

Climate change has been understood to be happening by some for most of my lifetime, some 70 years. Forty years ago I was involved in founding Australia's first sustainable community at Kangaroo Ground the "Round the Bend Cooperative". Sustainable because it is still prospering now into its third generation.

The MAB Programme of the UNESCO has been around since 1971 and is the best and most proven tool to mitigate Climate Change as is demonstrated by the now 600 MAB Reserves worldwide.

Ten years ago I was involved with founding the Mornington Peninsula and Westernport UNESCO Biosphere Reserve based on inclusive grassroots, voluntary communal development with sustainable outcomes for environmental, business and cultural activities. This has led to the development of other MAB Reserves across Canberra and Noosa and will lead to a network of MAB Reserves across Australia.

Whether that thought will be taken up soon enough to make a difference will depend on its early recognition and take up.

The MAB Programme must be seen and taken up by our electorates and government as an important tool in sustaining our widespread communities, reducing carbon pollution developing crucial scientific research and giving credibility to our nation's interest and capacity to tackle climate change.

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