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KNITTING NANNAS AGAINST GAS

# Fossil Fool Bulletin

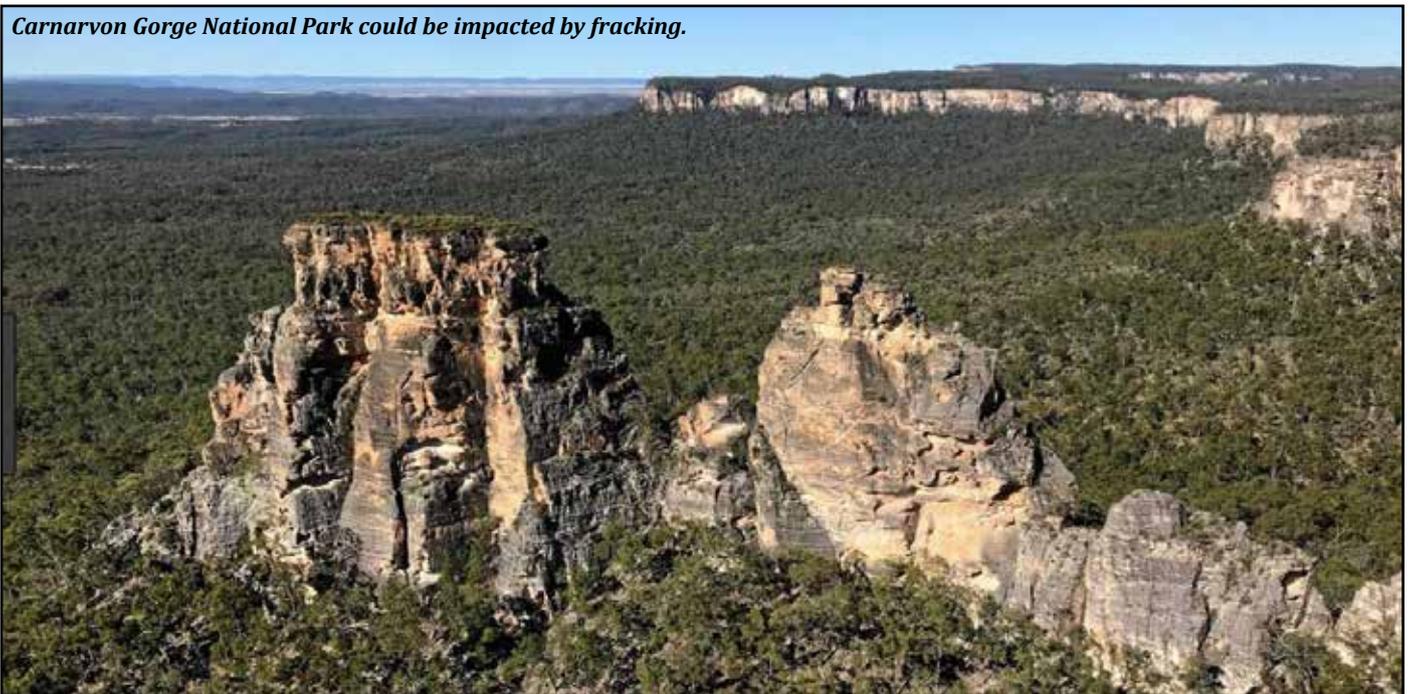
*Fossil fools in the spotlight this week: A resource for people working to end the fossil fuel era in Australia*

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

FFB 2:34 • 2 AUGUST 2019

## Australia Pacific LNG wants to frack 1,000 wells without an environmental impact statement

*Carnarvon Gorge National Park could be impacted by fracking.*



***A much-loved Queensland national park could be at risk after gas giant Australia Pacific LNG quietly lodged an application to frack nearly 1,000 gas wells north of Injune.***

The application includes PL 218, which contains a section of Carnarvon National Park – the location for the headwaters of the Murray Darling system and home to unique and threatened flora and fauna.

### **Fracking amendments sneaked in**

APLNG's original EA, approved in July last year, does not permit fracking, and the amendment does not require an Environmental Impact Statement. It would also cost the company just \$327.60.

It is not the only application for fracking a petroleum licence in close proximity to Carnarvon National Park.

Santos lodged an application to frack PL 450 in November last year, despite there being no reference to fracking in the company's original environmental authority.

The region also remains in drought, and farmers' water resources such as bores could be irreparably drained and damaged should fracking be permitted.

The amendment application comes after Queensland's Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment's Underground Water Impact Report revealed massive drawdown of water bores across the

Surat Basin, with 574 bores expected to be impacted by the gas industry.

Alarmingly, 127 bores have already been affected, yet gas companies have only managed to implement 93 make good agreements for affected land-owners.

The draft UWIR also did not take into consideration the latest amendments from APLNG, and as such the cumulative impact on underground water is not measured.

Don't Frack the Outback spokesperson and St George resident, Leanne Brummell, said there was a lack of transparency surrounding APLNG's plan to frack.

• Continued p2

• **P3: Traditional Owners fight uranium mine**

• **P5: Newscorp vilifies activists and scientists**

• **P6: Oil & gas sites linked to heart defects**

## Land of 1,000 fracks

• Continued from p1

"It is appalling the Queensland Government does not require amendments like this to be more widely advertised – documents are only online and are not even physically available in Injune," she said.

"We have also been given just 20 days to make a submission on an amendment that will cost the company less than the construction of a garden shed. These gas companies are getting a free ride.

"Meanwhile, landowners who are already suffering from the devastating impacts of the drought will now be forced to negotiate with bullying gas companies.

"As we have seen across the Surat Basin, agricultural bores will undoubtedly be drained and gas companies will drag their heels before coming to the table and implementing make good arrangements."

Lock the Gate Queensland spokesperson Ellie Smith said it was appalling fracking could be permitted so close to Carnarvon National Park and at the headwaters of the Murray Darling system.

"The Murray Darling is under so much pressure already, and this amendment application could have devastating impacts to underground and surface water resources in the area," she said.

"The insidious nature of fracking means that even though the wells won't be located inside the national park, it is possible they will still have a devastating impact on the pristine creeks and springs within Carnarvon.

"The Condamine River is already bubbling with methane gas thanks to Origin Energy owned gas wells, and now the company wants to do the same to the beautiful waterways around Carnarvon.

"Lock the Gate Alliance is calling on the Queensland Government to reject this amendment application."

APLNG is owned by Origin Energy 37.5%, Conoco Phillips 37.5% (USA) and Sinopec 25% (Chinese Government).

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## Gas report gets mixed reception

***A new report claiming Australian LNG produces less greenhouse gas emissions if used domestically than coal also admits renewable energy is a less polluting option for power generation.***

The report has been enthusiastically promoted by peak gas industry body APPEA, but strongly criticised by environmentalists.

APPEA says the 'landmark report' by the CSIRO's Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance (GISERA) confirms the greenhouse gas emissions benefits from increased use of natural gas in domestic and export markets.

### Research was industry-funded

GISERA is a partnership between the CSIRO and the gas industry, including Australia Pacific LNG, QGC, Santos and Origin Energy. Its work is regarded with scepticism by conservationists, due to the industry's powerful influence and funding.

Lock the Gate says despite comparing the gas industry favourably to emissions intensive thermal coal, the report still finds export gas is a significant greenhouse polluter.

Lock the Gate spokesperson Naomi Hogan called several of its findings into question.

"It's interesting that even this gas-industry funded report has shown that renewables are likely to be a far better option for electricity generation, and that exporting our gas is a polluting process," she said.

"The report also admits pollution associated with CSG exploration is not incorporated into the study. That means all the exploration-linked venting and flaring of gas wells were not considered.

"The report projects that four times as much gas from Queensland CSG fields will be exported as LNG compared to what will be available domestically, and that gas exports are significantly more polluting than gas used domestically.

Conservation Council of WA (CCWA) Director Piers Verstegen said that the gas industry was deliberately misrepresenting the results of the CSIRO report in order to support a dangerous and dishonest sales pitch.

"The idea that we can save the climate by burning gas is a dangerous myth, and there is nothing in this CSIRO report that suggests otherwise.

"A major international review released earlier this year found that global LNG expansion presents a threat to the climate that is as big, or bigger than coal expansion, with its authors calling for a global moratorium on LNG expansion."

Verstegen said, "The gas industry claims are based on a fantasy that gas is only and always used to replace coal in the energy mix, however this cannot be verified because it is not true.

The report was criticised by *Renew Economy*, which said, "The CSIRO estimates 'fugitive emissions' ... were around 1.4%, which is crucially below the threshold of 3% which represents the point where fugitive emissions eliminate the benefits or lower the emissions intensity of natural gas compared to that of coal.

### Questionable assertions echoed

"However, in releasing the report, the CSIRO has echoed questionable assertions made by federal energy minister Angus Taylor, who has claimed that rising Australian greenhouse gas emissions, driven higher by the expansion of Australia's LNG industry, can be ignored because that gas is being used to reduce emissions overseas by offsetting coal use.

"Taylor is using a line that has previously been used by fossil fuel giant Woodside Petroleum, and has claimed that Australian gas exports reduced global emissions by 148 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e in 2018, but provided no evidence to substantiate the figure."

*Renew Economy* concluded, "if Australia's fugitive gas emissions remain consistent with current levels, and if exported Australian gas is used in high-efficiency gas generators, and if that electricity displaces generation that otherwise would have come from coal, then perhaps Australian gas can contribute to lowering global emissions.

"That's a lot of 'ifs', and unfortunately, neither Angus Taylor nor the CSIRO has presented any solid evidence to substantiate claims that Australian gas exports are indeed reducing global emissions."

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# Traditional Owners vow to continue uranium fight

*Conservation groups are calling for state and national environment laws to be strengthened, following this week's confirmation that the Yeelirrie uranium mine approval was valid, despite advice that the project would lead to the extinction of several unique species and was contrary to key principles of environmental law.*

Conservationists, Traditional Owners, and supporters of the campaign against the Yeelirrie uranium mine gathered on Wednesday to hear the news that their legal challenge against the mine approval had been unsuccessful in the WA Supreme Court of Appeal.

Approval for the Yeelirrie mining proposal in the Northern Goldfields of WA was granted during the final days of the Barnett Government, against the recommendations of the WA Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and against the outcome of a subsequent appeal process.

The EPA found that the project would cause the extinction of multiple species of subterranean fauna and the complete loss of a species of saltbush, concluding that the proposal could not meet key objectives of WA's environmental legislation.

In July 2017, the Conservation Council of WA (CCWA) and three senior members of the Tjiwarl Native Title group lodged a Supreme Court challenge seeking to overturn the environmental approval. After this challenge was unsuccessful, the decision was appealed by the applicants.

Vicki Abdullah, Traditional Owner and Tjiwarl Native Holder said, "We are disappointed, but glad we took this to court, to defend our country and expose the problems with environmental law in this state. We won't give up - our country is too important. We will continue to fight for Yeelirrie and to change the laws."

CCWA Director Piers Verstegen said that the outcome of the case demonstrated that Western Australia's environmental laws needed to be urgently strengthened.

"For the sake of all wildlife across our state, we were determined to challenge what we believe was an appalling precedent set by the previous State Government.



**ABOVE:** Conservation Council WA and Environmental Defenders Office WA staff with three members of the Tjiwarl Native Title Group, Shirley and Elizabeth Wonyabong and Vicky Abdullah. Photo: CCWA

**BELOW:** Yeelirrie landscape. Photo: Cameco



"Conservation groups will not give up our fight to prevent extinction at Yeelirrie. The project may have passed in the court of law but it has failed the court of public opinion.

"We will consider options for further appeal of this decision, and we will continue to vigorously engage with the project to ensure the highest level of scrutiny is applied at all stages.

"The mining company can expect a long, expensive process if they want to continue pursuing plans to mine uranium at Yeelirrie.

## Yeelirrie snapshot

Yeelirrie in the Northern Goldfields is part of the Seven Sisters dreaming and has many

important cultural sites, all under threat from the proposed uranium projects. The community has fought against the proposed mine for over 40 years, and neighbouring pastoralists have joined the fight in recent years.

The approved project would involve:

- A 9km long open mine pit and processing plant;
- Clearing 2421 hectares of native vegetation;
- Use of 8.7 million litres of water per day;
- Generation of 36 million tonnes of radioactive mine waste to be stored in open pits;
- Extinction of several unique species found nowhere else on Earth.

## Nuclear power numbers don't add up



**Commenting on the recent surge of support for nuclear power amongst Coalition politicians, Tom Mullaney looked at nuclear economics and noticed something doesn't add up.**

According to the US Nuclear Energy Agency there are about 200 years of economically accessible uranium resources left on the planet, but that's at current rates of consumption, which recently has been about 11-13% of global electricity production. Fossil fuels make up about 80% of global electricity production.

So, if nuclear energy is going to go up six or seven-fold to replace fossil fuels, then that 200 years will come down six or seven-fold to 30 years.

Therefore the economic risk for a country like Australia is we spend over \$200 billion converting our grid from fossil fuels to nuclear, only to find that in 30 years we have to spend another \$200 billion converting our grid from nuclear to renewable.

Of course every economist in the country is going to ask the very obvious question, "Why the hell didn't you just switch to renewables the first time around and save yourself \$200 billion".

This is why there is not a flood of countries jumping on the nuclear energy bandwagon, because if everyone does, then they will all price themselves out of the market.

But "they" know this. So why all of sudden are we seeing this push for nuclear energy by a range of conservative think tanks, media and politicians?

I suspect much (perhaps not all) of this talk of nuclear energy is just a ruse being pushed by fossil fuel supporters who know it will never happen, but would love to see a decade-long debate about whether we go nuclear or renewable, because such a debate will slow down the transition away from fossil fuels.

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## Climate resistance handbook launched

**350.org has announcing the release of a new 350 resource for youth strikers, climate activists, and anyone wanting to learn more about social change!**

The *Climate Resistance Handbook* features a foreword by Greta Thunberg.

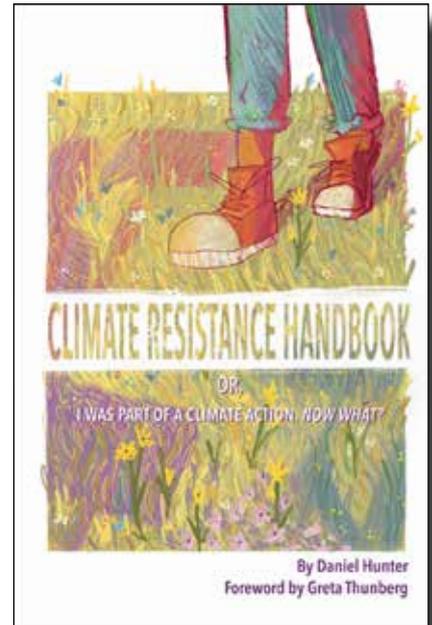
Thunberg says, "I don't want your hope. I don't want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. And then I want you to act."

"Around the year 2030, we will be in a position where we set off an irreversible chain reaction beyond human control, that will most likely lead to the end of our civilisation as we know it. That is unless in that time, permanent and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society have taken place, including a reduction of CO2 emissions by at least 50%."

If you're wondering how to build a powerful, strategic movement that can make big wins for climate action, this is your guide.

The *Climate Resistance Handbook* brings together a wealth of learnings from the climate justice movement. It starts with breaking social myths about how social movements win. Then dives into campaign tools and frameworks you can use. It closes with how to grow your group and use creative, impactful actions and tactics.

This book is full of stories of climate warriors from around the globe and



historical movements. It's filled with practical wisdom and inspiration to make you more effective, more active, and ready for what's next.

**"A crucial book for a crucial moment. If you're wondering 'How can I help change the world?' this book will give you some powerful answers."**

• **Bill McKibben, founder 350.org**

**"If every youth leader had this book, we would be an even greater force to be reckoned with."**

• **Hazel Macmillan, Youth Climate Striker**

**Get your copy now:**

<https://trainings.350.org/climate-resistance-handbook/>

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## Coonamble hears 'definition of insanity'



**Institute of Energy Economics and Financial Analysis speaker Bruce Robertson told people at a recent meeting in Coonamble, near the proposed Santos gasfield, that Australia's gas industry is "the definition of insanity".**

He said Australia, one of the world's biggest gas exporters, may soon rely on gas imports for domestic supply. Robertson's presentation, along with those of Nicky Ison of the Community Power Agency, and Mark Ogge from The Australian Institute can be seen on NW Protection Advocacy's website:

<https://nwprotectionadvocacy.com/definition-of-insanity-australian-gas-is-globally-uncompetitive-and-global-prices-have-collapsed/>

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# NewsCorp vilifies teen activist and scientists

*NewsCorp's anti-scientific climate-denying bias was highlighted this week with a vicious attack on 16-year-old activist Greta Thunberg, and a slap on the wrist from the Press Council over an article vilifying scientists working on species extinction.*

Columnist Andrew Bolt spewed out an extraordinary tirade in the Murdoch-owned *Herald Sun* on July 31.

"No teenager is more freakishly influential than Greta Thunberg, the deeply disturbed messiah of the global warming movement," Bolt chundered.

"I have never seen a girl so young and with so many mental disorders treated by so many adults as a guru ...

"Far more interesting is why so many adults – including elected politicians, top business leaders, the Pope and journalists – treat a young and strange girl with such awe and even rapture.

"That's in part because they are self-admiring frauds, of course: adults who simply reward a clever child for saying exactly what they want to hear and what they taught her to say," Bolt wrote, as he castigated Thunberg for travelling to a US conference by boat rather than flying.

## Attack on scientists breached standards

Meanwhile Murdoch's *Courier-Mail* was obliged to publish a Press Council finding that it had breached standards with a one-sided attack on scientists alleged to have condemned Adani's black-throated finch management plan – which might better be described as an extinction plan.

The Press Council considered a complaint from the Threatened Species Recovery Hub ("Hub") about an article published by the *Courier-Mail* headed "Mega-mine's future in hands of greenies"; in print on page 2 leading to an article on page 4 headed "Birds of a feather in review of mega-mine" and "QLD POLITICS: Anti-coal group could have final say on Adani" online on January 21, 2019.

The print article reported that "the fate of Queensland's Carmichael mine is in the hands of an environmental group whose members champion radical action on climate change, oppose coal and have appeared as expert witnesses against Adani" given the fact that "the Threatened Species Recovery Hub has



been hand-picked by the Palaszczuk Government to review one of the [Adani] mine's environmental management plans."

It said, "the Hub appears certain to condemn Adani's finch management plan, given its experts have for years vocally condemned Adani, coal mining and the use of biodiversity offsets to cater for habitat loss ..." and the "Hub's leaders have also used social media to advocate for radical action to tackle climate change, oppose coal-fired power and condemn mining."

The article included comments from an Adani spokesperson criticising the Hub's appointment by the State Government, and who described it as "compromised" and "incapable of providing an independent review." Above the article were the names of the Chair of the panel and six other panel members and brief examples of each those members' environmental activities.

## Article was inaccurate and misleading

The Hub said the article's statement that the Hub "has been hand-picked by the Palaszczuk Government to review one of the [Carmichael] mine's environmental management plans" is inaccurate because the Hub is not conducting this review. Of the seven Hub members named in the article as part of the review panel, only one was actually involved in carrying out the review.

The Hub said the article's references to the Hub as an "anti-coal group", "greenies" and an "environmental group" were inaccurate, misleading and damaging to the Hub's reputa-

tion. The complainant said the article suggested the Hub is a group of environmental activists, when in fact it is a collaboration of more than 150 world-class research scientists from the CSIRO, Australian Universities and various non-government organisations working on the challenge of how to recover Australia's threatened species. The complainant said that the article's reference to it as "compromised" and "incapable of providing an independent review" were inaccurate and misleading as it was not carrying out the review and undermines its legitimacy and could adversely affect its funding.

The complainant also said that the Hub was not contacted by the publication prior to the publication of the article and was not able to have its response included in the article.

## Adani's view unbalanced

The Council notes that the terms "compromised" and "incapable of carrying out a review" are not presented as fact or comment by the publication but as direct quotations from the Adani spokesperson. However, the publication did not contact the Hub for comment prior to publication and the Council considers that it was not reasonably fair and balanced to only present Adani's perspective. In these circumstances the publication failed to take reasonable steps to ensure that Adani's views of the Hub were presented with reasonable fairness and balance and breached General Principle 3.

• **The full adjudication can be seen here:**

<https://www.presscouncil.org.au/document-search/adji-1766/>

# Oil and gas sites linked to heart defects

By Julia Conley, Common Dreams

***Proximity to oil and gas sites makes pregnant mothers up to 70% more likely to give birth to a baby with congenital heart defects, according to a new US study.***

Led by Dr Lisa McKenzie at the University of Colorado, researchers found that the chemicals released from oil and gas wells can have serious and potentially fatal effects on babies born to mothers who live within a mile of an active well site – as about 17 million Americans do.

The researchers studied more than 3,000 newborns who were born in Colorado between 2005 and 2011. The state is home to about 60,000 fracking sites, according to the grassroots group Colorado Rising. In areas with the highest intensity of oil and gas extraction activity, mothers were 40 to 70% more likely to give birth to babies with congenital heart defects (CHDs).

“We observed more children were being born with a congenital heart defect in areas with the highest intensity of oil and gas well activity,” said McKenzie in a statement.

The study was more precise than previous reports about the link between oil and gas extraction and CHDs. The researchers studied families in which the pregnant mother lived near an active oil or gas well up to the second month of pregnancy, when fetal cardiac development takes place.

They also estimated the level of intensity of the oil and gas activity, determined exactly how close the pregnant mothers lived to the well sites, and ensured there were no other significant air pollution sources which could skew their results.

One science journalist, on social media, called the study “extremely convincing.”

## **Public health hazard**

Biologist Sandra Steingraber was among the experts on the dangers of fossil fuel extraction who pointed to the study as the latest evidence that allowing oil and gas wells to operate, especially near communities, is a public health hazard.

“It’s a strong study,” Steingraber wrote on Twitter after reading the paper, noting that the researchers built on knowledge scientists already have

about chemicals that are known to be harmful to prenatal health and that are released during fracking.

Previous studies about the effects of oil and gas drilling on cardiac health of newborns “did not take into account stage of pregnancy or what was happening at the wellpad during that window of time,” wrote Steingraber. “This matters because the cardiac structures form very early in development—during the first two months. If fracking is literally wrecking the hearts of unborn babies it has to do so in early pregnancy.”

“Looking at where mothers lived immediately before pregnancy and during the first critical weeks after conception and what was going on at nearby fracking wells, researchers found startling patterns,” she added.

CHDs are the leading cause of death in infants who have birth defects. Babies

born with CHDs are more likely to show a “failure to thrive,” experience brain injury, and exhibit developmental challenges.

The study comes as President Donald Trump plans to open up 725,000 acres of public land in California to oil and gas companies. The president has offered a total of 378 million acres of public land and water for oil and gas drilling activities since taking office.

Steingraber called on opponents of fossil fuel extraction to speak out about their opposition by appealing to lawmakers and in letters to the editor, noting that McKenzie has been targeted by oil and gas giants for years as they fight research revealing the public health dangers they pose.

• **Originally published at:**

<https://www.commondreams.org/news/2019/07/19/babies-born-near-oil-and-gas-wells-are-70-more-likely-have-congenital-heart-defects>



## **Pipeline planned for Channel Country**

***Queensland’s iconic Channel Country is under threat, with plans by multinational company Jemena to construct a pipeline that would transport fracked gas to Queensland’s LNG export terminals at Gladstone through the fragile region.***

Worryingly, the company, which is owned by China State Grid and Singapore Power, is not proposing to apply the federal water trigger, which means it doesn’t need to consider the impacts on those river systems for the purposes of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

According to Jemena’s submission, the proposed Galilee Gas pipeline would travel from the company’s planned Glenaras gasfield in the Galilee Basin through the Channel Country Strategic Environmental Area on the Barcoo River.

The pipeline would cross 18 major watercourses in total, including the Maranoa and Warrego rivers, and nine watercourses that are located in the environmentally sensitive Lake Eyre Basin.

The Glenaras gas project itself is also likely to have a significant impact

on well-recognised groundwater resources, including aquifers of the Great Artesian Basin.

Channel Country grazier Angus Emmot said if approved, the pipeline had the potential to inflict serious environmental damage on the region.

“The Channel Country and its communities rely on water being able to flow freely across the land as it has for milenia.

“Industrialisation of the region will interrupt those flows and cause erosion as well as increasing the spread of invasive weeds.

## **Jemena eyeing taxpayer-funded loan**

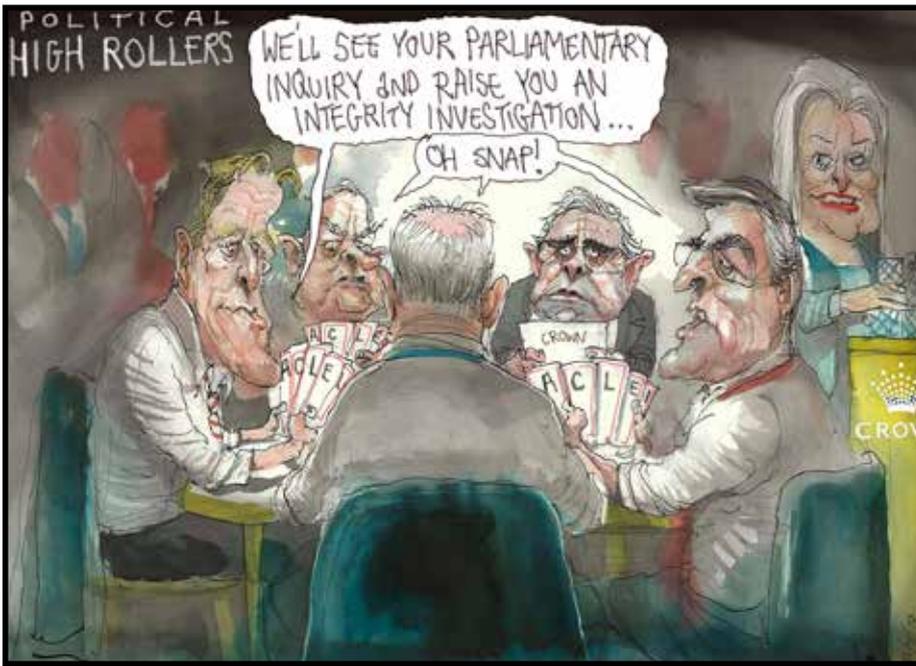
The revelation about Jemena’s plans follow reports the company is eyeing off a taxpayer-funded NAIF loan.

Lock the Gate spokesperson Naomi Hogan said the multinational company did not need a handout from Australian taxpayers.

“Jemena is making millions of dollars in profits every year from its pipeline tariffs. For FY18 its gas distribution segment operating profit was \$295m, being 48.5% of Jemena’s total \$609m operating profit.”



David Rowe reproduced with permission: <https://www.facebook.com/david.rowe.5070>



## Minerals chief has Crown problem

*Sensational corruption allegations have put pressure on Crown Resorts board members, who include Minerals Council of Australia (MCA) chair-person Helen Coonan.*

Coonan is a former Coalition senator and one-time communications minister. She also chairs the newly created Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA) and is a director of the Commonwealth-owned Snowy Hydro group.

The *New Daily* points out those government positions could be threatened if serious misconduct emerged from inquiries into Crown.

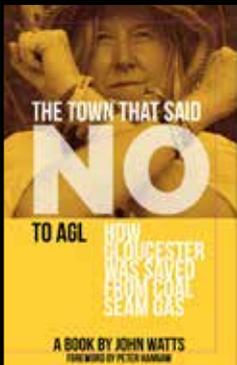
Coonan commenced her role as MCA chief in June, saying "I am honoured to be appointed chair of the MCA at such a great time for our world-leading Australian minerals industry".

### Push for faster mining approvals

"If Australia is to stay in front of its global competitors in an increasingly competitive world, we must continue to push for faster project approvals, greater sustainability and reforms in a whole range of policy areas."

FFB does not suggest that Helen Coonan is involved in any corruption.

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# Focus Publications

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## Inside the news

The fossil fuel industry's grip over government is highlighted by the formation of a bi-partisan **Parliamentary Friends of Coal Exports** group, co-chaired by the Liberal's Craig Kelly and Labor's Joel Fitzgibbon (p16).

Last week Queensland's LNP voted to have a committee formed to over-rule scientific studies that demonstrate harm from projects like Adani's Carmichael mine. This week we have **Coalition MP Terry Young** calling for **climate denial** to be taught in schools, along with creationism (p15). It's a dangerous world when those in charge consider **science** to be **optional**.

Fossil proposals proliferate – more coal mining in Sydney's water catchment, despite **rivers disappearing** down mine-induced cracks (p9) – and more fracking in the Northern Territory and Queensland (p13).

Goomburra (Qld) residents are shocked to find that **APEC Coal** wants to mine their valley and pursue underground coal gasification (UCG). The company may be unaware **UCG** is banned in Queensland, or perhaps they think calling it in-situ gasification (ISG) will get around the prohibition (p10).

PM **Scott Morrison** wants "**to see that gas come out from under people's feet**" (p16) in Victoria and NSW, where federal pressure is being applied to state governments that have fracking bans.

To understand why the push for more gasfields won't result in lower Australian gas prices, listen to **Bruce Robertson's** presentation to a recent gathering in **Coonamble** (click the link on p4).

Yet the Morrison government continues to demand the approval of the **Narrabri gasfield**, which **Santos** is attempting to push through with **Adani-style bullying** (p13).

All this is supported with a ghastly chorus from **NewsCorp**, vilifying activists and scientists (p5).

It's no wonder **scientists** like **Joëlle Gergis** find themselves in tears of despair (p14-15) as the fossil juggernaut seems unstoppable.

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# In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 26,500 words of news for your convenience.  
[Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

## THE ADANI SAGA

<https://independentaustralia.net/business/business-display/adani-arrest-draws-attention-to-australias-global-harm.12932>

### Adani arrest draws attention to Australia's global harm

David Shearman, *Independent Australia*, 24/07/2019

The arrest of Hugo Clément has served the international community interest to recognise the harm being caused to them by Australian policy. This harm is well recognised by our island neighbours but they are inconsequential to the Australian Government. More important are the views of countries which accept their share of the climate change burden and the tourists from Europe and other major countries who may well view Mr Hugo's documentaries when considering holidays in Queensland. ...

Let us be clear: as Australian domestic and export emissions head to 14-17% of world emissions, we have a responsibility for many deaths from heatwaves, floods, storms and drought. Doctors regard Adani as a health issue and so will every other country.

• *Dr David Shearman is a founder of Doctors for the Environment Australia and Emeritus Professor of Medicine at Adelaide University.*

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2019/jul/29/courier-mail-story-attacking-scientists-over-adani-mine-not-accurate-or-fair-watchdog-says>

### Courier-Mail story attacking scientists over Adani mine not accurate or fair, watchdog says

Amanda Meade, *Guardian*, 29/07/2019

The *Courier-Mail* breached the press watchdog's standards for accuracy, fairness and balance in a report headlined "Mega-mine's future in hands of greenies" about Adani's Carmichael mine in Queensland.

The News Corp paper claimed that the Threatened Species Recovery Hub was an "anti-coal group" made up of "greenies" who had been "hand-picked by the Palaszczuk government to review one of the mine's environmental management plans".

But the Australian Press Council said the hub is a collaboration of research scientists engaged in issues of threatened species and only one member was involved in the review.



*Chaos the dog makes a statement to a friendly policeman at one of many anti-Adani protests in Queensland this week. Photo: Galilee Blockade*

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/adani-protest-arrested-french-film-crew-at-scene-of-latest-brisbane-protest/news-story/17e3e2cad166d8295410d-b368e40cfe3>

### Adani protest: Arrested French film crew at scene of latest Brisbane protest

Andrea Macleod, *Courier-Mail*, 30/07/2019

An anti-Adani protest at a Pinkenba industrial site is over.

Following discussions between police and Specialised Concrete Pumping, protesters have agreed to let workers leave the site

On site also are the French film crew who were arrested in North Queensland who remain shocked at having been arrested last week.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/adanis-blackthroated-finch-management-plan-cost-queensland-taxpayers-27k/news-story/dd791a56c5e-95220158b380ce58a7865>

### Adani's black-throated finch management plan cost Queensland taxpayers \$27k

Sarah Elks, *Aus*, 31/07/2019

Queensland taxpayers spent \$27,000 on an independent review of Adani's black-throated finch management plan, ordered by the Palaszczuk government.

Environment Department director general Jamie Merrick told budget estimates that it was not unusual for the department to order such a review, which Adani claimed led to delays in its environmental approvals.

<https://www.i-q.net.au/main/adani-granted-licence-to-build-carmichael-rail-link>

## Adani granted licence to build Carmichael rail link

Industry Queensland, 02/08/2019

The State Co-ordinator General has granted Adani's licence to build and operate its rail line.

It is still awaiting accreditation as a rail infrastructure manager and rolling stock operator.

The rail component of the \$16.5 billion project is expected to create up to 1400 jobs in construction and 120 operational roles.

## COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-07-26/south32-warns-ing-over-dendrobium-mine-expansion-plan/11347592>

### South32 warns Port Kembla steelworks at risk without coal mine expansion under Sydney catchment

Kelly Fuller, ABC, 26/07/2019

Mining company South32 says if its proposed expansion on the New South Wales south coast does not go ahead it could jeopardise the future of Australia's largest steelworks at Port Kembla.

South32 wants to expand the life of the Dendrobium coal mine – one of its two remaining sites near Wollongong – in the hope of producing 78 million tonnes of metallurgical coal over the next 30 years.

South32 manager of operations Jason Economidis said, "If we cease to exist and BlueScope Steel ceases to exist, then the Port Kembla Coal Terminal would also cease to exist.

"Which means the other coal operators in the region would also struggle because they would have to ship their coal up to Newcastle."

South32's mine is located under the Sydney water catchment between the Avon and Cordeaux Dams, and environmental groups warned the proposed expansion poses too great a risk to the area's water supply.

Lock the Gate's Nic Clyde said the company had consistently caused more damage to the drinking water catchment than what was projected.

A recent draft report found it was "plausible that an average of around 3 million litres a day of surface water and seepage from reservoirs is currently being diverted into the mine workings".



**Mining damage:** A stream turns orange and disappears into cracks above a mine in Sydney's drinking water catchment. Screenshot: Sydney Morning Herald

The Independent Expert Panel for Mining in the Catchment will release its final report on specific mining activities at the Metropolitan and Dendrobium coal mines in August.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-07-26/underground-fire-in-coal-wash-underneath-house/11349926>

### Backyard burns for six weeks after fire takes hold in coal wash beneath house

Patrick Bell, ABC, 26/07/2019

Fire crews have spent more than a fortnight extinguishing a coal wash fire burning underground beneath a house on the New South Wales South Coast.

The incident in Austinmer, north of Wollongong, is not the first of its kind in the coal mining region – a primary school in the area has been dealing with a similar situation on and off for almost two decades.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/sustainability/shocking-mining-damage-in-sydney-s-catchment-prompts-calls-for-halt-20190726-p52azm.html>

### 'Shocking': Mining damage in Sydney's catchment prompts calls for halt

Peter Hannam, SMH, 27/07/2019

Flows from a "significant" water source for one of Sydney's dams are turning orange and disappearing beneath the surface because of an underground coal mine that is slated to expand to beneath the reservoir itself.

The Eastern Tributary, which supplies the Woronora Reservoir in Sydney's south-west, goes from pristine conditions to stagnant, highly discoloured pools within only a few hundred metres, a visit guided by WaterNSW this week revealed. Water all but completely disappears into cracks in the sandstone bedrock above the mine.

<https://www.newcastleherald.com.au/story/6293688/productive-valley-too-rare-to-sacrifice/>

### Productive Bylong Valley too valuable to sacrifice

Merran Auland, Newcastle Herald, 27/07/2019

The beautiful Bylong Valley has a long heritage of productive farming and has been recognised as containing some of the most fertile land in NSW. Yet we are putting this at risk for the sake of a temporary coal mine.

Unfortunately, mine owner KEPCO has already bought much of the valley and closed many farms, even before its destructive and deeply unpopular project has been approved.

We therefore demand politicians show some real leadership and reject this coal mine ... Bylong is far too precious to be sacrificed.

• Merran Auland, with partner Phillip Kennedy, own 'Wigelmar', a farm in the Bylong Valley.

<https://www.newcastleherald.com.au/story/6299047/no-middle-ground-in-battle-over-rixs-creek-extension/?cs=12>

### More than 200 people attend Rix's Creek meeting in Singleton

Matthew Kelly, Newcastle Herald, 29/07/2019

Middle ground was hard to come by when supporters and opponents of the proposed extension to Rix's Creek open-cut mine gathered to argue their cases in Singleton on Monday.

As an army of supporters wearing high-vis workwear took their seats at the Independent Planning Commission meeting, an equally passionate group gathered outside to protest.

The Bloomfield group is seeking to extend the mine's life for 21 years and extract a further 25 million tonnes of coal.

If approved it is estimated the mine will employ 255 full time workers and 44 full time equivalent contractors. The value of wages would be \$21 million annually

But Singleton GP and Doctors for the Environment representative Bob Vickers urged the commissioners to look beyond the project's economic benefits and carefully consider the community health impacts of mining.

<https://www.singletonargus.com.au/story/6298487/sea-salt-causing-air-pollution-in-singleton/>

### **A boycott, a show of support and a scathing criticism of the IPC - the public meeting had it all**

*Louise Nichols, Singleton Argus, 30/07/2019*

Anyone whose livelihood depended on the continuation of the Bloomfield Group's Rix's Creek South open cut coal mine on the edge of Singleton came in support and mostly wearing orange high-vis.

For those opposed to the project, that would see the mine continue for another 21 years and extract a further 25 million tonnes of coal, they wore face masks to highlight their concerns with air pollution.

All this was taking place at the Civic Centre on Monday morning where the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) was holding a public meeting into their final determination of the Rix's Creek South Continuation Project. This project has been going through the planning approval process since 2015.

Doctors for the Environment representative, Dr Bob Vickers said, "The cost to the local community annually from the health impacts of air pollution is \$47 million – now how does that figure stack up to the income from this mine."

He also criticised a planning department comment that 'a significant proportion of the particulate matter in the air derives from sea salt'.

"That is an incorrect statement we know full well that 50 per cent of the PM2.5 particulate pollution comes from fossil fuels," Vickers told the Commissioners.

"The Department of Planning is providing false information."

<https://www.huntervalleynews.net.au/story/6298876/muswellbrook-mine-fined-for-excessive-dust/>

### **NSW Environment Protection Authority penalises Hunter Valley Energy Coal Pty Ltd \$15,000 following unnecessary emissions from Mt Arthur**

*Hunter Valley News, 29/07/2019*

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has fined Hunter Valley Energy Coal Pty Ltd \$15,000 for allegedly causing excessive dust at Muswellbrook's Mt Arthur open cut mine.

EPA director north Adam Gilligan said Hunter Valley Energy Coal had failed to comply with its licence conditions by failing to conduct activities aimed at minimising the generation of dust from vehicles and responding to particular weather conditions that could contribute to dust.

<https://www.warwickdailynews.com.au/news/farming-families-face-new-threat-to-water-supply/3793230/>

### **Farming families face new threat to water supply**

*Bianca Hrovat, Warwick Daily News, 31/07/2019*

Farming families of the Goomburra valley face an uncertain future as the harrowing prospect of open cut coal mining threatens their land and their livelihoods.

A quarterly ASX report by Kaili Resources revealed their subsidiary APEC Coal has a "view to expanding the current resource base" to include exploration of open cut coal mining and in situ gasification.

Founder of the Southern Downs Protection Group Marianne Irvine said farming land in the Goomburra valley was incompatible with open cut mining.

The EPC1506 mining lease is up for renewal in May 2020 and Guardians of Goomburra are planning a community meeting to discuss their next steps.

For more information and updates as they occur visit

[www.facebook.com/guardiansofgoomburra/](http://www.facebook.com/guardiansofgoomburra/)

<https://www.newcastleherald.com.au/story/6300188/states-secret-mining-business-the-email-the-web-post-and-cosy-dealings/>

### **Glencore email reveals cosy dealings between mining companies and NSW government agencies**

*Joanne McCarthy, Newcastle Herald, 31/07/2019*

The NSW Department of Planning and other government agencies secretly

workshopped "problematic" mine approval conditions with mining companies "as a matter of convention" for more than 20 years, says a bombshell submission from Glencore seeking to continue the arrangement with the Independent Planning Commission.

It was "the usual practice" for consent authorities, including NSW Planning Assessment Commission panels, to share draft conditions of consent with mine owners before approval, said the Glencore submission, despite no public acknowledgement of such an arrangement on a government, department or commission website.

Lock the Gate Alliance spokesperson Georgina Woods said the Glencore email illustrated the "huge chasm" between community and mining industry expectations about how coal project decisions are made.

"Through this letter, Glencore has unwittingly exposed what many Hunter people have long suspected: that fair dealing and access to decision making about damaging coal mines is granted to mining companies, not to the people that suffer the impacts of those mines," Woods said.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jul/30/new-acland-coalmine-caught-drilling-illegally-at-27-sites-and-fined-just-3152>

### **New Acland coalmine caught drilling illegally at 27 sites – and fined just \$3,152**

*Ben Smee, Guardian, 29/07/2019*

One of Australia's most contentious coalmines, New Acland, was caught drilling 27 illegal bores last year and fined \$3,152 by the Queensland government, a figure an environment group has labelled "paltry".

Documents obtained under Queensland freedom of information laws show the state Department of Environment and Science believed the Darling Downs miner had committed a "major" breach of environmental laws.

A formal "decision memo" detailed that the mine had conducted exploration drilling activities – including drilling at 27 sites and prepping 41 more – on land not designated for mining activity. ...

The memo showed the department believed that the \$3,152 fine – a 20th of the maximum fine for a single infringement – would serve as a deterrent. The company's parent New Hope Group made \$160m in after-tax profit in the six months to January 2019.

Details of the investigation's findings and the fine were never made public – by the state or the miner – and have been uncovered in a tranche of documents obtained by the environmental group Lock the Gate.

<https://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/6302582/wollongong-coal-says-reduced-plan-would-have-negligible-impact/>

### Wollongong Coal says reduced plan would have 'negligible' impact

*Ben Langford, Illawarra Mercury, 31/07/2019*

Wollongong Coal says its new plan for its Russell Vale mine would reduce the amount of coal mined, the damage to the surface, and the number of people employed.

In a bid to win approval for its expansion beneath the drinking water catchment, the miner has submitted a revised proposal which drops the amount of coal to be mined from 5 million tonnes to 3.7 million, at the rate of 1MT per year.

Wollongong Coal said it would have "negligible" impact on the surface.

Anti-coal group Lock the Gate was glad for the reduced impact but said the miner's environmental and safety record should rule it out.

"The new plan still proposes to mine underneath seams that have already been mined with longwall machines," the group's NSW co-ordinator Georgina Woods said.

"The company has very little money and is still under investigation as to whether it is a 'fit and proper person' to mine in NSW.

## OIL & GAS LEAKS

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2019-07-26/rock-lobsters-impacted-by-seismic-surveys/11343240>

### Scientist calls for more research into seismic surveys as they leave lobsters flat on their backs

*Hugh Hogan, ABC, 26/07/2019*

A study published in a UK biology journal has revealed that controversial seismic surveys for oil and gas can impact on the ability of rock lobsters to avoid predators.

Research by the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies in Hobart and Curtin University in Western Australia found lobsters exposed to the air guns used in seismic surveys had damaged statocysts, an organ similar to the human inner ear.

One of the researchers, Ryan Day, said this left the lobsters with an impaired ability to right themselves when flipped over.

"They really rely on this ability to right themselves and to control when they are escaping from a predator," he said.

The lobsters received the equivalent of a full survey passing within 300–500 metres.

"In all experiments we didn't detect any sign of recovery, even one year after," Dr Day said.

The results have prompted a renewed call by Greens Senator Peter Whish-Wilson for the practice to be investigated.

<https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/6293298/gas-giant-turns-its-attention-to-the-north-west/>

### Comet Ridge looks to reactivate North West exploration licences it owns with Santos

*Jamieson Murphy, N Daily Leader, 26/07/2019*

A gas company is considering reactivating three exploration licences that cover thousands of square kilometres in the North West, leading to fears the region will one day be littered with gasfields.

Comet Ridge recently told a mining investor conference in Noosa it would "revisit the significant acreage" it holds "once Narrabri is approved".

Comet Ridge has joint ownership of three Petroleum Exploration Licences (PELs) – which cover the Moree and Coonamble, Walgett and Warrumbungles shires – with gas giant Santos.

"Santos are working to have their Narrabri approvals from the state government by the end of the year," Comet Ridge told investors.

"Comet Ridge has commenced an exploration review – magnetics, gravity surveys, seismic [and] old wells."

Coonamble farmer Simon Fagan the North West was at "a precipice for the future of our region".

"If the Narrabri Gas Project is approved and Santos proceeds, it is most likely that further gasfields will follow," Mr Fagan said.

"Our concern regarding this large-scale coal seam gas industrialisation is not only based on knowledge of how the industry continually expands, from Queensland and around the world, it is based on actual maps for this region, from Santos itself."

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/jul/26/us-natural-gas-ban-socalgas-berkeley>

### US gas utility funds 'front' consumer group to fight natural gas bans

*Guardian, 26/07/2019*

America's largest gas utility is trying to stymie efforts to limit the use of natural gas in California beyond usual corporate lobbying efforts, going so far as to establish and fund a consumer group that pushes for "balanced energy solutions".

SoCalGas, a subsidiary of Sempra Energy that provides natural gas to nearly 22 million customers in California, says it does not direct the consumer group Californians for Balanced Energy Solutions (C4Bes). But documents show it funded the organization from its launch, paying outside consultants to develop the not-for-profit group, establish "the organisation's messages and themes" and recruit board members.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/papua-new-guinea-rethinking-lng-agreement/news-story/41ca002876a2025593ff00134087344>

### Papua New Guinea rethinking LNG agreement

*Perry Williams, Aus, 26/07/2019*

Papua New Guinea will recommend changes to the existing Papua LNG deal agreed with ousted Prime Minister Peter O'Neill, raising fresh hurdles for Oil Search and its partners to seal a broader \$US13 billion (\$18.7bn) gas expansion plan.

Oil Search signed the Papua LNG agreement in April with its joint venture partners Total and ExxonMobil as the first part of a pact to double production by 2024 from the PNG LNG plant.

Prime Minister James Marape has been carrying out a review of the agreement struck with Mr O'Neill and PNG is now expected to push for a better commercial return along with potential regulatory changes.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/gas-lives-up-to-cleaner-fuel-claims/news-story/ee3bae24a5fb5fc37b40767f761b8ca5>

### Gas lives up to 'cleaner fuel' claims

*Perry Williams, Aus, 29/07/2019*

Coal-seam gas used for local electricity supply can cut up to half the greenhouse gas emissions of domestic black coal plants, data from the nation's science research agency shows, tentatively backing the gas industry's "cleaner fuel" claims. ...

Australia's top producers have long touted a claim that gas-fired electricity produces 30 to 70 per cent less emissions than coal-fired generation as they seek to build community and investor support for gas as the key transition fuel to guide Australia's power grid towards renewable energy.

<https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/lng-projects-pollute-less-than-thought-csiro-20190728-p52bhn>

### LNG projects pollute less than thought: CSIRO

Mark Ludlow, AFR, 29/07/2019

Greenhouse gas emissions from large liquefied natural gas projects on Australia's east coast are not as high as previously thought, according to a landmark CSIRO report to be released on Monday. ...

The CSIRO report, which assessed the greenhouse gas emissions from a single CSG to LNG project in Queensland, also found Australia could lower its carbon emissions significantly if it diverted the gas now bound for export and used it for domestic electricity generation – provided it replaced existing black thermal coal-fired power plants.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/csiro-report-highlights-gymnastics-needed-to-justify-lng-on-emissions-41582/>

### CSIRO report highlights gymnastics needed to justify LNG on emissions

Michael Mazaengarb, Renew Economy, 29/07/2019

New research from the CSIRO, produced in collaboration with the Australian gas industry, has found that fugitive emissions from Australian Liquefied Natural Gas production are at the 'low end' of the scale, and suggest Australian gas "may" result in less greenhouse gas emissions than coal use.

However, questions remain over the contributions of Australian gas to global emissions. ...

The report was produced by the CSIRO's Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance (GI-SERA), which is a partnership between the CSIRO and the gas industry, including Australia Pacific LNG, QGC, Santos and Origin Energy, and has received funding from the NSW and South Australian governments. ...

So, if Australia's fugitive gas emissions remain consistent with current levels, and if exported Australian gas is used in high-efficiency gas generators, and if that electricity displaces generation

that otherwise would have come from coal, then perhaps Australian gas can contribute to lowering global emissions.

That's a lot of 'ifs', and unfortunately, neither Angus Taylor nor the CSIRO has presented any solid evidence to substantiate claims that Australian gas exports are indeed reducing global emissions.

<https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/jemena-eyes-naif-to-back-600m-galilee-gas-pipeline-20190729-p52btc>

### Jemena eyes NAIF to back \$600m Galilee gas pipeline

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 30/07/2019

Gas pipeline developer Jemena is eyeing the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility to help fund a proposed \$600 million pipeline that would connect Queensland's inland Galilee Basin to the gas grid and provide more fuel into the stretched east coast market. ...

Jemena's base case is for the pipeline to carry 200 terajoules a day of gas, although it could be built with a larger diameter from the start to allow for higher volumes.

Mr Green said Jemena is "looking for opportunities to work together with NAIF", potentially to enable the construction up-front of a larger pipeline. While Jemena needs development approval before putting a formal proposal to NAIF, "we're engaged in discussions", he added.

<https://www.geelongadvertiser.com.au/news/townsville/jemena-announces-route-for-600m-galilee-gas-pipeline/news-story/>

### Jemena announces route for \$600m Galilee gas pipeline

Tony Raggatt, Townsville Bulletin, 31/07/2019

Energy infrastructure company Jemena has revealed the proposed pipeline alignment for the Galilee Gas Pipeline which is planned for construction in Queensland.

The announcement comes ahead of public consultation and stakeholder engagement which is expected to commence next year.

The proposed pipeline will span 585km to connect gas from Galilee Energy Ltd's Glenaras Gas Project near Longreach to Jemena's Queensland Gas Pipeline near Injune.

The project will also include two compressor stations, two mainline valves and two scraper stations. ...

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/114602919/austrian-oil-company-omv-proceeding-with-plans-to-drill-off-otago-coast>

### Austrian oil company OMV proceeding with plans to drill off Otago coast

Hamish McNeilly, Stuff, 30/07/2019

An oil giant claims the risk of discharging a harmful substance off New Zealand's southern coast is "negligible".

Earlier this year OMV submitted a consent application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to discharge an unnamed harmful substance within the Great South Basin.

The application to discharge trace amounts of the substance from the deck drains of a mobile offshore drilling unit has prompted a three-day hearing, which started in Dunedin on Tuesday morning.

OMV's counsel James Winchester said the company had conservatively assumed that 250 millilitres would be the maximum volume of harmful substances that could be washed into the deck drainage system after a spill.

The specific harmful substance was not yet known, but any risk would be "negligible", he said. ...

The hearing, held at the Distinction Dunedin Hotel, attracted a heavy security presence with protesters expected to gather outside the venue at noon.

Oil Free Otago spokesman Adam Currie said protesters would tape their mouths shut to highlight how the public had been silenced from challenging OMV's application on the grounds of climate change.

Committee chairman Mark Farnsworth said the EPA could not make decisions regarding climate change when considering drilling applications.

Currie slammed the hearing as "farci-cal".

"It's 2019 and we're having a hearing to consider the impact of a cup of waste, but not the impact of drilling for fossil fuels on the climate, our environment, the species living in it, and the future of humanity."

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced an end to new offshore oil exploration permits in April 2018.

The Great Southern Basin is home to protected species including yellow-eyed penguins, albatross, southern right whales and New Zealand fur seals.

<https://www.theland.com.au/story/6292656/quick-narrabri-gas-approval-predictions-could-be-premature/>

## Barwon MP Roy Butler says Santos trying to pressure govt

*Daniel Pedersen, The Land, 30/07/2019*

Santos's predictions that its Narrabri Gas Project will be approved by the end of the year have been labelled a brazen attempt to pressure the government.

When Santos chief executive Kevin Gallagher told Ticky Fullerton on Sky News in May the company expected approval by "year-end" there were a few eyebrows raised.

Barwon MP Roy Butler said: "this is not coming from the government, the company is trying to force a government decision on the back of the Adani Carmichael coal mine approval (in Queensland)."

Mr Butler disagrees with the prospect of 850 unconventional gas wells being drilled across the state's North West.

"No-one has been able to give me a guarantee the groundwater will be safe, it's all good and well to have jobs, but if we don't have water we won't have any communities.

"Then jobs are pointless." ...

Sally Hunter, a commercial cattle farmer at "Huntly", Boggabri, says Santos's latest public declaration that its project is nearing approval is a "brazen attempt to undermine a process that is deliberately apolitical ...

"Disposal of contaminated salt waste, monitoring of groundwater loss, estimation of escaping methane and volatile organic compounds, ground-truthing of ecological mapping and mitigation of bushfire risk are all among matters still not addressed by Santos.

"These are far from trivial considerations," said Hunter ...

Great Artesian Basin Protection Group president Simon Fagan said, "Santos has mapped a Taroom gasfield near Moree, a Bellata gasfield, a Maules Creek gasfield, a Bando gasfield on the Liverpool Plains, a gasfield for Tooraweenah near Gilgandra and a Murrurundi gasfield in the Upper Hunter."

Mr Fagan said the coal seam gas industry would bring "long-term damage to the social fabric, economic stability and environmental sustainability of our region.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/origin-ramps-up-cash-flows-from-big-australia-pacific-lng-project/news-story/1af8338e96f348a4d450a44c7a305daf>

## Origin ramps up cash flows from big Australia Pacific LNG project

*Robb M Stewart, Dow Jones/Aus, 31/07/2019*

The big Australia Pacific LNG project on Australia's east coast delivered higher-than-expected annual cash flows for co-owner Origin Energy as increased commodity prices more than offset steady production.

Origin's share of sales revenue from APLNG rose by 36 per cent for the financial year, translating to \$943 million in cash flow, better than the \$850m the company had previously forecast.

Revenue from the project was \$2.79 billion for the year through June, compared with \$2.05bn the year before. ...

<https://www.northqueenslandregister.com.au/story/6303198/gas-giant-wants-to-frack-almost-1000-wells/>

## Australia Pacific LNG applies to frack 940 wells around Injune and Springsure

*Steven Trask N Qld Register, 31/07/2019*

Australia's largest coal seam gas producer has lodged an application to frack nearly 1,000 petroleum wells, including in an area near the Carnarvon National Park.

Environmental lobby group Lock the Gate has raised concerns about the proposal and the fact that it will not require an environmental impact statement.

Australia Pacific LNG has lodged an amendment seeking state government approval to frack up to 940 petroleum wells in an area stretching from Injune through to Springsure. ...

The federal Environment Department said the main risks of fracking included risks to groundwater, the toxicity of chemicals used and induce seismic activity.

<http://koorimail.com/remot-nt-communities-sacrificed-to-fracking/>

## Remote NT communities 'sacrificed' to fracking

*Koori Mail, 31/07/2019*

Many remote Aboriginal communities have been left out of the 'no-go zones' to fracking announced by the Northern Territory Government last month.

Instead, the 'no-go zones' were allocated to protect towns, residential areas and areas of high tourism, ecological

and cultural value. First Nations Justice lead campaigner Larissa Baldwin, from GetUp, accused the government of backhandedly declaring remote communities as a sacrifice zone for the fracking industry.

"Community consent and consultation has been trashed and Aboriginal land and water has been handed to the gas lobby," she said.

## LINC STINK

<https://www.chinchillanews.com.au/news/govt-acknowledges-linc-contamination/3793946/>

## Govt acknowledges Linc contamination

*Brooke Duncan, Chinchilla News, 31/07/2019*

Landholders and environmental groups are calling for answers after the government admitted to groundwater contamination at the Linc Energy site in the strangest of ways.

Last December the Queensland Government granted two petroleum leases to Arrow Energy that sit above and near the former UCG plant at Hope-land, just outside Chinchilla.

Last April Linc Energy was found guilty of wilfully and unlawfully causing environmental harm at the site between 2007 and 2013.

Buried within one of the Environmental Authorities granted to Arrow Energy was a condition – that the extraction of groundwater (as part of the petroleum activity) from underground aquifers must not "directly or indirectly influence the mobilisation of existing groundwater contamination".

A further condition prohibited placement of CSG production wells within 10km of the centre of the former Linc site.

According to Chinchilla landholder, advocate and consultant Shay Dougall, those few words marked the first time the government acknowledged groundwater contamination (as opposed to just soil contamination) at the Linc Energy site. ...

Mrs Dougall was aware of the RIDA application and has, along with a group of concerned landholders, prepared their own submission listing their concerns if Arrow's proposals was to go ahead.

"Linc's water monitoring bores behaved as a pathway for contamination, we know that," she said. ...

## HYDROGEN HYPE

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/will-hydrogen-from-coal-and-gas-be-necessary-to-meet-future-energy-demands-71383/>

### Will hydrogen from coal and gas be necessary to meet future energy demands?

Michael Mazengarb, *Renew Economy*, 30/07/2019

The production of hydrogen from gas and coal may be necessary to fill a potential gap in the global supply energy in the future, and Australia may be ideally placed to emerge as a major player in the global hydrogen market, Australia's chief scientist, Dr Alan Finkel has told the clean energy sector at a conference in Sydney.

Speaking at the 2019 Australian Clean Energy Summit, Finkel said that wind and solar have emerged as the most viable new sources of zero-emissions energy going into the future, as the sources have overcome the cost, scale and social challenges faced by other energy sources, including nuclear, bio-fuels and wave or tidal energy. ...

In raising the question of whether the production of hydrogen from coal or gas would be necessary, Finkel raised concerns about the prospect that the global energy market may become reliant on two sources of primary energy, being wind and solar.

Finkel suggested that the use of coal and gas for the production of hydrogen, when paired with the total, or near total capture of emissions from the production process, could serve as a third primary energy source in the future. ...

## NUKE MADNESS

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-07-29/nuclear-power-australia-should-be-considered-minerals-council/11359998>

### Nuclear power should be considered for Australia: Minerals Council chair Helen Coonan

Peter Ryan, *ABC*, 29/07/2019

Newly appointed Minerals Council chair Helen Coonan has become the latest business heavyweight to call for nuclear power to be considered as part of Australia's future energy mix.

The former Howard government minister said the "nuclear option" should be on the table, along with renewables, as the resources industry edges away from fossil fuels in the coming decades. ...

Ms Coonan backed the approval of Adani's Carmichael mine in central

Queensland and said tough regulation was unnecessarily delaying projects.

"There should be proper process. There is enormous duplication and delays that stop productivity. That's something that's a handbrake on the proper processes of mining exploration," Ms Coonan said.

"If project approvals were sped up it would release something like \$160 billion to national output and another 69,000 jobs." ...

Helen Coonan was appointed Minerals Council chair in May this year, after Scott Morrison's surprise election victory.

In addition to the Minerals Council role, Ms Coonan is also chair of the Australian Financial Complaints Authority and a non-executive director at Crown Resorts.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/nuclear-energy-is-never-profitable-new-study-slams-nuclear-power-business-case-49596/>

### "Nuclear energy is never profitable", new study slams nuclear power business case

Michael Mazengarb, *Renew Economy*, 29/07/2019

A new study of the economics of nuclear power has found that nuclear power has never been financially viable, finding that most plants have been built while heavily subsidised by governments, and often motivated by military purposes, and is not a good approach to tackling climate change.

German economic think-tank DIW Berlin, and found that the average 1,000MW nuclear power plant built since 1951 resulted in an average economic loss of 4.8 billion euros (\$7.7 billion AUD).

The report reviewed the development of 674 nuclear power plants built since 1951, finding that none of the plants was built using 'private capital under competitive conditions.' ...

"Nuclear power was never designed for commercial electricity generation; it was aimed at nuclear weapons. That is why nuclear electricity has been and will continue to be uneconomical. Further, nuclear energy is by no means 'clean.' Its radioactivity will endanger humans and the natural world for over one million years," Christian von Hirschhausen, co-author of the study said.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/man-who-urinated-in-backyard-exposed-family-to-radiation-20190729-p52bt4.html>

### Man who urinated in backyard exposed family to radiation

Nicole Hasham, *SMH*, 29/07/2019

A patient being treated with nuclear medicine who exposed his family to radiation after urinating in his backyard, and a worker who spilled a vial of radioactive liquid onto his hands are among hundreds of reported mishaps involving nuclear substances in Australia.

The cases have been detailed as the Queensland Liberal National Party declared its opposition to using nuclear technology to produce electricity – a position at odds with Queensland federal Coalition members pushing for a parliamentary inquiry into the issue. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/yeelirrie-uranium-mine-set-to-go-ahead-after-traditional-owners-lose-appeal/news-story/6efde70e6def8f04ecf4f36b1890d192>

### Yeelirrie uranium mine set to go ahead after traditional owners lose appeal

Victoria Laurie, *Aus*, 31/07/2019

A landmark legal case has been won by the owners of Yeelirrie uranium mine, one of Western Australia's most contentious resources projects.

The West Australian Appeal Court has dismissed an appeal by traditional owners and the WA Conservation Council, who argued that the state's Environmental Protection Authority had recommended against approving the mine because it could lead to the extinction of 12 species of subterranean crustaceans found nowhere else.

## CLIMATE CRISIS

<https://www.themonthly.com.au/issue/2019/august/1566136800/jo-ille-gergis/terrible-truth-climate-change>

### The terrible truth of climate change

Joëlle Gergis, *Monthly*, 01/08/2019

The latest science is alarming, even for climate scientists

In June, I delivered a keynote presentation on Australia's vulnerability to climate change and our policy challenges at the annual meeting of the Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society, the main conference for those working in the climate science community. I saw it as an opportunity to summarise the post-election political and scientific reality we now face. ...

Preparing for this talk I experienced something gut-wrenching. It was the realisation that there is now nowhere to hide from the terrible truth. ...

Even with the 1°C of warming we've already experienced, 50 per cent of the Great Barrier Reef is dead. We are witnessing catastrophic ecosystem collapse of the largest living organism on the planet. As I share this horrifying information with audiences around the country, I often pause to allow people to try and really take that information in.

Increasingly after my speaking events, I catch myself unexpectedly weeping in my hotel room or on flights home. Every now and then, the reality of what the science is saying manages to thaw the emotionally frozen part of myself I need to maintain to do my job. In those moments, what surfaces is pure grief. ...

But these days my grief is rapidly being superseded by rage. Volcanically explosive rage. Because in the very same IPCC report that outlines the details of the impending apocalypse, the climate science community clearly stated that limiting warming to 1.5°C is geophysically possible. ...

We still have time to try and avert the scale of the disaster, but we must respond as we would in an emergency. The question is, can we muster the best of our humanity in time?

• *Joëlle Gergis is an award-winning climate scientist and writer based at the Australian National University. She is the author of Sunburnt Country: The History and Future of Climate Change in Australia.*

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jul/31/climate-crisis-already-causing-deaths-and-childhood-stunting-report-reveals>

## Climate crisis already causing deaths and childhood stunting, report reveals

*Kate Lyons, Guardian, 31/07/2019*

Climate change is "absolutely" already causing deaths, according to a new report on the health impacts of the climate crisis, which also predicts climate-related stunting, malnutrition and lower IQ in children within the coming decades.

The report, From Townsville to Tuvalu, produced by Monash University in Melbourne, pulled together scientific research from roughly 120 peer-reviewed journal articles to paint a picture of the health-related impacts of the climate emergency in Australia and the Pacific region.

Points highlighted:

- A 2018 report from the World Health Organisation predicts that between 2030 and 2050, global warming will cause an additional 250,000

deaths per year from heat stress, malnutrition, malaria and diarrhoea;

- Nearly 400 additional deaths occurred during the 2009 Black Saturday fires (extra to those killed by fire) from heat stress and heatstroke;

- Severe weather events causing flooding, particularly in informal settlements in the Pacific, that leads to diseases including diarrhoea, that can be fatal;

- Rising global temperatures expanding the habitat of mosquitos, exposing more people to diseases including dengue, chikungunya and zika, and causing other diseases to spread into Australia, including Nipah virus which is spread by bats, and Q fever, which is already prevalent around Townsville;

- Research that shows children born to women who were pregnant while they experienced floods in Brisbane in 2011 had lower cognitive capacity (equivalent to at least 14 points on an IQ scale), smaller vocabularies and less imaginative play at the age of two;

- The decreased nutritional value of staple crops as a result of higher CO2 concentration was also expected to cause stunting, anaemia and malnutrition in children, within 10 to 20 years.

## FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/crime-and-justice/activist-fined-61k-after-trying-to-stop-train-from-travelling-to-port/news-story/92c40d5ca8077f31e73d2c2bd21c58d2>

### Activist fined \$61k after trying to stop train from travelling to port

*Thomas Morgan, Courier-Mail, 27/07/2019*

A Brisbane protester has been fined a whopping \$61,000 for stopping a coal train with her arm cemented in a 500kg barrel blocking the tracks.

On April 19, Alice Wicks, 26, blocked coal trains heading to the Port of Brisbane for five hours. ...

The railway was shut for more than five hours and Wicks was taken to hospital following the incident, suffering from hypothermia.

It's the latest in a series of climate protests staged by Extinction Rebellion, who are promising mass disruption of the Brisbane CBD on August 6.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/former-queensland-resources-council-ceo-michael-roche-dies/news-story/478b345e1792cc22285df2f3f6d31260>

### Former Queensland Resources Council CEO Michael Roche dies

*Anthony Marx, Courier-Mail, 31/07/2019*

The former chief executive of the Queensland Resources Council has passed away after a very brief illness.

Michael Roche, the combative former head of the peak lobby group for 11 years, died on Tuesday night, less than three weeks after his health issue was diagnosed.

Roche was a passionate advocate for the coal industry and other resources groups in the state before resigning in 2016 and being succeeded by former politician Ian Macfarlane.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/new-liberal-mp-wants-both-sides-of-climate-change-debate-taught-at-schools>

### New Liberal MP wants 'both sides' of climate change debate taught at schools

*SBS, 31/07/2019*

Australian school children should hear from both climate change scientists and climate change sceptics, a new Coalition MP believes.

Terry Young won the Brisbane-based seat of Longman from Labor at the recent election.

The small business owner says the greatest gift of being human is free choice, arguing "indoctrination of any type robs our children of this gift".

"We want our children and grandchildren to hear the theories of evolution and creation, different religions, climate change advocates and climate change sceptics," he told parliament in his first speech.

"What we don't want for our kids is to be brain-washed with extreme left or right ideologies.

"When I hear a school principal stand up at school in assembly and say: 'If this government doesn't do anything about climate change the world will end in 2030', I get angry." ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/joel-fitzgibbon-joins-forces-with-craig-kelly-to-spruik-coal/news-story/c9bdcbda7dc738808723ba949932b0e3>

### Joel Fitzgibbon joins forces with Craig Kelly to spruik coal

*Richard Ferguson, Aus, 30/07/2019*

Labor frontbencher Joel Fitzgibbon has joined forces with outspoken Coalition MP Craig Kelly to spruik Australia's



*Craig Kelly and Joel Fitzgibbon appear in a Sydney Morning Herald cartoon. The SMH reports the pair will co-chair a Parliamentary Friends of Coal Exports group. Illustration: John Shakespeare*

coal exports in parliament. Kelly has announced that Shadow Minister for Resources Fitzgibbon will co-chair the Parliamentary Friends group for coal exports.

Fitzgibbon said, "Labor has always supported the coal industry and will continue to do so."

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/labor-mps-flock-to-join-craig-kelly-s-friends-of-coal-group-20190731-p52cn0.html>

### Labor MPs flock to join Craig Kelly's 'friends of coal' group

*Michael Koziol & Samantha Hutchinson, SMH, 01/08/2019*

It feels like the Labor Party has a new attitude when it comes to the dreaded "C" word: coal.

There's been a veritable stampede to join renegade Liberal MP Craig Kelly's new buddy club: Parliamentary Friends of Coal Exports.

Opposition frontbencher and Hunter MP Joel Fitzgibbon bolted out of the blocks, offering to co-chair the group.

Now it can be revealed three more Labor MPs have said "I'm in" to Kelly's coal corroboree.

Mike Freeland, who holds the south-west Sydney seat of Macarthur, has joined the throng, as has the Member for Paterson, Meryl Swanson, and the Member for Oxley, Milton Dick. ...

They'll have plenty to discuss with the Coalition members of Kelly's group: George Christensen, Kevin Andrews and new Townsville MP Phillip Thompson.

While parliamentary friendship groups don't exactly change the world, it says something about Labor's post-election soul-searching that this one has found so many takers. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/while-others-face-climate-reality-our-government-denies-the-undeniable-20190731-p52cdl.html>

### While others face climate reality, our government denies the undeniable

*John Hewson, SMH, 01/08/2-19*

I despair at just how long our Australian government can continue to deny the undeniable.

It seems the new Morrison government has learned nothing, doesn't want to learn anything, just wants to kick the climate emergency further down the road, hoping nothing of consequence happens on its watch.

It is fundamental to us meeting our global obligations as the largest exporter of fossil fuels in the world, with poor and worsening biodiversity, and in the clear interests of our future generations, that we make the transition to a low-carbon society by the middle of this century. ...

At the very least, our government should have heard and responded to the din of cries for action: from the 60 to 80 per cent of respondents to various surveys; from big business, including conspicuously large fossil fuel miners such as BHP, Rio, Glencore, and Woodside; and from the Reserve Bank of Australia, the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority, the Australian Securities and Investments Commis-

sion and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

No! The tin-eared Coalition has preferred silly stunts such as brandishing a lump of coal in Parliament, claiming unjustified electoral mandates to mine more coal and build a new coal-fired power plant in North Queensland ... It has also ignored the potential of carbon farming in agriculture and scare-mongered over the inevitable transition to electric vehicles. ...

The Morrison government ignores the advice of the experts, the 97 per cent of peer-assessed climate scientists who have consistently emphasised the magnitude and urgency of the climate challenge. ...

The Prime Minister claims to "believe in miracles" and wears his Pentecostal Christian faith on his sleeve. I sincerely doubt that his God could be forgiving of one who facilitates the slow destruction of His planet and its species. ...

• *John Hewson is a professor at the Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU, and a former Liberal opposition leader.*

<https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/get-cracking-on-gas-morrison-tells-states-20190801-p52cwh>

### Get cracking on gas, Morrison tells states

*Andrew Tillett & John Kehoe, AFR, 02/08/2019*

Prime Minister Scott Morrison is ramping up pressure on NSW and Victoria to end their moratoriums on gas exploration and drilling, blaming the state government restrictions for causing high energy prices.

Ahead of a meeting with state premiers next week, Morrison declared, "I want to see those bans go" as he signalled a renewed federal government campaign against the states on energy supply.

"NSW, Victoria, I want to see those bans go and I want to see that gas come out from under people's feet."

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