



# 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 2:45 • 22 OCTOBER 2019

## Report demolishes Santos gasfield lies

*Around 120 people gathered in Brisbane as part of Rebellion Week, outside an oil and gas company's office last week, demanding Santos tell the truth.*

Dr Anne Gardiner, an ex-water engineer from Brisbane joined with spokesperson from Northern Rivers Extinction Rebellion, Naomi Shine as they attempted to hand-deliver the demands to the Santos HQ in Brisbane, which controls the east coast operations of its 'Coal Seam Gas-to-Liquefied Natural Gas' operations. They were told by Adelaide based Executives that no-one in Brisbane would be able to speak to them.

Dr Gardiner, a water engineer from Brisbane said, "Santos claim they can capture most of the fugitive emissions from their CSG operations but experts tell us that this is not the case. Methane is a super polluter, up to 86 times more potent than CO2.

"Santos claim they can manage the heavy metals, salts, naturally occurring radioactive materials and dangerous organics that occur in the vast quantities of waste water they take from aquifers, but in fact they have no solution for this waste.

"Santos tells the government that drilling more wells will lower the cost of gas domestically but this is not true, only a domestic gas reservation will solve this issue.

"Santos need to tell the truth on all of these issues."

Northern Rivers Extinction Rebellion's Naomi Shine said, "Santos: we demand you exit NSW, you must halt your ambitions to turn the biggest inland forest in NSW, the Pilliga, into a gasfield. The



*The Red Rebels, who are famous worldwide for their performance theatre that highlights the existential plight that faces humanity and other species, joined the protest at Santos's Brisbane office last week. Photo: Supplied*

Pilliga is well known for its cultural significance to the Gomerioi/Gamilaraay people and its unique biodiversity, it sits above an incredibly important recharge zone of the Great Artesian Basin."

### Farmers in Sydney demand Santos tell truth

Meanwhile, a delegation of farmers battling unprecedented drought conditions in north west NSW travelled to Sydney to demand Santos's environmentally reckless Narrabri coal seam gas proposal be scrapped.

Their visit coincided with the release of an economic report which reveals CSG from the planned project would be extremely expensive to produce and

would not do anything to bring down high gas prices in NSW.

The farmers met with politicians and staff to argue groundwater in the region is too precious to be left in the hands of a company with a polluting reputation like Santos, which wants to build 850 CSG wells near Narrabri through the recharge zone of the Great Artesian Basin.

The visit came after Deputy Premier John Barilaro revealed, during Senate Estimates, that there is no intention to introduce a state-specific Standing Expert Body as recommended by the Chief Scientist five years ago as part of her Independent Review of Coal Seam Gas Activities in NSW.

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# Santos needs to tell the truth, after damaging Australia with its lies

• Continued from p1

The Chief Scientist recommended the Standing Expert Body in order to monitor, inform and review the impacts of the CSG industry.

Liverpool Plains farmer Margaret Fleck said the government and Santos had done nothing to reassure farmers in the half decade since the Chief Scientist's recommendations were handed down.

"Santos has ignored or rejected requests from Narrabri Council and the local rural fire service to limit the risks of the proposed Narrabri gas project" she said.

"Santos has also refused the EPA's request to assess the capacity of landfill facilities to accommodate huge volumes of salt waste with potentially high concentrations of metals and other contaminants.

"We know that in Queensland, the coal seam gas industry is responsible for draining bores relied upon by farmers. Why would we want this industry to move in here, particularly when we are dealing with such a severe drought?"

"We also know there are 11 zombie petroleum licences waiting to be resurrected should Santos get approval for its destructive Narrabri project. We call on the NSW Nationals to act on their recent resolution to extinguish these zombie licences."

'Zombie' licences are exploration licences which are still technically active despite expiring. They cover 56,000 square kilometres of NSW, mostly in the north-west, and include titles held by Comet Ridge in the Moree area.

## Outrageous Santos lies: 1, 2, and 3

Lock the Gate Alliance spokesperson Gerge Woods has told supporters:

"Turns out Santos has duped Australian governments twice and is trying to get away with a third trick.

"Ten years ago, Santos peddled two outrageous lies that have caused terrible damage to this country.

"The first lie was that it had enough gas reserves in its patchy coal seam gasfields in Queensland to supply the two big LNG export trains it wanted to build at Gladstone.

"The second lie was that opening this new export market would not affect domestic gas prices or supply.



"This new report unveils the truth – that Santos was very short on gas in its proposed Queensland CSG fields, and has raided domestic gas to meet export contracts, and that as a result domestic gas prices in eastern Australia have tripled, even as gas production has tripled.

"A decade on, the manufacturing industry is going to the wall, jobs have been lost, farmers have lost their water, electricity prices have been driven up and Santos is turning a tidy profit.

"Amazingly, Santos is now at it again, telling gullible politicians that turning the Pilliga into an industrial gasfield will bring down gas prices.

"However, this new report reveals that the Narrabri gas project would do nothing to reduce prices, and would instead be the most expensive gas in eastern Australia at over \$9/GJ.

"The last flimsy argument in favour of the Narrabri gas project has collapsed. Not only will it deplete precious groundwater and fragment a forest and fray the social fabric, it will do nothing to ease high gas and electricity prices.

"We're going to make sure the Independent Planning Commission knows this project is a lose-lose-lose proposal."

The Pegasus 'Report on the Narrabri Gas Project' was commissioned by The Wilderness Society.

"This damning report exposes the fairy-tale that a high-cost and low-yield coal seam gas field at Narrabri can or will alleviate the economic harm Santos has already done to the east coast manufacturing industry with its reckless coal seam gas export gamble," said spokesperson for the Wilderness Society, Naomi Hodgson.

## The report concludes:

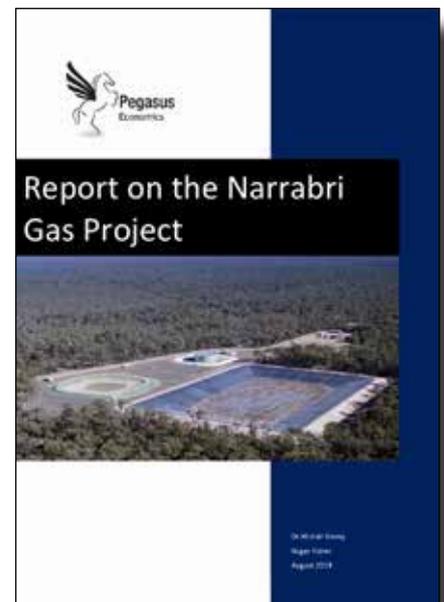
*Santos and the Santos-led GLNG project have been significant contributors toward any impending gas shortfalls in the Eastern Gas Region as GLNG did not possess sufficient gas resources to justify its investment decision for a second LNG train. In turn, they have diverted substantial volumes of gas from domestic users through third-party gas supply contracts to satisfy their export contracts, contrary to previous claims that it would not.*

*Santos has used the pretext of looming gas supply shortages in NSW as a fulcrum to garner regulatory approval for its Narrabri Gas Project, without acknowledging the central role it played in creating the circumstances that it claims the Narrabri Gas Project will help to alleviate.*

*While the development of the Narrabri Gas Project will provide additional gas supply for NSW, there are plenty of cheaper gas resources that could be developed, and it is unlikely to have any bearing over gas prices either in the immediate future or over the longer term.*

• Download the report here:

[https://d3n8a8pro7vnm.cloudfront.net/lockthegate/pages/6326/attachments/original/1571263720/NGP\\_Economic\\_Report\\_online\\_version.pdf?1571263720](https://d3n8a8pro7vnm.cloudfront.net/lockthegate/pages/6326/attachments/original/1571263720/NGP_Economic_Report_online_version.pdf?1571263720)



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# Report discredits NT fracking spin

*A new independent expert analysis has used CSIRO findings to discredit company and government spin that promotes the expansion of the fracking industry in the Northern Territory.*

The report, written by Emeritus science professor Ian Lowe, of Griffith University, also reveals the devastating climate impacts of a fully exploited NT gas industry.

Alarming, Professor Lowe concludes that fracking the NT's reserves could contribute about 600 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year if industry projections play out. Australia's total domestic emissions for the most recent year – the highest ever recorded – were 560 million tonnes.

His estimates are based on Australian Government data and comparisons to the similarly sized Marcellus shale in the USA, which produces about 11 trillion cubic feet of gas each year.

## Catastrophic impact on climate change

"Approving development of these resources would have a catastrophic impact on Australia's efforts to slow climate change, and are totally incompatible with our obligations under the Paris agreement," Professor Lowe said.

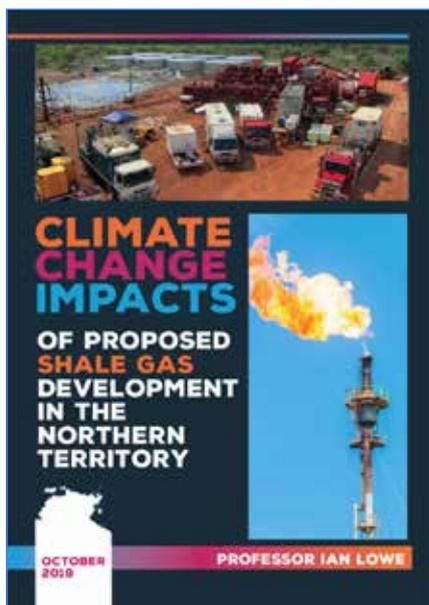
"Five years ago, the Australian Academy of Science said that in order to have a 50% chance of keeping the increase in average global temperature below two degrees, the less ambitious Paris target, global emissions need to peak by 2020 and then go steeply down.

"Given these pollution figures, it would be criminal to allow the gas fracking industry to expand across the Northern Territory."

Professor Lowe's report also stamps out claims by Origin Energy, and argues there is no foundation to the myth that fracked gas can be used to reduce the world's reliance on coal and thereby decrease carbon emissions.

The report says emissions from methane make it impossible for the fracking industry to deliver a fuel that is less damaging to the climate.

Professor Lowe said, "a paper based on measurements from an actual US shale gas field over a year which found leakage rates varying between 2.3 and 7.7%, (concluded) that the best estimate for current practice is 4%."



• Download the report here:

[https://d3n8a8pro7vnm.cloudfront.net/lockthegate/pages/6323/attachments/original/1571177037/LTG\\_NT\\_ShaleGas\\_2019\\_A4\\_SML.pdf?1571177037](https://d3n8a8pro7vnm.cloudfront.net/lockthegate/pages/6323/attachments/original/1571177037/LTG_NT_ShaleGas_2019_A4_SML.pdf?1571177037)

He said, based on a methane emission rate of around 4%, "It is totally invalid to claim that gas production reduces the overall greenhouse gas impact of electricity generation, even when it directly replaces coal-fired generation."

## Dishonest claims from industry

"Of course, there is also no evidence that Australian production of gas replaces burning of coal; in many cases, it produces extra energy. Schanell et al conceded that it is impossible to calculate whether LNG exports reduce greenhouse gas emissions "because we do not know the proportion of gas used to displace what would have been produced from coal". So it is just dishonest to claim that producing more gas from Australian deposits will slow climate change."

Protect Country Alliance spokesperson Graeme Sawyer said Professor Lowe's report showed the gas industry's spin for what it was.

"If the NT fracking industry is allowed to develop, it will mean bad news for the NT, Australia, and the world. Methane is up to 30 times more potent as a heat trapping gas than carbon dioxide, and numerous reports have pointed to the spreading fracking industry as a big driver of dangerous global warming. In addition to its damaging impact on land, water, and communities, the fracking industry has a big problem

with leaking, venting and flaring methane emissions," Sawyer said.

The release of Professor Lowe's report coincided with Origin Energy's annual general meeting on October 16.

## NT delegation confronts Origin

A delegation of Territorians rallied outside the AGM before calling for a resolution that would force Origin Energy to provide crucial documentation underpinning consent claims for its fracking projects in the NT.

"We want Origin to show its shareholders what information it presented to Traditional Owner groups before making agreements to frack," said Ray Dimakarri Dixon, a Newcastle Waters Native Title holder from Marlinja community at the centre of Beetaloo basin drilling activity.

"We know Origin didn't get proper, informed consent. These agreements were made back in 2004 and 2005. At the time, our old people didn't understand how many wells would be drilled, or the risks to our land and water from fracking."

There are concerns by pastoralists on stations where Origin began civil works last month. Within weeks of its first project approval from the NT Government, owners of the NT's Amungee Mungee cattle station took Origin to court alleging the company breached its land access contract, and failed to consult over risks from its fracking activity that could cause significant harm to pastoral businesses.

Daniel Tapp, a stakeholder and pastoralist working with a group of landholders threatened with fracking on their properties in the Beetaloo basin, said locals had good reason to be concerned at Origin's fracking plans.

## Call for veto rights

"Pastoralists have no veto rights over mining or exploration on their properties, and we want this to change.

"What's more, we've recently learned that due to omissions in the NT water and petroleum acts, landholders face the very real threat of being held liable if a fracking company fouls an aquifer while conducting drilling on our land."

# Morrison pours fracking \$\$ into WA

*Plans for a new federally funded round of shale oil exploration in northern WA could see a massive expansion of fracking across the state and demonstrates how both the federal and state governments are ignoring the climate crisis.*

The Morrison Government plans to use \$5 million of taxpayer funds to explore for new unconventional shale oil and gas fracking resources in the north of WA, in partnership with the State Government.

"This ignores the climate crisis and shows Premier Mark McGowan has broken his promise about restricting fracking," said Jane Hammond, a spokesperson for Lock the Gate in WA.

"Fracking will be required to access the shale oil and gas.

"Opening the West Canning basin to fracking would contradict Mr McGowan's earlier claims that fracking would be restricted to existing petroleum leases.

Hammond said comparisons made in the media to the Permian and Eagle Ford basins in the USA were appalling.

## WA doesn't want fracked wasteland

"West Australians do not want northern WA turned into a fracked wasteland like what we have seen happen in the USA," she said.

"If this area is opened to fracking, we will see a proliferation of licences, in direct contradiction to Premier McGowan's claims fracking would be limited to five million hectares.

Hammond said it made no sense to open a new giant fracking oil fields in the state at a time when the world was moving away from fossil fuels and towards renewable energy.

"Matt Canavan has yet again demonstrated that he is a fossil-fuel addicted dinosaur, and is totally out of step with public opinion and economic reality," she said. "Canavan has claimed this shale boom will result in hundreds of thousands of jobs. We would like to



*Extrinction Rebellion WA's first protest in Perth last week.  
Photo: XRWA*

see the evidence for these pie in the sky figures. They seem to be based on nothing but wishful thinking on behalf of the Minister.

"Opening new fossil fuel basins now could result in WA taxpayers being left with stranded assets in years to come.

"The distances involved to get this oil to market would be huge, and raise the very real prospect of an environmentally destructive project that never turns an actual profit.

"Already we have plans by fracking company Theia Energy to flare off its first few years of shale gas in the Great Sandy Desert in the Kimberley while it targets the associated shale oil.

"We absolutely cannot afford to sacrifice our state to massive, environmentally destructive, and economically dubious new oil and gas fracking projects," Hammond said.

Meanwhile, Western Australia's peak conservation and climate change organisation have called for the

McGowan Government to prosecute the state's biggest climate polluters, rather than protesters.

Last week, 60 people were arrested for taking part in a disruptive protest that brought Perth to a standstill for several hours.

Conservation Council of Western Australia (CCWA) Director Piers Versteegen said it was WA's biggest polluters that should be prosecuted, not people protesting about climate change.

"A government that prosecutes climate protesters while doing nothing about the companies damaging our climate every day has its priorities very wrong.

"Here in WA, the climate is being damaged by tens of millions of tons of carbon pollution every year from companies like Chevron, Woodside, Shell and BP.

"WA's biggest polluter, Chevron, has been in of its conditions for many months, yet the Minister for the Environment and McGowan Government has taken no action to prevent Chevron from releasing twenty million tons of climate-damaging carbon pollution every year.

## Criminal climate damage

"Instead of getting this criminal climate damage under control, these companies and the McGowan Government are planning yet more expansions of polluting fossil fuel industries.

"The proposed Browse Basin/Burrup Hub LNG project led by Woodside will result in around 100 million tons of carbon pollution every year – three to four times the pollution of the Adani coal mine.

"These companies are the real criminals, not protesters. They should be prosecuted for the irreparable damage they are causing to the climate, which is a far bigger crime than disrupting the daily commute for Perth city workers," Versteegen said.

# Adani banishes Traditional Owners from land

*In its latest act of harassment, Adani Mining was in the Queensland Supreme Court this week to get an order arming them with the ability to use police enforcement against members of the W&J Council if they return to their ceremonial ground.*

The interim injunction specifically prevents First Nation land owners, Adrian Burragubba and Coedie McAvoy, from returning to the ceremonial site on the area where native title was recently extinguished by the Queensland Government for Adani. It would prevent all other W&J Family Council members from exercising their rights and practicing their culture on that land.

The *Courier-Mail* reported: “Adani successfully argued in court that Burragubba, McAvoy and other activists trespassed on the mine land 160km northwest of Clermont between August 30 and September 5 when they set up a small protest camp.

“Burragubba and his followers are alleged to have set up their protest camp around August 26, when the land was part of Adani’s pastoral lease.

“Adani claims their alleged trespassing began on August 30 after the state government converted the land to freehold title under Adani’s exclusive control.”

## Doing Adani’s dirty work

Wangan & Jagalingou cultural leader, Adrian Burragubba, said: “Adani wants the state to do its dirty work after making us trespassers on our own country. This lame legal manoeuvre by Adani shows how perverse the situation has become.

“Adani is demanding we ask them for consent to access our cultural sites. They are using the courts to tell us not to interfere with Adani’s ‘ownership’ of



Graphic: Wangan and Jagalingou Traditional Owners Council, Facebook

our land, or interfere with or damage things on the land. The irony of this would be high farce if it were not so brutal in its intention. With the help of the state, Adani is continuing the colonisation of our land.

## Colonial exploitation continues

“Our people have struggled since the 1860s to hold onto our lands and human rights, our culture and dignity, in the face of colonial exploitation and dispossession. Today we still refuse to give our consent to the taking and destruction of our country.

“There has never been free, prior informed consent for Adani’s destructive mine. As a First Nations people we’ve been subjected to legalised racial discrimination. The Native Title system does not allow us to say no to mining projects. It has usurped our rights and laws and customs. It has coerced our people into a mining land use agreement, which misrepresents what our people really want and hides the destruction the mine will have on our beautiful country and culture.

“Even when conducting ceremonies to make peace with our ancestor spirits and country in the face of Adani’s mining onslaught, we are confronted by Adani security who monitor our movements in and out of the area and threaten us with trespass. Adani wants to break our connection to our sites and ceremonial places.

“The Government has failed us in the first place. It is the state’s policy, lacking any real First Nations consultation and consent, to open up the Galilee Basin. The state have enabled and backed Adani. This Government is now being used by Adani to extinguish our property rights and cultural sovereignty, and guarantee Adani’s entitlement against us.

“Any act of enforcement is a form of coercion that will prove the lack of consent for this mine. It will defeat attempts at reconciliation and treaties with First Nations people,” Burragubba concluded.

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## NSW extends gas pipeline approval

*The NSW Government has granted a five-year extension for the lapsed decade-old approval of the Queensland-Hunter gas pipeline.*

Lock the Gate Alliance has slammed the decision saying, “This poorly thought out proposal was first ap-

proved ten years ago and the company has done nothing since. The world has changed dramatically since then and there’s no place in it for this coal seam gas pipeline,” said Lock the Gate spokesperson Georgina Woods.

“The NSW Berejiklian Government is puffing to keep the embers burning for controversial and unpopular coal seam gas in the state’s north west when they should have been doused years ago.”

In October last year the company applied for an extension for five years, but the approval lapsed on 11 February this year without an extension being granted.

However, on the very last day before the caretaker period commenced ahead of the NSW election, the Planning Minister Anthony Roberts made a new regulation which appears specifically designed to extend the lapsed deadline on the pipeline by 12 months.

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



## Inside the news

**Adani** has banned the **Wangan & Jagalingou** Traditional Owners from the Carmichael Mine site, where they recently set up a camp and ceremonial circle (p7).

This follows bankrupting W&J elder, **Adrian Burragubba**, and hounding his son and supporters from the site with security goons and drones.

**Cliver Palmer's Waratah Coal** has renewed an application for the **Galilee Project**, 100km from Adani's Carmichael mine and four times bigger than the Adani project. The application advertisement appeared in a little-known weekly newspaper in Emerald (p8).

Palmer, who admits to having '**deliberately polarized**' the electorate with his \$60m ad splurge at the last federal election, also wants to build a **coal-fired power station** in central Queensland.

**Mungo MacCallum's** look at the Labor party's internal feud over energy policy is re-printed in full (with permission) on p11.

Demonstrating once again that mining interests run this country, the NSW government has announced an enquiry into the **Independent Planning Commission (IPC)** (p12-13).

The IPC recently knocked back two coal mines, prompting a spew of black bile and an advertising campaign by the **NSW Minerals Council**.

The *Daily Smellograph*, a recipient of big money for a series of full-page ads from the Minerals Council, has thrown its weight behind the campaign to destroy the IPC.

Anyone reading the *DT's* stories would have no idea that local **communities**, including **farmers**, opposed the mines due to water security issues, loss of excellent farmland, and the impact on locals from associated air pollution.

This is a shameful power play from the miners – and when you have **Murdoch's Newscorp** acting as a megaphone and advertising pamphlet, you have the government running for cover.

Are the miners going to get away with it?



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# In the news this week

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## THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/activists-banned-from-carmichael-mine-land-after-adani-wins-court-order/news-story/>

### Activists banned from Carmichael Mine land after Adani wins court order

Vanda Carson, *Courier-Mail*, 17/10/2019

Mining giant Adani has won a court order banning a well-known Aboriginal activist, his son and anyone with a “similar” interest in their fight against the mine, from stepping foot on the Carmichael Mine land.

The ban came four weeks after the activist’s son allegedly threatened to recruit an “army” of “thousands” of protesters from “the city” to “fight” Adani with an illegal camp on the Adani land in the north of the Gallilee basin.

On October 8, Supreme Court Justice Glenn Martin ordered Adrian Burragubba, 59, from East Brisbane, his son Coedie McAvoy and members of the Wangan and Jagalingou traditional owners, or anyone aligned with them, be banned from “entering or remaining on” the land, or “in any way physically interfering with the land” until a final hearing is completed.

Adani successfully argued in court that Burragubba, McAvoy and other activists trespassed on the mine land 160km northwest of Clermont between August 30 and September 5 when they set up a small protest camp.

Burragubba and his followers are alleged to have set up their protest camp around August 26, when the land was part of Adani’s pastoral lease.

Adani claims their alleged trespassing began on August 30 after the state government converted the land to freehold title under Adani’s exclusive control.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-10-17/inside-adanis-plans-to-haul-coal-from-carmichael-to-the-coast/11608930>

### Inside Adani’s plans to haul coal from Carmichael to the coast

Stephen Long, *ABC*, 17/10/2019

One of Australia’s leading rail freight companies has publicly disclosed that it is willing to service Adani’s Carmichael mine, despite an intense



A group of 20 people blocked four entrances to the Mackay office of freight rail company Aurizon on October 16, as part of an ongoing campaign against companies involved in Adani’s Carmichael mine. The group said they were targeting Aurizon because of the key role it would play in the proposed Carmichael mine, and because of the controversial lawsuit it has taken out against environmental activists. Photo: FLAC

campaign by environmentalists aimed at dissuading companies from dealing with Adani.

Pacific National, the major rail freight company in NSW and the fastest growing in Queensland, told the ABC: “We haul coal, that’s what we do.”

“We wouldn’t rule out dealing with Adani or any other mining company that had the necessary approvals,” the company said.

Tantalisingly, Adani may also be thinking of going it alone.

Documents from the Queensland Office of State Development show it has applied for accreditation as a licensed Rail Infrastructure Manager and Rolling Stock Operator — raising the prospect that it could be looking to bypass existing operators and freight its own coal from the mine.

Aurizon, which operates the state’s monopoly Central Queensland Rail Network, will certainly displease some of its shareholders if it takes on the job.

The ABC has learned that one of Australia’s biggest investors is threatening to sell its stake in Aurizon if the rail freight business enters contracts to move coal from Adani’s Carmichael mine site.

So, is Adani really looking to go it alone?

Observers we spoke to doubt it, because the upfront capital costs would add to the already huge costs of developing the project.

“You’re talking \$100 million plus for locomotives and wagons, plus maintenance costs and staffing — maybe up to \$200 million,” one analyst said.

He argued that the threat of going it alone was most likely “a bargaining chip to use in negotiations” with an outsourced provider.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/adani-abbot-point-port-100-million-railway-line-contract-signed-with-martinus-rail/news-story/67592132fe070c6722060b59899e29f5>

### Adani Abbot Point Port \$100 million railway line contract signed with Martinus Rail

Steven Wardill, *Courier-Mail*, 18/10/2019

Controversial miner Adani has reached a major new milestone for the Carmichael coal project, awarding a \$100 million contract to an Australian firm to construct its railway.

Contractor Martinus Rail will base its operations in Rockhampton while building the line that will connect the

Carmichael mine with Abbot Point Port near Bowen.

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/companies/aurizon-unfazed-by-investor-angst-over-adani-as-protests-disrupt-agm-20191017-p531qfhtml>

## Aurizon unfazed by investor angst over Adani as protests disrupt AGM

Yan Zhuang, SMH, 17/10/2019

The chairman of Queensland's dominant freight rail company said he is not concerned about the risk of institutional investors abandoning the rail company over its ties to the controversial Adani Carmichael coal mine.

Aurizon's chairman Tim Poole clashed with anti-Adani protesters at the company's annual shareholder meeting in Brisbane on Thursday, as he was besieged with questions over the rail group's environmental policies.

He said he believes the company still has a "very robust future" in the transition to a low-carbon economy, with metallurgical coal having a "very long-term future," while Australia's thermal coal would be one of the last in the world to go.

<https://www.afr.com/companies/mining/adani-awards-100m-rail-contract-after-malaysians-buy-into-local-firm-20191018-p531y9>

## Adani awards \$100m rail contract after Malaysians buy into local firm

Mark Ludlow, AFR, 18/10/2019

Indian energy giant Adani Group has awarded a \$100 million rail contract for its controversial \$2 billion Carmichael mine to part-Malaysian-owned company Martinus Rail.

Malaysian civil engineering company Gamuda Berhad – which only bought a 50 per cent stake in the privately owned Australian company Martinus Rail a few weeks ago – will now help build the rail link to the project at the centre of Australia's climate change debate.

Martinus Rail – which is now half-owned by Gamuda whose joint venture partners have previously worked with Adani in Asia – will build a 200-kilometre link to the existing Aurizon rail network, which will then ship coal to Adani's Abbot Point coal terminal, near Bowen.

## STOP WATER MINING THE NEXT RESOURCES BATTLE



## COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/whitehaven-mine-hit-by-drought/news-story/556a6949e3a7cce01de1b2f83ef39937>

### Whitehaven mine hit by drought

Nick Evans, Aus, 18/10/2019

Whitehaven Coal has joined the list of major miners warning that the severe drought in NSW could hit operations, with its flagship Maules Creek coal mine at risk if the drought doesn't break.

Whitehaven managing director Paul Flynn told shareholders at the company's annual meeting on Thursday that Maules Creek's primary water source – a licence to draw from the Namoi River – was "severely impacted" by the savage drought across the Murray Darling basin.

Flynn told shareholders the water supply at its Narrabri underground mine and Gunnedah open pit mines, also in NSW, were not seen as being at high risk from the drought.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/oct/22/clive-palmer-company-re-applies-for-mine-four-times-size-of-adanis-carmichael>

### Clive Palmer company reapplies for mine four times size of Adani's Carmichael

Ben Smea, Guardian, 22/10/2019

A Clive Palmer-controlled company has applied for a mining lease and environmental authority to build a massive coalmine four times the size of Adani's in the Queensland Galilee Basin.

The Galilee Coal project – formerly called China First – has not progressed since it gained federal environmental

approval in late 2013. Notification that Waratah Coal has renewed its 2011 application for a mining lease and environmental authority was issued by Queensland's coal assessment hub on 4 October.

The only public notice advising people to comment on the proposal – by a deadline of 2 December – was placed in the classifieds section of a weekly newspaper based in the central Queensland town of Emerald on Friday.

Waratah Coal is also seeking federal environmental approval for its proposed Alpha North coalmine in the Galilee Basin.

Palmer, who has said he deliberately "polarised the electorate" with a \$60m advertising spend before this year's federal election, also unveiled plans to build a coal-fired power station in central Queensland a week before polling day.

## OIL & GAS LEAKS

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/oct/10/fracking-fears-grow-for-rivers-in-queenslands-channel-country>

### Fracking fears grow for rivers in Queensland's channel country

Ben Smea, Guardian, 10/10/2019

Almost five years after the Queensland government promised to reinstate legislative protections for the state's "wild rivers" – and amid a proliferation of oil and gas drilling in the channel country – traditional owners' groups say they have grown increasingly concerned their waterways are under threat.

Three rivers that feed into Lake Eyre – the Diamantina, the Georgina and

Cooper Creek – were among those protected in Queensland under the Wild Rivers Act, a controversial law that mainly affected rivers in Cape York and the isolated channel country.

Those protections were scrapped by the Newman government in 2014. Labor promised to re-establish protections before coming to power in 2015, but is yet to follow through.

George Gorringer, a Mithaka traditional owner based at Windorah, said the government had been discussing protections, but at the same time the state had authorised natural gas drilling and fracking in large swathes of the channel country.

“You’ve got all the fracking and the oil wells all over the floodplain,” he said. “That’s not a good thing, you only need one spill and it contaminates the whole lot.

“We don’t want fracking on the floodplain or drilling on the floodplain. We’d like to be involved in the conversation.”

There are now 311 oil and gas wells in the Lake Eyre floodplain. No fracking proposal has progressed beyond the exploration phase.

The rivers of the Lake Eyre basin pass through the country of several Indigenous groups.

This month representatives from eight traditional owners’ groups will meet at Longreach with the intention of forming a water council, a body they hope will have the collective backing of Indigenous people and enough sway to influence government policy.

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/companies/santos-links-2-2-billion-deal-with-conocophillips-for-oil-and-gas-assets-20191014-p530i2.html>

### **Australian giant Santos pounces on \$2b worth of northern gas assets**

*Darren Gray, SMH, 14/10/2019*

Santos boss Kevin Gallagher says gas has a big future as the company inked a \$2.2 billion deal to buy a range of northern Australian assets off the international oil and gas company ConocoPhillips.

The assets are both onshore and offshore, and Santos expects the acquisitions will lift the company’s earnings per share by about 16 per cent.

Gallagher said the International Energy Agency predicts that gas will increase more than any other fossil fuel over the next 20 to 30 years.

“Through to 2040 it’s the fastest-growing energy source and that’s why there’s such demand for our product across Asia,” he said.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2019-10-18/santos-buys-up-billions-of-dollars-worth-of-nt-gas-assets/11610996>

### **Santos strengthens hold on north Australian gas, buying \$2 billion of production and exploration assets**

*Carmen Brown & Daniel Fitzgerald, ABC, 18/10/2019*

Resources giant Santos is strengthening its grip on the north Australian gas sector, as it moves to secure billions of dollars worth of exploration and production investments in the Top End.

- Santos plans to buy ConocoPhillips’ north Australian gas assets
- The move is likely to boost its operations in Darwin
- Armour Energy will combine with Santos to develop gas resources in the South Nicholson Basin

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/industry-executives-call-for-exploration-restrictions-to-be-removed/news-story/329a20a030ad32f6d68d62d37f6e86f9>

### **Industry executives call for exploration restrictions to be removed**

*Hayden Johnson, Courier-Mail, 15/10/2019*

Queensland’s rich gas reserves could help lower prices and underpin Australia’s economy for generations if the right policy settings are developed, an industry executive revealed.

Santos Onshore Oil and Gas vice president David Banks allayed fears there would be a shortage of supply by 2025.

He said that despite a shift to renewable energy, Queensland would continue to do the heavy lifting in Australia’s gas supply.

Banks made the comments at a Queensland Media Club event to mark 10 years since the Bligh Government first released plans to develop the state’s liquefied natural gas industry.

The event coincided with the release of a report that revealed the petroleum and gas industry delivered \$55 billion to the Queensland economy between 2011 and 2018.

The sector supported 4,606 full-time jobs and directly contributed \$54.5 billion to the Queensland economy, the report prepared for the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association by Lawrence Consulting revealed.

Banks was “very optimistic” the NSW

government would decide within months whether to grant Santos approval to progress its proposed \$3 billion gas project at Narrabri.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-shell-climate-exclusive/exclusive-no-choice-but-to-invest-in-oil-shell-ceo-says>

### **No choice but to invest in oil, Shell CEO says**

*Ron Bousso & Dmitry Zhdannikov, Reuters, 15/10/2019*

Royal Dutch Shell still sees abundant opportunity to make money from oil and gas in coming decades even as investors and governments increase pressure on energy companies over climate change, its chief executive said.

But in an interview with Reuters, Ben van Beurden expressed concern that some shareholders could abandon the world’s second-largest listed energy company due partly to what he called the “demonisation” of oil and gas and “unjustified” worries that its business model was unsustainable.

“Despite what a lot of activists say, it is entirely legitimate to invest in oil and gas because the world demands it,” van Beurden said.

“We have no choice” but to invest in long-life projects, he added.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-10-16/exploration-company-new-standard-energy-suspended-by-asx/11600340>

### **Oil and gas exploration company suspended by stock exchange over rehabilitation liabilities**

*Ben Collins, ABC, 16/10/2019*

A company that ran out of money before it could frack oil and gas wells drilled in the Great Sandy Desert has been suspended from trading by the Australian Stock Exchange for not including environmental rehabilitation costs in their financial reporting.

- New Standard Energy (NSE) drilled four wells in the Canning Basin, but failed to find commercial quantities of oil and gas
- The Australian Stock Exchange has suspended NSE from trading because the company cannot estimate how much it will cost to rehabilitate the area
- WA’s Mines Minister says the current system for regulating environment risks is not up to standard, with an overhaul likely

<https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/6438626/five-years-on-and-csg-questions-remain-inquiry-to-investigate/>

## Five years on and CSG questions remain, inquiry to investigate

Jamieson Murphy, Northern Daily Leader, 16/10/2019

Five years ago, the state's Chief Scientist made a list of recommendations to the government about how it should regulate the coal seam gas industry to make it safe.

But independent politician Justin Field says there is a suspicion in the community that the government had "only paid lip service" to the advice.

He's spearheading the inquiry, which will investigate if the 16 recommendations were properly implemented.

Deputy Premier John Barilaro recently revealed the state government had ignored the recommendation to have a standing expert body to monitor the industry.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/narrabri-csg-project-dammed-as-fairy-tale-that-wont-cut-gas-prices-52584/>

## Narrabri CSG project dammed as "fairy-tale" that won't cut gas prices

Michael Mazengarb, Renew Economy, 16/10/2019

A leading environmental organisation has hit out at a proposed mega-expansion of gas extraction in New South Wales' north-west, saying the project is too expensive to lower gas prices and suggested that developer Santos should not be trusted to act in the interests of domestic gas users.

The Wilderness Society assessment – prepared by Pegasus Economics – says the project is unlikely to make any dent on domestic gas prices, would be a major new source of greenhouse gas emissions and would also exacerbate drought conditions by depleting groundwater stocks.

<https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/6444243/gas-from-narrabri-proposal-three-times-market-average-report/>

## Coal seam gas from Santos Narrabri proposal three times market average: report

Jamieson Murphy, Northern Daily Leader, 18/10/2019

A new report claims Santos' Narrabri Gas Project will do nothing to ease high gas prices, with the cost of the coal seam gas produced at the development more than three times the market average.



EnergyAustralia's Tallawarra gas-fired power station. Photo: EnergyAustralia

However, a Santos spokesperson said the cost quoted in the Pegasus Economics report, which was commissioned by the Wilderness Society, was "simply wrong".

Pegasus Economics director Alistair Davey said at between \$7.40 and \$9.40 per gigajoule, Narrabri gas was far more expensive than other gas produced along the nation's east, where the average is \$2.91 per gigajoule.

"A coal seam gasfield at Narrabri is unlikely to have any bearing over gas prices in the short or long term."

<https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/gas-plant-delay-ramps-up-energy-uncertainty-20191018-p5323i>

## Gas plant delay ramps up energy uncertainty

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 21/10/2019

EnergyAustralia has further delayed its go-ahead date for a \$400 million gas power station in NSW into next year, in a blow to the push to get fast-start generation into the market to smooth out wind and solar power and help replace the Liddell coal plant.

It has been unable to get planning approval as it seeks to overcome objections by pilots who say the plume from the plant will cause safety risks.

The NSW Department of Planning has recommended the Tallawarra B open cycle gas plant not be allowed until it can show to the satisfaction of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority that the plume from the generator won't adversely affect aircraft operations at Illawarra airport.

## CLIMATE CRISIS

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/oct/14/rise-renewables-oil-firms-decades-earlier-think>

## Rise of renewables may see off oil firms decades earlier than they think

Jillian Ambrose, Guardian, 15/10/2019

The world's rising reliance on fossil fuels may come to an end decades earlier than the most polluting companies predict, offering early signs of hope in the global battle to tackle the climate crisis.

The climate green shoots have emerged amid a renewable energy revolution that promises an end to the rising demand for oil and coal in the 2020s, before the fossil fuels face a terminal decline.

The looming fossil fuel peak is expected to emerge decades ahead of forecasts from oil and mining companies, which are betting that demand for polluting energy will rise until the 2040s.

The rollout [of renewable energy] is expected whether politicians increase their ambition or not, because the economics of clean energy are now too strong to ignore.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2019-10-14/humans-co2-volcanoes-climate-change-carbon-cycle/11586226>

## Humans put 100 times more carbon into the atmosphere than volcanoes, but that's just the tip of the iceberg

Nick Kilvert, ABC, 16/10/2019

Massive volcanism in Siberia kickstarted the end-Permian extinction around 250 million years ago, wiping out more

than 90 per cent of marine species and two-thirds of vertebrates.

- Since the Industrial Revolution, humans have released as much CO<sub>2</sub> as the meteorite that wiped out the dinosaurs
- Just one fifth of 1 per cent of the earth's carbon is above the surface
- Burning fossil fuels is undoing aeons of natural carbon sequestration
- A huge asteroid pounding into Earth killed off the dinosaurs.

Compared to these events, it might be difficult to imagine how we little humans could affect the planet's weather systems.

But researchers have calculated that we are now pumping out between 40 and 100 times more CO<sub>2</sub> than all the volcanoes on Earth.

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/companies/we-are-not-the-bad-guys-origin-cops-climate-fracking-grilling-20191016-p53184.html>

### **'We are not the bad guys': Origin cops climate, fracking grilling**

*Nick Toscano, SMH, 16/10/2019*

Australian energy giant Origin faced a grilling from climate campaigners about coal-fired power plant emissions and from Aboriginal landowners opposing the company's fracking plans in the Northern Territory during a day of intense pressure at its annual shareholder meeting in Sydney.

Origin was hit with several shareholder resolutions calling for Origin to accelerate its exit from fossil fuels and abandon its controversial fracking project, prompted the board to argue many of the assertions "lack scientific rigour, peer review or are simply incorrect".

"In fact, we are proud at Origin of the leading position we have taken on environmental, social and governance matters," said chairman Gordon Cairns, adding that Origin had been Australia's first to set emissions targets approved by the Science-Based Target initiative, a globally recognised framework referencing the science needed to limit global warming in line with Paris targets.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/younger-australians-prioritise-reducing-carbon-emissions-over-energy-affordability-reliability/news-story/bd40d16f9dd636500ab62bb41c57608f>

### **Younger Australians prioritise reducing carbon emissions over energy affordability, reliability**

*Geoff Chambers, Aus, 17/10/2019*

Support for reducing carbon emissions is dominated by younger Australians, with new polling revealing a high support for affordability and reliability in the electricity market among voters aged 35 and older.

A new OmniPoll shows that, with the exception of Australians aged 24 and under, affordability was rated the highest priority across the nation.

"There are striking patterns across age groups, with the priority for emissions reduction being by far the highest among 18-24-year-olds then dropping progressively by age. The opposite is true for reliability," the research stated.

The survey showed 81% of Australians supported the use of renewables as part of the nation's energy mix.

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/world/2019/10/18/london-commuters-turn-violent-amid-extinction-rebellion-protest/>

### **London commuters turn violent amid Extinction Rebellion protest**

*New Daily, 18/10/2019*

A crowd of angry London commuters have dragged two Extinction Rebellion protesters off a train as the pair attempted a climate action demonstration during peak hour.

Footage shared on social media shows two activists standing on top of the Tube in front of a shouting crowd at Canning Town, in east London.

An Extinction Rebellion spokesperson said: "Some of those involved in the planning, on hearing the feedback, chose to step back from the action; but some of those involved continued and ultimately carried it out.

"Very few people in XR wanted this to happen, but the 'post-consensus' organisational model which we currently employ is such that it happened all the same."

## **FOSSIL POLITICS**

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/ill-considered-and-ill-timed-labor-savages-fitzgibbon-over-climate-retreat-20191014-p530n6.html>

### **'Ill-considered and ill-timed': Labor savages Fitzgibbon over climate retreat**

*Rob Harris & David Crowe, SMH, 14/10/2019*

Labor MPs from both sides of the party have savaged frontbencher Joel Fitzgibbon for proposing a retreat on climate change to accept the Morrison government's emissions targets, repudiating his position in heated factional meetings late on Monday.

Angry MPs insisted rejected Fitzgibbon's controversial call for a "sensible settlement" with the Coalition on climate, saying his position was ill-considered and ill-timed.

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/mungo-maccallum-albanese-and-the-inconvenient-climate-change-deal-breaker.13206>

### **Albanese and the inconvenient climate-change deal-breaker**

*Mungo MacCallum, Independent Australia, 14/10/2019*

As they sweat on the results of the long drawn out post mortem over Labor's loss in the unlosable election, the warlords are already staking out their own positions.

The feeling seems to be that since a protracted series of blame games are inevitable, a least they can make a pretence of moving forward, even though they are in fact moving backwards.

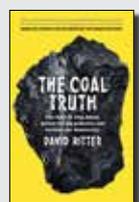
And nowhere is the retreat more retrograde and dispiriting than the demand that the party of progress should abandon its long term targets on climate change and succumb, yet again, to the Government's manifestly inadequate agenda.

Such right-wing luminaries as Member for Hunter Joell Fitzgibbon and Deputy Opposition Leader Richard Marles are now suggesting that capitulation would help things along in Queensland and Western Australia. Their rationale appears to be that the Labor votes were down in both and since the two are traditionally designated as the mining states, forgetting about emissions would bring the punters flocking back to the fold.

The logic is patently absurd. While Labor mishandled the Adani issue and Bob Brown's quixotic caravan of protest did not help, the real problems in Queensland were Clive Palmer, Pauline Hanson and the monopolised Murdoch media – none of whom would have

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

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moved a nanometre if Labor's target for emissions reduction was 45%, 28% or zero.

But hey, you have to blame something and it sure as hell isn't going to be us. So the so-called policy relies essentially on self-preservation – a mixture of timidity and perversity.

If it were to be implemented it is not clear how it would play out, but the lessons from history is not promising. And not even ancient history – it is only a little over ten years ago that former PM Kevin Rudd walked away from what he once called the “great moral challenge of our times” and put his own ambitious plans for climate change on the backburner.

Dumping what was seen as a core belief – a principal point of difference between Labor and the Coalition – caused a slump in his Government's support and the resulting polls, both public and private, provided the excuse the recalcitrant faction bosses needed to replace him, leading to all the instability and vendettas that followed.

The heavies of Sussex Street and beyond were not interested in climate change – their idea of a moral challenge is grabbing the last dim sum from a long lunch in Chinatown. But the rank and file and the swinging voters saw Rudd's defection from the cause a betrayal, not only because most of them believed in it, but because it showed that when the pressure was put on him, he was just another political opportunist – one who preferred expediency to principle.

And this is precisely the risk Albanese is already accused of – that he stands for nothing, that he is driven by the polls and the focus groups, and thus is not worth supporting. He has got away with caution and moderation to date, but climate change is the big one; and will become more urgent as the extreme weather and the passionate politics become more intense.

If self-preservation is really involved, he needs, this time, to hold firm. It may be a long way to the next election, but tapping the mat on this one could be irreparable.

• *Reproduced in full with Mungo MacCallum's permission*

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/new-energy-projects-on-track-for-end-of-year-approval-as-angus-taylor-defends-underwriting-scheme-20191017-p531nj.html>

### **New energy projects on track for end-of-year approval as Angus Taylor defends underwriting scheme**

*Rob Harris, SMH, 17/10/2019*

Up to six new energy projects to be supported by taxpayers could be approved before Christmas as the Morrison government strongly defends its intervention in the market to address an “investment drought” in new generation.

Energy Minister Angus Taylor said the government had progressed work on the viability of 12 shortlisted projects and expected negotiations with a “significant number” would be completed by the end of the year.

Five gas projects, six pumped-hydro and one coal-fired power plant upgrade have been slated across all states in the National Energy Market.

The Australian Renewable Energy Agency is still reviewing a further three pumped-hydro projects.

Delta is the only coal project on the list, with its plan to upgrade the 1320MW Vales Point generator on the NSW Central Coast.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/independent-mp-zali-steggall-to-propose-climate-change-bill-to-parliament-44214/>

### **Independent MP Zali Steggall to propose climate change bill to parliament**

*Michael Mazengarb, Renew Economy, 18/10/2019*

Independent MP for Warringah Zali Steggall – who succeeded in ending the political career of climate science denier and former prime minister Tony Abbott – will propose a climate change bill to federal parliament in 2020 that would create a plan for Australia to achieve long term emissions reduction targets.

“We need to set out a roadmap for Australia to become a low carbon economy without all the fear mongering and misinformation,” Steggall said. “The big question all sensible Australians are asking is how? This is why we need a Climate Change Act to set out a legislative framework.”

The crossbench MP said that the legislation would be modelled on similar legislation passed by the UK Parliament, and would establish an independent body to advise the government on how to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The legislation would also require the government to produce an annual report, detailing the progress being made towards reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions.

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/ipc-faces-chop-after-nsw-mine-debacles/news-story/c7ed-485c5567f1f6d3ff28a78dc9f4d>

### **IPC faces chop after NSW mine debacles**

*Anna Caldwell, Daily Telegraph, 19/10/2019*

The Independent Planning Commission is officially on notice with a top level review to consider whether the state even needs the powerful oversight body – charged with final sign off on our biggest developments – in its current form.

The review comes as the NSW government and planning Minister Rob Stokes have been targeted in a major mining industry ad campaign led by the Minerals Council over delays and uncertainty in the planning system and decisions by the IPC.

Minister Stokes said that “NSW is open for business”.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/oct/21/nsw-minerals-council-pressured-publicly-and-privately-for-review-of-planning-body>

### **NSW Minerals Council pressured ‘publicly and privately’ for review of planning body**

*Christopher Knaus, Guardian, 21/10/2019*

The head of New South Wales's mining lobby said his group had “publicly and privately” pressured government to review the state's independent planning body after it blocked a new coalmine on environmental grounds, an anti-corruption probe has heard.

NSW Minerals Council chief executive, Stephen Galilee, said he hoped the decision to review the IPC was a result of the NSW Minerals Council's campaign, which he said had “been highlighting these issues publicly and privately to the government and the minister” without much traction for some time.

“I'd like to believe that our campaign on planning reform has helped the government decide that it should look at some of the processes that are place,” he told Icac. “But I suspect that ... that has more to do with the internal issues of the planning commission itself.”

The decision has prompted widespread anger among integrity commissioners. The former Icac commissioner David Ipp said it was a “recipe for corruption”.

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/government-caving-in-to-industry-pressure-over-planning-commission-review-say-former-icac-bosses-20191021-p532om.html>

**Government caving in to industry pressure over planning commission review, say former ICAC bosses**

Michaela Whitborn & Megan Gorrey, SMH, 22/10/2019

Former commissioners of the state's anti-corruption agency have accused the Berejiklian government of caving in to mining industry pressure by holding a review into the future of the independent consent authority for major projects in NSW.

Georgina Woods, a campaign co-ordinator for anti-mining group Lock the Gate, told the ICAC's inquiry into lobbying that the group was "very concerned" about the IPC review because the agency served as a "check against corruption".

NSW Greens MP Jamie Parker, the party's planning spokesman, said any moves to weaken the independence of the panel "simply opens the door to corrupt politicians and their mates to wave through inappropriate development across NSW".

"This panel already overwhelmingly supports even the most egregious development proposals," Mr Parker said. "The fact that the government is even considering a review shows they are operating to serve developers and miners, not the community."

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/oct/22/is-nsw-government-caving-in-to-news-corp-and-mining-lobby-with-planning-review>

**Is NSW government caving in to News Corp and mining lobby with planning review?**

Anne Davies, Guardian, 22/10/2019

Has the New South Wales government again caved in to the state's powerful mining lobby and the ill-informed campaigning by the so-called "battler's newspaper", News Corp's the *Daily Telegraph*, on behalf of the top end of town?



One of the NSW Minerals Council's full-page ads in the Daily Telegraph.

The NSW government announced over the weekend a review of its Independent Planning Commission, following white-hot anger from the powerful mining and property development industry over a number of projects being blocked.

The IPC has come under fire from the *Daily Telegraph*, which has taken up the cause of the mining industry, following the IPC decision to block a major new coalmine in Bylong valley, proposed by the Korean miner Kepeco, last month.

The *Tele* took the view that it was all about coal jobs – 650 construction jobs and 450 jobs for the state's central west over the mine's 30-year life – without considering what the loss of farming enterprises might mean. Or the need to think beyond coal and start planning for a future where other industries provide jobs in the regions.



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