

Transcript

Earth Matters: Richmond River Koala Parks/Australian Supers Climate Cop-out

00:00:04 Speaker Bec Horridge

Walawani

00:00:05 Speaker Bec Horridge

Welcome to Earth Matters Environment Social justice storeys from Australia and around the world.

00:00:10 Speaker Bec Horridge

Produced at the studios of 3Cr on Wurundjeri country in Naarm Melbourne and broadcast across this continent via the Community Radio.

00:00:20 Speaker Bec Horridge

Network this Earth Matters was made on Widjabul Weiable lands in the Bundjalung Nation in Lismore and on Dharawal country near Wollongong.

00:00:30 Bec Horridge

I'm your show host Bec Horage.

00:00:33 Dot

Take two, take two.

00:00:35 Gus

Four, three.

00:00:38 Dot

Mr. Postman, wait and see.

00:00:43 Dot

There's a letter, a letter from me.

00:00:47 Dot

Deliver this letter.

00:00:49 Dot

The sooner the better.

00:00:51 Virginia

Yee ha.

00:00:52 Bec Horridge

Yee ha.

00:00:53 Virginia

End Native Forest Logging

00:00:54 Bec Horridge

Is that 37 seconds?

00:00:57 Virginia

Pretty good.

00:00:57 Bec Horridge

Is that okay?

00:00:59 Bec Horridge

That's Fridays for Forests in Lismore.

00:01:02 Speaker Bec Horridge

Fridays for the Forest is a call to stand up for forests on Fridays wherever you are in some way through a public demonstration such as Hoot for Forest banners on a highway or in citizen science field trips into the forest to survey wildlife and map forest health and identify koala indicators.

00:01:23 Bec Horridge

Or through political advocacy by coordinating weekly call and email campaigns targeting local members of Parliament to object to logging policies, promote sanctuaries, end native forest logging and protect wildlife habitats.

00:01:41 Bec Horridge

The letter was about the Richmond River Koala parks.

00:01:44 Bec Horrridge

It's a plan to establish a series of new national park reserves linking Bundjalung national park on the coast to Border Ranges National park.

00:01:55 Bec Horrridge

This network of 56,000 hectares of state forests with would protect the habitat of over 130 threatened species including critical koala habitat.

00:02:06 Bec Horrridge

The proposal aims to protect a nationally important and genetically distinct koala population.

00:02:13 Bec Horrridge

The proposal would protect the habitat of over 130 species, improve the health of the Richmond river and create a regionally significant wildlife corridor that supports genetic diversity and ecosystem connectivity.

00:02:28 Bec Horrridge

And and this would progress New South Wales goal of protecting 30% of its lands by 2030.

00:02:36 Bec Horrridge

Richmond River Koala parks would secure the protection of one of Australia's most biodiverse hotspots.

00:02:42 Bec Horrridge

Later in the show we learn about Australian Super's big climate cop out.

00:02:47 Bec Horrridge

It's become Whitehaven Coal's biggest investor.

00:02:51 Bec Horrridge

And why was Market Forces campaigner Brett Morgan dressed as Dorothy from the wizard of Oz?

00:02:57 Bec Horrridge

I'm here today outside Janelle Safford MP's office in Lismore with Fridays for the Forest team from different parts of the area, North East Forest alliance and other groups.

00:03:07 Bec Horridge

How long has this been going?

00:03:08 Gus

For approximately three years.

00:03:10 Gus

But DOT knows about better.

00:03:12 Dot

So Sean.

00:03:14 Dot

Sean o' Shaughnessy used to have meetings in town and talked about we should Be doing a Friday Sophia called Lismore.

00:03:22 Dot

I was very taken with that.

00:03:23 Dot

I was with the knitting nannies at the time and I was very, very worri about our forest.

00:03:29 Dot

So a few of us felt the same and we started to demonstrate outside Janelle Saffin's office just after the flood in Conway street there.

00:03:39 Dot

Then we started going, well, once a month we'll get on the highway.

00:03:42 Dot

And that has been a great morale boosting exercise because on the highway we began to realise we have enormous support.

00:03:50 Dot

We have many times over 200 hoots just for standing there for less than an hour.

00:03:56 Dot

So it's been such a wonderful part of what we do.

00:03:59 Dot

And then occasionally we go in the forest, but we're mostly a little bit ancient so, you know, we have a picnic out there and go, guys, this is a forest.

00:04:08 Dot

Most people don't even get in there.

00:04:10 Dot

They really don't realise how amazing it is out there.

00:04:14 Bec Horridge

Would anybody else like to say what motivates them to come along to Fridays for Forests over and over again?

00:04:19 Cath

Hi, I'm Cath.

00:04:20 Cath

I have to say that we just had the best experience with Anastasia.

00:04:24 Cath

Guys came to a meeting that I was in and talked about citizen scientists work that she was doing and across this area and it was just so compelling as a way to come on board and make a contribution and honestly, just joining this amazing bunch of people with great heart.

00:04:43 Cath

So that gets me here pretty well every Friday or on the highway.

00:04:48 Cath

And it's a wonderful, wonderful thing to be doing.

00:04:51 Cath

Thank you.

00:04:51 Bec Horridge

I've been sitting in a yurt for three days watching the rain go down and this is the first time I've smiled since I arrived in Lismore.

00:04:58 Bec Horridge

Thank you.

00:05:00 Bec Horridge

Does anybody else like to make a comment what motivates them to come to Fridays for the forest?

00:05:04 Virginia

I come because we have a lot of fun and I love nature and for many, many, many years I've been like, you know what?

00:05:13 Virginia

Got to end Fossil fuels and the forest situation is just as pressing.

00:05:18 Virginia

So what better way to spend a Friday morning with these gorgeous people just having fun and hopefully doing some good.

00:05:26 Gail

I'm Gail.

00:05:27 Gail

I'm here because I'm a retired social worker and I've always belonged to a lot of community groups.

00:05:31 Gail

And because we're in a climate crisis at the moment, I think things have elevated so much that common ordinary man and woman are realising that we are facing a very precarious future unless we actually do something to confront our carbon sequestration that's not being sort of cut down with all the forestry, deforestation and I think belonging to this group is also the motivator to actually keep on with this long term, but also have some fun and bring in the community with you so that we actually keep the issue alive because our politicians would prefer it to go away.

00:06:07 Gail

But we're not going away.

00:06:09 Bec Horridge

Do you think Janelle Safin listens?

00:06:11 Bec Horridge

Is she there today even?

00:06:12 Bec Horridge

You know, do you think it makes a difference hanging around outside your local MP's office, going on and on and on about an issue?

00:06:18 Gail

We have had meetings with Janelle and we felt at times we were heard, but later realised that it was just a conversation that went nowhere.

00:06:27 Gail

I think the bigger political picture with Labour and their policies on ending native forest logging is not going to go away.

00:06:34 Gail

It's not well received, but there's so many changes and so many environmental alliances happening.

00:06:41 Gail

I am actually enthused that the pressure is increasing in a very positive way to actually question Labour on all of their policies and its impact on our environmental climate crisis that we're in.

00:06:52 Bec Horridge

It's very strange how Labour don't come on board to try and stop native forest logging.

00:06:56 Bec Horridge

I'll wind up now.

00:06:58 Dot

Yeah, but we've got a national treasure here.

00:07:02 Dot

I need her to see we have a national treasure.

00:07:04 Dot

She just walked.

00:07:06 Bec Horridge

What's your name?

00:07:06 Anne Jarman

Ann and I just walked.

00:07:08 Bec Horridge

It was around 458 kilometres for stolen land and children.

00:07:15 Bec Horridge

And what was the other one?

00:07:16 Dot

And lives.

00:07:17 Gail

And lives.

00:07:18 Anne Jarman

Yeah, lives stolen.

00:07:20 Anne Jarman

We walked from Ballina to Mile Creek and we covered five massacre sites.

00:07:25 Anne Jarman

Mile Creek's about the only massacre site that we have actually embraced and said that people have actually died.

00:07:33 Anne Jarman

Whereas there's in all these others that people still haven't admitted that indigenous people, they were herded up and pushed over cliffs.

00:07:41 Anne Jarman

And it needs to be brought more to attention to try and bring unity with indigenous people.

00:07:48 Anne Jarman

We, like, accept that we had done wrong and embrace them and, you know, try and help them with their healing because they have a lot of problems because of all these massacres that have happened, trauma.

00:07:59 Bec Horridge

So how many days did that take you?

00:08:00 Anne Jarman

A bit over three weeks.

00:08:02 Bec Horridge

And did you talk to people along the way?

00:08:03 Anne Jarman

Yeah, we did.

00:08:04 Anne Jarman

Jeff Reid, who's the main organiser, he did a lot in each town.

00:08:08 Anne Jarman

He did some radio talks.

00:08:10 Anne Jarman

Yeah, mostly he had really good feedback.

00:08:12 Anne Jarman

When we're on the Gwyda highway around Inveral, I was walking along the fence, like on the grass, and there was this farmer fixing his fence and he said, oh, hi, what are you doing here?

00:08:22 Anne Jarman

And I said, who?

00:08:23 Anne Jarman

He Was.

00:08:23 Anne Jarman

And he said, oh, you on the radio.

00:08:25 Anne Jarman

Good on you.

00:08:26 Anne Jarman

Well done.

00:08:27 Anne Jarman

Keep it up.

00:08:28 Anne Jarman

So, you know, we got a lot of good feedback like that.

00:08:31 Anne Jarman

Yeah, it was really good.

00:08:32 Anne Jarman

A lot of people didn't know and then brought to attention and I think people were relatively happy with it.

00:08:38 Dot

Amazing.

00:08:39 Bec Horridge

Well, I'd like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for doing that.

00:08:42 Bec Horridge

I know that it's a real heart opener and eye opener when you realise some of the awful things that have happened in the past.

00:08:48 Anne Jarman

Yeah, that's right.

00:08:49 Anne Jarman

We need to bring it to everybody's attention and try and heal people.

00:08:53 Bec Horridge

Can't understand people unless you know where they've come from.

00:08:56 Anne Jarman

No, exactly right, yeah, that's it.

00:08:59 Bec Horridge

Yeah.

00:08:59 Bec Horridge

Can you just tell me your name again?

00:09:01 Bec Horridge

Ann.

00:09:01 Bec Horridge

Ann Jarman.

00:09:02 Bec Horrridge

Ann Jarman, who walked 458. Who walked 458 kilometres to remember the atrocities and massacres that have happened from Ballina to Mile Creek.

00:09:13 Bec Horrridge

Mile Creek.

00:09:14 Dot

And she still turns up to Fridays for Forest like an angel protecting country.

00:09:19 Bec Horrridge

Thank Team Friday for Forest for speaking to Earth Matters

00:09:22 Virginia

Thank you, love.

00:09:23 Bec Horrridge

Thank you.

00:09:23 Virginia

Beautiful.

00:09:24 Bec Horrridge

I'll come for the coffee now.

00:09:25 Bec Horrridge

One thing led to another.

00:09:27 Bec Horrridge

Over coffee with the forest activists, I decided to join their contingent marching in the Lismore Winter Solstice Lantern Parade.

00:09:38 Bec Horrridge

So this is a little bit exciting because I am joining the Lismore Lantern parade this solstice June 20th and I'm.

00:09:45 Bec Horridge

Going to be joining the parade with.

00:09:47 Bec Horridge

Fridays for the Forest.

00:09:48 Bec Horridge

And I have dressed in a lighted up koala suit.

00:09:52 Bec Horridge

We've got props, we've got a light up glider lantern and a lorikeet and there's another koala and there are hundreds of people with giant dragon lanterns and all sorts of things.

00:10:34 Bec Horridge

The beautiful and grand designs of huge paper lanterns shaped like animals wound through the Lismore streets.

00:10:42 Bec Horridge

Elephant, kangaroo, turtle, dragon and the massive glider flying with lights.

00:10:49 Bec Horridge

A colourful lorikeet on a stick, butterfly, dragonfly, a white horse that was burned at the spectacular fiery ending of the ceremony.

00:10:59 Bec Horridge

All passed through a tunnel of thousands of people.

00:11:03 Bec Horridge

A ribbon of little kids, faces enraptured and wide eyed lit up the front row.

00:11:10 Bec Horridge

Surely it's for them that we try to preserve biodiversity and a safe climate.

00:11:34 SPK_11

Yeah, I had a good time.

00:11:36 SPK_11

How about you?

00:11:36 SPK_11

You can.

00:11:36 SPK_11

Have you seen the lighted collider?

00:11:39 Bec Horridge

Yeah.

00:11:39 Gus

Oh, it was great.

00:11:40 Gus

Fantastic.

00:11:41 Gus

I really got the good feedback from the children.

00:11:44 Bec Horridge

Yeah, the children were lighting up with this lighted whale that I'm carrying.

00:11:50 Bec Horridge

What do you think, Dot?

00:11:51 Bec Horridge

Was it a success joining the parade?

00:11:54 Dot

Absolutely.

00:11:58 Bec Horrridge

Are you glad you came along in your mask to the parade today, Virginia.

00:12:01 Virginia

Darling, I'm totally thrilled.

00:12:03 Virginia

Thrilled to pieces.

00:12:05 Bec Horrridge

Yeah, me too.

00:12:08 Bec Horrridge

Let's go back to the principal motivation for the Richmond River Koala Parks.

00:12:13 Bec Horrridge

The region was extensively burnt in the 2019-20 wildfires.

00:12:18 Bec Horrridge

The forests had dried out and were under stress from a record drought when the wildfires began in October 2019, eventually burning through 86% of of Southern Richmond state forests.

00:12:32 Bec Horrridge

Over half the koalas are likely to have been killed in the fires, though populations are slowly recovering.

00:12:38 Bec Horrridge

Regrettably, the Forestry Corporation is targeting core populations for logging, removing most of their preferred feed trees.

00:12:45 Bec Horrridge

These forests and their inhabitants need time and care to recover from past logging and the fires.

00:12:52 Bec Horrridge

Not more logging to compound the impacts.

00:12:55 Bec Horrridge

But of course, saving the forests for the koalas saves it for other plants and animals as well, such as the 22 species in the area that are threatened with extinction.

00:13:06 Bec Horrridge

Of particular significance are the barking owl, brush tailed, Phascogale Squirrel Glider and Yellowbelly glider.

00:13:13 Bec Horrridge

The area provides critical winter nectar resources for a multitude of migratory, nomadic and resident nectivores, including the critically endangered swift Parrot and Regent honeyeater.

00:13:26 Bec Horrridge

The area encompasses parts of the largest area of intact wetlands, woodlands and forests left on the extensively cleared Richmond Floodplain, mostly now listed as endangered ecological communities.

00:13:41 Bec Horrridge

Earth Matters contacted Janelle Safin, the state Labour member for Lismore, and asked for her position on the objectives and actions of Fridays for Forest who are outside her office many Fridays for her stance on the Richmond River Koala Park's proposal, including any plants or commitments Ms. Safin MP may have in relation to it, and how she sees these initiatives fitting into broader environmental policy and management strategies in the Northern Rivers region.

00:14:08 Bec Horrridge

State member for Lismore, Janelle Safin said she was aware of both campaigns and engages with locals on issues raised with her.

00:14:16 Bec Horrridge

Meanwhile, the latest news is that the carbon credit scheme for protecting forests is welcomed by conservationists.

00:14:23 Bec Horrridge

The release of the government's proposed improved Native Forest method, which allows governments to claim carbon credits in return for stopping logging, has been welcomed by the North East Forest alliance and the North Coast Environment Council as providing a way to end native forest logging on public land.

00:14:41 Bec Horrridge

This is a game changer, said NEFA spokesman Dylan Pugh.

00:14:45 Bec Horrridge

Over the past 100 years, logging has removed most large trees from state forest, releasing more than half the carbon stored in our forests into the atmosphere.

00:14:54 Bec Horrridge

If forests are allowed to recover, then they can remove their lost carbon from the atmosphere and store it out of harm's way in their wood and soils The New South Wales government has said the creation of the Great Koala national park is predicated upon being able to claim carbon credits.

00:15:13 Bec Horrridge

And now they can proceed.

00:15:15 Bec Horrridge

They'll be able to earn over 300 million in Australian carbon credits over the first 15 years, which we are assured will go into park management and rehabilitation of degraded forests.

00:15:28 Bec Horrridge

We can repair some of the mess left by logging, Mr. Pugh said.

00:15:34 Bec Horrridge

You're listening to Earth Matters, broadcast nationally across this continent via the Community Radio Network.

00:15:42 Bec Horrridge

I'm your show host, Bec Horrridge.

00:15:46 Bec Horrridge

Next we hear Brett Morgan, campaigner from Market Forces, about Australian super, specifically its significant investment in 12% of Whitehaven coal, meaning that Australian super is not following its own climate commitments.

00:16:04 Bec Horrridge

I was looking at Market Force's social media and I came across some reels.

00:16:09 Bec Horrridge

Was that you dressed as Dorothy from the wizard of Oz at the Woodside offices?

00:16:13 Brett Morgan

Yes, I was.

00:16:14 Brett Morgan

Yes, I. I was dressed as Dorothy from the wizard of Oz and I delivered a few missing parts to some super funds ahead of Woodside's AGM last.

00:16:24 Bec Horrridge

Year, I saw you delivering a plastic brain and I saw you delivering a plastic spine, is that correct, to the front desk of one of these big superannuation offices?

00:16:36 Brett Morgan

Yeah, that's absolutely right, Bec.

00:16:38 Brett Morgan

So, yeah, ahead of Woodsides AGM last year, our newest campaigner, Dorothy, delivered a brain to Australian super because Australian super had been brainwashed by Woodside's greenwash.

00:16:52 Brett Morgan

So, yeah, we figured that they might need a new one of those ahead of the company's agm.

00:16:56 Bec Horrridge

Well, I just would say congratulations, because I do follow quite a lot of economic news and that was one of the most interesting bits of economic media that I've seen.

00:17:06 Bec Horrridge

So thank you, Brett Morgan, campaigner at Market Forces, joining us today on Earth Matters.

00:17:12 Bec Horrridge

Tell us, Brett, in a nutshell, what.

00:17:13 Bec Horrridge

Does Market Forces do?

00:17:15 Brett Morgan

Sure.

00:17:16 Brett Morgan

So Market Forces is a climate campaigning organisation.

00:17:21 Brett Morgan

And we believe that the banks and the superannuation funds and governments that have custody of our money, who, you know, we entrust to look after our money, they should be using that to protect and not damage the environment.

00:17:35 Brett Morgan

So, in a nutshell, what we do is we conduct research and analysis to expose the institutions that financing environmentally destructive projects.

00:17:47 Brett Morgan

We inform and empower community members to take action to hold those financial institutions accountable.

00:17:56 Brett Morgan

And what that does is it prevents investment in activities that are harming the environment and driving catastrophic climate change.

00:18:06 Bec Horrridge

Wow.

00:18:06 Bec Horrridge

That's so important because money has power.

00:18:09 Bec Horrridge

As an environment movement, we have people power and we have scientists who are trusted as a source of truth, which is power.

00:18:17 Bec Horrridge

But for some reason, on this little old planet, money really talks.

00:18:20 Bec Horrridge

Hey, it's a sad thing, okay?

00:18:23 Bec Horrridge

But that's a good reason to be an economic campaigner.

00:18:26 Bec Horrridge

Like Market Forces.

00:18:27 Bec Horrridge

You've recently launched a campaign focused on Australian Super.

00:18:31 Bec Horrridge

What's that all about?

00:18:32 Brett Morgan

So, Australian super is now the largest shareholder in a company called Whitehaven Coal, which has the biggest coal expansion plans for any company operating in Australia.

00:18:45 Brett Morgan

And that includes plans to develop up to six new or expanded coal mines across New South Wales and Queensland.

00:18:53 Brett Morgan

Now, a little bit of background here.

00:18:55 Brett Morgan

Australian super used to be invested in Whitehaven years ago and then actually divested or sold its shares in that company back in 2020.

00:19:04 Brett Morgan

But as of last year, the fund has now started buying up shares pretty significantly, to the point where Australian super is now Whitehaven Coal's largest shareholder.

00:19:17 Brett Morgan

Now, as the.

00:19:17 Brett Morgan

As the largest shareholder in this company, Australian super could be using its influence to try and change the company for the better, which would mean ending its coal expansion plans.

00:19:27 Brett Morgan

But we're not seeing the fund do that.

00:19:29 Brett Morgan

And so that's why members are backing this new campaign, calling on Australian super to use its leverage as a major investor to demand that Whitehaven drops its plans to build new coal mines.

00:19:44 Bec Horridge

How does the investment in Whitehaven Coal by Australian super align with the fund's climate commitments?

00:19:50 Bec Horridge

Or does it?

00:19:51 Brett Morgan

That's a really good question, because the short answer is it doesn't.

00:19:56 Brett Morgan

Unless Australian super is pulling out all the stops to ensure that Whitehaven Coal aligns its business plans with the Paris climate goals.

00:20:06 Brett Morgan

And that would mean ending its coal expansion plans.

00:20:10 Brett Morgan

So, as a Super fund, Australian super has a goal of reaching net zero emissions in its portfolio by 2050.

00:20:20 Brett Morgan

And Australian super also supports the climate goals of the Paris Agreement, which most countries around the world are, of course, signed up to.

00:20:29 Brett Morgan

As a major super fund, Australian super has duties to its members, which includes managing and protecting their retirement savings.

00:20:39 Brett Morgan

And a part of this involves understanding significant financial risks to those retirement savings.

00:20:45 Brett Morgan

And, of course, climate change is one of those risks.

00:20:48 Brett Morgan

And so what this means, in short, is that by investing in Whitehaven Coal, a company which is flouting global climate goals by expanding coal production.

00:20:58 Brett Morgan

So unless Australian super is demanding that Whitehaven stops expanding coal, then its investment in this company is not consistent with the fund's climate commitments.

00:21:13 Bec Horridge

What are you hoping to achieve with your campaign on Australian Super?

00:21:17 Brett Morgan

Well, we think there is a really significant opportunity here for Australian super to step up as.

00:21:24 Brett Morgan

As a leader and actually take a clear stance against Whitehaven's coal Expansion plans, which it's clear as day that these plans are inconsistent with a stable climate.

00:21:36 Brett Morgan

Now, as a super fund that represents millions of workers in Australia, Australian super has a responsibility to ensure that it's looking after those workers.

00:21:47 Brett Morgan

And you know, as a, particularly as the largest super fund in the country, Australian super does carry a lot of influence.

00:21:53 Brett Morgan

And so companies like Whitehaven, which are expanding coal production, they are ignoring the realities of climate science and forging ahead with plans to build massive new coal mines all over the place.

00:22:09 Brett Morgan

And as a, as a big super fund, Australian super could actually enable some positive outcomes, not just for the climate and its members, but also for the workers in the communities where Whitehaven operates, because currently there are no plans to ensure that, you know, a stable and equitable transition away from coal.

00:22:32 Brett Morgan

When a company like Whitehaven keeps forging ahead with new plans in a world that is increasingly transitioning away from coal, then that means that a lot of people are going to lose out.

00:22:43 Brett Morgan

Whereas instead, they could be winners in this transition.

00:22:46 Bec Horridge

Thank you.

00:22:47 Bec Horridge

I just say that's such amazing work that you do.

00:22:50 Bec Horrridge

You have a difficult task bringing money matters to the public.

00:22:54 Bec Horrridge

What sort of tools does your group Market Forces use in its campaign kit?

00:23:00 Bec Horrridge

I saw you as Dorothy from Aus in a blue dress going into some offices delivering plastic brains and spine to these companies that need brain's reflections and more spine to stand up for its, its members.

00:23:15 Bec Horrridge

But what other tools do you have in your kit?

00:23:17 Bec Horrridge

Of course, Earth Matters is one of your tools.

00:23:20 Bec Horrridge

What else is there?

00:23:21 Bec Horrridge

Brett Morgan?

00:23:22 Brett Morgan

Well, look, we, we use a range of tools to get important messages out there to the world and inspire action.

00:23:30 Brett Morgan

Now, research and analysis is a key one that we use.

00:23:34 Brett Morgan

But of course, just simply compiling numbers and putting spreadsheets out there isn't particularly appealing.

00:23:40 Brett Morgan

And can, you know, I've seen a lot of people eyes glaze over when talking about some pretty complex numbers and concepts.

00:23:47 Brett Morgan

But that's exactly why we use a variety of tools to inform and empower community members to take action.

00:23:54 Brett Morgan

And that sometimes might mean dressing up as Dorothy from the wizard of Oz and running around the Melbourne CBD delivering things to super funds.

00:24:04 Brett Morgan

Other times it might mean jumping on stage in an event and delivering a greenwashing award to a financial institution.

00:24:11 Brett Morgan

And it can also mean developing tools that people can use to understand where their money is invested, such as our Super Funds comparison table and our bank's comparison table on our website where we turn all that complex financial analysis into a really simple tool that people can look at to see what the climate and environmental credentials of their financial institutions are.

00:24:37 Brett Morgan

And I will say that the biggest and most important aspect of our work is the community that takes action off the back of our research and analysis.

00:24:46 Brett Morgan

Because super fund members, bank customers and shareholders, they're the cornerstone of our work.

00:24:54 Brett Morgan

These are the people that have the power to actually change their financial institutions.

00:24:59 Brett Morgan

So without the community, market forces wouldn't be as impactful.

00:25:05 Brett Morgan

And so I want to give a really big shout out to everyone out there who's ever taken action with their finances, because it is you that is affecting the change in the world.

00:25:14 Brett Morgan

And that, of course, includes the listeners of Earth Matters.

00:25:18 Bec Horridge

Thanks, Brett.

00:25:19 Bec Horridge

Thank you so much.

00:25:20 Bec Horridge

And I think we're going to wrap it up there.

00:25:22 Bec Horridge

I'm really hoping to talk to you again in the future about how things are going.

00:25:25 Bec Horridge

We had a great show about HESTA

00:25:28 Bec Horridge

Do you think that show about HESTA, you know, that HESTA needs to do better, another superannuation company.

00:25:33 Bec Horridge

Do you think that really made any difference to the amount of CO2 Australians produced?

00:25:38 Brett Morgan

Well, that's a really good question.

00:25:40 Brett Morgan

It's a very complex one in some ways to answer.

00:25:42 Brett Morgan

But I will say that since that really great conversation that we had, Beck, you'll be really glad to hear that at Woodside's AGM this year, Woodside being the biggest oil and gas producer in Australia, HESTA became the first major super fund to publicly challenge Woodside's oil and gas expansion plans in a media statement.

00:26:04 Brett Morgan

So that's really big because not many major super funds have been willing to make commentary on companies like that and their plans to expand coal, oil and gas.

00:26:15 Brett Morgan

And so that is the result of members of Hester over the years asking for greater climate action.

00:26:21 Brett Morgan

And to see a big super fund like Hester challenging those plans is a really good step forward.

00:26:26 Brett Morgan

And you know, we're.

00:26:28 Brett Morgan

And I know that members are really hoping to see Hess take that even further and really raise the stakes at Woodside and ensure that the company stops developing new oil and gas fields.

00:26:39 Bec Horrridge

Well done, Market Forces making a change.

00:26:42 Bec Horrridge

Thank you so much, Brett Morgan, campaigner at Market Forces, for talking to Earth Matters from Dharawal Country.

00:26:48 Brett Morgan

Thanks, Bec.

00:26:49 Brett Morgan

It's been a pleasure.

00:26:50 Bec Horridge

Get to the Market Forces website, www.marketforces.org.au to find resources to help you cheque your own bank and super funds and identify super funds and banks that take global heating seriously.

00:27:09 Speaker Bec Horridge

You've been listening to Earth Matters, Community Radio's national Environment justice programme.

00:27:15 Speaker Bec Horridge

If you missed any of today's show, you can find our podcasts at 3cr.org.au Earthmatters Earth matters we'd like to thank the Community Broadcasting foundation for their financial support and the Community Radio Network for getting the programme out to you.

00:27:32 Speaker Bec Horridge

Earth Matters is produced in the studios of Freecr on Wurundjeri Country.

00:27:37 Speaker Bec Horridge

If you'd like to get in contact, you can send us an email at earthmatters3crmail.com or go to our Facebook page.

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