

GREENPEACE

kākārīki

The difference you're making in the world

Issue 149 - May 2022

SAFE
Drinking Water

A plastic-free
FUTURE

THRIVING
Oceans



You're helping make

DRINKING WATER SAFE FOR ALL

Everybody deserves safe drinking water. Most of us here in Aotearoa assume that when we turn on the tap and pour ourselves a glass of water, it's safe to drink.

Nitrate Water Testing in Canterbury © Zoe Deans / Greenpeace

Urban ecological farming in Auckland © Shujin Liu / Greenpeace



But for the New Zealanders that rely on bore and well water, safe drinking water isn't guaranteed. This is because synthetic nitrogen fertiliser – primarily used by the dairy industry – contaminates drinking water, increasing health risks for rural communities across Aotearoa.

Last year, thanks to the generous support of people like you, we began offering free water testing around Aotearoa. We visited towns right in the heart of dairy country, helping New Zealanders get informed about potential risks from nitrate contamination in their drinking water.

In addition to this, when COVID-19 prevented us from visiting towns in-person, we branched out to offer mail-in water testing, which is still available.

Between May 2021 and April 2022, we completed more than 900 tests of household drinking water looking at nitrate contamination levels.

This included 710 tests from bores. We now have the largest dataset of rural household bore water and their nitrate levels in the country. With your support, we can continue this incredibly important programme to help more New Zealanders understand the risks of nitrate contamination in their water.

Together, we'll keep fighting to phase out synthetic nitrogen fertiliser so water is safe to drink, so we can once again swim safely in our rivers, and so we have a climate that's fit for all life.

Three quarters of drinking water samples we have tested have been above the level of nitrate contamination linked to increased rates of bowel cancer!



Sign our PETITION:

It's time to halve the herd, and transition Aotearoa to more plant-based regenerative organic farming. We can produce food while healing nature and protecting our health. Thank you for your tautoko (help) in this kaupapa! Sign our "halve the herd" petition here: greenpeace.nz/halveherd148



You're protecting OCEAN LIFE

The ocean is a vast, life-giving force - but it's under threat from destructive industries plundering its treasures.

Your generosity is giving the ocean a voice, pushing back against overfishing, bottom trawling, seabed mining, plastic pollution and other threats.

In February, Oceans Campaigner Ellie Hooper met Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta to deliver our petition calling on the New Zealand government to support a strong Global Ocean Treaty. This petition was signed by more than 60,000 supporters like you. This level of visible public backing was extremely important as the delegation went into negotiations at the UN in March. Unfortunately, delegations from around the world did not reach a consensus, so there will be another round of treaty negotiations later this year.

The ocean cannot wait. Already the treaty has been delayed for years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. During this time,

we've continued to stand up against corporations causing devastation on the high seas - but we need strong, legally-binding global action to stop them for good. With your support, we're focusing on securing strong action for the ocean in 2022. This includes fighting for a national ban on bottom trawling on seamounts, which are incredible underwater mountains home to coral forests and an array of precious marine life.



Global Ocean Treaty petition hand-in

© Dave Lintott / Greenpeace



Adelle penguins on Wide Open Island

© Tomás Munita / Greenpeace



Bottom Trawling Campaign Mural in Auckland © Nathan Clark Monster Valley / Greenpeace

Seabed mining is an emerging industry and threat to the ocean, particularly for Pacific nations.

With your help, we're taking a stand against it. Scientists warn deep sea mining would cause severe and potentially irreversible damage to the ocean and to the marine life that calls it home. Additionally, mining could damage the natural processes that store carbon and make the climate emergency even worse.

To date, the New Zealand Government has not taken a strong stance against seabed mining. In September 2021, they abstained from voting in support of a moratorium at the IUCN World Conservation Congress.

To compel our Government to take a stand, we launched a social media campaign called Oceanic Voices. This campaign amplified the voices of socially conscious Pasifika leaders against seabed mining and encouraged Māori and Pasifika communities to support a moratorium on seabed mining in Aotearoa and the Pacific.

The campaign reached a milestone in April of this year when Tuvalu rescinded its support of deep sea mining. In a dramatic reversal, it

was announced that Tuvalu would no longer sponsor mining company Circular Metals Tuvalu to undertake exploratory work in International waters.

Tuvalu's announcement is the latest move in the mounting concerns over seabed mining. The Governments of Fiji, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea are all calling for a moratorium, and it has already been banned in New South Wales and the Northern Territory states of Australia.

With your support, we will keep pushing for the New Zealand Government to join the call.

➔ **Sign our PETITIONS:**

If you haven't signed these petitions already, you can do so here:

greenpeace.nz/BT148

greenpeace.nz/banSBM148



Activists Paint Deep Sea Mining Industry Vessel in the Pacific Ocean © Marten van Dijk / Greenpeace

You're creating a PLASTIC-FREE FUTURE



Giant albatross sculpture in Mission Bay © Ben Sarten / Greenpeace



Giant albatross sculpture in Mission Bay © Ben Sarten / Greenpeace



Albatross in Aoteara © Dave Hansford / Greenpeace

Imagine a world where single-use plastic bottles are a thing of the past. Where reusable and refillable systems are the norm. Where oceans and beaches aren't littered with bottles and caps.

That's the future incredible supporters like you are creating by helping us hold to account companies that are producing billions of throwaway plastic bottles each year. In November, big plastic polluter Coca Cola attempted to greenwash by announcing it aims to have at least 25% of all beverages sold in refillable/returnable containers by 2030. However, this target

only applies to regions that have existing reusable systems in place, so this will go nowhere far enough to eliminate plastic pollution.

To continue drawing attention to this issue, we revealed a sculpture of a giant toroa (albatross) made from discarded single-use plastic bottles at Mission Bay in Auckland.

This sculpture was made in remembrance of a toroa that died in Napier after swallowing a plastic bottle.

Now, more than 100,000 New Zealanders have signed our call to ban throw-away plastic bottles - THANK YOU!

➔ **Sign our PETITION:**

If you haven't yet signed this petition, you can do so here:

greenpeace.nz/banbottles148





Thank you

FOR ALL THAT YOU DO!

Whether it's fighting for the Rainforest, looking after the ocean or protecting Antarctica - our work wouldn't be possible without you!

Each action you take to protect nature, our home, is building a greener and more peaceful future for all on our planet.

▶ **16,100+**
signatures

on our petition to freeze
Russian oligarch assets
in Aotearoa

▶ **23,800+**
signatures

on our petition to
ensure safe drinking
water for all

▶ **36,200+**
signatures

on our petition to
ban seabed mining
in Aotearoa



Olive Ridley Sea Turtle in the Pacific
© Marten van Dijk / Greenpeace



Fur seal in Antarctica © Tomás Munita / Greenpeace

News from the Pole

Thanks to the Pole to Pole expedition that supporters like you funded, researchers were able to record for the first time a humpback whale call unknown to science!

The study took place in 2019 but the scientific paper with the findings has just been released. The study documented 600 whale calls over 11 days at the Vema Seamount in the Atlantic Ocean, 1,000km off the coast of South Africa.

Environmental Wins AROUND THE WORLD

Greenpeace supporters like you make amazing things possible around the world. Here are a few of the highlights from the past few months:

► USA:



EV company pledges to stay out of the ocean

Electric vehicle (EV) start-up Rivian has become the first US automaker to pledge to keep minerals mined from the deep sea out of their batteries and supply chain. They have also joined a global call for a moratorium on the seabed mining industry that could cause irreversible harm to the world's ocean.

Spinner Dolphins in the Pacific © Marten van Dijk / Greenpeace

► Czechia:



The Czech Republic commits to a coal phase-out

In January, the Czech Republic government committed to phasing out coal by 2033. While sooner would be better, this announcement is nevertheless still a big success of the climate movement.

Coal phase out protect in Czech Republic © Petr Závacký / Greenpeace

► South Africa:



Oil companies forced to stop drilling off South Africa's Wild Coast

Shell was ordered by the court to cease seismic blasting along South Africa's Wild Coast, signaling a great win for the constitutional rights of indigenous people. It also helps to protect vital whale breeding grounds and other wildlife.

Protest against Shell's Seismic Blasting plans © Greenpeace



Thank you

FOR YOUR
SUPPORT

Polar bear © Daniel Beltra / Greenpeace

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(09) 200 4129 extension 62 or brenna.gotje@greenpeace.org for more information.

All enquiries will be treated confidentially.

➔ ***Please keep in touch:***

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