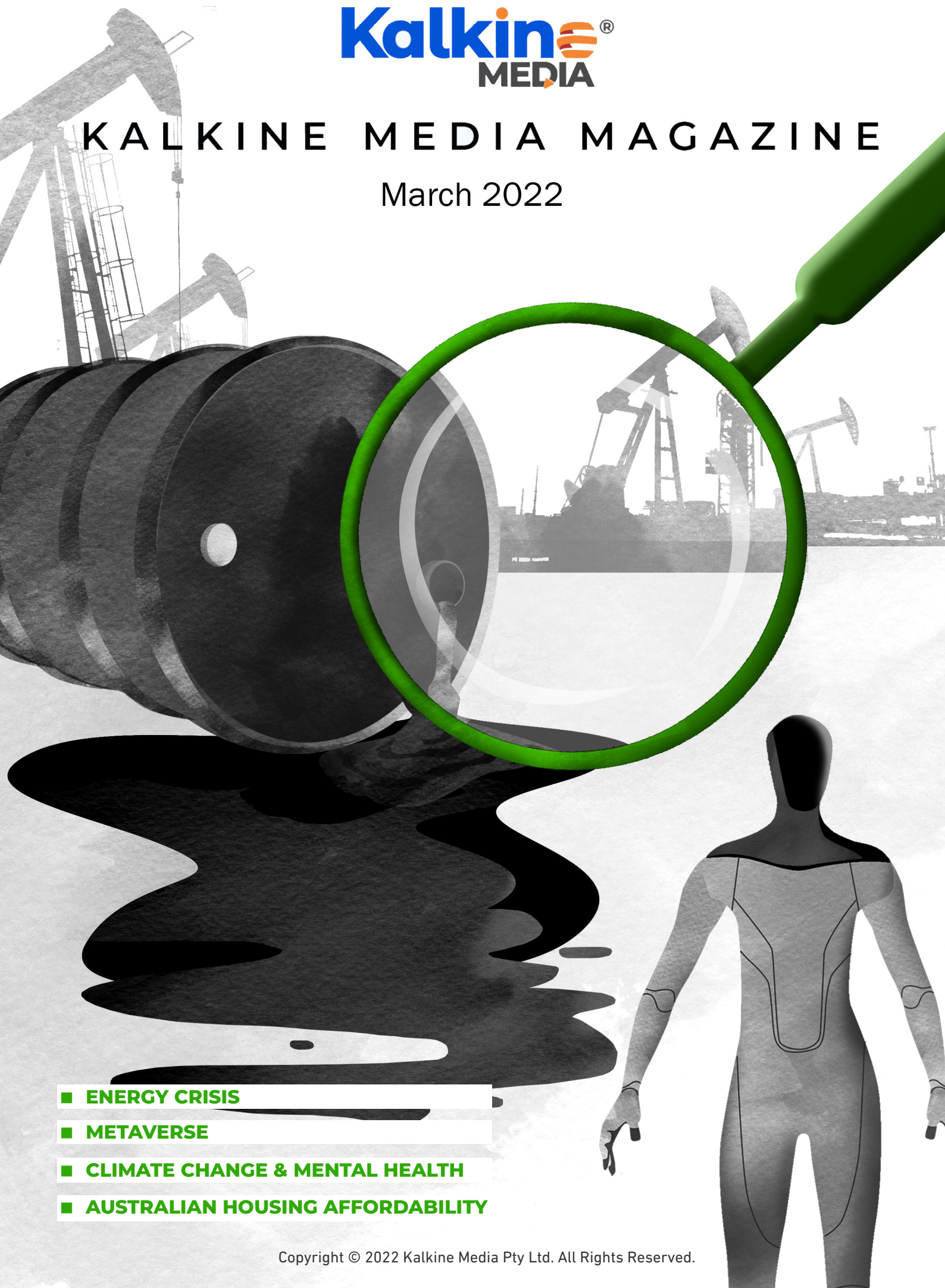


# KALKINE MEDIA MAGAZINE

March 2022



- **ENERGY CRISIS**
- **METAVVERSE**
- **CLIMATE CHANGE & MENTAL HEALTH**
- **AUSTRALIAN HOUSING AFFORDABILITY**

# ABOUT KALKINE GROUP

Kalkine Group is a prominent name in the subscription & media sales line of business. A renowned equity market research, investor relations and media house firm, Kalkine caters to the share markets of Australia, the UK, Canada, United States, and New Zealand. The Company is also eyeing the growing Ireland market.

Kalkine Media provides trending and live news articles about listed companies belonging to diverse sectors and market commentaries. Interestingly, Kalkine Media also operates on the model of Advertiser – a Publisher firm under its B2B umbrella, providing a dedicated platform to the subscribed clients to leverage various offerings like exclusive banners, sponsored article coverages, videos, and podcasts.

Periodic investor focused events and webinars provide a crucial platform for several listed players/private companies to present their business vision amidst broader industrial landscape and to interact with core audience including Brokers, Fund Managers/SMSF Investor Managers, Sophisticated Investors, Senior Business Executives and Retail Investors.





# TEAM KALKINE

Team Kalkine comprises specialists including equity, currency, commodity, and economic analysts providing in-depth and unbiased up-to-date analysis. The team of analysts, sector-specific journalists and editors have hands on experience in developing industry breaking and trending equity and economic news. The team strives to work on the vision of establishing a strong foothold, primarily as a reliable media firm.

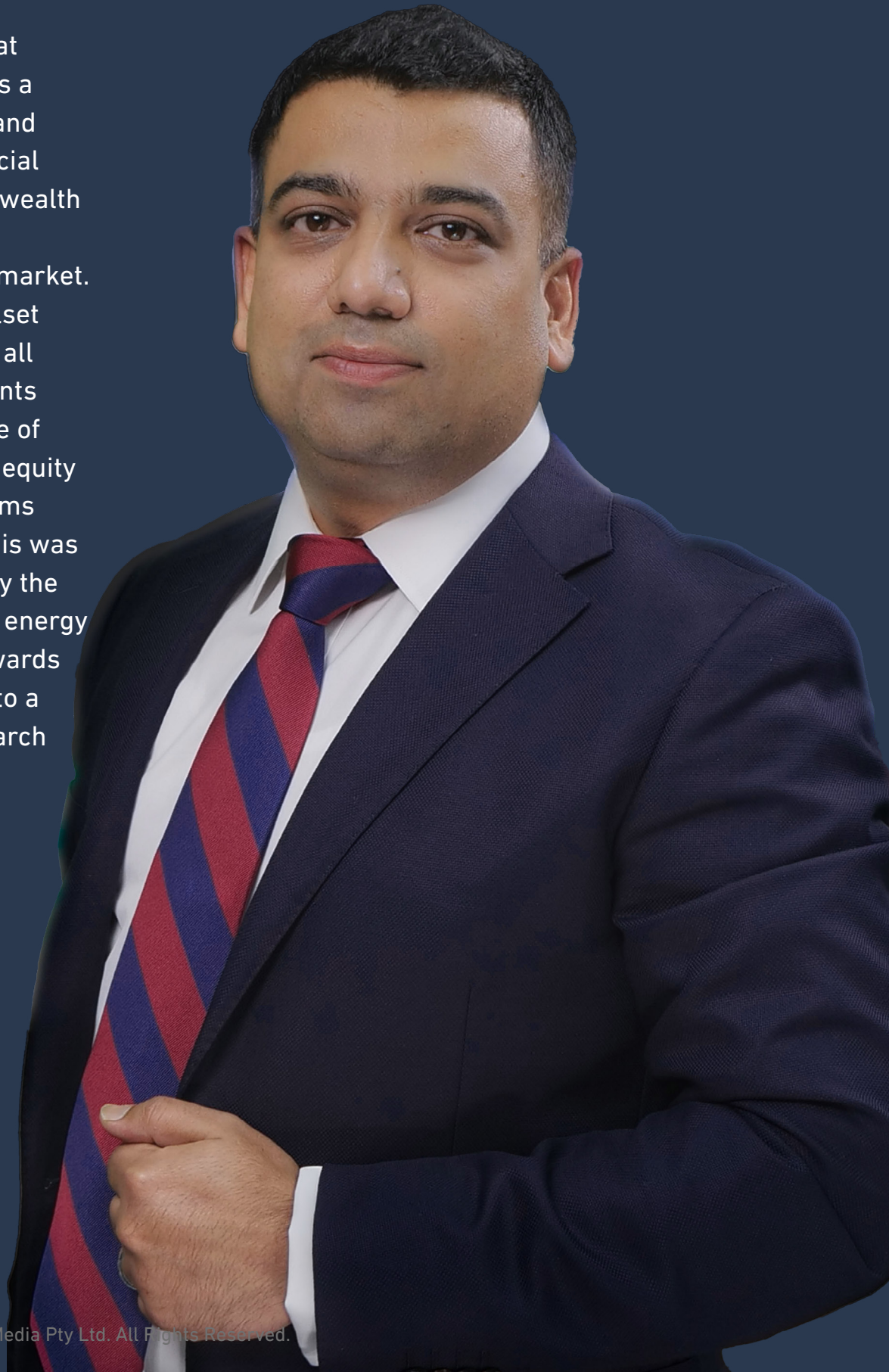


Source: © Shutterstock.com

# KUNAL SAWHNEY

Founder & CEO

**Kunal Sawhney** is the Founder & CEO at Kalkine Group and is a richly experienced and accomplished financial professional with a wealth of knowledge in the Australian equities market. His knowledge, skillset and vision provided all the perfect ingredients required to start one of the fastest growing equity market research firms across Australia. This was further supported by the aim of channelising energy and enthusiasm towards the stock market into a leading media research firm.



# KALKINE FOOTPRINT



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# Note From The **EDITOR**

***“There are a lot of unanswered questions around inflation and the Russia-Ukraine crisis. All of us are looking for some solid answers around these in the post-pandemic world. Life is getting back to normal at a snail’s pace, while fear & uncertainty have crept into our minds. The March issue of the Kalkine Media Magazine is one that will try and give some answers to the most discussed themes. From China’s investment secrets to the metaverse, we have it all covered. So, dive in and enjoy!***

***One of the world’s greatest military leaders, Napoleon Bonaparte, once said: “China is a sleeping giant; let him sleep, for if he wakes, he will shake the world.” China’s role in the growth of the world economy has been recognised for decades now. China took the world by surprise when it posted impressive GDP numbers at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic when most of the countries were struggling to regain their economic footing. Do not miss the insightful feature on where China is investing in 2022 in the March issue.***

***No doubt, real estate has long been***

***considered an ideal way to build wealth. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has shattered the dreams of many potential homebuyers in Australia amid sky-high property prices. Besides, it has become extremely challenging for new homebuyers (especially millennials) to harness the benefits of the property boom despite record-low interest rates. With no end in sight for high property prices, experts have begun speculating how housing affordability will take shape in 2022. In this backdrop, know about factors that can influence housing affordability this year in the issue.***

***One of the world’s most dangerously raging crises is climate change. Greenhouse gas emissions are rising tremendously, causing extreme weather conditions. Ecologists and scientists across the globe have made it clear that if the emissions keep increasing at the present rate, we won’t be able to achieve the “net-zero emissions” target set by the 2015 Paris Agreement. Get insights on how climate change can upset your mental health in the issue.***

***Crude oil prices have once again***



*started to haunt the world, albeit the producers are rejoicing. Since December 2021, the price of the crude oil has surged by nearly ~30%. Rising crude oil prices are driving fuel prices higher, adding to inflation woes. The US recently announced its inflation figure, which is at 40-year high. Know why fuel prices are scaling multi-year highs and what is the way forward.*

*What is the metaverse? This question has apparently become the talk of the town, of late. This is largely due to the fact that the metaverse rose to prominence towards the later part of 2021 as the public's fascination hit peak levels in October. It was around this time that Meta (formally Facebook) CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced his plans to take his company into the metaverse space. We will be decoding the hype and let you know what exactly is the metaverse in an insightful piece in the issue.*

*The largest automaker in the world, Tesla, is gearing up to diversify into the human robot space, also*

*known as humanoids. During Tesla's earnings call on 26 January 2022, its chief Elon Musk said (humanoid robot) is the most important product development we're doing this year. Internally named as 'Optimus', this human robot looks very similar in appearance to a human body, with a full structure consisting of two legs, two arms and a head. All you need to know about Optimus, Tesla's humanoid robot, is featured in the March issue. So, do not miss out on that!*

*Hope you enjoy the March issue as much as we did compiling it. Keep writing to us at [info@kalkinemia.com](mailto:info@kalkinemia.com) for any topics that you would want us to cover in the upcoming issue. Till then, enjoy living in the moment no matter how uncertain the future looks like.*

*Happy Reading!*

*Kiara Khanna*





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Crude oil prices are on the boil and in turn, driving fuel prices higher and adding to inflation woes. The US recently announced its inflation figure, which is at a 40-year high.

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## **Decoding the hype: What exactly is the metaverse?**

This question has apparently become the talk of the town, of late. Let's understand in-depth what this hype is all about.

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01

# WHERE IS CHINA INVESTING IN 2022?



By Akanksha Vashisht

One of the world's greatest military leaders, Napoleon Bonaparte, once said: "China is a sleeping giant; let him sleep, for if he wakes, he will shake the world."

China's role in the growth of the world economy has been recognised for decades now. China took the world by surprise when it posted impressive GDP numbers at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic when most of the countries were struggling to regain their economic footing. Meanwhile, China grabbed first place worldwide in outward foreign

direct investment for the first time ever in 2020.

The country's growing influence in global investment volume has sparked discussions around its possible investments in 2022. The government of China is gearing up for a year of robust investments as several new investment channels have sprung up in the country. According to ongoing reports, China is expected to lead in the race of fixed-asset investments in 2022.



Source: © 2022 Kalkine Media®

This comes after a year of muted investment channels for the country as the pandemic took over. Additionally, hostility toward China has been a growing theme, with many nations

witnessing their political ties with China deteriorate.



Here is a list of some investments awaiting the Chinese economy in the coming year:

## BOOST TO INFRASTRUCTURE

This year, Chinese infrastructure investments could provide impetus to the slowdown experienced in the property market. It is worth noting that the relative strength of infrastructure is crucial for the Chinese economy, given the recent setback due to the pandemic. While the manufacturing sector remained strong throughout the past year, real estate in China remained weak.

The property sector contraction is expected to continue this year due to underlying issues, such as falling home sales and limited access to funding. However, property fixed-asset investments could bolster in 2022 with accelerated growth. New investments are more likely to seep into sectors like 5G, high-speed railways and data centres.

## NEW TIES WITH ARGENTINA

Perhaps one of the most interesting developments for China this year is Argentina's entry into the country's Belt and Road initiative. Argentina's move has paved the way for investments worth US\$23 billion from China.

The Belt and Road initiative was launched by China in 2013 to harness

the country's strengths in financing and infrastructure construction in order to build a broad community of shared interests across Latin America, Asia, and Africa. The latest tie-up is expected to strengthen Beijing's ties with Latin America.



As per the Commerce Ministry, China has invested over US\$20 billion so far under this initiative. The said deal is likely to advance developments in hydropower

and railway projects, ultimately deepening cooperation in infrastructure and trade in both countries.

## BOOMING INVESTMENTS UNDER CPEC

The recently signed China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) agreement has opened fresh doors of investment for China. The recent agreement represents “phase two” of the CPEC, with the first phase being centred around energy projects and road infrastructure.

The second phase aims to develop special economic zones in Pakistan while exploring the possibility of establishing oil refineries in the country. Meanwhile, China wants to transfer its industrial

capacity to Pakistan, specifically in the textiles, footwear and pharmaceuticals sectors. The move is set to solidify ties between both nations.

*Chinese investments are taking a diversified route, with the country emerging among the world's top destinations for both inward and outward foreign direct investment. It would be interesting to see how these investments shape up as the year advances.*



Source: © storyset.com

02

# HOUSING AFFORDABILITY IN AUSTRALIA: WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2022



By Damini Narang



American billionaire industrialist Andrew Carnegie once said, *“Ninety percent of all millionaires become so through owning a real estate.”*

No doubt, real estate has long been considered an ideal way to build wealth. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has shattered the dreams of many potential homebuyers in Australia amid sky-high property prices. Besides, it has

become extremely challenging for new homebuyers (especially millennials) to harness the benefits of the property boom despite record-low interest rates.

With no end in sight for high property prices, experts have begun speculating how housing affordability will take shape in 2022. In this backdrop, let us discuss some factors that can influence housing affordability this year:

## STATE GOVERNMENT REFORMS

The latest data from Domain suggests that housing prices in Sydney have surged by over 55% in less than three years since the property market downturn in 2019. The credit goes to the government’s stimulus measures, increased housing demand and subdued supply.

To address Sydney’s affordability crisis, the NSW government has devised a new scheme that will help first homebuyers with their home deposits in exchange for giving some equity to the government. The aim is to help people, who do not have access to the bank of mum and dad, enter the housing market.

## REOPENING OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

With international travel swinging back into action in February 2022, it will be enticing to see how the housing market will react to the border reopening. So far, the COVID-19 pandemic has created an unmatched sellers’ market in most parts of Australia.

Some experts project that the removal of overseas travel restrictions can bring normalcy back into the market, improving housing affordability. These experts believe that travel restrictions encouraged jetsetters to become house hunters, prompting them to park their funds into an investment property that

would otherwise be spent on world cruises and overseas holidays. In such a case, freedom of movement can result in greater affordability in the housing market.

However, one cannot neglect that real estate agents have been selling properties to expats stuck overseas despite no physical inspection by buyers. Thus, there is a chance that open borders can give an additional opportunity to foreign buyers to inspect properties, eventually lifting property demand and worsening affordability.

## THE POTENTIAL RISE IN INTEREST RATES

Record-low interest rates have been a major factor driving the growth in property prices over the past two years. At a time when house prices and consumer price inflation are breaking records, speculations are rife that the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) can go for an interest rate hike in mid-2022.

Experts are hopeful that the housing affordability crisis can take a breather when interest rates rise, making it expensive for borrowers to make

mortgage loans. However, an increase in cash rate may not hit the property market dramatically, given a dire shortage of housing supply. But the market may see a generalised slowdown in property prices over the year following a monetary policy contraction.

Much depends on the central bank and its decision to hike cash rates. In the current scenario, it seems the property market will need multiple rate hikes to reflect a slowdown in prices.



Source: © freepik.com

03

# CAN CLIMATE CHANGE UPSET YOUR MENTAL HEALTH?



By Toshiva Jain



*One of the world's most dangerously raging crises is climate change. Greenhouse gas emissions are rising tremendously, causing extreme weather conditions. Ecologists and scientists*

*across the globe have made it clear that if the emissions keep increasing at the present rate, we won't be able to achieve the "net-zero emissions" target set by the 2015 Paris Agreement.*



Source: © Stocksolutions | Megapixl.com

## **CLIMATE CHANGE: THE MONSTER WE NEED TO FIGHT**

It is significant to understand the multidimensional effects of climate change. Climate change basically refers to the change in the course of Earth's climate. The primary reason for the change is because of an increase in greenhouse emissions like chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), carbon dioxide, methane, and so on.

The increase in these toxins at a high rate disrupts the environment and the ecosystem. Climate change triggers frequent climatic disruptions like extreme weather conditions, heatwaves, sudden droughts, and floods, to name a few.

These natural disasters affect human life both physically and mentally. Due to the increase in the intensity of such events, many people are forced to displace from their original localities because those places become inhabitable. The problem of displacement happens mainly in third world countries.

However, the impact of climate change is not limited to physical effects; the crisis also has psychological repercussions. Let's see how climate change is affecting the mental and emotional health of world citizens.





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## EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON MENTAL HEALTH

Several studies have pointed to the emergence of a new phenomenon because of climate change. It's called **"eco-anxiety"**. The term defines the anxiety that people go through because of the degrading conditions of the environment.

The frequency of disruptions caused by climate change is increasing. Thus, more people are getting worried about the future of Earth, the sustainability of life on Earth and the unpredictability of the weather.

In 2021, a survey was conducted by **Bath University** in collaboration with five other universities across ten countries on "eco-anxiety". It suggested that around 60% of the participants felt "very-worried" about climate change. Approximately 45% said the issue affects their everyday life.

Many people believe that the future of life on Earth is doomed. Mostly, it is the younger generation that is more concerned about the issue. The people in the range of 16-25 years of age are most affected by climate-led anxiety.

Recently, **Health Canada** released an assessment report on "effects of climate change on health". The report suggested that climate change is continuously affecting the mental health and wellbeing of citizens.

Another paper published by **Hickman and colleagues** showed the evidence for the increase in mental illness because climate change has been on the rise over the past couple of years. Other surveys done across the residents of British Columbia have resulted in similar findings.

***Conclusively, people across the globe are getting affected by the raging climate crisis. The consequence is now no more limited to the physical effects in the environment; the mental and emotional health of the world population is at stake as well. People dealing with eco-anxiety should seek help if need be, and society needs to become more aware and focus on reducing the carbon footprint to help Mother Earth revive.***

# B2B



Source: © freepik.com

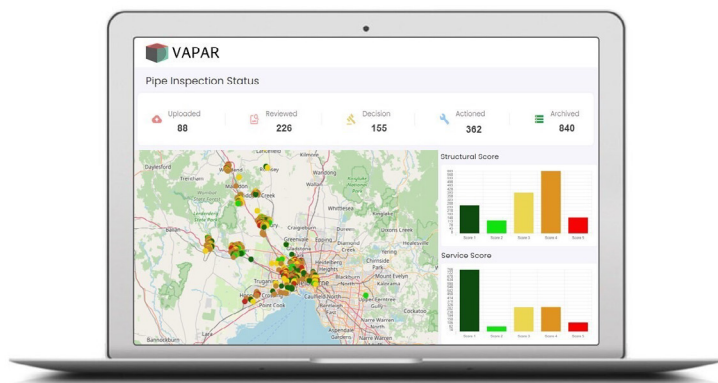
## 04

# HOW VAPAR CAN REVOLUTIONISE THE WAY PIPE INFRASTRUCTURE IS MANAGED



By Anam Siddiqui





Source: © VAPAR Website

Deterioration in sewer and stormwater pipes can quickly escalate into a critical issue, with effluents contaminating the groundwater and threatening the sustainability of local ecosystem.

With deterioration rates linked to several factors such as pipe materials, soil

conditions, tree cover, and installation flaws, assessing the state of a vast network of pipes can prove to be a herculean task for water authorities. In many instances, pipes are found operating in poor conditions and well beyond their originally intended lifespan. Moreover, limited budget and use of traditional methods have put these networks' sustainability under increasing pressure.

In the current scenario when there is strong need to prioritise proactive rehabilitation of wastewater pipe networks, let us know more how VAPAR is transforming pipe infrastructure management.

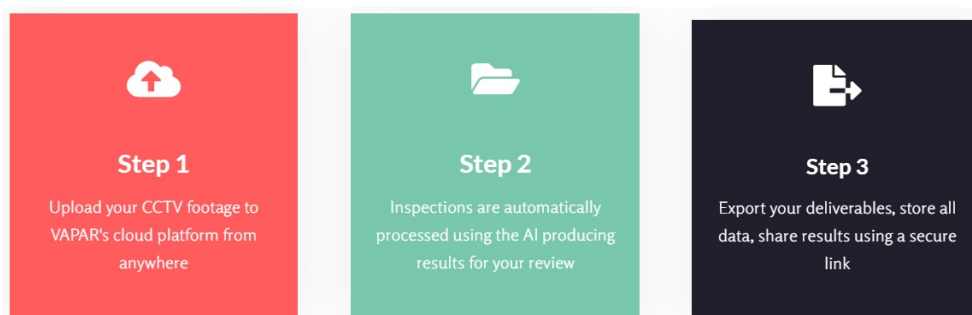
## HOW CAN VAPAR HELP IMPROVE THE CURRENT SCENARIO?

In the current situation, which demands a rethink on how to manage the pipe infrastructure in the best possible ways, one company that can help revolutionise the way pipe infrastructure management is VAPAR.

Fuelled by its mission to automate manual tasks in asset management, VAPAR is delivering the right technology with an end-to-end solution for smart pipe management. Notably, VAPAR is a cloud platform that automates condition assessment directly from pipe CCTV

footage.

Since its inception in 2018, VAPAR has helped water utilities, CCTV contractors, councils, and cities from Australia, New Zealand, and the UK to digitise, standardise and centralise their data. Thus, they are able to inspect larger sections of their networks and deliver better services to their customers. The detailed objective data provided by VAPAR thereby reduces the risk of unplanned repairs.



Source: © VAPAR Website

## WHAT ARE THE SALIENT FEATURES OF VAPAR SUPERSCRIPT TM?

VAPAR platform can upgrade the way councils and cities execute their wastewater infrastructure repair and

maintenance plans. It is possible owing to the smart capabilities of VAPAR. Solutions™, which include the following:

- **Machine learning and AI-** VAPAR.Solutions™ is powered by machine learning and automatically codes inspection footage to identify and classify defects.
- **Inspection workflow manager-** Users can manage their projects using the inspection workflow manager and export reports in multiple formats.
- **Cloud Storage-** With Microsoft Azure cloud, users can be sure that their entire data is secure. Moreover, one can also share results internally or externally with a secure link.

## WHAT ARE THE KEY BENEFITS OFFERED BY VAPAR?

VAPAR users enjoy superior accuracy in tracking maintenance and repair requirements for this infrastructure. Be it water utilities, CCTV contractors or councils and cities – VAPAR can help

them save time, money, and prevent asset downtime.

Key benefits offered by VAPAR include:

- **Improving Assessment and Inspection Processes**
- **Streamlining and Optimising Your Budgets**
- **Maintaining Asset Condition**
- **Optimising Maintenance and Repairs**
- **Less Time Onsite**
- **Improving Workforce Efficiency**
- **Deliver Faster, Invoice Faster**

# INVICTUS GEARED UP TO DRILL ONE OF THE LARGEST OIL & GAS PROSPECTS GLOBALLY



By Sukriti Priya

Invictus Energy Limited (ASX:IVZ) is an independent oil and gas explorer focused on high-impact energy resources in sub-Saharan Africa. The Company's asset portfolio consists of a highly prospective area covering 250,000 acres within the Cabora Bassa Basin in Zimbabwe, one of the last undrilled oil and gas basins in Africa.

Invictus is the owner and operator of SG 4571 Cabora Bassa asset and enjoys a first-mover advantage in the under-explored basin. While the Southern African energy crisis remains to be a pressing concern, Invictus has been progressing the Cabora Bassa Project, which can have national significance for

Zimbabwe and its people and potentially a major energy supplier to the region.

Notably, the Muzarabani Prospect is the largest undrilled conventional oil and gas prospect onshore Africa with 8.2Tcf + 247 million barrels of conventional gas-condensate<sup>1</sup> (~1.6 billion boe), which is independently verified. The potential of Invictus' acreage is truly staggering for a company of its size.

Invictus recently completed the Cabora Bassa 2021 seismic survey and is now preparing for a high-impact basin opening drilling campaign, expected to commence in June 2022.



A shot from CB21 Seismic Survey

Source- Invictus' December 2021 Quarterly Report, Jan 2022

## RECENT MILESTONES

The past 12 months have been truly transformative for Invictus as the company achieved several significant

milestones to advance the project. Some of these milestones are as below:

- Signing the Petroleum Exploration Development and Production Agreement (PEDPA) with the Government of Zimbabwe
- The renewal of the SG 4571 licence for a further three years to June 2024
- Completing 840 line km of 2D infill seismic to refine the Muzarabani-1 well location and identify further prospectivity
- Appointing its Drilling Contract Manager in Aztech Well Services
- Securing long lead drilling items for a 2 well program
- Executing rig contract with Exalo Drilling S.A for Rig 202 to drill in June 2022
- Awarding BakerHughes an integrated well service contract for the drilling program

The CB21 Seismic Survey, which acquired 840 line-kms of high quality 2D data, was achieved perfectly with >142,000 hours of LTI and incident-free operations. Importantly, the initial processing results of the seismic acquisition have generated high-quality data uncovering a variety of structural and stratigraphic features offering for a target-rich environment for the upcoming drilling program.

Early results from CB21 survey processing are highly encouraging, particularly the strong amplitude anomalies and potential Direct Hydrocarbon Indicators observed in the

Muzarabani structure and along the basin margin fault.

Besides, in the December 2021 quarter, Invictus commenced trading on the OTCQB under the symbol 'IVCTF', a milestone that paves way for increase in liquidity via North American-based investors. It also executed a farm-in option agreement with Cluff Energy Africa and sealed an MoU deal with EXALO Drilling SA to drill the Muzarabani-1 exploration well. There is an option for an additional exploration well for the basin opening drilling campaign, which is expected to commence in June 2022.





Exalo IRI 1200 Drilling Rig

Source- Invictus' December 2021 Quarterly Report, Jan 2022

## AN ACTION-PACKED FUTURE

Invictus' technical work is expected to progress over the next few months, enabling the Company to quantify the additional potential of its licence area. Also, it is expected to add materially to the already world-class prospective resource base.

An exciting period awaits the Company as it moves towards a basin opening drilling campaign. The year 2022 will be incredibly important as the Cabora Bassa Project progresses further, starting with the exciting basin opening two-

well drilling campaign including drilling the world class Muzarabani-1 well in June. Besides, planning of a second exploration well location and extended licence area discussions are also under way.

***Invictus is incredibly well-placed to achieve significant, accretive milestones during 2022 with a number of key catalysts powering its growth.***

# 05

## HERE'S WHY FUEL PRICES ARE SCALING MULTI-YEAR HIGHS



By Nitish Kumar



Source: © 2022 Kalkine Media®

Crude oil prices have once again started to haunt the world, albeit the producers are rejoicing. Since December 2021, the price of the 'liquid gold' has surged by nearly ~66%, as on 2 March 2022. The WTI crude surpassed the psychological level of US\$100/bbl. Some market analysts and pundits are optimistic that

the prices may breach the US\$150/bbl level.

Rising crude oil prices are driving fuel prices higher and adding to inflation woes. The US recently announced its inflation figures, which is at the highest levels in 40 years.

## UKRAINE CRISIS ADDING FUEL TO FIRE

The world is on a standstill and closely watching the developments on the Russia and Ukraine standoff. Russia has stationed thousands of troops on the Ukrainian border. The US has also sent troops to the troubled region and has put more troops on standby.

Russia is a major crude oil producer and exporter and also a member of OPEC+. For long, Russia has used its gas pipelines for a geopolitical edge over Europe. The country exports crude oil not only to Europe but also to the US.





Source: ID 79905888 © Alphaspirlit|Megapixl.com

NATO members and the US are threatening Russia with sanctions if it goes into a war with Ukraine. In the event of sanctions, it will be tough for Russia to

supply oil and gas to the EU and US. This could lead to supply constraints, and crude oil prices may see a further spike.

## **TROUBLES IN THE MIDDLE EAST PUTTING MORE PRESSURE ON SUPPLY**

The fight between the Houthi militant group and United Arab Emirates is taking a toll on lives every day. The militants, on several occasions, have succeeded in attacking the oil facilities in UAE, causing supply disruptions. The militant group are using drones to target oil storage tankers. The recent attacks on ADNOC's fuel trucks killed three people and sent crude oil prices to their highest in seven years.

Meanwhile, the US and Iran have resumed indirect talks to revive the nuclear deal in Vienna. If the talks culminate in some sort of settlement, it is possible that the US may lift sanctions imposed on Iran. This will help Iran to sell its crude oil to any buyers in the world.

However, the nuclear agreement is not likely to be signed any time soon. There will be several rounds of talk

and negotiations before reaching any conclusion. So, the market is of the view that it is not likely that Vienna talks could affect the sentiments any time soon.

Also, the UAE is a close ally of the US, and the Houthi groups enjoy support from Iran- a geopolitical issue that endangers peace in the region.

## OPEC PUMPING LESS OIL



Source: © Bulus | Megapixl.com

OPEC's Monthly Oil Market Report (MOMR) for the February edition shows that the oil cartel produced 27.98 million barrels of oil per day during January 2022, an uptick of 64K barrels per day from the previous month.

The demand for crude oil started picking up during the second half of 2020 and continued throughout 2021. OPEC members decided that they would reach the pre-pandemic level of production

gradually in stages. Based on their agreement, the group was expected to add 254K barrels every day since January 2022.

However, they fell short of their target and the demand persisted despite the Omicron threat, which caused the prices to start surging.



# 06

## **DECODING THE HYPE: WHAT EXACTLY IS THE METAVERSE?**



**By Daniel Paul Johns**



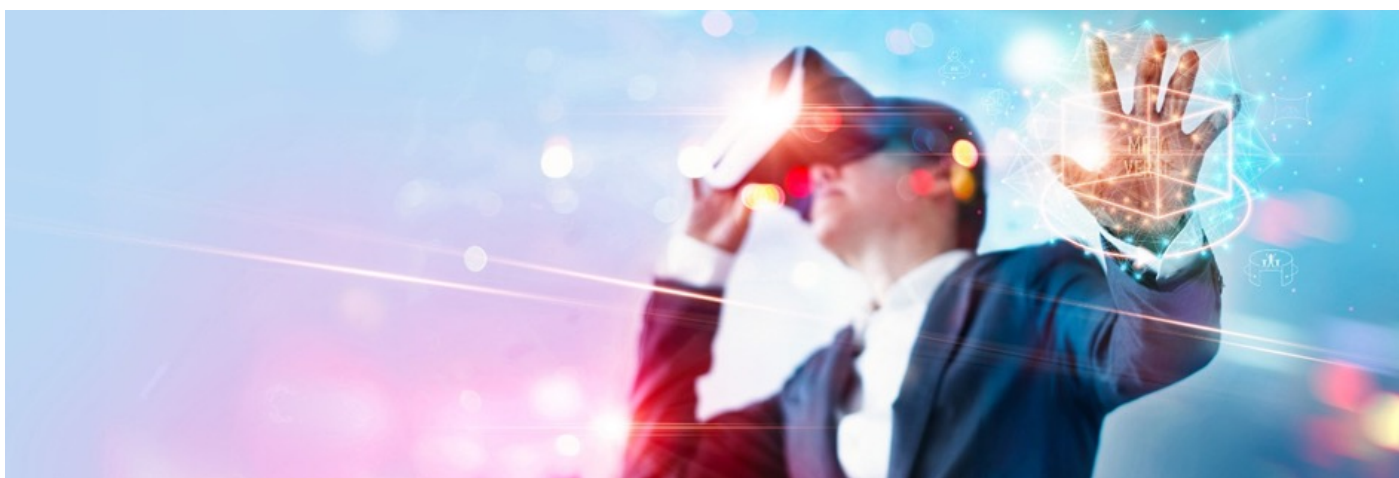
Source: © Skypixel | Megapixl.com

What is the metaverse? This question has apparently become the talk of the town, of late.

This is largely due to the fact that the metaverse rose to prominence towards the later part of 2021 as the public's

fascination hit peak levels in October.

It was around this time that Meta (formerly Facebook) CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced his plans to take his company into the metaverse space.



Source: © lpopba | Megapixl.com

## SO, WHAT ON EARTH IS THE METAVERSE?

The metaverse has been around long before Zuckerberg made his announcement, although Meta's foray into the metaverse may be more catered to Web3.

The metaverse is an online virtual space where people from all over the world can meet and do business.

If you've seen Steven Spielberg's 2018 sci-fi movie – Ready Player One – this is a pretty good representation of what the metaverse is supposed to be.

## METaverse TOKENS

There are already several forms of the metaverse existing outside of Meta's development. For example, Decentraland is a fully decentralised world with no central authority.

Rather, Decentraland's metaverse is controlled by a decentralised autonomous organisation, where users control the policies that determine how the world behaves.

Decentraland also has its decentralised cryptocurrency called MANA, which can be exchanged on cryptocurrency exchanges for other currencies. The value of MANA exploded last year and was one of the best performing tokens in the crypto space.

Similarly, the Sandbox also has its own metaverse, which also drew considerable popularity last year. Its native token, SAND, was also one of the best performing cryptos in the crypto space last year.

What makes Meta's latest effort to develop its own metaverse so confusing is it seems to go against the very tenets that make the metaverse what it is.

If the metaverse is supposed to be a space with no controlling centralised players, then doesn't Meta (which currently owns and operates Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp) undermine that ideal?

## WHAT WILL THE METaverse LOOK LIKE?

We're still at the nascent stage of the metaverse. As time goes by, the metaverse will likely turn into something unimaginable. Soon, a user will be able to put on a virtual reality headset and attend a sporting event being held in another country.

Instead of watching a movie, the user will be able to be a part of the movie. The world will be rebuilt and reimagined as technology becomes stronger and more prominent in the culture.

07

# ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT OPTIMUS, TESLA'S HUMANOID ROBOT



By Aayush Khanna

## MEET OPTIMUS: TESLA'S HUMANOID ROBOT

The largest automaker in the world, Tesla, is gearing up to diversify into the human robot space, also known as humanoids. During Tesla's earnings call on 26 January 2022, its chief Elon Musk said "[humanoid robot] is the most important product development we're doing this year".

Internally named as 'Optimus', this human robot looks very similar in

appearance to a human body, with a full structure consisting of two legs, two arms and a head. With a height of approximately 173 centimetres and weighing 57 kilograms, Optimus would be able to lift weights of up to 20 kilograms, according to a presentation given by Tesla in August 2021.



Source: © L9871456 | Megapixl.com

The humanoid's primary purpose is to carry out mundane and dangerous tasks. To be run on voice commands, this humanoid is also expected to complement Tesla self-driving cars. The robots will leverage Tesla's experience with automation technologies that help in powering its cars' Autopilot driver assistance system.

Musk's humanoid project might have

come as a surprise to many, considering his views on the serious risks of AI-powered robots. Musk has in past voiced his concerns about AI-powered robots, which he considers as a risk that might someday go out of control and overpower human beings. However, in his presentation last year, he said these humanoids will be designed to be "friendly" and only at a mechanical level,



so that “you can run away from it, and most likely overpower it”.

However, Tesla isn't the only one trying to get a first-mover advantage in the mass production of humanoids. Ameca by Engineered Arts, which currently claims to be the world's most advanced humanoid, is also progressing rapidly. This robot is equipped with Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, giving it capabilities of voice and facial recognition capabilities.

Another humanoid in the fray is Digit by Agility Robotics, which can perform basic human functions such as running, walking, lifting packages, navigating its way around without bumping into something, etc. Although, still in testing phase, Ford, which is its first customer, is currently testing it in its warehouse.

## Previous Versions



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