



# Fossil Fool Bulletin

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

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## Brown coal-to-hydrogen project's secretive sod-turning ambushed

By Eve Sinton

*Federal resources minister Matt Canavan, with other politicians and Japanese industrialists, kept quiet about a sod-turning ceremony for a controversial brown coal-to-hydrogen trial project at Hastings, Victoria, on July 19.*

But activists from eight groups opposed to the project found themselves on the scene at the right time to convey their 'sod-off' message.

The \$500 million trial – to which the federal and Victorian governments have each chipped in \$50 million – is trialling one of the dirtiest possible methods of hydrogen production.

While prolonging the life of the extremely climate-destroying brown coal industry in the Latrobe Valley, the trial also risks damage to the fragile marine environment of Westernport Bay.

Westernport and Peninsula Protection Council, Save Westernport, Blue Wedges, Friends of The Earth, Victorian National Parks Association Environment Victoria, Preserve Westernport and Southern Peninsula Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association have signed on to a letter asking for marine-pest monitoring following the trial, and are calling for the whole project to be dumped.

In a statement, the groups said, "The last thing we should be embarking on in Westernport is another inappropriate outdated fossil fuels project that would threaten our remaining

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**TOP:** The sod-turning ceremony for a \$500 million brown coal-to-hydrogen project at Hastings, Victoria, on July 19, with Australian politicians and Japanese industrialists. Photo: Matt Canavan, Facebook

**BOTTOM:** Activists said, "We had the force on our side this morning as we managed to arrive exactly on time at the sod turning ceremony being conducted to open the Kawasaki brown-coal-to-hydrogen trial. The whole event was so secretive, we only found out yesterday, and it was almost by 'fluke' that we were there in the right place and at the right time." Photo: Save Westernport

• P3: Gas explosion kills 15 in China

• P4: Climate Council wins activist award

• P4: Frackers get open slather in NT

# Environment groups call for costly hydrogen trial to be dumped

• Continued from p1

coastal ecosystems. Mangrove beds are our first line defence against coastal inundation and the impacts of climate change. Westernport has many supporters who understand the significance of the bay's Biosphere and Ramsar wetlands and we will fight to protect them.

"We are disappointed to learn that the trial is commencing with absolutely no public consultation, or input from Mornington Peninsula Shire Council. It has been labelled it an 'Essential Service' which it isn't; it is a trial to nowhere. We question the sense of doing a trial for such a flawed project."

Environment Victoria's safe climate campaigner, Cat Nadel said, "Before the announcement in April 2018 there had been no public information or consultation, and there is a real risk that this is just the latest in a string of coal boondoggles that have failed to deliver, and that distract from the real task of planning a diverse and sustainable economy."

## Making brown coal look green

The companies involved in the project are Hydrogen Engineering Australia, Kawasaki, J-Power, AGL, Iwatani and Marubeni.

Brown coal will be mined in the Latrobe Valley, and a gasification plant that uses coal to produce hydrogen will be built. The gas will be liquefied and shipped to Japan.

The project has two stages, a pilot and a commercial stage.

The pilot project is relatively small and only involves 160 tonnes of coal, but will emit 30 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> for every tonne of hydrogen produced. It is anticipated to be operational by 2020 and will only run for one year. A decision to proceed to a much larger commercial stage will occur after that, and would not be operational until the 2030s.

In the meantime it is understood that the pilot stage gasification and liquefaction plants are intended to be decommissioned.

Creating hydrogen from coal is just as polluting as burning coal for ordinary power supply.

Monash University alternative energy expert Dr Patrick Moriarty has said

***"This is just the latest in a string of coal boondoggles that have failed to deliver, and that distract from the real task of planning a diverse and sustainable economy."***

"it is just a way of making brown coal look green... that would do nothing for the climate."

Senior Energy Adviser to the Energy Transition Hub at Melbourne University, Simon Holmes à Court has noted that "While hydrogen itself is a clean fuel, using brown coal to produce hydrogen fuel is highly polluting. Unless and until this project captures and stores its emissions, the project will produce some of the dirtiest fuel possible."

The concern is that this pilot project could be the thin end of the wedge. If it is successful, a commercial scale plant would be much larger and more polluting.

## Relying on unproven CCS technology

The commercial scale coal to hydrogen plant will not go ahead without carbon capture and storage (CCS), according to proponents.

CCS is the theory that you can capture CO<sub>2</sub> and store it underground. There are unknown consequences of storing gas underground. Scientists have identified risks to soil and ocean acidification and erosion associated with this process. Leakage can also occur, undermining the argument that emissions are avoided.

Environment Victoria says, "It is unrealistic to assume CCS technology will be at a safe, affordable and usable stage by the time the pilot project concludes. This increases the risk that a commercial scale coal to hydrogen project could be developed without CCS, leading to significant climate pollution."

## Marine environment put at risk

Local conservation group Westernport and Peninsula Protection Council (WPPC) has raised concerns about a number of environmental risks of the storage and shipping aspects, if the project proceeds to commercial scale.

Firstly, Japanese ships entering Westernport Bay will be empty and may require ballast, which means they are likely to carry marine pests like the Northern Pacific seastar. This starfish is thought to be responsible for decimating fish stocks in Port Phillip Bay. Westernport Bay currently does not have this pest, so WPPC is strongly opposed to activity that increases the chance of its introduction.

WPPC has also flagged the risk that if a commercial scale project were to go ahead, the increase in hydrogen ships in the area may require the dredging of Westernport Bay, an option that would be detrimental to the unique and internationally listed marine ecosystems.

The consortium has indicated that the pilot project will only involve one ship every three months, which will be 4.5 m in depth and not require ballast.

## Carbon to be pumped offshore

The success of the project is linked to the government run and funded CarbonNet, which wants to build a waste-carbon injection and storage facility (CCS) just sevenkilometers away from the coastal town of Golden Beach.

Still in its testing stage, this project has already involved damaging seismic testing offshore, which impacted the Golden Beach community and local sealife.

Qit Coal says, "So far the project has consumed \$100 million in public money, and will require even more funding to build the sequestration machinery if it proceeds to the next stage. Then the project, set up with public money, would be transferred to private ownership.

"Australia wide, carbon capture and storage technology has failed to reach commercial scale despite heavy investment from the government.

"A prominent example of a unsuccessful waste-carbon storage project is Chevron Australia's Gorgon Project. With \$60 million public money this project was supposed to begin in 2016 but is yet to capture and store any carbon. Energy consultants estimate that by March 2019 the equivalent of 6.2 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> that was supposed to be captured will not have been."

# Gas plant explodes in China, killing 15, injuring 100s

*According to the China Daily, the death toll from an explosion at a gas plant workshop in Yima, Henan province, on July 19 has reached 15, with 15 others severely injured.*

Environment monitoring data showed the city's air and water quality was normal, according to a government statement.

An unspecified device in the gas factory owned by Henan Coal Gas Group in Yima exploded.

The Ministry of Emergency Management sent a work team, and the National Health Commission dispatched medical experts to the site. More than 270 firefighters and over 90 medical workers contributed to the rescue.

"The sound was extremely loud, with a ball of fire and clouds of smoke in the air," a resident who was 500 metres from the gas plant said.

The plant, established in 1997, covers an area of 87 hectares, has more than 1,200 employees and mainly produces natural gas and chemical products.

*Caixin* added that hundreds more people were injured.

The factory had received a China Chemical Safety Association award in January for an "extraordinary contribution" to chemical industry safety standards.

But central government environmental protection officials, writing in 2016, had warned that only one street separated the gas factories in Yima's industrial zone from a residential area, "posing significant risk."

A man surnamed Zhang, who ran a business near the site of the explosion, told *Caixin* "the glass has shattered in my home, the security gate has collapsed and the roads are in ruins."

Another Yima resident said her friends' homes had been destroyed and they were currently homeless.

Henan province is the location of several underground coal gasification (UCG) plants associated with syngas and chemical production.

China is the world's largest user and manufacturer of chemicals, but lax safety standards have plagued the industry. Major accidents are a regular occurrence.



**TOP:** Henan Coal Gas Group's natural gas and chemical plant in Yima exploded on Friday, July 19, killing 15 and seriously injuring another 15. Photo: *Caixin*

**BOTTOM:** Hundreds of people were injured and some made homeless, with damage to residential buildings up to 3km away. A window blown out of an apartment is pictured. Photo: *AFP*



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<https://www.3cr.org.au/earthmatters>

# Frackers given open slather in NT

**Protect Country Alliance condemns the deeply flawed and farcical process followed by the Northern Territory Government to determine its “no-go fracking zones”.**

The government has confirmed fracking companies would be granted open slather to more than half of the NT's landmass, after failing to apply its own criteria for the protection of critical assets like town drinking water supplies and areas of natural and cultural significance.

The NT Government has also approved Santos' Environmental Management Plan for a gas well, without actually mentioning the company will have to frack in order to access shale gas as planned.

Alawa Elder Naomi Wilfred from Minyerri community said allowing so much land to be fracked would create two classes of residents in the Territory – communities where drinking water and other assets were protected, and others that would be sacrificed to gas fracking companies.

“This government has got no shame. It's leaving remote and Aboriginal communities at the mercy of fracking companies, while protecting inner-city areas where they want votes,” she said.

## Corrupted by political influence

“The no-go-zones process has no scientific basis and is instead being corrupted by political influence.

“Despite what the government may claim, many Aboriginal people do not have the right to refuse fracking operations on their land. Many Aboriginal communities and our water supplies are still left in a frack zone.”

Alice Springs resident Heather McIntyre said even the towns that had been arbitrarily declared as ‘no-go zones’ were not fully protected.

“Alice Springs residents’ water supply is still not safe from fracking,” she said.

“Gas fracking companies should not be allowed to play Russian Roulette with Territorians’ drinking water supplies by risking spills and contamination incidents in catchment areas.

“The insidious nature of fracking means many of the impacts are felt underground and in water aquifers – not always where the well-head is located.”

Protect Country Alliance spokesperson Lauren Mellor said according to the released mapping, the government was even allowing fracking within the recharge area for the world-renowned, sacred Mataranka Springs and the Roper River.

“It shows a complete failure to apply the government’s own criteria for protection. Mataranka springs are an important cultural site and high-value tourism area, yet the springs and the Roper River remain exposed to fracking,” she said.

“It is insane that this polluting industry is being allowed to run rampant across the NT, where water is such a precious resource.”

There is one silver lining from the announcement, with revelations people power has pressured the NT Government into expanding its originally proposed no-go zone around Katherine.

“We fought long and hard for this, and we have achieved a victory today for our community. But it is bittersweet when we know so many other Territorians, including our near neighbours, are still exposed to the risks of fracking,” said Don't Frack Katherine spokesperson and local tourism operator Petrena Ariston.

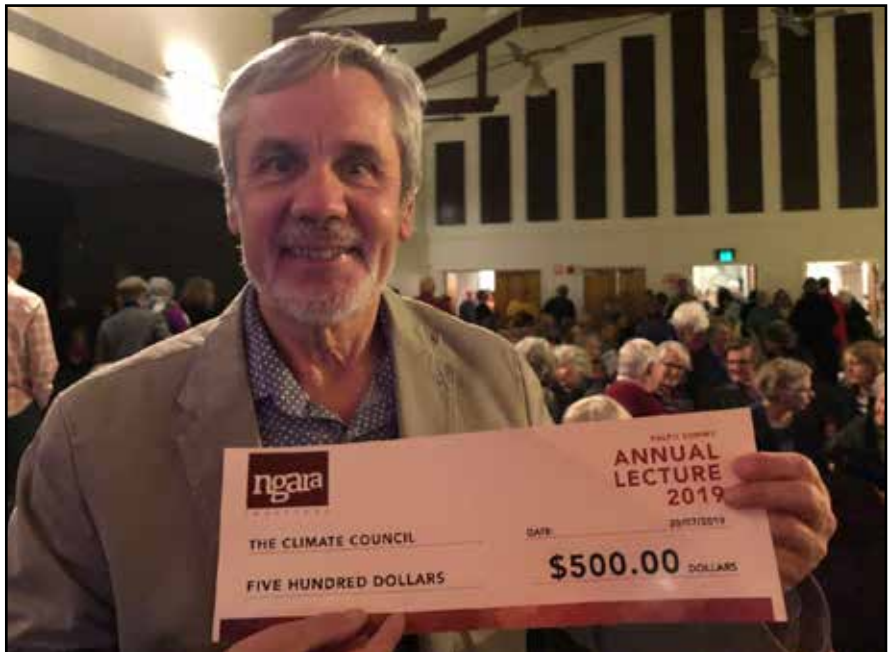
“We will continue to stand with all Territory communities until we stop this fracking cancer spreading across our landscape.”

Ms Mellor said the NT Government had also lied through its teeth by claiming it was upholding the recommendations of the fracking inquiry.

“The government is breaking this promise by failing to apply the criteria for no go zones fairly and faithfully across the NT,” she said.

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## Climate Council wins activist award



*The Ngara Institute's Activist of the Year award was presented to The Climate Council's scientists Will Steffen (pictured) and Lesley Hughes on July 20.*

*The Climate Council produces hard-hitting, independent, informed reports on climate change and solutions. Previous award recipients include Adrian Burragubba of the Wangan & Jagalingou traditional owners battling Adani's Carmichael Mine, and Northern Rivers anti-coal seam gas campaigners Annie Kia and the Knitting Nannas.*

*The Ngara Institute holds an annual lecture and award event each year in the small, but thoroughly switched-on, town of Mullumbimby in the Northern Rivers, NSW. Photo: Eve Sinton*

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## Rix's Ck coal protest planned

*A respected Upper Hunter Valley doctor and residents worried about the mining industry's impact on local air quality will don dust masks as they protest against the expansion of the Rix's Creek coal mine this Monday.*

The protest, where Dr Bob Vickers will speak, will be held outside the Independent Planning Commission's Rix's Creek public meeting in Singleton.

The mine's owner, Bloomfield Group, wants to expand the project by 1.5km so it can continue mining until 2038 at a time when air quality in the Hunter is becoming increasingly worse due to the presence of coal mining.

Recently, the NSW Government released its Annual Air Quality Statement 2018, which found levels of sulphur dioxide in the Hunter Valley and Central Coast exceeded World Health Organization (WHO) standards 336 times over the past four years.

In 2018, the Hunter Valley also recorded its worst air quality due to increasing particle matter from the mines and the drought.

Three alerts showing PM10 levels exceeded national air quality standards were also issued in Singleton alone this Monday morning.

Dr Vickers said people were already suffering from illnesses related to air pollution throughout the Hunter Valley.

"We have plenty of data showing that air pollution in the Hunter is negatively affecting our health," he said.

"The Hunter Valley needs leadership on this issue, but unfortunately we are not seeing any from our elected representatives at the moment."

Lock the Gate Hunter spokesperson David Burgess said it was unbelievable the NSW Government was continuing with business as usual in coal mine approvals at a time when companies were being penalised for violating their conditions and air quality was worsening.

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**Fossil Fool Bulletin**

Published by Eve Sinton  
PO Box 555, Mullumbimby,  
NSW 2482, Australia

 Fossil Fool Bulletin

 [fossil.fool.bulletin@gmail.com](mailto:fossil.fool.bulletin@gmail.com)  
[evesinton@gmail.com](mailto:evesinton@gmail.com)

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## Inside the news

There are concerns that **Australia** is moving ever closer to **police state** status, with draconian laws affecting environmentalists and journalist reporting their activities.

**Queensland** validated those concerns this week by **arresting** French TV reporter **Hugo Clement** and his crew as they filmed anti-**Adani** activists blockading the company's Abbot Point coal terminal (p7-8).

As shocking as the arrests were, the **bail conditions** imposed on Clement were appalling: banned from being within 20 kilometres of Adani's Carmichael mine site or within 100 metres of any other Adani site.

This is a shameful attempt to **suppress news coverage** of Adani's nefarious operations.

After representations from the Media Arts and Entertainment Alliance – Australia's journalists' union – and the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties, the **charges were dropped**.

Let's hope these events get global media exposure.

Adani now routinely makes **personal attacks** on **Aboriginal elders** opposing the mine and **scientists** assessing its defective environmental plans.

When the **ABC** published a story alleging Adani was a "**corporate collapse waiting to happen**" (p8) the company said in a statement obtained by **FFB**: "**Professor van der Laan** had no interactions with Adani ... before being interviewed by the ABC for this news story. Her comments about our business are uninformed and her conclusions inaccurate.

"**IEEFA** [quoted in the story] is well-known for publishing alarmist papers that attempt to discredit the fossil fuel industry [and] has known associations with **left-wing activist groups**, including acting as a spokesperson in campaign videos for **Get Up!**, which received \$495,000 from the anti-fossil fuel activist group Sunrise Project last year to advance its anti-coal agenda."

It has never been more important to **resist Adani** and stand up for a free media.

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# In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 32,400 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

## THE ADANI SAGA

<http://insidestory.org.au/adanis-silent-partners/>

### Adani's silent partners

John Quiggin, *Inside Story*, 16/07/2019

Article says that despite the company's upbeat announcements, the project still seems to consist entirely of tree-clearing and road-building. About 60 jobs are currently advertised.

Adani needs partners such as engineering design firms, construction contractors and insurance.

"Assuming Adani's claim about insurance is true, the obvious explanation is that the unnamed insurer is worried about the reputational cost of being associated with such a toxic project."

Australian-based multinational firm GHD may be looking at the engineering and design work. Adani has previously fallen out other contractors such as WorleyParsons, Downer EDI, and AECOM.

"The coal market is weak so how can it make sense to begin mining relatively low-quality coal that needs to make a long rail journey to port? Adani has yet to answer that fundamental question."

<http://www.myc.com.au/adani-boss-targeted-by-protesters-on-the-gold-coast/>

### Adani boss targeted by protesters on the Gold Coast

Matt McDonald, *myc.com.au*, 17/07/2019

Protestors have tried to confront the Australian boss of mining giant Adani during a business lunch being held on the Gold Coast.

Adani CEO Lucas Dow was guest speaker at a Southport restaurant and was greeted by anti-Adani banners. Dow left the event via an underground car park, avoiding protesters outside.

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/6278109/ley-backs-public-servants-over-adani-request/>

### Environment Minister Sussan Ley backs public servants over Adani request

Sally Whyte, *Canberra Times*, 17/07/2019

Environment minister Sussan Ley says public servants shouldn't be concerned about their privacy in the face of an attempt by mining giant Adani to find



Adani Australia's Lucas Dow (standing) addressing a business event on the Gold Coast. He left via the underground car-park to avoid protesters. Photo: #stopadani

the names of those giving advice on its applications.

Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack has told the ABC he understands why Adani would request the names of public servants, but Ms Ley didn't repeat his sentiments.

<https://www.crikey.com.au/2019/07/18/adani-obstacles-2019/>

### Adani is far from a done deal

Chris Woods, *Crikey*, 18/07/2019

Far from being a done deal, Adani still has to win multiple fights on multiple fronts. This week, the company made headlines literally every single day – and never for the right reasons.

Crikey looks at the many hurdles Adani still has to clear in order to get its mine up and running, including the nine-year fight of the Wangan and Jagalingou Family Council, and Queensland government proceedings against Adani for allegedly publishing false and misleading information about land clearing. State Greens MP Michael Berkman has referred Adani CEO Lucas Dow to the Queensland parliamentary ethics committee over allegedly misleading parliament over job figures.

People power will be an issue, with massive protests – larger than those

over the Franklin dam – likely to be held nation-wide.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/sustainability/major-land-clearing-about-to-begin-at-adani-mine-site-opponents-say-20190720-p5292o.html>

### Major land clearing about to begin at Adani mine site, opponents say

Peter Hannam, *SMH*, 20/07/2019

Major land-clearing operations at the site of Adani's proposed Carmichael coal mine will begin from this Monday, according to information leaked to groups opposed to the controversial project.

The first of some 450 hectares of bushland earmarked for clearing will be cut down in a process expected to last 80 days at the mine's site in Queensland's Galilee Basin, Galilee Blockade said.

Spokesman Ben Pennings is quoted saying citizens will bear witness to the destruction and monitor Adani every step of the way, while others will actively stop the machines destroying bushland.

"The land clearers and any big contractor working for Adani will feel the wrath of citizens who will do whatever is necessary to protect the land, our climate, the Great Barrier Reef and the Great Artesian Basin," he said.

A spokeswoman for Adani said site works at the Carmichael project on both the mine and rail project were moving ahead.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/more-protests-as-galilee-blockade-target-northside-concrete-company/news-story/d331bbb5df330db1f51d-80dc16933913>

### More protests as Galilee Blockade target northside concrete company

Thomas Morgan, *Courier-Mail*, 22/07/2019

Activists have vowed to blockade Brisbane firm Meales Concrete, which supports Adani's Abbot Point Coal terminal, until they're arrested.

Galilee Blockade announced this morning that they would prevent trucks entering or leaving the site of Meales Concrete Pumping at Windsor.

Police ordered the activists to stop their blockade.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-07-22/adani-protesters-abbot-point-french-tv-crew-charged/11330776>

### Adani protesters block entry to Abbot Point, French journalist and crew charged

Melissa Maddison & Sofie Wainwright, *ABC*, 22/07/2019

A prominent French journalist and his film crew have been charged with trespass for being on the railway line at the entrance to Adani's Abbot Point coal-loading facility in north Queensland.

Reporter Hugo Clement and his crew have been bailed to appear at the Bowen Magistrates Court in early September.

The police charge sheet shows strict bail conditions have been applied to Clement, banning him from being within 20 kilometres of Adani's Carmichael mine site or less than 100 metres from any other Adani site.

Clement said he was surprised to be arrested: "We were just filming the action of those people and we don't know why but police decided to arrest us. I still don't understand why. We are not part of the action, we are not activists, just journalists."

Clement was also critical of the bail conditions imposed on them.

"That is very strange. It's like they have something to hide right? Because if you arrest a journalist and then you say to the journalist that he has to keep away from Adani's sites, what's happening on these sites?"



Queensland Police arrest a French media crew member for filming a protest at Adani's Abbot Point coal terminal. Screengrab: FLAC, Facebook

Police said four French nationals were among seven people charged after the protest.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jul/23/adani-protest-french-journalists-charges-should-be-dropped-media-union-says>

### Adani protest: French journalists' charges should be dropped, media union says

Michael McGowan, *Guardian*, 23/07/2019

A prominent French journalist arrested and charged while covering a protest against Adani's Carmichael coalmine says he's surprised and disappointed at his treatment, while Australia's media union has called for the charges to be dropped.

The president of the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance, Marcus Strom, said the charges against the journalists should be dropped.

"Journalists should be free to go about their work reporting on matters in the public interest and should not be arrested for simply doing their job," he said.

The Greens senator Sarah Hanson-Young said the arrests highlighted the importance of the current Senate inquiry into press freedom.

"Arresting journalists for doing their job has eerie echoes of a police state."

Clément said despite the controversy surrounding the Carmichael coalmine in Australia it is not well-known in Europe.

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/antiadani-activists-reemerge-in-nq-warn-contractors-in-sight-and-numbers-to-increase/news-story/2d463e82ffc-2d43736987e2919b1de64>

### Anti-Adani activists re-emerge in NQ, warn contractors in sight and numbers to increase

Madura McCormack, *Townsville Bulletin*, 23/07/2019

Anti-Adani protesters have re-emerged in North Queensland as activists warn they know which businesses to target.

Seven people were arrested in Bowen yesterday after protesters blocked a road leading to the Adani-operated Abbot Point coal terminal.

Whitsunday Regional councillor Mike Brunner said protesters had "no support" in Bowen and activists were "nuisances" to the community.

Burdekin MP Dale Last said people in Bowen "were sick to death" of protesters disrupting business and employees from getting back to work and called for harsher punishment for trespassers, which is currently before parliament, to be pushed through.

<https://www.9news.com.au/national/qld-lawyer-slams-adani-news-crew-arrest/>

### Appeal for Qld to drop news crew charges

AAP/Nine News, 23/07/2019

The media union will ask the Queensland government to intervene on behalf of a French news crew arrested covering an anti-mining demonstration and recommend their charges be dropped.

Reporter Hugo Clement and three crew were taken into custody and charged with trespassing at an anti-Adani protest near the Abbot Point terminal at Bowen on Monday.

Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance president Marcus Strom said the charges were outrageous and he would write to Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk and Attorney-General Yvette D'Ath to seek answers.

Civil libertarians are also outraged by the actions of the arresting officers, saying it's an unacceptable interference of press freedom and a concerning reminder of Fitzgerald-era police intimidation.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jul/25/french-journalists-bail-conditions-after-adani-arrest-labelled-abuse-of-police-power>

### French journalists' bail conditions after Adani arrest labelled 'abuse of police power'

Ben Smea, *Guardian*, 24/07/2019

Bail conditions imposed on four French journalists – banning them from reporting near Adani's Carmichael mine site – are an "abuse of police power" and "entirely inappropriate", says the head of the Queensland Council of Civil Liberties.

Michael Cope, a lawyer in Queensland for more than 30 years, says he has never heard of the sorts of bail conditions imposed after protests at Adani's Abbot Point coal terminal on Monday.



**Prominent French TV reporter Hugo Clement was relieved to hear Queensland Police have dropped trespass charges against him and his crew.**

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-07-25/police-drop-trespass-charges-against-french-reporter-and-crew/11347524>

### Police drop trespass charges against French reporter and crew arrested at Adani protest

ABC, 25/07/2019

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) has dropped trespass charges against a prominent French journalist and his film crew who were arrested while filming anti-Adani protesters earlier this week.

French reporter Hugo Clement, his crew and several protesters were arrested on the railway line at the entrance to Adani's Abbot Point coal-loading facility on Monday.

In a statement, QPS said it "has reviewed the circumstances surrounding the arrests of five people at a port facility near Bowen on Monday".

"The decision to withdraw charges follows careful consideration of the circumstances including QPS policies and procedures," the statement said.

"As a result, the QPS will withdraw all charges against a 28-year-old Victorian man and four male French nationals – aged 29, 30, 32 and 39 – when the matters are brought before Bowen Magistrates Court again on July 30."

Charges will still proceed against two Victorian women, aged 20 and 22, who took part in the protest.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-07-24/adani-carmichael-subsiary-surviving-on-lifeline-from-parent/11338926>

### Adani's Carmichael coal mine surviving on lifeline from Indian parent company

Stephen Long, *ABC*, 24/07/2019

Professor Sandra van der Laan casts her eyes over the complex corporate structure for Adani's Australian operations.

The company has current liabilities of more than \$1.8b versus current assets of less than \$30m. The auditors signed off on the company being a "going concern" only because of a 12-month guarantee from the Indian parent firm. Accounting expert Sandra van der Laan says "effectively on paper they are insolvent. I wouldn't be trading with them".

"It looks to me like a corporate collapse waiting to happen," she says.

The promise of a company tax bonanza from the Queensland mine seems destined to remain unfulfilled, according to analyst Tim Buckley.

Already, accumulated losses mean that, if the mine is built, Adani Mining won't pay company tax for many years in Australia and may never do so.

## COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.theage.com.au/business/companies/shareholder-activists-push-agl-to-clean-up-coal-fired-power-plants-20190719-p528wo.html>

### Shareholder activists push AGL to clean up coal-fired power plants

Peter Hannam, *Age*, 22/07/2019

AGL, the largest electricity generator in Australia, will face pressure from activist shareholders to clean up its coal-fired power plants even if pollution regulators give them a tick.

The Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility (ACCR), an ethical investment group that has previously pressured big companies such as Commonwealth Bank, Rio Tinto, BHP and Origin Energy on environmental, social and governance grounds, has pushed for a shareholder vote on pollution controls at the company's upcoming annual general meeting on September 19.

A separate resolution calls on the company to disclose in its annual reporting from 2020 its strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the goals of the Paris climate agreement.

The resolutions require support from 50 per cent of voting shareholders to pass.

<https://www.newcastleherald.com.au/story/6285297/controversial-by-long-coal-mine-proposal-in-limbo/>

### An expired document at the 11th hour has left a Korean mining company's coal mine up in the air

Joanne McCarthy, *Newcastle Herald*, 22/07/2019

One of the state's most controversial coal mine proposals – the Korean Government-backed Bylong mine – is sensationally in limbo because of an expired gateway approval from 2014.

It comes only weeks after Korean energy company KEPCO, in a strongly-worded submission, said it had spent \$750 million on the project so far after it was "encouraged" to do so by the NSW Government and Department of Planning.

The Independent Planning Commission has given KEPCO until Friday to say if it disputes the commission's view it cannot approve the mine in the absence of a current gateway certificate.

The Bylong mine gateway certificate expired on April 15.

### STOP WATER MINING THE NEXT RESOURCES BATTLE





<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/company-behind-bylong-valley-mine-slams-independent-planning-commission/news-story/>

## Company behind Bylong Valley mine slams Independent Planning Commission

*Danielle Le Messurier, Daily Telegraph, 24/07/2019*

A South Korean company seeking approval for a coal mine in the state's Central West has written a scathing response to the Independent Planning Commission after it refused to green light the project over an expired certificate.

Article says it comes after the NSW Minerals Council accused the Department of Planning of being on a go-slow.

In a letter to the IPC, KEPCO Australia chief operating officer William Vatovec said it was extremely disappointing the issue had been raised "at this very late and critical stage of the assessment process".

He said the IPC should have raised the issue sooner and "not three months after ... the Commission asserts the Gateway Certificate 'expired'" April 15.

<https://www.geelongadvertiser.com.au/news/mining-body-slams-department-of-planning-over-bylong-valley-mine-delay/news-story/>

## Mining body slams Department of Planning over Bylong Valley mine delay

*Danielle Le Messurier & Anna Caldwell, Daily Telegraph, 22/07/2019*

The state's peak mining body launched an extraordinary attack on the NSW Department of Planning on Monday, saying it was on a "go-slow while jobs in our regions go begging".

It comes after South Korean company KEPCO was advised its proposal for a mine in the Bylong Valley would not move ahead because a "gateway certificate" lodged five years ago at the start of the assessment process had expired.

<https://www.singletonargus.com.au/story/6291523/air-quality-assessment-inadequate/>

## Department of Planning says Rix's Creek Continuation Project air quality assessment inadequate

*Louise Nichols, Singleton Argus, 24/07/2019*

Monday's Independent Planning Commission (IPC) public meeting to determine the future of Rix's Creek open cut is sure to include some scathing comments from community members and groups on the ability of the Department of Planning to assess major mining projects.

A letter was sent by Howard Reed, director Coal and Quarries, Energy and Resource Assessments to the IPC on July 23 stating that the Department had identified an inadequacy in the Bloomfield Group's assessment of air quality impacts from the Rix's Creek Continuation of Mining Project.

The Department's final assessment report on the project was published in June 2019 – giving it a tick of approval but nearly a month later a major component of any mining project its air quality assessment is now called 'inadequate'.

<https://www.afr.com/business/mining/mines-minister-pushes-safety-reset-in-qlld-coal-20190722-p529kj>

## Mines minister pushes safety reset in Qld coal

*Matthew Stevens, AFR, 22/07/2019*

The state government has encouraged the Queensland mining sector into a six week "safety reset" that aims to give management and miners the opportunity to regenerate a more secure workplace culture.

Last Thursday the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy provided mining companies and industry unions with a "Safety Reset Information Kit" and a slide pack to help shape the conversations that the government has determined the industry needs to have with its workers.

The minister will also require that miners provide weekly data until the end of August on the rollout of the program to ensure that the sessions meet the "key measurables" of the process.

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/jul/24/queensland-mining-royalties-found-to-give-effective-subsidies-to-thermal-coal-exporters>

## Queensland mining royalties found to give 'effective subsidies' to thermal coal exporters

*Ben Smee, Guardian, 23/07/2019*

Queensland's mining royalties regime gives "effective subsidies" to exporters of low-quality thermal coal, according to a new report by the Australia Institute that shows public support for an overhaul of the royalty rates.

The new report details how the staggered system in Queensland, where low-value coal under \$100 a tonne is taxed at a lower rate, acts to incentivise thermal coalmines such as Adani's Carmichael project.

## OIL & GAS LEAKS

<https://www.thefifthestate.com.au/energy-lead/energy/gas-in-the-firing-line-here-comes-wa-adi-fight/>

## Gas in the firing line: here comes WA's Adani fight

*Willow Aliento, Fifth Estate, 18/07/2019*

Woodside's huge gas project in the Browse Basin has been dubbed Western Australia's Adani. Now a huge battle is looming to get the state government to force the EPA to back down on its position on emissions offsets.

The Western Australian Environmental Protection Agency wants the gas industry to clean up its act and address the real impacts of its activities.

<https://www.thefifthestate.com.au/energy-lead/energy/gas-your-end-is-near/>

## Gas: your end is near

*Willow Aliento, Fifth Estate, 18/07/2019*

If you believe the hype from the government and from the fossil fuel industry, gas is poised to swoop in and heroically stimulate the economy, reduce energy prices and save Australia's emissions trajectory.

According to the advertising, natural gas is clean, green and wonderful. If only those pesky Lock the Gate types would go away, and governments would lift fracking moratoriums, cut red tape and eradicate "green tape" everything would be fabulous.

However, according to the experts this is a big load of hot air.

Hugh Saddler, research associate with the Centre for Climate Economics and Policy, says that self reporting on gas emissions is where we can see the greatest potential for fudging the numbers.

<https://www.theage.com.au/business/companies/foot-on-the-gas-santos-posts-record-production-in-second-quarter-20190718-p528hb.html>

## Foot on the gas: Santos posts record production in second quarter

*Ambar Warrick, Reuters/Age, 18/07/2019*

Major producer Santos has clocked record gas production in the second quarter on stronger output across its Western Australia gas assets.

Production for the three months to June 30 rose to 18.6 million barrels of oil equivalent from 14.2 last year, the company said.

<https://www.theage.com.au/business/companies/woodside-sales-slip-after-problems-on-pluto-and-pricing-20190718-p528bs.html>

## 'Significant' miss for Woodside as sales slip on Pluto problems, pricing

Paul Sakkal, Age, 18/07/2019

Woodside Petroleum has unveiled a surprisingly soft quarterly result dragged down by weaker prices and unexpected maintenance delays at its Pluto field off Western Australia.

In a second quarter production update to the market on Thursday morning, Woodside revealed a 40 per cent drop in sales from the first quarter.

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/money/finance-news/2019/07/21/lng-gas-imports-australia/>

## Australia, world's largest gas exporter, building terminals for gas imports

Mike Bruce, New Daily, 21/07/2019

The federal government may soon announce further changes to the gas market, to ease the burden on consumers being stung by high energy costs.

Senator Rex Patrick says he has been negotiating with the government to further strengthen the Australian Domestic Gas Security Mechanism. The development comes amid news that Australia may soon be importing natural gas, despite the country this week pipping Qatar as the world's largest exporter of LNG.

Five import gas terminals are proposed in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia, to enable the importation of gas.

Bruce Robertson, an investment analyst with the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) said the east coast of Australia currently produced about three times more gas than it consumes.

But as most of this is exported, those states are facing potential gas shortfalls – and potentially higher prices.

Robertson said if all five terminals were built, about 90 per cent of the eastern Australian gas market would be supplied by imports.

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/police-called-in-as-woodside-suspects-sabotage-at-wa-gas-plant-20190721-p529c9>

## Police called in as Woodside suspects 'sabotage' at WA gas plant

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 22/07/2019

Woodside Petroleum has called in the police to investigate what it determined was the "highly unusual and



Woodside called police to the Karratha gas plant, suspecting industrial sabotage when asbestos was found in machinery. Photo: Woodside

suspicious" detection of asbestos within parts of its huge gas processing plant at Karratha, Western Australia's biggest gas infrastructure facility.

The discovery by contractors of the asbestos fibres within gaskets at the plant triggered a brief shutdown of the facility late last week.

Woodside called in the Western Australian police because of suspicions of industrial sabotage.

Woodside said the gaskets didn't present any risk to workers and no airborne asbestos fibres were identified.

<https://nit.com.au/protestors-lobby-origin-to-ditch-nt-fracking-plan/>

## Protestors lobby Origin to ditch NT fracking plan

Hannah Cross, NIT, 22/07/2019

Traditional Owners and Aboriginal young people have rallied outside Origin Energy's Melbourne office to protest the company's gas fracking plan in the Northern Territory.

Seed Indigenous Youth Climate Network is leading the campaign under the hashtag #DirtyEnergy, to demonstrate that those most at risk to fracking plans – Traditional Owners and their communities – refuse to acknowledge Origin Energy's self-branded 'good energy.'

Should Origin Energy go ahead with their plans to frack in the NT, it could lead to 20 times Australia's current total annual emissions.

This would be equal to the emissions of 50 brand new coal power plants operating for 30 years.

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/no-go-zones-for-nt-fracking-revealed/news-story/>

## Gas giant first company approved for onshore shale gas exploration drilling by Gunner Government

Gary Shipway, NT News, 24/07/2019

Santos is the first mining and exploration company to have its Environment Management Plan (EMP) for Onshore Shale Gas Exploration Drilling approved by the Gunner Government in the McArthur Basin.

Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, Eva Lawler said EMP clears the way for Santos to advance its onshore gas plans for the Beetaloo Basin.

She said the revised EMP addressed the wastewater management plan and spill management plan, ensuring that environmental risks will be controlled and reduced to a level that is as low as reasonably practical and acceptable.

Resource Minister Paul Kirby has revealed the no go zones for onshore shale gas exploration drilling in the NT.

Katherine town municipality area and the Alice Springs municipality have been declared no go zone areas as areas around towns and homesteads.

The formal establishment of the no-go zones under the Petroleum Act will occur in a staged process, with 49 per cent of the Territory identified to be protected from petroleum activity.

<https://www.armidaleexpress.com.au/story/6291181/katherine-declared-frack-free-victory-over-no-go-zone-fight/>

## Katherine declared frack free – victory over no-go zone fight

Chris McLennan, *Katherine Times*, 24/07/2019

The whole of the Katherine municipality has been declared a fracking no-go zone.

The NT Government decision, announced today, is a significant victory for anti-fracking groups of Katherine Town Council who lobbied hard for the change. The Government today announced no-go zones for gas exploration and production, and released the Compliance and Monitoring Strategy.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-07-25/chevron-gas-30000-animals-salvaged-for-industry-construction/11325292>

## Chevron's Wheatstone gas plant construction sees 30,000 native animals moved to safety

Susan Standen, *ABC*, 25/07/2019

The remote spinifex and termite mound clustered country of Western Australia's north-west has experienced rapid industrialisation due to its proximity to the vast mineral resources and offshore oil and gas reserves.

During construction of Chevron's massive gas processing facility, 12 kilometres from the tiny town of Onslow, just over 30,000 animals were salvaged from the 1,000 hectare site at the top of Exmouth Gulf.

Many native species of frogs, lizards, snakes, mice, and geckos, among others, were collected by a team of zoologists ahead of the termite mound 'deconstructions'.

<https://www.michaelwest.com.au/the-ultimate-gouge-why-australia-the-worlds-1-exporter-now-imports-gas/>

## The Ultimate Gouge: why Australia, the world's #1 exporter, now imports gas

Michaelwest.com, 24.07/2019

What an outrage it is that the Northern Territory doesn't lift its grape production, instead of importing wine from South Australia! And what about those lazy Tasmanians; rather than growing their own mangoes and pineapples they import them from Queensland! Michael West reports on the bizarre claims of the gas lobby.

It might sound absurd but this is precisely what the gas industry and its political apparatchiks would have Australians believe. Frack, they say. Tear up precious farmland in NSW and Victoria.

Ramp up gas production in NSW and Victoria, or Queensland will be forced to "export" the stuff back to them.

Never mind that much of the gas is piped up to Queensland from the Bass Strait anyway. Never mind that the southern states have plenty of gas, never mind that Australia's energy policy is so non-existent that we are now about to import our own gas back from overseas.

As brazen PR spin, this gas lobby "southern-states-are-selfish-bludgers" proposition ranks right alongside the coal lobby's timeless assertion "Aussie coal is good for the poor people of India".

Article goes on to detail how Australia's gas cartel works and concludes, "Even more mortifying is that at least four of them (Exxon, BHP, Shell and Origin) have been investigated by the Tax Office for aggressive tax avoidance."

## LINC STINK

<https://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/story/6290843/never-any-contamination-says-chinchilla-grazier/>

### 'Never any contamination from Linc Energy' says Chinchilla grazier

Mark Phelps, *Qld Country Life*, 24/07/2019

Chinchilla grazier Toby Trebilco says despite years of intensive testing no contamination has ever been detected in the water, soil, crops or livestock as a result of alleged contamination caused by the Linc Energy underground coal gasification facility at Chinchilla.

Trebilco owns and lives on the adjoining property Ewerleigh.

The alleged contamination caused by Linc saw the Queensland Government declare 32,000 hectares of Queensland's top agricultural land as a 'no excavation zone', affecting 130 landholders centred on the highly productive Hopeland farming district.

That zoning was lifted in early 2018. However, the Queensland Government more recently placed a ban on coal seam gas drilling in a 10km radius zone around the former Linc site.

The now liquidated Linc Energy was fined \$4.5 million after it was charged with five counts of wilfully and unlawfully causing environmental harm between 2007 and 2013.

The Queensland Government recently gifted Trebilco a 140m deep test bore, which has been tested and found no contamination.

Trebilco said while he understood some landholders held genuine fears, others were driven by greed, hoping to secure a financial windfall.

## NUKE MADNESS

<https://www.smb.com.au/politics/federal/coalition-has-an-open-mind-on-nuclear-power-energy-minister-says-20190723-p529xa.html>

### Coalition has an 'open mind' on nuclear power, Energy Minister says

Nicole Hasham, *SMH*, 23/07/2019

Energy Minister Angus Taylor says the federal government has an "open mind" on developing a nuclear energy industry as ratings agency Moody's predicted the Coalition's Snowy 2.0 hydro project may play a key role in premature coal plant closures.

Labor on Tuesday launched a sustained question time attack against Mr Taylor over Australia's greenhouse gas emissions and nuclear power plans, in the party's first major return to the climate policy fray since its election loss.

Nationals MP Barnaby Joyce has floated a potential policy whereby residents living close to a nuclear reactor were granted free electricity, predicting this would lead to a rush of proposals from towns wanting to host the technology. The prospect of a homegrown nuclear fuel source is being pushed by several Coalition backbenchers who want a parliamentary committee to examine its feasibility.

In a later statement, Labor's climate change and energy spokesman Mark Butler said "Australians deserve to know where the government is headed on energy policy".

"In particular, it should explain where nuclear power plants might be built, particularly since these facilities need to be sited near large bodies of water," he said.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/australia-needs-nuclear-economy-and-uranium-mining-lnp-senator/news-story/>

### Australia needs nuclear economy and uranium mining: LNP Senator

Matthew Killoran, *Courier-Mail*, 23/07/2019

Australia should investigate a nuclear economy beyond just a nuclear power plant, including expanding its uranium mining, exports and enrichment, according to LNP Senator James McGrath.

The nuclear inquiry would also seek how Australia could do more in expanding its existing uranium mining,

processing and manufacturing to meet domestic needs.

It would not look at where a nuclear power plant could be located in Australia, but consider waste processing and storage issues associated with it. Other issues to be investigated would be whether a move to nuclear power would reduce greenhouse gas emissions and “possible health and safety implications relating to nuclear energy”.

Energy Minister Angus Taylor last month said the Government would be “more than willing to consider” nuclear power if there was a clear business case that showed the economics could work.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/make-nuclear-power-free-barnaby-joyce-says-20190721-p5299j.html>

### **Make nuclear power free, Barnaby Joyce says**

*Nicole Hasham, SMH, 21, 2019*

Nationals MP Barnaby Joyce says free nuclear power could be offered to residents living close to a reactor to help build support for the controversial technology, as an analysis pinpoints which Australian towns are best placed to host a nuclear plant.

But the pro-nuclear push by Coalition backbenchers may be losing momentum after one colleague dismissed it as a “distraction” and a senior minister said the government had “no desire to go down that path”.

Federal and state laws prohibit the development of a domestic nuclear power industry.

A leading lobby group for the technology, the Australian Nuclear Association, has identified dozens of potential sites for nuclear reactors – those with stable geology and proximity to the existing grid, transport and water. The locations include those in Joyce’s New England electorate in northern NSW and Liberal Ken O’Dowd’s Queensland seat of Flynn. Both MPs have backed a nuclear inquiry.

Joyce floated a potential policy whereby “if you can see the reactor [from your house], your power is for free. If you are within 50 kilometres of a reactor, you get power for half price.” Discounts would scale down to 25 per cent for those living 75 kilometres from a nuclear facility.

Such a policy would trigger a rush of proposals for “hills in the middle of towns that people want a reactor on”, Joyce said.

In NSW, the association also identified sites in Energy Minister Angus Taylor’s seat of Hume and Environment Minister Sussan Ley’s seat of Farrer. Proposed Victorian sites include those in the seats of Wannon and Gippsland, held by ministers Dan Tehan and Darren Chester.

Wide Bay MP Llew O’Brien, whose Queensland electorate is also on the list, said he was “not enthusiastic” about the prospect of a parliamentary probe into nuclear power.

## **CLIMATE CRISIS**



*Greta Thunberg. Photo: AFP*

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2019/jul/21/greta-thunberg-you-ask-the-questions-see-us-as-a-threat>

### **Greta Thunberg: ‘They see us as a threat because we’re having an impact’**

*Greta Thunberg, Guardian, 21/07/2019*

The climate activist answers questions from famous supporters and Observer readers, with an introduction by Ali Smith

At eight years old, Greta Thunberg heard about climate change. She wondered why no one was doing anything to stop it. At 11 she stopped speaking, in protest; now she sees that “selective mutism” as the first step to understanding the power and necessity of speaking at all.

She was 15 when she began taking days off her education to sit in front of the Riksdag in Stockholm, declaring she’d do this till Sweden reduced carbon emissions in line with the Paris agreement. She gave out leaflets: “I am doing this because you adults are shitting on my future.” In just six months, nearly one and a half million children across the world were schoolstriking for action on climate change.

Earlier this month Opec declared Thunberg, and with her the other young climate activists, as the “greatest threat” to the fossil fuel industry.

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/companies/bhp-sets-emissions-cuts-for-customers-in-major-carbon-push-20190723-p529wk.html>

### **BHP sets emissions cuts for customers in major carbon push**

*Nick Toscano, SMH, 23/07/2019*

Australia’s biggest miner, BHP, will become the world’s first to set goals for its customers to cut greenhouse gas emissions, with an ambitious carbon pledge targeting shippers, steel mills and power plants.

Under a decarbonisation plan, the first of its kind by a major miner, BHP chief Andrew Mackenzie unveiled a \$500 million initiative to tackle its own emissions and emissions generated beyond its mine gates from the customers that use its products such as coal and iron ore.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/rivals-baulk-at-bhp-carbon-plan/news-story/>

### **Rivals baulk at BHP carbon plan**

*Nick Evans, Aus, 25/07/2019*

BHP’s aggressive new stance on slashing downstream carbon emissions should not spread to government policy, Australia’s oil and gas industry has warned.

The miner’s stance is somewhat at odds with many of its peers in the oil and gas industry, which is in the middle of a fight with West Australian regulators over whether to include scope 3 emissions in the environmental assessment of new projects.

Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association chief executive Andrew McConville last night said that while he welcomed BHP’s decision to try to tackle its carbon footprint, the new stance should not set an example for policy makers to follow.

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2019/jul/24/scientific-consensus-on-humans-causing-global-warming-passes-99>

### **‘No doubt left’ about scientific consensus on global warming, say experts**

*Jonathan Watts, Guardian, 24/07/2019*

The scientific consensus that humans are causing global warming is likely to have passed 99%, according to the lead author of the most authoritative study on the subject, and could rise further after separate research that clears up some of the remaining doubts.

Three studies published in *Nature* and *Nature Geoscience* use extensive

historical data to show there has never been a period in the last 2,000 years when temperature changes have been as fast and extensive as in recent decades.

“There is no doubt left – as has been shown extensively in many other studies addressing many different aspects of the climate system using different methods and data sets,” said Stefan Brönnimann, from the University of Bern and the Pages 2K consortium of climate scientists.

Commenting on the study, other scientists said it was an important breakthrough in the “fingerprinting” task of proving how human responsibility has changed the climate in ways not seen in the past.

“This paper should finally stop climate change deniers claiming that the recent observed coherent global warming is part of a natural climate cycle. This paper shows the truly stark difference between regional and localised changes in climate of the past and the truly global effect of anthropogenic greenhouse emissions,” said Mark Maslin, professor of climatology at University College London.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-07-25/climate-change-nothing-like-this-over-past-2000-years-scientists/11345022>

## Climate change: We haven't experienced anything like this in the past 2,000 years

Michael Collett, ABC, 25/07/2019

Climate scientists writing in the journal *Nature* have found there is no evidence for “globally coherent warm and cold periods” over the past 2,000 years prior to industrialisation.

That’s significant, because climate change deniers have sometimes pointed to epochs like the so-called “Little Ice Age” or “Medieval Warm Period” to argue that the current global warming is one among multiple similar global climate events.

But what the research actually shows is that other “peak warming and cooling events” over the past two millennia appear to have been localised, whereas the human-caused global warming observed over the past 150 years is unparalleled in its global scale (not to mention its absolute temperatures).

## FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.businessinsider.com.au/federal-resources-minister-matt-canavan-backs-queensland-bid-to-reject-scientific-reports-that-interfere-with-mines-2019-7>

### Federal resources minister Matt Canavan backs Queensland bid to reject scientific reports that interfere with mines

Jack Derwin, *Business Insider*, 15/07/2019

Queensland Liberal and National Party (LNP) MPs are being urged to establish an “Office of Science Quality Assurance”, which would assess every scientific report handed to government and decide whether to approve or reject them, after a members’ resolution was passed at its state conference.

The proposal was notably endorsed by attending LNP senators Matt Canavan and George Christensen.

Canavan has confirmed that he believes that mining opponents shouldn’t be able to use ‘neverending scientific studies’ to stop mining projects.

Members passed a motion to establish a so-called “Office of Science Quality Assurance”, which would be given the ability to scrutinise scientific reports and reject them before they made it to the government.

It’s unclear on what grounds “Office of Science Quality Assurance” would reject a scientific study provided to the government. Former state LNP minister Andrew Cripps, who moved the motion, said it was necessary to fight restrictions which seek to limit farming and mining runoff into the Great Barrier Reef.

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2019/jul/19/deputy-pm-michael-mccormack-accused-of-disputing-evidence-of-global-heating>

### Deputy PM Michael McCormack accused of disputing evidence of global heating

Ben Smee, *Guardian*, 19/07/2019

Australia’s deputy prime minister, Michael McCormack, had told a constituent in Wagga Wagga he disputed evidence of global heating because historical weather measurements might be inaccurate, according to notes from a meeting last month.

The Wagga City Council, at the heart of McCormack’s electorate, declared a climate change emergency last week.

Wagga-based general practitioner Dr Trudi Beck, who has been central to a community push for the council’s climate emergency declaration, met McCormack at his office on 24 June.

“When asked if [McCormack believed] in climate change [he] stated that the climate has always been changing and made reference to various flood and drought events over the past 120 years,” the meeting notes say.

“When asked what [McCormack] would make of data from meteorological agencies that 18 of the 19 hottest years on record have been in the last 18 years [he] suggested that earlier measurements of temperature by agencies such as the Bureau of Meteorology were not as accurately measured.”

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/world/2019/07/19/barnaby-joyce-leadership-ideas/>

### Barnaby Joyce’s thwarted ambitions glow like a nuclear meltdown

Paula Matthewson, *New Daily*, 19/07/2019

It seems as if everywhere we look at the moment, Barnaby Joyce is “showing leadership” on a shopping list of controversial issues.

Joyce’s commentary this week on nuclear energy, raising Newstart, and an Indigenous voice to Parliament is also a transparent re-branding exercise – the type favoured by disgraced politicians when they’re trying to rebuild their leadership credentials.

Joyce kicked off a campaign to become relevant again by claiming his committee should hold an inquiry into establishing nuclear power in Australia.

Yet again demonstrating his expertise in energy policy, the former accountant claimed in a radio interview last weekend that technological advances had essentially made nuclear energy “safe” – and that impoverished Australians living in regional Australia would vie to live near a nuclear power plant if it meant they would receive lower-cost or free electricity in return.

These reassuring words may well be what investors with uranium interests told Mr Joyce, but the vested interests omitted to explain how expensive it is to build a safe nuclear power station, and how long it takes.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/greens-leader-tells-of-proud-history-of-lawbreaking/news-story/>

### Greens leader tells of ‘proud history’ of law-breaking

Rachel Baxendale, *Aus*, 21/07/2019

Greens leader Richard Di Natale has cited his status as the only Green in federal parliament who has “not yet” been arrested in arguing against the

Morrison government's proposed farm trespass laws.

The laws, which will be debated in parliament this week, will see animal rights activists who publish material with the intention of inciting others to trespass or engage in property damage or theft subject to criminal penalties including up to five years' jail.

Senator Di Natale said the new laws were unnecessary, because there were already laws which made trespass, theft and property damage illegal.

"The concern here is that we've seen this government take us closer to a police state with passage of a range of laws that hand over more power to authorities with a whole range of unintended consequences.

"There's the prospect that these laws could be used to criminalise protests. For example, coal seam gas activists, many of them farmers actually, protest against new coal mines.

"Journalists may be caught up in this because they're going to have to prove that what they're reporting is in the public interest.

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/cbd-sydney-alan-jones-tells-the-liberal-troops-to-go-for-fear-campaigns-20190721-p5299k.html>

### Alan Jones tells the Liberal troops to go for fear campaigns

Michael Koziol & Samantha Hutchinson, SMH, 22/07/2019

Right-wing lobbyist Michael Kauter and his physician husband David Gracey took a break from duchessing One Nation leader Pauline Hanson last week to welcome some of Canberra's newest Liberal recruits.

Ostensibly, the guests of honour at the couple's chic Woollahra pad were Wentworth MP Dave Sharma, fresh-faced senators Andrew Bragg and Hollie Hughes, and Liberal member for Reid Fiona Martin.

But inevitably it was shock jock Alan Jones who stole the show. After noting brevity was the order of the day, Jones commenced a 20-minute sermon on water, road tolls and renewable energy – which apparently has the country "on the brink of poverty".

And Jones's key missive to the freshly-elected troops? "Don't be worried about running a fear campaign, because Australians are afraid."

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-07-25/angus-taylor-delayed-emissions-data-foi-documents-reveal/11343154>

### Delayed emissions data was ready weeks earlier, FOI documents reveal

Michael Slezak, ABC, 25/07/2019

Energy and Emissions Reduction Minister Angus Taylor delayed releasing an official report showing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions were rising, even though it had been completed weeks earlier and the Senate had set a legal deadline for its release, government documents have revealed.

Emails from the Department of Environment and Energy, obtained by the ABC under Freedom of Information laws, show the quarterly update to the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory and a brief for the minister seeking its release were prepared by at least May 21 this year.

The update revealed Australia's greenhouse gas emissions continued an upward trend that began in 2013, hitting record highs in some sectors.

The report should have been tabled by May 31, but was tabled in parliament on June 12.

FFB



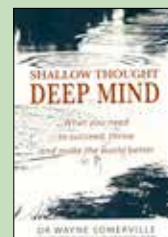
### A short educational film on the shale gas rush in the Northern Territory

Featuring Eddie Mason and Heleana Gulwa from Protect Arnhem Land, Gadian Hoosan, Nancy Mc Dinny and Asman Rory from Borroloola in the South West Gulf of Carpentaria, Daniel and Shannon Tapp from Big River Station in the Roper and Marjorie Braedon from Wattarka Kings Canyon.

Produced by Lauren Mellor and Boudicca Ceresse edited by Cloudcatcher Media for Lock the Gate Alliance, 2015.

<https://vimeo.com/122897319/description>

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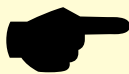


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