



Fossil Fool Bulletin

Fossil fools in the spotlight this week: A resource for people working to end the fossil fuel era in Australia

Published by Eve Sinton • fossil.fool.bulletin@gmail.com

FFB 2:30 • 5 JULY 2019

Global LNG boom belches methane, powers greenhouse gas emissions

Global Energy Monitor has released a report this week, warning that the world-wide boom in the liquid natural gas (LNG) industry is driving the planet's climate emergency, yet risks becoming a stranded asset.

Through a massive increase in port-side infrastructure, floating offshore terminals, and oceangoing LNG vessels, the natural gas industry is seeking to restructure itself from a collection of regional markets into a wider and more integrated global system.

If successful, this transformation would lock in much higher levels of natural gas production through mid-century – seemingly a win for the industry – except that the falling cost of renewable alternatives will make many of these projects unprofitable in the long term, and put much of the US\$1.3 trillion being invested in this global gas expansion at risk.

Such an expansion is also incompatible with the IPCC's warning that, in order to limit warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, gas use must decline 15% by 2030 and 43% by 2050, relative to 2020.

A wake-up call for WA

Conservation Council of WA (CCWA) Director Piers Versteegen said the report was a "very loud wake up call for our community, government, and investors that WA's expanding gas industry is not the climate solution that some have been pretending.

"WA is the epicentre of LNG expansion in Australia, and this makes WA global-



*Chevron's Wheatstone liquid natural gas (LNG) project in the Pilbara.
Photo: Conservation Council of WA*

ly significant in efforts to avoid further and more dangerous climate change.

"In the same way that Australians have an international responsibility to stop new coal developments like Adani, this report shows very clearly that we must do everything we can to get WA's rapidly rising carbon pollution from LNG under control, and prevent further growth in the industry.

"The good news is that controlling pollution from existing LNG projects can create thousands of jobs for Western Australians in clean industries such as renewable energy, tree planting, and

carbon farming. But LNG companies continue to block action in order to protect their profits.

"WA LNG companies like Woodside and Chevron are not only the biggest polluters in WA, but they are also the biggest blockers of action on climate change.

Emissions worse than coal

Lock the Gate Alliance national coordinator Naomi Hogan said the report should put to rest the myth that

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• P3: New resource reveals deception

• P4: AGL swaps ship for Crib Pt project

• P4: CSG drains farm water supplies

Global Energy Monitor reveals LNG industry to become stranded asset

• Continued from p1

unconventional gas could be used as a “transition fuel” away from coal.

“The gas industry and its backers must now accept that coal seam and shale gas are dirty forms of energy that must be avoided going forward,” she said.

“What this new report shows is that emissions from methane produced during the gas extraction and transport process pose an increasing threat, potentially worse than coal.

“Investing in new gas infrastructure is putting us on a path of dangerous pollution and is turbo charging extreme weather which is already taking a toll on Australia – on our agricultural producers and our communities.

“Unfortunately, the Northern Territory, Queensland, and Western Australian Governments remain gung-ho on gas, and the NSW Government still hasn’t moved to protect key farming land.

“There are at least 21,000 coal seam gas wells planned for Queensland’s Western Downs alone, while fracking rigs are poised to roll into the NT and WA, plus the Narrabri gas proposal is still a live consideration in north-west NSW.”

Report highlights

The report provides the results of a worldwide survey of LNG terminals completed by the Global Fossil Infrastructure Tracker. It includes the following highlights:

- Methane, the chief component in natural gas, is responsible for 25% of global warming to date.
- Measured by global warming impacts, the scale of the LNG expansion under development is as large or greater than the expansion of coal-fired power plants, posing a direct challenge to Paris climate goals.
- Due to falling costs of renewable alternatives, the expansion of LNG infrastructure faces questions of long-term financial viability and stranded asset risk. However, since only 8% of terminal capacity under development has entered construction, there is still time to avoid overbuilding.
- At least 202 LNG terminal projects are in development worldwide, including 116 export terminals and 86 import terminals.
- LNG export terminals are under development in 20 countries, of which Canada and the US account for 74% of proposed new capacity. If built, LNG terminals in pre-construction and



LNG tanker, *Energy Progress*, taking on cargo at Darwin LNG Terminal, Northern Territory. Photo: Ken Hodge

construction would increase current global export capacity threefold.

• LNG import terminals are in development in 42 countries, of which 22 have no current import capacity. Capacity expansion is focused on the Asia Pacific Region.

• Overall, LNG terminals in development represent capital outlays of US\$1.3 trillion, of which 70% is for North American export terminals and 6% is for Asia-Pacific import terminals. In terms of capital outlays for import and export terminals combined, the top ten countries are United States (\$507 billion), Canada (\$410 billion), Russia (\$86 billion), Australia (\$38 billion), Tanzania (\$25 billion), China (\$24 billion), Indonesia (\$24 billion), Mozambique (\$23 billion), Iran (\$21 billion), and Papua New Guinea (\$17 billion).

Despite its price tag (\$1.3 trillion) and its role in the climate crisis, the expansion of LNG infrastructure has received relatively little scrutiny in terms of stranded asset risk. But attention to stranded asset issues is rising due to increased cost pressure on natural gas by renewable alternatives.

In its 12th annual levelised cost of energy study, Lazard Bank reported that unsubsidized solar PV is now cheaper or comparable in cost to natural gas peaking power in all economies stud-

ied, including the US, Australia, Brazil, India, South Africa, Japan, and Northern Europe. Similarly, wind power is now cheaper or comparable in cost to combined cycle gas turbines across the same set of countries.

A 2018 study by Rocky Mountain Institute concluded that US power system portfolios built around renewables and distributed energy resources will offer the same grid reliability at lower cost as gas generators by 2026 at gas prices of \$5 per million Btu, or by 2040 at \$3 per million Btu. Such a shift would place hundreds of billions of dollars of relatively new gas plants in jeopardy of becoming stranded assets

The report concludes that, given the climate mandate that natural gas be scaled back over the next decade, not to mention the risk to investors of stranded assets and financial losses from overbuilding, a sensible approach to the question of LNG terminal expansion would be a moratorium on further construction.

• The report can be downloaded here:

<https://globalenergymonitor.org/reports/>

New resource reveals fossil industry deception

The recently launched Fossil Fuel Industry Documents collection at the University of California's Industry Documents Library provides an essential complement to 15 million, and growing, internal industry documents from the tobacco, food, pharmaceutical, and chemical industries.

This new set of documents provides key evidence regarding what the fossil fuel industry knew regarding the catastrophic impacts climate change and its predicted time horizon, when they knew, and how these companies used every means possible to protect themselves and their shareholders at the expense of everyone else.

Parallels with tobacco industry

On every front, academics, journalists, and policymakers compare the fossil fuel industry to the tobacco industry.

The strategies of delay, exculpating blame by making the consumer responsible, denying scientific consensus, conducting important science purposefully buried while publishing industry-promoting and -funded science, and fostering public confusion over the real impacts of their products, are common in the histories of both tobacco and fossil fuel companies.

A major difference between the two industries, however, is the timescale and scope of the harms caused. While public health professionals are well underway in coordinated efforts for a "tobacco endgame" – reducing smoking and tobacco prevalence to five percent of the population or less, with the possibility of ending the tobacco

epidemic in certain areas within a couple decades – even if all fossil fuel production and consumption ended today, the fallout from the fifty years of delay caused by industry obfuscation will have ramifications for humans and other species for centuries or even millennia.

If disruptive climate change continues unabated, the impacts on the planet may be essentially irreversible, at least as far as any humanly relevant scale.

UCSF's collection of Fossil Fuel Industry documents highlight the mechanisms that have been used to thwart concerted action.

A key aspect of this was the early knowledge the fossil fuels industry had about the ramifying consequences of unabated anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, and the contrast between this and their public stance. For example, Exxon and other fossil fuel companies' own research showed in the 1960s, 70s, and 80s that a doubling of anthropogenic atmospheric CO₂ would likely cause "major shifts in rainfall/agriculture," polar ice melt, coupled with "3°C global average temperature rise and 10°C at poles."

Yet they doubled-down on business-as-usual policies of continued and even intensified fossil fuel extraction of oil, gas, and coal, and spent significant amounts of money to create the impression in public that the science was highly uncertain. It is not that these companies were not aware of the opportunities to work towards mitigating the runaway global warming they were precipitating and shifting the direction

of their energy companies towards less greenhouse gas polluting sources; they just time and again refused to do so.

Historians and public health professionals working with documents from various industries have documented the parallels and links between tobacco and climate change.

In some cases the parallels are virtually exact, as sentences such as "emphasise the uncertainty in scientific conclusions," as one internal Exxon memo from 1988 concluded, echo the famous tobacco industry document "Doubt is our Product."

Conflicts of interest revealed

These documents also highlight the relationships between industry and government and the conflicts of interest that develop when government and industry are intertwined.

One notices, for example, a persistent revolving door between government and the fossil fuel industry, of which ExxonMobil CEO Rex Tillerson's brief tenure as the US Secretary of State is but one instance.

These documents provide insight into how and why industry decisions get made not because of but despite science. While the documents are US focused, the patterns revealed are often applicable globally, because most large oil and gas companies operate internationally.

• **This report is based on a blog by Yogi Hale Hendlin and Naomi Oreskes. The documents can be viewed at:**

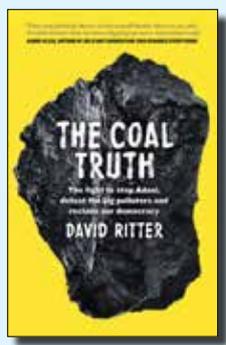
<https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/>



The Coal Truth: the fight to stop Adani, defeat the big polluters and reclaim our democracy (\$29.99)

A timely and colourful contribution to one of the most important struggles in our national history – over the future of the coal industry.

Contributors include Tara Moss and Berndt Sellheim, Adrian Burragubba, Lesley Hughes, John Quiggin, Hilary Bambrick, Ruchira Talukdar and Geoffrey Cousins. Lead author is David Ritter, CEO, Greenpeace Australia Pacific.



Interview: CSG on the Darling Downs

Karen Auty talks about the CSG water that goes into the Chinchilla drinking water supply, the health impacts on gasfield residents, the visits by politicians and government reps who then do nothing to help, the buyouts, the make good agreements, the industry and its private health service plus more.

Recommended listening!

<https://soundcloud.com/nwpa/karen-auty-interview-150318-in-chinchilla>

AGL changes gas import plan

AGL's proposed gas import terminal at Crib Point, Victoria, will be delayed by a year. The company has decided on a different type of floating storage and regasification unit, the Hoegh Esperanza.

AGL originally planned to dump up to 450,000,000 litres of toxic chlorinated wastewater daily into Westernport's internationally significant wetlands. They tried to lobby Victoria's Environment Protection Authority to change a wastewater policy that could have blocked the original gas import terminal, a vessel named Hoegh Giant.

Westernport Bay is home to dozens of threatened and migratory species.

Environment Victoria Campaigns Manager Dr Nicholas Aberle said, "AGL's shift to the Esperanza floating storage and regasification unit reveals that they are now actively considering using a 'closed loop' system to heat up the liquefied gas.

"The 'open loop' system would dump millions of litres of toxic chlorinated water into Westernport Bay, but the 'closed loop' would significantly increase the greenhouse gas emissions associated with this project.

"AGL is attempting to reduce the impact of its project on the local marine environment, which is positive, but they still can't escape damaging the climate through liquefying and transporting gas – gas which may have actually been exported from Australia in the first place.

"The smarter alternative is reducing gas consumption, not expanding supply, so neither Westernport Bay nor the climate need to be damaged.

This could cut millions of tonnes of CO2 from Victoria and help homes and businesses save on their energy bills.

"AGL's terminal would acquire gas at international prices, so importing gas will do nothing to reduce gas prices in Australia. High prices are here to stay.

"Gas is mostly used to create heat, and for most applications there are now more efficient and cheaper options that involve using electricity. Using renewable electricity makes this a cheaper and much cleaner alternative to gas for homes and businesses.

"We call on the Andrews government to now scale-up efforts to support homes and businesses to shift away from gas. For many manufacturers, this will be their best chance of remaining competitive in a new world of permanently high gas prices.

"AGL is not pursuing this project to help consumers. They are pursuing it to boost their profits, and they are asking the community around Westernport Bay and the environment itself to pay the cost."

The Hoegh Esperanza was originally destined for a Chilean import terminal that was rejected on environmental grounds.

FFB

STOP WATER MINING
THE NEXT RESOURCES BATTLE



CSG drains farm water supplies

The predicted drawdown on 574 water bores relied on by Queensland farmers as a result of coal seam gas drilling will have a disastrous impact on the state's agricultural sector, community wellbeing, and the environment.

The estimated number of water bores to be impacted in the coming years is contained in the latest draft Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment's (OGIA) Underground Water Impacts Report Report for the Surat Basin.

The report also found 60,000 megalitres of groundwater was being extracted by the CSG industry each year in the Surat Basin.

Lock the Gate Queensland spokesperson Ellie Smith said at least 101 bores had been identified that would be impacted in the next three years, with that number expected to dramatically increase if the CSG industry expanded as planned.

"Since the last OGIA report in 2016, the existing and planned CSG production area on the Western Downs has increased by 17 per cent, with a total of about 21,000 CSG wells now projected," she said.

"This will drain a staggering 574 bores post 2021, and condemn many farmers to water insecurity in a region already plagued by the crippling impacts of drought.

"This will have a devastating flow on effect to the economies of the Western Downs that have historically relied on agriculture - we know that for every 10 people employed in the gas industry, we lose 18 from agriculture."

Smith said reports there were still at least 30 outstanding 'make good arrangements' for drained bores was deeply concerning.

"The CSG industry treats Queensland farmers with contempt," she said.

"This invasive and divisive industry is having an irreparable impact on a region that is home to some of Queensland's most fertile farming country."

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<https://www.thebentleyeffect.com/>

In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 18,200 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/deadline-set-for-royalties-deal-between-adani-and-palaszczuk-govt/news-story/>

Deadline set for royalties deal between Adani and Palaszczuk Govt

Sarah Vogler, *Courier-Mail*, 28/06/2019

A royalties agreement must be struck between Adani and the Palaszczuk Government for the coal it will mine from its Galilee Basin site by September 30.

Article quotes an Adani spokeswoman saying, "Details of the royalties agreement are commercial-in-confidence. The royalties agreement has no impact on our ability to continue progressing with construction works."

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/brisbane-protests-cost-of-disruption-caused-by-environmentalists-revealed/news-story/>

Brisbane protests: Cost of disruption caused by environmentalists revealed

Alexandria Utting, Michael Wray, Sarah Matthews & Andrea Macleod, *Courier-Mail*, 28/06/2019

Serial protesters who stopped traffic on one of the city's busiest bridges at peak hour by locking themselves inside a canoe have been fined by a Brisbane court.

Article says James Alexander Masson and Eric Serge Herbert, both of Extinction Rebellion, locked themselves inside a canoe on Victoria Bridge. They were fined \$500 and \$600 respectively. A Rebellion Day Brisbane is planned for August 6.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/bob-brown-seeks-500000-to-train-antiadani-activists/news-story/3e5d1f33ff13cc7c0fe3612cc4575fb4>

Bob Brown seeks \$500,000 to train anti-Adani activists

Elias Visontay, *Guardian*, 02/07/2019

Former Greens leader Bob Brown has launched a last-ditch effort to halt the planned Adani coal mine, rallying supporters to raise half a million dollars to purchase land to establish a base to train activists and plan protests against the mine.

Article says \$500,000 is sought to set up a base for the campaign at Binbee to train activists and plan protests.



The Bob Brown Foundation says, "We have just put a few of these Black-throated Finch tote bags up on our online store. Printed in Australia on 100% organic cotton.

"Illustration by the beloved First Dog on the Moon. All proceeds directly support our campaigns. Available here:"

<https://www.bobbrown.org.au/onlinestore>

The aim is to have thousands of people on the front-line of Adani protests.

"Mass civil disobedience is our last position to stop Adani in one of the biggest environmental battles in Australian history," the fundraising page said.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/police-warn-adani-protesters-could-bring-chaos-to-brisbane/news-story/81ffc12089dd88fc808037a3612d59e1>

Police warn Adani protesters could bring chaos to Brisbane

Domanii Cameron, *Courier-Mail*, 04/07/2019

An anti-Adani protest could wreak havoc on peak hour traffic in Brisbane's CBD Friday (June 5) with police

urging people to consider their travel plans.

The Stop The City To Stop Adani, Again! event is scheduled for two hours, starting from 5pm at Brisbane Square. ...

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jul/01/toxic-coal-waste-found-to-be-a-ticking-time-bomb-across-australia>

Toxic coal waste found to be a 'ticking time bomb' across Australia

Adam Morton, *Guardian*, 01/07/2019

A new report by Environmental Justice Australia, a not-for-profit legal group formerly known as the Victorian En-

Environment Defenders Office, says coal ash problems at Lake Macquarie are an example of a wider problem: poor management of, and limited publicly available information about, health risks associated with ash dams at the country's coal plants.

The findings are dismissed by some in the energy industry, who say the report is part of a long-running campaign to shut down coal-fired electricity due to concern about climate change. ...

It is estimated more than 400m tonnes of coal ash are stored across Australia, increasing by between 10m and 12m tonnes a year.

The report says toxins in coal ash have been linked to asthma, heart disease, cancer, respiratory disease and stroke. ...

It says there have been problems at ash dams in every mainland state, including a history of groundwater or river contamination in Victoria and a failure to line dumps to prevent leaching in the Hunter Valley. ...

Environmental Justice Australia says the most poorly constructed ash dams should be moved and the existing sites cleaned up. It says all jurisdictions should introduce bonds to ensure landfill dumps are properly managed. ...

<https://www.lithgowmercury.com.au/story/6252026/concerns-arise-over-turning-gardens-of-stone-into-tourist-destination/>

Unionist and environmentalists come together to discuss Destination Pagoda

Ciara Bastow, Lithgow Mercury, 02/07/2019

The Gardens of Stone National Park near Lithgow could become a major

tourist destination, bringing more jobs and boosting the economy. ...

The Destination Pagoda plan calls for the region to be declared a state conservation area in order to protect its pagodas and swamps and permit underground coal mining at the same time.

The plan – created by the Colong Foundation, Blue Mountains Conservation Society and Lithgow Environment Group – focuses on the state forest areas of: Ben Bullen, Wolgan, Newnes and the Maiyingu Marragu Aboriginal Place.

Environmentalist Jenine Kitson said if this world-class destination was a state conservation area, the surface would be protected while allowing for responsible underground mining to continue. ...

OIL & GAS LEAKS

<https://www.news-mail.com.au/news/water-sources-are-facing-depletion-csg-activity/3768670/>

Water sources are facing depletion from CSG activity

Jorja McDonnell, News Mail, 02/07/2019

Vital water supplies in the Maranoa could face depletion in the coming years as bores in the Surat Basin feel the effects of coal seam gas production.

The latest independent report from the Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment (OGIA) has identified 101 bores within the Surat Basin – primarily in the Roma, Injune, Wandoan, Miles and Chinchilla areas – which will experience the impacts of CSG activity in the next three years. ...

From 2021 onwards, the number of impacted bores in the long-term is expected to jump to 574, as water extraction for gas production continues.

The research also shows all 101 bores affected in the short term will be subject to make-good agreements, where gas companies are obligated to make up for the damage done. ...

Article quotes rural advocate AgForce saying, "We know from the 2016 report there are still 30 outstanding make-good agreements yet to be concluded out of 123 identified bores.

"This shortfall in finalised agreements indicates further improvements are required so that the system is timely, effective and fair."

<https://www.thechronicle.com.au/news/csg-ruined-six-my-bores-hundreds-be-affected/3770439/?c-spt=1562195347jfc4602ff595d1ac57b9b7a632bcada9d>

'CSG ruined six of my bores', hundreds to be affected

Brooke Duncan, The Chronicle, 03/07/2019

When CSG workers first arrived at Brian Bender's Chinchilla property, he was told there would be little – if any – impact on his groundwater.

Fast forward to 2019 and Bender's water bores are just a few of hundreds that have been depleted by the resource industry.

Article says six of his water bores have been decommissioned – three were impacted by draw-down, and three more were affected by free gas which made them unsafe to use.

Bender said the gas industry is taking unsustainable amounts of water.

Modelling predicts it will be at least 200 years before water standing levels return to what they were before the onset of the gas industry.

Questions have been raised about the impacts of contamination from the Linc Energy site, where three bores are predicted to drop by 120-160 metres, potentially moving contamination from the site.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/climate-friend-or-carbon-bomb-global-gas-market-faces-1-3trn-stranded-asset-risk-80593/>

Climate friend or carbon bomb? Global gas market faces \$1.3trn stranded asset risk

Michael Mazengarb, Renew Economy, 03/07/2019

The global gas market will need to slow the pace of its growth, to avoid



The Gardens of Stone National Park. Photo: Colong Wilderness Foundation

both the risk of stranded assets and to prevent further increases to global emissions, a new report from US-based think tank Global Energy Monitor has found.

In the report, Global Energy Monitor has warned that up to US\$1.3 trillion in new LNG export and import infrastructure currently under development is at significant risk of becoming stranded, as the world market for gas risks becoming oversupplied, particularly if the United States and Canada play a larger role. ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/awu-to-press-mckay-on-labor-s-misguided-narrabri-stance-20190703-p523ps>

AWU to press McKay on Labor's 'misguided' Narrabri stance

Angela Macdonald-Smith & David Marin-Guzman, AFR, 03/07/2019

New NSW Labor leader Jodi McKay is set to face pressure from the Australian Workers' Union to reverse her party's pre-election blanket opposition to Santos's \$3 billion Narrabri coal seam gas project, the development of which could secure the future of thousands of manufacturing jobs.

An AWU spokesman said the union was looking forward to "constructive discussions" with Ms McKay and her team as the union sought a shift in Labor's "misguided" position. ...

IMPORT INSANITY

<https://www.heraldsun.com.au/business/crib-point-gas-set-back-for-prickly-energy-project/news-story/ff55268f9737eb58b957c498cb913a1b>

Crib Point gas: Setback for prickly energy project

Peter Taylor, Herald Sun, 28/06/2019

One of Australia's biggest energy companies has flagged delays in the development of its controversial giant gas terminal off the Mornington Peninsula.

In a reprieve for locals angered by the project, AGL Energy says it now expects to start taking gas deliveries at Crib Point in 2022 – a year later than expected.

Article says AGL was originally planning to use a floating terminal named Hoegh Giant, but will now use Hoegh Esperanza.

The outcome of a government environmental review will not be known until next year.

AGL has yet to make a final investment decision on the project.



Hoegh Esperanza, the floating gas import terminal which AGL now plans to use at Crib Point, instead of the Hoegh Giant. It is understood the Esperanza uses gas, instead of seawater, to re-gasify LNG. It will create more carbon emissions, but won't be releasing tonnes of chilled, chlorinated water into the surrounding Ramsar-listed wetlands. Photo: Marinetrain.com

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/agl-flags-lng-import-delay/news-story/5f77a97c11a3e7f418290fdd10de38b4>

AGL flags LNG import delay

Robb M Stewart, Dow Jones, Aus, 28/06/2019

AGL Energy has pushed back the timeline for the natural-gas import facility it plans to build in Victoria as it works through the environmental process. ...

Article says the Crib Point project envisages between 12 and 40 LNG ships a year mooring alongside the Esperanza regasification unit to unload LNG.

<https://www.theage.com.au/politics/victoria/agl-delays-victorian-gas-import-hub-over-environmental-concerns-20190628-p5228a.html>

AGL delays Victorian gas import hub over environmental concerns

Adam Carey, Age, 28/06/2019

Energy giant AGL has pushed back the start date on its environmentally contentious proposal to build a huge floating gas import terminal in Western Port, south-east of Melbourne, by at least a year. ...

Article says the delay in the start date is due to AGL's decision to select the Hoegh Esperanza as its floating hub. The South Korean-built Hoegh Esperanza was bound for a gas import terminal in Chile, but that project has reportedly been delayed due to environmental concerns.

The Crib Point proposal has drawn strong community and political opposition with local MP Greg Hunt saying

he opposes the project on environmental grounds.

Bruce Robertson, an investment analyst with the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, is quoted, saying the project was unjustifiable both on economic and environmental grounds.

"It is extremely expensive and energy intensive to liquefy gas, and if you have one environmental bone in your body it's an abomination," Robertson said.

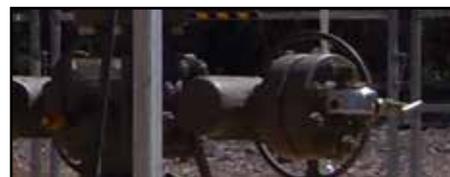
<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/agl-suffers-further-delay-in-lng-import-project-20190628-p5229d>

AGL suffers further delay in LNG import project

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 28/06/2019

Stringent requirements for data in the approvals process for AGL Energy's \$250 million gas import terminal in Victoria have delayed the contentious project by about another year, triggering fresh calls from opponents for the controversial project to be ditched.

Article quotes Save Westernport president Louise Page saying the project should be scrapped entirely and called for AGL to build its future on renewables.



<http://mpnews.com.au/2019/07/02/gas-delay-an-opportunity/>

Gas delay an 'opportunity'

Keith Platt, *Mornington Peninsula News*, 02/07/2019

An announcement that AGL is delaying its plans to import gas through Crib Point by one year has renewed calls for the power companies and governments to work towards "a real renewable energy future".

"The delay comes amid nationwide fury that Australians are paying some of the highest gas prices in the world while Australia remains the number one gas exporter," Save Westernport president Louise Page said. ...

Success of the proposal also depends on the building of a gas pipeline from Crib Point to Pakenham, which is also being opposed because of its use of farmland. ...

NUKE MADNESS

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/inquirer/report-argues-for-the-nuclear-energy-option/news-story/f3fa4be-fb3d68cedc01c6735d467976>

The nuclear option

Graham Lloyd, *Aus*, 03/07/2019

This long article discusses the energy paper prepared for the union-backed Industry Super Australia. The paper is a blue-print for de-carbonising Australia's energy sector, but controversially advocates for nuclear power to be considered.

Australia has no nuclear power plants but is the world's third largest uranium producer and holds about 30 per cent of the world's identified resources.

<https://www.afr.com/leadership/workplace/unions-revolt-over-industry-super-s-nuclear-backing-20190702-p5239a>

Unions revolt over Industry Super's nuclear backing

David Marin-Guzman, *AFR*, 03/07/2019

The Electrical Trades Union has condemned a report from Industry Super Australia that backed nuclear energy as an option to confront the energy crisis, sparking a split between unions and industry funds' own peak body.

Article quotes ETU national secretary Allen Hicks saying industry fund participants were not consulted on the ISA energy paper released last week and called on unions to condemn the paper's recommendations, which he said promoted a "highly risky investment with deadly consequences".



A Japanese nuclear power plant. An Electrical Trades Union spokesman doubts that many Australian communities would accept the 150 nuclear power plants suggested for Australia in an Industry Super Australia report. Photo: The Japan Times

The ETU has opposed nuclear power and uranium mining since the Second World War due to perceived risks to workers and the public.

ISA denied there was no consultation and said the report "acknowledges there is no simple solution to Australia's energy issues, and sets out the range of options that could inform future policy discussions".

Australian Workers Union assistant secretary Misha Zelinsky said his union backed nuclear because of its "excellent employment opportunities right along the value chain - including in exploration, mining, generation and storage". ...

But ETU national industry co-ordinator Matthew Murphy is quoted saying the ISA report "fluffed up" the benefits of nuclear power while including flawed assumptions on renewables "that had no basis in reality".

Murphy criticised the report's "shoddy maths and assumptions like 'a battery will only run for one hour' or that the island nation of Australia is not suitable for offshore wind and tidal power."

Murphy said the "most glaring" statement in the paper was that 100 to 150 nuclear power plants was enough to power half the country.

"Unlike the numbers in the report, we can't pluck nuclear reactors out of thin air. And there is likely to be huge

public opposition from the 150 towns where these deadly power plants would be built."

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jul/04/melissa-price-approved-uranium-mine-knowing-it-could-lead-to-extinction-of-12-species>

Melissa Price approved uranium mine knowing it could lead to extinction of 12 species

Lisa Cox, *Guardian*, 04/07/2019

The former environment minister Melissa Price acknowledged that approval of a uranium mine in Western Australia could lead to the extinction of up to 12 native species but went ahead with the decision anyway.

The admission is contained in a statement of reasons signed by the minister before she approved the Yeelirrie uranium mine, 500km north of Kalgoorlie, the day before the federal election was called in April.

Article says that Price adopted weaker conditions than those recommended by her department to protect 11 species of stygofauna (found in groundwater). The the project could also wipe out the entire western population of a species of saltbush, known as the Atriplex yeelirrie.

Mine developer, Cameco, says market conditions are challenging and would need to improve for the project to go ahead.

CLIMATE CRISIS

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jul/02/australia-wont-reach-paris-target-without-action-on-transport-lng-and-coal-expert-says>

Australia won't reach Paris target without action on transport, LNG and coal, expert says

Adam Morton, *Guardian*, 02/07/2019

The challenge the Morrison government faces in meeting future climate targets without new policies is underlined by an analysis that breaks down how significantly greenhouse gas emissions are increasing from transport, natural gas and coalmining.

Since 2005, the year against which the government has chosen to benchmark its Paris target, Australia's emissions from transport are up 23%.

Pollution from burning fossil fuels – mainly natural gas, but also coal – in manufacturing, construction and domestic heating has risen 30%. “Fugitive” emissions released during liquified natural gas (LNG) processing and coalmining have jumped 55%.

The data is contained in a national emissions audit published by The Australia Institute. ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/research-shows-lng-bigger-climate-change-threat-than-coal-20190701-p5231w>

Research shows LNG bigger climate change threat than coal

Brad Thompson, *AFR*, 02/07/2019

The latest research from an anti-fossil fuel advocacy group has identified LNG as no better, and potentially worse, than coal in contributing to climate change and casts more doubt on investor support for the next wave of oil and gas projects in Australia.

A Global Energy Monitor report warned a planned tripling of LNG capacity would lock in decades of high emissions and have an impact on global warming as large or larger than the growth in coal-fired power stations. ...

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.crikey.com.au/2019/06/24/western-australia-mining/>

What is left in the wake of a mining bonanza?

Patrick Marlborough, *Crikey*, 24/06/2019

The promise the mining companies and the Barnett government made when the boom took off way back in 2008 was that it would lift the state while dragging it into the future. The



Coal minister Matt Canavan says he wants this car, seen in Rockhampton.
Photo: Matt Canavan, Facebook

wealth of the mines would trickle down into the greater community ...

Article goes on to list disadvantages of the mining boom, such as soaring drug use.

“Meth entered a diet and lifestyle that was largely driven by alcohol, pills and testosterone. As the comedown kicked in, most FIFOs I knew were left with little more than inflated mortgages, and unrelenting addictions.”

Writer warns Queenslanders that a mining boom in the Galilee Basin will cause immense environmental damage and end with an economic bust.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-jobs-at-risk-as-resources-face-a-fall/news-story/0ea36c32367e6a732b61ee6887e7e325>

Queensland jobs at risk as resources face a fall

Matthew Killoran, *Courier-Mail*, 01/07/2019

Australia is facing its first fall in mining and resources revenue in a decade, while Queensland's economy faces a blow as coal prices drop and are expected to remain low for years to come.

Data from the Chief Economist's Office shows coal prices have dropped 27% in the past year, while a glut on the market and China moving more towards nuclear and hydro power are predicted to keep the coal price down.

Article quotes Federal Resources Minister Minister Matt Canavan saying a hit to the economy and jobs would be unavoidable unless more mines, not just for coal, were approved. He wants “unnecessary red tape” to be cut and mines approved faster.

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/we-are-blessed-with-gas-wealth-but-we-play-politics-with-it-20190703-p523pd>

We are blessed with gas wealth, but we play politics with it

Andrew McConville, *AFR*, 04/07/2019

The politics of Australia's energy and resources debate over the last decade have not been pretty.

Combative debates about carbon and climate, moratoria and other barriers to developing gas resources in several states, and the politicisation of proposals to develop natural resources, mean

we risk missing opportunities that our abundant gas resources should give us.

Article advocates more gas industry development without any domestic reservation regulations.

• **Andrew McConville** is chief executive of the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2019-07-04/mining-bill-passes-sa-parliament-but-rebel-mps-hope-for-inquiry/11277340>

Mining bill passes SA Parliament but rebel MPs say 'it's just the beginning'

Cassandra Hough & Isabella Pittaway, ABC, 04/07/2019

South Australia's Mining Act reform has passed the State Lower House despite four Liberal backbenchers crossing the floor to vote against the bill.

Liberal backbenchers Fraser Ellis, Steve Murray, Dan Cregan and Nick McBride were joined by Independent MPs Geoff Brock, Troy Bell and Frances Bedford, but with Labor supporting the Government, the bill passed.

Farmers protested on the steps of Parliament House, concerned the legislation did not provide enough protection for agricultural land. ...

Yorke Peninsula farmer Bill Maloney said farmers were angry about a lack of consultation from the Government.

He said the protests were just the beginning of the farmers' fight.

"The fight will still go on, the farmers aren't just going to take this lying down there's a lot of very angry farmers out there who won't see their businesses diminished by a mining company." ...

The bill still has to pass the upper house (Legislative Council) and Independent Geoff Brock has flagged his intention to call for a review into land access in South Australia as well.

<https://www.naracoorteherald.com.au/story/6257593/mining-act-passes-in-parliament-even-as-mcbride-crosses-the-floor/>

Mining Act passes in Parliament even as McBride crosses the floor

Naracoorte Herald, 04/07/2019

The Statutes Amendment (Mineral Resources) Bill 2018, otherwise known as the 'Mining Act', passed the lower house of Parliament on July 3 even as the Member for MacKillop, Nick McBride, crossed the floor to vote against it with some of his Liberal Party colleagues and Independent MPs. ...

The Limestone Coast Protection Alliance have released their own statement via Merylyn Paxton, expressing severe disappointment with the outcome.

"Four depressing hours were spent last night (3 July) watching both major parties in the Lower House tell us why they won't give landholders the right to say no to mining companies, with both parties showing complete disregard for the rights of landholders," read the LCPA statement.

"The whole of South Australia is covered with mining tenements of one sort or another – copper, lignite, iron ore, silver, gold, gas and oil.

"Slight amendments to the Mining Act mean that 'non-invasive mining exploration' can be carried out 200 metres from a residence. 'Invasive mining exploration' must be between 400 and 600 metres from a residence.

"The government acknowledged that agriculture is SA's biggest contributor to the state GDP at \$6.6 billion but they want resources to equal that.

"This will be impossible because open cut mineral mining will consume vast acreage of agricultural land which can never be returned to agriculture. Agriculture will be sacrificed for resources mining. The gas and oil industry also spoils large amounts of agricultural land.

"Minister Van Holst Pellekaan suggested that royalties to landholders were too expensive for the government. We would have thought the mining companies should pay these. (Labor's promise of royalties was never legislated). ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/breaking-news/centre-alliance-admits-gas-deal-a-draft/news-story/>

Centre Alliance admits gas deal a 'draft'

Rebecca Gredley, AAP/Courier-Mail, 04/07/2019

A supposed deal struck between a minor party and the federal govern-

ment for lowering gas prices in return for support for \$158 billion in income tax cuts has been revealed as a "draft outline".

Article says Centre Alliance senator Rex Patrick boasted the minor party had an agreement with the government on short and long term measures to reduce gas prices, but later in the day explained it was "not fully developed" and there was no written agreement.

"We've had a running dialogue with the government over the last three or four weeks, going backwards and forwards ... they have a draft outline of how they want to approach things." ...

Australian Industry Group chief executive Innes Willox welcomed the idea of an agreement on gas prices, saying businesses were dealing with rising costs. ...

The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association has warned against interventions in the market, arguing it could hurt confidence in the sector.

"Ongoing investment is crucial for economic growth and being able to fund the very tax cuts federal parliament is debating," APPEA said.

"Investment will only continue if businesses are confident they can manage the risk associated with the investment."

APPEA says it will work with the government on any proposed reforms, concluding that the best way to reduce prices is for more supply in the market from more suppliers.

FFB



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<https://knitting-nannas.org/bulletins.php>



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