



# Fossil Fool Bulletin

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

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FFB 2:37 • 23 AUGUST 2019

## Adani: Corporate brute sets new low

*The Wangan & Jagalingou Family Council says Adani has achieved a new low, setting a brutal standard of corporate behaviour.*

For the first time in Australia's history, a company has bankrupted an Aboriginal leader for standing up for the inalienable rights of First Nations people to their law, country and culture.

This morally bankrupt attack on W&J cultural leader, Adrian Burragubba, lays bare the abuse of power and the greed of this rich corporate bully.

### No still means No

The W&J Council says it will not be deterred by this latest move in Adani's 'attack dog' strategy, or retreat from support for their leaders and people. When it comes to the opening up of the Galilee Basin for coal mining: No still means No.

Wangan & Jagalingou Council spokesperson, Adrian Burragubba said: "I am not going anywhere. I will speak out against the deals with Adani, just as I speak out against the governments that have allowed all this to happen.

"I opposed Adani because we will not be on our hands and knees begging for handouts from mining companies, while they destroy our land and culture.

### "I have nothing for Adani to take"

"This bankruptcy means nothing to me. I have nothing for Adani to take. My family were removed from the land by governments and everything that was rightfully ours was taken from us. As a result, I come from a poor background, the same as other W&J families.



*W&J Family Council's Adrian Burragubba has been bankrupted by Adani, in an act of revenge for his opposition to the Carmichael Mine which will destroy their traditional lands. Photo: W&J Family Council*

"I had nothing in the first place other than my birthright: my law and people, my culture and connection to country. That will always abide with me and I will always defend it and my people's claim to our land rights and our self-determination.

"For one of the wealthiest corporations in India to come to Australia and bankrupt an Aboriginal person for standing up for his rights is egregious in the extreme, and a failure of the justice system in this country.

"Adani will be held to account for his claim that our people will be lifted out of poverty. And they will be held to account for their reprehensible behaviour.

"Those 294 people in his pocket were promised they would be raised

up to the same standards of middle class Australia. Is Adani Mining some saviour that's going to overcome the failures of the last 231 years? Those people believed the lies. I'm holding them to account", said Burragubba.

**FFB**

**HELP W&J PEOPLE  
GET JUSTICE  
FROM ADANI:  
MAKE A DONATION**

Wangan Jagalingou Traditional Owners  
Aboriginal Corporation

BSB: 034-003  
Account number: 278038

• P2: Australia no. 3 fossil fuel exporter

• P4: Qld farmers exposed to gasfield risks

• P5: Japan funds toxic coal plants

# Australia is world's third biggest fossil fuel exporter

*The climate impact of Australia's fossil fuel (coal, oil, gas) exports ranks behind only Russia and Saudi Arabia exports in terms of global emissions, according to a major new report from the Australia Institute Climate & Energy Program.*

The new research also finds that in absolute terms Australia is the world's fifth largest miner of fossil fuels, ranking behind only China, USA, Russia and Saudi Arabia. On a per capita basis, Australia is on par with Saudi Arabia.

The analysis, which compares emissions from burning fossil fuels mined and exported, also finds:

Australia is the world's third largest fossil fuel exporter, making up 7% of all fossil fuel exports, behind only Russia and Saudi Arabia.

Australia is the largest fossil fuel exporter in the OECD, making up 20% of the total.

Australia's fossil fuel exports are almost three-quarters (74%) the size of all exports from all EU countries combined, and more than double any individual EU country.

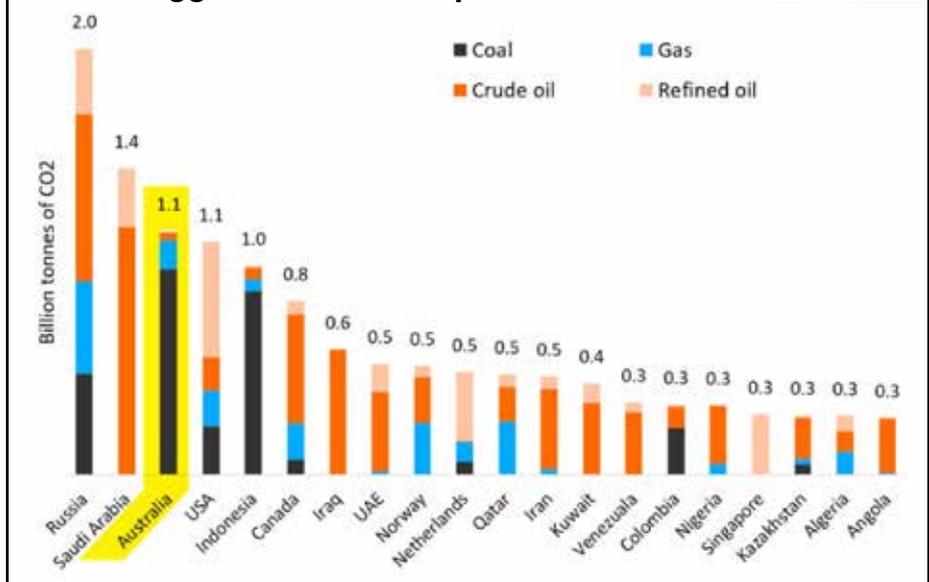
Australia's fossil fuel production is one and a half times the size of all EU countries' production combined.

Australia's fossil fuel exports are higher than those from Indonesia, Canada, Iraq, United Arab Emirates, or Qatar, and nearly four times larger than those from Venezuela or Colombia.

In absolute terms, Australia is the fifth biggest miner of fossil fuel carbon, behind only China, the USA, Russia and Saudi Arabia, and ten times the world average per capita.

Australia mines more fossil fuel carbon

## World's biggest fossil fuel exporters



than Indonesia, India, Canada, Iran and Iraq.

Australia's domestic greenhouse gas emissions are higher than 40 countries that have larger populations than Australia, putting Australia at 14th globally.

Per capita, Australia's emissions are the highest in the OECD, and globally behind only smaller petro-states such as Qatar.

### Immense climate impact

"On any reasonable assessment of the data, the climate impact of Australia's fossil fuel industry are immense," said Richie Merzian, Climate & Energy Program Director at the Australia Institute.

"Many argue Australia's emissions are small on a global scale, but this research shows the complete oppo-

site: our domestic emissions are large and our exported emissions are even larger."

"Australia has a unique opportunity and obligation to face up to the climate crisis through policies to manage a decline in its carbon exports, starting with a moratorium on new coal mines.

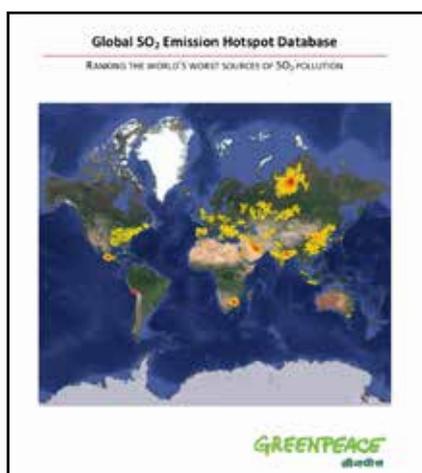
"Beyond the economic and national security self-interest in replacing Australia fossil fuel exports with alternatives, Australia has a profound global obligation to reduce emissions.

"The global community must now grapple with the fact that if Australia wants to double its fossil fuel exports just as the world is desperately trying to tackle climate change, somebody is going to lose."

• **Download the publication here:**

[P667 High Carbon from a Land Down Under \[WEB\].pdf](#)

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## Greenpeace report shows pollution hotspots

*Air pollution is a public health emergency, with more than 90% of the world's population living in areas where the air is unsafe.*

Yet few of the countries and regions with the worst air quality have comprehensive inventories of the sources of the pollution. Satellite data enables us to reveal the worst emitters of pollution regardless of their location.

This briefing analyses NASA data on the largest point sources of SO<sub>2</sub>, one of the key pollutants contributing to

deaths from air pollution worldwide. Power stations burning coal and oil along with refineries are responsible for two-thirds of the anthropogenic SO<sub>2</sub> emissions tracked by NASA. Metal smelters are the other major sources worldwide.

India is the world's top emitter of SO<sub>2</sub>, with over 15% of global SO<sub>2</sub> emissions

• **Download the report here:**

<https://www.greenpeace.org.au/research/so2-report/?ga=2.241048523.999745734.1566193344-2017926879.1566193344>

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# Federal govt needs to stop magical gas merry-go-round

By Bruce Robertson

*Hearing Australia's New South Wales government rush through two import gas terminal approvals is like revisiting the fantasy world of Mary Poppins.*

Just last week, a brand spanking new terminal was approved for Newcastle, while one for Wollongong was approved four months ago. At a cost of around \$250 – \$590 million each to build, the terminals will provide local communities a visage of strong economic development in the State.

The reality however is a lot different.

Importing high-cost liquefied gas when Australia is the world's leading exporter is paying for a merry-go-round we don't need.

Historically, New South Wales got its gas through a pipe, direct from well-oiled gas fields in the Bass Strait and South Australia.

In recent years, the cost of our piped gas increased with governments allowing a small band of private suppliers to take over the reins in the name of the market. They soon painted a merry picture of high production costs and low supplies, then passed on their cost burden to the consumer.

Meanwhile, they sold Australia's ample gas supplies overseas, while increasing local costs to consumers.

## Magical play convinces govt

Recently, they've gone one leap further – and somehow, fantastically, trotted out a story to Australian state governments of the need for import gas terminals where currently there are none. The convincing of governments must have involved a fair bit of magical play, because Australia already has enough gas to supply our population three times over every day.

But convince them they did, and oh boy, the companies involved, an oligopoly of some five companies behaving as a cartel, must believe there is magic in their world.

It really must seem supercalifragilisticexpialidocious. For what they have done is, indeed, mesmerizing. They are selling our cheap locally produced gas overseas, and we're buying it back off

them at higher prices.

The east coast of Australia produces three times the gas consumed domestically. We don't need the expense of LNG import terminals. And particularly not the cost of liquefaction.

Each time our gas leaves the country, it is liquefied. As we will be stupendously buying our own gas back, it will need to be shipped across oceans to us, and then taken through the re-gasification again. The cost of liquefaction, shipping and re-gasification will be worn by the customer, not the gas suppliers.

The cartel has successfully pulled the wool over our government's eyes, if their recent moves to fast-track four of the five import terminal applications around the country are any indication. But consumers – both retail, manufacturing and industrial – are increasingly 'woke'.

Australia's chemical industry came out this week and called it, saying the gas market is dysfunctional.

## We're supporting a cartel

In effect we're supporting an oligopoly, a cartel of producers who are limiting supply and charging way above international parity prices for gas.

Australian energy consumers know gas sets the high prices for electricity in the national electricity markets. They know the import terminals will only further increase the cost of energy, which will make our economy more uncompetitive.

Energy consumers know the import terminals should not go ahead. The federal government must urgently install a full domestic gas reservation policy on the east coast of Australia, with price controls at \$5 per gigajoule.

We must take back control of our gas, our supplies, and the price we pay for it.

Australia doesn't need any import terminals to supply gas.

• *Bruce Robertson is a gas analyst with the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA). This article first appeared in Renew Economy*

## Miner grabs water ahead of farmers

*Whitehaven Coal has again outbid a local farmer to secure precious water for its Maules Creek coal mine during a time of unprecedented drought in NSW's north west.*

Earlier this month, Maules Creek mine paid \$5,450/ML for groundwater in Zone 5 of the Namoi alluvial water sharing plan.

This follows the company's purchase earlier this year of another licence in the same zone for \$5,100 per ML, and other purchases of water from Zones 4 and 11.

## Farmers among the losing bidders

In these recent cases, farmers were among the losing bidders.

The purchase came just before Whitehaven announced another record profit, with its full-year underlying net profit having increased 7.7 per cent to \$564.9 million.

Boggabri farmer David Watt said it was not clear why the mining company required so much water.

Whitehaven was not originally expected to take water directly out of Upper Namoi Zones 4, 5, or 11 groundwater systems, as per its environmental assessment.

## Conflict during record drought

"Yet here it is, creating conflict with farmers because it is expanding its water take dramatically at a time when drought is ravaging the country," he said.

"There is a lot of pressure on water resources at the moment and farmers just don't stand a chance.

"If the mine is now buying more and more Upper Namoi Zone 4, 5 and 11 water licences, this must mean the water demand of the mine is larger than was anticipated."

Watt said the purchase of the water further alienated Whitehaven, which also wants to expand its Vickery Mine near Boggabri, from the community.

"This company is operating without a social licence," he said.

## Qld farmers exposed to gasfield risks

*A new Queensland study has identified major risks to Queensland farmers who host unconventional gas operations on their properties due to a lack of properly enforced workplace health and safety regulations.*

The report, written by Chinchilla resident Shay Dougall, who has recently completed a Masters in Workplace Health and Safety (WHS), finds that farmers and their businesses are not being appropriately considered from a WHS viewpoint when gas companies establish themselves on their farmland.

The study has been published through the *International Journal, Policy and Practice in Health and Safety*.

The report finds that despite the Office of Industrial Relations, Department of Resource, Mines and Energy and the Petroleum and Gas Act all possessing some authority over WHS enforcement for the unconventional gas industry, major gaps still exist where farmers are concerned.

### Risk without remedy

The report states, “The research findings show that the host farmer is left in a position where s/he is potentially exposed to WHS risk via the interface with the UG industry, but without a clearly defined path for remedy via the Petroleum and Gas Act, nor clearly defined path of jurisdictional support from the WHS Act.”

Until now, little research has looked into the WHS implications of the coexistence between farmers and the coal seam gas industry in the shared space that is a farm business, a family home, and a resource extraction site.

This is despite the fact that Safework Australia identifies agriculture as already one of the most dangerous industries to work in. Combined with the activities of an extractive industry, there is the potential for WHS risks to dramatically increase.

Dougall said with the unconventional gas industry now spread across 62,000 km<sup>2</sup> of Queensland’s agricultural country, and much of its infrastructure co-located on host farmer workplaces, she had felt a need to explore the apparent lack of all-encompassing WHS regulations.

“What I discovered is that a farm, which is both a business and a home, is often not considered in the same WHS

light as the business activities of unconventional gas companies,” she said.

“For example, there is a failure of jurisdictional arrangements between the Office of Industrial Relations and the Department of Natural Resources and Mines and Energy, intended to regulate WHS issues.

“The jurisdictional arrangements do not properly provide WHS regulation and responsibility in relation to machinery used to extract and process gas at a well site.

### Major area of concern

“This is obviously a major area of concern for farmers who must continue working in their place of business alongside multiple well sites and other infrastructure.”

The research identifies several ways forward and suggestions to help remedy the situation, such as reviewing the jurisdictional arrangements between DNRME and OIR, undertaking further research on the WHS impacts of the gas industry on farmers, and increasing the power of the farmer in access agreement negotiations with gas companies.

As part of her research, Dougall has also developed an app, called the GasHaz App – a first of its kind – that allows landholders to log compliance complaints independently of industry and government.

The GasHaz App allows users to simplify and facilitate the complaints process, a daunting task for landholders. It also allows them to order environmental monitoring with ease and professional advice.

• *See the study here:*

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14773996.2019.1649903>



### Interview: CSG on the Darling Downs

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

### Recommended listening!

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

## Govt gave away millions to miner

*A document obtained under Freedom of Information laws, which mining giant Shenhua tried to stop being released, confirms there was no need for the NSW Government to use more than a quarter of a billion dollars in taxpayer funds to buy out half a mining lease owned by the company on the fertile Liverpool Plains.*

Two years after first seeking, Lock the Gate Alliance has obtained a key document that reveals Shenhua revised its application to renew its coal exploration licence on the Liverpool Plains and only sought renewal of 50% or less of its licence area, which is standard practice when mining licences are renewed.

The revised application for half the original lease area obtained by LTGA was lodged on 29 June 2017, two days after Minister Harwin was sent two deeds of agreement negotiated with the company. The contents of those deeds have never been made public.

NSW Energy and Utilities Minister Don Harwin announced two weeks later that the Government had “reached an agreement to protect the farming future of the Liverpool Plains by scaling back the section of the Shenhua Watermark Coal exploration licence that encroached on the flat fertile agricultural land of the plains.”

### Cost taxpayers \$262 million

The agreement cost the NSW taxpayer \$262 million.

Shenhua attempted to stop the Government releasing the revised application under GIPA law, but the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal recently ruled in favour of releasing it.

LTGA spokesperson Georgina Woods said the documents confirmed Shenhua only wanted and needed half of its exploration licence area to proceed with the controversial Watermark coal mine project and there was no apparent reason for the NSW Government to pay \$262 million in taxpayer funds to the company.



## Mining conference blockade planned



*Australia's biggest annual mining conference, the International Mining and Resources Conference (IMARC) will be held in Melbourne October 28-31 – and participants will get a message from climate activists.*

Protest organisers say, "Some of the world's worst climate criminals are gathering in Melbourne – companies that profit from fuelling climate change, stealing indigenous land and exploiting workers.

"Their actions drive animal extinction as well as mass displacement of people.

"With the climate entering melt-down, it's urgent to disrupt the 'business as usual' of major climate criminals, using mass civil disobedience.

"Thousands of people will be gathering to blockade this conference. Join us!"

'Blockade IMARC' will include a counter-conference.

### \$5,490 for guaranteed schmooze

IMARC attendees are paying \$3,990 for a four-day pass, or \$5,490 for a 'premier connect pass' that guarantees opportunities to schmooze with money-laden investors.

Conference sponsors include Microsoft, numerous mining companies, several universities and state governments.

• For more information, see IMARC:

<https://imarcmelbourne.com/>

And the protesters:

<https://p-upload.facebook.com/events/2288184937971076/>



## Japan funds toxic coal plants in SE Asia

Emitting more pollution than domestic plants – Greenpeace analysis

*The Japanese Government and its public finance agencies JBIC, JICA, NEXI are exporting pollution to other countries by funding coal-fired power plants abroad, that emit far more toxic air pollutants than would be allowed in Japan.*

This deadly double standard in emission limits allows Japanese-financed coal power plants to emit up to 13 times more nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), 33 times more sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and 40 times more dust than those plants built in Japan.

The findings, released in a joint Greenpeace Southeast Asia and Greenpeace Japan report, reveal that the public finance agencies' 16.7 billion USD investment in coal plants between January 2013 and May 2019 is estimated to cause a total of 148,000 to 410,000 avoidable premature deaths over the typical 30-year operation period of such plants.

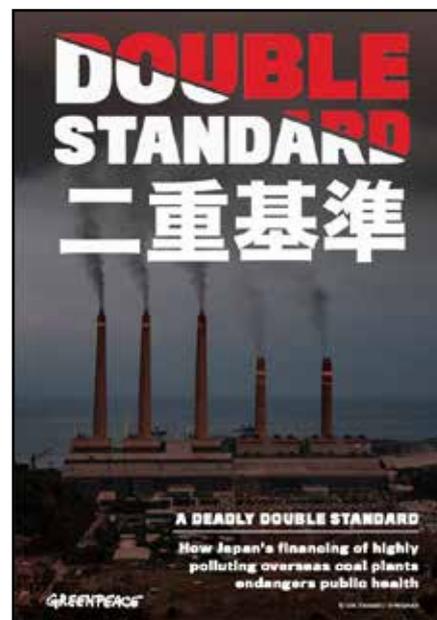
"It's unfortunate to see the gap between Japan's promises of exporting quality infrastructure and the reality of low-quality coal technology exports. Japan should honour its trading partners and citizens of those countries by promoting energy technologies that stop hurting people's health and the environment," said Senior Energy Campaigner, Hanna Hakko at Greenpeace Japan.

"Japan could become a champion for renewables, but that requires giving up the harmful export of polluting coal technology."

### Millions exposed to toxic emissions

Japan is currently the only G7 country still actively building new coal power plants at home and abroad, and is the second largest public investor in overseas coal projects among the G20 countries.

Greenpeace Southeast Asia and Greenpeace Japan analysis found from the modelling:



- Japanese-financed coal power plants overseas emit, up to 13 times more nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), 33 times more sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and 40 times more dust pollution than those plants built in Japan.

- Approximately 3.3 million people would be exposed to dangerous sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) levels from the emissions of the power plants, when operated to local emission limits.

- The most premature deaths due to Japanese investments are projected to occur in India (160,000) and Indonesia (72,000), followed by Vietnam (36,000) and Bangladesh (14,000) over the 30 years of coal power plant operations due to long-term exposure to fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) pollution.

• The executive summary can be download here:

[https://storage.googleapis.com/planet4-international-stateless/2019/08/3c9hdcd6-double\\_standards\\_exec\\_a4\\_print.pdf](https://storage.googleapis.com/planet4-international-stateless/2019/08/3c9hdcd6-double_standards_exec_a4_print.pdf)

And the full report here:

[https://storage.googleapis.com/planet4-international-stateless/2019/08/996a3555-double\\_standard\\_report.pdf](https://storage.googleapis.com/planet4-international-stateless/2019/08/996a3555-double_standard_report.pdf)



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## Inside the news

**Aurecon's** decision to cut ties with **Adani** (p7) made headlines and shows that pressure from activists is effective. **Gensee & Wyoming Australia** has also declined to work on the Carmichael project.

**Matt 'coal-face' Canavan** was furious and launched an attack on Aurecon: "**piss-weak bunch of bed-wetters**" he fumed, to the delight of Queensland Resources Council political dinosaur **Ian Macfarlane** and Adani chief head-kicker **Lucas Dow**.

Queensland Premier **Annastacia Palaszczuk** tweeted new laws targeting anti-Adani and climate protesters, accusing them – without a shred of evidence – of endangering law enforcers (p8 & 14).

This weekend's **Queensland Labor** conference is expected to endorse coal and the mining industry generally (p16). The move has support from federal Labor figures such as **Penny Wong**, **Joel Fitzgibbon** and **Anthony Albanese**, signalling Labor's complete surrender to the fossil fools who are running Australia.

And fools they are, as a **Bloomberg New Energy Finance** predicts that coal, currently supplying 60% of Australia's energy, will be down to 14% by 2040. Renewable generation will be up to 78%, with 8% of generation to come from gas (p15). No matter what fossil fuel pushers want, the industry is destined to shrivel, although possibly not fast enough to limit our climate crisis.

Activist **Mick Daley's** account of **Camp Binbee** – the base for activists holding up work on Adani's mine site – tells us how dedicated the protesters are (p9). The camp is under heavy police surveillance, with both the cops and Adani flying drones over it at regular intervals. Click through to the *Byron Echo* website to read the full story.

Nuclear hopefuls continue to exploit Australia's climate and energy crisis by promoting **cute little reactors** as a solution (p13). Meanwhile, tourists are snapping uranium selfies at the defunct **Mary Kathleen** mine's bright blue, stunningly gorgeous, and slightly radioactive dam.

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# In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 37,600 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

## THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-16/adani-snubbed-by-rail-company-as-aurizon-faces-pressure/11418900>

### Adani's ambitions challenged by rail snub and continued investor pressure

Stephen Long & Joshua Robertson, ABC, 16/08/2019

Genesee & Wyoming Australia (GWA) declined to participate in the Carmichael coal project, after Adani approached it to supply coal haulage services from its planned mine.

The snub, which came before Adani decided to build a smaller rail line in a bid to fast-track the stalled project, has narrowed the energy giant's options as it looks to bring its mine to life.

Aurizon – one of only two remaining rail operators with capacity to haul Adani's coal – has come under intense pressure not to cut deals with it because of environmental concerns, and doubts from some key investors that the venture is “a viable commercial proposition”.

UniSuper, one of Aurizon's top five shareholders, has called on the rail freight company to provide no services to Adani beyond what it is legally obliged to.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/adani-coal-mine-global-firm-aurecon-cuts-ties-after-climate-change-protests/news-story/1de7abcf48d2d76611d557a346cef6c9>

### Aurecon withdraws amid anti-Adani campaign

Steven Wardill, Courier-Mail, 21/08/2019

A global engineering firm has quit working with controversial miner Adani after being targeted by climate change activists.

Aurecon, which has eight offices across Queensland, has severed longstanding ties with the Indian company.

Aurecon said it would cease working for Adani once its current project at Abbot Point was completed and would no longer have any involvement with the miner.

An Adani spokeswoman confirmed Aurecon had finalised its relationship with the company but insisted this would in no way hinder the development of the Carmichael coal mine in the Galilee Basin.



**Emu Park-based father John Williams locked himself to a drill rig – stopping work on the controversial Adani project a day after Premier Anastasia Palaszczuk promised harsher penalties for climate protestors participating in civil disobedience.**

Photo: FLAC

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/contractor-washes-its-hands-of-adani-work/news-story/1f09a665c4e33048f213930c3434457e>

### Contractor washes its hands of Adani work

Charlie Peel, Aus, 21/08/2019

Adani has been blindsided after a major contractor to its north Queensland coal port decided to walk away after a longstanding relationship.

The Indian mining giant fears protest action has swayed Aurecon, an engineering and design company, and is concerned other contractors will follow suit. Aurecon will cease working with Adani when its contact expired in “six to nine months”.

<https://www.afr.com/companies/mining/aurecon-dumps-adani-after-activist-pressure-20190820-p52itk>

### Aurecon dumps Adani after activist pressure

Mark Ludlow, AFR, 21/08/2019

Engineering and consultancy firm Aurecon has severed all commercial ties with Indian Adani after being targeted by anti-coal activists.

Adani Mining chief executive Lucas Dow said the activists were targeting not just Adani but attempting to close down the entire multibillion-dollar coal industry.

Queensland Resources Council chief executive Ian Macfarlane said anti-Adani groups were now engaging in “democratic vandalism” by targeting private companies who may be working on the Carmichael project.

<https://www.thestar.com/news/world/asia/2019/08/15/how-one-billionaire-could-keep-three-countries-hooked-on-coal-for-decades.html>

### How one billionaire could keep three countries hooked on coal for decades

Somini Sengupta, Jacqueline Williams & Aruna Chandrasekhar, New York Times, 15/08/2019

The vast, untapped coal reserve in north-eastern Australia had for years been the object of desire for Indian industrial giant Adani.

Coal from the Australian operation, known as the Carmichael project, would be transported to India, where the company is building a new power plant for nearly \$2 billion (U.S.) to produce electricity. That power would be sold next door in Bangladesh.

Adani's victory in Australia helped to ensure that coal will remain woven into the economy and lives of those three countries, which together have a quarter of the planet's population, for years, if not decades. One of the biggest boons for the company has been the government benefits associated

with the huge new coal-fired power plant under construction in India, near the town of Godda. The coal from the Carmichael mine could be burned there, company executives say.

The land for the plant, acquired by the government, was home to some of India's poorest farmers [who were driven off the land by the company].

This plant, though, is not meant to electrify a single Indian village.

The people who live near the site would receive none of the electricity, just the pollution.



*Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk announced new laws with a Tweet.*

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/qld-premier-acts-with-new-laws-targeting-sinister-adani-farming-protesters/news-story/>

### **Old premier acts with new laws targeting 'sinister' Adani, farming protesters**

*Sean Parnell, Aus, 20/08/2019*

Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk will target the "sinister" tactics used by environment protesters, warning they have put people at risk.

Queensland cabinet has approved new laws allowing police to intervene.

Palaszczuk said Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll last week provided evidence that protesters, in seeking to prevent their removal from public thoroughfares, had locked their arms in steel cylinders, and drums filled with concrete, "laced with traps that are dangerous". These included glass fragments and butane gas containers to hinder any efforts to remove them.

In response, the new laws will give police the power to search anyone they reasonably suspect to be in possession of such devices, which will constitute an offence. Separate offences relating to trespass will also be upgraded.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-20/climate-protester-tactics-called-extremist-palaszczuk-government/11431336>

### **Protesters branded 'extremist' as Palaszczuk Government cracks down on road block tactics**

*Ashleigh Stevenson, ABC, 20/08/2019*

Queensland police will have new powers to search protesters they suspect of possessing so-called "locking devices", under new laws to be introduced to State Parliament.

The Premier says blocking roads is "dangerous, reckless, irresponsible" and "sinister"

Greens MP Michael Berkman described the laws as "anti-democratic" and aimed at silencing peaceful protest.

"This is the kind of draconian police state that Joh would be proud of if they keep producing these sorts of laws.

Police Minister Mark Ryan said anyone caught in possession of a dangerous device could face up to one year in jail, and those found using such devices would face up to two years in jail.

Anti-Adani activist group Galilee Blockade spokesman Ben Pennings condemned the Government's move.

"Most of our members are grandparents. Will police start strip-searching them looking for super-glue, just because they want to protect their grandkids? Labor must embrace clean energy rather than dirty politics."

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/>

### **Adani mine protesters extinct**

*Christopher Harris, Daily Telegraph, 21/08/2019*

Scores of uniformed officers were in attendance at engineering firm GHD's Castlereagh St headquarters all morning in expectation of a repeat rally after last week's event that was organised under the name Extinction Rebellion. But police left at 10am when it was apparent they were nowhere to be seen.

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/business/clermont-a-high-risk-investment-amid-adani-approval/news-story/af2a9aaede75991fba0973971bab6468>

### **Clermont a 'high risk' investment amid Adani approval**

*Keagan Elder, Townsville Bulletin, 20/08/2019*

Property investors have been warned buying homes and land near Adani's recently approved coal mine could be high risk.

While Clermont residents are largely celebrating the approval of the controversial mine, RiskWise Property Research said investors should be careful before entering the market.

RiskWise chief executive Doron Peleg said investments in mining towns carried a higher level of risk, generally.

"When it comes to Clermont, there has been a huge decline in dwelling prices. According to CoreLogic's data, over the past five years, house prices decreased by 29 per cent and for units an incredible 65.5 per cent. You then have to also consider that Clermont is really in the middle of nowhere and far from employment hubs."

The closest city to Clermont is Mackay, about 500km away.

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/aug/22/bunch-of-bedwetters-matt-canavan-attacks-aurecon-for-cutting-ties-with-adani>

### **'Bunch of bedwetters': Matt Canavan attacks Aurecon for cutting ties with Adani**

*Paul Karop, Guardian, 22/08/2019*

The resources minister Matt Canavan has defended an extraordinary spray against engineering firm Aurecon over its decision to sever ties with Indian energy company Adani.

Canavan had labelled Aurecon's decision "weak as piss."

Canavan described Aurecon as "a bunch of bedwetters", because he was "sick and tired" of the company's "PR rot", noting that it had not cut ties with other coal ports.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/industry-applauds-as-matt-canavan-calls-aurecon-weak-as-piss-for-cutting-ties-with-adani/news-story/>

### **Industry applauds as Matt Canavan calls Aurecon 'weak as piss' for cutting ties with Adani**

*Renee Viellaris, Courier-Mail, 22/08/2019*

Mining companies have privately cheered on Resources Minister Matt Canavan for labelling a firm "weak as piss" for bowing to climate activists and cutting ties with Adani.

In a shift in the debate, Senator Canavan yesterday called on businesses to be shamed for walking away from resources over concerns they could be targeted by activists.

Senator Canavan had this message for the global firm: ... "Basically they are a bunch of bedwetters and I don't know how anyone who works for Aurecon can hold their head up high with any

kind of pride after such a weak willed decision.

“The mining sector needs to shun and shame companies like Aurecon who are clearly only fair-weather friends.

“They’re clearly happy to take the profits from the industry when things are easy good but at first sniff of grapeshot they run for the hills”

Queensland Resources Council boss Ian Macfarlane said, “It’s disappointing to see any business give in to bullying tactics from activists, many of who are acting illegally to disrupt lives and businesses”.

<https://www.echo.net.au/2019/08/from-lismore-to-camp-binbee-fighting-adani-every-step-of-the-way/>

### **From Lismore to Camp Binbee fighting Adani every step of the way**

*Mick Daley, Byron Echo, 22/08/2019*

Daley describes the journey from Lismore, and how on final stretch from Bowen they passed three police cars – they’ve been regularly surveilling the camp. The police and Adani security often send drones over the property to glean information and the local council launches them from an unfriendly neighbouring property in so-far fruitless attempts to close the camp down for allegedly flouting council regulations.

He describes a schedule of meetings from 8am – with strict regulations to leave phones behind. The oppressive electronic surveillance by police and Adani’s punitive security make this a necessity.

People are arriving constantly; European backpackers, grandmothers from the Gold Coast, teachers, nurses, students.

There’s a strong conviction that the odds are stacked against them. That despite the warnings of climate scientists that the Galilee Basin is a carbon bomb that could tip the balance of catastrophic climate change, the courts, the police, local council, state and federal governments are hellbent on outlawing every conceivable avenue of resistance.

In November 2017 Aurizon took out a \$750,000 strategic lawsuit against public participation (SLAPP) case against FLAC Inc, to stop them from trespassing on the railway line but also in their words, inciting, encouraging, or procuring anybody else to take action against Aurizon. A few months ago Aurizon amended their statement of

claim to include other activists. But the mood in the camp is ebullient. Training for non-violent direct actions (NVDA) are in full swing and the majority of new arrivals seem intent on pursuing arrestable actions.

• *Mick Daley is embedded at Camp Binbee, the Stop Adani protest camp in northern Queensland where hundreds are expected to travel in response to a Red Alert, as Adani begins land-clearing operations on its proposed mine site.*

## **COAL ROCKS ON**

<https://www.newcastleherald.com.au/story/6332128/departments-cold-call-on-independent-planning-commissions-coal-condition-plan/>

### **Singleton’s United Wambo joint venture coal mine expansion has notched a few firsts**

*Joanne McCarthy, Newcastle Herald, 17/08/2019*

An Independent Planning Commission proposal to link a NSW coal mine to overseas greenhouse gas emissions for the first time could result in “significant implications for the NSW and Australian economy”, said NSW Department of Planning secretary Jim Betts in a very public intervention following a mining industry backlash.

He advised the IPC there was “no policy at either the state or commonwealth level” to support imposing a consent condition requiring the Glencore/Peabody joint venture to ensure “all practicable measures” are taken to minimise emissions in countries where its coal is exported, including Japan, China, South Korea and India.

He advised Tony Pearson, the chair of the IPC panel considering the Singleton mine expansion, that it was “not this state government’s policy that greenhouse gas policies, or planning conditions, should seek to regulate, directly or indirectly, matters of international trade”.

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/thenewcastle/news/it-would-be-a-ghost-town-the-10-year-coal-plan-enraging-hunter-valley-residents/news-story/>

### **‘It would be a ghost town’: The 10-year coal plan enraging Hunter Valley residents**

*Amy Ziniak, Daily Telegraph, 18/08/2019*

In this long article, Ziniak interviews Sarah-Jane and Dane Sharp who both work for Centennial Coal; Geoffrey Bowditch from Bowditch Earthmoving; David Komacha, a fourth generation mine industry worker and Director of DK Heavy Plant Services; Lorraine Skinner, from Melaine’s Jewellers; CEO of the NSW Minerals Council, Stephen

Galilee; and Muswellbrook’s Chamber of Commerce and Industry President, Mike Kelly – all of whom speak against a transition away from coal.

It comes as a NSW parliamentary inquiry, led by Sydney independent MP Alex Greenwich, looks to investigate energy supply and exports in NSW to explore renewable energy options.

Greenwich has called for a 10-year transition plan and adjustment strategy for coal mining communities.

Federal Hunter MP Joel Fitzgibbon labelling [the proposal] ‘crazy’.

“Alex Greenwich should remember that when his constituents turn on their lights and take a cold Chardonnay out of the fridge, they can thank those in the Hunter who mine our thermal coal.”

Speaking in favour of a transition, Hunter Renewal member Sophie Nichols said coal can be replaced by new innovations, new jobs can be created and exports can be sought in other areas. Lock the Gate have backed the inquiry.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/aug/19/australian-power-stations-among-worlds-worst-for-toxic-air-pollution>

### **Australian power stations among world’s worst for toxic air pollution**

*Lisa Cox, Guardian, 19/08/2019*

Power stations in Victoria’s Latrobe Valley and New South Wales’s Lake Macquarie region have been named on a list of the world’s biggest hotspots for toxic air pollution. A new report by Greenpeace used satellite data published by Nasa to analyse the world’s worst sources of sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) pollution, an irritant gas known to affect human health and one of the main pollutants contributing to deaths from air pollution worldwide.

Australia ranks 12th on a list of the top-emitting countries for human-caused sulphur dioxide emissions and is singled out in the report for air pollution standards that allow power stations to emit sulphur dioxide at higher rates than in China and the EU.

<https://www.nvi.com.au/story/6338208/coal-mine-outbids-farmers-for-precious-water-again/>

### **Whitehaven Coal mine outbids farmers for precious water again**

*Jamieson Murphy, Namoi Valley Independent, 20/08/2019*

Whitehaven Coal has again outbid local farmers to secure precious water for

its Maules Creek coal mine, paying far above the usual market value.

Earlier this month, the company paid \$5450 a megalitre for permanent groundwater licences in Zone 5 of the Namoi alluvial water sharing plan.

In February, Whitehaven paid more than \$650,000 on water licences, paying up to \$5100 a megalitre.

In both cases, farmers were among the losing bidders. For the last decade, permanent water has traded at about \$3500 a megalitre.

<https://www.newcastleherald.com.au/story/6338169/auditor-raises-significant-doubt-about-dartbrook-mine-owner-australian-pacific-coals-future/>

### **Australian Pacific Coal's liabilities exceed its assets by more than \$20 million, report to stock exchange says**

*Joanne McCarthy, Newcastle Herald, 20/08/2019*

An independent auditor has raised "significant doubt" about whether Dartbrook mine owner Australian Pacific Coal can continue as a going concern after a net loss of \$13.23 million by June 30 and rejection of expansion plans it said were needed to make the site financially viable.

The company's total liabilities exceed its assets by more than \$20.1 million.

Australian Pacific Coal's plans to resume mining until the already-approved date of 2022, and obtain approval for an additional five years of mining, were set back on August 13 when the Independent Planning Commission refused the five-year extension.

Lock the Gate Alliance spokesperson Georgina Woods said the group was "deeply concerned" Australian Pacific Coal may not have sufficient funds to rehabilitate the land at its Dartbrook mine site.

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/business/bhp-mulls-its-options-for-thermal-coal-mines/news-story/>

### **BHP mulls its options for thermal coal mines**

*John Dagge, Herald Sun, 20/08/2019*

BHP has given its strongest indication yet it is looking to sell off its thermal coal mines, saying it is considering "a number of options" for the business unit.

BHP has more than doubled its full-year profit.

Speculation is mounting the group will join rival Rio Tinto in selling out

of thermal coal, which is used to make electricity.

BHP, the world's biggest miner, has previously said it will not increase production given it expects coal to be "phased out, possibly sooner than expected".

Chief executive Andrew Mackenzie said BHP was "continuing to review" the place of thermal coal within its overall portfolio, which covers iron ore, copper and oil and gas.

<https://www.afr.com/markets/commodities/coal-industry-stakes-survival-on-carbon-capture-plan-20190821-p52j7d>

### **Coal industry stakes survival on carbon capture plan**

*Henry Sanderson, AFR, 21/08/2019*

In late February Peter Coates, Glencore's non-executive director, appeared at an event in Sydney to make a rare intervention from a mining leader – a full-throated defence of the coal industry, whose very existence is under threat because of its role in global warming.

Six months later, the industry decided to take action to improve the image of the dirty fuel. Coal21, an industry body in Australia that is backed by 26 mining groups including BHP, Anglo American and Glencore, launched a new \$US4 million (\$6 million) advertising drive.

"It's a very sophisticated media play – it's just public relations. There is no such thing as clean coal, our reliance on coal is not compatible with a liveable planet," Brynn O'Brien, executive director of the Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility, says. "It's an industry in an existential fight and they will do whatever they can to survive."

"It's not a wise use of resources," says Simon Lewis, a professor at University College London. "It makes no sense to invest heavily in expensive technology that is itself energy intensive to strip the CO2 from the flue gas and pump it underground, just to keep on using coal when there are alternatives."

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/power-strains-predicted-for-grid-this-summer-if-repairs-fail-20190821-p52jff.html>

### **Power strains predicted for grid this summer if repairs fail**

*Peter Hannam & Nick Toscano, SMH, 22/08/2019*

NSW appears well-placed to get through the summer without major

power outages although Victoria may not be so lucky, with more than a million households potentially facing blackouts.

The assessment is from the Australian Energy Market Operator.

While NSW is projected to meet its reliability standard "with a more comfortable margin this summer" than last, "some risk of unserved energy" exists, AEMO said.

The main threat of involuntary load-shedding in the NEM will be in Victoria, especially if repairs to a unit of AGL's Loy Yang A coal-fired power plant and one at Origin Energy's Mortlake gas-fired plant are not completed.

NSW faces shortages in future summers as its Liddell power station starts to shut in 2022-23. These could also come this summer, though, if bushfires were to disrupt interconnecting powerlines with Queensland and Victoria.

Queensland may be the best placed for this summer, with Anthony Lynham, that state's energy minister, touting the ongoing involvement of public generators in its supply mix.

<https://www.afr.com/street-talk/offshore-predator-targets-erm-power-sources-20190822-p52jij>

### **Global energy giant Shell tables takeover for ERM Power: sources**

*Sarah Thompson & Anthony Macdonald, AFR, 22/08/2019*

Trevor St Baker's ERM Power has received a takeover bid from an offshore acquirer, understood to be London-listed energy giant Royal Dutch Shell.

ERM's board has agreed to the deal, sources said.

The takeover would be done via a scheme of arrangement and comes after a long search by Shell to move into Australia's power sector.

<https://www.afr.com/rear-window/how-greg-from-nsw-became-mr-coal-20190820-p52j3h>

### **How Greg from NSW became Mr Coal**

*Neil Chenoweth, AFR, 22/08/2019*

In the inky depths of the coal whispering business, Greg Evans deserves a gold medal for reverse astroturfing. The man's a genius.

Astroturfing is the trick of fabricating grassroots opinion.

Since February, a staggeringly wide trail of media stories has featured a new industry body, the Coal Council of Australia, represented by its CEO, Greg

Evans. The Australian is a particular fan when the CCA puts the boot into politicians on climate change.

The reality is, any rival coal group will go nowhere unless they can access the huge pot of money that drives the coal industry's media profile, with a \$32 million media spend since 2009.

That's Coal21, a company set up in December 2006 by the Australian Coal Association.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-22/red-bank-power-station-restart-plan-fires-up-environmentalists/11435436>

### Redbank power station has environmentalists fired up over restart plan

*Giselle Wakatama, ABC, 22/08/2019*

The company planning to recommission a mothballed coal-fired power station says it will be cleaner and greener than it was before it shut down five years ago.

Hunter Energy has bought the former Redbank power station near Singleton in the NSW Hunter Valley and is planning to acquire existing generation assets to help shore up power supplies.

Before its closure, Redbank was known for being Australia's dirtiest plant per unit of electricity generated.

Jeff Angel, director of the Total Environment Centre, said he was sceptical about claims the plant would run more efficiently with reduced emissions.

Angel said there needed to be a comprehensive independent assessment of any plan to restart Redbank.

"It should be fully assessed independently and should not run off an old DA [development application]," he said.

## OIL & GAS LEAKS

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/beach-energy-lifts-profit-output-targets/news-story/>

### Beach Energy lifts profit, output targets

*Perry Williams, Aus, 20/08/2019*

The Kerry Stokes-backed Beach Energy expects to cash in on high gas prices amid predictions supplies will remain tight on the east coast into the next decade.

Beach, which is 30%-owned by Stokes' Seven Group Holdings, yesterday lifted its annual profit by 86%, beating consensus, on higher volumes and prices while boosting its long-term production target.

Underlying net profit after tax for 2019 rose to \$560.2 million from \$302m.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/oil-search-hopes-for-revamped-png-lng-deal/news-story/bfa579c5d404c155a7749f54197b07c5>

### Oil Search hopes for revamped PNG LNG deal

*Perry Williams, Aus, 21/08/2019*

Gas producer Oil Search hopes to renegotiate the controversial \$16 billion Papua LNG expansion deal by the end of the month while maintaining that the legally binding deal struck with former prime minister Peter O'Neill remains fair and balanced.

PNG Petroleum Minister Kerenga Kua and a state negotiating team travelled to Singapore last week to rework the gas deal originally sealed with O'Neill in April. PNG has been pushing for a greater return from the project over concern the original PNG LNG plant – where Oil Search holds a 29 per cent stake – failed to deliver sufficient economic and job benefits for locals.

The companies plan to double LNG production from PNG. Three new export processing trains are to be added to the existing Exxon, Oil Search and Santos-owned PNG LNG plant near Port Moresby to produce an extra eight million tonnes a year.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/>

### Turn on the gas

*Aus, 21/08/2018*

Queensland gas producer Senex Energy has called for NSW and Victoria to unlock restrictions on exploration to help ease a tight gas market on the nation's east coast.

Senex has already agreed to sales deals with domestic manufacturers CSR, Orora and O-I Australia for gas from its Project Atlas project near Wandoan.

The group recorded a jump in annual underlying net profit to \$7.2 million from \$2m a year ago and expects to invest \$150m in Surat Basin projects this year.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/aug/21/montara-oil-spill-sites-new-operator-rejects-suggestion-it-couldnt-afford-second-clean-up>

### Montara oil spill: site's new operator rejects suggestion it couldn't afford second clean-up

*Ben Butler, Guardian, 21/08/2019*

The new operator of the site of Australia's worst ever oil spill has dis-

missed concerns it might not have the financial capacity to clean up should disaster strike again.

Ten years ago on Wednesday an estimated 40 million litres of oil leaked from a faulty rig in the Montara field, in the Timor Sea, and for 10 weeks spread over tens of thousands of square kilometres of ocean.

Montara was sold to Jadestone Energy for US\$195m.

Jadestone has never made a profit but the company's chief executive, Paul Blakeley, said it was fully insured to cover the cost of cleaning up a major spill, which can run into the hundreds of millions of dollars.

<https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/life-on-the-gas-frontier-pays-off-for-incitec-20190821-p52ifa>

### Life on the gas frontier pays off for Incitec

*Matthew Stevens, AFR, 21/08/2019*

The single most productive response by a government, federal or state, to the eastern gas dilemma has been Queensland's decision to attach domestic market obligations to the release of new coal seam licences in the Surat Basin and Galilee basins.

This is gas reservation that everyone can deal with. Unlike the regulatory bazooka built by the federal government, the Queensland approach was prospective rather than retrospective so it does not threaten the return metrics of very large investments already made in the northern state's onshore gas sector.

Since 2017 the Palaszczuk government has released about 25,000 km<sup>2</sup> of prospective coal seam country to explorers big and small, with nearly a third of that acreage being covered by caveats that require future production to be delivered to domestic markets generally or industrial users very particularly.

Joint venturers Central Petroleum and Incitec Pivot [have taken up licences].

The pay-off for Incitec is that it will pay field-gate cost for its share of gas production rather than the export netback price it is currently being charged.

This is potentially, then, very good news for the 450 people whose jobs at Gibson Island have so regularly been used as bargaining chips in Incitec's quest for competitively priced gas supply.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-22/gas-prices-remain-high-despite-market-pressures-easing-acc/11437756>

## Gas prices and margins remain too high despite market pressures easing: ACCC

Stephen Letts, ABC, 22/08/2019

Gas prices are set to remain high, despite an easing in fears over a domestic gas shortfall, according to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

The ACCC said a combination of increased east coast production and lower consumption should ease some pressure on the market, particularly for commercial and industrial users in Queensland, but southern states will not get much relief from historically high prices.

The ACCC found while prices offered by gas producers in Queensland for 2020 supply appear to have fallen, the prices offered by suppliers in the southern states, particularly by the “big three” retailers, have not.

The ACCC’s report found margins from the three big retailers appear to be well in excess of what would be expected from the market.

The ACCC found the east coast market squeeze was likely to be eased by falling demand from gas-powered generators (GPGs) and LNG producers having supplies above their current export contract commitments.

## LEIGH CK STINK

<https://www.transcontinental.com.au/story/6335767/future-uncertain-for-leigh-creek-medical-clinic/?cs=12>

### Leigh Creek Energy donation keeps doors open for medical clinic

Amy Green, Transcontinental, 19/08/2019

Communities in the states far north could face life without a local doctor if funding arrangements aren’t met by the end of the next financial year.

Doctor Clive Hume has been the Practice Principal at the Leigh Creek Medical Clinic for 31-years.

Hume has reduced his visiting hours from full-time to once a week since the [coal] mine closure.

Previous funding ceased in December 2018, but ... [controversial underground coal gasification miner] Leigh Creek Energy will continue funding until at least the end of 2019 with another \$60,000 donation.

If the Leigh Creek Medical Practice ceases operation, the local community would be forced to undertake a

four-hour round trip to seek medical attention or pharmaceutical service.

## IMPORT INSANITY

<https://www.nbnnews.com.au/2019/08/17/australian-workers-union-calls-gas-project-plan-absurd/>

### Australian Workers Union calls gas project plan ‘absurd’

NBN News, 17/08/2019

The Australian Workers Union has come out against a plan for a floating gas terminal on Kooragang Island, the organisation calling the idea ‘absurd’.

The union says building the terminal and importing gas from other countries at a mark-up, makes no sense given New South Wales’s abundant reserves.

It’s instead pressuring the Berejiklian government to approve more onshore gas developments, including the Narrabri gas project.

<https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/forrest-s-gas-import-plan-delayed-by-growing-pains-20190818-p52ibf>

### Forrest’s gas import plan delayed by growing pains

Matthew Stevens, AFR, 19/08/2019

Andrew Forrest’s pioneering gas import venture [Australian Industrial Energy] has approached the NSW government seeking approval to potentially double the capacity of the reprocessing terminal it plans to install at Port Kembla.

A return to the approval starting gates is almost certainly going to disrupt AIE’s ambitious project schedule to deliver first gas to market by late 2020.

The joint venture ... recently approved the budget for a feasibility study of a power station project. AIE now has

eyes for generation capacity of up to 850 MW.

AIE’s regasification and storage vessel, Hoegh Galleon, will be leased from global LNG shipping giant, Hoegh of Norway.

<https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/nsw-pushes-back-on-awu-criticism-over-backing-for-lng-imports-20190816-p52hpk>

### NSW pushes back on AWU criticism over backing for LNG imports

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 19/08/2019

NSW planning minister Rob Stokes has pushed back against an accusation of “political cowardice” from the Australian Workers’ Union for backing LNG import projects rather than standing up to activists and driving forward the development of local gas resources that could provide lower-cost energy.

Plans for the two import terminals [in Newcastle and Port Kembla] are racing ahead as Santos’s \$3 billion Narrabri coal seam gas project, which could supply up to half NSW’s gas requirements, remains locked in the state government’s approvals process.

Stokes said the Narrabri project has “big potential impacts” on the environment, and that in any case the state is “best served by a competitive market with multiple sources”.

## HYDROGEN HYPE

<https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/hydrogen-studies-under-way-at-origin-s-eraring-coal-plant-20190816-p52htu>

### Hydrogen studies under way at Origin’s Eraring coal plant

Angela Macdonald-Smith, 19/08/2019

A potentially revolutionary study has quietly got under way at Origin



Andrew Forrest-backed gas importer AIE will use the vessel Hoegh Galleon as a floating regasification unit at Port Kembla. Photo: Marinetraffic.com

Energy's Eraring coal power generator in NSW examining how the large plant could be converted to run on hydrogen to produce zero-emissions energy.

The desktop exercise by Sydney-based Star Scientific is studying how the coal-fired generators at the 2800-megawatt plant north of Sydney could be substituted with a hydrogen-based system using its so-called Hydrogen Energy Release Optimiser, or HERO, catalyst technology.

Star global group chairman Andrew Horvath [promises] "Zero-emissions power that's reliable, inexhaustible, and cost competitive – all produced by existing stations, minus the coal."

The HERO system relies on a secret catalyst that rapidly reacts with hydrogen and oxygen to produce heat and pure water. Lab-based demonstrations have found the system reaches more than 700 degrees in minutes in a safe, flameless reaction that results in no degradation of the catalyst.

Origin played down the study, saying it had no plans to convert Eraring to run on hydrogen.

"Origin is providing Star Scientific with data from our Eraring Power Station as part of a desktop feasibility study," a spokeswoman said.

## NUKE MADNESS

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/victoria-parliament-decides-to-hold-its-own-nuclear-power-inquiry-58565/>

### Victoria parliament decides to hold its own nuclear power inquiry

*Sophie Vorrath, Renew Economy, 15/08/2019*

Canberra's obsession with nuclear appears to be catching, with the Victorian Parliament set to hold its very own inquiry into the feasibility and suitability of the nuclear power for the southern state.

The 12-month inquiry will explore lifting the state's ban on nuclear in the name of fighting climate change.

Dr Jim Green, national anti-nuclear campaigner with Friends of the Earth Australia, said nuclear power had become part of Australia's culture wars driven by conservative ideologues – especially considering the fact it had priced itself out of any serious discussions about the future energy mix.



*Mary Kathleen uranium mine's "bright blue, stunningly gorgeous, and slightly radioactive dam" is now a tourist hot-spot. Photo: Kelly Butterworth/ABC*

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-20/former-uranium-mine-now-an-instagram-hotspot-for-tourists/11412040>

### Former uranium mine now an Instagram hotspot for Queensland tourists

*Kelly Butterworth & Zara Margolis, ABC, 20/08/2019*

Driving into Mary Kathleen in outback Queensland, it is the eeriness of the ghost town that first catches the tourists' attention.

The empty slabs where houses once stood, the town square now abandoned but for a sign indicating where the pool, post office, and grocery store once stood.

Mary Kathleen was officially opened by then-prime minister Robert Menzies and Queensland premier Frank Nicklin in 1958.

Now all that is left is memories, the old mine pit, and a bright blue, stunningly gorgeous, and slightly radioactive dam.

Gavin Mudd from the school of chemical and environmental engineering at RMIT said tourism spikes at radioactive sites came with a raft of issues.

"There's a lot of physical safety hazards at an old mine site, let alone chemical or radiation as well," Dr Mudd said.

"We know it's radioactive – it's a former uranium mine – but what we also know is that the general levels of that radiation [are] above background levels but they're not acute.

<https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/the-new-nuclear-option-small-safe-and-cheap-20190813-p52gr6>

### The new nuclear option: small, safe and cheap

*Aaron Patrick, AFR, 19/08/2019*

The next generation of nuclear reactors [small modular reactors, or SMRs] – the ones that could finally overcome Australia's resistance to power by fission – are so small they will abide by road regulations.

Rolls-Royce is designing a reactor that will be 4.5m wide to fit under the 4.95m British road height limit.

They would be built in a factory and transported to customers by truck or barge.

Rolls-Royce estimates that Australian demand for small reactors could reach 2000 megawatts of capacity.

Canada's Ultra Safe Nuclear Corp says it plans to start selling very small reactors by 2025 for mines and remote towns.

ARC Nuclear Canada, with the assistance of Sydney-based engineering group Worley Parsons, says it plans to start selling a small nuclear power plant in 2028.

Convincing Australians that nuclear power can be safe may be challenging.

The parliamentary inquiry into nuclear power will be a test for Australia's newest, prominent climate campaigner, Zali Steggall, the member for Warringah on Sydney's lower north shore.

Coalition MPs are usually loyal to the government. If [energy minister]

Taylor didn't want to build the case for nuclear power; it is hard to see why he would have commissioned the inquiry.

In that case, it may be that the process is more important than the outcome. Get ready for a nuclear sales job.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/regional/nuclear-for-ipswich-to-combat-growing-carbon-emissions/news-story/61af3052d10672573bb761eed16af606>

## Nuclear for Ipswich to combat growing carbon emissions

Navarone Farrell, *Qld Times*, 21/08/2019

Swanbank is one of 10 sites in Queensland touted for a nuclear power station after talks at a lobby group summit.

The Australian Nuclear Association's vice-president, Robert Parker said [Swanbank's attractions included] "personal resources" [a regional] regional community that could benefit from having nuclear energy set up that they could be a part of operations; proximity to the grid, cooling capacity and road and rail transport for construction.

The industry could have several spin-offs as well with fuel rod construction, transport, shipping, storage and the initial construction.

Ipswich Residents Against Toxic Environments president Jim Dodrill said moving towards nuclear energy based on the premise of carbon footprint reduction "was nonsense".

"The carbon footprint of nuclear is very, very high – not in the direct generation of power, but in the indirect.

"You're talking about moving the fuel over great distances, you're talking about a lot of storage and the logistics of the fuel and the waste and the set-up of that kind of generator.

"It would be, in the long-term, no better than burning coal."

Bundamba Labor MP Jo-Ann Miller, a fierce opponent of any more "stinks and smells" energy in Ipswich, ridiculed the idea.

"How dare they consider Swanbank and my electorate without even having a conversation with the local people, and I can assure them that our locals would be very much against it."



Queensland's move to draconian anti-protest law gets a serve from Guardian Australia's First Dog on the Moon cartoonist.

## CLIMATE CRISIS

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-16/australia-slammed-watering-down-action-climate-change-pacific/11420986>

### Australia accused of putting coal before Pacific 'family' as region calls for climate change action

Erin Handley, *ABC*, 16/08/2019

Pacific leaders have slammed Australia for putting politics ahead of their island neighbours after they undermined a consensus on a climate change communique.

Youth-led grassroots group 350 Pacific's Patricia Mallamsaid, "Australia bullies its way through negotiations, attempting to mask the gravity of the climate crisis on paper – when the visible proof in our lives shows otherwise."

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/aug/21/queensland-government-accused-of-fabricating-claims-about-climate-activists>

### Queensland government accused of 'fabricating' claims about climate activists

Ben Smea, *Guardian*, 21/08/2019

The Queensland government has been accused of "fabricating" claims about climate activists setting booby traps to justify a crackdown on escalating protests, including using images more than 18 months old as evidence of the new allegations.

Police have never charged a climate protester in Queensland with an offence alleging they had set a trap or intended to cause injury to others.

The state's lone Greens MP, Michael Berkman, said: "All Queenslanders should be concerned that the premier has provided absolutely no evidence for the claims she made in parliament this morning. The government is using this fabricated notion – that peaceful protesters are using dangerous, booby-trapped tools – to silence dissent and distract from their own hypocrisy on climate change.

"These are dangerous, anti-democratic new laws that pretend to solve a non-existent problem."

Ben Pennings, a spokesperson for the group Galilee Blockade, said: "If [Palaszczuk's] claims were true, police would have laid extra charges and produced evidence in court. This clearly hasn't happened.

"Protesters rely on rescue personnel for their safety and would never design lock-on devices to injure them. Protesters in particular love the fire and rescue service because they take climate change seriously, unlike the premier."

The group responsible for the most grating protests in Brisbane, Extinction Rebellion, said the government had misrepresented peaceful actions.

“The Queensland people know from the Bjelke-Petersen era what it’s like to live under a police state and they are not going to let it happen again.

“Today’s announcement confirms that the government is more interested in protecting corporations than people. We are in a rebellion against the government.”

## RENEWABLES

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/national/2019/08/21/energy-industry-challenges/>

### ‘Trilemma’ set to transform Australia’s energy market

Rebecca Gredley, AAP/New Daily, 21/08/2019

The Australian energy market will have changed “beyond recognition” within a decade, EnergyAustralia says.

By 2040, coal is expected to generate about 14% of the National Electricity Market’s power, down from about 60% now.

The figures from Bloomberg New Energy Finance’s outlook puts renewable generation at nearly 78% by 2040, up from one-quarter now.

The remaining 8% of generation in 2040 is predicted to come from gas.

EnergyAustralia’s customer executive Mark Collette said: “That excess energy that we have in the middle of the day is quite significant, it’s around 10 Hazelwoods (former Victorian coal-fired power station) worth of unused energy,” he said.

Households could run dishwashers and air-conditioners in the middle of the day powered by solar, which would be cheaper and use fewer emissions than using them at night using fossil fuels.

The excess energy could also be stored either in batteries or through pumped hydro.

## FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/labor-would-have-rejected-pacific-coal-calls-wong-20190818-p5219g>

### Labor would have rejected Pacific coal calls: Wong

Tom McLroy, AFR, 19/08/2019

Labor would have rejected calls from Pacific Island countries for Australia to phase out coal exports, taking the same position as the Coalition, front-bencher Penny Wong said on Sunday.

“Coal remains an important industry for Australia and it remains part of the global energy mix.

“But the point is that these negotiations proceeded on the basis of an Australian government which did not understand nor respect the importance of climate to Pacific Island nations and did not bring to the table any realistic policies to reduce emissions, which is the core of what we should be doing as a responsible nation.”

<https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/penny-wong-s-coal-conversion-concedes-a-difficult-lesson-20190819-p521jjb>

### Penny Wong’s coal conversion concedes a difficult lesson

Aaron Patrick, AFR, 19/08/2018

After helping drive minerals-dependent Queensland into the arms of the Coalition at the election, Labor’s foreign affairs spokeswoman on Sunday endorsed an industry that many of the inner-city elite who worship her regard as evil.

Penny Wong was one of the Labor leaders who believed up until the last minute that increased renewable subsidies, 50 per cent electric vehicles and passive resistance to Adani’s Queensland coal mine would help the party win power.

Her post-defeat switch to coal suggests the Labor leadership has accepted one of the central, uncomfortable lessons of the election: voters in working-class marginal seats are more worried about protecting their wealth than preventing global warming.

Labor’s resources spokesman, Joel Fitzgibbon, is helping lead the attitude shift towards Australian coal, which he refers to as “relatively clean”.

“I was heartened,” said Ian Macfarlane, a Liberal-Nationals resources minister-turned-lobbyist for Queensland mining. “Penny is a very pragmatic person. Anthony Albanese should be congratulated for aligning Labor on this and taking a bipartisan approach with the Coalition.”

Macfarlane even received a visit from Fitzgibbon last week, and heard the Labor man express the support in private that he is now offering in public.

In the industry, a new-found confidence can be seen. Instead of hiding from publicity, the controversial Indian company Adani is drawing attention to the activists who regularly try to disrupt its mine-building.

<https://www.crikey.com.au/2019/08/20/south-australian-blackout-wind-farm/>

### South Australia’s blackout has become a political talisman

Ketan Joshi, Crikey, 20/08/2019

The Australian Energy Regulator has announced it’s suing four wind farm operators, alleging the software settings on their turbines resulted in those turbines tripping offline during a massive storm in September 2016.

Since the blackout happened in 2016, the event has taken on a mystical significance among opponents of decarbonisation, deniers of climate change and proponents of fossil fuels. Presenting this event as irrefutable proof of the immediate and apocalyptic harm of decarbonisation is a long-running and significant project in Australia.

The goal here is seemingly to take a curable and temporary problem – a bunch of immediately-rectified variables in the software settings of a subset of turbines in South Australia – and turn it into an intractable, incurable, horrifying and unfixable apocalypse inherent to wind energy. This is only fixable, so the thinking goes, if we take roaring chainsaws to the base of wind turbine generators and erect belching smoke stacks between their metallic, ragged stumps.

The political capital of the South Australian blackout is inexhaustible. It was revealed that the Chamber of Minerals and Energy, Western Australia, was linked to an army of fake Twitter accounts blaming renewables in SA for the blackout. The talisman became so powerful that Sky News’ Chris Kenny felt comfortable linking a plug falling out of a wall at an Adele concert with South Australia’s wholly manufactured “energy crisis”.

This is only the start of a massive re-prosecution of the firestorm that followed the 2016 blackout.

• *This is an edited version of a piece which originally appeared on Medium. Ketan Joshi is a science, technology and data communications professional.*

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/aug/21/when-it-comes-to-coal-australia-has-transitioned-away-from-economics-and-common-sense>

### When it comes to coal, Australia has transitioned away from economics and common sense

Richard Deniss, Guardian, 21/08/2019

Australia isn’t transitioning away from extracting fossil fuels, it is doubling down on them. That’s right – even though Australia is already the third

largest fossil fuel exporter in the world, the federal government still wants to double our coal exports, drill for oil in the Great Australian Bight and open more farmland to fracking.

And in the rush to mine more coal, Australia is transitioning away from its stated foreign policy. Since the second world war, Australia has sought to play a leadership role among the Pacific Island nations.

In 2015 Pacific Island nations issued the Suva Declaration calling on Australia to stop building new coalmines.

Yet last week, the Australian prime minister seemed either surprised or enraged that such a request would be included in the Pacific Island Forum declaration in Tuvalu.

To be clear, Pacific leaders have never called on Australia to shut down our coalmines. What they have asked, repeatedly, is for us to please stop building new coalmines.

While Morrison argues that what happens to our coal and gas after we sell it isn't our problem, that's not the way the rest of the world sees it.

At the same time Morrison is rebuffing such requests from the Pacific, he is asking them to put their country's survival aside and work with Australia to secure our own geopolitical and economic interests. What could go wrong?

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

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/crazy-gang-coalition-mp-wants-queensland-to-leave-main-grid-86955/>

**Crazy gang: Coalition MP wants Queensland to leave main grid**

*Sophie Vorrath, Renew Economy, 21/08/2019*

Just when you thought Australia had hit the ceiling on absurd energy politics, federal Nationals MP Keith Pitt has smashed right through it with a "bold" new plan for Queensland to quit the national grid.

The Queensland-based federal member for Hinkler – who is also a big fan of a new coal-fired generator, or even nuclear power for Australia – aired his latest energy thought bubble in an "exclusive" interview with Channel 9 on Tuesday.

Pitt and his colleagues in LNP ... have influence – they have forced the government to commission a nuclear inquiry, and have put a stop to any sensible policy that might have been promoted – the Coalition is now too scared to talk energy efficiency and electric vehicles thanks to this crew.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/aug/22/queensland-labor-to-change-its-official-platform-in-coal-friendly-revamp>

**Queensland Labor to change its official platform in coal-friendly revamp**

*Sarah Martin, Guardian, 22/08/2019*

Queensland Labor is set to endorse a change to its official platform to become more coal friendly, asserting the party's support for the mining industry as it seeks to reconnect with regional and blue-collar voters.

Delegates are expected to overwhelmingly support a proposal at this weekend's state conference [which] commits the ALP to supporting the industry and new mining projects, while lauding rural communities as "the backbone of our great state" [and says] Labor will continue to ensure Queensland remains a leading destination for mining and resources investment and export earnings.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/aug/23/mining-lobbyists-access-queensland-government-214-times-in-six-years>

**Mining lobbyists access Queensland government 214 times in six years**

*Christopher Knaus, Guardian, 23/08/2019*

Mining and energy corporates have used paid lobbyists to access the Queensland Labor government 214 times in the past six years.

The mining and energy sector is hugely influential in Queensland, donating hundreds of thousands of dollars to political parties, and regularly gaining access to the most senior members of cabinet.

The raw Grattan Institute data shows the sector donated \$598,822 to all parties from October 2012 to April 2018, and secured 66 meetings with the premier, deputy premier or treasurer in the 15 months to March last year.

It also shows that half of the major donors to the Queensland Labor party secured a meeting with the senior leadership team about the time of the last state election.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/matt-canavan-wants-more-mines-to-power-up-india/news-story/bde3f8b61e4a12d5137608464a7fdb60>

**Matt Canavan wants more mines to power up India**

*Olivia Caisley, Aus, 23/08/2019*

India's growing demand for Australian coal could see the equivalent of "three to four new Adani-sized coalmines" required to fuel the subcontinent's development, delivering \$3.4 billion in exports and 4000 new domestic jobs.

Resources Minister Matt Canavan said India's "astonishing" appetite for coal and the fact 168 million people in India were not connected to the power grid, presented a "golden opportunity" for Australia.

Senator Canavan will travel to India next week, where he will meet with resource industry leaders and ministerial counterparts to promote the potential of Australia's resource and energy sector.



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