



Fossil Fool Bulletin

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

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ACF lodges new challenge to Adani's water plan for Carmichael Mine

The Commonwealth Environment Minister's assessment of Adani's essential water infrastructure for the controversial Carmichael coal mine is under a legal cloud again, with the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) filing proceedings in the Federal Court this week on behalf of its client, the Australian Conservation Foundation.

The Minister, whose original decision was overturned by the Federal Court on different grounds, has yet again determined that the water trigger does not apply to the North Galilee Water Scheme Infrastructure (NGWS).

The NGWS provides essential water to the Carmichael coal mine, but the Minister's determination means its impacts on water resources will not be subject to assessment.

Doesn't pass the pub test

That decision is now the subject of the ACF's application for judicial review.

Kelly O'Shanassy, the foundation's chief executive officer, said that "in an era of climate change and extreme drought, the Morrison government's decision not to apply the water trigger to Adani's project does not pass the pub test".

"Australians have a right to expect our government to make decisions lawfully and in the best interests of people, not big coal corporations," she said.

Contained in the Federal government's key environmental legislation, the water trigger is designed to ensure that actions involving large coal min-



Adani will use up to 12.5 billion litres of water for coal washing and dust suppression. The coal washing plant pictured is in the UK. Photo: Parnaby Cyclones

ing and coal seam gas developments, which are likely to have a significant impact on a water resource, undergo a thorough assessment by the Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development.

Water to be used for coal washing

The NGWS will see up to 12.5 billion litres of water pumped from the Suttor River in central Queensland to the Adani mine, where it will be used primarily to wash coal and suppress dust.

"Our client ACF argues that the Environment Minister made an error of law by failing to apply the 'water trigger' in Australia's environmental law to Adani's North Galilee Water Scheme", said David Morris, EDO CEO.

"The Minister has determined that, despite the Carmichael coal mine operation's reliance on the proposed infrastructure, the NGWS is not a 'coal mining activity' and therefore not subject to the water trigger. ACF's case is that that is a misconstruction of the

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• P2: IPC locked out of many decisions

• P3: Narrabri gas referred to IPC

P4: Breaking: Vic lifts onshore gas ban

New challenge to Adani water plan

• Continued from p1

term ‘coal mining activity’ and the decision must be overturned.”

The government also viewed the pipeline proponent, Adani Infrastructure Pty Ltd, as “a different legal entity” from the coal mine proponent, Adani Mining Pty Ltd.

The ACF will test both reasons for the failure not to activate the water trigger in court, arguing that the government made an error in law by ignoring infrastructure that was critical for the coal mine to proceed.

7,000 submissions made

“Legal challenges are never taken lightly by us or our client”, said Mr Morris. “In this case the project involves the use of water for coal mining on an enormous scale and it’s vitally important that these impacts be subject to the thorough assessment we say is required by law. There is enormous public interest in this process, evidenced by the more than 7,000 submissions made during the public comment period.”

ACF took similar legal action with EDO in December 2018. During that case it became clear the government had failed to properly consider some of the thousands of public submissions it received. In June 2019 the government acknowledged that error and conceded the case, leaving unaddressed the question of whether it failed to correctly apply the water trigger.

Making a nonsense of the process

Tony Windsor, the former independent MP who was a key architect of the 2013 trigger legislation, said reliable long-term access to clean water was “vital for regional communities and demands that we sustainably manage our rivers and aquifers”.

“Allowing companies to split up mining projects and assess them in isolation makes a nonsense of the process,” he said. “You don’t see much looking at just one piece of the jigsaw – you need to look at the whole puzzle.”

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Virus puts coal conspiracy trial on hold

The criminal conspiracy trial of two former NSW Labor ministers has been adjourned for two weeks amid public concerns over the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

Ian Macdonald, 70, his former NSW ministerial colleague Eddie Obeid, 76, and Obeid’s son, Moses, 50, have pleaded not guilty to conspiring together for Macdonald to wilfully engage in misconduct as a minister.

The alleged plot ran between 2007 and 2009.

It allegedly involved the rigging of a tender process for a coal mining exploration licence on Obeid land at Mount Penny in the Bylong Valley near Mudgee for the family’s financial benefit.

Justice Elizabeth Fullerton, who is hearing the Supreme Court trial without a jury, adjourned the hearing on Monday until March 30.

“Until then the accused can stay in glorious isolation,” she said.

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Govt locks IPC out of decisions

The Berejiklian government’s move to lock the Independent Planning Commission out of decisions on some major developments is a threat to communities battling destructive coal and gas projects.

The government has made it harder for communities to enlist the Commission as the decision maker for controversial major projects via a State and Environmental Planning Policy amendment.

The three key changes are:

1. Require 50 submissions for the IPC to be the consent authority, rather than 25.
2. The IPC is no longer a consent authority for modifications that have a large number of objections, though this function will continue where the proponent has made a reportable political donation.
3. Petitions and bulk submissions are now counted as one submission.

“These changes make it more difficult for communities to work together to have their opposition to major coal and gas projects heard and secure the involvement of the Independent Planning Commission as the decision maker,” said Lock the Gate Alliance

NSW spokesperson Georgina Woods.

“Raising the objection number to 50 and dismissing petitions and form submissions reduces the opportunity for small rural communities to have the Commission determine big mining and gas projects that threaten their livelihoods and their local environments.

“Modifications of approved mining operations are notorious for increasing the scale and intensity of mining and its impact on local people. We’re very concerned the government locking the IPC out of decisions on mine modifications leaves communities without an independent decision-maker.

“When combined with moves to effectively abolish consideration of downstream climate impacts from mining and gas projects, these changes swing the NSW planning system further in favour of mining giants and away from local communities.

“NSW communities are still counting the cost of the worst bushfire season ever, and it is appalling the Berejiklian Government’s priority is to make it easier for mining and gas projects to railroad rural communities, destroy farmland and belch more carbon dioxide into our atmosphere.”

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ADANI WATCH

The Bob Brown Foundation has set up Adani Watch, following the international activities and human rights transgressions of Adani. See it here:

adaniwatch-bobbrownfoundation.nationbuilder.com

Narrabri gas to be determined by IPC

Independent NSW MP Justin Field has called on NSW MPs to back legislation to establish a moratorium on coal seam gas after confirmation NSW Planning Minister Rob Stokes has moved to refer the controversial Santos Narrabri Gas Project to the State's Independent Planning Commission (IPC).

The referral of the controversial Narrabri Gas Project to the IPC comes just two weeks after a Parliamentary Inquiry found deep flaws in the State's regulatory regime for gas exploration which the NSW Government is yet to respond to. The inquiry found just two of the 16 recommendations of the Chief Scientist had been implemented.

Environment Minister, Matt Kean told a budget estimates hearing last week that the Narrabri Gas Project should not get a licence to operate unless the Government had implemented all the Chief Scientist's recommendations:

Matt Kean said: "My view is that the Government should implement all those recommendations before granting the licence to allow any drilling for coal seam gas anywhere."

Lock the Gate Alliance has condemned the referral of the gas project to the Independent Planning Commission.

"The Commission will be stabbing in the dark when it tries to make a decision on this destructive, polluting proposal," Lock the Gate NSW spokesperson Georgina Woods said.

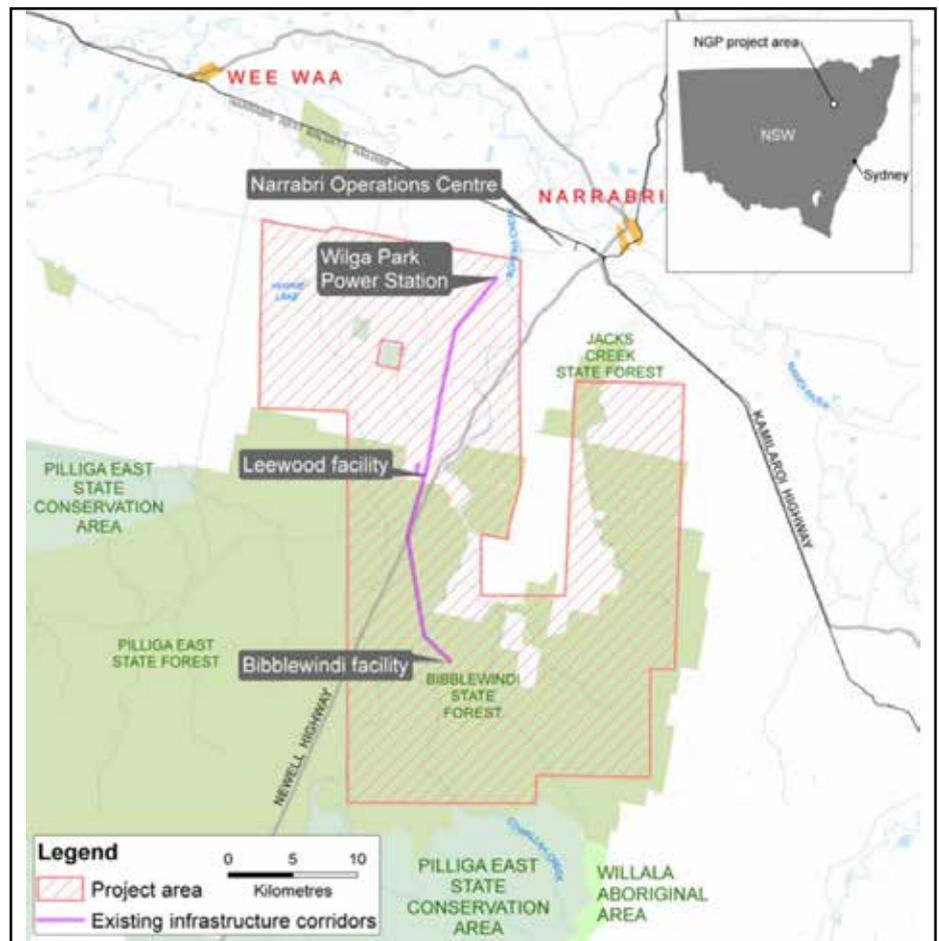
"Major flaws in regulation and knowledge of coal seam gas were identified by a parliamentary committee two weeks ago, yet Planning Minister Rob Stokes has not listened and has referred this project anyway."

The Minister's referral, which was published on the Independent Planning Commission's website, was made just three business days after the Parliamentary Inquiry found that five years on, only two of the Chief Scientist's 16 recommendations on coal seam gas had been implemented.

CSG industry uninsurable

The committee described the industry as "uninsurable".

Woods said the IPC would be making a decision in the dark and applying a regulatory scheme that has been exposed as being too weak to protect



The Narrabri gasfield. Map: Santos

water resources and farmers from unforeseen damages.

"The Independent Planning Commission must comply with the Minister's direction to determine this application, but it will be doing so with inadequate data, unfinished regulation and the results of a groundwater impact model that is incapable of predicting impacts on landholders' bores at the local scale.

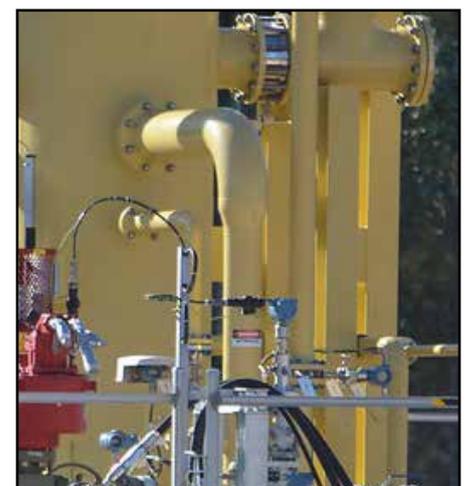
"An inquiry found just two weeks ago that NSW regulation of the coal seam gas industry is not up to the standard recommended by the Chief Scientist. The regulation was exposed as being too weak to protect water resources and farmers from unforeseen damages, leaving landholders to suffer under an industry labelled 'uninsurable'.

"We don't see how the Independent Planning Commission can approve the Narrabri coal seam gas project in this context. It's untenable to leave landholders and local communities exposed to the lasting cost of depleted or contaminated groundwater, leaking methane, or leaching toxic salt dumps.

"If approved, the Narrabri CSG project would drill 850 gas wells right through a water recharge aquifer of the Great Artesian Basin, putting at risk precious groundwater that many rely on for food and fodder production.

"The Planning Minister has passed the buck and it is up to the Commission now to defend the public interest and stop this reckless gasfield."

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No community support for Vickery mine expansion

Approving Whitehaven's destructive Vickery coal mine expansion would have a terrible impact on local communities, farmland, the environment, and national heritage, according to Lock the Gate Alliance.

The Alliance has called on authorities to fully engage with the local community after the NSW Planning Minister recently referred the project to the IPC.

"A proper and frank discussion with the Boggabri community will reveal there is very little support for Whitehaven's latest horrendous mining proposal," said Lock the Gate Alliance NSW coordinator Georgina Woods.

"There is also very little support for Whitehaven itself, which has totally lost its social licence to operate in the north west of NSW following multiple compliance breaches at its other coal mines.

"Even the Narrabri Council doesn't support this project.

"Most recently, Whitehaven was issued a clean up notice after thousands of polystyrene balls used in explosive mixtures were found in a creek downstream from its Maules Creek coal mine.

"Whitehaven is a repeat offender, responsible for a litany of breaches and compliance failures at its operations in north west NSW.

"The Vickery project would also cause damage to farmland, use up already limited underground water supplies, and threaten national heritage icons such as "Kurrumbede" – the property which Dorothea Mackellar used as inspiration for her poem "My Country".

"In addition, indirect greenhouse gas emissions from Vickery would be more than 380 million tonnes of CO2 over the life of the mine.

"Lock the Gate Alliance believes that if this IPC assessment process is conducted appropriately, and listens to the local community, the commission will have no choice but to reject Whitehaven's Vickery coal mine proposal."

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Breaking news: Victoria's onshore gas ban lifted

This morning (March 17) the Victorian Labor Government, under the cover of all the COVID-19 news, announced that they will lift Victoria's ban on onshore gas drilling. Fracking remains banned.

The Greens in Victoria sat the timing of this announcement couldn't be more telling: "Daniel Andrews and Victorian Labor know that our communities do not support new gas drilling."

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NSW makes a step in the right direction

Greenpeace recognises the measures outlined by NSW Environment Minister Matt Kean to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 35% by 2030 as a step in the right direction, although far steeper cuts are needed in the wake of the recent bushfire crisis.

The NSW 2030 plan, unveiled last week, will create 2,400 jobs and reduce power bills as clean energy sources like wind and solar replace our ageing and unreliable coal-burning power stations, create fast-charging stations for electric vehicles and help reduce pollution in cement and manufacturing.

The measures will double the government's own solar target and tripling the electric/hybrid target for government-owned vehicles.

"Taking steps to reduce emissions is good news for the economy and health, although New South Wales needs to double its ambition to play its part in limiting global warming to close to 1.5 degrees," said Greenpeace Australia Pacific spokesperson Jonathan Moylan.

"Taking stronger action like accelerating the shift to clean and affordable renewable energy to address the causes of climate change will lead to more jobs, cleaner air and less preventable disease. It's good to see state governments stepping in to fill the climate void left by the Morrison government.

"We now need a race to the top on reducing emissions from burning coal, oil and gas that fuel extreme weather events like this summer's bushfires."

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Net-zero emissions bill on backburner

Renew Economy reports that proposed federal government legislation that would lock in a net-zero emissions target of 2050 for Australia has been put on the back-burner this week, in response to the unfolding Coronavirus crisis.

Independent member for Warringah in New South Wales Zali Steggall, said on Monday evening (March 16) that she had decided to defer presentation of the Climate Change Bill from next Monday to a later date.

"The developing situation with COVID-19 is presenting a challenge to our community and our nation, the scale of which we have never encountered before. It is right that this emerging health crisis take precedence at this time. Our leaders need to focus on best preparation and response and the public need to be focused on looking out for each other and their own personal wellbeing," she said.

Steggall's push for a "sensible and bipartisan" policy approach to climate action in Australia – based out of the inner-Sydney electorate previously held by long-time climate denier and former PM Tony Abbott – has been a welcome force in the federal policy arena.

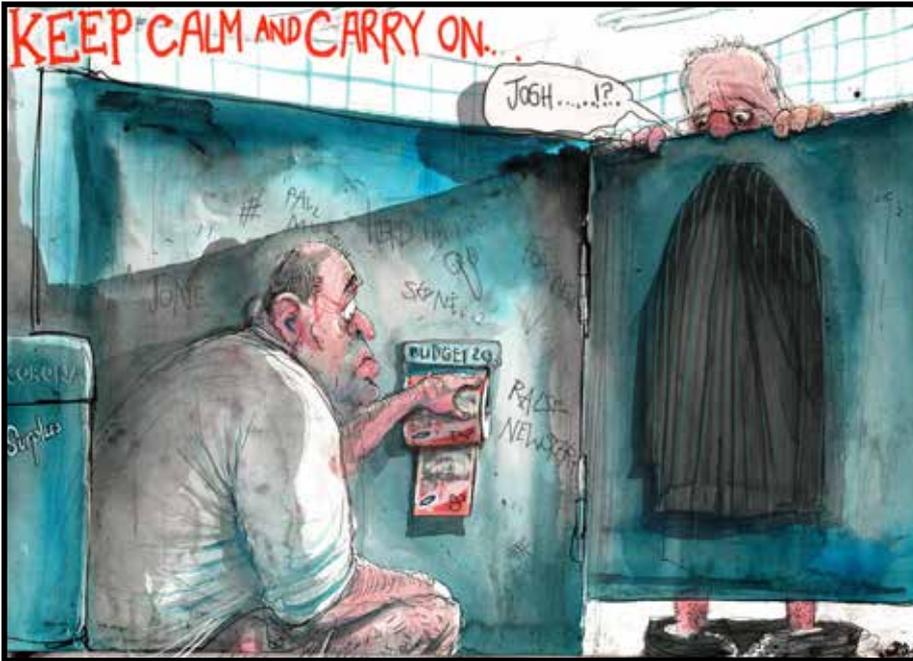
Steggall had planned to call for a conscience vote when the legislation was presented in Parliament on March 23 as a Private Member's Bill, and had hoped to win the support of moderates within the Liberal party who argue more action can be taken to limit the causes of climate change.

The proposed legislation, which is being co-sponsored by fellow independents Rebekah Sharkie, Helen Haines and Andrew Wilkie, would establish a framework for a 2050 zero net emissions target. Full story:

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/zali-steggall-holds-fire-on-zero-emissions-climate-bill-amid-coronavirus-chaos-80939/>

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Inside the news

Coronavirus has dominated this week's news feed to such an extent that FFB had only 5,200 words of fossil fuel news to summarise for you.

John Birmingham's article in *The New Daily* (p7) is recommended reading, nicely contrasting the nation's Coronavirus response to that of the science-deniers opposing action on climate crisis.

Meanwhile, anti-Adani protesters are adapting their tactics to avoid crowd gatherings (p6) – maximising use of the internet instead.

Many other groups opposed to fossil fuels and their expansion are looking at ways to avoid gatherings. An example is using the app/web-site **Zoom** for online meetings.

We live in interesting times, and face the necessity to change our routines and adapt to clear and present danger.

Perhaps this will open the way for people to deal with an even more dangerous – but more long-term danger to humanity: climate crisis and the necessity to transition to a low-carbon lifestyle.



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In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 5,200 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/sustainability/morrison-government-faces-legal-challenge-over-adani-pipeline-plan-20200316-p54an6.html>

Morrison government faces legal challenge over Adani pipeline plan

Peter Hannam, SMH, 16/03/2020

The Morrison government's failure to activate the so-called "water trigger" when assessing the proposed Adani coal mine in Queensland will be challenged in the Federal Court.

Lawyers acting for the Australian Conservation Foundation will test the government's decision not to refer Adani's North Galilee Water Scheme, a pipeline supplying the mine, for a thorough assessment as intended by the law.

The water trigger, introduced by the Rudd-Gillard government in mid-2013, was meant to require the government to assess the impact on water of all large coal mines and coal seam gas developments.

However, the government treated Adani's plan to draw 12.5 billion litres a year from the Suttor River in central Queensland as a pipeline that was not a "large coal mining development", nor did it involve one.

Similarly, it viewed the pipeline proponent, Adani Infrastructure Pty Ltd, as "a different legal entity" from the coal mine proponent, Adani Mining Pty Ltd.

The foundation plans to test both reasons for the failure not to activate the water trigger in court, arguing that the government made an error in law by ignoring infrastructure that was critical for the coal mine to proceed.

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/renewables-to-make-1-trillion-in-new-coal-fired-plants-uncompetitive-20200312-p549c7.html>

Renewables to make \$1 trillion in new coal-fired plants uncompetitive

Peter Hannam, SMH, 12/03/2020

Renewables are already cheaper than new coal-fired power stations in all major markets, exposing almost a trillion dollars of new investments and denting Australia's coal exports.

Analysis published on Thursday by Carbon Tracker also found that by 2030



Galilee Blockade, in response to the Coronavirus pandemic, says: "We may not be able to rally at Marsh offices in person, but we can still protest from home. Join the virtual rally and tell the world's largest insurance broker to rule out helping Adani's climate-wrecking mine!"

People are advised to make a protest sign, snap a selfie, and upload your selfie and a message to Marsh here: <https://www.stopadani.com/marshselfie>

Pic: Galilee Blockade

at the latest, new wind and solar farms will be cheaper to build than existing coal plants.

The survey, which tapped International Energy Agency data among its sources, also found more than half of coal-fired power stations were more costly to run than building new renewable energy.

Globally, developers are planning or constructing almost 500 giga-watts of coal capacity at a cost of \$US638 billion (\$984 billion), investments that could soon be wasted.

Leonard Quong, an analyst with Bloomberg New Energy Finance, said the economics of renewable energy "have undergone an astonishing transformation over the past decade", with

new solar modules dropping about 90% in cost while wind turbines are now almost 50% cheaper.

OIL & GAS LEAKS

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/narrabri-gas-project-nsw-independent-planning-commission-told-to-finalise-decision/news-story/7fc7793611b75a6eff730b4ebdde405c>

Narrabri gas project: NSW Independent Planning Commission told to finalise decision

Anna Caldwell, Daily Telegraph, 12/03/2020

The State's Independent Planning Commission has been ordered to reach a final decision on the Narrabri gas project within months and hold a major public hearing as it assesses the scheme.

In a sign that the assessment of the project by the state government's planning department is imminent, NSW Planning Minister Rob Stokes made the order to the IPC in a written letter published on Wednesday night.

Santos is currently seeking government approval to develop natural gas reserves in the Narrabri area in north-west New South Wales.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-03-13/farmer-report-says-coal-seam-gas-company-provided-incorrect-data/12045292>

Farmer says report shows CSG company gave incorrect groundwater data to regulator

Nathan Morris, ABC, 13/03/2020

A farmer on Queensland's Darling Downs says his own hydrogeological testing has confirmed that data recorded by a coal-seam gas company about groundwater is inaccurate.

Key points:

- A hydrogeologist finds fault with groundwater information recorded by a gas company on a Darling Downs property;
- If initial data is wrong, it jeopardises the landholder's legal recourse if their groundwater is later impacted;
- Hundreds of bores will be affected by coal-seam gas development in the Surat Basin.

The landholder said the information, which has the potential to jeopardise their legal recourse if their groundwater is later impacted, had not been corrected in the file kept by the government regulator.

"We were shocked at how much of the reports were wrong – it is really concerning," said the landholder, who asked to remain anonymous.

The landholder presented their information to the state regulator, the Department of Environment and Science (DES), which after five weeks responded:

"There are no provisions in the Water Act 2000 or its legislative framework to allow a landholder to engage a third-party hydrogeologist to undertake a baseline assessment and charge the cost to the tenure holder."

Shay Dougall, a Chinchilla-based landholder advocate and consultant, has been assisting the landholder in the matter.

Dougall questioned whether other water bores in the Surat Basin had not

been visually verified by regulators. "How many have been field-verified?" she said.

<https://www.yanheapnews.com.au/woodridge-and-caraban-residents-against-fracking/>

Woodridge and Caraban residents against fracking

Anita McInnes, Yanheap News, 15/03/2020

Woodridge and Caraban residents want their politicians to know they are opposed to fracking in the Shire of Gingin.

On Sunday, March 8 the two communities made a gasfield free declaration after a survey showed that was what a majority of their residents wanted.

Landholder Jenny Walker said the nearest gas licence to Woodridge was just 15km away and Woodridge itself was only 75km from the Perth CBD.

She said fracking would threaten the shire's agricultural and tourism sectors.

"No one wants to holiday in a region pockmarked with fracking wells," she said.

Residents are concerned about the effect the industry could have on underground water supplies.

There was also concern the shire's big horticultural industry could be at risk if fracking went ahead.

CLIMATE CRISIS

Australian bushfires emitted the same level of CO2 as annual global air travel

Cait Kelly, New Daily, 11/03/2020

Australia's severe bushfires released a massive amount of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, equivalent to the annual emissions from commercial air travel worldwide, a new report reveals.

Australia's black summer took 33 lives, killed one billion animals, destroyed 2439 homes, burnt millions of hectares, wiped billions out of the economy and put a devastating amount of CO2 back into the atmosphere, the first comprehensive overview, compiled by the Climate Council, shows.

The catastrophic bushfires spewed an average of 900 million tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, more than Australia's annual emissions that sit around 531 million tonnes, Australian National University climate scientist Will Steffen said.

Last year ended with global average temperatures 1.1 degrees above pre-industrial levels, according to the latest State of the Climate report by the World Meteorological Organisation released on Wednesday.

Climate Councillor and former NSW Fire and Rescue commissioner Greg Mullins said this summer was proof we need urgent action on climate change.

"The scale of the bushfires and the extreme weather conditions that drove them surprised veteran firefighters and climate scientists," Mullins said.

"To keep Australians safe and protect our economy, we must urgently and drastically reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

"If we do not, the fires, heatwaves and floods will only get worse.

"As the sunniest and one of the windiest countries on the planet, we have the solutions to address climate change.

"We must accelerate the transition to renewable energy and storage."

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/national/2020/03/14/coronavirus-government-reaction-australia/>

Unlike the climate emergency, coronavirus left us with no time for politics

John Birmingham, New Daily, 14/03/2020

It's telling to compare the response of the Morrison government to COVID-19 with their painful mismanagement of the summer's wildfire holocaust and the accelerating changes to our climate which made it so much worse.

On this issue, the government remains infected with a rich viral, load of conspiracy thinking, denial and performative stupidity. In responding to COVID-19, however, the entire political class has mostly been sober, practical and more than willing to defer to scientific expertise. Only a few of the usual suspects have beclowned themselves.

Why?

Most obviously there is no immense, and immensely powerful corporate cartel invested in denying the problem or delaying a response. No analogue of the fossil fuel lobby exists to pour billions of dollars into pseudo think tanks or captive political parties to maintain the value of their investment in a virus that may soon kill millions of people around the world.

Even Big Pharma, which will definitely profit from the pandemic, is motivated

by market forces to get to a vaccine as quickly as possible. Without the weight of an industry worth trillions of dollars to distort the very fabric of spacetime and reality, there's not much of a quid to be made in, well, distorting reality.

It's the pile up of bodies that finally makes it impossible to ignore the science on COVID-19. The feedback loop is too fast. Even with the climate crisis intensifying every year, the worst of it is still in front of us.

Even as the predictions of its own scientists came true, and mega-fires threatened the mass extinction of native species, Morrison and his government still retreated to weasel words, evasions and straight up lies about climate change.

The screaming of koalas as they were incinerated in the tree tops made that difficult of course, but the donations from the mining industry and all those votes in regional Queensland and WA were a comfort in trying times.

With COVID-19, however, it's our species dying. And not in some vague future. The pandemic will probably peak in June or July here, and it could easily infect up to 70% of the population. It's cool that Canberra is treating this emergency with the urgency it deserves.

When it has passed, it would be awesome if they could do the same for another emergency which will, in the end, do a lot more damage. After all, there's some old and scary viruses about to thaw out of the Siberian permafrost.

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/mar/16/zali-steggall-launches-ad-campaign-to-rally-support-for-climate-change-bill>

Zali Steggall launches ad campaign to rally support for climate change bill

Sarah Martin, Guardian, 16/03/2020

Independent MP Zali Steggall is launching a national advertising campaign drawing on the summer bushfire crisis to rally public support for her private member's bill on climate change, due to be introduced to parliament later this month.

The three-week campaign will kick off on Monday and include digital billboards, and bus shelter and telephone booth advertisements across Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide.

The ads will feature images of the destruction wreaked by the summer bushfire season, with one pointing to the experience of "one hell of a summer" and another featuring a koala in burnt bushland. The ads call for the public to support Steggall's climate act, making the appeal that "what happens next is up to you".

The campaign is being funded by community climate change groups, donors of the Climate Act Now campaign and pro-bono assistance, with more than

120 "Climate Act Now" advertisements set to appear across the country this month.

The bill would put in place national plans for climate change adaption and enshrine a net-zero emissions target by 2050 to be reviewed every five years by a newly established independent climate change commission.

Steggall has been arguing that the framework legislation would take the politics out of the climate change policy debate, while putting in place an effective process for national targets, actions and reporting.

While the bill will be introduced when parliament next sits on 23 March, there is a risk that it will be left to languish on the notice paper without government support.

If the government refuses to allow debate on the bill in the House of Representatives after it is introduced, Centre Alliance, which is co-sponsoring the legislation, could introduce it into the Senate later in the year.

This would force Labor to declare its hand on the bill, which has so far failed to land a position, saying it will never come to a vote in the lower house.

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