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KNITTING NANNAS AGAINST GAS

Fossil Fool Bulletin

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Published by Eve Sinton • fossil.fool.bulletin@gmail.com

FFB 1:38 • 21 AUGUST 2018

Traditional Owners vow to continue to defend their land rights against Adani

- W&J leaders say appeal pending against court decision favouring Adani's land grab
- Request no action from Queensland Government on extinguishment of native title
- Senior Counsel advice says the State not obliged to wipe out land title
- Appeal to UN for urgent action on failure of Australian law to protect the right to 'free prior informed consent'
- Adani ILUA proves Native Title system needs major reform

In the wake of Friday's adverse Federal Court decision against their challenge to Adani's ILUA, Wangan and Jagalingou Traditional Owners say yesterday's judgement merely confirms the limitations of the native title system, and fails to address their right as Indigenous people to free, prior and informed consent, which is at the heart of their action.

Adrian Burragubba, one of five applicants in the case, and W&J cultural leader says: "We are calling on the Queensland Government to rule out extinguishing our native title in any part of our land.

Native title would be gone forever

"Once native title is gone, it is gone forever. It would be a travesty for the Government to wipe out our title for Adani. If Queensland can stop them dredging the Reef before Adani has money, or pull the pin on \$1 billion NAIF funding, they can surely protect



SNAP Action: Stand with Wangan & Jagalingou to Defend Country

21 August 08:45-09:30 • Parliament House, Brisbane

our rights to our land. They must not hand a private corporation land title at our expense, based on discriminatory laws.

"The Queensland Government has a clear choice here, and yesterday's ruling in no way forces them to proceed to extinguish our native title. Don't be fooled, it is up to the Government what happens next.

"Adani can't be trusted; how can they say they respect 'the rights, history, future intentions and requests of the traditional owners'?"

"We are Traditional Owners, we are the people from that land, and they have never respected our decisions, or our right to free prior informed consent, or our aspirations to care for our ancestral country.

Adani split our people for their own ends

"They split our people for their own ends and then try to claim they care. They should walk away in shame for all the damage they have done".

Ms Linda Bobongie, another applicant and chairperson of the Traditional Owners Council, says: "While we respect the decisions of the courts, we aren't satisfied by this judgement and will work with our legal team to prepare an appeal to a higher court.

"We know the Queensland Government has no obligation to act on extinguishment for Adani. They should wait until all our appeals are exhausted."

"We held out hope for this legal avenue, but anticipated a conservative judgement within the Native Title

• Continued p2

• P 3: McArthur River Mine pollutes river

• P 4: Danger found in fracking wastewater

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W&J will appeal to High Court

• Continued from p1

system, and were prepared for the decision. Our Council has vowed to continue to defend our lands and waters from Adani's destruction.

"We call on Adani to immediately withdraw from this damaging project on our land. No administrative decisions that block our rights will stop us standing our ground to defend and protect Wangan and Jagalingou Country and our connection to it.

Burning the coal beneath our feet

We do not consent to a mine that will destroy our culture and land, and rob our people of a sustainable future, so a rich company can get richer exploiting and burning the coal beneath our feet".

The W&J land in question includes an area where Adani wants to put an airstrip (funded by Rockhampton and Townsville Councils), and the site of the proposed workers' camp.

Adani said, in a statement on Friday, "Following today's decision we look forward to working with the state government and the traditional owners to finalise land tenure for the project".

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NSW anti-protest regulation stays on the books



The Greens' motion to disallow anti-protest legislation and regulations was lost in NSW Parliament last Wednesday.

Protests against the regulations and other recent anti-protest laws were held in Sydney and Lismore, as the motion was put to Parliament.

The ALP supported the motion, but the Nationals, Liberals and Christian Democrats were opposed and the Shooters and Fishers abstained.

Greens candidate for Lismore, Sue Higginson, addressed a rally in the town.

"The NSW Government is dismantling the community's right to peaceful assembly," she said.

"It started with the 2016 anti-protests laws that enacted excessive penalties for mining protests. Recently, a regulation was enacted to allow any police officer or other authorised official to disperse any assembly on public land anywhere in NSW including parks, beaches, forests or roadsides.



TOP: Knitting Nannas from Newcastle, Illawarra and Sydney outside the NSW Parliament last Wednesday. "Nannas are more upset and even more determined," they said. Photo: Colin Ryan

ABOVE: A protest in Lismore the same day drew a good crowd. Photo: Facebook

"Democracy and good governance rests upon a foundation of civil and political rights," she said.

"Here in our own region our world heritage forests have survived because of past protest actions."

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Acclaimed movie now online: thebentleyeffect.com

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McArthur River Mine's troubled history

Situated in the Gulf of Carpentaria 900 km southeast of Darwin, McArthur River Mine has been operating since 1995. It's the world's second largest zinc resource and a key operation in operator Glencore's global portfolio.

Zinc, lead and silver are produced from the open cut mine and transported to Bing Bong Loading Facility to be sold world-wide.

Indigenous residents in the nearby town of Borroloola called on the Health Department to blood test families in April of this year, amid revelations their water supply has been contaminated. They had been advised by the Territory Government not to drink, cook, or brush their teeth with the water.

The Environment Centre NT has been demanding the mine's closure since 2015, to protect people, cattle and wildlife from further contamination.

FOI documents obtained by the Environmental Defenders Office NT confirm that the NT Government and Glencore have been aware of serious heavy metal contamination issues at McArthur River for years but failed to properly alert the public to the risk of lead poisoning.

The documents revealed elevated levels of lead were found in fish, invertebrates and cattle, and sulphur dioxide was emitted from the 'highly reactive' waste rock dump.

In 2014 tests revealed that one out of five animals slaughtered for testing 'had a lead content in its kidneys above the Maximum Residue Level allowable for human consumption of offal'.

Glencore grossly underestimated the amount of potentially acid forming material produced; claiming in its 2011 Environmental Impact Statement that the proportion was 12% of waste rock, when it later found to be 88%.

The Department itself admitted in the documents that 'returning the (waste rock) material to the pit is the only viable long-term remediation strategy', which would require the mine to close.

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McArthur R Mine approval condemned



Northern Land Council protesters in action. Photo: NLC

The Northern Land Council has condemned the decision of the NT EPA to approve the overburden management project at the McArthur River Mine.

NLC CEO Joe Morrison said the EPA's assessment that the project can avoid significant environmental impacts is not supported by its own report.

"The sorry history of frequent environmental incidents at the mine and poor regulation mean that both the operator and regulator cannot be trusted," Morrison said.

"The report represents an unacceptable approach to environmental risk. It is merely hoping against hope and goes against the weight of evidence presented to the EPA.

"This proposal to allow an expansion of a troubled operation in order to solve some of its problems is an extremely short-term solution that will result in a costly perpetual legacy for Traditional Owners and Territorians.

"The assessment even records the EPA's concern that there is 'potential for future off-site impacts to occur as a result of the proposal' and that 'significant environmental impacts could occur as a result of a major incident, e.g. failure or overflow of the TSF (Tailings Storage Facility) or other events that may lead to uncontrolled release of contaminated water or tailings.'"

The NLC raised many concerns about the MRM proposal in a weighty submission to the EPA. NLC officers then met with the board of the EPA and told

them the MRM proposal should be re-drafted to consider alternative development scenarios, provide economic modelling to support any cost/benefit assumptions, and should be underpinned by accepted leading practice community and other stakeholder consultation standards and methodologies (including MRM consultations with the NLC and local Aboriginal people).

No confidence in EPA report

"Further, the EPA report does not provide any confidence that the closure plan will not result in unacceptable environmental outcomes. The recommendation for approval is based on a hope that over the next 20 years, while the volume of waste rock and tailings accumulates, some technological solution will prevail.

"Far from a best practice approach to environmental management based on detailed characterisation of risk and prevention through elimination or mitigation the NTEPA's recommendations have a reliance on strengthened monitoring and adaptive management.

"The history of MRM demonstrates a failure of this approach, with combusting waste rock, continued erosion and failure to establish vegetation in the re-channel, seepage and concern around the stability and integrity of both the waste rock dump and the tailings storage facility and cattle contaminated with lead being a few of MRM's operating results to date," Morrison said.

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Study finds health threats from oil and gas wastewater routinely spread on roads

Reid Frazier, State Impact Pennsylvania

Spreading oil and gas wastewater has been a common and cheap way for municipalities to suppress dust on unpaved roads in parts of Pennsylvania for years.

It is also a widespread practice in the Darling Downs, Australia with similar implications.

A recent study found the practice – which Pennsylvania recently ended – could threaten environmental and public health by leaching metals, salts, and radioactive materials into surface or groundwater, nearby soil, and even the air.

The study, from researchers at Penn State, found this water can contain contaminants like radium, a radioactive element and known carcinogen, “often many times above drinking water standards.”

The study found there were “no universal standards” for radioactivity or other components in wastewater used on roads, and that while Pennsylvania did test the brine for some contaminants, “radium concentrations were never reported” by the state.

Before the decision, over a dozen counties in Western Pennsylvania used oil and gas wastewater on roads, and at least 13 other states – including Ohio, Michigan, West Virginia and New York – allowed the practice, according to the Penn State study.

What to do with brine from fracking and oil and gas production has been a subject of concern for regulators since the gas boom began a decade ago. The water contains metals and salts from the formations where oil and gas deposits lay, as well as fracking chemicals.

Today, the Marcellus industry recycles much of its wastewater, and sends much of what it doesn't to industrial wastewater treatment plants or to underground injection wells.

But the state's conventional oil and gas industry has been exempt from some of the stricter rules imposed on Marcellus shale producers. A Duke study recently found treatment plants that handle conventional oil and gas wastewater facilities are causing a buildup of



Coal Seam Gas wastewater being spread on a Darling Downs road. The practice is widespread in Australian gasfields with the same implications found in the Pennsylvania study. Photo: Northwest Protection Advocacy

radioactive materials at the bottom of three Western Pennsylvania rivers and streams.

William Burgos and Nathaniel Warner, two Penn State scientists, became interested in the practice while poring over a Pennsylvania DEP database, which showed where different gas companies sent their wastewater. Some went to treatment plants, some to underground injection wells.

“There was also a category that showed up as ‘road spreading,’” said Burgos, a professor of civil and environmental engineering. He and Werner wanted to find out more about what happens when oil and gas brine is used on roads.

They collected brine from 14 townships in north-western Pennsylvania, and simulated spreading it on a dirt or gravel road in a lab. In a paper published in the journal *Environmental Science & Technology* last May, they found that radium and lead from the brine washed off the road material after exposure to simulated rainstorms.

“Some of the radium and some of the lead sticks to the road. But a lot of it just sort of leaches out with any rain event. So, where that goes we don't we don't really know,” said Warner, an assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering at Penn State.

They also found that the contaminants in the brine could be drying up and getting into the air, presenting a hazard for people who live nearby.

“The road dries out and the cars drive across it and make the dust,” said Burgos. “The dust is then carrying some of those contaminants.”

Nicole Fahrenfeld, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering at Rutgers, said the study raises questions about using oil and gas waste on roads. At a minimum, she says, regulators should test whether the practice is causing water quality problems near treated roads.

Radium “most concerning”

“It certainly raises some questions about whether we want to be monitoring for some of the constituents that wouldn't be (in) a normal dust suppressant,” said Fahrenfeld. “The radium is perhaps the most interesting, and (most) concerning.”

Avner Vengosh, a Duke professor Professor of Earth and Ocean Sciences, said the study's lessons are clear.

“It's basically releasing a very toxic material into the environment,” said Vengosh, who has studied the effects of oil and gas wastewater treatment on rivers and streams. (Vengosh was Warner's advisor but was not involved with the study.) “Taking straight oil and gas wastewater and putting it into our environment – it's not a good idea.

• *This article has been adapted and was originally published here:*

<https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2018/05/31/study-finds-health-threats-from-oil-and-gas-wastewater-spread-on-roads/>

Knitting Nannas protest Rocky Hill mine



Gloucester and Midcoast Knitting Nannas had a knit-in before the Land & Environment Court convened for local hearings on the Rocky Hill mine last week.

The Court is hearing a challenge from Gloucester Resources Limited and Yancoal Australia to the planning minister's refusal to approve the mine.

At Gloucester, the Court held site visits and spoke to community objectors, including farmers, residents and a

13-year old girl, who spoke about the need to avoid dangerous climate change for future generations.

A public hearing was packed with about 130 people. Community objectors speaking at this hearing included farmers, local residents, local tourism operators, business owners, a doctor, traditional owners and a teacher.

The Court has now returned to Sydney. Over the next week it will hear from expert witnesses.

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Inside the news

In a devastating blow for the **Wangan & Jagalingou** people, a Federal court rejected their challenge to a land use agreement with **Adani**. The W&J will **appeal to the High Court**, but meanwhile beg the Queensland government not to give Adani freehold over the land before the appeal is heard (p6).

People in the **Latrobe Valley** are alarmed by **Australian Paper's** large-scale **waste-to-energy** project, to burn 650,000 tonnes of kerbside rubbish every year. **Life expectancy** in the region is already up to **four years shorter** than other parts of Victoria, due to the legacy impacts of coal-fired power stations (p7).

A community vote on the proposed **nuclear waste dump** on SA's Eyre Peninsula has been delayed after an Aboriginal group won a court injunction. A lawyer for the **Barn- garla Determination Aboriginal Corporation** told the court his clients rights would be breached unless all their members were included in the vote (p8).

As the dreary **NEG battle** continued within the Coalition, the **Murdoch press** featured a multitude of industry leaders forecasting **economic doom** unless more **gas wells** were drilled and **coal-fired power stations** built (p8-9).

For good measure they gave **Tony Abbott** space in the *Tele* to air his seven demands for the NEG (p11), which include keeping the **Liddell Power Station** open; **ending consumer subsidies** for renewables; escalating the **fight with the states** over their bans on **gasfields**; ending the ban on **nuclear power**; and – basically – **more coal-fired power**.

Tragically, this detestable man and his **knuckle-dragging** mates don't give a fig about climate change, or where their electricity comes from. They are **using the energy debate** to destroy Malcolm Turnbull with the intention to return Abbott as leader of the Libs. If it means **destroying the planet** to satisfy their ambition, so be it.

A **few sane voices** were heard – for example in *Renew Economy* and *The Age* (p11-12) – but while Murdoch dominates, hope fades.

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New coal licence for serial offender

The Greens NSW mining spokesman Jeremy Buckingham has expressed outrage that the NSW Government intends to grant the first new coal exploration licence in the Sydney basin since 1993.

South 32 will get its licence despite the company breaching its Environmental Protection Licences 447 times in the past 18 years at its four existing collieries in south west Sydney.

The allocation of this licence near Picton in the catchment of the Nepean River comes at the same time that the Liberals have sought to renew over 1000 km2 of existing coal exploration licences in the Sydney basin held by the Government.

"South 32's south-west Sydney coal mines have breached their environmental protection licences 447 times in the past 18 years without any consequences, making a mockery of the law," said Buckingham.

"It beggars belief that the Liberals are actually considering granting a new

coal exploration licence in the Sydney Basin to this repeat offender. The destruction caused by coal mining is clear and the community opposition is overwhelming.

"Why in 2018, with climate change biting, are the Liberal Government opening up new areas and renewing exploration licences over massive parts of the Sydney Basin, paving the way for new coal mines here?"

"The people of Sydney will not tolerate new or expanded coal mining and the Greens will be making an end to coal mining one of the key issues in the lead up to the state election," he said.

"Endeavour Coal (a subsidiary of South 32) have had non-compliances with their Environmental Protection Licence at the West Cliff, North Cliff, Appin and Appin West Collieries every single year since 1999 for a total of 447 non-compliances. They have never had a single Penalty Notice for this."

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In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 21,000 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/business/adani-rejects-green-claims-over-groundwater-usage/news-story/634140f29a0040fd3b77c0b4d3b4e20d>

Adani rejects green claims over groundwater usage

John McCarthy, *Courier-Mail*, 14/08/2018

Adani has rejected claims it will use vast amounts of water from the Great Artesian Basin to operate its Carmichael megamine in Queensland.

The company has just submitted renewed groundwater management plans for state and federal government approval, which it said put it another step closer to commencing operations on its Carmichael megamine.

Carmichael project chief executive Lucas Dow said the company had used six years of scientific study to build its plans, which have been attacked by environmental groups.

“Previous media reports and activist statements have incorrectly quoted how much water the Carmichael Project will take from the Great Artesian Basin. The quoted 12 gigalitres will not come from the GAB,” Mr Dow said.

“The project is predicted to require a maximum of 12GL of dam water from the Suttor River catchment, which is an entirely separate water source to the GAB. ...

Adani will also take and reuse “associated” water – groundwater encountered as part of mining operations but said this will not impact the GAB. ...

“However, some seepage from the GAB is anticipated,” he said.

“This is predicted to peak at maximum of 730 megalitres in in the later years of mine life if the mine was at full production or 60 million tonnes per annum,” Mr Dow said. ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-08-16/adani-plans-fail-to-meet-regulator-demands/10123202>

Adani environmental plans fail to address regulator demands designed to protect oasis

Michael Slezak, *ABC*, 16/08/2018

Adani’s latest environmental plans have failed to address a key demand of regulators, put in place to protect an



ABC.NET.AU

Indigenous challenge to Adani mine agreement dismissed by Federal Court

ancient desert oasis.

The ABC has obtained the mining giant’s most recent draft plan to protect the Doongmabulla Springs Complex in central north Queensland, as well as the unique plants and animals that depend on it.

The Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Management Plan (GDMP) is a requirement of the Federal Government’s approval and will need to be approved by the Queensland Government.

In June, the Queensland Government said the plan would not be approved until Adani solved the mystery of the ancient spring’s source.

The latest plan, submitted in July, fails to do that, and also appears to weaken other protections that existed in the previous draft — an observation the ABC put to Adani, but which it chose not to respond to. ...

The new plan still does not address the source of the springs, or describe how the company will solve the mystery. It also does not address the other concerns raised by the experts.

The plan also adds new wording around pest and weed management, which specifically rules out the company taking responsibility for it on neighbouring properties. ...

However, a spokeswoman for the department said: “DES can confirm that Adani is required to identify the source

aquifer of the Doongmabulla Springs Complex prior to the approval of the GDMP for the Carmichael Coal Mine.”

When the ABC asked Adani a series of questions about their plans, the company did not answer them. ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-08-17/adani-federal-court-traditional-owners-native-title/10131920>

Adani Indigenous challenge dismissed by Federal Court, Government could cancel mine native title

Josh Robertson & Talissa Siganto, *ABC*, 17/08/2018

Traditional owners who oppose the Adani mine have appealed to the Queensland Government not to permanently extinguish their native title rights before they take their case to the High Court.

A Federal Court decision on Friday, upholding Adani’s Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) with the Wangan and Jagalingou (W&J) people, paves the way for the State Government to cancel all native title over the mine site.

In a 91-page judgment, Justice John Reeves said none of the grounds of the challenge by the mine opponents had “any merit”.

If Adani gains freehold over the site, the W&J could not reclaim native title rights in the future, regardless of whether or not the controversial mine project goes ahead.

An ILUA is a critical step for Adani gaining finance, as leading global financiers do not fund resource projects without traditional owner consent. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/aug/17/indigenous-group-loses-bid-to-block-adanis-carmichael-coalmine>

Adani: Indigenous group loses bid to block Carmichael coalmine

AAP, The Guardian, 17/08/2018

The federal court has ruled in favour of Indian mining company Adani over a native title group seeking to block its Carmichael coal mine in Queensland's Galilee Basin.

Members of the Wangan and Jagalingou people have been fighting against the mining company, claiming they did not give permission for the \$16.5bn mine to go ahead.

In the federal court in Brisbane on Friday, Justice John Reeves ruled in favour of Adani and ordered the Indigenous group to pay the mining company's costs. ...

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/locals-lose-fight-against-adani-federal-court/3496597/>

Locals lose fight against Adani in Federal Court

Stuart Layt, Gladstone Observer, 18/08/2018

The Federal Court has ruled in favour of Indian mining giant Adani over a native title group seeking to block its Carmichael coal mine in Queensland's Galilee Basin. ...

In the federal court in Brisbane on Friday, Justice John Reeves ruled in favour of Adani, and ordered the indigenous group to pay the mining company's costs.

Wangan and Jagalingou representative Adrian Burragubba says it's a disappointing result.

"Our position has always been the same – that there has never been any free or informed consent with any agreement with Adani," Mr Burragubba said outside the court on Friday. ...

They have pleaded with the Queensland government to hold off on handing native title rights to Adani until they make a High Court challenge to the ruling.

"We don't want them to surrender Native Title in the area where the airstrip and the camp (for the mine) would be," Mr Burragubba said. ...

"Following today's decision we look forward to working with the state gov-

ernment and the traditional owners to finalise land tenure for the project," [Adani] said in a statement.

COAL ROCKS ON

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-08-12/australian-paper-to-burn-rubbish-for-power/10093676>

Australian Paper's plans to burn litter for power raise health concerns in Latrobe Valley

Nicole Asher, ABC, 12/08/2018

Kerbside rubbish from Melbourne's south-east suburbs will be used to power the country's biggest paper mill under an ambitious plan by Australian Paper.

The power plant, at Australian Paper's Maryvale mill in eastern Victoria, would be the state's first large-scale waste-to-energy project, burning 650,000 tonnes of kerbside rubbish every year. ...

Health outcomes in the surrounding Latrobe Valley lag behind other parts of the state, a legacy of decades of brown-coal power generation.

Life expectancy in the region is up to four years shorter than other parts of Victoria, according to the Victorian Department of Health's Regional Health Status Profiles report.

The Latrobe Valley Health Assembly's executive officer Ian Needham said the community wanted assurances the project would have no negative health impacts. ...

The mill is the state's biggest industrial user of natural gas for power, but that would be reduced by 60 per cent if supplemented by a waste-to-energy plant. Australian Paper wants the waste-to-energy plant running by 2023.

The project is awaiting Environment Protection Authority approval, and has been open for community consultation.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/sustainability/government-issues-sydney-s-first-coal-exploration-licence-since-1993-20180813-p4zx7a.html>

Government issues Sydney's first coal exploration licence since 1993

Peter Hannam, SMH, 13/08/2018

The Sydney basin faces the prospect of more coal mining after the Berejiklian government issued the first new exploration licence in the region in more than two decades, and extended several other licences.

South32's Endeavour Coal will ex-

plore for coal in a 4087-hectare region just north of Picton on Sydney's south-western edge ...

The last licence to be issued in the Sydney basin was in 1993. The government, though, has also applied to have three much larger exploration licences in the basin renewed after they expired, and has sought to have a fourth renewed before it expires next May.

Kate Smolski, chief executive of the NSW Nature Conservation Council, said "it beggars belief that the government has done this just one week after it declared the whole of NSW drought-affected".

"We need to be shutting coal mines, not opening new ones," she said. "Protecting our climate should be the government's top priority." ...



<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/aug/14/dirty-coal-health-fears-of-a-town-covered-in-dust-from-disused-power-station>

Dirty coal: health fears of a town covered in dust from disused power station

Adam Morton, The Guardian, 14/08/2018

For the residents living near the site of South Australia's demolished coal-fired power plant, the coming months could be their third straight summer of dust.

A flawed rehabilitation of an ash dam has led to potentially hazardous particles being blown across Port Augusta and its 14,000 residents for the last two years. ...

The community's concern is backed by public health organisation Doctors for the Environment, which has warned dust from the Port Augusta dam could be exacerbating longer-term health issues in the state's Upper Spencer Gulf linked to air pollution from heavy industry. ...

Doctors for the Environment cites government data that has found air pollution contributes to 3,000 deaths a year across the country. Research before the coal plants closed found increased incidence of childhood asthma and lung cancer in Port Augusta compared

with other South Australian towns.

Air pollution from coal-fired power generation across the country is estimated to cost at least \$2.6bn a year. Dr Shearman said it made coal a more expensive fuel than was acknowledged in some public and political discussion.

Port Augusta mayor Sam Johnson said the ash dam rehabilitation was largely ignored by state and federal governments and their agencies, leaving the council and a small residents group to push the case that more needed to be done. He is highly critical of the EPA. ...

<https://www.ntnews.com.au/news/northern-territory/land-council-says-epa-cannot-be-trusted-on-mine-assessment/news-story/1f80fb7eab8f927a4432b3420c31fc55>

Land council says EPA 'cannot be trusted' on mine assessment

Jason Walls, NT News, 13/08/2018

The Northern Land Council has slammed the NT Environment Protection Authority's endorsement of the McArthur River Mine's overburden management project, saying the regulator "cannot be trusted".

NLC chief executive Joe Morrison said the EPA's assessment that the project could avoid significant environmental impacts was not supported by its own report. ...

GAS, GAS, GAS

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/inquirer/brace-for-a-cold-shower-when-the-gas-goes-off/news-story/6ca8ef4f01f7fe99feb7356f85f6f601?login=1>

Brace for a cold shower when the gas goes off

John Ferguson, The Australian, 17/08/2018

Successive governments have capitulated to green and brown activism, where politicians, environmentalists, farmers and others combined to create a perfect storm of inaction on onshore gas production as offshore supplies were peaking.

The anti-fracking campaign was the firewood and green and brown political pressure the kerosene. ...

Labor, meanwhile, is maintaining its ban on onshore gas extraction, saying there is no production crisis.

"There is no shortage of gas in Victoria," Resources Minister Tim Pallas tells *The Australian*.

"We process twice as much gas as we consume but Malcolm Turnbull continues to allow too much of it to be exported, which is putting pressure on prices ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/explore-onshore-or-gas-costs-more-energy-lobby-warns/news-story/dbadda65a3136f4eba86053e980b9baf>

Explore onshore or gas costs more, energy lobby warns

John Ferguson, The Australian, 16/08/2018

Victorian and NSW energy consumers are at risk of a gas price crisis unless urgent action is taken to explore onshore resources, the nation's peak oil and gas body has warned.

Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association chief executive Malcolm Roberts has called on the Victorian government and Coalition to dump their opposition to fracking to offset dwindling offshore production. He has warned that the forecast sharp decline in offshore gas production in Victoria has exposed the biggest states to energy uncertainty, even though Queensland has the ability to underpin the market. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/matt-canavans-threat-to-gas-firms-use-the-licence-or-lose-it/news-story/dbd3e67bb3e47ecd35445aaa3b0a8e8>

Matt Canavan's threat to gas firms: use the licence or lose it

Matt Chambers, The Australian, 18/08/2018

Federal Resources Minister Matt Canavan has threatened to revoke Bass Strait gas field retention leases and force more reserves into production using the government's "use-it-or-lose-it" powers.

Senator Canavan yesterday said he had commissioned the National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator to review the value of offshore southeast Australian petroleum titles to see if some fields not being developed should be brought into production. ...

NUKE MADNESS

<https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/produce-would-be-grown-in-sa-nuclear-waste-facility-buffer-zone-to-prove-its-safe-for-consumption-senate-inquiry-says/news-story/773fd0247d8226da4fec5bbc5d6ce49>

Produce would be grown in SA nuclear waste facility buffer zone to prove it's safe for consumption, senate inquiry says

Jade Gailberger, The Advertiser, 14/08/2018

Grain and produce would be grown in the buffer zone of a national radioactive waste dump in South Australia to "reassure the community" that it is safe, a senate inquiry recommends. ...

It comes less than a week before 1600 residents of Flinders Ranges Council will vote on whether they support a low-level and intermediate-level waste

facility being built at Wallerberdina station, about 30km northwest of Hawker, at Barndioota. ...

Further recommendations handed down by the senate inquiry include:

- Intensifying efforts to fully engage with the indigenous stakeholders ...
- An independent valuation of the land to be acquired ...
- Submissions made during the consultation process be made public
- A policy evaluation of the first two phases of the site selection process for the facility by the Office of the Chief Economist.

<https://www.greenleft.org.au/content/south-australians-reject-proposed-nuclear-waste-dump>

South Australians reject proposed nuclear waste dump

Pascal Cannarozzo, Green Left, 16/08/2018

A nuclear waste facility site is on the cards for South Australia. The federal government has whittled down its list of potential sites to two communities: Hawker in the Flinders Ranges, and Kimba on the Eyre Peninsula.

But local populations, and the people of South Australia in general, have come out strongly against what they see as a natural disaster coming their way.

Local Indigenous communities have been leading the opposition.

Adnyamathanha Traditional Owner Regina McKenzie, a custodian of the Flinders Ranges site, has noted that the site is culturally significant.

McKenzie told NITV: "Just in this one spot where they want to put it it's got 14 different story lines going over it ... If they put this waste dump there, that's robbing us, that's cultural genocide." ...

<https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/barnjarla-people-seeking-supreme-court-injunction-to-halt-kimba-vote-on-nuclear-waste-facility/news-story/87afb1b5d47db75b415c402d9729fc1c>

Barnjarla People seeking Supreme Court injunction to halt Kimba vote on nuclear waste facility

Peter Jean & Jade Gailberger, The Advertiser, 14/08/2018

A vote by Kimba residents on whether they want a radioactive waste dump in the district is in jeopardy after an indigenous group sought an injunction to stop it.

The Barnjarla People on Tuesday applied for an urgent Supreme Court injunction to halt the Kimba vote.

The Hawker district will also vote. ...

The Barnjarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation will argue that native title-holders who live outside Kimba District Council boundaries should be entitled to vote.

The Barnjarla have more than 200 members, most of whom live outside the council's boundaries.

The group will argue that the ballot breaches the Racial Discrimination Act and that Kimba Council does not have the power to conduct the vote. ...

06 NEWS

Bid to halt vote on nuclear dump site

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-08-16/aboriginal-group-wins-injunction-to-halt-nuclear-ballot/10129292>

South Australian Aboriginal group wins injunction to halt nuclear ballot

Claire Campbell, ABC, 16/08/2016

A community vote on the proposed nuclear waste dump on South Australia's Eyre Peninsula has been delayed after an Aboriginal group won a court injunction.

Lawyers for the Aboriginal group argued the District Council of Kimba did not have the power to conduct the postal ballot, which was due to begin on Monday.

The Federal Government has shortlisted two sites near Kimba as possible locations for a low to medium-level radioactive waste storage facility, along with another site near Hawker in the Flinders Ranges ...

The lawyer representing the Barnjarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation, Daniel O'Gorman SC, told the court his clients had no issue with the vote going ahead, they just wanted to be included in it.

"That's all they want, they just want to be included, they don't want to be treated any differently because their

rights are Aboriginal rights," he said.

"There is no justification for excluding people on the basis of native title rights." ...

The vote of around 800 residents who live in Kimba will be delayed until after a full court hearing next Thursday.

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/gas-exploration-bans-on-the-nose-with-labor-voters/news-story/3396566e2daa833f744d23ae8ed91707>

Gas exploration bans on the nose with Labor voters

Geoff Chambers, *The Australian*, 13/08/2018

A majority of Labor voters has called on states and territories to open up gas development to drive down energy prices, with more than one in two Australians demanding that moratoriums on gas exploration be lifted.

In an exclusive Newspoll conducted for *The Australian* – compiling survey results based on 1607 interviews with voters – 55 per cent of Australians support scrapping restrictions on gas development.

The Newspoll results showed 51 per cent of Labor voters supported restrictions being lifted on gas exploration if it led to lower energy prices and only 36 per cent opposed removing moratoriums. ...

Energy Minister Josh Frydenberg yesterday called on the states to lift their moratoriums and support gas development, to help drive down energy prices.

"It's time the states lifted their mindless moratoriums and restrictions on gas development ... leaving Queensland to do all the heavy lifting," he said. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/paris-deal-spells-irreparable-damage-ipa-report/news-story/a991c82bde1a2e394b8882f390012336>

Paris deal spells 'irreparable damage': IPA report

Rachel Baxendale, *The Australian*, 13/08/2018

Sticking with the emissions reduction requirements of the Paris climate agreement will impose "significant and irreparable economic damage without delivering an environmental dividend".

A study by the Institute of Public Affairs, 'Why Australia must exit the Paris Climate Agreement', estimates our Paris target of reducing emissions to 26-28 per cent on 2005 levels by 2030 will impose a \$52 billion economic

cost between now and 2030, equating to \$8566 a family. ...

The IPA report contrasts with modelling from the Energy Security Board, which found the average household electricity bill would be \$550 lower each year through the 2020s under the NEG. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/energy-debate-tomago-aluminium-ceo-says-its-vital-to-keep-coal-plants-going/news-story/3407f7be71ddee94a6496df260ffe80>

Energy debate: Tomago Aluminium CEO says it's vital to keep coal plants going

Perry Williams, *The Australian*, 13/08/2018

The biggest single user of energy in Australia, Tomago Aluminium, says the nation's coal-fired power plants must be extended beyond their planned retirement age to help keep the national electricity grid stable, warning that renewables are ill-equipped to fill the void for industrial users. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/prime-minister-malcolm-turnbull-to-make-multibillion-dollar-pledge-to-build-new-coal-power-stations/news-story/4c105c72139df267bf2487bf234300fc>

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull to make multibillion-dollar pledge to build new coal power stations

Sheradyn Holderhead, *Daily Telegraph*, 13/08/2018

The Turnbull Government will underwrite multibillion-dollar investments to build new coal-fired power stations in a bid to lower energy prices for Aussie families.

This major financial contribution to build new power generation assets, which could be coal or gas, is also a sweetener from Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull to win the support of hostile Liberal MPs, like predecessor Tony Abbott, who have threatened to cross the floor on his signature energy policy, the National Energy Guarantee. ...

While the power stations will be built specifically for the use of the largest energy users in the country, it will help lower power prices, a senior Government source said.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/power-firm-eyeing-coal-plant-deal/news-story/eb92e93d89fd36386fa8942cd5e4f67>

Delta Electricity eyes coal plant deal

Joe Kelly & Simon Benson, *The Australian*, 14/08/2018

One of Australia's leading energy companies has flagged plans to enter a partnership with specialised Japanese or Chinese developers to build a



“clean-coal” power plant within five years if Malcolm Turnbull’s energy reform blueprint is implemented. ...

Trevor St Baker – chairman of Delta Electricity, which owns the Vales Point coal-fired power station in NSW – told *The Australian* he would push forward with plans for a “Hazelwood replacement” if the government’s energy framework was introduced.

“Alternatively we could bid in NSW for an 800MW HELE plant at Vales Point ... In NSW it’s critically needed before Liddell closes.”

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/high-gas-price-killing-industry-dow-chemical-warns/news-story/60e72bfb68e68d51f4b1904d390787b>

High gas price killing industry, Dow Chemical warns

Perry Williams, The Australian, 14/08/2018

The high cost of gas may force heavy industry to shut down and prolong suffering among consumers unless Australia frees up fresh gas supplies and adopts the national energy guarantee, Dow Chemical has warned.

Gas prices on Australia’s east coast have tripled in the past four years, according to the chemical giant ...

https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/national/2018/08/13/coal-power-plants-neg/?utm_source=Adestra&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=PM%20Update%2020180813

Government offer of new coal cash to ‘tame the beast’ in party room

New Daily, 13/08/2018

Coalition sources claim the government will spend billions of public money on new coal-fired power stations, as Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull tries to win support from his own MPs for his signature energy plan. ...

The drop did not seem to placate key backbencher Tony Abbott, who was

out on Monday morning (AEST) warning that Mr Turnbull’s National Energy Guarantee plan was “very, very dangerous” because it would impose a binding carbon emissions target. ...

“I have enormous concerns about anything that smacks of our country being dictated to, surrendering our sovereignty really, to the green bureaucrats of Paris,” Mr Abbott told 2GB radio.

Labor’s climate and energy spokesman, Mark Butler, said claims of taxpayer-funded coal plants were “extraordinary” and the Coalition needed to “get real”.

“I think we all understand what is happening here. Malcolm Turnbull is trying to tame the beast that is the hard-right of the Coalition party room led by Tony Abbott and Barnaby Joyce,” Mr Butler said. ...

“But this beast will not be tamed, and Malcolm Turnbull has to realise, if he is to have any chance of landing an energy policy that has broad political and industry support, he simply has to stop taking dictation from Tony Abbott and Barnaby Joyce.” ...

<https://johnmenadue.com/lesley-hughes-cognitive-diss-onance-in-the-big-dry/>

Cognitive Dissonance in the Big Dry

Lesley Hughes, Johnmenadue.com, 08/08/2018

Climate change is worsening the drought now affecting huge swathes of the continent, bringing gut-wrenching misery for farmers and the communities they support. And what have some of the parliamentary representatives of those regions been up to? They have been trying to convince the Japanese to invest in more coal-fired power generation in Australia. ...

We have been treated to the recent spectacle of a delegation of politicians to Japan, seeking investment in new coal-fired power stations. Among the group was the whip-cracking George Christensen, like a latter-day imperial emissary bearing letters from his Emperor, the Minister for Clinging-To-Coal-With-His-Fingernails Matt Canavan. The letters were to be hand-delivered to the heads of Japan Oil, the Gas and Metals National Corporation, and the director of the coal division of Japan’s Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

The Japan trip was funded by the Minerals Council-linked organisation Coal 21, which according to their website, is dedicated to building community confidence in Carbon Capture and

Storage (CCS) technology. Top of the list of excursions for the pollies was an inspection of the so called High Energy Low Emissions (HELE) Isogo Thermal Power Station in Yokohama, operated by J Power. Isogo has been lauded as the most advanced commercial coal-fired power station in the world.

So how “clean” is this plant? According to the company’s website, by using “ultra-super-critical” (USC) technology that operates at temperatures of 600 – 620oC, Isogo emits 17% less carbon dioxide than it did using the older technology. 17%! Is that the definition of “clean” these days? It’s like hiring someone to clean your house and being satisfied if they vacuum one bedroom and give the kitchen bench a bit of a wipe. ...

Setting aside the breathtaking irony of the use of the word “ideological” by this gang of five, it’s remarkable that they have such a poor grasp of simple economics. Bloomberg New Energy Finance research has found the cost of energy from a new HELE coal-fired power station would be more than double that of new wind or solar, with a build time of about 6-8 years. And despite hundreds of millions of taxpayers’ dollars that have been thrown at “clean coal” technology in Australia over the past two decades, no commercially viable project has been developed.

The woefully poor representation of farmers’ interests by the Nationals in particular, at least with respect to climate change impacts, has not been lost on their constituents. ...

• *Lesley Hughes is Distinguished Professor of Biology at Macquarie University and a Councillor with the Climate Council of Australia.*

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/mining-industry-in-promotional-push-targeting-school-students-20180723-p4zt36.html>

Mining industry in promotional push targeting school students

Nicole Hasham, SMH, 13/08/2018

Resources companies including Adani are targeting school students in a campaign to spruik the benefits of mining and recruit future workers, in a strategy some say risks pushing a biased agenda onto young minds.

The programs in primary and high schools include teacher training and free curriculum material, such as a fact sheet on mining and the environment that fails to mention climate change.

The resources sector says it is inform-

ing students and teachers about mining careers, encouraging the uptake of maths and science subjects and presenting a “balanced perspective” on mining. ...

The Queensland Resources Council in 2005 created the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy, which last year grew to involve more than 3000 students, some aged as young as 10. ...

Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal near Mackay has been accused of marketing coal to young children through its mascot Hector, a lump of coal with his own Youtube channel who offers advice on topics such as nutrition, bus safety and making new friends.

In NSW, the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue school tours program is offered to all schools in the region. About 1000 students are expected to visit mine sites this year. ...

Most Victorian schools, as well as state government-run science and mathematics centres, develop partnerships with industry and business such as the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, which supports the Earth Ed science centre near Ballarat. ...

Tom Swann, researcher at progressive think-tank the Australia Institute, said industry engagement with education brought risks as well as benefits.

“Think of a school that takes funding or teaching materials from a coal mining company. Is that school also going to teach its children about the need to keep most of the coal in the ground and transition quickly into other forms of energy?” Mr Swann said.

“It is essential ... that we do not allow education to become part of a public relations campaign.” ...

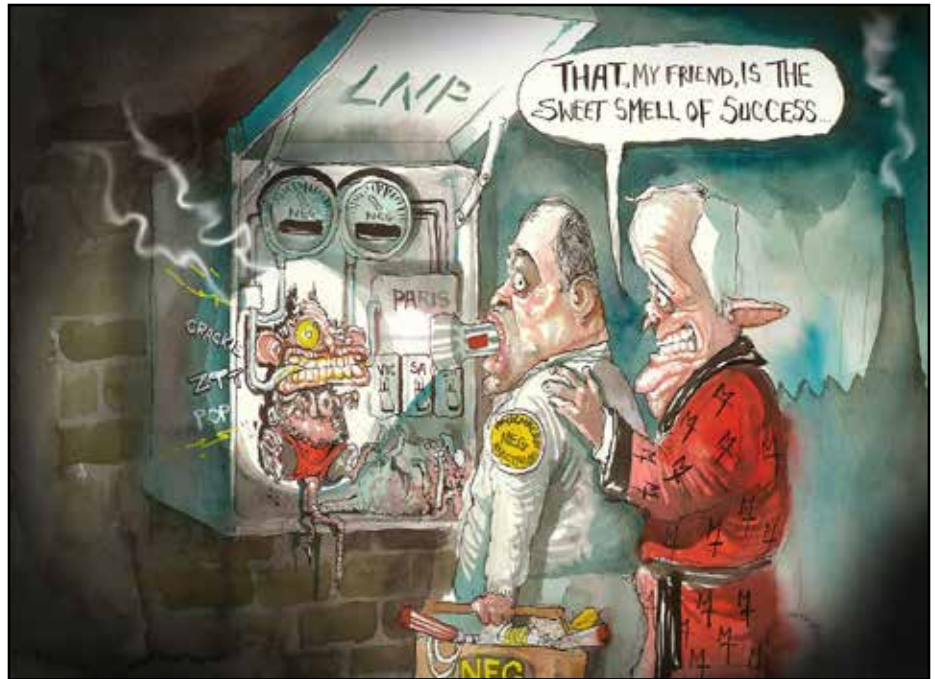
<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/business/queensland-is-set-for-a-royalties-windfall-as-it-opens-up-a-huge-slab-of-the-state-for-new-mines/news-story/19795f94113ff0119100042ca6b9ab2f>

Queensland is set for a royalties windfall as it opens up a huge slab of the state for new mines

Peter Gleeson, Courier-Mail, 15/08/2018

Queensland Treasury coffers will be boosted by at least \$1 billion a year off the back of new mining and coal royalties.

Tenders close Friday for the latest land offering, opening up a chunk of Central Queensland equivalent to the size of Tasmania. The extra gas and coal exploration windfall is on top of the \$4.5 billion in royalties the Government collected in the past financial year. ...



The NEG battle – cartoonist David Rowe’s illustration reproduced with permission – see his Facebook page for more thought-provoking work:

<https://www.facebook.com/david.rowe.5070>

The Palaszczuk Government has earmarked more than 62,000sq km of land for exploration, made up of 29 areas – double the next largest amount of land released under the program.

For coal explorers, the Government is releasing 10 areas covering 1140sq km of land in the Bowen and Eromanga basins. Nine of these areas are in the Bowen Basin, which contains almost all of the state’s metallurgical coal reserves. ...

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/to-hele-with-emissions-turnbull-embraces-new-baseload-coal-73606/>

To HELE with emissions, Turnbull embraces new “baseload coal”

Sophie Vorrath, Renew Economy, 14/08/2018

Malcolm Turnbull has endorsed plans for the construction of new coal-fired power plant in Australia, telling reporters after the party-room vote on his proposed National Energy Guarantee that his government welcomed any and all investment in new power generation. ...

Never mind that almost everyone with any skin in the energy game – including Energy Security Board chair Kerry Schott – says building new coal generators in Australia just won’t happen.

They say this not only because no one in their right mind (or in the absence of government funding) would invest in such an outdated and expensive generation source, but also because doing so would be madness – econom-

ic and environmental – in the current carbon-restrained climate. ...

<https://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/opinion/government-must-focus-on-lowering-prices-in-any-energy-guarantee-tony-abbott/news-story/dda09aa35fd96b79a9a00bceb702def>

Government must focus on lowering prices in any energy guarantee: Tony Abbott

Tony Abbott, Daily Telegraph, 17/08/2018

Ask people what they want from energy policy and the answer, overwhelmingly, is lower power bills. ...

That’s exactly what the so-called National Energy Guarantee does NOT do. ...

First, because old coal is the cheapest power available, let’s keep the Liddell Power Station open by using competition law to stop anti-competitive conduct. ...

Second, let’s end all the consumer subsidies for new intermittent power – because if the barrackers are right and it’s cheapest, they don’t need subsidies anyway. ...

Third, require retailers to offer their best price to domestic consumers and end the loyalty tax on customers, especially pensioners, who can’t shop around.

Fourth, escalate the fight with the states over their bans on gas exploration and extraction. ...

Fifth, require all new renewable gener-

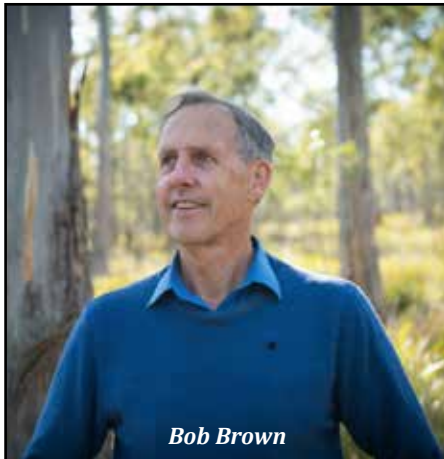
News this week ... from previous page

ators to provide 24/7 power. ...

Sixth, end the legal ban on nuclear power.

Seventh, accept the ACCC's recommendation four for the government to underwrite new baseload power at a competitive price. ...

• *Tony Abbott is federal member for Warringah*



Bob Brown

<https://www.theage.com.au/politics/federal/the-costs-of-climate-change-will-hit-everyone-s-hip-pocket-20180816-p4zxx3.html>

The costs of climate change will hit everyone's hip pocket

Bob Brown, The Age, 18/08/2018

The NEG.

NEG is for "negligible" if not "negligent" action in this age of hotting Earth.

NEG doesn't encourage investment in renewables. It doesn't cut coal pollution. It doesn't reduce power bills. It can't be easily changed. And the final design hasn't been settled by the Coalition party room where more handouts for coral-killing coal are in the offing.

Labor, like the Greens, should dump it. ...

Until it accounts for the externalities of global heating, like the cost of worse bushfires and the cost of the Great Barrier Reef being half dead, talk of prices going down are economically fraudulent. The costs of rising sea levels damaging Australian infrastructure near coasts, of the drying out of the Murray-Darling food bowl, of the loss of biodiversity, and of death-dealing heat-waves in our cities, will hit everyone's pocket - from rising insurance premiums to the direct impacts on households, business and government. ...

In his book *Adani and the War on Coal*,

Quentin Beresford ties in such inaction with the lack of a federal watchdog on corruption. "The lack of concerted national response to the issue of corruption shows just how cosy the system has become in servicing corporate interests, of which the fossil fuel industry has become the most powerful."

Whatever the case, this government is proposing to allow Gautam Adani to build the world's biggest export coal mine which would produce 2.3 billion tonnes of coal over 60 years and 4.7 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide. The annual emissions of Adani coal would be greater than those of medium-sized countries like Malaysia.

NEG doesn't do anything about that either.

• *Bob Brown is a former leader of the Australian Greens.*

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/aug/18/nationals-call-for-more-coal-fired-power-plants-at-party-meeting>

Nationals call for more coal-fired power plants at party meeting

AAP, The Guardian, 18/08/2018

The Nationals have urged the federal government to support new coal-fired power plants and lift the ban on nuclear energy.

The party's federal council in Canberra on Saturday passed a motion calling on the government to back building high-energy, low-emissions power stations to provide reliable and affordable power.

A separate proposal from the Young Nationals urging federal and state governments to abolish rules stopping nuclear power plants being built and uranium mining also succeeded. ...

The resources minister, Matt Canavan, reinforced the case for coal, as conservative backbenchers agitated for its use to drive down power bills.

"I don't want to live in a nation where we just export our energy to the rest of the world to help their development, jobs and pensioners," he told the Nationals council.

"We need to use some of that here and we don't think it's a sin to do so." ...



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