

considered to be the most extensive soil and ground water contamination ever found in the Rochester area.

Kodak, still in bankruptcy, is negotiating the creation of an environmental trust fund to finance the continued clean-up of any as yet unknown contamination at Eastman Business Park. The fund of \$49m would be provided on the basis that no further claims could be made against Kodak relating to the Eastman Business Park contamination. The EPA has criticised the plan on the basis that if the fund was insufficient, further contributions from Kodak could not be sought.

### **NRC Corp. ordered to pay \$1.5b in remedies**

The Lower Fox River in Wisconsin was contaminated during the 1950s and 1960s by pollutants from pulp and paper mills. The United States and the State of Wisconsin sought an injunction requiring NCR Corp to comply with an EPA order requiring the remediation of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs). NCR Corp and Sonoco US mills have so far spent approximately \$30m on the project and more than \$200m in polluter-funded clean-up work has so far been completed.

In May 2013 the US Federal Court refused NCR's application seeking orders that a \$1.5b remedy be shared on an interim per capita basis. The Court said it would consider a per capita cost sharing arrangement if and when the injunction application was supported.

### **Trinity River fish hatchery challenged**

The Environmental Protection Information Centre (EPIC) has filed a claim against Trinity River Fish Hatchery alleging that the funding of the hatchery by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the US Bureau of Reclamation is in violation of the US Endangered Species Act.

The hatchery's aim is to mitigate the loss of wild Chinook, Coho Salmon and Steelhead Trout caused by the Lewiston and Trinity dams. EPIC claims that the released hatchery fish 'compete with, prey upon and interbreed with wild Coho Salmon that are listed as threatened with extinction under the ESA' and thereby further weaken the species.

### **Barrick Gold fined for environmental harm**

In May 2013, Chile's environmental regulator ordered that operations at Barrick Gold Corp's Pascua-Lama gold project be suspended and that the company pay \$16m for alleged damage to pristine glaciers and harm to water supplies.

Barrick has negotiated a discounted penalty of \$11.6m and is meeting with regulators to negotiate a plan to address concerns and recommence operations.

## **FEDERAL** **by Felicity Deane**

### **Largest solar plant in the southern hemisphere**

Construction is scheduled to start on the largest solar plant in the southern hemisphere in January 2014 at Nyngan and in July 2014 at Broken Hill, both in western NSW. The 155MW power station is expected to power 50,000 homes across NSW. The combined area of the development is said to be 'four times the size of the Sydney CBD'.<sup>2</sup> The Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA), AGL Energy Limited (AGL) and First Solar have reached financial close. The NSW Government has approved the development applications and will invest \$64.9m. ARENA is set to invest \$166.7m in the Australian Government's renewable energy strategy. The Education Investment Fund is investing another \$40.7m to support solar energy research at the University of Queensland and University of New South Wales.

### **Koalas at risk in timber plantations**

Pressure is mounting on the Australian Government to better protect koala populations at risk from logging operations in timber plantations. Following an *ABC 7.30* report in July 2013 the Greens spokesperson for animal welfare Senator Lee Rhiannon called on the Australian Government and state governments to develop harvesting protocols to ensure trees were cut with minimum impact on koalas, and koala habitat was protected, so that healthy populations could move across the landscape.

### **Tarkine mine and Forest Drive upgrade**

In March 2013 the Tasmanian Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources was granted approval to upgrade and seal existing road corridors from Tarkine Forest Drive to the Arthur River Township.<sup>3</sup> The approval is subject to

2 The Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Climate Change and the Hon Gary Gray AO MP, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Water, Minister for Resources and Energy, Joint Media Release, 'Solar Power Project '4x the size of Sydney' to go ahead', GC 150/13 (18 June 2013).

3 Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Australian Government, *Approval – Tarkine Forest Drive Road Upgrade EPBC 2011/6210* (2013).

a number of conditions including: implementation of an environmental induction training and awareness program; orchid species mapping and identification of exclusion zones; surveys to identify areas of potential habitat for EPBC species, including Tasmanian Wedged Eagle and Tasmanian Devil; consideration of the habitat requirements of the Giant Freshwater Crayfish in any bridge and culvert construction; and development of Roadkill Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan. This approval follows the approval of a number of mines in the Tarkine region.<sup>4</sup>

### Tarkine protection litigation may continue

On 31 July 2013, Commonwealth approval of Shree Minerals' iron ore mine at Nelson Bay River was re-issued to take account of findings in the adverse Federal Court review of the earlier approval brought by the Tarkine National Coalition.<sup>5</sup> Many conditions have been re-issued, but tighter restrictions on movement around the site are said to better protect the endangered Tasmanian devil. The approval may be challenged in a further appeal. The Tarkine challenge is also discussed in 'NELR recent developments – Tasmania'.

### The health of the Murray-Darling Basin

In the May budget, the Australian Government committed \$1.8b over 10 years to manage the health of the Murray-Darling Basin. This commitment includes a plan to recover an additional 450GL of water for the environment – adding to the standing benchmark commitment of 2750GL.<sup>6</sup> Most of the \$1.8b spend will be dedicated to improving the efficiency of irrigation. In addition, \$200m has been allocated for constraint removal projects. The existing constraints throughout the Murray-Darling system include low-lying bridges and areas of land and communities that may be inundated when more water is pushed through the system. It is suggested that removing constraints will allow more water to flow through the system.<sup>7</sup> The Government has also allocated \$10m over 5 years for research

into efficient water use 'to ensure the best available scientific information is available to support the use of its environmental water holdings'.<sup>8</sup>

### Regulation for amendments to water market trading

The public consultation period for amendments to the Corporations Regulations 2001 (Cth) that are intended to ensure that tradeable water rights and associated arrangements are excluded from the definition of a derivative in Chapter 7 of the *Corporations Act 2001*, closed on 7 June 2013.<sup>9</sup> The amendments propose that the trading of water rights on the Australian water market will be regulated in the same way as agricultural commodities. The *Corporations Amendment (Water Trading Exemptions) Regulation 2013* treats tradeable water rights in a similar manner to other tradeable tangible property under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth). This is despite the intangible nature of water rights. It does this through exempting tradeable water rights from the definition of a derivative under the Act.<sup>10</sup> The effect of the amendments is to ensure that 'dealings in tradeable water rights and certain arrangements in relation to tradeable water rights, financial product advice and market making in relation to such rights and arrangements are not financial services' under Chapter 7 of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth).<sup>11</sup>

### Protection of Western Sydney dry rainforest and moist woodland

In February 2013, the Australian Government added the Western Sydney dry rainforest and moist woodland area to the critically endangered list of the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth)

4 The Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, *Environment Minister Approves Shree Minerals Nelson Bay River Mine* (18 December 2012) <[www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/2012/mr20121218.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/2012/mr20121218.html)>.

5 *Tarkine National Coalition Incorporated v Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities* [2013] FCA 694 (17 July 2013)

6 The Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, *Restoring the Murray-Darling Basin to Health* (14 May 2013) <[www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/2013/mr20130514.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/2013/mr20130514.html)>.

7 ABC Rural, *More Murray-Darling Basin Consultation Begins* (3 June 2013) <[www.abc.net.au/news/2013-06-03/mdba-consults-community-about-constraints/4729000](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-06-03/mdba-consults-community-about-constraints/4729000)>.

8 The Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, *Restoring the Murray-Darling Basin to Health* (14 May 2013) <[www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/2013/mr20130514.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/2013/mr20130514.html)>.

9 The Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, *Public Consultation on Regulation Amendments to Water Market Trading* (7 May 2013) <[www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/2013/mr20130507.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/2013/mr20130507.html)>.

10 Explanatory Statement, *Corporations Amendment (Water Trading Exemptions) Regulation 2013* <[www.treasury.gov.au/~media/ Treasury/Consultations%20and%20Reviews/2013/Draft%20 amendments%20on%20regulation%20of%20water%20market%20 trading/Key%20Documents/PDF/CA\\_Water\\_Trading\\_Exemptions\\_Regulation\\_2013\\_ES.ashx](http://www.treasury.gov.au/~media/ Treasury/Consultations%20and%20Reviews/2013/Draft%20 amendments%20on%20regulation%20of%20water%20market%20 trading/Key%20Documents/PDF/CA_Water_Trading_Exemptions_Regulation_2013_ES.ashx)>.

11 Explanatory Statement, *Corporations Amendment (Water Trading Exemptions) Regulation 2013* <[www.treasury.gov.au/~media/ Treasury/Consultations%20and%20Reviews/2013/Draft%20 amendments%20on%20regulation%20of%20water%20market%20 trading/Key%20Documents/PDF/CA\\_Water\\_Trading\\_Exemptions\\_Regulation\\_2013\\_ES.ashx](http://www.treasury.gov.au/~media/ Treasury/Consultations%20and%20Reviews/2013/Draft%20 amendments%20on%20regulation%20of%20water%20market%20 trading/Key%20Documents/PDF/CA_Water_Trading_Exemptions_Regulation_2013_ES.ashx)>.

(the EPBC Act).<sup>12</sup> The Government announced that the listing was vital to protect the area from threats such as ongoing clearing, weed invasion, inappropriate grazing, increased fire frequency and recreational use.<sup>13</sup> The inclusion of this area in Western Sydney on the EPBC Act listing will ensure that the 'vital ecosystem services such as soil erosion control, maintaining water quality and carbon storage' will continue effectively for an indefinite time period. Further, this listing will ensure that any development or action that may have an impact on this area must be referred for assessment under national environmental law.

### Approval for south of Embley bauxite mining project

The Australian Government approved the bauxite mine proposed for South of Embley in western Cape York in May 2013.<sup>14</sup> The approval is conditional on the satisfaction of conditions designed to protect marine species and the Great Barrier Reef from the impacts of shipping.<sup>15</sup> The plans for the mine include the construction of 'a power station, a processing plant, warehouses and workshops, in addition to barge, ferry and ship-loading facilities'.<sup>16</sup> There are a number of environmental concerns surrounding the mine approval. Of these, the most significant concern is the impact that the inevitable increase in shipping traffic between Weipa and the existing refineries in Gladstone will have on the Great Barrier Reef.<sup>17</sup> The Commonwealth previously suggested that the conditions imposed on the project would ensure that the shipping activity will not negatively impact on the Reef.<sup>18</sup> Other conditions imposed on the Rio Tinto project include a dredging management

plan, a terrestrial and marine management plan to ensure the safety of species of flora and fauna in the area, and a funding requirement up to \$1.2m for information on migratory species, specifically the Australian snub-fin dolphin and Indo-Pacific humpback whale.<sup>19</sup> Despite these strict conditions, some environmental groups remain strongly opposed to the project.<sup>20</sup>

### Active transport policy

On 30 July 2013 the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, the Hon Anthony Albanese, launched a federal active transport white paper: *Walking, Riding and Access to Public Transport*. Active transport is good for the environment whilst also relieving the burden on the transport network, improving public health and increasing productivity. The policy provides for:

- an expert advisory body on active transport
- infrastructure and options for walking and cycling when planning all transport projects
- analysis of all transport projects that recognises all costs and benefits when making funding decisions.<sup>21</sup>

### National action on asbestos exposure

The Australian Government has established a national Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency and National Asbestos Exposure Register to respond to issues associated with Australia's highest reported per capita incidence of asbestos-related disease in the world. The agency will implement a National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness. The initiative responds to recommendations made by Mr Geoff Fary in the Asbestos Management Review.<sup>22</sup>

12 The Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, 'Gillard Government Protects Rare Western Sydney Natural Environment' (18 March 2013) <[www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/2013/mr20130318.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/2013/mr20130318.html)>.

13 Western Sydney Dry Rainforest and Moist Woodland on Shale in the Sydney Basin Bioregion Draft Conservation Advice <[www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/communities/pubs/106-conservation-advice.pdf](http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/communities/pubs/106-conservation-advice.pdf)>.

14 The Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, 'Strict Conditions for South of Embley Bauxite Mining Project' (15 May 2013) <[www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/2013/mr20130515.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/2013/mr20130515.html)>.

15 Robb Stewart, 'Rio Tinto Bauxite Mine in Cape York Approved', *The Australian* (online), 15 May 2013 <[www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/rio-tinto-bauxite-mine-in-cape-york-approved/story-e6frg9df-1226643126978](http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/rio-tinto-bauxite-mine-in-cape-york-approved/story-e6frg9df-1226643126978)>.

16 Ibid.

17 Queensland Government, *South of the Embley Project: Coordinator-General's Report on the Environmental Impact Statement* (May 2012) <[www.dsdp.qld.gov.au/resources/project/south-of-the-embley/south-embley-cg-eis-report.pdf](http://www.dsdp.qld.gov.au/resources/project/south-of-the-embley/south-embley-cg-eis-report.pdf)>.

18 The Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, 'Strict Conditions for South of Embley Bauxite Mining Project' (15 May 2013) <[www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/2013/mr20130515.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/2013/mr20130515.html)>.

19 Ibid.

20 John McCarthy, 'Australian Government Approves Cape Bauxite Mine After Five Years', *The Courier Mail* (online), 16 May 2013 <[www.couriermail.com.au/business/federal-government-approves-cape-bauxite-mine-after-five-years/story-fnefl294-1226643310570](http://www.couriermail.com.au/business/federal-government-approves-cape-bauxite-mine-after-five-years/story-fnefl294-1226643310570)>.

21 <[http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure/mcu/urbanpolicy/active\\_travel/index.aspx](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure/mcu/urbanpolicy/active_travel/index.aspx)>. For a national response from the Cycling Promotion Fund see: <<http://www.bikeoz.com.au/index.php/cpf-news/69-wrap-paper-launched-by-albanese>>.

22 Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy, Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, and the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Financial Services and Superannuation, the Hon Bill Shorten MP, Joint Media Release 'Labor to deliver first national asbestos exposure register' (3 June 2013) <[www.ministers.deewr.gov.au/conroy/labor-deliver-first-national-asbestos-exposure-register](http://www.ministers.deewr.gov.au/conroy/labor-deliver-first-national-asbestos-exposure-register)>.

### Land rights recognised for Traditional Owners of Jabiru

In June 2013 the Australian Parliament enacted the *Aboriginal Land Rights and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013* (Cth). The purpose of the Act is to add the town of Jabiru and two other adjacent areas of land to the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*.<sup>23</sup> The Act recognises the Mirarr people as the traditional owners of Jabiru, and enables the land to be leased back to the Commonwealth and remain within the Kakadu National Park.<sup>24</sup> The Act is intended to give effect to the agreement to settle the native title claim commenced by Aboriginal elder, Yvonne Margarula and the Mirarr people in September 1997. The Act leaves a number of issues unresolved concerning mining in the area.<sup>25</sup>

### Wiluna uranium project approved

In April 2013 the former Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, the Hon Tony Burke MP, approved the Wiluna uranium project in Western Australia. The approval is conditional upon satisfaction of 36 conditions, including four distinct requirements to address radiation and radioactive material, seven conditions to minimise groundwater and surface water impacts and four conditions to ensure the costs for rehabilitation of the area will be met.<sup>26</sup> This decision marks the approval of the first uranium mine in Western Australia.<sup>27</sup> The decision was made in conjunction with the Western Australian Government, although Senator for Western Australia, the Hon Scott Ludlam, opposed the decision.<sup>28</sup> Projections suggest that the mine will operate over a 10–14 year period, with the first sales of uranium from the mine to occur before the end of 2015.<sup>29</sup> This approval is noted in 'Recent developments – Western Australia' also.

### Canning Stock Route protected

Former federal environment minister, the Hon Tony Burke MP, announced in April 2013 the protection of over six million hectares of Western Australia's desert country, located along the Canning Stock Route.<sup>30</sup> The land to be protected is under the care of the Birribiluru native title holders who have approved the dedication of this area as an Indigenous Protected Area. This declaration formalises the commitment of Indigenous owners to conserve the healthy ecosystems of the land with the support of the Australian Government.<sup>31</sup> There is no legislative basis for land to be declared an Indigenous Protected Area. The arrangements are voluntary, but can attract external financial support.<sup>32</sup>

### Indigenous carbon farming support

The Australian Government has announced that 44 applications have been successful under the Indigenous Carbon Farming Fund.<sup>33</sup> The fund provides support in three categories: up to \$50,000 for feasibility and assessment activities; up to \$300,000 for business and project development activities; and for research and development that will be disbursed over a five year period. This third category of funding will enable the development of low-cost methodologies to generate Australian carbon credit units under the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) for Indigenous Australians. Currently, there are only two methodologies under the CFI that the Government suggests are of interest to Indigenous land managers: savanna fire management and environmental plantings.<sup>34</sup> Of the 44 projects approved under this initiative, 35 have received category one funding. Nine projects have received funding from the second category.

### Super Trawler update

Former federal environment minister, the Hon Tony Burke MP, confirmed in April 2013 that the *FV Abel Tasman*, the so-called Super Trawler, would be prevented from

23 Explanatory Memorandum, *Aboriginal Land Rights and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013*.

24 Department of Parliamentary Services (Cth), *Bills Digest*, No 124 of 2012–13, 2.

25 Ibid 13.

26 Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Australian Government *Approval – Wiluna Uranium Project*

27 Toro Energy Limited, *A Uranium Focused Project Developer and Explorer* (April 2013) <[www.toroenergy.com.au/projects/wiluna-mine/](http://www.toroenergy.com.au/projects/wiluna-mine/)>.

28 Rania Spooner, 'Green Light for WA Uranium Project', *WA Today* (online) 2 April 2013 <[www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/green-light-for-wa-uranium-project-20130402-2h4in.html](http://www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/green-light-for-wa-uranium-project-20130402-2h4in.html)>.

29 Toro Energy Limited, *A Uranium Focused Project Developer and Explorer* (April 2013) <[www.toroenergy.com.au/projects/wiluna-mine/](http://www.toroenergy.com.au/projects/wiluna-mine/)>.

30 The Hon Tony Burke MP Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, 'Creating a Refuge Along the Famous Canning Stock Route' (23 April 2013) <[www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/2013/mr20130423.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/2013/mr20130423.html)>.

31 Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, *About Indigenous Protected Areas* (October 2012) <[www.environment.gov.au/indigenous/ipa/background.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/indigenous/ipa/background.html)>.

32 Ibid.

33 The Hon Tony Burke MP Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, *Successful Indigenous Carbon Farming Fund Projects Announced* (24 April 2013) <[www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/2013/mr20130424.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/2013/mr20130424.html)>.

34 Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, *Indigenous Carbon Farming Fund* (November 2012) <[www.environment.gov.au/cleanenergyfuture/icff/pubs/icff-fs.pdf](http://www.environment.gov.au/cleanenergyfuture/icff/pubs/icff-fs.pdf)>.

operating in the Small Pelagic Fishery for two years.<sup>35</sup> The latest prohibition relates to the processing and freezing of catch supplied by other vessels operating in the fishery. This decision follows the November 2012 prohibition on the Super Trawler fishing in the area for two years, and an interim prohibition from freezing and processing any catch supplied by other vessels in the Small Pelagic Fishery. In February 2013, an expert panel was appointed to assess the environmental impacts of the Super Trawler, which will potentially inform future decisions regarding this method of fishing.<sup>36</sup>

### Anketell Point Port Project approved

In May 2013 the Anketell Point Iron Ore Processing and Export Port project in Western Australia received Australian Government approval, subject to 45 conditions to ensure that impacts on matters protected under national law are minimised.<sup>37</sup> Of particular concern to the area is the impact of dredging on the region's water quality. One of the conditions of approval is the implementation of a dredging management plan.<sup>38</sup> The project includes the construction of a 15km shipping channel, a 3km approach jetty causeway, and 1.1km jetty and associated onshore infrastructure.<sup>39</sup>

### Emissions trading brought forward

The Australian Government intends to have an operating emissions trading system aligned with the European Union Emission Trading System (EU ETS) from 1 July 2014, the federal election outcome permitting. The emissions trading market will operate within a binding annual limit (pollution cap) on Australian industry's greenhouse gas emissions, with a view to meeting Australia's international emissions reduction targets under the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol (2013–20) and under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The carbon price per tonne of emissions is expected to be about \$6 per tonne in 2014. More information is accessible at <[www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au](http://www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au)>.

35 The Hon Tony Burke MP Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Super Trawler Stopped Again (26 April 2013) <[www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/2013/mr20130426.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/2013/mr20130426.html)>.

36 The Hon Tony Burke MP Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, 'Wiluna Uranium Project Approved' (2 April 2013) <[www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/2013/mr20130402.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/2013/mr20130402.html)>.

37 The Hon Tony Burke MP Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Anketell Point Port Project Approved (16 May 2013) <[www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/2013/mr20130516a.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/2013/mr20130516a.html)>.

38 Ibid.

39 Ibid.

### Monitoring of emissions from coal seam gas

In March 2013, the Australian Government announced a proposal to modify the measurement of fugitive emissions from coal seam gas (CSG) exploration and production. The proposal amends the methodologies currently employed to measure fugitive emissions of this type under the *National Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reporting Act 2007* (Cth) (the NGER Act). The proposed changes rely on the approaches recently adopted in the United States. These changes require CSG facilities currently using hydraulic fracturing technology to directly monitor the emissions from extraction and production activities. This is in contrast to the current estimation methods.<sup>40</sup> The new methods for direct measurement of emissions will be mandatory from July 2015 if the proposed changes are accepted.<sup>41</sup>

### Climate change department merger

In March 2013, it was announced that the Australian Government would merge the majority of functions of the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency (DCCEE) with the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE).<sup>42</sup> The work of the DCCEE is to be absorbed by the DIISRTE. The Government suggested that there was little need for a separate department to administer climate change functions following the establishment of the Climate Change Authority and was 'logical'.<sup>43</sup> The Greens suggested that the merger indicated a symbolic 'retreat on addressing global warming' and mirrored Coalition policy,<sup>44</sup> the Opposition was not offering any support for the change, suggesting it reflected 'more climate chaos'.<sup>45</sup>

40 Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education, Australian Government, *Coal Seam Gas: Enhanced Estimation and Reporting of Fugitive Greenhouse Gas Emissions under the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (Measurement) Determination* (April 2013).

41 Greg Combet MP Minister for Climate Change, Industry and Innovation, 'Better Monitoring of Emissions from Coal Seam Gas Production' (Media Release, 25 March 2013) <[minister.innovation.gov.au/gregcombet/MediaReleases/Pages/Bettermonitoringofemissionsfromcoalseamgasproduction.aspx](http://minister.innovation.gov.au/gregcombet/MediaReleases/Pages/Bettermonitoringofemissionsfromcoalseamgasproduction.aspx)>.

42 The Hon Greg Combet MP Minister for Climate Change, Industry and Innovation, 'Merger to Improve Links between Climate and Economic Policy' (Media Release, 25 March 2013) <[minister.innovation.gov.au/gregcombet/MediaReleases/Pages/Mergertoimprovelinksbetweenclimateandeconomicpolicy.aspx](http://minister.innovation.gov.au/gregcombet/MediaReleases/Pages/Mergertoimprovelinksbetweenclimateandeconomicpolicy.aspx)>.

43 Ibid.

44 Joe Kelly, 'Greens slam merger as symbolic retreat on climate change' *The Australian* (online) 26 March 2013 <[www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/climate/greens-slam-merger-as-symbolic-retreat-on-climate-change/story-e6frg6xf-1226605817323](http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/climate/greens-slam-merger-as-symbolic-retreat-on-climate-change/story-e6frg6xf-1226605817323)>.

45 Ibid.