



Fossil Fool Bulletin

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

Fossilfool.com.au

FFB 2:48 • 19 NOVEMBER 2019

Climate wars ignite

By Eve Sinton

Scores of fires, unprecedented in their ferocity and unexpected at this time of year, engulfed Australia in recent weeks.

As the blazes raged out of control, they ignited a war of words over the country's climate policy. Meanwhile, former emergency services leaders revealed they had been trying to warn Prime Minister Scott Morrison about climate change-driven fire risks for months.

Morrison has been ignoring the Emergency Leaders for Climate Action's requests to meet since April.

Fires have incinerated over 1,650,000 hectares, taken at least four lives and destroyed around 500 homes. The toll to wildlife and domestic livestock is incalculable.

The situation will continue through summer, with no rain relief in sight.

Despite Australia's long history of bushfires, scientists and emergency personnel are unanimous in describing the scale of the emergency as unprecedented, and driven by global heating.

PM won't mention climate change

The Prime Minister's 'thoughts and prayers but let's not talk about the climate' reaction drew comparisons with the National Rifle Association's playbook responses to gun deaths in the USA.

Politicians attacked each other's words. A selection of quotes appears on page 2.

Ironically, National Party members



Bushfire. Photo: CSIRO

made some of the most scathing remarks about people concerned over climate change, even as their own rural constituents were the most hard-hit. According to the Nats, only bloody inner-city lunatics believe the fires had anything to do with global heating.

A more constructive approach was provided by the Emergency Leaders for Climate Action's Greg Mullins, former NSW Fire and Rescue Commissioner and a Climate Councillor.

Mullins has toured devastating Californian fires to learn lessons for Australia's worsening bushfire risk.

He said that "the most fire-prone parts of the planet are burning more and more and it is going to be harder to fight these fires."

"We are coming into what I think is the most dangerous build-up to a fire season that I've seen since 1994 and it

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• P4: Law fails to protect ag land from coal

• P5: Minerals Council pushed for new law

Climate wars ignite fiery debate



Mt Lindesay burns on the Queensland/New South Wales border. Photo: Daniel Rex

• Continued from p1

is atrocious that our national government doesn't recognise that there is a disaster headed their way.

"Late-season fires are burning in California, alongside early-season fires across much of Australia – and this overlap is deeply worrying," said Mullins.

All large firefighting planes and helicopters used in Australia, except one owned by New South Wales, are leased from North America.

"With Australia and California burning at the same time, it's difficult, if not impossible, for us to lease vital personnel and equipment from the United States," he said.

Mullins is a founding member of Emergency Leaders for Climate Action, a coalition of emergency leaders from around the country calling for stronger action on climate change.

"We are seeing the impacts of intensifying climate change in Australia

now. Bushfire seasons are intensifying, starting earlier and lasting longer than ever before, and we need to take this seriously," said the Climate Council's CEO Amanda McKenzie.

"California has experienced devastating fires year in, year out with thousands of homes lost. Without efforts to both tackle climate change and manage escalating fire danger, Australian fires are getting riskier," she said.

"The Federal Government is failing Australians on climate and failing to secure Australians a safe future," said McKenzie.

"The Federal Government must listen to emergency leaders and stop ignoring the risk to communities and emergency services personnel. We need urgent emissions reductions, and a coordinated national effort on coping with worsening extreme weather disasters," said Mullins.

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War of words

Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack (National):

[Climate change concerns are generated by] "all those ... inner-city raving lunatics. [People] don't need the ravings of some pure, enlightened and woke capital city greenies at this time, when they're trying to save their homes

Barnaby Joyce (National):

"I acknowledge that the two people who died were most likely people who voted for the Green party, so I am not going to start attacking them. That's the last thing I want to do."

Later claiming his remarks had been misinterpreted, Joyce said he wanted to "punch the fucking lights out" of people who criticised the statement.

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian (Liberal):

Said drought had contributed to the conditions when asked about the link between climate change and the bushfires, "But I don't think it's appropriate to get into a political argument as to what the causes are at this stage."

NSW Deputy Premier John Barilaro (National):

"For any bloody greenie or lefty out there who wants to talk about climate change ... when communities in the next 48 hours might lose more lives. If this is the time people want to talk about climate change, they are a bloody disgrace."

MP Adam Bandt, (Greens):

"I think the world needs to shift away from coal and Australia, as the sixth largest polluter when you take into account how much how much we export, has to take a leading role. If you continue digging up coal and burning it, then this kind of catastrophe is going to become more likely, and the question is: is that what we want?"

Senator Jordon Steele-John (Greens):

Speaking in the Senate – "How dare any of you suggest that in this moment at this time it is appropriate to be prosecuting a piece of legislation with the aim of propping up coal. You are no better than a bunch of arsonists – borderline arsonists – and you should be ashamed."

Mayor of Glen Innes Severn Council Carol Sparks:

"We are so impacted by drought and the lack of rain. It's climate change, there's no doubt about it. The whole of the country is going to be affected. We need to take a serious look at our future."

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Equinor knocked back as toxic spill plans revealed

Norwegian oil company Equinor has had its proposal to drill in the Great Australian Bight rejected for a second time, after again failing to convince the safety regulator it can drill without putting the entire southern coast of Australia at risk of a catastrophic oil spill.

On November 11 the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) requested Equinor revise its environment plan, which was again judged to have fallen short of required safety standards. The regulator highlighted shortcomings across all major aspects of Equinor's plan including preventing an accident, oil spill risk, consulting relevant persons and managing threats to the Bight's unique marine life.

"This is the second time that NOPSEMA has asked Equinor to fill in the gaps in its drilling plan despite the company having more than two years and several attempts to get it right. BP was rejected multiple times, then it gave up its plans to drill the Great Australian Bight. Equinor should do the same," Greenpeace Australia Pacific Senior Campaigner Nathaniel Pelle said.

Noah Schultz-Byard, Director of The Australia Institute, South Australia, said: "We know that this project doesn't make sense economically for South Australia and it's becoming increasingly clear that the environmental case doesn't stack up either."

Minimal revenue for Sth Australia

"Australia Institute research has shown that South Australia stands to gain just one tenth of one percent of total state revenues from the project over its 40-year lifetime.

"We already know that 60% of Australians and 68% of South Australians are opposed to opening up the Bight for oil drilling.

"Australia Institute research demonstrates more than 10,000 South Australian jobs in coastal tourism, fisheries and aquaculture rely on the Bight and our healthy oceans to survive. A significant oil spill in the Great Australian Bight would be a disaster for the South Australian economy.

"Accelerating the transition to renewable sources of energy, rather than opening up new fossil fuel frontiers makes sense both in terms of tackling

Environment that may be affected by an oil spill

Graphic: Greenpeace



climate change and for South Australia's economy."

Equinor plans to use toxic dispersants

Equinor's knock-back came as Greenpeace released a report revealing that oil companies in Australia have stockpiled over 350 tonnes of oil dispersants, including Corexit 9500, which are toxic chemicals used to clean up oil spills. However, Corexit is no longer permitted in Australia, because studies show it harms people and marine life. Despite this, approval has been given for oil companies to spray the banned substance into the environment until existing stores are exhausted.

Equinor plans to use Australia's stockpile of Corexit dispersant, and others like it, to respond to catastrophic oil spills in the Great Australian Bight, as well as shipping in thousands of tonnes of dispersants from overseas. However, Equinor's Environment Plan has not defined how its use of dispersants will affect the environment.

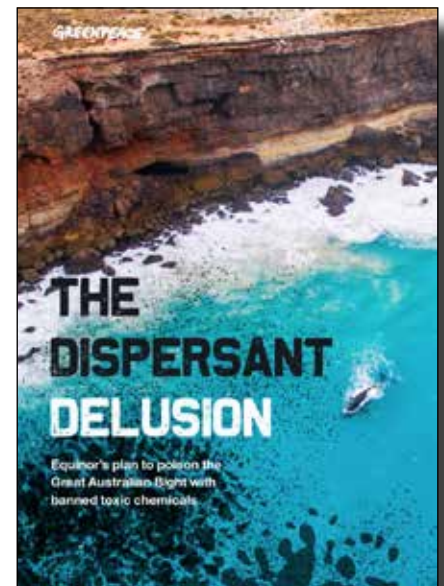
Following the Deepwater Horizon disaster in 2010, 6.9 million litres of dispersants were sprayed onto the surface of the spill as well as injected directly into the erupting well-head. Yet, this was done without prior research to determine what levels of exposure would be harmful to humans or marine life.

Since 2010, studies have demonstrated that Corexit and other dispersants harm whales and other marine

mammals, fish, crustaceans, plankton, corals, and the workers and fishers who respond to the spill.

• **Download the report here:**

<https://www.greenpeace.org.au/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/GPR5188-Equinor-Report-R2-%C6%92-1-1.pdf>



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Law fails to protect ag land

Not a single mining or gas project slated for Queensland's best agricultural land has been refused since planning legislation was changed five years ago, according to new analysis.

The Regional Planning Interests Act 2014 (Qld) (RPIA) was introduced by the Campbell Newman Government on a promise to 'address the power imbalance between farmers and resource proponents and quite rightly prioritise agricultural activity on what is a finite and critical resource for Queensland'.

However, a new expert legal review of 42 resource approvals granted under the RPIA since 2014 has found that not one has been rejected.

These approvals have been granted for resource activities in mapped priority regional interest areas, including priority agricultural areas, strategic cropping land, priority living areas, or strategic environmental areas.

Mining strategic cropping land

The proposed Moreton Resources coal mine on prime farmland at Kingaroy is an example of how badly this regional planning system has failed. The mine would sit on mapped Strategic Cropping Land on some of Queensland's most fertile soils, just 6km from Kingaroy.

John Bjelke-Petersen, son of former Premier Joh and Senator Flo Bjelke-Petersen, runs cattle and a bed and breakfast from the family's historic "Bethany" homestead. Should it be approved, the mine would be built immediately adjacent to "Bethany".

"This is a crazy place to put a mine," Bjelke-Petersen says.

"We've got some of the best soils in the region. Our soils and our climate

allows us to grow virtually just about anything here in this part of the world.

"This kind of country, this prime agricultural land, should be off-limits for mining, but we have the real prospect of this amazing area being opened up for coal extraction.

"We've seen what's happened in the Hunter Valley and to communities down there with the affect of mines on prime farmland and in close proximity to townships and the same will happen here if governments allow this to go ahead."

Plan to Grow campaign launched

Farmers and community groups across Queensland are now coming together to launch a new initiative, called Plan to Grow, seeking to reform regional planning laws to ensure that key farming areas and other important regional assets are protected into the future.

The campaign launch also comes at a time when Darling Downs farmers are concerned the Queensland Government may approve a mining lease for the New Acland coal expansion on some of the best farming land in the state.

The project has produced a short video, which includes interviews with farmers like Bjelke-Petersen, and others from the Kingaroy and Wide Bay Burnett region.

Wide Bay Burnett cane farmer Judy Plath said, "We want changes to regional planning laws to make sure communities have a stronger role in helping our regions be the best they can be.

"We want laws that protect our best agricultural land, communities, and ecological and cultural assets."

Fossil Fool marks second anniversary

Fossil Fool Bulletin has been in publication for two years since its launch on November 20, 2017.

FFB 1.1 led with a story on the United Nations' Australian Tribunal into the human rights impacts of unconventional gas. The issue filled only five pages.

A year later, FFB 2.1 comprised 18 pages and featured the massive emissions revealed by postcode in the Queensland gasfields.

Leigh Creek Energy's problems in lighting up their underground coal gasification project in South Australia also featured in the edition.

The *Fossil Fool* now has hundreds of subscribers and a website, fossilfool.com.au.

When publication commenced it seemed likely that the Adani saga, which has had its own section in every edition, would result in the project falling over. But the power of the fossil lobby has seen bulldozers sent to the mine site. Its rightful Aboriginal owners have been banished and persecuted in a repeat of the colonial history of the last 200 years.

Australia has gone backwards on climate change with the election of coal-fondler-in-chief, Scott Morrison, as Prime Minister.

Even as the country burns – and *Fossil Fool* had to evacuate its bushland HQ as fire approached – the Coalition and its fossil fuel sponsors plan ever-larger coal and gasfields.

As this edition comes together, an uncontrolled 6,200-hectare bush-fire still lurks over the hill and will burn for months unless significant rainfall occurs.

Meanwhile, the government rages at people wanting to discuss climate change, which fuels the fire disaster sweeping the country.

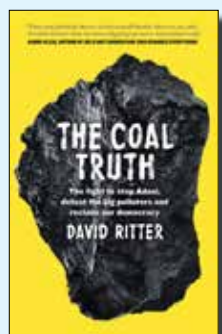
Fossil Fool Bulletin has a continuing role in bearing witness to the big picture of fossil fuels, corporate power over governments, and fossil lobbyists interfering with the democratic process.

At least FFB HQ hasn't burned down – yet.

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

A timely and colourful contribution to one of the most important struggles in our national history – over the future of the coal industry.

Contributors include Tara Moss and Berndt Sellheim, Adrian Burragubba, Lesley Hughes, John Quiggin, Hilary Bambrick, Ruchira Talukdar and Geoffrey Cousins. Lead author is David Ritter, CEO, Greenpeace Australia Pacific.



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Documents show how Minerals Council pushed for law change

New freedom of information documents reveal the Berejiklian Government has reversed its position on the consideration of downstream greenhouse gas emissions in coal mine decisions in six months, following pressure from the NSW Minerals Council.

The documents show that during a meeting involving Planning Minister Rob Stokes and the Minerals Council in June the Government did not agree with a coal lobby proposal to remove downstream greenhouse gas emissions from decisions about mining projects by planning authorities like the Independent Planning Commission.

A Departmental briefing note defends the inclusion of downstream emissions in the consideration of mining projects, arguing that:

these emissions are a consequence of the proposed development and are therefore a relevant consideration under the EP&A Act – the weight to be given to them is a matter for the consent authority to determine.

The consideration of scope 3 emissions in development assessment processes is well established in many other jurisdictions and has been a factor in the assessment of mining projects in NSW since the commencement of the Mining SEPP.

To address its concerns, the NSWMC may request the Mining SEPP be amended to remove the requirement to assess downstream emissions. However, this would not prevent GHG emissions being considered and may create more uncertainty as it would still be open to a consent authority to consider such matters.

Barilaro met with Peabody & Glencore

Ministerial diary disclosures indicate that Deputy Premier John Barilaro met with proponents of the United Wambo coal mine Peabody and Glencore on 29 July.

On September 18, the same day the Bylong coal mine was refused in part

due to its impact on greenhouse gas emissions, the Planning Minister again met with the Minerals Council, as well as Peabody and Glencore.

Legislation to remove the requirement to consider downstream emissions in decisions about coal mines and gasfields was introduced by Planning Minister Rob Stokes on 23 October. Yesterday, 500 people protested against the Bill in solidarity with communities suffering the impacts of catastrophic bushfires.

The Bill has been referred to a committee for consideration.

Lock the Gate spokesperson Georgina Woods said, “These documents show that six months ago the Government was comfortable with the long-standing law ensuring the climate change consequences of new coal mines in New South Wales are not ignored, only to completely reverse its position following sustained pressure and lobbying from the Minerals Council.

Malign influence on public policy

“We’re dismayed that the mining lobby continues to exert this undue and malign influence on public policy in New South Wales, on matters that have profound consequences for all of us and while people across the state are suffering so terribly from the impacts of climate change.

“The mining lobby does not does not want us to address the contribution NSW coal makes to fueling deadly climate change, but that is indefensible.

“On an issue of this importance, the Government should have undertaken broad public consultation. We all have a stake in this.

“We’re calling on the Government to withdraw this Bill.”

Mine rehabilitation fund welcomed

Lock the Gate has welcomed the appointment of the Financial Provisioning Scheme Advisory Committee which will advise the Queensland government on how funds will be spent on abandoned mine rehabilitation.

“The Committee will have an important role in ensuring the dividend from the new mining financial assurance fund is directed to priority abandoned mines and that rehabilitation work is effective in protecting the environment and the public,” said Lock the Gate spokesperson Rick Humphries.

“The dividend will see a modest increase in the existing abandoned mines budget. I say modest because we are talking perhaps tens of millions to address a multi-billion dollar abandoned mine problem.

“It is difficult at this stage to predict what the Fund’s financial contribution might be as it grows, but any increase is welcome. We hope this committee will ensure that these scarce funds are used effectively. The history of abandoned mine rehabilitation in Queensland has been characterised by poorly designed band aid solutions that haven’t worked.

“We see this as a modest first step in addressing the mining industry’s appalling legacy in Queensland. It’s also pleasing to see the mining industry finally making a contribution via the new fund rather than just the tax payer. It’s an important precedent.

“There are about 317 large abandoned mines in Queensland, and jobs will be created as those sites are progressively rehabilitated.

“Improving mine rehabilitation not only protects our local environments but it can also create several thousand jobs in regional Queensland.

“We will continue to advocate a modest 50 cents per tonne levy on the industry to raise \$140 million per year to fully fund an abandoned mine programme and create thousands of jobs in regional Queensland.”

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WA's LNG industry drives up pollution

WA's liquid natural gas (LNG) industry is single-handedly cancelling out the entire country's efforts to tackle climate change and carbon pollution.

A report commissioned by the Conservation Council of Western Australia (CCWA) and the Clean State project, is the first thorough investigation of greenhouse gas emissions from WA's LNG industry. Drawing from industry and EPA data, the report provides damning insights into how this industry alone impacts Australia's ability to meet the Paris Agreement targets signed by Australia in 2015.

The research shows that LNG production is WA's biggest and fastest growing pollution source, rising from 9% of the state's total in 2005 to 36% today. Despite efforts across the country to cut pollution, emissions growth from the WA LNG industry is driving up Australia's national pollution levels. Oil and gas giants including Chevron, Woodside, Shell and BP are responsible. These firms have lobbied to weaken regulation, and today operate with no effective controls on their pollution.

"Both State and Federal Governments have pledged to reduce emissions under the international Paris Agreement but WA LNG pollution is cancelling out the savings that are being made across the country. There is no chance these targets will be met if LNG companies are able to continue polluting without limits or consequences," said report author and Policy Analyst, Chantal Caruso.

The Morrison Government's Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) is intended to cut 375 million tonnes (Mt) of emissions over its entire lifetime, however these savings are cancelled out by the pollution from WA's five LNG facilities over the next 12 years.

Govt subsidising pollution

"Australian taxpayers are paying \$4.55 billion for the Morrison Government's climate policy, but this costly program is essentially just subsidising pollution from companies like Woodside and Chevron which is cancelling out all of the gains that are being made" said report author Chantal Caruso.

To address the problem, the WA Environmental Protection Authority has recommended new rules for LNG companies to reduce and offset the climate damage caused by their pollution.



Woodside's \$7.6 billion Pluto LNG plant. Photo: Woodside

Independent analysis by Reputex Energy has found that offsetting current LNG emissions in WA would create more than 4,000 jobs in the state, in sectors such as forestry, large-scale renewable energy and rangeland regeneration—while improving WA's natural environment.

LNG: Clean fuel myth

"For decades our community has been misled by clever marketing from oil and gas companies that led us to believe that LNG is a 'clean fuel' and part of the climate solution, but that simply is a myth. The reality is that WA LNG production pollutes much more than our coal fired power stations" said Piers Verstegen, Director, Conservation Council of WA.

"At a time when the community are demanding action to address climate change, this research provides clear evidence that reveals our states biggest pollution problem. While all other states' emissions are falling, WA's have risen and will continue to rise without action to address this issue by the State government and LNG companies.

"The positive thing is, that if oil and gas giants were required to offset their emissions it would create around 4,000 new jobs – more than entire workforce currently employed at WA's LNG production facilities. At a cost of around 2% of profits, for companies that pay little tax and no royalties, this is a tiny impost for the Oil and Gas

industry but a huge opportunity for WA communities and businesses to directly benefit from action on climate change.

The Clean State project was launched earlier this month.

"The aim is to help increase the community's understanding of the issues so people can feel empowered about what to do. I really think many will be shocked at the audacity of these polluters to shirk responsibility for their environmental impacts and the lack of control over this industry by the government.

"It's time as a community we come together and call on companies like Woodside and Chevron to come to the table with answers, rather than pushing the cost of their pollution onto taxpayers and blocking action on climate change that would create thousands of jobs across the state," Verstegen said.

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**Acclaimed movie
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Inside the news

Newscorp has a couple of journalists and a photographer touring **Adani's** Indian operations, generating some puff-pieces. The older of Adani's sons, **Karan Adani**, has been interviewed and stories focus on how good Australian coal is for impoverished Indians (p8-9).

Thanks no doubt to Adani, the endangered **black-throated finch** won *The Guardian's* **Bird of the Year** competition, as Adani's contractors are busy **bulldozing** the bird's core habitat (p9).

New analysis from **Rystad Energy** (p10) predicts **closure** of some of Gladstone's **LNG export facilities** within a decade, as production declines in Queensland's gasfields. Gas resources have been over-estimated and over-sold, and as a result there will be some very expensive **stranded assets** on **Curtis Island**.

New Zealand has passed an historic **zero-carbon bill** (p12), committing the nation to eliminate carbon emissions by 2050. The bill passed by 119-1, and the country's **climate change minister** (they have one!) compared it to New Zealand's past leadership on votes for women and nuclear disarmament. **Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern** (can we steal her?) said the bill put the country "on the right side of history".

Qantas has also committed to **zero emissions** by 2050 (p12).

The current Australian **bushfire** crisis generated a **storm of climate denial** and criticism of 'greenies' from Coalition politician, amplified with hateful comment in the **Murdoch** media. The *Fossil Fool's* record of events (p11-16) has not given oxygen to Murdoch's nastiest columnists.

Fossil enthusiast **Matt Canavan**, unfazed by the increasing evidence of climate crisis, is calling for a **shale fracking revolution** in the Northern Territory. His remarks were made as he was entertained by **Chevron**, on a visit to the Permian Basin in Texas.

Canavan is also pushing for more government funding of **carbon capture and storage** – the fossil fuel lobby's wet dream – following an approach from **Glencore** and **Santos** (p16).

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In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 40,300 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/adani-awards-40-million-contract-to-decmil-as-part-of-construction-of-its-200km-railway/news-story/ec8337e15150e7afe16a54603fdbd4a0>

Adani awards \$40 million contract to Decmil as part of construction of its 200km railway

Michael Wray, *Courier-Mail*, 08/11/2019

Adani's Carmichael coal mine has signed a \$40 million contract to deliver workers camps for construction of its 200km railway.

ASX-listed mining contractor Decmil will design and construct three temporary camps along the Adani rail corridor.

Adani has confirmed 40 jobs will be made available as a result of the contract.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/crime-and-justice/adani-judges-slash-thousands-off-fines-of-activists/news-story/39555580af8f256c979c089bdbc38011>

Adani: Judges slash thousands off fines of activists

Renee Viellaris, *Courier-Mail*, 09/11/2019

Judges are dramatically reducing the fines of anti-Adani activists by thousands of dollars on appeal, and have ordered police to pay the costs of protesters who pleaded guilty.

North Queensland magistrates have collectively slapped 10 anti-Adani protesters with \$82,000 in fines, but on appeal in District Courts, the offenders have had their fines cut to \$22,000 – a reduction of \$60,000.

• *The Courier-Mail goes on to list the names and financial details of eight protesters whose fines had been reduced.*

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/adani-a-world-leader-in-reducing-emissions-says-ports-ceo/news-story/fb3992a39cc2185979a194f438a97d76>

Adani a world leader in reducing emissions, says ports CEO

Hayden Johnson, *Courier-Mail*, 15/11/2019

Adani has pledged to ship its first batch of Queensland coal to India by 2021, and has hit out at green activists by declaring it is a global leader in reducing carbon emissions.

In a rare and wide-ranging interview at the company's headquarters in Ahmedabad, India, Adani Ports CEO



Anaesthetist Dr Peter Kuestler locked on to stop work at Adani's Carmichael mine work camp on November 13, with health professionals responding to the climate and highlighting the health crisis caused by the climate crisis. Photo: FLAC

Karan Adani declared that after nine years of setbacks, the goal was to send the first coal from the company's controversial Carmichael megamine to India within about a year.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/adani-scion-says-coal-essential-to-lifting-indians-out-of-poverty/news-story/e3f9ee94c21de14dc5638b28f98922fc>

Adani scion says coal essential to lifting Indians out of poverty

BenPackham, *Aus*, 14/11/2019

One of Adani's top executives has accused Australian critics of its Carmichael coal mine of ignoring the needs of up to 300 million Indians living without electricity as the nation pushes to more than triple its power consumption and lift its people from poverty.

Karan Adani – head of the company's ports division and son of founder Gautam Adani – said demand for Australian coal in India would contin-

ue to surge over the coming decade as everyday Indians sought to improve their standard of living.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/adanis-coal-exports-from-queensland-could-be-a-lifechanger-for-indias-poor/news-story/2abfe7d41f6bab4176c5eb30895e8920>

Adani's coal exports from Queensland could be a life-changer for India's poor

Hayden Johnson, *Courier-Mail*, 15/11/2019

In A small, poverty-stricken village on the outskirts of Mumbai the simple connection of a light bulb is having a life-changing effect on locals.

The *Courier-Mail* toured the Aarey Milk colony yesterday, where Queensland coal will help keep the lights on in the small campus.

• *The writer is in India as a guest of the Confederation of Indian Industry.*

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/mindbending-reality-that-coal-and-renewables-can-exist-in-perfect-complementarity/news-story/44e417a5337b6f15d7504d8663d2892>

Mind-bending reality that coal and renewables can exist in perfect complementarity

Tony Vermeer, Daily Telegraph, 15/11/2019

For any coal-fearing, green-loving environmental warrior the drive to Adani's sprawling port and power complex on India's west coast must appear on first impressions to be a journey into the heart of darkness.

Looming from the desolate salt pan up ahead are the chimney stacks of not one but two fully functional and relatively new coal-fired power stations.

• *The author travelled to India as a guest of the Confederation of Indian Industry.*



<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/nov/15/black-throated-finch-wins-2019-bird-of-the-year-as-tawny-frogmouth-comes-second>

Black-throated finch wins 2019 bird of the year with tawny frogmouth second

Naaman Zhou, Guardian, 15/11/2019

The black-throated finch has been voted Australian bird of the year for 2019, beating the tawny frogmouth in a landslide.

The highly endangered finch, which is under threat from the expansion of the Adani Carmichael coalmine, was backed by a highly organised online campaign linking it to deforestation, the climate emergency and opposition to the mine.

Sean Dooley from BirdLife Australia paid tribute to the finch and said the victory was well-deserved.

“As someone who has gone out and seen that bird in nature, they are subtly stunning. No illustration I have seen has done justice to the beauty of the bird in real life. They are a literal breath-taker when you see them.”

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.sconeadvocate.com.au/story/6474011/dartbrook-decision-to-be-appealed/>

Australian Pacific Coal announces it will appeal the IPC Dartbrook underground decision

Louise Nichols, Scone Advocate, 04/11/2019

The owners of the Dartbrook underground mine near Aberdeen announce they will appeal the Independent Planning Commission's (IPC) determination.

The determination handed down on August 9 this year allowed the mine to reopen but it could only operate until 2022 – a decision that would have affected the overall financial viability of the project.

The mine has been in care and maintenance since 2006 and was sold by mining giant Anglo American to Australian Pacific Coal (AQC) in 2016 - a company with no mining experience.

The Commissioners refused to extend the life of the mine for further five years until 2027 as requested by AQC due to questions concerning the economic viability of the project.

Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association has previously described the reopening of the underground mine as a Trojan horse for the development of an open cut mine on the site.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-11-05/maules-creek-coal-mine-under-investigation-again-over-water-use/11658718>

Controversial Maules Creek coal mine under investigation again over water use

Andy Park & Alex McDonald, ABC, 05/11/2019

The controversial Whitehaven Coal Maules Creek mine is being investigated again, this time following complaints about its groundwater use which the company denies.

The company has already been found by the NSW regulator to have allegedly taken surface water unlawfully.

The groundwater investigation comes as no surprise to brothers Rick and Phil Laird, who are both members of the Maules Creek Community Council and who farm near the mine.

They say their bore water has run dry.

Whitehaven Coal denies taking more water than it is allowed.

In a statement to 7.30, it also rejected that it had contributed to “groundwater drawdowns in the area in any

way that has negatively affected local farmers and irrigators”.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/regional/new-hope-meets-with-government-reps-over-future-of-mine/news-story/4269bffc0860636ecbb28266417e79b>

New Hope confident Acland coal mine's under-fire third stage will go ahead

Matthew Newton, Chronicle, 06/11/2019

New Hope Group executives met with State Government representatives and the Co-ordinator General's office yesterday to discuss the future of New Acland Coal Mine's Stage 3 project.

New Hope Group chief development officer Ben Armitage will front a media conference this morning to discuss the recent Queensland Supreme Court of Appeal decision, which dismissed an appeal by the Oakey Coal Action Alliance and granted orders requested by New Acland Coal.

New Hope believes the decision means there is now nothing standing in the way for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy minister Dr Anthony Lynham from approving the project's mining lease and associated water licence.

Oakey Coal Action Alliance secretary Paul King urged against the granting of approvals for the mine, claiming “some of the best agricultural land in the state would be destroyed” if it was allowed to proceed.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/sustainability/new-coal-projects-in-sydney-s-catchment-on-hold-after-panel-s-reports-20191109-p5388ys.html>

New coal projects in Sydney's catchment on hold after panel's reports

Peter Hannam, SMH, 11/11/2019

The Berejiklian government will pause new approvals for coal mining under Sydney's drinking water catchment until well into next year as it considers an advisory panel's report into the impact of mining on water supplies.

Underground mining in the catchment has become particularly controversial during the drought as the levels of Sydney's dams drop faster than at any time since at least 1940 even with the city's desalination plant at full tilt.

The panel found subsidence following coal extraction and the subsequent fracturing of the sandstones reaching the surface about 400 metres above may result in water losses of as much as 8 million litres per day.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/nov/15/methane-emissions-from-coal-mines-could-stoke-climate-crisis-study>

Methane emissions from coalmines could stoke climate crisis – study

Jillian Ambrose, *Guardian*, 15/11/2019

The methane emissions leaking from the world's coalmines could be stoking the global climate crisis at the same rate as the shipping and aviation industries combined.

Coalmines are belching millions of tonnes of methane into the atmosphere unchecked, because policymakers have overlooked the rising climate threat, according to new research.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) estimated that the amount of methane seeping from new and disused coalmines may have reached just under 40m tonnes last year.

OIL & GAS LEAKS

<https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/6476114/questions-over-gas-pipelines-failure-to-advertise-changes-locally/>

Questions over Hunter-Queensland gas pipeline's failure to advertise changes locally in Gunnedah and Liverpool Plains

Jamieson Murphy, *Northern Daily Leader*, 06/11/2019

Questions have been raised why the company behind a proposed \$1-billion gas pipeline did not place adverts in local newspapers, as required by the state's planning laws, to notify residents of modifications to the project.

However, the state government and the company behind the project say the obligation was met, as an advert was placed in a state-wide paper, which circulates in the local region.

Hunter Gas Pipeline, the company behind the project, placed ads in all the local newspapers along the 700-kilometre pipeline route - except for those in the Gunnedah and Liverpool Plains shires - advertising its plan to apply for a five-year extension, which was recently granted.

Breeza farmer Peter Wills was disappointed the Gunnedah and Liverpool Shire LGAs were not treated the same as other regions.

Of the almost 200 submissions regarding the five-year extension, only one was in favour - Kurri Kurri based business Weston Aluminium, which was founded by Mr Simonian, who is also the company's managing director.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/queensland-coal-seam-gas-shortfall-threatening-lng-exports-says-rystad/news-story/d0f9c2ec14c5cbbf15778e2f95d724c8>

Queensland coal seam gas shortfall threatening LNG exports, says Rystad

Perry Williams, *Aus*, 07/11/2019

Queensland gas producers may be forced to cut exports from its \$84 billion LNG industry and shut down production units in the next decade due to falling coal seam gas production in the state, consultancy Rystad Energy has warned.

Supplies from producing or under-development coal seam gas projects in Queensland are set to fall by 60 per cent in the next 10 years.

Material reductions in export volumes will need to be made from 2026 with LNG trains closing by 2028 unless multi-trillion cubic feet of gas can be discovered and developed at a break-even price of less than \$8 a gigajoule, Rystad reported.

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/the-myth-of-clean-gas-report-attacks-petroleum-industry-messaging-20191106-p5383n.html>

'The myth of clean gas': Report attacks petroleum industry messaging

Emma Young, *SMH*, 07/11/2019

A report describing a "runaway train" of greenhouse gas emissions from Western Australia's five operating and two planned LNG plants has attacked industry rhetoric around "clean gas".

The Conservation Council of WA/Clean State report released on Thursday uses emissions data sourced from documents submitted to the Environmental Protection Authority regarding Woodside's North West Shelf and Pluto, Chevron's Gorgon and Wheatstone and Shell's Prelude - and says these projects alone are breaking Australia's Paris promises.

The report said claims gas was 50% cleaner than coal did not take into account life-cycle emissions (including extraction, processing, transport, storage and burning to create energy).

<https://www.themercury.com.au/news/national/ex-labor-premier-to-lead-qld-gas-royalties-review/news-story/72632bc5f8dd1c0426bffa86b5dec407>

Ex-Labor premier to lead Qld gas royalties review

Sarah Vogler, *Courier-Mail*, 08/11/2019

A former Labor premier has been appointed to lead a review into Queensland's gas royalties regime. Former South Australian premier

Jay Weatherill is heading the review, announced by Treasurer Jackie Trad in June alongside a decision to increase the petroleum royalty rate from 10 per cent to 12.5 per cent, netting the state an extra \$476 million over four years.

Weatherill's review will be handed to the State by the end of the year.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-11-11/off-shore-oil-rig-timor-sea-operations-cease-environment-safety/11691040>

Taxpayers could face \$200m bill if buyer cannot be found for rust-riddled oil platform

Tom Iggulden, *ABC*, 11/11/2019

An environmental time bomb is ticking in Australia's northern waters and taxpayers might be forced to stump up \$200 million to defuse it.

In July, regulators shut down one of the country's biggest offshore oil platforms, the Northern Endeavour, after finding it riddled with rust, lacking a proper fire suppression system and "risks of a major accident event occurring".

That forced the company which owns it, Northern Oil and Gas, into voluntary administration.

The administrator, KPMG, has until next week to find a new owner who will likely need to spend an estimated \$50 million to repair the vessel at a dockyard in Darwin.

If a buyer cannot be found, the Lamianaria and Corallina oilfields, 250 nautical miles north-west of Darwin, may need to be decommissioned.

Several subsea wellheads would need to be capped to prevent some 24 million barrels of crude oil escaping into the Timor Sea.

The cost is estimated at \$200 million, which the federal government may need to pay for.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/nov/11/norway-set-to-gain-more-from-drilling-in-great-australian-bight-than-australia>

Norway set to gain more from drilling in Great Australian Bight than Australia

Paul Karp, *Guardian*, 11/11/2019

The Norwegian government stands to gain \$400m more from drilling in the Great Australian Bight than the South Australian and federal governments combined, according to a new study by the Australia Institute

The Australia Institute warns it will likely require decades of subsidies

because during the exploration phase production would be minimal, paying no royalties or taxes.

The modelling appears to suggest that no royalties will be paid, which would mean that oil and gas lies in commonwealth waters and that “the commonwealth will give away Australia’s oil for free”.

<https://www.theage.com.au/business/markets/peak-oil-is-getting-closer-but-now-it-s-driven-by-waning-demand-20191111-p539dw.html>

‘Peak oil’ is getting closer, but now it’s driven by waning demand

Stephen Bartholomeusz, Age, 11/11/2019

For decades the debates about “peak oil” were about the moment production would start to decline. Now it’s about when demand starts to fall away and that moment appears to be drawing closer.

Last week the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Companies (OPEC), the producers’ cartel led by the Saudis, issued its annual World Oil Outlook. It sees growth in demand rising but at a declining rate until it becomes negligible around 2040.

The International Energy Agency has said peak demand could occur as early as the late 2020s or in the 2030s.

Whether peak oil comes sooner or later depends on the response of the developed economies to climate change and the rate at which road transport is electrified.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2019-11-15/inpex-celebrates-100-lng-shipments-from-darwin/11707372>

Inpex celebrates 100th shipment of LNG since Ichthys project began production

Matt Brann, ABC, 15/11/2019

LNG tankers slowing moving out of Darwin Harbour have become a common sight in the Northern Territory’s capital, with multiple vessels sailing to export markets on a weekly basis.

But the 288-metre-long Pacific Arcadia setting sail today was extra-special for Inpex – it was the Japanese company’s 100th shipment since the \$55 billion Ichthys project began producing gas in October last year.



Leigh Creek Energy’s AGM will be targeted by protesters this week.

LEIGH CK STINK

<https://indaily.com.au/news/business/2019/11/04/leigh-creek-energy-hints-at-chinese-takeover/>

Leigh Creek Energy hints at Chinese takeover

Bension Siebert, InDaily, 04/11/2019

Leigh Creek Energy has encouraged journalists to “draw their own conclusions” about a potential Chinese takeover of the South Australian company.

It is understood that an investment bank in Hong Kong is conducting a potential acquisition of LCK for a Chinese company.

HYDROGEN HYPE

<https://www.afr.com/policy/energy-and-climate/there-is-no-magic-hydrogen-bullet-coming-20191106-p537t6>

There is no magic hydrogen bullet coming

Matthew Warren, AFR, 07/11/2019

When energy ministers meet later this month, one of the few things they’re likely to agree upon is hydrogen. More specifically, a ringing endorsement to the imminent release of a national hydrogen strategy in Australia.

Hydrogen has high costs and efficiency losses. Electrolysis is capital expensive and wastes about 40% of the electrical energy used.

Renewable hydrogen remains prohibitively expensive; once produced, hydrogen is difficult to store and move.

Continuing to explore ways to make the hydrogen supply chain work is highly desirable in a carbon-constrained world. Governments cannot promise a hydrogen future as a solution to climate change.

NUKE MADNESS

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-11-07/majority-of-kimba-residents-support-nuclear-waste-facility/11680774>

More than 60% of Kimba locals support nuclear waste dump in their region

Casey Briggs, ABC, 07/11/2019

A clear majority of Kimba residents have voted in favour of a nuclear waste dump being built in their region.

Federal Resources Minister Matthew Canavan has released the results of a month-long indicative postal ballot, confirming 61.6% of the 734 ballot papers were in favour of the dump.

Only local residents were permitted to vote in the ballot, infuriating the region’s native titleholders, the Barnngarla people. They said they had also run their own vote through an independent company, and wanted the results included in the official vote.

CLIMATE CRISIS

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/nsw/nsw-should-be-alarmed-former-judge-slams-planning-laws-20191105-p537j4.html>

‘NSW should be alarmed’: former judge slams planning laws

Alexandra Smith, SMH, 06/11/2019

A former Supreme Court judge and environmental law expert has warned NSW’s push to stop greenhouse gas emissions being considered in mining decisions is a “dangerous retrograde step”.

Paul Stein, QC, who was also on the Land and Environment Court bench for more than 12 years, says “NSW residents should be alarmed” by proposed changes to so-called scope 3 emissions.

STOP WATER MINING THE NEXT RESOURCES BATTLE



Planning Minister Rob Stokes has introduced legislation to stop consent conditions relating to greenhouse gas emissions from export coal being imposed on NSW mining projects.

But Mr Stein described attacks on “independent institutions”, including the Independent Planning Commission and the Land and Environment Court as “deplorable”.

He said the government’s changes to scope 3 emission showed it had its “head in the sand” over global climate change.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-11-06/former-fire-chief-worried-about-firefighting-resources/11677760>

As fire seasons overlap in Australia and California, sharing firefighting resources will only get harder

Zoe Daniel & Amy Donaldson, ABC, 06/11/2019

Key points:

- California’s fire season is starting to overlap with Australia’s, which will make it harder to share firefighting resources
- Former fire chief Greg Mullins is calling for more resources in Australia
- A group of former senior emergency chiefs are trying to meet with Scott Morrison to discuss the issue

Mullins is a member of the Climate Council and Emergency Leaders for Climate Action.

He is not giving up on his push for a meeting with Morrison.

“We’re coming into what I think is the most dangerous fire season – the most dangerous build-up to a fire season I’ve seen since 1994, when NSW was devastated,” he said.

“And there’s not even platitudes, there’s just closed doors and closed minds as far as I’m concerned.

“That’s atrocious that our national government doesn’t recognise that there’s a disaster heading their way. So, again, please listen, Prime Minister.”

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/untold-suffering-global-scientists-warn-of-climate-emergency-20191105-p537mt.html>

‘Untold suffering’: Global scientists warn of climate emergency

Peter Hannam, SMH, 06/11/2019

More than 11,000 scientists from around the world have declared a “climate emergency”, warning of “untold

suffering” and calling for action ranging from curbing human population to leaving fossil fuels in the ground.

The unusual international collaboration, published in *BioScience Journal*, was backed by more than 350 Australian scientists, including 10 current or ex-CSIRO researchers. Signatories hailed from 153 countries.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/nov/05/climate-crisis-11000-scientists-warn-of-untold-suffering>

Climate crisis: 11,000 scientists warn of ‘untold suffering’

Damian Carrington, Guardian, 06/11/2019

The world’s people face “untold suffering due to the climate crisis” unless there are major transformations to global society, according to a stark warning from more than 11,000 scientists.

“We declare clearly and unequivocally that planet Earth is facing a climate emergency,” it states. “To secure a sustainable future, we must change how we live. [This] entails major transformations in the ways our global society functions and interacts with natural ecosystems.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/nov/06/banks-boosted-new-lending-to-fossil-fuel-projects-last-year-figures-show>

Banks boosted new lending to fossil fuel projects last year, figures show

Ben Smees, Guardian, 06/11/2019

Two of Australia’s big four banks increased their new lending to fossil fuel projects last year despite having made public commitments to support the goals of the Paris climate agreement, analysis of their financial dealings shows.

The investor action group Market Forces says both ANZ and Westpac poured significant new money into fossil fuel projects during 2018-19 in a way that indicated the banks’ lofty climate goals were not being factored into individual investment decisions.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/companies/climate-warriors-target-bhp-over-industry-associations/news-story/04d25f46b48218a55310da11444bc362>

BHP hit with landmark green vote over climate protest

Nick Evans, Aus, 07/11/2019

Australia’s corporate climate warriors are on the march after winning the support of almost a third of the votes cast at BHP’s annual shareholder meeting for a motion calling on the

company to quit industry associations seen as opposing action on climate change.

The resolution, targeting BHP’s membership of the Minerals Council of Australia and coal-industry group Coal21 received the support of 29.5% of proxy votes, despite being opposed by the company’s board.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/07/ardern-says-new-zealand-on-right-side-of-history-as-mps-pass-zero-carbon-bill>

Ardern says New Zealand on ‘right side of history’ as MPs pass zero-carbon bill

Eleanor Ainge, Guardian, 07/11/2019

Jacinda Ardern’s landmark climate legislation has passed in New Zealand parliament, with historic cross-party support, committing the nation to reduce its carbon emissions to zero by 2050 and meet its commitments under the Paris climate accords.

The bill passed 119 votes to one.

Climate change minister James Shaw said the bill, which commits New Zealand to keeping global warming below 1.5 degrees, provided a framework for the island country of nearly 5 million to adapt too, and prepare for the climate emergency.

“We’ve led the world before in nuclear disarmament and in votes for women, now we are leading again.” Shaw said.

Prime minister Jacinda Ardern told MPs New Zealand was on the “right side of history”. She said: “I absolutely believe and continue to stand by the statement that climate change is the biggest challenge of our time.

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/companies/responsible-thing-to-do-qantas-pledges-zero-net-emissions-by-2050-20191110-p5394d.html>

‘Responsible thing to do’: Qantas pledges zero net emissions by 2050

Patrick Hatch, SMH, 11/11/2019

Qantas will pledge to cut its net carbon emissions to zero by 2050, breaking ranks with its global airline peers at a time when aviation is under unprecedented scrutiny over its contribution to climate change.

Qantas chief executive Alan Joyce said the goals would result in the airline group, including budget arm Jetstar, capping net emissions at their current level of about 12 million tonnes from next year and then cut it gradually over the next 30 years.

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/a-local-mayor-can-see-we-face-a-climate-emergency-why-can-t-the-pm-20191110-p5393b.html>

A local mayor can see we face a climate emergency, why can't the PM?

Ian Dunlop, SMH, 10/11/2019

Despite soaring rhetoric about Australian values and the absolute priority of securing the future of the Australian people, it is crystal clear that the federal government, the opposition and much of our corporate and media leadership have absolutely no understanding of the greatest threat facing this country, namely human-induced climate change. Having dug themselves a massive climate denial hole, and lacking the honesty to climb out, they are now intent on dragging the rest of the community down with them.

Not so the mayor of Glen Innes Severn Council. Coming to grips with the loss of lives and properties in her community in this weekend's devastating fires, Carol Sparks had no doubt of the emergency we face. "We are so impacted by drought and the lack of rain," she said. "It's climate change, there's no doubt about it. The whole of the country is going to be affected. We need to take a serious look at our future."

• Ian Dunlop was formerly an international oil, gas and coal industry executive, chair of the Australian Coal Association and chief executive of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/this-is-not-normal-what-s-different-about-the-nsw-mega-fires-20191110-p5395e.html>

This is not normal: what's different about the NSW mega fires

Greg Mullins, SMH, 11/11/2019

I write this piece reluctantly, because there are still possible fire victims unaccounted for; people have lost loved ones; and hundreds of families have lost their homes. My heart goes out to them. I don't want to detract in any way from the vital safety messages that our fire commissioners and Premier will be making about Tuesday's fire potential. ...

Unprecedented dryness; reductions in long-term rainfall; low humidity; high temperatures; wind velocities; fire danger indices; fire spread and ferocity; instances of pyro-convective fires (fire storms – making their own weather); early starts and late finishes to bushfire seasons. An established long-term trend driven by a warming, drying climate. The numbers don't lie, and the science is clear.

If anyone tells you, "This is part of a

normal cycle" or "We've had fires like this before", smile politely and walk away, because they don't know what they're talking about.

• Greg Mullins is a former Fire and Rescue NSW commissioner and a councillor on the Climate Council.

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/australians-don-t-want-to-die-from-fires-rising-risk-of-poor-health-due-to-climate-change-20191114-p53amr.html>

Australians don't want to die from fires': rising risk of poor health due to climate change

Rachel Clun, SMH, 14/11/2019

The federal government's failure to address the damaging health effects of climate change including extreme heatwaves and intense bushfires is putting lives at risk, the authors of a major report warn.

There was little evidence to suggest Australia is acting effectively to mitigate the multiple heat-related risks for physical and mental health, environmental and health experts wrote in the Medical Journal of Australia-Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change report.

Australian researchers from the international consortium of 120 experts from 35 institutions urged the government to transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/nov/15/this-is-climate-changed-pray-for-rain-pray-harder-for-leadership>

This is climate changed. Pray for rain. Pray harder for leadership

Badja Sparks, Guardian, 15/11/2019

I have been a member of the Wyaliba community near Glen Innes for 40 years.

Wyaliba has lost two lives and more than half our homes, our school, our bridge, our wildlife and 40 years of work to build a community. What was our paradise is now ash.

We had a bushfire two months ago that burned most of our property. It didn't matter. It burned again.

This is climate changed. We're in the worst drought recorded. A million hectares of bush has burned. Barnaby says it's Greens voters and the sun's magnetic field.

Pray for rain. Pray harder for leadership.

• Badja Sparks is a longtime resident of Wyaliba. His home was badly damaged in last Friday's fires

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/05/coalition-warned-outlawing-climate-boycotts-could-breach-constitution>

Coalition warned outlawing climate boycotts could breach constitution

Paul Karp, Guardian, 05/11/2019

Academics have warned that changes to competition law to shut down environmental boycotts could breach the constitution, as some Coalition MPs are expressing nervousness privately about Scott Morrison signalling a controversial crackdown last week.

The attorney-general Christian Porter has nominated activist group Market Forces as the intended target of the Coalition's efforts to temper activism, flagged by Morrison during a combative speech in Brisbane last Friday.

University of New South Wales law school dean Prof George Williams said the move would risk breaching the implied freedom of political communication in the constitution.

The chief executive of Market Forces, Julien Vincent, said it was now clear the government "wants to ... stop us going about our work", but that the work was an "entirely legitimate" means of encouraging companies to pursue better environmental outcomes.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/the-prime-minister-s-anti-protest-laws-are-attacks-on-investors-too-20191104-p537bj.html>

The Prime Minister's anti-protest laws are attacks on investors too

Jenna Price, SMH, 05/11/2019

Politicians are frightening. Here are two good examples. The Prime Minister Scott Morrison has announced he is planning to introduce laws which will stop modern environmental activism. The Leader of the Opposition has described the Prime Minister's words as a thought bubble. They are both dangerous. One wants to limit your liberty, the other trivialises Morrison's plans. These are the people who are our political leaders.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/nov/09/global-funds-management-giant-rejects-scott-morrison-attack-on-activist-investors>

Global funds management giant rejects Scott Morrison's attack on activist investors

Ben Butler, Guardian, 09/11/2019

Global funds management giant Aberdeen Standard Investments has rejected prime minister's Scott Morrison's

call for companies to listen to “quiet shareholders” as part of a comprehensive rebuff of the government’s attack on activist investors and the environmental movement.

The UK’s biggest listed fund manager, which controls assets worth more than £550bn, also defended the role of environmental groups including Market Forces, which has been accused by the attorney general, Christian Porter, of pressuring companies.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/nsw/deputy-premier-says-climate-change-talk-amid-fire-crisis-a-disgrace-20191111-p539ig.html>

Deputy Premier says climate change talk amid fire crisis a ‘disgrace’

Alexandra Smith & David Crowe, SMH, 11/11/2019

Anyone who talks about climate change during the bushfire crisis is a “bloody disgrace”, the state’s Deputy Premier John Barilaro said, as the NSW Nationals lined up with their federal colleagues to downplay links between global warming and the fires.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Michael McCormack, earlier on Monday took aim at the Greens and “all those other inner city raving lunatics” who, he claimed, were politicising the tragedy.

Glen Innes council mayor Carol Sparks, the first Greens member to hold that position, said last week “there’s no doubt” climate change was contributing to drought and the lack of rain and said Prime Minister Scott Morrison should act on this.

The Greens’ Adam Bandt responded by redoubling his call for the closure of the coal industry on the grounds that a global coal shut-down would help the climate and ease the risk of bushfires.

“This government has had every opportunity to minimise the risk of these catastrophic fires and instead it has chosen to pour fuel on the fire,” the Greens MP said.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/greens-playing-politics-with-fire-say-labor-and-coalition/news-story/d0943c5674694e0a3e3622201c5b3be9>

Greens playing politics with fire, say Labor and Coalition

Greg Brown & Andrew Clennell, Aus, 12/11/2019

Senior Coalition and Labor MPs have launched a bitter attack on the Greens for suggesting climate change policies are responsible for the catastrophic bushfire threat confronting NSW and Queensland.

As firefighters braced for the arrival of high winds and low humidity that threaten some of the worst conditions seen since the Black Saturday bushfires a decade ago, Greens leader Richard Di Natale sparked fury from both major parties when he said the nation’s emissions policy had caused the fires that killed three people and injured 100.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/nsw/nsw-planning-minister-rejects-claims-of-mining-lobby-influence-as-bill-delayed-20191112-p539th.html>

NSW Planning Minister rejects claims of mining lobby influence as bill delayed

Lisa Visentin, SMH, 13/11/2019

NSW Planning Minister Rob Stokes says he did not cave to demands from the powerful mining lobby, as a bill dealing with greenhouse gas emissions was delayed until next year.

Stokes introduced the bill last month, following a concerted lobbying campaign by the NSW Minerals Council to stop planning authorities from considering the climate pollution of exported Australian coal when determining new mining projects.

A final vote on the bill will be delayed until after March, when the upper house votes to refer it to a parliamentary committee for further inquiry.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/nov/13/nsw-public-servants-at-climate-conference-told-not-to-discuss-link-with-bushfires>

NSW public servants at climate conference told not to discuss link with bushfires

Anne Davies, Guardian, 13/11/2019

As bushfire conditions were declared “catastrophic” on Tuesday, NSW bureaucrats attending a conference on adaption to climate change were directed not discuss the link between climate change and bushfires.

Bureaucrats from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment were sent an email soon after the AdaptNSW 2019 Forum began, causing consternation among some attendees who saw it as tantamount to gagging them.

The email said: “For those attending AdaptNSW today, public affairs has issued advice not to discuss the link between climate change and bushfires.

“Gagging climate change experts from speaking in the middle of a bushfire disaster is a new low from this government,” Greens MP David Shoebridge said.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-11-14/former-fire-chief-calls-out-pm-over-refusal-of-meeting/11705330>

Former fire chiefs ‘tried to warn Scott Morrison’ to bring in more water-bombers ahead of horror bushfire season

ABC, 14/11/2019

Twenty-three former fire and emergency leaders say they tried for months to warn Prime Minister Scott Morrison that Australia needed more water-bombers to tackle bigger, faster and hotter bushfires.

Former New South Wales Fire and Rescue chief Greg Mullins – one of the founders of the Emergency Leaders for Climate Action Group – said the group sought a meeting with the Federal Government to discuss the issue in April and again in May, immediately after the federal election.

“We have tried since April to get a meeting with the Prime Minister,” Mullins told ABC Radio on Thursday morning. “It’s clear now we won’t get that meeting.

“We had some pretty simple asks that we wanted to talk to the government about.

“Funding for large aerial fire tankers.

“If they (the government) had spoken to us back then, maybe they could have allocated more money to have more of those aircraft, but they didn’t and they’re probably not available now.”

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-11-15/scott-morrison-should-listen-to-fire-chiefs-on-climate-change/11707096>

Scott Morrison should listen when top fire chiefs call him out on climate change

Michelle Grattan, ABC, 15/11/2019

When five former fire chiefs held a news conference on Thursday to urge the Federal Government to take more action on climate change, it was a challenging moment for Scott Morrison.

Those who fronted the cameras represented a group of 21 men and two women, who make up the Emergency Leaders for Climate Action. These people have led fire and emergency services all around the nation.

The group’s messages are that we’re in “a new age of unprecedented bushfire danger”, climate change is the key reason things are getting worse, and the Government needs to respond with more resources and a better policy to reduce emissions and move to clean energy.

(Article continues with detailed analysis of government policy.)

• *Michelle Grattan is a professorial fellow at the University of Canberra and chief political correspondent at The Conversation.*

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-11-14/bob-brown-and-others-say-new-anti-protest-law-bid-wont-work/11705296>

Greens defiant ahead of anti-protest law reboot to quell activists tabled in Parliament

Alexandra Humphries, ABC, 14/11/2019

The Tasmanian Government has promised the state will soon have the strongest anti-protest laws in the country, but one expert says the legislation is essentially a “bill of rights” for businesses and reflects a “massive overreach”.

Penalties for a first offence under the laws would be up to 18 months in jail, while a second offence could attract a four-year term and a \$10,000 fine.

Under the criminal code, a court could impose a penalty of up to 21 years in jail.

A submission from the University of New South Wales said key provisions remained in breach of the implied freedom of political communication.

Community Legal Centres Tasmania said they were strongly opposed to the legislation because it was unnecessary, and the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute said the draft legislation appeared to breach fundamental human rights principles that incursions on rights must be necessary.

University of Tasmania senior law lecturer Brendan Gogarty said the legislation amounted to a bill of rights for companies with no equivalent for citizens.

<https://www.themonthly.com.au/today/paddy-manning/2019/15/2019/1573787713/2009-forever>

2009 forever

Paddy Manning, Monthly, 15/11/2019

Who does it suit for Labor and the Greens to keep blaming each other for the failure of Kevin Rudd’s Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme legislation in 2009–10? The Coalition, of course. Throughout this week’s climate apocalypse, the major-party line has been that nothing the Greens say about climate change can be taken seriously because they voted against the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme. Let’s unpick that argument a bit – nobody else is going to do it.

It is undisputed that Labor’s strategy with the CPRS in 2009 was to sideline the Greens and negotiate the scheme with the then Opposition leader, Malcolm Turnbull. The more the Greens complained – as they did – that Rudd’s emissions-reduction targets were too low, and that the scheme was too brown, the happier Labor was. ...

[Tony] Abbott put the country back a decade and counting, and his influence lives on in the Morrison government. That’s Australia’s problem on climate right there.

<https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/news/politics/2019/11/16/actually-it-climate-change/15738228009076>

Actually, it is climate change

Mike Secombe, Saturday Paper, 16/11/2019

The quote you are about to read did not come from Scott Morrison, although our prime minister repeatedly invoked the same sentiments this week, every time someone asked him about the role of climate change in eastern Australia’s unprecedented bushfires.

“This sort of response isn’t helpful. Families are mourning. Offer a prayer and temper your desire for politics ...”

The quotes come from the United States’ National Rifle Association. ...

The fossil fuel lobby in this country, like the gun lobby [in the USA], retains its hold on politics with its playbook and its chequebook. And it will keep on winning until the people muster the political will to back their beliefs.

Maybe this week shows that is beginning to happen.

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/that-s-the-bloody-disgrace-australia-is-burning-but-nsw-is-cuddling-up-to-coal-20191114-p53ai7.html>

That’s the bloody disgrace: Australia is burning but NSW is cuddling up to coal

Elizabeth Farrelly, SMH, 16/11/2019

Thoughts and prayers? Miracles? Seriously, Mr Morrison? It was already 29 degrees by 9 am Tuesday, when hundreds gathered in Macquarie Street to protest against our governments’ strenuous addiction to coal. The rally was smaller than the climate strikes but every bit as poignant, outlining as it did the coal-shaped hole in our democracy. ...

People out in the bush know what’s going down. They know who the loonies are. They know they’ve been betrayed, repeatedly, by the coal in

Coalition. They know that praying with one hand and flogging coal with the other like some tufted-and-pimpled Chaucerian pardoner can only intensify the inferno.

Protesters aren’t anarchists. Tuesday’s Macquarie Street rally represented every age, from zero to 90, and every conceivable type – suits, hipsters, schoolkids, grannies. Same at the recent climate rally. ...

No wonder many Australians believe our governments are corrupt on coal. The calls for a properly scoped and funded federal ICAC – not the de-signed-to-fail variety proposed – has become a core platform of climate consciousness.

<https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/energy-minister-to-cut-deals-with-collaborative-states-20191115-p53av6>

Energy Minister to cut deals with ‘collaborative’ states

Mark Ludlow & Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 18/11/2019

Federal Energy Minister Angus Taylor will seek to cut deals with “collaborative” states to shore up the destabilised national electricity grid, potentially isolating Victoria over energy and climate policy.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-11-18/how-climate-change-and-the-economy-go-hand-in-hand/11712548>

Climate change and the economy are linked – it’s time the Morrison Government accepts that

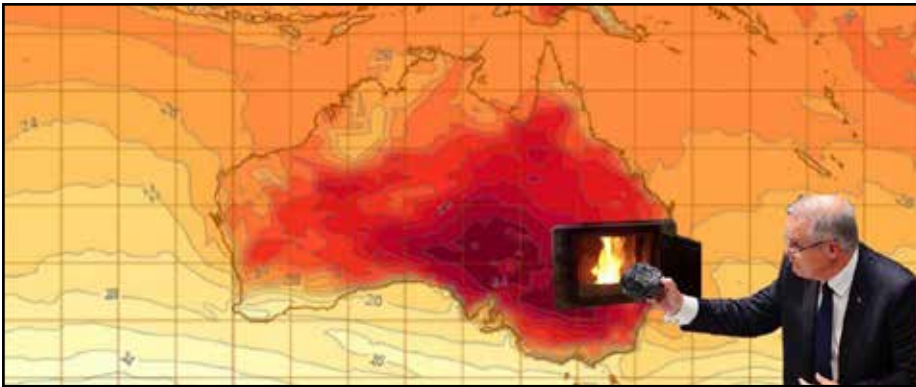
Ian Verrender, ABC, 18/11/2019

Time is a precious commodity. And it is rapidly running out for the Federal Government on two key fronts.

With fires raging across a parched eastern Australia, exacting an intolerable toll on life and property even before the onset of summer, the Government is facing a growing backlash against its long-held belief that our energy should be generated by antiquated, coal-fired steam engines that pollute the atmosphere and accelerate the onset of global warming. ...

Equally contentious is Canberra’s rigid determination to deliver a budget surplus even as the economy weakens, which runs the risk of transforming a prolonged downturn into something quite ugly. ...

It is debatable that even a shift to a completely renewable energy economy would have halted the devastating drought and fires spreading across the nation. But if we are to become one



of the worst affected nations from climate change, perhaps it's time to take a leading role in affecting change.

It just might be good for business.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/canavan-calls-for-shale-revolution/news-story/d6993241d0fce13d88bcebd7af765799>

Canavan calls for shale revolution

Joe Kelly, Aus, 18/11/2019

Resources Minister Matt Canavan has used a visit to the Permian Basin in Texas to call for America's shale gas revolution to be brought to Australia, arguing there is an opportunity to deliver a manufacturing boom for Darwin and northern Australia.

Senator Canavan arrived in the US on Saturday and met representatives from Chevron to get a first-hand look at their shale operations in the Permian Basin, including visits to a fracking and a drilling operation.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/canavan-revives-carbon-capture-in-new-effort-to-underpin-coal-generators-54900/>

Canavan revives carbon capture in new effort to underpin coal generators

Michael Mazengarb, Renew Economy, 18/11/2019

Resources minister Matt Canavan is leading a renewed effort to secure federal funding for carbon capture and storage projects, as part of a wider strategy to see more investment in coal-fired power stations in Australia.

As reported by the *Australian Financial Review*, representatives from oil and gas company Santos, and coal miner Glencore have met with Prime Minister Scott Morrison and advocated for carbon capture and storage projects to receive financial support under the \$2 billion Climate Solutions Fund.

The push to invest in carbon capture and storage projects appears to have the backing of resources minister Matt Canavan, who confirmed that financial support for such projects was under active consideration by the Morrison government.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/blackouts-risk-to-force-states-hand-on-coal/news-story/898dae6fc2c6d5871bb810f0babadccf>

Blackouts risk to force states' hand on coal

Simon Benson, Aus, 19/11/2019

Energy Minister Angus Taylor will demand tougher energy reliability standards in a move that could trigger legal obligations on major retailers in some states, including Victoria, to source more power from coal, gas and hydro.

"As an energy minister with a strong focus on reliability and the price impacts of a shortage of reliable generation, I can tell you my tolerance is tested," Taylor will say in a speech to an energy summit in Sydney on Tuesday.

"Over the last year, my view has hardened. My view is that we haven't got the reliability standard right. The system inherently accepts too much risk and relies on too many contingencies."

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