



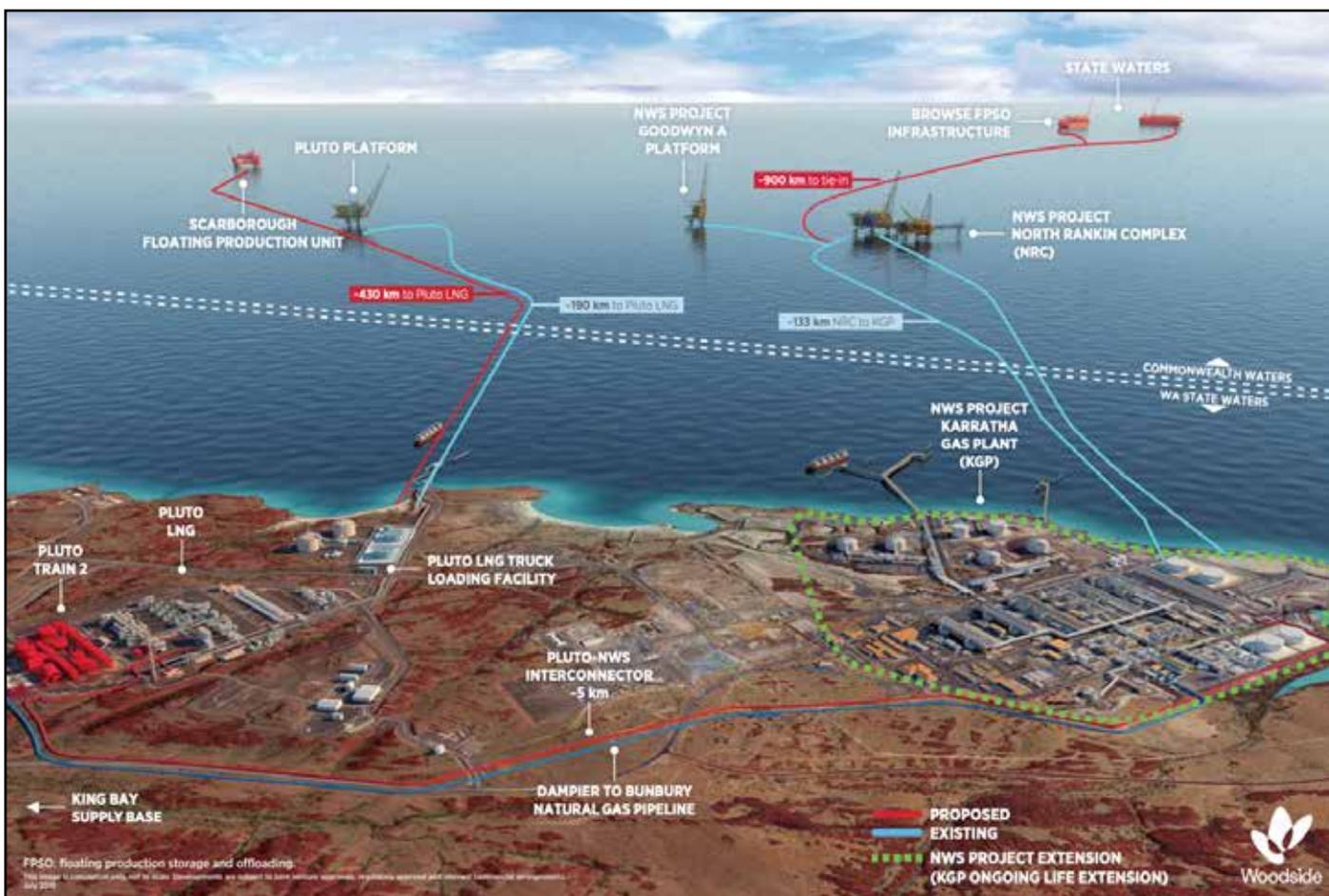
Fossil Fool Bulletin

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

Fossilfool.com.au

FFB 3:2 • 3 DECEMBER 2019

Pipeline approval fails pub test



The Conservation Council of Western Australia (CCWA) has raised the alarm at the lack of assessment of climate change impacts from the Woodside Burrup Hub LNG project, saying that Woodside was 'gaming the approval process' to avoid scrutiny on the largest and most polluting fossil fuel project in Australia.

The Council was responding to the release of an approval for the first major component of the Burrup Hub, known

as the 'Burrup interconnector pipeline'. It is the first major approval of at least seven components of the Burrup Hub which includes the controversial Browse and Scarborough gas fields.

Significant legal questions

CCWA Director Piers Verstegen said the approval did not pass the pub test and potentially raised significant legal questions about the way the Burrup Hub was being assessed by the WA Government.

"It is beyond belief that Australia's most polluting fossil fuel project is being assessed and approved in multiple stages, without any overall consideration of its impacts on the climate, on World Heritage rock art, or on Australia's obligations under the Paris Agreement.

"The purpose of the interconnector pipeline, as stated by Woodside, is to facilitate the processing of more gas.

• Continued p2

• P3: Aus Beyond Coal campaign launched

• P3: New Acland battle heads to High Court

P4: Extreme fossil fuels project 'irresponsible'

Pipeline approval fails pub test – CCWA

• Continued from p1

That necessarily means more pollution, yet the Minister and the EPA have completely failed to take that into consideration in their assessment.”

The CCWA and Friends of Australian Rock Art appealed the EPA’s recommendation for approval of the pipeline in June, raising concerns about the lack of assessment of carbon emissions and other pollution affecting the Murujuga rock art on the Burrup Peninsula. Minister Dawson dismissed the appeals in October, accepting arguments by Woodside and the EPA that pollution did not need to be assessed because annual emissions would not increase.

“It is not just the annual pollution that matters, but how long this pollution continues. It is basic undeniable physics that carbon dioxide accumulates in the atmosphere. Each year, more pollution pushes our climate into more and more dangerous territory.

“This pipeline approval paves the way for Woodside to extend the life of their highly polluting LNG processing on the Burrup for decades. This will result in hundreds of millions of tonnes of additional carbon being pumped into the atmosphere.”

Fastest-growing pollution source

Recently, new analysis released by CCWA and the Clean State project revealed that LNG processing by Woodside and Chevron is the state’s largest and fastest-growing pollution source, cancelling out the benefits of all renewable energy installed across the whole country. At full production, pollution from the Burrup Hub is estimated to be around four times the pollution from the proposed Adani coal mine.

“Woodside has separated the Burrup Hub project into at least seven different parts, in a way that hides the overall environmental and climate impacts. We are deeply alarmed that the EPA and Minister are letting this company get away with this underhanded approach,” Versteegen said.

Premier accused of doing a deal

CCWA is not the only voice raising concerns about the approval process for the Burrup Hub. Speaking in Parliament, ex-Liberal leader Mike Nahan has accused the Premier of ‘doing a deal’ with Woodside on pollution.



Ex-Liberal leader Mike Nahan has accused the WA Premier of ‘doing a deal’ with Woodside on pollution.

“If these projects go ahead, they will make a huge contribution to the total volume of CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions in WA...Has [the Premier] done a deal with Woodside about CO2 emissions or not? He might give them an exemption, but if he does that and he meets his policy requirements, other projects will have to pick up the load and compensate.” Nahan said.

Versteegen said “It is not only grossly irresponsible to ignore carbon pollution from an environmental perspective but is misleading for investors in these projects, and unfair on the taxpayers and businesses which will inevitably have to pick up the bill for Woodside’s pollution in the future.

“If we are going to achieve net-zero emissions, as the Paris Agreement requires and the WA government has promised, then every tonne of pollution released by Woodside will have to be balanced by deeper cuts somewhere else in WA.

“We will be seeking legal advice on the way this approval has been granted and what this means for the Burrup Hub assessment process. It clearly raises serious questions about the approach that is being taken, and we will not stand by while WA’s biggest polluters game the environmental assessment process to avoid scrutiny of projects that breach the Paris Agreement and do major harm to the climate” concluded Versteegen.

National EDO launched

The Environmental Defenders Office, Australia’s new national, not-for-profit legal watchdog for the environment was launched this week.

The Environmental Defenders Office will see eight state and territory EDOs join forces to become the largest community legal centre for the environment in the Asia-Pacific.

As a united organisation, they will take high-impact enforcement cases to the courts to make sure the public interest is upheld and communities are properly protected by our environmental laws.

“The environmental problems facing Australia aren’t bound by state or territory lines,” said David Morris, CEO of the Environmental Defenders Office.

“The Murray-Darling crisis spans four jurisdictions. Our iconic koalas are dying right up and down the east coast. Climate change doesn’t stop at any border.

“Now more than ever, national leadership is required to protect Australia’s natural and cultural heritage. That’s where the new national EDO steps in.”

Morris said Australia’s environment is in decline, with 1,700 threatened species.

Meanwhile, trust in government processes and institutions has eroded to an all-time low.

“Regulations are regularly not enacted or enforced. Governments have cut resources to departments that are supposed to monitor breaches of environment law,” Morris said.

“Companies routinely and intentionally breach state and federal environment laws. The problem is systemic and widespread because there is no clear legal deterrent.

“As a merged, national organisation we can share expertise, more closely scrutinise projects and address the widespread culture of non-compliance with environment laws.”

The new EDO will have offices in Adelaide, Brisbane, Cairns, Canberra, Darwin, Hobart, Perth and Sydney. All state and territory EDOs will finalise the merger process over coming months.

New Acland battle goes to High Court

Determined Oakey farmers battling the New Acland thermal coal mine expansion on the Darling Downs have sought special leave to apply to the High Court.

The move comes after farmers resolved to continue the fight following a disappointing Queensland Court of Appeal decision last month.

Darling Downs dairy farmer David Vonhoff said farmers battling severe drought and the threat of searing bushfires could not afford to lose their precious groundwater to mining.

“We’re really in a dire situation here with this drought, while farmers just east of here have been battling extreme bushfires the likes of which we’ve never seen before,” he said.

Groundwater needed for farming

“We just can’t afford to lose our groundwater to the Acland Stage 3 coal mine – we need water to produce food and we need water to fight fires, we can’t waste it on a coal mine.

“Our agricultural soils are among the top 1.5% in the state and we need to protect them from mining.

“It’s been incredibly difficult for us fighting this mine for over a decade, it’s a real David and Goliath battle, but our future is at stake.”

Project poses severe risks

Oakey Coal Action Alliance secretary Paul King said the farming and residents’ group had made the decision to take the challenge to the High Court, because of the severe risks posed by the Acland Stage 3 project.

“We believe it is really crucial that these important matters are tested in court, because once groundwater is lost it’s most likely lost forever,” he said.

“That’s why we’ve sought special leave to appeal to the High Court.

“We hope that we will have an opportunity to have these important legal issues considered in the highest court in the country.”

F

Australia Beyond Coal campaign



The Australia Beyond Coal website features detailed information on coal-fired power stations across the country and the companies that own them.

Australia’s coal-based electricity grid is one of the most polluting in the OECD, and environment groups – representing more than a million Australians – are calling for a plan to make a fast and fair shift to renewable energy

A new report from Climate Analytics shows that in order to meet its international climate change obligations, Australia needs to steeply decrease coal-based electricity generation, and phase it out within a decade

The campaign calls for leaders to make a plan to retire coal power stations and replace them with clean, renewable energy

The report, titled *For Climate’s Sake: Coal Free by 2030*, says Australia needs to steeply decrease coal-based electricity generation in the coming years, and phase it out entirely by 2030, to get on track to meet its national emissions reduction targets and to fulfil its obligations under the Paris Agreement.

The Australia Beyond Coal campaign is an informal collaboration of seven leading environment organisations: Environment Victoria, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, The Climate Action Network Australia, The Sunrise Project, the NSW Nature Conservation Council, and the Queensland Conservation Council. The group is inspired by the successes of the Beyond Coal

campaigns in Europe and the United States, where hundreds of polluting power stations have been retired and replaced with clean energy.

Bill Hare, CEO of Climate Analytics said, “Coal, the most climate-damaging fossil fuel, still supplies about 60 per cent of Australia’s electricity, making its grid one of the most polluting among developed economies. This is likely to have a negative effect on our economic standing as investors turn away. It is becoming increasingly obvious that Australia must play its part in fighting climate change, and it could start by switching from coal to renewables in its electricity system, which will have substantial economic and environmental benefits for Australia in terms of job, lower power prices and reduced air pollution.”

Informative website, interactive maps

The Australia Beyond Coal campaign aims to raise public awareness of the facts: coal-fired power stations are responsible for a significant share of Australia’s emissions and pose risks to community health. The Australia Beyond Coal website features detailed information on coal-fired power stations across the country and the companies that own them.

• *The website is available at:*
www.beyondcoal.org.au

F

Extreme fossil fuels project labelled deeply irresponsible

A new partnership between UWA and Western Australia's biggest polluters to assist the development of extreme and remote fossil fuels reserves has drawn strong criticism from conservation groups who have labelled the project deeply irresponsible and damaging to global efforts on climate change.

The Centre for Long Subsea Tiebacks is a new partnership between UWA, Woodside and Chevron supported by the WA Government, and is aimed at supporting extreme and remote oil and gas developments that have previously been out of reach with existing technology.

The initiative was announced by Premier McGowan the same week that a significant new report was released by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) showing that existing fuel production is on track for double the safe climate limit.

'Astonishing' project slammed

The Conservation Council of Western Australia (CCWA) Director Piers Verstegen said the UWA project was astonishing and deeply irresponsible.

"Globally, we are fighting to keep carbon in the ground and transition to clean energy as quickly as possible. The very last thing we need is new technology to extract even more unburnable carbon.

"The technology this program aims to develop will not only breach our own carbon emissions goals here in Australia but will aid the development of extreme and remote fossil fuel deposits globally, ensuring that global temperatures are pushed far beyond safe levels."

The UN Environment Program report finds that governments and fossil fuel companies are currently planning to produce about 120% more fossil fuels by 2030 than would be consistent with limiting warming to 1.5°. The report notes that oil and gas are on track to exceed global and local carbon budgets as expanding fossil fuel infrastructure "locks in" future emissions.

"The McGowan Government has made a commitment to net zero emissions by 2050 and Australia is a signatory to the Paris Agreement, yet this UWA

partnership will aid fossil fuel developments that are fundamentally inconsistent with such commitments," said Verstegen.

"As we have shown with the Runaway Train report, LNG is already WA's largest source of pollution and is driving Australia's pollution up in breach of international commitments. Government funding for research and technology to enable further oil and gas expansion into fields previously considered unviable is astounding and deeply irresponsible.

Govt, uni undermining global action

"While countries like Ireland and New Zealand have placed a moratorium on further oil and gas developments, the WA Government and UWA are actively undermining global efforts by accelerating fossil fuel developments with this partnership.

"The International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and now the UNEP have made it clear that developing existing fossil fuel deposits will cause dangerous climate change, yet this partnership aims to unlock even more of these pollution sources.

"Extreme and remote oil and gas deposits such as Browse Basin are almost certain to become stranded assets and liabilities. It is very likely that this project will also become a stranded asset and a liability for the McGowan Government and UWA.

"Western Australia has globally significant and prime renewable energy resources which could see our state positioned as part of the solution to climate change while bringing a new wave of jobs and investment to our state. Instead, this project doubles down on the fossil fuel industries that are at the heart of the global climate problem.

"We call on UWA and the McGowan Government to urgently re-think their support for this project, and instead focus the investment and research on renewable energy technologies that would enable WA to remain economically competitive in the future while being part of the solution on climate change."

AGL slapped over spot fires at Loy Yang

AGL has been issued with two Notices for alleged breaches of fire safety procedures at its Loy Yang coal mine after multiple spot fires at the mine on October 31, 2019.

While the incidents were dealt with by the mine operator, the causes and response have been investigated by Earth Resources Regulation.

The first Notice relates to the procedures for equipping, inspecting and washing down mine vehicles to prevent coal dust accumulating, igniting and falling on exposed coal or vegetation, allegedly resulting in the fires.

The second Notice alleges that after the fires started the company failed to follow its emergency management plan and immediately notify authorities, including the CFA and Earth Resources Regulation.

In Victoria, coal mine operators are expected to vigilantly maintain and adhere to set procedures in relation to fire safety and implement actions in the event of an incident.

Earth Resources Regulation inspectors attended Loy Yang coal mine and worked closely with WorkSafe as the incidents unfolded on the day.

The Notices require the mine operator to engage an independent specialist to review the incidents and procedures, and undertake staff training to ensure maintenance and fire reporting is carried out in accordance with its Work Plan in the future.

F

fossilfool.com.au

**EXTINCTION
FOR COAL**



F

Carbon budget for WA released

The Conservation Council of WA (CCWA) and the Clean State project have commissioned one of the world's leading independent climate research institutions to produce the first carbon budget for Western Australia that is compliant with the Paris Agreement that is compliant with the Paris Agreement that is compliant with the Paris Agreement goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees temperature rise.

The analysis, by Berlin-based Climate Analytics, will be provided as input to the McGowan Government's climate change issues discussion paper. It provides emissions reduction pathways and carbon reduction targets for each sector and the whole WA economy.

CCWA Director Piers Verstegen said the analysis was the first of its kind in WA and provided a roadmap for how Western Australia could comply with the Paris Agreement and meet the McGowan Government's 2050 emissions reduction targets.

"When LNG companies like Chevron and Woodside say they should be allowed to keep polluting without limits then they are asking to take more than their fair share of the carbon budget.

"The budget sets out interim targets for emissions reduction and supports scientist's recent call for new legislation to ensure that those targets are being met and reported against.

"We are making this carbon budget free for anyone to use, to help all stakeholders understand how Western Australia's pollution must be reduced, in each sector, and overall."

• **Download the full report**

<https://climateanalytics.org/media/report-carbonbudgetforwa-climateanalytics-2019-web.pdf>



Origin targeted in NT and Sydney

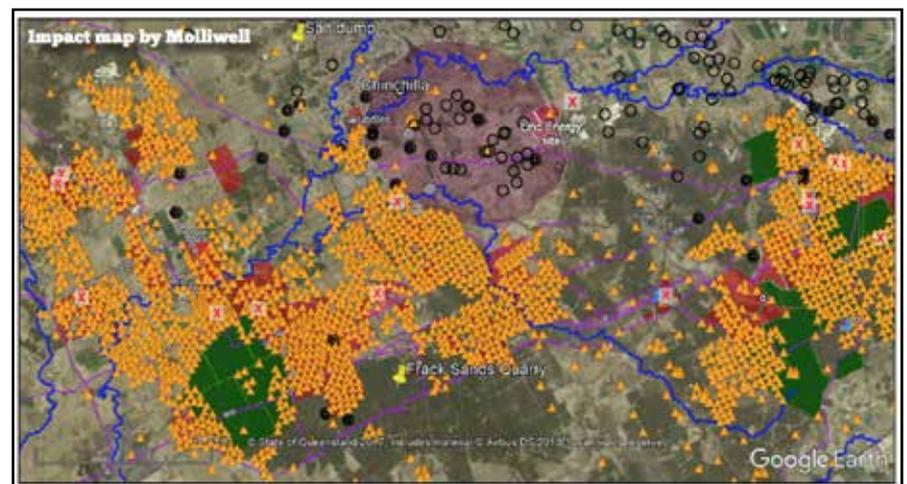
Origin's plans for fracking in the Northern Territory were the focus of protests in recent days. Aboriginal people and supporters hit the streets, while Sydney Knitting Nannas and a bunch of Santas sang fracking songs outside the Origin office at Barangaroo. Photos: contributed



Downloadable resource on Narrabri Gas Project

This four-page resource provides a simple explanation of the 850+ well Narrabri coal seam gas project and includes explainers on jobs, water impact, fugitive emissions, public interest, the Chief Scientists' recommendations, bushfire risk and economics. Download here:

<https://nwprotectionadvocacy.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Myths-facts-4-pager-A3-print.pdf>



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



Inside the news

The Queensland government is contesting the **Wangan & Jagalingou** people's native title claim, which includes **Adani's** mine site, in court. Traditional owner, Lizzie McAvoy, said she thinks they are being **punished** for trying to protect their lands from a mining invasion (p7).

Clive Palmer's plans to mine coal in the Galilee, not far from Adani, are being challenged in court by the owners of the **Bimblebox Nature Refuge**. The refuge will be partly destroyed, and the remainder under-mined, if Palmer's **China First** mine goes ahead (p8-9).

News has emerged that **Barnaby Joyce** auctioned a **lump of coal** at a **National Party** fundraiser earlier this year. The grubby object, in a jar so grasping hands would stay clean, was teamed with a 'Start Adani' T-shirt once worn by **Matt Canavan**, and fetched \$800 (p12).

The *Saturday Paper* published a long article on the government's enthusiasm for an **Australian hydrogen** industry, which appears to be dominated by **coal** promoters (p11). However, in an encouraging sign, construction has commenced on a **green hydrogen** plant in South Australia. Renewable energy will be used to split water into oxygen and hydrogen gas.

Narrabri Council has come out in support of the **Santos Narrabri Gas Project**. Cr Stains – an employee of **Namoi Waste** which is a contractor to Santos – slipped the support motion into a report on the project. Described as a 'dung fight', the move that may attract a recision motion (p10).

New Zealand taxpayers are likely to be hit with some big **fossil fuel bills**: \$155m to decommission an off-shore oil field after **Taranaki Taranaki** went bankrupt (p10) and \$14.3m to plug almost a thousand oil and gas wells improperly abandoned over the last 150 years (p9).

Sydney's water supply has been contaminated with **metallic sludge** from **coal mining** (p8). The water contains iron, aluminium, manganese, lithium, strontium, barium, titanium, zinc and nickel. The metals are diluted to public health standards with water from other sources.

fossilfool.com.au

Every edition of Fossil Fool Bulletin • Feature stories • Links • Subscribe

PHICS GREEN PIGEON GRAPHICS GREEN

PROUD SUPPORTER OF
THE FOSSIL FOOL BULLETIN

f GreenPigeonGraphics gpg@bordnet.com.au

Print ✓ Mailchimp ✓ Social ✓ Web ✓



Fossil Fool Bulletin

Published by Eve Sinton
PO Box 555, Mullumbimby,
NSW 2482, Australia

f Fossil Fool Bulletin

M fossil.fool.bulletin@gmail.com
evesinton@gmail.com

To subscribe free, click here:
<https://knitting-nannas.org/bulletins.php>

Focus Publications

Fossil Fool Bulletin is free to read, but not free to produce. The editor works un-waged, but costs include news subscriptions, computer, software, internet and office expenses.

Donations to publisher **Focus Publications** are invited.

Whether a one-off or regular, \$5 or \$500, you can help keep this publication in action.

(Note: donations are not tax deductible.)

Bank details: Focus Publications
BSB: 062 578
Account number: 10343666
ABN: 24857882603

In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 22,500 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/court-challenge-to-adani-native-title-claim/news-story/7a2199c-f57619a36028e5858a1c006c2>

Court challenge to Adani native title claim

Michael McKenna, Aus, 27/11/2019

The Aboriginal group that struck a critical land use agreement with Adani over its mine site in central Queensland is facing a court challenge from the Palaszczuk government to its native title claim over the coal-rich region.

More than 14 years after the Wangan and Jagalingou people filed an application, the Queensland government will next week contest the native title claim in the Federal Court, despite the support of both state and independent anthropologists for the group.

The challenge could undermine the existing indigenous land use agreement with Adani, and the prospect of similar employment and compensation deals for local Aborigines, with the remaining six companies also planning to open coalmines in the Galilee Basin.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/nov/28/aboriginal-traditional-owners-say-they-are-being-punished-for-opposing-adani-coalmine>

Aboriginal traditional owners say they are being punished for opposing Adani coalmine

Lorena Allam, Guardian, 28/11/2019

Aboriginal traditional owners opposed to the Adani Carmichael coalmine say they are being punished for their resistance by the Queensland government, which is now disputing the legitimacy of their native title claim in the federal court.

The court case, set to begin on Monday, comes after almost 15 years of negotiation about the claim.

One of the Wangan and Jagalingou claimants, elder Lizzie McAvoy, said that after all this time, now being cross-examined about her way of life and beliefs is “unfair”.

“We cannot understand why they are attacking us in this way but we feel like we are being punished for trying to protect our sites,” she said.



The group Galilee Rising held an information session on November 30, for people planning to be on the frontline against Adani. Photo: Galilee Rising

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/nov/28/queensland-police-had-french-journalists-under-surveillance-adani-documentary-claims>

Queensland police had French journalists under surveillance, Adani documentary claims

Ben Smea, Guardian, 28/11/2019

The French journalists arrested while filming an anti-Adani protest this year have claimed in a documentary the Queensland police had them “under surveillance” and sought to repeatedly block filming near Adani’s Abbot Point coal terminal.

In the documentary ‘Sur le Front des Océans’, which aired on public television network France 2 this week, journalist Hugo Clément detailed how police acted to prevent the crew hiring a boat to obtain footage of Abbot Point from the sea.

The crew was arrested on 22 July while filming a protest outside the Adani-owned coal terminal.

<https://www.echo.net.au/2019/11/retired-water-engineer-targets-adani-ally-ghd-groundwater-conference/>

Retired water engineer targets Adani ally GHD at groundwater conference

Paul Bibby, Echonet Daily, 28/11/2019

A retired water engineer has disrupted the Australasian groundwater confer-

ence in Brisbane, taking to the stage during a panel sponsored by GHD calling for the engineering firm to cut their ties with Adani’s controversial Carmichael coal mine

In front of scientists, industry professionals and government staff, Dr Anne Gardiner outlined in detail GHD’s long standing relationship with Adani and unfurled a banner calling on the company to ‘not do business with Adani’.

Dr Gardiner was removed by security.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/wagners-wins-adani-project-work/news-story/7a7f886f073ae1f395916e84bcbb7e61>

Wagners wins Adani project work

Glen Norris, Courier-Mail, 28/11/2019

Construction firm Wagners has secured a \$35 million contract to help build Adani’s Carmichael coal mine potentially putting it in the sights of radical environmentalists protesting against the project.

Wagners will operate the South Back Creek Quarry near Clermont supplying building material for the Carmichael mine and rail project.

Wagners said the Adani work, which will be undertaken in two stages, will require the production of up to 1.5 million tonnes of quarry material for roads, camps, pads, dams and mine

civil works over a period of up to five years.

<https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/queensland/no-date-set-as-adani-royalties-deadline-with-queensland-slips-by-again-20191129-p53fhf.html>

No date set as Adani royalties deadline with Queensland slips by again

Lydia Lynch, *Bris Times*, 29/11/2019

The Queensland government has again pushed back the deadline to finalise a complex royalty agreement with coal giant Adani.

The government was due to sign a deal for royalties from the controversial \$2 billion Carmichael mine by Saturday, after failing to meet its September 30 deadline.

No new deadline has been set.

An Adani spokeswoman said, "Both the Queensland government and Adani have agreed to extend the period to conclude the negotiation of the royalty agreement."

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/adani-awards-more-than-500m-in-work/3891180/>

Adani awards more than \$500m in work

Tony Raggatt, *Gladstone Observer*, 30/11/2019

Adani's \$2 billion Carmichael coal and rail project is ramping up with more than \$500 million in contracts awarded and more announcements expected in coming days on the involvement of Townsville businesses.

- Toowoomba-based company Wagners – \$35 million-plus quarry operations package.
- Perth-based construction contractor Decmil – \$40 million-plus contract to design and build three 400-bed temporary accommodation camps
- NSW railway specialist Martinus Rail – \$100 million rail laying contract.

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/6514824/coal-mines-pipeline-is-piping-around-the-state-planning-law/>

Whitehaven Coal Maules Creek mine's pipeline is piping around the state planning law

Jamieson Murphy, *Northern Daily Leader*, 29/11/2019

A community group is calling for the state government to enforce its own laws for the pipeline Whitehaven is building to connect water from a near-by farm to its Maules Creek mine.

The Leard Forest Research Node say the pipeline is outside the mine's approved boundaries and according to the state's planning laws it should submit a development modification and conduct environmental studies.

However, the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) has wiped its hands of the situation, maintaining there is no need for a modification application.

There are questions regarding whether the mine has approval to access and use groundwater, if it can transfer the water from the farm in Zone 4 to the mine in Zone 5 and if it needs to carry out further environmental studies before doing so.

A Whitehaven spokesperson said the company was "systematically progressing through applicable controls and approvals processes" with the relevant authorities.

Narrabri council has granted the company permission to construct the pipeline along Therribri Rd.

<https://www.nvi.com.au/story/6516720/whitehaven-wants-to-extend-narrabri-mine-despite-licence-suspension/>

Whitehaven wants to extend Narrabri coal mine, despite exploration licence suspension

Jamieson Murphy, *Namoi Valley Independent*, 02/12/2019

Whitehaven Coal has begun the process of seeking to extend its underground mine near Narrabri, despite the fact the mine's exploration licence is still suspended.

The proposal would see coal extracted to the south of the current mine via the underground longwall mining method already being used.

If approved, it would extend the lifetime of the mine from 2031 to 2045.

<https://www.news-mail.com.au/news/dempseys-personal-view-on-potential-coal-mine-for-/3888992/>

Dempsey's personal view on potential coal mine for region

Zachary O'Brien, *News Mail*, 27/11/2019

Mayor Jack Dempsey has shared his personal views on the plausibility of a coal mine being established near Avondale and Winfield.

Western Australian organisation Fox Resources applied for a mineral development licence and are exploring the feasibility of establishing a coal mine in the Bundaberg region.

"My view is that intensive mining activity is not appropriate on prime agricultural land," Cr Dempsey said.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-12-01/sydney-dams-being-contaminated-with-metallic-sludge/11751202>

'Shocking' metallic sludge contaminating Sydney dams that supply drinking water

Greg Miskelly, *ABC*, 01/12/2019

Metallic sludge is contaminating two dams that supply drinking water to one of Sydney's biggest growth areas, official data from New South Wales' peak water body has revealed.

Records obtained under Freedom of Information laws show the dams have exceeded acceptable limits more than 90 times in three years

Water authorities say the contamination is not a concern because other sources of water are available to "balance water quality and quantity".

But they concede the falling storages of Sydney's dams are posing a serious challenge.

Western Sydney University scientist Ian Wright, who specialises in research into urban water quality, described the results as "shocking" and "unnatural".

He said the pollution was caused by metallic sediments – deep in the dams' catchments – dissolving into the water.

The sediments are a by-product of coal-mining activity, which over many decades has damaged Sydney's rock beds, swamps and streams.

"It's a very viscous, runny sort of mud at the bottom of these reservoirs."

"Inside this sludge there are salts and minerals, there is iron, aluminium and manganese.

"There is lithium, strontium, barium, titanium. There is going to be zinc and nickel."

<https://www.watoday.com.au/national/test-for-palmer-s-galilee-basin-mine-as-conservationists-question-offset-20191201-p53fru.html>

Test for Palmer's Galilee Basin mine as conservationists question offset

Tony Moore, *WA Today*, 01/12/2019

Owners of a 7900-hectare nature refuge for black-throated finch and other birds in Queensland's Galilee Basin will on Monday lodge a court appeal against Clive Palmer's \$6.4 billion, 40 million tonnes per year China First coal mine.



Under threat from Clive Palmer's Galilee Basin mining plans: Bimblebox Nature Refuge, a privately-owned wildlife refuge. Photo: Bimblebox Nature Refuge

The tussle between the Bimblebox Nature Refuge and Waratah Coal's China First mine, which aims to extract an initial 10 million tonnes of thermal coal, has been underway since the mid-2000s.

The privately-owned refuge is about 30 kilometres north-west of Alpha, purchased in 2000 by a group of concerned land owners.

In 2002, Queensland Government recognised it as a nature refuge to protect a number of birds, including the endangered black-throated finch, reptiles and other animals in the semi-arid woodlands.

But it was not given an exemption from mining. This is the issue being tested in the Land Court.

OIL & GAS LEAKS

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/citybeat/comet-ridge-hopes-to-raise-13-million-to-start-csg-production-at-its-main-north-queensland-project/news-story/44b0f29c9a99774f0a1919e6a4a3f2f>

Comet Ridge hopes to raise \$13 million to start CSG production at its main north Queensland project

Anthony Marx, Courier-Mail, 28/11/2019

A Brisbane-based junior resources player hopes to generate up to \$13 million to help it transition from just exploration into actual production.

Comet Ridge announced the capital raising yesterday as it aims to start coal seam gas production at its flag-

ship north Queensland Mahalo Gas Project by late 2021.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/industries/117808872/nzs-abandoned-oil-and-gas-wells-would-cost-143-million-to-plug>

NZ's abandoned oil and gas wells would cost \$14.3 million to plug

Robin Martin, Stuff, 29/11/2019

More than 100 onshore oil and gas wells that have been abandoned and not shut down properly over the past 150 years, a review of 960 such wells has found.

It is estimated the so-called "orphan wells" will cost more than \$14.3 million to plug – a cost current landowners are liable for.

The Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment, which commissioned the 2018 review, said six orphan wells had been identified for priority action, but it was impossible to determine the risk posed by a further eight due to lack of data.

It had no timeframe for fixing the six priority wells – four of which were in northern Hawke's Bay, one in Tasman and one in Waikato. All had the potential to leak oil or gas above ground.

A further 36 wells required either more evaluation or plugging in the medium term.

The orphaned wells were scattered across the country including Auckland, Waikato, Taranaki, Manawatū, Wair-

arapa, East Cape, West Coast, Canterbury and Southland.

They vary in depth from 60m to 2244m total depth and in age from 1866 to 2013.

An Energy Watch Taranaki spokesperson said the safety of orphan wells was also an issue.

"Over time, the wells can break down and oil and gas can come back to the surface, because they haven't been abandoned appropriately.

"Obviously [there is the] potential for air contamination and some of it could be explosive."

Petroleum Exploration and Production Association spokesperson Phil Rennie said the law currently required oil and gas companies to decommission well sites properly and the sector was open-minded about how to make sure this happened.

However, Rennie was adamant the Government should pay for plugging orphan wells.

"Right now, technically, the law says the landowner is responsible for any old abandoned wells.

"We don't think that's fair. We think that it's probably more appropriate for the Crown to be responsible in those very rare cases given that oil and gas resources do belong to the Crown and the government has earned a lot of money from this."

<http://www.taranakienergywatchnz.org/taranaki-farmers-concerned-safety-exclusion-zones/>

Taranaki farmers concerned over safety exclusion zones

Robin Martin, Radio NZ

Taranaki farmers say they will be collateral damage if a recommendation that safety exclusion zones be enforced around oil and gas installations is taken up.

An interim Environment Court decision calls for the zones, to prevent people being killed in the event of an explosion.

Safety zones, or setbacks, were included in the draft South Taranaki district plan at the industry's behest, but then withdrawn.

Industry watchdog Taranaki Energy Watch appealed that decision to the Environment Court.

During the process the council and industry agreed that buffer zones were required.



Kapuni gas plant adjoins farmland and houses, causing safety concerns.

Photo: Radio NZ

The court has indicated that setbacks of 250m were needed around well-heads and even more around installations.

Kapuni farmer Ainsley Luscombe – whose property is surrounded by oil and gas infrastructure – said it would have a huge impact.

“I mean at 300m there’s whole parts of our farm that we couldn’t build houses on. And we have the issue with our farm workers that if the farm workers’ houses are within that space then under OSH [occupational safety and health] regulations, how can we require them to live there?”

“If they can’t keep people safe within their own boundaries then they need to extend their boundaries to ensure that’s happening. It’s not our role as their neighbour to provide their safety or buffer zone.

“I would like the court to direct the oil companies to that if they require that area to contain their affects, they actually purchase that area.

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/404275/crown-may-foot-155m-bill-to-decommission-taranaki-oil-field>

Crown may foot \$155m bill to decommission Taranaki oil field

Robin Martin, Radio NZ, 27/11/2019

The \$155 million bill to decommission an oil field off the coast of Taranaki may end up being covered by taxpayers.

Tamarind Taranaki, which owns the Tui Field, went into voluntary receivership earlier this month, meaning the

government could be responsible for plugging and abandoning its wells.

Environmental group Climate Justice Taranaki said it warned regulators about such an eventuality last year.

<https://www.offshoreenergytoday.com/karoon-to-give-up-its-exploration-permit-in-great-australian-bight/>

Karoon to give up its exploration permit in Great Australian Bight

Offshore Energy Today, 29/11/2019

Australia-based Karoon Gas has decided to ditch its exploration permit located in the Great Australian Bight area offshore Australia thus joining oil majors Chevron and BP who had previously abandoned their Bight permits.

<https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/6518115/dung-fight-at-narrabri-as-councillors-blindsided-by-csg-decision/>

‘Dung fight’ at Narrabri, as councillors blindsided decision to endorse Santos gas project

Jamieson Murphy, Northern Daily Leader, 29/11/2019

Narrabri Shire Council’s decision to officially support the Santos coal seam gas project has turned in to a “dung fight”, after councillors were “blindsided” at a council meeting.

On Tuesday, councillors were prepared to pass a report providing an update on the status of the Narrabri Gas Project, however an amendment was added to the motion by deputy mayor Cameron Staines that council officially endorse the project.

Three councillors raised concerns and

voted against the motion, however it was passed by five votes.

Cr Ron Campbell left the room for the debate, due to a conflict of interest, as he owns Namoi Waste, who does contract work with Santos. There is also concern Cr Staines has a conflict of interest, as he is employed by Namoi Waste.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/nov/30/university-of-western-australia-lashed-for-partnership-with-fossil-fuel-companies>

University of Western Australia lashed for partnership with fossil fuel companies

Adam Morton, Guardian, 30/11/2019

The University of Western Australia is facing criticism over a partnership with fossil fuel companies that promises to help the gas industry expand into remote fields that have so far been too costly to develop.

Western Australian premier Mark McGowan praised the creation of what is known as the Centre for Long Subsea Tiebacks, a partnership between the university and Chevron and Woodside, which are contributing \$600,000 a year.

IMPORT INSANITY

<https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/business/companies/exxonmobil-shelves-victorian-gas-import-terminal-plan-20191201-p53fri.html>

ExxonMobil shelves Victorian gas import terminal plan

Nick Toscano, Bris Times, 01/12/2019

Global energy giant ExxonMobil has scrapped plans to build a gas import terminal on the Victorian coast, deepening fears for large energy users about rising costs and a looming supply shortfall facing southern states.

Potential customers have been deterred from locking themselves into long-term contracts with ExxonMobil in part due to the federal government powers to restrict gas exports, which could lower prices.

Other possible LNG terminals include AGL’s proposed \$250 million floating terminal at Victoria’s Crib Point, which is progressing through state approvals, and a terminal at Port Kembla in New South Wales by a consortium backed by Andrew ‘Twiggy’ Forrest’s Squadron Energy and Japan’s JERA.

Port Kembla and Crib Point [are] the most likely to proceed.

HYDROGEN HYPE

<https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/news/politics/2019/11/30/hydrogen-strategy-backs-dirty-coal/15750324009156>

Hydrogen strategy backs dirty coal

Mike Seccombe, Saturday Paper, 30/11/2019

At first blush, last Saturday's media release from two of the Morrison government's biggest defenders of fossil fuels looked like evidence of some kind of Damascene conversion.

Angus Taylor and Matt Canavan were suddenly enthused about the prospects of clean energy. They were talking about hydrogen, a wonderful fuel source that, when burned, produces no greenhouse emissions at all. And they were talking big. ...

There is evidence to suggest the government's intent in getting into the hydrogen economy is, as ever, to protect the fossil fuel industry by locking it in as the preferred source for Australia's hydrogen production.

Australia is at a fork in the road.

One way leads to producing hydrogen from water; the other continues down the path of dependence on fossil fuels, albeit substantially cleaned up by the addition of expensive CCS technology.

A Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain (HESC) project is spending almost \$500 million, including \$50 million of federal government money and another \$50 million from the Victorian government, on building a pilot coal-to-hydrogen plant, due to operate for one year over 2020 and 2021.

The pilot would produce at most three tonnes of hydrogen during its one year of operation. To achieve that it would use 160 tonnes of brown coal – the most polluting of all fossil fuels – and would emit 100 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

<https://www.perthnow.com.au/news/sa/site-work-starts-at-australian-gas-infrastructure-groups-hydrogen-plant-at-tonsley-ng-4e8510403177feee8492d4ede75718a1>

Site work starts at Australian Gas Infrastructure Group's hydrogen plant at Tonsley

Chris Russell, Advertiser, 02/12/2019

Australian Gas Infrastructure Group has begun construction of its Hydrogen Park SA at the Tonsley Innovation District.

AGIG and its subsidiary Australian Gas Networks are building a hydrogen manufacturing plant which will use renewably generated electricity to split water into oxygen and hydrogen gas.

The hydrogen will then be blended with natural gas to make up 5 per cent of the gas supplied to more than 700 customers in southern areas of Mitchell Park via the existing network.

NUKE MADNESS

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/nuclear-inquiry-sparks-industry-campaign-to-lift-moratorium-20191201-p53f3sz.html>

Nuclear inquiry sparks industry campaign to lift moratorium

Mike Foley, SMH, 01/12/2019

The Minerals Council is ramping up its long-run campaign to remove Australia's ban on nuclear power, claiming new market research shows majority community support for the technology.

According to the Minerals Council of Australia, one prerequisite for nuclear power, community support, could be achieved if the public are properly informed about the technology.

CLIMATE CRISIS

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2019-11-28/climate-emergency-kids-are-right/11735942>

For some climate systems, the window to act may have already closed, scientists say, urging immediate action

Nick Kilvert, ABC, 28/11/2019

The world is now dangerously close to tipping points that will set in motion unstoppable ecosystem collapses. This is a climate emergency.

That's the message from scientists, who say that for some systems, the window to act may have already closed.

The scientists warn that the Amundsen Sea ice sheet off West Antarctica may have already reached a tipping point where ice melt is now irreversible.

Once this sector collapses, it will cause a cascade of collapse across the West Antarctic which will add about 3 metres to sea levels over the coming centuries.

Other tipping points that we're fast approaching include the collapse of coral ecosystems.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/nov/27/climate-emergency-world-may-have-crossed-tipping-points>

Climate emergency: world 'may have crossed tipping points'

Damian Carrington, Guardian, 28/11/2019

The world may already have crossed a series of climate tipping points, ac-

ording to a stark warning from scientists. This risk is "an existential threat to civilisation", they say, meaning "we are in a state of planetary emergency".

Tipping points are reached when particular impacts of global heating become unstoppable, such as the runaway loss of ice sheets or forests. In the past, extreme heating of 5C was thought necessary to pass tipping points, but the latest evidence suggests this could happen between 1C and 2C.

<https://www.afr.com/policy/energy-and-climate/business-es-call-for-global-carbon-trading-rules-20191201-p53frz>

Businesses call for global carbon trading rules

James Fernyhough, AFR, 01/12/2019

Australian businesses are calling on governments around the world to develop international accounting rules for carbon trading, saying such a framework could lead to a carbon credit export boom.

In a joint statement released to coincide with the first day of the United Nations COP25 climate conference talks in Madrid, business groups argued clear international trading rules would open up new business opportunities while radically reducing carbon emissions.

The statement was led by the International Emissions Trade Association and signed by Australian Industry Group, oil and gas lobbyist APPEA, and the Carbon Market Institute.

The Carbon Market Institute's members include BHP, AGL, Origin, ANZ, Commonwealth Bank, Wesfarmers and Telstra, as well as global oil giants BP and Shell.

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/environment-is-prime-worry-for-the-first-time-poll-20191201-p53fu5.html>

Environment is prime worry for the first time: poll

Matt Wade, Age, 01/12/2019

The environment has for the first time surpassed healthcare, cost of living and the economy to be the number one concern for Australians.

The Ipsos Issues Monitor found 32.1 per cent rated the state of the environment among their biggest worries in November – the highest share in the decade-long history of the survey.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/weather/australia-posts-driest-spring-second-hottest-for-daytime-temperatures-20191202-p53fzd.html>

Australia posts driest spring, second-hottest for daytime temperatures

Peter Hannam, SMH, 02/12/2019

Australia recorded its driest spring, intensifying the nation's drought, while daytime temperatures for the whole year are running at the hottest on record.

The Bureau of Meteorology's spring summary showed Australia averaged just 27.4 millimetres of rain across the season, almost two-thirds below the long-run average.

"For Australia as a whole, it was the second-driest January–November on record, and amongst the three driest on record for New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia, and the Northern Territory," the bureau said.

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/barnaby-joyce-auctions-lump-of-coal-in-a-glass-jar-at-nationals-dinner-19807/>

Barnaby Joyce auctions lump of coal – in a glass jar – at Nationals dinner

Giles Parkinson, Renew Economy, 29/11/2019

It seems the Coalition events aren't really events unless there is a lump of coal involved. First there was then treasurer and now prime minister Scott Morrison waving his lump of coal around parliament, telling Labor and the Greens and the Australian population not to be scared.

Then there was the Victoria Liberal party fund-raiser where the presentation of another lump of coal to Morrison so outraged then Liberal party member and former Clean Energy Finance Corp boss Oliver Yates that he was ejected from the event, and subsequently quit the party and stood as an independent against current treasurer Josh Frydenberg in the last election.

Now it has emerged that Barnaby Joyce, the former National Party leader and deputy prime minister who delighted in handling Morrison's lump of coal in parliament two years ago, has been at it again – auctioning a lump of coal at the executive dinner held at the conclusion of the Nationals Federal Council conference in Canberra in September.

We are informed the auction generated great interest and went to an unidentified bidder at around \$800.



Melinda Plesman carted the charred remains of her family home of 35 years from Nymboida, 45 kilometres south-west of Grafton NSW, to Parliament House in Canberra. She wanted Prime Minister Scott Morrison to see what she says is the result of his government's inaction on climate change. "Morrison, your climate crisis destroyed my home," is written on a blackened sheet of corrugated iron. Plesman's home was one of 600 properties burnt down in bushfires that raged across NSW and Queensland last month. Photo: SBS

<https://www.newcastleherald.com.au/story/6519260/minerals-council-says-coal-industry-strong-presses-for-planning-reform/>

Stephen Galilee tells Hunter Business Chamber lunch that Newcastle coal exports could hit a record this year

Ian Kirkwood, Newcastle Herald, 30/11/2019

NSW Minerals Council head Stephen Galilee says the industry is hoping for "serious reform" out of the NSW government's review of the Independent Planning Commission, announced in late October after the commission rejected the Bylong open-cut near Mudgee.

Speaking in Newcastle on Friday at the Hunter Business Chamber's final mining lunch for 2019, Mr Galilee gave an optimistic account of the industry's position, saying production and employment were up, with coal royalties to the government "high". Although he said he wasn't going to mention all the industry's challenges, he outlined an

advertising campaign being used to engage public opinion.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/mining-ceo-slams-labor-as-150-acland-coal-workers-laid-off/news-story/b132ecbe27fc4fbd43b9dea97bfd44b>

Mining CEO slams Labor as 150 Acland coal workers laid off

Jamie Walker, Aus, 02/12/2019

One of Queensland's top mining bosses has slammed the state Labor government over the layoff of 150 workers, warning that the stalled Acland coal pit expansion west of Brisbane sent a "concerning" signal to business and would further erode investment confidence.

New Hope group chief executive Shane Stephan voiced his frustration after the Palaszczuk government failed to follow through on what he said were commitments to green-light the \$900m Acland stage III project.

F

Fossil Fool Bulletin is published Tuesdays (in your email Wednesday).



<https://knitting-nannas.org/bulletins.php>



SIGN UP for your FREE subscription
Past issues available to download

**SAVING THE LAND, AIR AND WATER
FOR THE KIDDIES**

www.knitting-nannas.com

