

Summer 2019



VOLUME 20/1

# Turning THE TIDE

Supporter Newsletter

CREATURE FEATURE

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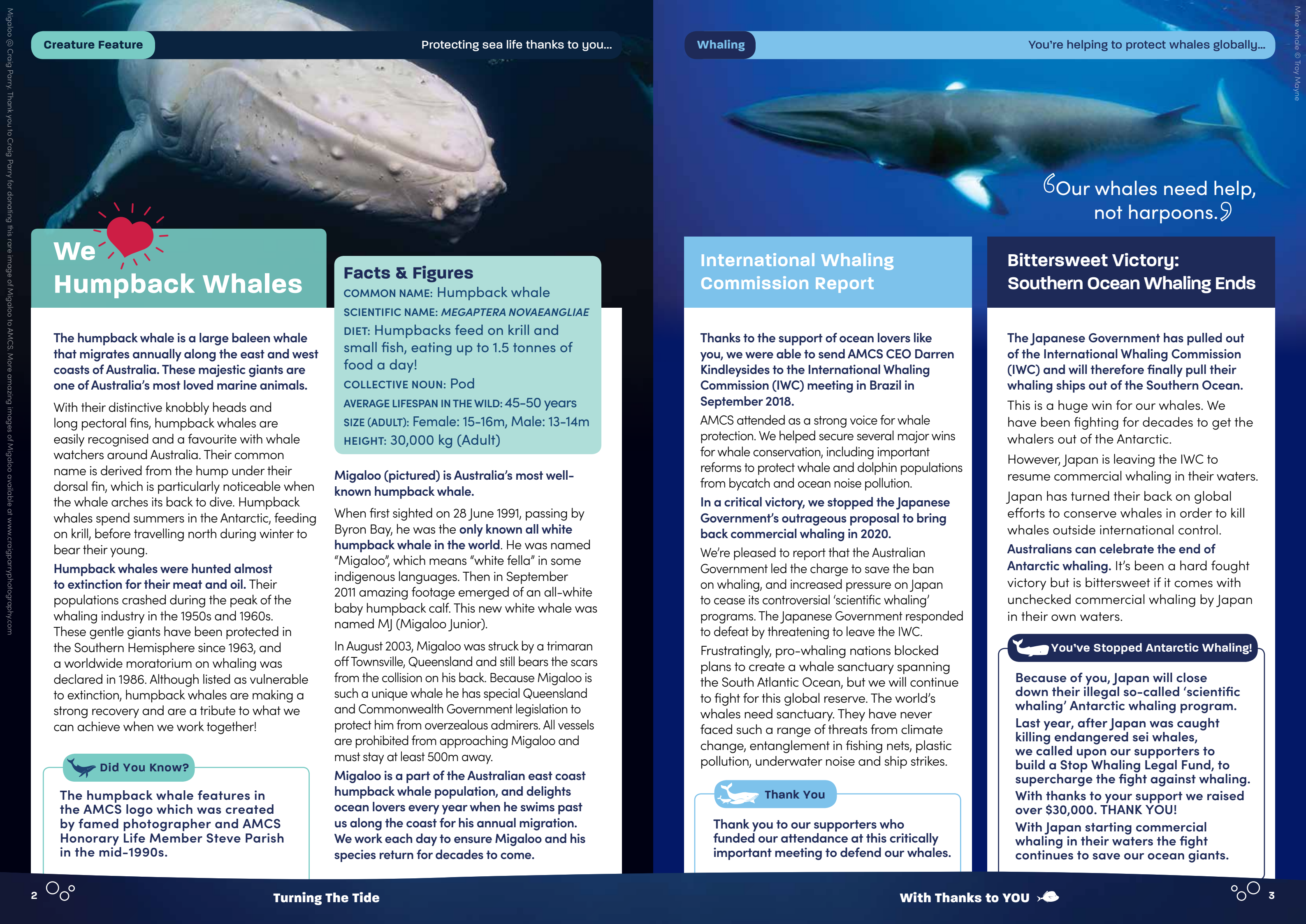
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With Thanks to YOU





Migaloo © Craig Parry. Thank you to Craig Parry for donating this rare image of Migaloo to AMCS. More amazing images of Migaloo available at [www.craigparryphotography.com](http://www.craigparryphotography.com)

Minke whale © Troy Mayne

# We ❤️ Humpback Whales

The humpback whale is a large baleen whale that migrates annually along the east and west coasts of Australia. These majestic giants are one of Australia's most loved marine animals.

With their distinctive knobbly heads and long pectoral fins, humpback whales are easily recognised and a favourite with whale watchers around Australia. Their common name is derived from the hump under their dorsal fin, which is particularly noticeable when the whale arches its back to dive. Humpback whales spend summers in the Antarctic, feeding on krill, before travelling north during winter to bear their young.

**Humpback whales were hunted almost to extinction for their meat and oil.** Their populations crashed during the peak of the whaling industry in the 1950s and 1960s. These gentle giants have been protected in the Southern Hemisphere since 1963, and a worldwide moratorium on whaling was declared in 1986. Although listed as vulnerable to extinction, humpback whales are making a strong recovery and are a tribute to what we can achieve when we work together!

## Did You Know?

The humpback whale features in the AMCS logo which was created by famed photographer and AMCS Honorary Life Member Steve Parish in the mid-1990s.

### Facts & Figures

COMMON NAME: Humpback whale

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *MEGAPTERA NOVAEANGLIAE*

DIET: Humpbacks feed on krill and small fish, eating up to 1.5 tonnes of food a day!

COLLECTIVE NOUN: Pod

AVERAGE LIFESPAN IN THE WILD: 45-50 years

SIZE (ADULT): Female: 15-16m, Male: 13-14m

HEIGHT: 30,000 kg (Adult)

**Migaloo (pictured) is Australia's most well-known humpback whale.**

When first sighted on 28 June 1991, passing by Byron Bay, he was the **only known all white humpback whale in the world**. He was named "Migaloo", which means "white fella" in some indigenous languages. Then in September 2011 amazing footage emerged of an all-white baby humpback calf. This new white whale was named MJ (Migaloo Junior).

In August 2003, Migaloo was struck by a trimaran off Townsville, Queensland and still bears the scars from the collision on his back. Because Migaloo is such a unique whale he has special Queensland and Commonwealth Government legislation to protect him from overzealous admirers. All vessels are prohibited from approaching Migaloo and must stay at least 500m away.

**Migaloo is a part of the Australian east coast humpback whale population, and delights ocean lovers every year when he swims past us along the coast for his annual migration.** We work each day to ensure Migaloo and his species return for decades to come.

## International Whaling Commission Report

Thanks to the support of ocean lovers like you, we were able to send AMCS CEO Darren Kindleysides to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting in Brazil in September 2018.

AMCS attended as a strong voice for whale protection. We helped secure several major wins for whale conservation, including important reforms to protect whale and dolphin populations from bycatch and ocean noise pollution.

**In a critical victory, we stopped the Japanese Government's outrageous proposal to bring back commercial whaling in 2020.**

We're pleased to report that the Australian Government led the charge to save the ban on whaling, and increased pressure on Japan to cease its controversial 'scientific whaling' programs. The Japanese Government responded to defeat by threatening to leave the IWC.

Frustratingly, pro-whaling nations blocked plans to create a whale sanctuary spanning the South Atlantic Ocean, but we will continue to fight for this global reserve. The world's whales need sanctuary. They have never faced such a range of threats from climate change, entanglement in fishing nets, plastic pollution, underwater noise and ship strikes.

## Thank You

Thank you to our supporters who funded our attendance at this critically important meeting to defend our whales.

## Bittersweet Victory: Southern Ocean Whaling Ends

The Japanese Government has pulled out of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and will therefore finally pull their whaling ships out of the Southern Ocean.

This is a huge win for our whales. We have been fighting for decades to get the whalers out of the Antarctic.

However, Japan is leaving the IWC to resume commercial whaling in their waters.

Japan has turned their back on global efforts to conserve whales in order to kill whales outside international control.

**Australians can celebrate the end of Antarctic whaling.** It's been a hard fought victory but is bittersweet if it comes with unchecked commercial whaling by Japan in their own waters.

## You've Stopped Antarctic Whaling!

**Because of you, Japan will close down their illegal so-called 'scientific whaling' Antarctic whaling program.** Last year, after Japan was caught killing endangered sei whales, we called upon our supporters to build a Stop Whaling Legal Fund, to supercharge the fight against whaling. With thanks to your support we raised over \$30,000. THANK YOU! With Japan starting commercial whaling in their waters the fight continues to save our ocean giants.





## A Positive Step Away From Lethal Drumlines

In late 2018 a cluster of shark incidents occurred in Cid Harbour, Whitsundays, in which three people were bitten, one of them fatally. In response to those tragic events the local tourism industry and community called for the removal of ineffective drumlines and the implementation of effective bather protection and education.

The Queensland Government has now committed \$250,000 to community education and research to improve protection for bathers and ocean wildlife in Cid Harbour.

AMCS welcomed the Queensland Government's moves to immediately implement effective, non-lethal means of safeguarding bathers, which will better protect our community and our marine life. Dr. Leonardo Guida, AMCS Senior Shark Campaigner said, *"This is a welcome step, and our thanks goes out to the Australian community who spoke out against calls for a shark cull"*.

Actions taken include permanent signage alerting people to the presence of sharks, improved education about safe swimming and shark behaviour, and research into understanding how sharks use the Whitsunday waters.



### Sign the Petition

Please add your support for our call to remove lethal drumlines throughout our World Heritage Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Take action, visit [www.sharkchampions.org.au](http://www.sharkchampions.org.au)

### Shark Champions

AMCS is excited to launch our new "Shark Champions" campaign in collaboration with Humane Society International (HSI). Australia is a global shark and ray hotspot, home to one quarter of the world's species many of which are globally threatened. Sharks and rays are a keystone group of species critical to healthy oceans. Please visit [www.sharkchampions.org.au](http://www.sharkchampions.org.au)

Drumlines are ineffective, offering bathers a false sense of security. In 2006, a woman was fatally bitten at Amity Point, a drumlined beach on Stradbroke Island. In November 2018, a man was bitten on the leg at Ballina while surfing at a beach with active drumlines.

**We now call on the Queensland Government to listen to the public sentiment and remove the other 173 lethal drumlines throughout our World Heritage Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. We have the new technology and non-lethal measures to protect ocean users without killing our threatened sharks.**



### Did You Know?

Lethal forms of shark control, such as drum lines and nets, are ineffective at protecting humans and come at a high cost to threatened sharks and other marine wildlife, such as whales and turtles.

## Say-No Tasmanian Farmed Atlantic Salmon

*Australia's Sustainable Seafood Guide is an independent consumer guide to the sustainability of seafood available for sale in Australia. The easy to use traffic light system rates farmed and wild caught seafood as either green 'Better Choice', Amber 'Eat Less' or Red 'Say No'.*

Following a peer reviewed, scientific assessment of the ecological impacts of salmon farming in Tasmanian sea cages, Atlantic salmon has recently been downgraded from an Amber 'Eat Less' to a Red 'Say No' rating.

A red 'Say No' rating in Australia's Sustainable Seafood Guide recommends the public chooses more sustainable alternatives until such time as the salmon farming industry reduces their environmental footprint.

If done sustainably, fish-farming can provide an important source of seafood for Australians. It is unfortunate that the scientific evidence has led to a sustainability downgrade of Atlantic salmon in the latest review of the Guide, particularly as the salmon farming industry was heading in the right direction until recent years.

But in the past three years' fish farming has had **serious impacts on sensitive marine habitats and threatened species**, particularly in Tasmania's Macquarie Harbour.



Download your free App today.  
[www.sustainableseafood.org.au](http://www.sustainableseafood.org.au)

*"The public's choices will guide the industry towards true sustainability."*

The salmon farming industry bears significant responsibility for the environmental impacts in the Harbour, and needs to clean up its act.

Adrian Meder, AMCS Sustainable Seafood Program Manager said, "Fish farming has reached such intensity in Macquarie Harbour that we've had consecutive summers of serious environmental impacts, including several massive fish kills. There have been dangerously low oxygen levels in deeper harbour waters. **Over a million fish have been lost due to asphyxiation and disease, and 'dead zones' have formed on the seafloor.** This is a serious failure in management".

The salmon farms in Macquarie Harbour are operating right next to a wilderness World Heritage Area, where farming should be managed to protect the values of the area. **But dead zones were found even within the World Heritage region.**

**Until there's scientific evidence that salmon farming impacts are reduced and management arrangements are in place that protect the marine environment surrounding the fish farms, Tasmanian farmed Atlantic Salmon has been ranked Red 'Say No'.**

We know the salmon farming industry has the capabilities to farm fish in a sustainable way, and to learn from the mistakes that have led to environmental issues in Macquarie Harbour. We call on the industry to listen to the concerns of the Australian public and to ensure future farming operations are conducted in a more sustainable way.



## Why The \$444 Million Government Money Won't Save The Reef

The Australian Government has come under pressure for giving nearly half a billion dollars of taxpayer funds to a foundation to protect the Great Barrier Reef, instead of one of its own government agencies.

But while the media spotlight remains fixed on who got the money and how, the question that really matters remains unexamined: will this money address what the Reef really needs? The answer is no. Funding to tackle poor water quality and coral-eating crown of thorns starfish plagues is welcome, but it will be wasted unless tough action is taken to mitigate climate change. If we continue burning fossil fuels at our current rate, the planet's reefs will be wiped out by the middle of this century. We cannot let this happen.

Australians are demanding action on climate change to protect the largest living structure on Earth and one of the world's most biologically rich and beautiful treasures. **This means we need to stop new coal mines and move rapidly to renewable energy.**

### Take Action

Australians are watching more closely than ever before. We just want our Reef protected and fixed. Please join the Fight for our Reef visit [www.fightforourreef.org.au](http://www.fightforourreef.org.au)

### You asked...

As the leading charity and independent voice for the Great Barrier Reef for over 50 years, many of our supporters have asked us to address the controversy surrounding last year's \$444 million government funding to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

We believe the federal government should require the Great Barrier Reef Foundation to hand back all unspent funds. The public money should be placed in a standalone special purpose Reef Future Fund, overseen by government.

**AMCS believes that there needs to be full transparency and accountability over how the funding is spent.**

### ALERT!

A massive coal mine located next door to Adani's project has quietly been given the green light by the Queensland Government's Coordinator-General. This grossly irresponsible approval signals that the government is still committed to opening up the Galilee Basin regardless of the climate impacts on our Great Barrier Reef. The Queensland Government has yet to approve an environmental authority for the mine, and a mining lease, but this approval is simply wrong. The Galilee is the largest untapped coal reserve on Earth. It must be protected from any coal developers, in perpetuity.



## Adani's Reef-Wrecking Mine Still Has A Long Way To Go

**Late last year, Adani announced that that they would self-fund their reef-wrecking mine and was ready to start construction.**

Despite their claims, Adani still has a long way to go before they're ready to start construction.

**Adani is currently being prosecuted in court** by the Queensland government for polluting the Reef and is under investigation by the state government for illegally drilling into Queensland's groundwater and clearing vast swaths of land at the mine site.

Another major impediment for Adani is that **it's yet to get all approvals signed off by our state and federal governments.** Just before Christmas the CSIRO reportedly found serious flaws in Adani's key water management plan to protect an ancient springs complex near its proposed Carmichael mine. The Queensland government has stated they will not review the plan again until Adani addresses the concerns of CSIRO.

Not only must Adani have its groundwater management plan and a Black Throated Finch Management Plan approved - **it's still facing two legal challenges, and is yet to secure a railway line to transport coal from the Carmichael mine.**

Adani is getting desperate. They have launched a billboard campaign in the Brisbane CBD pressuring the Queensland government for holding up construction.

Governments must resist pressure from Adani to rubber stamp water approvals and extinguish native title rights.

**Adani's determination to build this mine is matched by our determination to stop it.** We know this coal mine doesn't stack up environmentally or economically and we will let our politicians know it won't stack up for them politically either. Let's Stop Adani in 2019.

### Stop Adani

AMCS is a founding partner of the #StopAdani campaign, a growing grassroots movement of hundreds of local community groups, made up of thousands of individuals across Australia. We will stop Adani's dangerous coal mine and set Australia on the path beyond polluting fossil fuels towards a safe climate for us all.

#STOP ADANI

### Thank you

In response to Adani's announcement it will self-fund its Carmichael mega-mine our supporters chipped in an amazing \$65,000 emergency response to the Fight For Our Reef fund. Thank you! The life of our Reef hangs in the balance - we will fight and stop this mine.



Imagine a world without the crowning jewels of the ocean, our beautiful coral reefs.

## Duty Bound To Protect Coral Reefs

Last October, the world's top climate scientists released a report which urged the world to make urgent, deep and far-reaching cuts to carbon pollution if we are to avoid 'catastrophic climate change', including the loss of the world's coral reefs.

The report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) described what the world would look like if we reached a 2°C rise. **This report made global headlines and shocked people around the world.** Incredibly, within hours of the report's release, our Prime Minister dismissed the report, saying he was more worried about electricity prices.

But the science is clear.

Coral reef expert and AMCS advisor Dr Scott Heron said, **"The world's top climate scientists have spoken and confirmed we are on a trajectory to lose the Great Barrier Reef unless we do better.** The report shows at 2°C warming, we would lose virtually all the world's coral reefs from 2050 onwards. The loss of the Great Barrier Reef and its marine life, not to mention the more than 60,000 jobs it supports, is unfathomable.

**The stark reality is that much of the world's coral reefs, will be lost in the next 30 years even if we limit global warming to 1.5°C under the Paris Agreement. But in a 1.5°C world, we won't lose them all".**

To stay below 1.5°C, we must immediately move away from coal and other fossil fuels.

We cannot allow any new coal mines, let alone Adani's monstrous Carmichael coal mine, which would open the floodgates to the Galilee Basin, one of the largest untapped coal reserves on earth. We have to phase out Australia's coal fired power stations and move to 100% renewable energy by 2030.

Nor can we stop there. We need to transition to a zero carbon economy as early as possible, by 2050 at the latest.

AMCS Reef Campaign Director Imogen Zethoven said, **"We know our Great Barrier Reef – the world's largest and most spectacular Reef – has suffered a lot and will suffer more. But we cannot and will not give up. We all share a moral obligation to leave a legacy for future generations, but our current political leaders are blinded by their addiction to fossil fuels".**

As the custodian of the world's largest coral reef, our federal government has a responsibility to do everything it can as fast as possible to protect the Great Barrier Reef and its extraordinary marine life.

### Take Action

**A 2°C rise in global temperature would mean the end of the world's coral reefs. Take Action to halt Australia's impact by rejecting Adani's colossal coal mine and protect our Great Barrier Reef!**  
[www.amcs.org.au/climateaction](http://www.amcs.org.au/climateaction)



## 2019 Priorities: Protect Our Big Blue Backyard

### Australia's oceans are home to more marine species than any other country on Earth.

We are caretakers of some of the world's most spectacular marine treasures; such as our World Heritage Ningaloo and Shark Bay, the Kimberley, the Great Southern Reef, and our beloved Great Barrier Reef. Our Great Barrier Reef is the planet's largest living structure, a World Heritage treasure.

### We have a lot to lose.

Our seas are at risk from rapidly escalating climate change, pollution and industrial development. Some of our fisheries still threaten vulnerable species, and critical shortfalls remain in our protected marine estate. We are asking all political parties to prioritise ocean protection in the next term of government by making the following election commitments.

### Get behind our top 10 Big Blue Election Issues.



**Become advocates for our Big Blue Issues. Discuss them at dinner parties or over the watercooler at work. Let's get Australia talking about saving the seas around us.**



**Ask your local MP and federal election candidates where they stand on each of the Big Blue Issues. Let's vote for our oceans in 2019!**

## Let's cast a vote for our Oceans in 2019!



# Here's our **TOP 10** Big Blue Election Issues

# #1



## SAVE Our Reef and Oceans from Climate Change

Climate change is warming our oceans and causing underwater heat waves that are a major threat to all marine ecosystems. Our Great Barrier Reef and all the world's coral reefs are in peril. Climate change, driven mainly by burning coal and other fossil fuels, is the biggest threat to our Great Barrier Reef. We must act now as a nation to reduce our contribution to climate change by cutting our emissions and transitioning rapidly from coal to renewable energy.

**The next Australian Government must commit to urgently embrace a national Emissions Reduction Target of 65 - 85%, and a Renewable Electricity Target of 100% by 2030.**

# #3



## CLEAN UP Great Barrier Reef Water Pollution

Our Great Barrier Reef is in peril; we must act now to give our Reef the best fighting chance at survival. Sediment and fertiliser runoff from agricultural activities continues to be a major threat to inshore coral reefs and seagrass meadows of the Great Barrier Reef. The Reef needs the right laws, urgent action and more investment to improve water quality and tackle pollution.

**The next Australian Government must introduce regulations under the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act, and establish and properly fund a large-scale, transformational Great Barrier Reef catchment repair program to achieve the 2025 water quality targets promised to the World Heritage Committee.**

## STOP Reef- Damaging Developments

# #2

As the custodian of the world's largest coral reef ecosystem, Australia has a global responsibility to do everything in our power to protect the Great Barrier Reef for future generations. We must prevent major Reef damaging projects. If we are to protect the Reef's future, Queensland's Galilee coal basin must remain untouched and Adani coal mine must not go ahead. We must prevent any coal being shipped through our Great Barrier Reef.

**The next Australian Government must rule out all new thermal coal mine developments including any mining from Queensland's Galilee coal basin.**

# #5



## PROTECT Endangered and Protected Marine Wildlife

Australia's oceans are home to endangered, and protected species, including many species of sharks unique to our oceans. From turtles and snubfin dolphins in our tropical waters to albatross and Australian sea lions in the south, we have a great responsibility to protect and recover these wonderful marine species. Endangered sharks are targeted for sale of fins and flesh in some commercial fisheries, and fishing is the most immediate and sustained threat to the survival of many species.

**The next Australian Government must commit to strengthening protection of endangered sharks and other protected species and investing in the recovery of depleted species like sawfish and river sharks.**

## IMPROVE the Sustainability of Australia's Fisheries

# #4

Fishing is the most immediate threat to the continued existence of many endangered species and protected marine wildlife. In many cases, fishing has been the major driver of declines in populations of threatened species, including turtles and dolphins. Industrial-scale freezer factory trawlers ('supertrawlers') pose a significant escalated risk to marine life and fish stocks. The Australian community, including recreational fishers, are opposed to industrial fish factories devastating our marine life.

**The next Australian Government must ensure our laws are used to drive fisheries towards true sustainability, reducing the impact of fishing on protected and endangered species, and permanently ban all supertrawlers from fishing in Australian waters.**

# #6



## END Commercial Whaling

The Government of Japan continues their so-called 'scientific' whaling in the Southern Ocean despite Australia's landmark win in the International Court of Justice in 2014. Australia must take leadership, and step up actions both within and outside the International Whaling Commission to end Japan's whaling for good.

**The next Australian Government must take further legal international action against Japan and escalate diplomatic sanctions and political actions to oppose continued whaling by Japan, Iceland and Norway.**

# #7



## RESTORE Australia's Marine Sanctuaries

In 2012 Australia's decisive action for the oceans led to a global turning point, creating the world's first and largest nationwide network of marine parks around its coastline. This proud moment followed 20 years of scientific investigation, comprehensive community and stakeholder consultation, and work from all sides of politics. Sadly, an Abbott government-initiated review revised management plans for the parks in 2018, removing half the high level protections in these parks and exposing them to threats of destructive commercial fishing, and oil and gas development.

**The next Australian Government must restore Australia's marine sanctuaries and make further improvements.**





## REDUCE Plastic Pollution

Plastic pollution is devastating to our coasts and seas, inflicting a huge toll on marine wildlife. So much plastic is flowing into our oceans that it's thought that by 2050 there will be more plastic in the oceans than fish.

**The next Australian Government must commit to introducing a national ban on single-use plastics by 2023 and a mandatory national 70% plastic pollution reduction target of plastic pollution entering our waterways and reaching our oceans by 2020.**

## REFORM Marine Environment Laws

# #9

Australia once led the world in environmental legislation and oceans policy, but unfortunately that is no longer the case. Laws have become outdated, inadequate or weakened. An overhaul of environmental legislation is needed if we are to protect the places, habitats and species that we love, which is vital for global biodiversity conservation. This includes oceans law reform.

**The next Australian Government must commit to creating a new generation of strong national environmental laws and a national environmental authority that genuinely protects our unique wildlife and the natural places we love.**

## SAFEGUARD Environmental Charities and Advocacy Work

# #10

Environmental charities have made a huge contribution to safeguarding Australia's natural environment, yet the sector has been unfairly targeted through politically motivated inquiries, investigations and new red tape. We need to strengthen the ability of community and civil society to stand up for nature.

**The next Australian Government must promote fairness and participation in the public debate and uphold the right of charities to undertake advocacy work in Australia.**



## Rare & Unique: The Aussie Snubbie

The Australian snubfin dolphin is listed as **Vulnerable on the international IUCN Red List and under Queensland's Nature Conservation Act 1992.**

"Snubbies", as they are affectionately known, are easily recognised from other dolphins from their blunt, rounded head and absence of a beak. Their short little noses and short dorsal fin means they are sometimes mistaken for dugongs.

**Snubfins are unique dolphins and only known from Australian waters.** They have been recorded across northern Australia waters. They were only identified as a separate species in 2005.

Threats to snubfin dolphins include incidental capture in fishing gear and shark control nets, habitat loss and degradation, noise pollution, poor water quality and boating activity.

### Facts & Figures

**COMMON NAME:** Australian Snubfin Dolphin

**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Orcaella heinsohni*

**DIET:** Various fish, cephalopods (squid and octopus) and crustaceans (prawns and crabs).

**GROUP NAME:** Pod

**AVERAGE LIFESPAN IN THE WILD:** 30 years\*

**SIZE:** 2 meters in length

**WEIGHT:** 190kg\*

(\*estimation as research of this species are limited)

## Gillnet Fishing Kills Our Snubbies

On 21 October 2017, a fisher near Bowen accidentally caught and killed two snubfin dolphins in a legally set gillnet. A Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) officer was on board as part of their routine monitoring program. AMCS was able to secure the autopsy reports (including pictures) under freedom of information laws.

*"The shocking images show the true cost of gillnet fishing in Reef waters. Gillnets are invisible walls of death for some of our marine species. They kill threatened species like snubfin dolphins and dugongs. We must permanently remove gill nets from their habitats,"* said Tooni Mahto, AMCS Fisheries and Threatened Species Campaign Manager.

Since AMCS exposed these deaths, the Federal Environment Department has been assessing the sustainability of the fishery in which the snubfin dolphins were caught. A decision regarding the fishery's sustainability is expected to be handed down in February.

We believe that the public needs to know the true costs of fishing on our marine wildlife. Thank you for working with us to drive sustainable fisheries reforms around Australia.

## Big Blue Election Issues

We are responsible for the third largest area of ocean on Earth, spanning tropical, temperate and Antarctic waters. Our oceans support six of the seven known species of marine turtle, more than half of the world's whale and dolphin species, over 20% of the world's fish species, and are a hotspot of unique marine species.

With so much of our big blue backyard under threat, the next federal election presents a critical opportunity for political leaders to act decisively.





## Good Things Take Time: Limmen Bight Marine Park

Limmen Bight Marine Park is located in the Gulf of Carpentaria. It has extensive coastal mudflats, seagrass meadows, a large coastal delta system at the mouth of the Limmen River and includes a number of off-shore islands.

The park was declared in 2012 but with a change of government its progress stalled. However, AMCS is excited to report that the project is due to be completed by the end of 2019. This means better protection for significant seagrass meadows, islands, mudflats for migratory shorebirds, large colonies of nesting seabirds, the largest dugong population in the Northern Territory, as well as key turtle and dolphin habitats.

**Limmen Bight Marine Park is only the second marine park to be declared in Northern Territory waters.** It's been 35 years since the first declaration at Garig Gunak Barlu (Cobourg Marine Park), so this park is badly needed.

### Stop Press

A big mine is proposed upstream, with associated industrial activities and pollution threatening the marine park, including water extraction and pollution, potential dredging, shipping and transhipping. Take Action to protect the Top End from mining. Visit [www.amcs.org.au/protectroper](http://www.amcs.org.au/protectroper)

## Paul Speaks Up For The Top End

Paul Arnold (pictured), bush explorer, photographer, iconic Territorian, and Ambassador for our Keep Top End Coasts Healthy campaign, recently spoke about his love for our Top End landscapes.

*"The Top End is a place of rare beauty, where country, culture and lifestyle are inseparably intertwined. **It is a timeless landscape but the threats are now.**"*

*Some places in the Top End have been altered by coastal development, pollution, overfishing, destructive mining practices, and introduced species. The extensive dieback of mangroves in the Gulf of Carpentaria shows how quickly change comes around"*

The Keep Top End Coasts Healthy campaign has encouraged the Northern Territory Government to prepare a marine and coastal strategy. Paul said,

*"It's the perfect opportunity for us to show how much we love the Top End's coasts and seas, how much we depend on them for our culture, livelihoods, lifestyle, peace and enjoyment, and how strong our desire is to pass them on in good health to the people who follow"*



**Lend your support**

Please support our alliance campaign to protect our northern marine spaces by visiting [www.topendcoasts.org.au](http://www.topendcoasts.org.au)

## Protecting Ningaloo

AMCS is back at Ningaloo fighting for the future of the reef and the Exmouth Gulf in north western Australia. We have joined the **Protect Ningaloo** movement – a grassroots initiative to protect one of the world's last great places.

After protecting Ningaloo in the *Save Ningaloo Reef* campaign in the early 2000's, the time has come to protect the extraordinary ecosystems that make up the Ningaloo Region. **Exmouth Gulf is the nursery to the amazing Ningaloo Reef, which is under threat from industrialisation and must be protected.**

**Can you imagine the damage?** Oil and gas pipe bundles up to 10km long will be launched into the shallows with 150-tonne towheads, then dragged along the seabed for about 1.5 kilometres until they float. These pipes are stabilised by heavy chains that will drag along the seabed as tugs tow them through the waters of the Gulf, then taken seaward through the World Heritage listed Ningaloo Marine Park and across the horizon to service the oil and gas industry.

Join us as we act now to defend Ningaloo's nursery.



**Defend Ningaloo's Nursery**

Tell the WA and Commonwealth governments that Ningaloo's nursery needs protection, not industrialisation. Visit [www.protectningaloo.org.au](http://www.protectningaloo.org.au) to take action.



## Tim Winton's Ningaloo



Our Patron, Tim Winton (pictured) has long been involved in marine conservation. He was integral to the establishment of the Ningaloo Reef marine park, and has rallied arms with AMCS to save Ningaloo Reef and Ningaloo's nursery, the Exmouth Gulf.

Tim recently penned a stunning piece in The Guardian reflecting on the miracle of this wild place. *"This is Exmouth Gulf, in northern Western Australia, one of the last intact arid-zone estuaries in the world. Right in the shadow of the world heritage area at Ningaloo."*

The gulf is a special place for Tim, it's a place that he has spent 20 years defending. *"This is where so much of Ningaloo Reef's biodiversity is generated, where fish and prawns and crabs are spawned. It's Ningaloo's nursery..."*

**Exmouth Gulf has been slated for industrial development.** Already Ningaloo Reef is encircled by oil-and-gas tenements. Every year the industry grows closer: the flares of offshore rigs are visible at night. This year their service vessels have been thundering up and down the gulf as never before.

**This is one of those places, and one of those reasons. One of those lines in the sand we can't afford to cross"**



**Read the Full Encounter**

Please read Tim's full editorial from the Guardian detailing his exciting encounter with whales in the Exmouth Gulf [www.amcs.org.au/timsningaloo](http://www.amcs.org.au/timsningaloo)



## Australia 2020: Plastic Free Seas Plan

As stewards of an incredible marine natural heritage, Australia should be a world leader in stopping plastic pollution, but we are lagging behind other countries to end our single-use plastic addiction.

Recently the European Parliament approved a complete ban on a range of single-use plastics. The UK is set to ban all sales of single-use plastics, including plastic straws and cotton swabs, following their plastic bag charges and ban on microbeads.

**It's time for Australia to take effective action – let's demand government commitment to remove single use plastics from our supply chain.**

We need a national ban on single-use plastics, eliminating plastic cups, plates, straws and containers. **We're currently seeking commitment from our leaders to ban single use plastic by 2023.**

### Take Action

Sign our "Australia 2020: Plastic Free Seas" petition to demand clean and healthy oceans full of life. We're calling on our government to commit to a target of 70% reduction of plastic pollution entering our waterways and reaching our oceans by 2020 and to a national phase-out of all single-use plastics by 2023. Please sign today! [www.amcs.org.au/2020petition](http://www.amcs.org.au/2020petition)

## On The Front Line Tackling Plastic Pollution!

Jess and Claire (pictured) have been tackling plastic pollution in their own lives, reducing their plastic footprints down to almost nothing!

Passionate about the incredible marine world on their back doorstep and wanting to reduce their plastic footprint, they've been helping our AMCS Plastics team since Plastic Free July last year, sharing their years of insights into how we can all play our part to reduce our levels of plastics use.

Based in Victoria, the duo has been attending and hosting plastics events in Melbourne representing AMCS. They are looking forward to a big year in 2019 focusing on bringing a Cash For Containers scheme to the state.

Jess and Claire said, *"The best thing about both being so close and having a passion for our environment is the inspiration we receive from each other and the constant support about the actions we are taking to make the world a healthier happier place".*

It's great to have Jess and Claire on the front line and turning the tide on plastic pollution!



## Trending: Container Refund Schemes

AMCS would like to congratulate the Queensland Government on their successful Container Refund Scheme (CRS) launch in October 2018. AMCS is part of the Boomerang Alliance, a group of NGOs campaigning for container deposit systems across Australia.

Queensland now joins Northern Territory, South Australia, A.C.T. and New South Wales as states who are committed to recycling. Western Australia is due to launch their scheme in early 2020.

Jimmy Cordwell, AMCS Marine Campaigner said, *"This is a great moment for our oceans, with plastic beverage containers being one of the major sources of plastic pollution in Australia. Seeing this implemented is an important goal for our wonderful marine world".*

### Did You Know?

The South Australian scheme has been running since 1977. It is the oldest and longest running container collection program in Australia. It has resulted in an 80% return rate of containers.

### Action Needed

Victoria and Tasmania are lagging behind as the only states without plans for Container Deposit Schemes. Please join us and urge these states to take action here [www.amcs.org.au/fightplastic](http://www.amcs.org.au/fightplastic)

## Single-Use Plastic Revolution – A Hit!

This summer AMCS is taking big action on plastic pollution.

We launched our Single-Use Plastic Revolution Action Pack, filled with helpful resources and tools to help you ditch single-use plastic. The action pack went to over 35,000 supporters to encourage them to take action on plastic pollution!



This action pack is just the beginning.

**We are working on rolling out a winning plan to save Australia's oceans from toxic plastic pollution.** It's a powerful action plan, addressing all three parts of this toxic cycle – personal choices, distribution by businesses, and the production of plastic.

All we need to make it happen is you. Thank You!

### The Good News

The global momentum for change this past year has been incredible. Record numbers took the plastic-free pledge in July. Internationally, leaders have pledged to ban single-use plastics. Now it's time for Australia to play our part.



## Legacy Gifts

Leaving a bequest to Australia's oceans is a gift you may consider including in your Will, after your loved ones have been provided for. Your gift enables you to leave a legacy that contributes to the type of world you want your grandchildren to live in.

We are committed to look after our planet for the benefit of all those who follow in our footsteps. When you entrust a gift to AMCS, you can be sure that we will continue working for our oceans and ensure a legacy of which you can be proud.

If you are considering a gift in your Will please visit [www.amcs.org.au/bequest](http://www.amcs.org.au/bequest) or call Emma Morgan on 0409 406 530 or email [bequests@amcs.org.au](mailto:bequests@amcs.org.au).

### In memory of Mavis Joyce Matthews

We would like to honour the life and gift of the late Mavis Joyce Matthews.

Mrs Mathews travelled extensively throughout her life and worked as a lecturer in biological science. After retiring, Mavis took to writing to satisfy a deep artistic urge. She went on to publish six books recounting her lifetime adventures.

Mavis was a "greenie" long before it became fashionable, and firmly believed that humans are not the only important life-form on the planet. You don't need to have a lot to make a big impact. Mavis is testament to this. She wanted AMCS to continue our important work conserving our precious oceans for Australia's marine wildlife, which we will honour with her legacy.



### In memory of Joan Felicia Parnell

We would like to honour the life and gift of the late Joan Felicia Parnell.

Joan was a contributing member of AMCS since 2006. She always lived by the ocean, which was a very important part of her life. Throughout Joan's life she was a committed conservationist and won an award for her contribution to Bushcare. During Joan's life she supported numerous AMCS campaigns, from protecting the Coral Sea and Great Barrier Reef to creating dugong sanctuaries.

Thank you Joan. Your legacy has put the wind in our sails.



## Sea Guardians Are Winners!

Last year as a thank you for your amazing support, we launched an exclusive competition for AMCS Sea Guardians.

Congratulations:

- Lady Elliot Island Prize Pack donated by Diveplanit to the value of \$3,019 was won by Paul Fairweather, a long term Sea Guardian.
- Oris Diving Watch donated by Oris to the value of \$2,900 was won by Peter King-Church, a newly welcomed Sea Guardian.
- Five The Rocks Push Vouchers donated by The Rocks Push to the value of \$99.95 each was won by Phillip Garrett, Thomas Brown, Kristy Milovankic, Adam Corrigan and Brock Lyons
- Auguste Clothing Voucher donated by Auguste to the value of \$250 was won by Dianne Carpenter.
- Samsonite 72 Hours DLX 55cm Spinner Suitcase donated by Samsonite to the value of \$329 was won by Neal Collins
- Three Ocean Mantra necklaces donated by Ocean Mantra to the value of \$60 each was won by Anna Brockhurst, Bradley Jones and Andrew Kennedy
- ★ Tim Winton Backpack to the value of \$130 was won by Glen Schneider.
- AMCS Prize Packs to the value of \$81 was won by Adam Elliott and Jeremy White.

Thank you kindly to our amazing business supporters for helping us show our appreciation to our amazing ocean loving supporters.

### Meet Our Youngest Guardian

At the tender age of 18 months, Rosanna Collins is our youngest Sea Guardian.

Her loving parents Adrienne and Mark signed up Rosanna at birth so that she will grow up knowing she is making a difference for our ocean wildlife.

Her mum sent us this photo of Rosanna's first glimpse of a little penguin at Taronga Zoo. The look on her face shows the joy and wonder of a child experiencing sea life for the first time.

Thanks to Sea Guardians like Rosey, her next penguin sighting might be in the wild!



### Become a Sea Guardian Today!

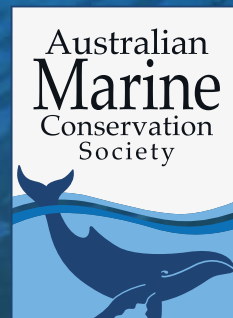
Sea Guardians are the lifeblood of our work. We receive very little government funding - all the work we do to fight for our big blue backyard and vulnerable marine animals is thanks to people like you. Would you stand with us against mounting threats to our oceans?

Become an AMCS Sea Guardian today with an affordable monthly gift.

Visit [www.amcs.org.au/seaguardian](http://www.amcs.org.au/seaguardian)



# Thank you for your support



The Australian Marine Conservation Society is the voice for Australia's ocean wildlife. We have defended Australia's oceans for over 50 years. Thank you for your help to ensure Australia's coasts and oceans remain healthy and free for tomorrow's generations.



**Stay in touch**  @australianmarine

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