

# Let's Talk About Consumption

1 Day Inter-active Workshop — Melbourne 4th March 2016, 9am to 6pm  
Room 104, Melbourne Law School, 185 Pelham Street, Melbourne, Victoria



## How do we create human societies that live within their ecological limits?

One of the greatest causes of the destruction of the natural world is the unsustainable consumption of 'natural resources' by human economies and societies. It is estimated that today, we use the equivalent of 1.6 planets to provide the resources we use and absorb our waste (Global Footprint Network). And of course, we only have one precious Earth. If we are to transform our relationship with the Earth community and create a healthy future for all life on Earth, we must reduce our collective consumption of the natural world.

But how do we do this? Modern Australian society has little experience understanding, or trying to live within, its ecological limits. Our dominant economic, political and legal systems are built on the antiquated notion of 'endless growth', which is powered by unsustainable consumption.

AELA is inviting individuals, community groups, environmental NGOs, regulators, academics and others to our interactive workshop, to discuss the problems caused by unsustainable consumption, map out collective strategies for reducing consumption and engage with the issues through art and music in a closing eco-musical presentation.

We're inviting you to share your achievements and frustrations in trying to tackle consumption, and provide your views about the role of law and regulation in supporting a sustainable consumption future. The ideas, case studies and recommendations generated by participants will form part of a major publication series, aimed at supporting civil society initiatives and influencing public policy.

This workshop is part of a national series of workshops and publications being coordinated by AELA in 2016. Join us for a positive, informative day of discussion, strategy development, art and music!

**Visit:** <http://www.earthlaws.org.au/current-projects/ecological-limits/>

*Photo above: pavement art made out of plastic cups, Lisa Be*

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Environmental & community advocates, researchers, academics, students, regulators and anyone interested in tackling the toughest environmental issues we face

### TO BOOK YOUR PLACE

**This event is free, but bookings are essential.** Please book via this webpage - [www.trybooking.com/KGAZ](http://www.trybooking.com/KGAZ)

**PLEASE NOTE** - Tea and coffee will be available, but to keep this event free, lunch is not provided. You can bring your own lunch or purchase it at a nearby café

### MORE INFORMATION:

[convenor@earthlaws.org.au](mailto:convenor@earthlaws.org.au)

**DONATIONS** will be invited at the door



australian earth laws alliance

# Program

## “Let’s Talk About Consumption”

### Melbourne, 4 March 2016



8.30-9.00am Registration, tea and coffee

9.00-9.10am Opening remarks and welcome - *Dr Michelle Maloney, National Convenor, AELA*

9.10-9.45am **Framing the conversation - individual or collective responsibility?** *Dr Michelle Maloney, AELA*

How do we address the complexity of consumption - environmental and social impacts, inequities of ‘global consumption classes’, corporate creation of consumption, population growth and individual vs collective responsibility?

9.45-10.15am **So how did we get here? Understanding the causes of unsustainable consumption**

This session examines how we created unsustainable consumption via ‘growth economics’ and the range of approaches that challenge the dominant growth paradigm

*Dr Sam Alexander, University of Melbourne, “Challenging Growth Economics: Degrowth & Voluntary Simplicity”*

10.15-10.50 **How much is enough? How do we know our ecological limits?**

The starting point is not us, it’s the natural world. What do our ecosystems and bio-regions need for ecological health? How do we reframe our efforts, so we consume only within the ecological limits of our biosphere?

*Professor Will Steffen, Climate Council (via skype) “Planetary Boundaries and a Safe Operating Space for Life on Earth”*

10.50-11.20am Morning Tea Break - tea and coffee provided, refreshments can be purchased nearby

11.20-12.30pm **Working collectively to reduce consumption**

*Professor Christine Parker and Fiona Haines, University of Melbourne, “Ecological and business regulation”*

*Cam Walker, Friends of the Earth, “Community activism and consumption”*

12.30-1.30pm Lunch - tea and coffee provided, refreshments can be purchased nearby

1.30-3.30pm **How do we reduce consumption? Individual vs collection action - Interactive Discussions**

**\*\* See page 3 for details about our discussion groups \*\***

How do we create human societies that live within ecological limits and nurture the Earth upon which we depend?

Participants are invited to join interactive groups, led by expert discussion leaders, so that participants can discuss their own initiatives and recommendations for ways forward. All input will be documented, and participants will be invited to complete online and in-person surveys after the workshop, to continue the conversations and accurately capture people’s experiences and recommendations

3.30-4.00pm Afternoon tea - tea and coffee provided, refreshments can be purchased nearby

4.00-4.30pm **Summary of discussion groups & next steps** - Michelle Maloney, AELA

4.30-6pm “Music for a warming world”, Simon Kerr Perspective

**\*\* See page 4 for details about our fantastic eco-musical presentation \*\***

*The day will conclude with an informative and emotionally engaging live multi-media music show, that explores how we can respond, individually and collectively, to the challenges of climate change and our overconsumption of fossil fuels.*

# Program

## “Let’s Talk About Consumption”

### Melbourne, 4 March 2016



## DISCUSSION GROUPS

1.30pm to 3.30pm

1.30-3.30pm **How do we reduce consumption? Individual and collective action - Interactive Discussions**

How do we create human economies and societies that live within ecological limits and nurture the Earth upon which we depend? Participants are invited to join interactive groups, led by expert discussion leaders, so that participants can discuss their own initiatives and recommendations for ways forward.

***\*\* Participants will be invited to join a discussion group listed below, or to create their own group \*\****

Ideas, suggestions and case studies discussed by participants will be documented, and participants will be invited to complete online and in-person surveys after the workshop, to continue the conversations and accurately capture people’s experiences and recommendations.

**To complete AECLA’s consumption survey, please visit this webpage:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LSLCYMD>

### **PROPOSED DISCUSSION GROUPS INCLUDE:**

- The role of civil society in creating its own initiatives to reduce consumption - Discussion leader: Cam Walker, Friends of the Earth
- What types of laws and regulations can help us reduce consumption? Discussion leader: Fiona Haines, University of Melbourne
- Food waste and sustainable food consumption - Discussion leader: Rachel Carey, University of Melbourne
- How the arts can challenge unsustainable consumption and inspire change - Discussion leader: Simon Kerr, musician/artist
- The role of planning and planning law, in linking human settlements to our ecological limits - Discussion leader to be confirmed
- How science can help us understand the nexus between ecological limits and human consumption - Discussion leader to be confirmed
- Other groups as decided by participants at the workshop



# Let's Talk About Consumption

Melbourne, 4th March 2016

Concluding Session: An Eco-musical Presentation

## Music for a Warming World

... where science, art and hope converge

A multimedia concert of original music like no other, telling the story of climate change and its challenges

Prof Christine Parker, along with songwriter, guitarist and climate thinker, Dr Simon Kerr, and his band, The Simon Kerr Perspective, have developed this challenging, entertaining and warmhearted journey into climate change, speaking honestly about the science, the inevitable changes that will come and what we can do to live sustainably.

It is also about the joy of being human in the face of humanity's greatest challenge, enjoying this moment of music, community and hope for the future

*Climate change never sounded so good!*

'A new way of thinking about climate change'

(Prof Rod Keenan, Forest and Ecosystem Science, The University of Melbourne)

'If you've been in despair, thinking what the hell can I do about climate change .. see Simon Kerr's 'Music for a Warming World' (Mal Webb, Australian Music Icon)

'So fresh and innovative, I can't speak highly enough about the show'  
(Participant from a recent Brisbane show))

'They tackle the overpowering zeitgeist of climate change, turning it into climate courage. See it and your hope and energy could be restored'  
(Prof Adrian Evans, Faculty of Law, Monash University)

4.30 -6.00pm Rm 104 Melbourne Law School

All university staff and students welcome to attend this concluding concert

Free entry but there will be an opportunity to make a donation to the musicians

For more information contact Prof Christine Parker ([christine.parker@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:christine.parker@unimelb.edu.au))

[www.simonkerrmusic.net/music-for-a-warming-planet/](http://www.simonkerrmusic.net/music-for-a-warming-planet/)