



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 2:35 • 9 AUGUST 2019

Coal21 plans \$5 million ad blitz

By Eve Sinton

A coal industry-funded organisation, Coal21, plans to spend up to \$5 million on an advertising campaign to support coal mining in Australia.

The campaign is aimed at people having limited information about the Australian coal industry and open to being convinced of its future role.

These 'soft converters' are identified as men aged 18 to 39 and women aged 40 and over.

Coal21 is seeking proposals from advertising agencies to make their target audience feel "proud about coal".

The campaign brief appears to have been leaked to the ABC by a source within the advertising industry.

It requests production of media and promotional materials to advocate for the coal sector, including television and radio ads, print advertising and social media promotions.

Coal21 was set up 15 years ago to research low-emission coal technologies. It is funded by mining companies including BHP, Whitehaven, Glencore, Peabody and Yancoal.

Zero commercial success in 15 years

Coal21 regularly gets millions of dollars in government funding for its carbon capture and storage programs, none of which have yet been commercially successful.

The organisation has expanded its role to promotion of Australia's coal industry, saying it aims to "assist in making the case for coal to remain a key part of Australia's future energy supply".



Coal21's website, australiancoal.com.au, promotes Australian coal as 'cleaner and more efficient'. Photo: Coal21

Commenting on the ABC's revelations, *Renew Economy* said they were a further example of how government taxes are being redirected to funding promotional activities for the coal sector.

"[This] follows previous PR campaigns run by Coal21, including advocating for new coal-fired power stations ahead of the 2016 Federal election.

"The group has funded previous promotional campaigns for the coal sector, including the Minerals Council's 'Little Black Rock' campaign, that was widely mocked on social media.

"The advertising campaign appears to lift the guise that Coal21 had any status as a genuine research organisation and confirms that its likely purpose is to act as another propaganda arm for the Australian coal lobby," *Renew Economy* said.

The ABC said while it was issued under the banner of Coal21, the document sent to agencies was actually created

by an executive assistant to the chief executive of the Minerals Council of Australia (MCA), the main lobby group for the Australian coal industry.

Coal21's chief executive officer, Mark McCallum is also employed as the general manager of climate and energy at the Minerals Council.

Minerals Council advertising dept

Dan Gocher, director of climate and environment at the Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility, said: "Coal21 is now essentially the MCA's advertising department. There is no effective separation between the two organisations, and the MCA's fingerprints are all over this pro-coal advertising campaign."

Coal21 is chaired by George J Schuller Jr, who is also president of Peabody Energy Australia.

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• P2: Adani accomplice has sinister record

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• P4: Chevron starts CO2 project years late

Adani's sinister accomplice

By Margaret Gleeson & Fred Fuentes
Green Left Weekly

Stop Adani activists held a week of protests at the end of July targeting multinational engineering design and construction consultant GHD.

The aim was to raise awareness about GHD's silent role in the construction of Adani's coal mine in the Galilee Basin, in Central Queensland.

The Australia-based multinational – which generates a global revenue of \$1.7 billion – was recently awarded a contract by Adani to work on the engineering design of its proposed Carmichael coal mine.

GHD has built up a reputation in Australia through its involvement in public civil works, winning contracts from state and federal governments totalling in the tens of millions.

The *Australian Financial Review* reported on July 14 that, "GHD is involved in a large number of engineering projects in Australia, including water, transportation, property, renewable energy and waste management.

GHD projects draw protest

Among the projects GHD has been involved in are:

- Newcastle's light rail system, which was built to replace the city's ripped up rail line against community opposition;
- Melbourne's East-West Road Link, later abandoned after large protests;
- Victoria's Port of Hastings development, which was opposed by environmentalists due to its harm to coastal wetlands;
- Victoria's desalination plant, which faced protests over non-disclosure of financial information and lack of environmental studies and reports; and
- Millions of dollars in AusAID and defence contracts for building construction and support, and maintenance and repair services.

AFR also noted: "[GHD] has been involved in a number of coal-related projects, including the Dalrymple Bay and Gladstone coal terminals, and the Loy Yang, Crinum East and Grosvenor coal mines."

While working as a consultant for BHP



Stop Adani protesters outside GHD's Brisbane HQ last week. Photo: Galilee Blockade

on its Dendrobium coal mine, south of Sydney, GHD was awarded a 2013 state government contract to audit the health of Sydney's drinking water catchment.

In a letter to the state government at the time, Nature Conservation Council chief executive Pepe Clarke and Save Our Water Catchment Areas' Peter Turner pointed out the clear conflict of interest involved as the "mine project has had a direct impact on the volume and quality of water flowing into Sydney's drinking water reservoirs."

Banned after defrauding World Bank

GHD has continued to win government contracts despite receiving a ban from the World Bank for defrauding a fund to rebuild Indonesia after the 2004 earthquake and tsunami.

It was also later revealed that GHD had used asbestos in dozens of buildings – including schools and local government offices – constructed after the tsunami with money from AusAID contracts.

The Stop Adani movement has been successful to date in blocking financial backing for the mine and looks like achieving the same in terms of insurance underwriting for the project. Major insurance companies such as Suncorp and QBE have stated they will

not support fossil fuel initiatives.

However, the links between GHD and Adani are not tenuous and may be more difficult to sever.

GHD was the consulting firm that prepared the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on behalf of Adani for its Carmichael Coal Mine and Rail Project in November 2013.

Market Forces notes that this report carried inflated potential jobs figures that were used as part of the campaign to justify the construction of the mine, but which were later discredited by Adani's own economic expert under oath in court.

GHD also undertook the consultation phase of the EIS and prepared the Project Commitments Report submitted to the Commonwealth Minister on behalf of and for Adani.

GHD has also been contracted by Powerlink to extend the existing high-voltage electricity transmission network into the Galilee Basin region.

Locking in decades of coal burning

According to ACF campaigner Christian Slattery: "If Adani's Carmichael mine goes ahead it will lock in decades of coal burning and accelerate climate

Adani's accomplice

• Continued from p2

change at a time when the world needs to rapidly get out of coal.

"If GHD chooses to work with Adani on a new thermal coal mine, it will have actively chosen to be part of the climate change problem, rather than part of the solution."

Market Forces campaigner Pablo Brait said: "Our view is that no company that considers itself ethical or committed to sustainable development can work on this project."

"With the increasing awareness in the community about how serious the climate crisis is, companies that are helping expand fossil fuel projects face a reputational risk as well as all the others."

• First published by Green Left Weekly

<https://www.greenleft.org.au/content/meet-ghd-adani-silent-accomplice>



Regulation review sparks fears

A federal government review of mining assessment regulation and timeframes will further reduce the ability for regional communities to fight inappropriate and unwanted resource exploitation.

Lock the Gate spokesperson Naomi Hogan said across the country, mining regulation had consistently failed to protect landholders, water resources, and regional communities.

"While a review of mining assessment processes is sorely needed, Lock the Gate believes this should focus on supporting the rights of communities and landholders, not those of big mining companies, as the government's plan appears designed to do," she said.

Hogan said the Productivity Commission-led review, announced this week in the Hunter Valley, needed to take a look at how mining regulation was failing regional communities.

"Any review into mining approvals should focus on better protecting key strategic agricultural land and protecting the health of communities who may be under threat from inappropriate resource exploitation," she said.



KEPCO hides Bylong documents

Bylong Valley. Photo: Lock the Gate



Mining company KEPCO's attempt to hide community consultation reports for its coal exploration titles in the Bylong Valley demonstrates the company's lack of social licence in the district, according to Lock the Gate.

The company recently objected to releasing the documents under freedom of information laws, following an application by LTG.

LTG NSW spokesperson Georgina Woods said it was clear Korean Government owned KEPCO was afraid of what the documents would reveal.

"The idea that community consultation reports should be kept from the public is absurd," she said.

"KEPCO are not operating in an open and transparent manner and have failed to take the concerns of local residents and the public seriously.

"The fact that mining community consultation reports are not routinely made publicly available in the first instance is troubling, but for the company to object to the public obtaining them through the GIPA Act suggests it is ashamed.

KEPCO has no social licence

"Clearly, KEPCO has no social licence to operate a coal mine in the productive and beautiful Bylong Valley."

The Department of Planning has determined the documents should be released to Lock the Gate despite KEPCO's objection, but the documents cannot be released until the company's legal rights of appeal against that decision have been exhausted.

Bylong farmer Phill Kennedy said the objection by KEPCO was troubling given concerns locals had raised with the company about the planned mine's impact on underground water.

"We keep asking KEPCO if it is so confident it won't deplete the aquifer our farm relies on, why won't they put that in writing and guarantee our water supply? This is the kind of feedback they're getting from locals. We'll be very interested to see what these secret consultation reports say," he said.

"KEPCO won't guarantee reliability and quality water for stock, and the company certainly hasn't offered any irrigation guarantees."

The latest development in the long-running KEPCO saga comes after it was revealed the company's Gateway Certificate, which measures a project's impact on strategic agricultural land, was found to have expired.

"Kick KEPCO out of Bylong Valley"

Woods renewed LTG's call for the Independent Planning Commission and the NSW Government to use this opportunity to kick KEPCO out of the Bylong Valley and preserve the unique farming and ecologically significant land and underground water.

"The expiry of this crucial certificate is a lifeline for the Bylong Valley and an opportunity for the NSW Government to intervene against this mine that will destroy hundreds of hectares of prime agricultural land," she said.

"The lapsing of this certificate puts the spotlight back on the terrible impacts of the Bylong coal mine on agricultural land and water resources, including the Bylong River.

"If the mine is allowed to proceed, it will not only impinge on the crucible of Natural Sequence Farming at Tarwyn Park, but will destroy an area recognised as a critical industry cluster for the equine industry."



Chevron starts CO2 project two years late



Gorgon LNG plant. Photo: Chevron

By Eve Sinton

Chevron Australia and the Gorgon Joint Venture participants this week announced the safe startup and operation of the carbon dioxide injection system at the Chevron-led Gorgon natural gas facility on Barrow Island, off the northwest coast of Western Australia.

Chevron Australia managing director Al Williams said, “We are pleased to reach the first milestone of safely starting the operation of the Gorgon carbon dioxide injection system, one of the world’s largest greenhouse gas mitigation projects ever undertaken by industry.”

Once fully operational, the carbon dioxide injection facility will reduce Gorgon’s greenhouse gas emissions by about 40 percent, or more than 100 million tonnes over the life of the injection project.

The underwater gasified emissions will be injected into a reservoir 2km under Barrow Island.

Conservation groups are calling for the company to meet its approval obligations to provide alternative offsets for the additional pollution that has been released while the geosequestration facility has been delayed, and to further offset the remaining pollution from the facility that cannot be pumped underground.

Geosequestration no silver bullet

Conservation Council of WA (CCWA) Director Piers Verstegen said the geosequestration was not a silver bullet, and even if successful, the Gorgon facility would remain one of WA’s biggest polluters.

“The announcement that geosequestration has finally commenced, two-and-a-half years too late, is a step forward – but it does not solve Chevron’s pollution problem and it does not provide a silver bullet for the LNG industry.

“It is yet to be seen if this facility will work successfully in the long term. If it does succeed, it will still see the Gorgon LNG project release nearly six million tonnes of pollution every year.

“It appears that Chevron has intentionally delayed the starting of the geosequestration facility, resulting in millions of tonnes of unnecessary carbon pollution. Chevron must now provide alternative offsets for the extra pollution that this delay has caused, as well as the remaining pollution from the plant.

Chevron must offset pollution

“The Gorgon facility will still release around six million tonnes of carbon pollution every year. Chevron must offset this pollution by investing in proven industries such as tree planting, carbon farming, and renewable energy, which will deliver jobs as well as environmental benefits.

“No other LNG project is proposing to implement geosequestration in WA, so this is unlikely to be a durable solution for WA’s biggest pollution sources. Opportunities to run existing LNG plants on renewable energy and offset emissions through tree planting and carbon farming are likely to be more cost effective. These other forms of offsets potentially provide a lifeline to existing LNG projects – yet the LNG industry, including Chevron, continues to resist and oppose these solutions.

“Internationally, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has said that gas production and use has to decline in the medium term in order to meet the carbon pollution goals set out under the Paris Agreement, and there have recently been calls for a global moratorium on LNG production due to climate impacts that are as bad, or worse than coal expansion.”

The Australia Institute’s climate and energy program director, Richie Merzian, described the start of the project as “better late than never”.

He said the company had not released details of how much it had sequestered. “Given the lengthy delays and excuses Chevron has offered to date ... we will watch with interest when the project gets ramped up and is fully operational as promised.”

Federal government data shows LNG production is the main reason national emissions have risen year-on-year.

Climate Analytics researchers found the growth in LNG pollution in Australia between 2015 and 2020 would effectively wipe out any emissions avoided through the 23% national renewable energy target.

The Chevron-operated Gorgon Project is a joint venture between the Australian subsidiaries of Chevron (47.3%), ExxonMobil (25%), Shell (25%), Osaka Gas (1.25%), Tokyo Gas (1%) and JERA (0.417%).

The Australian Government has contributed \$60 million towards the capital cost of the Carbon Dioxide Injection Project as part of the Low Emissions Technology Demonstration Fund.

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



CBA aims to dump thermal coal by 2030

The Commonwealth Bank's new 'Environmental and Social Framework' says the bank aims to exit thermal coal by 2030: a warning to industry and policy-makers that coal has no place in Australia's future.

Commonwealth Bank's announcement follows recent commitments by insurers QBE and Suncorp to exit the thermal coal sector by 2030 and 2025, respectively.

"Anyone planning to run a thermal coal mine or coal power station in Australia beyond 2030 must now contend with not being able to get finance from Australia's largest financial institution or

insurance from our two main underwriters," said Market Forces Executive Director, Julien Vincent.

"The exit of Australia's largest company from coal should be a signal loud enough to be heard by the industry bosses and politicians who have their fingers in their ears over the need to decarbonise the economy," said Vincent. "Now Australia's other big banks need to step up and show the same kind of intent to get out of coal."

The bank has previously been one of the heaviest lenders to coal, oil and gas.

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Inside the news

The impact of **mining** on water supplies is highlighted by the news that entire **train-loads of water** are required to keep **Centennial Coal's** mines near Lithgow operating during drought. That's 725,000 litres delivered every day by **South-ern Shorthaul Railroad** (p8). Meanwhile the NSW government is still mulling over train water deliveries for towns like Cobar.

Matt Canavan's brother, **John Canavan**, heads up **Winfield Energy** which has made a take-over bid for **Stanmore Coal** (p8). Matt Canavan has believes his brother's coal interests are irrelevant to his coal industry advocacy as federal resources minister.

There's a lot of huff and puff about government plans to put downward pressure on **domestic gas prices** (p8-9) but there will be no benefit for consumers until 2021 – if ever.

Community action has yet again proved to be effective against gas-field invasion (p9) as the *Katherine Times* acknowledges people who successfully campaigned for the town to be declared a no-go exploration zone.

The **nuclear energy** debate continues to occupy media space, especially with the **Murdoch** press (p10-11). Meanwhile repressive conditions have been imposed on residents attending **nuke waste** dump meetings in South Australia.

The **Australian Energy Regulator** has taken four **wind farms** to court (p11-12), alleging they contributed to the South Australian blackout caused by storms in 2016. The case has dire implications for the wind industry, with anti-renewables propagandists eager to pounce on the hapless turbine operators.

Extinction Rebellion's dramatic Brisbane shut-down action last Tuesday has attracted plenty of coverage (p12-13), with an especially negative reaction from the *Courier-Mail*.

Matt Canavan has announced a Productivity Commission **review of mining approvals**, with a view to removing obstacles for coal and gas (p16). This will undoubtedly involve removing protection for the environment and communities.

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In the news this week

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THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/6307257/anti-adani-protesters-arrested-at-wollongong-ghd-office-sit-in/>

Anti-Adani protesters arrested at Wollongong GHD office sit-in

Ben Langford, Illawarra Mercury, 02/08/2019

Eight people were arrested in a Wollongong office building on Friday after staging a sit-in protest against Adani's Carmichael coal mine in Queensland.

The protest, at the Crown St offices of global services company GHD, coincided with protests at the engineering and resources company's other offices Australia-wide.

Some of those arrested said company management, along with police, forced them to delete photos and footage taken at the protest, in order to avoid charges. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/protesters-storm-adani-mine-site-suspended-from-9m-poles/news-story/637b9f5c902f46c70f8e96b65da27d70>

Protesters storm Adani mine site, suspended from 9m poles

Madura McCormack, Townsville Bulletin, 07/08/2019

Two anti-Adani activists have been arrested by police after staging a protest at the Carmichael mine site suspended from 9m poles.

Queensland Police confirmed two protesters that had staged an "elevated protest" at the Adani site today had been arrested after surrendering to officers just after 2pm. ...

They are being taken to Clermont Police Station where charges are likely to be laid.

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/chairman-coonan-calls-for-unity-as-coal-breakaway-tests-mca-20190724-p52aad>

Chairman Coonan calls for unity as coal breakaway tests MCA

Peter Ker, AFR, 29/07/2019

New Minerals Council chairman Helen Coonan says governments like strong, united industry voices, as a breakaway coal lobby tests the faultlines within the Council over climate and energy policy. ...



Frontline Action on Coal (FLAC) says, "Adani starts clearing, we keep resisting. What a powerful action! For over nine hours, two climate activists suspended themselves from nine metre poles, immobilising 17 machines. They have shown Adani that until the mine is stopped, neither will we." FLAC has issued a red alert on its Facebook page, calling on people to travel to the Adani Carmichael mine site and join the action.

Photo: FLAC

The Minerals Council's former executive director of coal Greg Evans has established a new lobby group called Coal Council of Australia (CCA). ...

Membership proposals are being circulated and CCA has secured a foundation member who is a mid-sized Australian coal producer.

<https://www.smb.com.au/politics/queensland/more-coal-mines-on-map-for-queensland-as-government-calls-for-tenders-20190802-p52d6q.html>

More coal mines on map for Queensland as government calls for tenders

Felicity Caldwell, SMH, 02/08/2019

Just weeks after granting Adani the environmental approvals it needed to

start work on its Galilee Basin mine, the Palaszczuk Labor government is opening up more of the state for coal mining projects.

Queensland Resources Council chief executive Ian Macfarlane welcomed the release of five areas and 147 sub-blocks near Moranbah, Blackwater and Emerald.

STOP WATER MINING THE NEXT RESOURCES BATTLE



<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-02/agl-defers-closures-to-avoid-summer-blackouts/11377876>

AGL defers Liddell, Torrens power plant closures in bid to avoid summer blackouts

Giselle Wakatama & Liz Farquhar, ABC, 02/08/2019

Australian energy giant AGL has deferred the closure of two of its Australian power plants in a bid to avoid blackouts when the mercury soars.

In 2015, AGL said its 50-year-old Liddell Power plant in the New Wales Hunter Valley would shut at the end of 2022.

The closure has been put back to April 2023 to ensure the reliability of power supplies during the 2022-2023 summer months.

The first Liddell turbine will still close in 2022, but an independent engineering assessment has found its remaining three are fit to continue for the extra four months.

The company has also announced plans to continue operating its Torrens A power plant in South Australia by almost a year. ...

The Nature Conservation Council has slammed the announcement as “deeply disappointing”, and said AGL is contravening its own greenhouse gas policy. ...

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/agl-buckles-in-political-heat-agrees-to-delay-closure-of-liddell-15019>

AGL buckles in political heat, agrees to delay closure of Liddell

Michael Mazengarb & Sophie Vorrath, Renew Economy, 02/08/2019

AGL Energy has buckled in its resolve to shut the ageing and highly polluting Liddell coal-fired power generator on its scheduled use-by date of 2022, announcing on Friday that it will delay the closure of the New South Wales plant to April 2023. ...

The announcement has been met by criticism from The Australia Institute, which has been tracking the growing unreliability of Australia’s ageing coal fleet, saying that the extension of Liddell’s operating life was not what is needed to address system reliability.

“The Liddell power station is the most unreliable source of electricity in NSW. It beggars belief that AGL will keep it open for another Summer of extreme unreliability,” the Australia Institute’s climate and energy program director Richie Merzian said. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-05/coal-mine-threatening-hunter-valley-horse-studs/11381686>

Coal mine proposal in the Hunter Valley creates a rift in the local community

Eliza Goetze, ABC, 05/08/2019

The brown paddocks of the Yarraman Park Stud in Scone are home to equine royalty.

Among them is I Am Invincible, chosen as the first mating partner for the recently retired champion Winx.

But Australia’s most expensive sire – which commands a stud fee of nearly \$250,000 – may not be as invincible as its name suggests.

Its future, along with the drought-affected Hunter Valley stud it calls home, could be under threat if a controversial coal mine is approved nearby.

The Dartbrook Mine was once owned by mining magnate Nathan Tinkler, but closed in 2006 following fires and fatalities.

Its owners, Australian Pacific Coal, have applied to reopen it as an underground operation.

The proposal has been approved by the NSW Department of Planning. But the NSW Independent Planning Commission – which has the final say – is deliberating after public meetings and hundreds of submissions. ...

Local businesses are generally supportive of the mine ... But stud operators worry the mine will cause pollution, damaging investment and job opportunities. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-09/dartbrook-coal-mine-approved-the-ipc-recommence-operations/11399222>

Dartbrook coal mine approved to recommence operations in the Upper Hunter

Amelia Bernasconi & Eliza Goetze, ABC, 09/08/2019

A controversial plan to reopen a ‘mothballed’ coal mine in the New South Wales Upper Hunter Valley has been approved, but a five-year extension on the mine’s life has been denied.

Australian Pacific Coal Limited’s Dartbrook Coal, near Muswellbrook, was previously owned by troubled mining magnate Nathan Tinkler, but has been under ‘care and maintenance’ since 2006 after three deaths at the site and a series of engineering and safety issues. ...

The Independent Planning Commission (IPC) announced the mine can re-

start operations, but the company’s bid to extend the current mining approval by five years to 2027 was refused.

“A five-year extension would not be in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development or inter-generational equity; and, as such, is not in the public interest,” the IPC said in a statement.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/coronado-global-resources-to-expand-its-curragh-mine-in-queensland/news-story/130c3f28a8083b0b23cb6d1d7c38523c>

Coronado Global Resources to expand its Curragh mine in Queensland

Michael Wray, Courier-Mail, 05/08/2019

A \$100 million expansion at one of Queensland’s largest metallurgical coalmines will boost production and employment in the Bowen Basin.

Coronado Global Resources yesterday announced expansion plans for the mine, 30km north of Blackwater ... with output increasing to 15 million tonnes a year by 2023, up from the 12.9 million tonnes forecast for 2023 ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/aug/06/glencore-mine-could-be-forced-to-only-sell-coal-to-paris-agreement-signatories>

Glencore mine could be forced to sell coal only to Paris agreement signatories

Michael McGowan, Guardian, 06/08/2019

Mining company Glencore could be forced to only sell coal from a new mine in NSW to signatories of the Paris climate agreement, under a proposal floated by the state’s independent planning commission.

Opposed by Glencore and its joint-venture partner in the mine, Peabody, the condition would see approval of the Wambo open-cut coalmine in the state’s Hunter Valley linked to the countries it exports to. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-07/coal-lobby-hopes-to-make-australians-proud-about-coal/11388830>

Coal research group turns hand to advertising in bid to make Australians ‘feel proud’ about rock

Stephen Long, ABC, 07/08/2019

An organisation set up to research low-emission coal technologies is funding a multi-million-dollar media campaign aimed at making Australians feel “proud about coal”, according to advertising industry insiders.

COAL21 – established 15 years ago to research carbon capture and storage (CCS) – intends to roll out the campaign across media platforms includ-

ing television, digital, print, radio and social media next month. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/aug/08/bhp-faces-fresh-calls-to-quit-minerals-council-ahead-of-pro-coal-ad-blitz>

BHP faces fresh calls to quit Minerals Council ahead of pro-coal ad blitz

Adam Morton & Ben Butler, Guardian, 08/08/2019

Mining giant BHP is facing renewed pressure to abandon its membership of the Minerals Council of Australia after it was revealed the lobby group is directly involved in an upcoming multimillion-dollar pro-coal advertising blitz. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-08/water-train-saves-mine-and-jobs-in-lithgow/11392468>

Trains deliver water to drought-affected NSW coal mines to keep production going and save jobs

Kathleen Ferguson, ABC, 08/08/2019

Trains carrying 725,000 litres of water a day are the latest weapon to keep a drought-affected mine in inland New South Wales in production and keep jobs secure.

The Southern Shorthaul Railroad [SSR] company has started carting water between Centennial Coal's Charbon and Airlie mines near Lithgow on a 40-kilometre route. ...

SSR said rail could be used to transport more water to drought-affected businesses and communities.

A senior NSW Government official has told the ABC the prospect of carting

water by train to areas in the west, such as Cobar, was in the "advanced planning" stage.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/stanmore-coal-receives-new-takeover-offer/news-story/a7a172d0c0e9e91fe7c179ded02bb505>

Stanmore Coal receives new takeover offer

Paul Garvey, Aus, 08/08/2019

The private coal miner led by the brother of Federal resources minister Matt Canavan has made a \$442 million takeover proposal for Queensland producer Stanmore Coal.

Winfield Energy, which is led by John Canavan and fellow former Peabody Energy Australia executive Rob Hammond, on Wednesday lobbed an unsolicited and conditional proposal to purchase Stanmore for between \$1.50 and \$1.70 a share.

Stanmore owns the Isaac Plains coal mine in Queensland's Bowen Basin, which produces predominantly coking coal for sale to steel mills in Asia. ...

Matt Canavan has long been a vocal advocate for the coal industry but has previously distanced himself from his brother's business interests in the sector. ...

<https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/6313066/minister-to-review-shenhua-water-data-following-damning-report/>

Planning Minister to review Shenhua's water data, following damning report

Jamieson Murphy, N Daily Leader, 06/08/2019

The NSW Planning Minister has promised to get an independent expert to

review a report that found Shenhua's water data for its proposed mine on the Liverpool Plains was "fundamental flawed" and "physically impossible". Caroona Coal Action Group chair Susan Lyle said the government should have picked up on the disparity in the water modelling between the now defunct BHP Caroona mine and Shenhua's, which is only a stone's throw away. "From their own consultants, BHP said the water draw down from its mine would be 184 metre – yet Shenhua's is less than two metres," Ms Lyle said. "That was a massive red flag and the government should have done something to investigate it then. They didn't, but it was such a red flag to us that we went ahead and got this report done ... by the University of NSW.

OIL & GAS LEAKS

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/japans-inpex-warns-against-carbon-price/news-story/eecad3402cd6e98d49d7147b67d22301>

Japan's Inpex warns against carbon price

Perry Williams, Aus, 03/08/2019

The energy producer that funded Japan's largest ever overseas investment has cautioned Scott Morrison against introducing a carbon price, warning changes to climate policy may hinder future LNG expansions and push investment offshore. ...

After bankrolling the \$US45 billion (\$66bn) Ichthys LNG project in Darwin which started gas shipments last October, Inpex's directors toured the sprawling facility this week culminating in its first ever board meeting outside of Japan held at the project site on Wednesday.

Inpex will consider tripling the capacity of its existing two-train Ichthys project along with the onshore development of acreage it holds in the NT's prospective Beetaloo Basin, which has emerged as a major untapped resource that could help plug east coast shortfalls. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-06/federal-government-to-consider-domestic-gas-reserve/11385596>

Federal Government to consider domestic gas reserve to force down prices

Jade Macmillan & Alexandra Beech, ABC, 06/08/2019

A portion of Australia's gas supplies could be set aside for domestic use as part of a Federal Government push to try to bring down gas prices.



This train carts 725,000 litres of water every day to Airlie Coal Mine near Lithgow. Photo: Southern Shorthaul Railroad

Resources Minister Matt Canavan announced the Commonwealth would formally examine a domestic gas reservation scheme in Western Australia, where he said consumers paid some of the most affordable gas prices in the world.

“Imitation’s the best form of flattery and what we’re seeking to do is imitate the best things about what is working in the west and possible apply it to eastern Australia,” he said. ...

The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA) previously said it would stifle investment and drive up prices, rather than lower them. ...

<https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/government-opens-the-door-to-cogent-energy-policy-20190806-p52egu>

Government opens the door to cogent energy policy

Matthew Stevens, AFR, 07/08/2019

The package of possibilities the Morrison government has flagged to the gas industry is potentially the most positive step towards a cogent energy policy that has been presented to the nation in a decade. ...

Mind you, it might also be just political boondoggling that delivers the government with the appearance of activity in the face of problems that successive predecessors have failed to grapple with, but whose solution is already being fabricated by the very same industries and governments that caused it. ...

The gas industry was never in any doubt the new export gateways would effectively import some form of regional parity pricing into domestic markets. What it did not anticipate was the local groundswell against unconventional gas would prove potent enough to shut whole states to onshore exploration and prevent the introduction of new projects critical to carefully constructed supply strategies. ...

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/money/finance-news/2019/08/06/gas-prices-domestic-reserve/>

Gas moves too little, too slow to bring down prices, critics say

Mike Bruce, New Daily, 06/08/2019

The Morrison government’s attempts to bring down gas prices will have no benefit for consumers until 2021 – at the earliest – according to the government’s announcement. ...

While the government will investigate a reserve scheme for domestic gas,

it won’t decide on any options until February 2021 at the earliest.

But one analyst told *The New Daily*, the problem of high gas prices in the southern states of Australia has little to do with supply, and more to do with prices being kept deliberately high by the gas companies.

Bruce Robertson, an investment analyst with the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA), said gas supply on the east coast of Australia has tripled since 2014, yet gas prices had also tripled. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-08/tallawarra-power-station-expansion-hits-turbulence/11396108>

Tallawarra power station expansion hits turbulence in setback for NSW energy security

Patrick Bell, ABC, 08/08/2019

A plan to shore up New South Wales’s energy supply has struck turbulence amid concerns about aircraft safety.

With the looming closure of the Liddell power plant, EnergyAustralia has explored the option of adding an open-cycle gas turbine at its Tallawarra power station, south of Wollongong.

But the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) objects to the plan on the grounds the resultant gas plume presents a risk to aircraft flying in and out of the Illawarra Regional Airport at Albion Park. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/aug/08/gorgon-lng-plant-begins-long-delayed-carbon-capture-and-storage-project>

Gorgon LNG plant begins long-delayed carbon capture and storage project

Adam Morton, Guardian, 08/08/2019

Oil and gas company Chevron says a long-delayed carbon capture and storage project has begun operating at one of the country’s largest liquefied natural gas developments.

The Gorgon LNG development in the Pilbara, promised as a landmark development in burying greenhouse gas to limit emissions from fossil fuels, was supposed to start along with gas production in 2016. But the project was repeatedly delayed, with the company blaming technical issues.

<https://www.katherinetimes.com.au/story/6316445/yellow-triangle-brigade-can-claim-the-credit-our-say/>

Yellow triangle brigade can claim the credit - our say

Chris McLennan, Editorial, Katherine Times, 07/08/2019

Today Katherine stands free as a no go zone for gas exploration.

A few weeks earlier, when the draft maps came out, it wasn’t.

For all this government’s promises on being guided by science in allowing for the resumption of shale gas exploration, here was another moment when it wasn’t.

This wasn’t a decision based on science, it was based on politics.

The politics brought about by people power.

The Kerry Motts, the Charmaine Roths, the June and Daniel Tapps, and many others – they had been steadfast in their opposition to fracking for many years.

It was not the “strongly worded letter” from Katherine Town Council which came at the death knock, it was Katherine, the whole of Katherine, which won through. ...

LEIGH CK STINK

<https://smallcaps.com.au/leigh-creek-energy-syngas-commercialisation-strategy-clear-approval-pathway/>

Leigh Creek Energy advances syngas commercialisation strategy with clear approval pathway

Lorna Nicholas, Small Caps, 02/08/2019

Leigh Creek Energy is another step closer to commercialising its name-sake project after concluding consultations with South Australian regulatory authorities and establishing a clear approval pathway. ...

Earlier this year, Leigh Creek hailed the pilot plant a “great success” after it produced syngas via in-situ gasification (ISG) and proved production could be achieved at commercial levels.

After proving this, Leigh Creek began the decommissioning which comprised shutting down and preserving the plant and its equipment.

This was followed by a monitoring regime which continues to reveal no reported environmental impacts or safety issues from the plant. ...

Under the agreed commercial approval process, Leigh Creek will submit an environmental impact report.

Leigh Creek Energy's controversial in-situ gasification site in South Australia.

The company will then acquire additional environmental, social and economic baseline data to underpin the next stage of the plant and expand its scope to include a full resource area within Leigh Creek's petroleum exploration licence 650. ...The news follows a \$3.2 million capital raising to fund the approvals process and the rapid development of the project's maiden 2P reserve of 1,153PJ.

NUKE MADNESS

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-03/parliamentary-enquiry-to-examine-nuclear-power-in-australia/11380666>

Nuclear power in Australia to be examined by multi-party parliamentary inquiry

Jade Macmillan, ABC, 03/08/2019

The potential for nuclear power in Australia is set to be examined by a parliamentary inquiry, requested by Federal Energy Minister Angus Taylor.

Taylor insisted Australia's moratorium on nuclear energy would remain in place but asked the Environment and Energy Committee to look at what would be needed for "any future government's consideration" of the technology. ...

Several Coalition backbenchers had been pushing for an inquiry into nuclear energy, with former deputy prime minister Barnaby Joyce suggesting residents living near a reactor could be offered free power. ...

Opposition energy spokesman Mark Butler said the inquiry was a sign the "extreme right" of the Liberal Party was dictating the Government's energy policy.

"[Nuclear energy] is dangerous, expensive and consumes vast amounts

of precious water at a time Australia faces increased water security threats," he said. ...

Taylor asked the committee to look at a range of considerations including waste management, transport and storage, health and safety, security implications and environmental impacts. ...

A 2006 report on nuclear power led by Ziggy Switkowski suggested Australia could have up to 25 reactors providing over a third of the country's electricity by 2050.

Taylor asked the committee to consider that report as well as South Australia's 2016 royal commission into the nuclear fuel cycle.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/a-nuclear-overreaction/news-story/1bb395ef4adc40d924e81683e2726fa>

A nuclear over-reaction

Tania Constable, Aus, 04/08/2019

The nuclear inquiry announced by the Morrison government is an important first step towards the mature and overdue conversation Australia needs to have about nuclear power.

It's a sad reflection on the anti-nuclear movement that over the past four decades this debate has been blighted by scare campaigns and exaggeration. ...

• *Tania Constable is the chief executive officer of the Minerals Council of Australia.*

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/coalition-softening-position-on-nuclear-energy/news-story/a4d4c158a484daf8dach63c0e02dbae9>

Coalition softening position on nuclear energy

Olivia Caisley, Aus, 04/08/2019

Labor leader Anthony Albanese has lashed the federal government's feder-

al inquiry into nuclear energy, saying the feasibility of the alternative power source has been examined "many times before." ...

Speaking to the ABC's Insiders program this morning, Albanese suggested the inquiry showed the government was softening its position on lifting the ban on nuclear power. ...

Albanese said the issue had been examined many times before, with studies showing it would be up to three times more expensive than wind or solar when connected to other systems such as batteries or hydro. ...

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/taylor-presses-nuclear-button-as-energy-wars-enter-dangerous-new-phase-47854/>

Taylor presses nuclear button, as energy wars enter dangerous new phase

Giles Parkinson, Renew Economy, 05/08/2019

Australia's energy minister Angus Taylor ... and the Coalition government have taken their war against wind and solar to its next inevitable phase: They've pressed the nuclear button.

Taylor revealed late Friday that he had asked the Environment and Energy Standing Committee to launch a new inquiry into nuclear energy, including its costs and issues of waste etc. They've got four months to produce a report.

Taylor insists that there is no intention to repeal the laws that outlaw nuclear energy in Australia. But that begs the question. Why have the inquiry in the first place? ...

And as we have noted before, the same Coalition MPs that have been pushing for nuclear are the very same Coalition MPs pushing for new coal generation, and the very same Coalition MPs who reject the science of climate change, or make a mockery of the urgings of young people that they should take it seriously. ...

The common enemy of these people is wind and solar, and the shift from a centralised system based around "baseload" fossil fuel generators to a renewable system that is largely decentralised (and democratised), and based around renewables, storage and demand management.

Australia is one of those regions – like Germany and California – that is at the forefront of this transition, and the fossil fuel industry view is that it cannot be allowed to succeed.

So it is no coincidence that the biggest industry supporter of nuclear is the

coal lobby itself, in the guise of the Minerals Council of Australia, which is also pushing for new coal generators and urging the government to do as little as possible on climate.

The MCA is cosy with the Coalition – its former CEO and deputy CEOs are now key advisors in Prime Minister Scott Morrison’s office, and its chair is the former Coalition minister Helen Coonan. Its current CEO, Tania Constable, was appointed by the Coalition government to the board of the ABC, over-riding independent recommendations. ...

One of the noisiest opponents of renewable energy technologies is Trevor St Baker ... the founder of a company SMR Nuclear looking at new “modular” nuclear technologies that Taylor suggests could be a focus of this inquiry. ...

Ted O’Brien, the chair of the committee reviewing the nuclear issue (it is stacked with four out of seven members from the Coalition) has already made up his mind. ...

He’s long been a big fan of nuclear – and given his analysis of Labor’s energy policy – he said it would be a tax on Tim Tams – he might have been about as thorough in his assessment of nuclear as Homer Simpson. ...

If Australia can demonstrate that a modern economy can be run on a predominantly renewables grid, it’s all over for the fossil fuel industry across the world. So expect this push to have some powerful friends, and not just in the media industry, and not just in Australia. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-07/small-modular-reactors-nuclear-explained/11386856>

Nuclear reactors called SMRs are being touted as possible energy source for Australia

Jackson Gothe-Snape, ABC, 07/08/2019

Energy Minister Angus Taylor has ordered a parliamentary inquiry into nuclear energy.

“This will be the first inquiry into the use of nuclear power in Australia in more than a decade and is designed to consider the economic, environmental and safety implications of nuclear power,” he wrote this week. ...

The biggest change in the nuclear sector since the last federal government review is the emergence of “small modular reactors” (SMRs). This technology was specifically referenced in Mr Taylor’s request for an inquiry. ...

The mooted benefits of SMRs sound promising, but none have been deployed so far.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/aug/08/nuclear-waste-residents-near-proposed-dump-told-to-sign-draconian-code-of-conduct>

Nuclear waste: residents near proposed dump told to sign draconian code of conduct

Calla Wahlquist, Guardian, 08/08/2019

Residents in small South Australian communities shortlisted for a proposed nuclear waste storage facility have been told if they want to attend community consultation meetings they have to sign a code of conduct that bans them from taking notes.

The shortlist for the proposed dump has been narrowed down to Lyndhurst or Napandee, in the Kimba shire area on the Eyre Peninsula, and Wallerberdina Station, which is near Barndioota in the southern Flinders Ranges. ...

The process has been stalled for more than 12 months because of a federal court challenge by Barngarla traditional owners, who hold native title over land adjacent to the two proposed Eyre Peninsula sites. ...

Meetings of two local consultative committees, appointed by the federal industry department’s National Radioactive Waste Management Facility Taskforce (NRWMFT) as its main platform for ongoing community consultation, were put on hold while the court case was underway but have been scheduled to resume next week.

But locals have complained that a new code of conduct for people wishing to observe the Barndioota and Kimba consultative committee meetings ... states that “observers” must be approved and cannot “take any notes, or record any part of the meeting ... except with the prior agreement of the department, the independent convenor and all representative members of the committee”.

It also says they cannot “repeat or share the individual ideas or views of [committee] members,” and can’t repeat confidential information or try to interject in committee discussions.

“This agreement does not prevent you from discussing information shared during a BCC meeting unless it has been identified as confidential or sensitive,” it says. “The [convenor] may ask you to leave the meeting if you do not comply with this Code of Conduct.”

Farmer Dean Hooper, who has applied to attend the Barndioota meeting, said that restrictions on repeating confidential information and behaving respectfully were reasonable but other conditions placed on attending were “bullshit”. ...

RENEWABLES RISE

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/why-solar-wind-and-evs-will-be-the-death-of-the-petroleum-industry-93816/>

Why solar, wind and EVs will be the death of the petroleum industry

Giles Parkinson, Renew Economy, 05/08/2019

A stunning new report from French-based global banking group BNP Paribas signals the death toll for the petrol industry – a mixture of solar, wind and electric vehicles can deliver more than six times the “mobility” returns on each dollar invested than oil.

The report, entitled ‘Wells, Wires and Wheels’ has been described as “seismic” by the likes of solar pioneer and entrepreneur Jeremy Leggett because he says it demonstrates the huge capital efficiency of wind and solar and EVs over the petroleum industry. ...

• **Download the report here:**

<https://docfinder.bnpparibas-am.com/api/files/1094E5B9-2FAA-47A3-805D-EF65EAD09A7F>

<https://www.theage.com.au/business/companies/wind-farm-giants-face-legal-action-over-sa-blackout-failures-20190807-p52elw.html>

Power giant AGL fights back over wind farm blackout ‘failure’ claims

Nick Toscano, Age, 07/08/2019

Australia’s largest power generator, AGL, has pledged to vigorously defend itself after it and other wind farm operators were sued over the dramatic 2016 South Australian blackout that cut power to 850,000 homes and businesses.

New proceedings filed in the Federal Court against AGL, Neoen, Pacific Hydro and Tilt Renewables allege they failed to comply with performance requirements to ride through major disruptions, the Australian Energy Regulator announced on Wednesday. ...

The regulator’s action has been backed by Federal Energy Minister Angus Taylor, who said the public expected and deserved reliable and affordable energy and gas, even in severe weather. ...

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/is-regulators-parting-power-play-against-wind-farms-just-a-political-stunt-60602/>

Is regulator's parting power play against wind farms just a political stunt?

Giles Parkinson, *Renew Economy*, 08/08/2019

At least federal energy minister Angus Taylor is happy. The decision by the Australian Energy Regulator and its outgoing chair Paula Conboy to sue four wind farms over their role in the events that led to the South Australia blackout in 2016 confirms, in his mind, the case against wind technology. ...

But ... it is not wind energy that is on trial here, this is about a highly technical interpretation of the National Electricity Rules, and the electricity industry is wondering what the hell the regulator is up to.

They are uniformly shocked and surprised – and this is across the wind industry, networks, advisors and even within the market operator – by the court action because it's out of the blue and they don't think there's much chance that it will succeed. ...

The wind industry knows that if it loses, the risk of class action and serious losses is significant. It also has implications for the future of renewables, and its treatment in the media, by politicians, by policy makers and by rule-makers and regulators. It's not quite the last stand, but the wind industry has decided to draw a line. ...

CLIMATE CRISIS

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-02/emissions-reduction-fund-carbon-abatement-federal-government/11379424>

Australia's Emissions Reduction Fund fails to increase carbon abatement, data shows

Michael Slezak, *ABC*, 02/08/2019

The Federal Government's central climate change policy appears to be in reverse, with its total carbon abatement going backwards over the past six months.

The Emissions Reduction Fund contracted 192 million tonnes of abatement, compared to 193 million tonnes during the last announcement.

In its latest results, the Clean Energy Regulator reveals it has signed just three new contracts.

Five contracts failed over the same period and will not create abatement.

In June, an ABC investigation showed the emissions policy had stalled, with cumulative abatement virtually at a standstill.

Nothing to laugh at as 70 protesters arrested in CBD action



WHAT A JOKE: Jonathan Sri and Larissa Waters at yesterday's protest where (inset) police made more than 70 arrests. Main picture: Liam Kidston

Ragtag ratbags

Galilee Blockade spokesman Ben Pennings, arrested during the Extinction Rebellion shut-down of Brisbane's CBD, raised concern police were starting to get "heavy handed" in response to the protest and anger from media outlets (such as this story in the Courier-Mail) and the Liberal National Party

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/nz-unveils-climate-plan-to-strengthen-price-on-carbon-adoption-of-evs-51050/>

NZ unveils climate plan to strengthen price on carbon, adoption of EVs

Michael Mazengarb, *Renew Economy*, 05/08/2019

The Ardern government in New Zealand has unveiled the country's Climate Action Plan, its response to a Productivity Commission inquiry that found a transition to a strong zero-carbon economy is achievable with the right policies in place.

The plan outlines the New Zealand Government's response to climate change, including a package of initiatives that will see the country's emissions trading scheme strengthened, new government investment bodies to support increased adoption of renewable energy and electric vehicles, and an independent climate commission to advise the government on policies and emissions targets. ...

Since the election of the Ardern Government and the appointment of NZ Greens MP James Shaw as the climate change minister, New Zealand has demonstrated strong leadership on climate change policy. This has included the introduction of legislation, that will establish a zero-carbon target in law. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/protesters-getting-ready-for-day-of-action-in-brisbane-cbd/news-story/04c18fbdff1ea3814113578a3637d32e>

Protesters arrested during climate change action in Brisbane CBD

Chris Clarke, Nicole Pierre & Thomas Morgan, *Courier-Mail*, 06/08/2019

Extinction Rebellion protesters have wrapped up their protests in Brisbane's CBD following 56 arrests.

Before 8.30am, police arrested 15 men and 12 women aged between 19 and 65 for offences including contravene direction, obstruct traffic, obstruct police and breach of peace.

A further 29 people, aged between 19 and 73, were arrested throughout the day for similar offences.

Extinction Rebellion spokesman Connor Brooks has congratulated the congregation of protesters outside Parliament House before they called it a day just after 3pm. ...

At least a dozen Extinction Rebellion members remain camped out behind the Brisbane Watchhouse, waiting for up to 60 of their fellow protesters to be released from police custody. ...

One motorist said the protest was causing him to miss a job interview. But he sympathised with their cause,

saying he respected the point they were trying to make.

“This is an issue that needs addressing,” the man said. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/aug/06/queensland-police-arrest-56-climate-change-protesters-in-brisbane>

Queensland police arrest 56 climate change protesters in Brisbane

Ben Smee, Guardian, 06/08/2019

Queensland police have arrested and charged 56 people at continuing climate protests in Brisbane, amid accusations officers employed heavy-handed and aggressive tactics to deal with the escalating civil disobedience. ...

One of the protesters, Ben Pennings, was arrested after crashing a press conference by the Brisbane lord mayor, Adrian Schrinner, on Tuesday morning.

Pennings raised concern police were starting to get “heavy handed” in response to the protest and anger from media outlets and the state Liberal National party. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-07/extinction-rebellion-get-in-your-face-annoyance-tactics/11388530>

Extinction Rebellion ramps up civil disobedience to deliberately get in people's faces

Matt Eaton, ABC, 07/08/2019

Is annoying thousands of people who may or may not sympathise with your cause actually a worthwhile tactic?

The answer is a firm “no” from the Brisbane Lord Mayor and the Queensland Premier when it comes to the actions of climate change activist group Extinction Rebellion. ...

QUT political scientist Erin O'Brien said Extinction Rebellion was ramping up the notion of civil disobedience.

“Traditionally, acts of civil disobedience have been focused on disobeying the law being protested. What Extinction Rebellion is doing isn't civil disobedience in that traditional sense, but the disruption element of the protest is still highly symbolic, it is aiming for that symbolism, if you will, in the tactics that they're using.

“Using a tactic of disrupting people's daily lives, getting in their faces, conveys urgency.

“It's not necessarily new, what it is that they're doing, it's just more physical and it's an evolution from a traditional protest march.”

Extinction Rebellion spokesman Tom Howell said yesterday they had been forced to use more extreme forms of protest because other tactics had failed. ...

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/ipcc-issues-wake-up-call-on-climate-and-global-food-supply-80166/>

IPCC issues wake up call on climate and global food supply

Michael Mazengarb, Renew Economy, 08/08/2019

The latest special report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change paints a stark future for the world's agricultural sector, and warns that without serious action on global emissions, and changing farming practices, the world food supply is under threat.

The report cites the impacts of global warming, including increasing temperatures, more frequent drought and extreme weather events and says they will continue to place ever increasing pressures on a global food supply system already operating beyond sustainable limits. It flags also the need of a change in diet. ...

The message to Australians is also clear; we must prepare for climate change and accept that our emissions-intensive, meat heavy diets, will need to change. ...

The report authors found that the impacts of climate change are already impacting on Australian agricultural production, through decline in rain fall and increasing temperatures over the last few decades.

“In Australia, declines in rainfall and rising daily maximum temperatures based on 28 simulations of 50 sites caused water-limited yield potential to decline by 27% from 1990 to 2015,” the report said. ...

• **Download the report here:**

<https://www.ipcc.ch/srccl-report-download-page/>

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/more-gas-critical-to-environment-jobs-20190725-p52arx>

More gas critical to environment, jobs

Tom McLroy, AFR, 28/07/2019

The Coalition and state and territory energy ministers are facing calls to boost gas supplies in Australia to supplement renewables and build capacity.

University of Queensland Centre for Coal Seam Gas director Andrew Garnett has lobbied federal MPs in

Canberra, warning a political debate which pits gas against renewable energy sources is bad for Australian jobs and the environment. ...

Professor Garnett, who works as part of several international bodies including the International Energy Agency's World Energy Outlook, has held briefings at Parliament House with the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association to discuss the role of natural gas in Australia's transition to renewable energy and the benefits of carbon capture and storage technology. ...

<https://www.crikey.com.au/2019/07/30/government-emissions-data-disinformation/>

The disinformation game: how the government releases emissions data

Chris Woods, Crikey, 30/07/2019

Last week, a Freedom of Information request from the ABC confirmed what everybody already knew: the Australian government has deliberately held back the release of embarrassing quarterly data emissions reports, even past the point of a legal Senate deadline.

Crikey explores how, and why, Energy and Emissions Reduction Minister Angus Taylor held back these reports, and how the usual suspects at *The Australian* help spin our increasing carbon emissions. ...

A senate order required the figures be tabled by May 31 ... but they weren't actually published until 12am on June 6. Not on the government website, naturally, but with their friends at *The Australian*, who dutifully led with Taylor's argument that Australia is not given enough credit as the now largest exporter of Liquefied Natural Gas. The official report was then published around 11am on the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (NGGI) and tabled in parliament on June 12. ...

According to Taylor, the major driver of Australia's increased emissions – a spike in LNG mining, refining and export, resulting in increased fugitive emissions – helps displace higher-emission fuels in other countries.

Not only is that tenuous logic on its own, LNG still burns between 50-60% the amount of emissions of coal, and Taylor's argument relies on the false assumption that Australia's natural gas is only displacing coal ...

That the Oz would run Taylor's argument verbatim and without any kind of critical analysis may come as a surprise if you are not familiar with the

paper's previous pattern of behaviour in this arena. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2019/aug/03/abc-board-secret-shortlist-of-candidates-ignored-in-favour-of-mining-executive-revealed>

ABC board: secret shortlist of candidates ignored in favour of mining executive

Margaret Simons, Guardian, 03/08/2019

The government passed over some of Australia's most eminent cultural figures in order to appoint a mining executive to the ABC board in 2017, despite the fact that she was not recommended by an independent selection process.

Documents released under freedom of information legislation show that in February 2017, the government rejected singer, writer and director Robyn Archer, former managing director of SBS Shaun Brown, and Sandra Levy, former chief executive of the Australian Film, Television and Radio School.

They were on a list of eight names recommended by an independent nomination panel after an extensive application and vetting process. The then communications minister, Mitch Fifield, instead appointed the chair of the Minerals Council of Australia, Vanessa Guthrie.

Guthrie had no media experience. At the time, the ABC was facing constant government criticism over its reporting on the coalmining industry and energy security. ...

<https://www.newcastleherald.com.au/story/6308131/mp-labels-friends-of-coal-group-a-stunt-as-colleagues-get-on-board/>

Newcastle MP Sharon Claydon dismisses Parliamentary Friends of Coal Exports as Fitzgibbon and Swanson join

Phoebe Moloney, Newcastle Herald, 04/08/2019

The federal Member for Newcastle Sharon Claydon has described a Parliamentary Friends of Coal Exports group as "childish" and "another little stunt" by Liberal MP Craig Kelly.

Meanwhile Labor MP for the Hunter Joel Fitzgibbon has offered to co-chair the group, and Paterson MP Meryl Swanson has joined the bi-partisan clan. ...

Claydon said, "The idea that some people are friends of coal exports and some people aren't is childish in my view.

"The time for division is over. This

government has presented 14 energy policies in this parliament and not one of them has been successful."

Swanson said parliamentary friendship groups were an "excellent way of accessing leading edge information" on subjects of special interest and generally involved informal information sessions with industry representatives and experts.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/push-to-fast-track-resources-projects/news-story/2e72a14a1a81f11312df7d6e2da3fb69>

Push to fast track resources projects

Richard Ferguson, Aus, 05/08/2019

Major delays to mining projects including Adani's Carmichael mine will be the target of a new Productivity Commission review of red and green tape in Australia's resources sector.

Treasurer Josh Frydenberg and Resources Minister Matthew Canavan will today announce a one-year review into streamlining regulation in the resources sector, with a focus on improving the environmental standards process. ...

Senator Canavan told *The Australian* "we must make sure anything like Adani does not happen again". ...

In a joint statement with Senator Canavan and Ben Morton, assistant minister to the Prime Minister and cabinet, the Treasurer said the Productivity Commission's work would target barriers holding back investment in the resources sector. ...

The Productivity Commission review will investigate world-best practices on resources regulations and community engagement processes. The audit of green tape in the resources sector will coincide with a statutory review of national environmental protection law as a whole, which is due to report in October.

Scott Morrison has made deregulation a key focus of his re-elected government and Mr Morton, one of his closest confidants, will play a leading role in the review ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/mining-approval-review-ordered-so-adani-debacle-not-repeated/news-story/>

Mining approval review ordered so Adani debacle not repeated

Michael Wray, Courier-Mail, 05/08/2019

The Morrison Government has ordered a major review of resources sector regulations so future projects cannot

be delayed for years like the recently approved Adani coal mine. ...

The review is expected to look at the time approvals take in Australia and consider setting strict deadlines for regulators. ...

The review could also consider how to restrict so-called lawfare cases, where activists use the legal system to repeatedly delay projects. ...

<https://www.newcastleherald.com.au/story/6311147/standing-room-only-at-crowne-plaza-as-coalition-throws-weight-behind-mining-industry/>

Standing room only at Crowne Plaza as Coalition throws weight behind mining industry

Ian Kirkwood, Newcastle Herald, 05/08/2019

The re-elected Coalition government has thrown its weight behind the NSW and Queensland coal industries by having the Productivity Commission carry out a year-long review of mining approvals aimed at "streamlining" the process.

The announcement was made by Resources Minister Matt Canavan at the NSW Minerals Council's annual flagship conference at the Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley.

More than 500 people are attending the sold-out conference and a number of delegates the *Newcastle Herald* spoke with said it was the strongest endorsement the industry had received for a long time. ...

Greenpeace said the regulatory system already "shamelessly" favoured mining companies and the government was trying to strip even more environmental protections from an already broken system.

Lock The Gate agreed a review was needed but said the focus should be on protecting communities not helping mining companies, as the government was trying to do.

NSW Minerals Council chief executive Steve Galilee welcomed the review, saying the government was listening to the industry. ...

Canavan said he had no doubt that the pro-mining vote helped the Coalition to victory and it showed what every-day Australians were saying, and not just what the ABC was broadcasting.

He said the coal industry was here to stay, regardless of what its critics said. "The election result was a hi-vis revolution. The mining industry stood up and said they were sick of being

ignored or worse misrepresented by people who have no idea of the industry.”

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/commentary/editorials/clearing-obstacles-to-gas-and-mining-development/news-story>

Clearing obstacles to gas and mining development

Editorial, Aus, 07/08/2019

Resources Minister Matt Canavan is correct when he says gas prices and supply are inextricably linked and “more exploration and production” are crucial to ensure households and heavy energy users receive price relief.

However obvious that correlation, policymakers, especially some state governments, have long ignored it, keeping gas reserves locked up to pacify green groups to the detriment of industry and the public. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/aug/08/conservatives-hate-red-tape-unless-its-to-regulate-the-behaviour-of-their-enemies>

Conservatives hate red tape – unless it’s to regulate the behaviour of their enemies

Richard Deniss, Guardian, 08/08/2019

Australia needs more regulation of the banks, more regulation of the aged care sector, more regulation of property developers, more regulation of the mining industry and more regulation of the way we use the water in our rivers. But conservatives are still calling for a reduction of so-called red tape. WTF? ...

Coalmining in Sydney’s main water catchment has resulted in bright-orange water in the tributaries that supply the city’s drinking water. And at the same time that climate change threatens Sydney’s water supply, subsidence cracks from one coalmine have led to an estimated 1.3bn litres of water being lost from the city’s dams. Despite this, Peabody Energy are seeking to expand their coalmining under

the catchment, and the Morrison government is keen to speed up approval processes for new mines. ...

It’s easy to understand rightwing Australia once you realise it is defined by interests and not ideas. ...

• *Richard Denniss is chief economist at the Australia Institute*

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/aug/09/angus-taylor-will-not-rule-out-taxpayers-paying-to-replace-or-extend-liddell-coal-plants-life>

Angus Taylor will not rule out taxpayers paying to replace or extend Liddell coal plant’s life

Paul Karp, Guardian, 09/08/2019

Angus Taylor has announced a taskforce to study the expected closure of the Liddell power station, leaving all options on the table including extending the life of or replacing the ageing coal plant at taxpayer expense.

The energy and “emissions reduction” minister who has presided over steadily increasing greenhouse gas emissions announced the review on Friday, a week after AGL revealed it would extend the life of Liddell from 2022 to April 2023.

Taylor told ABC News Breakfast the taskforce was made possible by the “very collaborative” approach of the New South Wales government. ...

<https://www.ntnews.com.au/news/national/jackie-trads-new-coalkilling-climate-plan/news-story/>

Jackie Trad’s new coal-killing climate plan

Renee Viellaris, Courier-Mail, 09/09/2019

An embattled Jackie Trad is using a state treasurers’ meeting to push for a new national climate change plan that would put a handbrake on new coal mines and heavy industry.

The backdoor strategy, which aims to override the Morrison Government’s policy, was laid bare in a letter to Federal Treasurer Josh Frydenberg just weeks after the federal election.

In correspondence to Frydenberg, and obtained by *The Courier-Mail*, Ms Trad urged him to convene a meeting of the Council of Federal Financial Relations (CFFR) “as soon as practicable” to commit to a new Clean Economy Agreement. ...

In response, Frydenberg slapped down Ms Trad, saying a meeting was already scheduled for October 11.

“I also do not agree to your suggestion that the council should commit to a new clean economy agreement,” Frydenberg said in responding correspondence. ...

Northern Australia Minister Matt Canavan said Ms Trad had spent too much time listening to “Al Gore and not enough to the people of regional Queensland”.



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