often repeated mantra is factually and demonstrably incorrect.

It is a falsehood peddled by the Greens movement in order to bestow guilt on Australians as though we are some kind of terrible rapists of the environment. Information on our very own ABC News website,

sourced from the World Resource Institute 2005 (abc.net.au/news/specials/climate-change/emissions/) proves my claim.

As a nation with rich deposits of fossil fuels, we have naturally used them as our primary sources of energy.

The "per-capita consumption" figures are dramatically distorted by comparing our emissions with those from nations which have embraced the use of nuclear energy, which has zero emissions.

It is ironic that the very same people who vehemently oppose the use of nuclear power in this country seek to unfairly compare our per-capita consumption figures with those of nuclear-powered nations.

I urge all thinking people to do their own research.

— ADRIAN WOLTER,

Abattoirs should be moved out

I FEEL the removal of the Wodonga abattoirs far more important and beneficial to the businesses than the saleyards, plus it would remove the stigma of "stink city".

The main winners of the removal of the saleyards out of Wodonga to Barnawartha would be the Albury businesses.

— BILL EDNEY, Bellbridge



Warnie's efforts more worthy?

WE all like different sports. Adam Cook believes Warnie's efforts are more worthwhile than Cadel's.

Is texting considered a sport?

— V. BYE, Yarrowonga

Join the debate @ bordermail.com.au

Do you shop online? Why?

I shop online for a number of reasons. Convenience and price point are the main ones. With the dollar high, the blatant mark-up that retailers have been passing on to consumers for years must stop. Gerry Harvey is just annoyed that we have worked out just how much he has been making all these years.

— Brownie

I run an online business and the growth has been amazing across Australia, and I do orders the US and Britain. I have been doing it for five years. You open your business up not just to one street, and one shop but the world.

— Dave

I do most of my shopping online. It's convenient, cheaper and the goods arrive in just a few days usually.

— Grandma

I buy online for three reasons: availability (can't buy the stuff I want locally), price (usually half the price of what things cost in Australia), and convenience (don't have to put my pants on or drive anywhere). I'm 50 plus and get two or three parcels a week from overseas. Never lost one yet. Haven't set foot in Hardly Normal or JB in months.

— AndrewM

Being on a low, fixed



income, I have found shopping online a great help. My latest purchase was a software package that retails in the shops here for

about \$200 for less than \$50 (including postage from New York).

— Millsy

Yes, I get frustrated at the cost of local goods on the Border. If you're in Melbourne they are much cheaper, but it's too far to travel. Internet shopping is much cheaper, even with the shipping added. I have bought nearly all my babies' items on eBay. I estimate I have saved close to \$2000.

— Kelly

The diary

email: diary@bordermail.com.au

- Mirambeena Activities Club classes resume at Mirambeena, 19 Martha Mews, Lavington, today, stump work embroidery, horticulture etc. (02) 6025 4328.
- Creative Learners Paint Space class starts today, 10am, Albury-Wodonga Community College. (02) 6043 8200.
- Probus Club of Albury West meets today, 10am, Commercial Club.
- Wodonga Toy Library tomorrow, noon-1.30pm. Sacred Heart parish hall, Beech Street, Wodonga (behind Catholic church). 0404 936 208.
- The Albury-Wodonga and District Orchid Club annual meeting tomorrow, 8pm, Murray Valley Centre, Pearce Street, Wodonga. (02) 6021 4887.
- Wodonga Historical Society annual meeting tomorrow, 7.30pm, Wodonga Football Club rooms. Guest speaker: Monica Conway. (02) 6059 6064.
- Hume Riverina Community Legal Service will be at Mount Beauty and Myrtleford tomorrow between 10am-11.30am and 1.30pm-3.30pm respectively to provide free face-to-face legal advice. 1800 918 377.
- Border Bushwalking Club monthly club night tomorrow, 7.30pm, Wodonga Senior Citizens hall, Hovell Street, Wodonga. Talk: The delights of China. (02) 6059 7618.
- Parkinson's Support Group meets on Wednesday, 10.30am, McFarland House, Wodonga. (02) 6051 7400.
- Country Women's Association, Jindera branch meets on Wednesday, 10am, Jindera School of Arts hall. (02) 6025 4206; 6040 2020.
- Wodonga View Club coffee morning on Wednesday, 10am for 10.30am, 9 Ethel Street, Wodonga. (02) 6056 3049; 6024 3478.
- Wodonga Senior Citizens early Thursday night dance, 7.30pm-10pm, Senior Citizens hall, Havelock Street. Admission \$3 with a cup of tea or coffee at the end.
- Age Concern's OT/NV dance on Thursday, 1.30pm-4.30pm, Sacred Heart hall, Mate Street, Albury. (02) 6025 2552; (03) 5721 7192; (03) 5755 1034.
- Country Women's Association Wodonga branch meets on Thursday, 1.30pm, "The Willows" 10B McFarlan Road, Wodonga. (02) 6024 3478; 6059 1968.
- Hume Riverina Community Legal Service will be at Thurgoona and Albury on Thursday between 9am-11am and 1pm-3pm respectively to provide free face to face legal advice. 1800 918 377.
- Albury Rostrum Club meets on Thursday, 12.30pm-1.30pm, Commercial Club, Albury. (02) 6024 3986.

Brain strain

Brontophobia is the fear of what?

Half the world's pistachio nuts are grown in which country?

Who was the captain of Star Wars' Millennium Falcon?

How many lions on the English Royal Standard?

Who led the first expedition to reach the North Pole by car?

ANSWERS: 1. Thunder, 2. Iran, 3. Hans Solo, 4. Seven, 5. Jeremy Clarkson in Top Gear in 2007.