



Fossil Fool Bulletin

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

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

FFB 1:48 • 30 OCTOBER 2018

New Hope dumps Colton coal mine plan

The Fraser Coast community has cautiously welcomed the announcement that the value of the proposed Colton coal mine has been written down by New Hope Coal and the company is now re-considering the future of the project.

The proposed coking coal mine near Maryborough planned to dump untreated mine waste in the Mary River, threatening the nationally significant Great Sandy Strait near the World Heritage-listed Fraser Island.

Royal visitors highlight values

Veteran environmental campaigner for the region, John Sinclair, said the recent visit by Royal couple Prince Harry and Meghan Markle to Fraser Island demonstrated how important it was that the environmental values of the region were not compromised.

“This beautiful region has just been broadcast to the world, and it is reassuring to know that development of the Colton mine is now on the backburner and our environment is safe for now,” he said.

“Now is the time to ensure it is permanently safeguarded for the thousands of people who will now no doubt want to visit.

“The move by New Hope to reconsider the project reminds us that coal mining is a boom bust industry that can’t be relied on.

“This mine should never go ahead because the planned waste water discharge into the nearby Mary River will undoubtedly pollute the magnificent estuarine system”.

Mr Sinclair said the Qld Government should now proceed quickly with



New Hope Coal planned to dump untreated mine waste in Great Sandy Strait, near Fraser Island. Photo: Lock the Gate

World Heritage listing for the Great Sandy Strait and rule out any mining because it is simply not compatible with the qualities of the region.

Call to relinquish mining licences

Sue Linforth, from local group Aldershot And District Against Mining, called for New Hope to relinquish the mining licences so the community can get on with promoting and supporting the environmental and tourism values of the region.

“The coal dust and industrial noise from the mine would have created serious hazards for Aldershot residents, so we can breathe a sigh of relief for the moment,” she said.

“My husband Brian worked for many years to stop this dangerous mine, even as he fought his own battle with cancer, and it is a testament to his determination that the project has still not progressed any further past the approval phase.

“New Hope coal should show some respect to our local community now and relinquish this project fully and let it fade into history – we don’t want this sold on to another company who then plunge us back into uncertainty.”

The region is also a target of oil and gas exploration by Blue Energy. The company believes coal seam gas and shale gas lie beneath farmland (see FFB 1.46, page 3).

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• P 2: Sth Australia
frack moratorium

• P 3: Climate and coal
key Wentworth issues

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SA passes fracking moratorium

The South Australian Upper House has passed the 10 year fracking moratorium in the South East of South Australia into law, effective in 14 days.

The fracking moratorium follows a lengthy and sustained grassroots campaign from communities in the South East.

Angus Ralton, chairperson of the Limestone Coast Protection Alliance, said "This is a well deserved outcome for the community that has fought so hard.

"This was a long, hard fought battle and we are deeply appreciative of our local independent MP Troy Bell for moving this Bill and to Nick McBride for getting the Libs on board.

"Mark Parnell and fellow Greens in the Upper House as well as SA Best were equally pivotal in getting this Bill through.

"The Bill might never have made it to the floor without the heads of the primary agricultural bodies and local health professionals, who also pledged their public support in the lead up to tabling the Bill.

"While the community is very happy with this result, gasfields are still a threat to our region and the fight continues.

"Conventional gas is being actively pursued in the South East and we are very concerned that conventional gas exploration will begin to march across our landscape, with three wells scheduled to be drilled this December or January and the threat of more wells in the coming year."

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Friends of Felton

How a small farming community stood up to Big Coal and won

The story of the successful community campaign to stop Ambre Energy's coal-to-liquids operation at Felton, on Queensland's Darling Downs.



On sale via the facebook page:

Rob McCreath author (S21 + P&P).

<https://www.facebook.com/mccreathrob/>

Climate and coal key issues in by-election

The interim results of an exit poll of 1049 respondents in Wentworth, commissioned by the Australia Institute, and undertaken by Lonergan Research, shows the Liberal primary vote collapsed primarily as a result of the community's concern about the government's support for coal and inaction on climate change.

"Prime Minister Scott Morrison once brought a lump of coal into Parliament, but his government's climate-wrecking, anti-science stance has gone down like a lead balloon with the voters of Wentworth," said Ebony Bennett, Deputy Director of The Australia Institute.

Key preliminary results:

- Climate change and replacing coal with renewable energy was the biggest single issue motivating voters in Wentworth - 78% of voters said it had at least some influence on their vote. Half (47%) said it had a lot of influence

on their vote and 33% named it as the most important issue

- Climate change was the number one issue for Kerry Phelps voters, with 42% naming climate change as their biggest issue.
- Amongst ex-Liberal voters who voted for Phelps, climate change was the second-biggest issue (28%) behind Turnbull's toppling (44%), but 81% of those voters said climate change and getting out of coal had at least some influence on how they voted.

"The Wentworth by-election was a referendum on climate change action and it's clear now that voters are willing to punish the government at the ballot box for their love of coal.

"The surge of support for Kerry Phelps shows the community campaign to Stop Adani is biting, even in the safest of safe Liberal seats," said Bennett.

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Dramatic increases on extreme heat forecast for Roma region

The number of days over 40 degrees could increase almost tenfold in the Roma region by 2050 in the absence of strong policy response to climate change, according to new research from The Australia Institute.

The analysis is based on Bureau of Meteorology data and CSIRO climate projections.

The Australia Institute's HeatWatch initiative shows that days over 40 degrees in Roma could increase from historic levels of 4 days per year to up to 20 days by 2030 and continue to rise to as many as 80 days per year by 2090.

The report also finds a dramatic increase in overnight temperatures. Minimum overnight temperatures above 25 degrees are projected to rise from historic levels of around 3 nights per year to up to 60 nights per year towards the end of the century. Nights with minimums over 25 degrees are considered extreme and damaging to human health.

"Increases in extreme heat can cause serious illness including heat stroke, organ damage especially to the heart, which can be fatal," says Melissa Haswell, public health expert & Professor

from Queensland University of Technology.

"Our ability to acclimatise to heat extremes is limited, and the level of increases being projected for Roma as a result of global warming is very concerning."

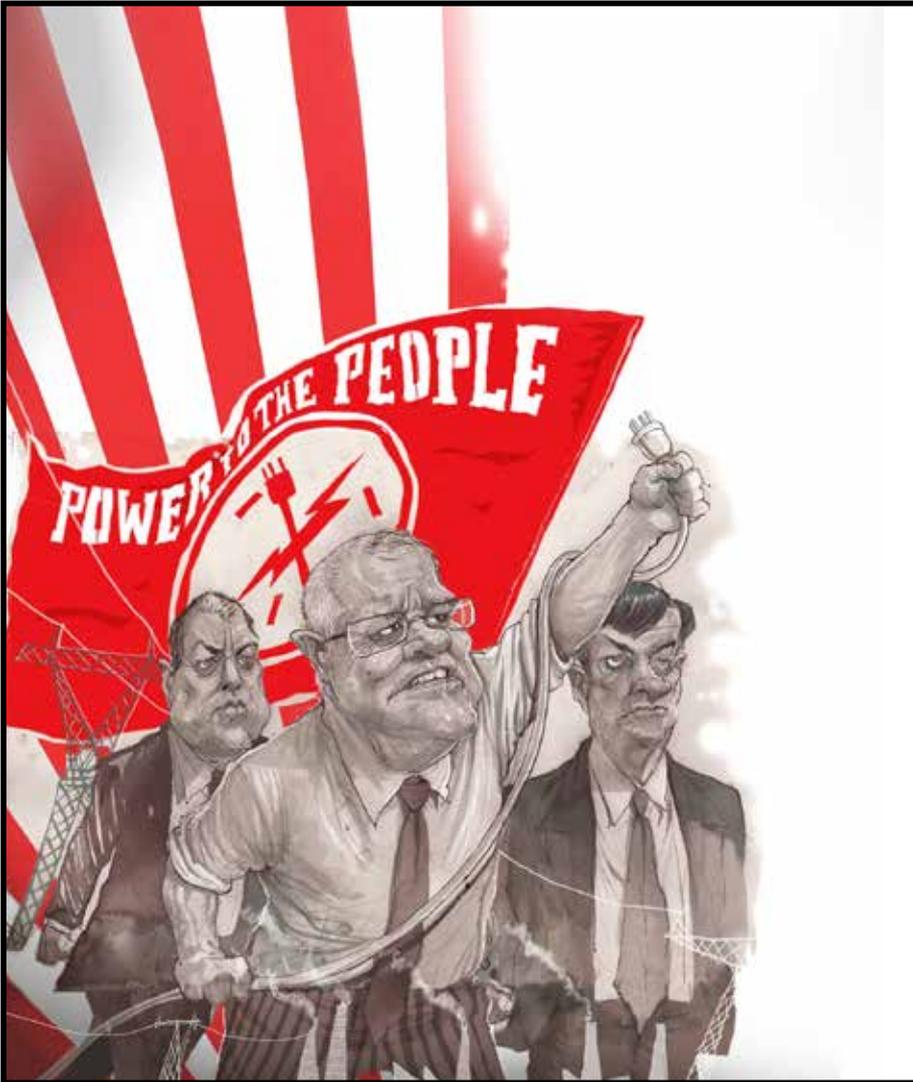
"Farming is by far the biggest employer in the region. These kinds of temperature rises would be devastating for agriculture and the well-being of our community," says Bloss Hickson, local Rolleston farmer.

"If emissions continue to rise, it will have a devastating impact on the region," says Mark Ogge, Principal Advisor at The Australia Institute and author of the report.

"The great news is that it is not inevitable. We know that if we reduce emissions these increases in extreme heat can be for the most part avoided.

"Better still, strong climate policies would also create huge economic opportunities for such a solar rich region. There are also enormous opportunities to sequester carbon. We can do our bit to help solve the problem and create jobs at the same time."

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

Fossil Fool Bulletin has had a bereavement

FFB Editor/Publisher Eve Sinton's partner, Winston La Galle, passed away last week.

Winston, a retired Army officer and Vietnam veteran, had been ill with a neuro-degenerative disease for five years. He was in the care of a nursing home for the last three years. Now he is free. Winston was aged 77.

FFB has had to put aside some developing stories in the last couple of weeks, but still produced a news round-up.

If your messages weren't returned or anything slipped through the cracks, apologies.

Business as usual will resume shortly.



A young Captain Winston La Galle in Vietnam, 1967.

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Inside the news

Chevron, along with oil and gas lobby group **APPEA**, wants to hide carbon emissions data from liquid natural gas (**LNG**) plants. Chevron's **Gorgon** plant is Australia's biggest carbon emitter outside of electricity generation, and claims it is competitively **disadvantaged** by publication of the data (p6). A government report shows the growth of the LNG industry is off-setting declines in carbon from the electricity industry.

Nuclear opportunists like the **Energy Policy Institute of Australia** (EPIA), and Australian Conservatives Senator **Cory Bernardi**, are using the climate war to push for nuclear power (p7). EPIA wants a legislative ban on the industry overturned, while Bernardi pictures the Eyre Peninsula blossoming with **nuke-powered** desalinated water. Bernardi doesn't believe in climate change action, he just wants a nuke power station anyway.

AGL's spin doctor, **Kelly Parkinson**, launched into print on the Mornington Peninsula with a **propaganda** piece on the proposed **Crib Point** gas import terminal (p6). He assured **angry residents** it would hardly affect the environment, blah, blah.

Liam McLoughlin's "**Shitlist**" list of 123 things the **Coalition** has done to damage the environment, published in *New Matilda* (p8) is worth a click-through to read, especially if you want to feel **angry**.

Kevin Rudd argues that control of Parliament isn't sufficient to hold power in Australia. Rudd claims that a government must also enjoy the support of **Rupert Murdoch's** media group, or the **mining industry**, or both (p8).

A *Guardian Australia* article notes that current **Coalition energy** policy appeared **Taylored** (sorry for the pun) to benefit the interests of **Sunset Power** – owned by **Brian Flannery** and former National party candidate and LNP donor **Trevor St Baker** (p9).

Climate breakdown is an imminent **threat to humanity**, and now there's a call for a **fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty**, based on the 50-year-old nuclear non-proliferation treaty. Sounds like an excellent move (p10)!

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In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 22,000 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.afr.com/business/aurizon-names-adani-in-supreme-court-lawsuit-against-regulator-qca-20181017-h16rjl>

Aurizon names Adani in Supreme Court lawsuit against regulator QCA

Jenny Wiggins, AFR, 21/10/2018

Former Queensland Competition Authority chairman Roy Green was aware the Port of Newcastle was worried about the impact Adani's new Carmichael mine would have on coal export prices when he oversaw a draft ruling on Aurizon's rail networks business, the rail company has alleged in a lawsuit. ...

Hearings on the lawsuit brought by Aurizon against its regulator, which alleges there was "apprehended bias" by Mr Green when the QCA made its draft ruling in 2017, start in the Queensland Supreme Court on Monday. ...



Congratulations, Adani, for some good energy! The company's first Australian solar farm was completed last week. So who needs your dirty Carmichael coal mine?

Photo: Adani Australia, Facebook

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/adani-set-to-open-huge-queensland-solar-farm/news-story/d7a3b1add-e89a422d77a83fc376bd61>

Adani set to open huge Queensland solar farm

Glen Norris, Courier-Mail, 26/10/2018

The company behind Australia's most controversial coal mining project has put the finishing touches to a huge solar farm capable of powering 23,000 homes each year.

Adani Renewables Australia yesterday completed construction of its \$100 million, 65-megawatt Rugby Run solar project near Moranbah in central Queensland. ...

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/agls-loy-yang-a-brown-coal-power-station-may-close-early/news-story/38c8b7e13de486d5e57b13c9c575811e>

AGL's Loy Yang A brown coal power station may close early

Matt Chambers, The Australian, 23/10/2018

AGL Energy could close the big Loy Yang A brown coal power station in Victoria – the east coast's lowest-cost baseload generator – 10 years earlier than its stated 2048 end of life if power markets next decade don't justify big expenditure on the plant to keep it going. ...

AGL is in the middle of a \$900 million spend over six years on the plant and the associated giant coal mine on its site, preparing it to run until 2038. ...

This includes refurbishing generators and turbines.

Loy Yang A's 2048 closure plan makes AGL likely to be the last of the "big three" generator/retailers (the other two are Origin and EnergyAustralia) to exit coal.

All three have said they will not invest in new plants when current plants reach the end of their lives.

Origin plans to close its Eraring plant in NSW in the early 2030s, while EnergyAustralia plans to close its Yallourn plant in Victoria in 2032 and its Mount Piper plant in NSW in 2042. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/we-fiddle-our-coal-burns-across-the-globe/news-story/005e53952c58ac-b6e9402efb4ff7b4cc>

We fiddle, our coal burns across the globe

John Williams, The Australian, 23/10/2018

Debate about coal-fired electricity and climate change has heated up recently with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's latest report and people such as former Liberal leader John Hewson entering the debate on the side of renewables.

Take a look at the facts: Australia has 22 operating coal-fired generating plants of at least 30 megawatts capacity producing 128 million tonnes of CO2 annually, with no plans to construct any more. ...

Facts don't lie – between 2016 and last year coal-fired generation in the Asia-Pacific region increased by 330 terawatt hours, contributing 66 per cent to increased electricity supply. That is the equivalent of 33 Hazelwoods. These power plants will burn coal, so the options are: do they burn the cleaner, more efficient, higher-energy coal from Australia or do they burn the second-rate, poorer quality coal from overseas that will put more CO2 emissions into the atmosphere?

This is the crazy scenario we are facing. Coal-fired power generators are being built around the world, but how many are being built in Australia? None. And worse still, we are actually shutting them down. ...

• John Williams is a Nationals senator for NSW.

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

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/oct/26/spain-to-close-most-coal-mines-after-striking-250m-deal>

Spain to close most coalmines in €250m transition deal

Arthur Neslen, *The Guardian*, 27/10/2018

Spain is to shut down most of its coalmines by the end of the year after government and unions struck a deal that will mean €250m (£221m) will be invested in mining regions over the next decade.

Pedro Sánchez's new leftwing administration has moved quickly on environmental policy, abolishing a controversial "sunshine tax" on the solar industry, and announcing the launch of Spain's long-delayed national climate plan next month.

Unions hailed the mining deal – which covers Spain's privately owned pits – as a model agreement. It mixes early retirement schemes for miners over 48, with environmental restoration work in pit communities and re-skilling schemes for cutting-edge green industries. ...

About 600 workers in Spain's northern mining regions – Asturias, Aragón, and Castilla y León – are set to benefit from social aid under the scheme, while about 60% of the miners will be able to opt for early retirement. ...

GAS, GAS, GAS

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/yes-there-are-limits-to-being-an-oil-superpower/news-story/702919b-9b2cc0b930b5129b1a9f37a7a>

Yes, there are limits to being an oil superpower

The Economist, 21/10/2018

The history of America's shale industry is brief and dramatic.

In just a decade the country has seen the spread of innovative techniques to extract oil and gas locked inside shale rock; the lifting of a decades-long ban on crude exports; a price crash that seemed to decimate the industry – and now a price recovery. ...

Extracting oil from shale has become more efficient since 2014: the median break-even price for producing a barrel is \$US46 (\$64). But costs are rising. Executives complain about a long-term labour shortage.

Productivity gains in some regions are slowing as wells are drilled closer together. To blast more oil out of rock, companies are now using eye-popping amounts of water and sand.

For a single well, hydraulic fracturing



The 300-metre Pacific Breeze LNG carrier was purpose-built to service the Ichthys Inpex project off Darwin. Photo: Chris Houghton MarineTraffic.com

(fracking) can involve a total of nearly 65 million litres of water, the volume of 25 Olympic swimming pools. That creates logistical and environmental demands. ...

<https://www.ntnews.com.au/business/first-shipment-of-inpex-gas-leaves-darwin-harbour/news-story/601dc92b-02f5ae6d074a093cf4c4db36c>

First shipment of Inpex gas leaves Darwin Harbour

Matt Cunningham, *Sky News*, 23/10/2018

The first shipment of gas from Inpex's Ichthys LNG plant was due to depart Darwin last night, marking a major milestone for the \$54 billion project.

More than six-and-a-half years after Inpex made its final investment decision to process gas from the Ichthys field – off the Western Australian coast – in Darwin, the vessel the Pacific Breeze was expected to depart Darwin Harbour last night for Japan. ...

The purpose-built Pacific Breeze sailed into Darwin earlier this month ready to make the first shipment of LNG to Japan.

At 300m long and 52m in breadth it is the largest LNG carrier to have entered Darwin Harbour and the largest Moss Rosenberg LNG carrier in the world. ...

<https://thewest.com.au/business/energy/ichthys-ships-first-lng-from-darwin-ng-b88999425z>

Inpex ships first Ichthys LNG from Darwin

Peter Milne, *West Australian*, 23/10/2018

The Ichthys LNG project in Darwin has shipped its first LNG cargo, ending a \$US40 billion six-and-a-half-year journey for Japan's Inpex.

The LNG carrier Pacific Breeze left Darwin overnight bound for an LNG terminal in Niigata Prefecture, Japan. ...

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/apa-shelves-project-after-public-resistance.12025>

APA shelves project after public resistance

Johanna Evans, *Independent Australia*, 24/10/2018

The Australian Pipeline Association (APA) has appeared to shelve their proposal for the high-pressure Western Slopes CSG Pipeline ahead of their upcoming AGM to be held in Sydney on 25 October 2018. The 460km coal seam gas pipeline (also known as "the head of the snake") will link the Santos Narrabri Gas Project (NGP) to the Moomba/Sydney bi-directional pipeline that takes gas to the Curtis Island LNG plant for export. ...

It's common knowledge that the proposed Santos gasfield in the Pilliga forest has no social licence and a recent survey shows that more than 50 per cent of residents surveyed in Narrabri are opposed. An analysis of local government areas surrounding the project shows the opposition is widespread. ...

Despite these setbacks for APA and the seeming hibernation of the snake, the community will remain vigilant. ...

<https://www.hydrocarbons-technology.com/news/farmers-launch-protest-sydney-apa-groups-wsp-pipeline/>

Farmers launch protest in Sydney against APA Group's WSP pipeline

Hydrocarbons Technology, 25/10/2018

Farmers in New South Wales (NSW) have assembled in Sydney, Australia, to protest against the proposed construction of a pipeline by APA Group from Santos's Narrabri coal seam gas (CSG) project in the Pilliga Forest to the existing Moomba to Sydney pipeline. ...

Coonamble farmer Simon Fagan said: "Our community is united in opposition to the APA Group pipeline and to

any infrastructure or activity related to coal seam gas. We have passed unanimous motions declaring our intention to block the pipeline at any cost.

“We’re in the grip of drought and really battling to keep afloat. In this day and age, it’s utter madness to push forward with fossil fuel projects that risk our most precious resources, our water. We demand that APA Group drop the Pilliga gas pipeline.” ...

Gamilaraay traditional custodian Raymond Weatherall noted that the pipeline route covers an area, which contains heritage sites. ...

https://www.nvi.com.au/story/5719457/crony-capitalism-santos-granted-another-1000-days-royalty-free/?fbclid=IwAR2wt-mybz7yvk9_Azd2ulCVP07Pm1TMMYWOsjtz9bSTlpKYBJ98xKg3L8

Narrabri coal seam gas: Santos granted another 1000 days royalty free for exploration wells

NVI, 24/10/2018

Santos has been given a further 1000 day royalty-free handout for coal seam gas extraction in Narrabri.

The Coalition and Labor Party voted on Tuesday to grant another 1000 days of royalty-free exploration to the gas giant for 17 wells at its Wilga Park Power Station.

Greens’ MP Jeremy Buckingham’s disallowance motion for what he calls a ‘royalty-free holiday’ was shot down in parliament. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/markets/forget-tesla-oil-faces-a-much-bigger-threat-20181024-p50bjg.html>

Forget Tesla: Oil faces a much bigger threat

Liam Denning, SMH, 24/10/2018

A friend and energy expert recently asked: What’s the bigger threat to the oil industry, electric vehicles or renewable energy?

My answer ... was that the real challenge is something more amorphous, but bigger: aversion. ...

That aversion has a powerful and implacable impetus: the existential threat of climate change. The latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was a reminder that what has been implicitly treated as our descendants’ problem (a morally indefensible position anyway) requires urgent action now. ...

It’s a loss of hearts and minds that challenges energy’s incumbents. Renewable energy and electric vehicles are just tools enabling that to happen.



The Gorgon LNG plant wants to hide its carbon emission figures. Photo: Chevron

<https://thewest.com.au/business/energy/restrictions-wanted-on-lng-carbon-emissions-data-ng-b88994711z>

Restrictions wanted on LNG carbon emissions data

Peter Milne, West Australian, 24/10/2018

The Australian oil and gas lobby and Chevron want to make it easier to stop the Federal Government disclosing the carbon emissions of Australian LNG plants.

Currently, the Clean Energy Regulator publishes the carbon emissions of all facilities in Australia that emit more than the equivalent of 100,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year.

Operators of facilities can apply for the information to be withheld if disclosure would diminish the commercial value of the information or reveal a trade secret.

In a submission to a Climate Change Authority review of greenhouse gas reporting, oil and gas lobby group APPEA described this as an “inappropriately high benchmark”.

It called for LNG plants to be able to apply for their emissions to be withheld from the public to avoid offering LNG producers in other countries a “distinct competitive advantage”.

The Chevron submission made a similar request.

Both APPEA and Chevron were asked for an example of how the publication of an LNG plant’s greenhouse gas emissions could put it at a commercial disadvantage.

An APPEA spokesman said such an example in itself was too commercially sensitive to disclose.

Chevron did not respond to the request. ...

The latest facility-level emissions data, for the year ending June 2017, showed seven LNG plants in the top 20 carbon emitters outside the power generation sector.

In total, they produced more than 24.3 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent.

A Federal Government report, Australia’s Emissions Projections 2017, released in December, stated that the biggest emissions growth to 2020 would come from gas burnt at LNG plants.

This would largely offset reduced emissions from power generation.

IMPORT INSANITY

<http://mpnews.com.au/2018/10/23/supply-concerns-drive-gas-import-urgency/>

Supply concerns drive gas import ‘urgency’

Kelly Parkinson, Mornington Peninsula News, 23/10/2018

AGL’s Crib Point gas import jetty aims to help bring more affordable gas to Victoria, in a safe and environmentally responsible way.

From the start, we’ve been clear. We will follow all assessment requirements that are asked of us by the Victorian government and all regulatory bodies. ...

As with all AGL projects, we take community consultation seriously.

Since announcing Crib Point as the preferred site we’ve undertaken extensive consultation with the local community, which has included 26 public meetings.

We know from these meetings that one overriding concern is about the potential marine impacts from the

regasification process – using seawater to warm the very cold LNG. ...

We fully recognise these concerns and the strongly held views about the unique environmental significance of Western Port.

The community have also made their concerns known to the government and they have been successful in making sure they are now assessed independently through an environmental effects statement (EES) process.

• *Kelly Parkinson is AGL's senior manager, project engagement*

NUKE MADNESS

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/research-paper-pushes-nuclear-powers-emissions-free-case/news-story/0eccd5d87c6068083f2c07fad-b4a580c>

Research paper pushes nuclear power's emissions-free case

Graham Lloyd, The Australian, 21/10/2018

Nuclear power was likely viable in Australia and could become the lowest-cost, emissions-free generation source, a research paper by the pro-nuclear Energy Policy Institute of Australia says. ...

The EPIA said it would take about 10 years for nuclear power to be operational in Australia.

The first step would be lifting a legislative prohibition, which should be done with bipartisan support, the institute said. ...

Renewable energy supporters claim dramatic falls in the cost of wind and solar make them the cheapest option. But the EPIA said nuclear energy could be cost-competitive when all factors were taken into account. ...

There are 451 reactors now operating in 30 countries, generating 11 per cent of the world's electricity. Another 50 reactors are under construction in China, India, Japan, Pakistan, South Korea, Bangladesh and the UAE.

<https://independentaustralia.net/business/business-display/the-60-minutes-fukushima-nuclear-infomercial.12023>

The 60 Minute Fukushima infomercial

Noel Wauchope, Independent Australia, 23/10/2018

A recent 60 Minutes program on nuclear power was nothing other than an infomercial for the pro-nuclear lobby, advocating for an open slather nuclear industry as "essential" to combat climate change ...

The main message of this program is

a call to scrap Australia's legislation against establishing the nuclear industry. ...

On the anti-nuclear side, the program included brief minutes with CEO of Greenpeace Australia David Ritter. He was ... unconvincing, with his bald statements opposing nuclear but no facts or references given. Perhaps they gave him only very limited time on purpose?

On the pro-nuclear side, surprise surprise! We heard from Australia's foremost nuclear propagandist Ben Heard and the UK's top nuclear propagandist Geraldine Thomas.

Ben Heard runs a pseudo-environmental website and consults for "new nuclear" company, Terrestrial Energy. He also works for the Australian branch of Frazer Nash, UK nuclear consulting company. Friends of the Earth have detailed and comprehensively debunked Heard's Australian propaganda.

Geraldine Thomas is well known for her videos and articles promoting the nuclear industry. She's the UK's "go-to" person for propaganda. ...

<https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/nuclear-scientists-suggest-reactor-to-power-desalination-plant-for-eyre-peninsula-farming-water/news-story/2b24db19891c4b8e11ae13e1b3469d61>

Nuclear scientists suggest reactor to power desalination plant for Eyre Peninsula farming water

Peter Jean, The Advertiser, 23/10/2018

An Eyre Peninsula nuclear power plant could provide the state with cheap electricity and support a desalination plant which would supply water to a new agricultural irrigation scheme, new analysis shows.

Nuclear scientists, from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the US, have prepared a "white paper" analysis for Australian Conservatives Senator Cory Bernardi on possible South Australian involvement with the nuclear fuel cycle. Senator Bernardi will release the paper on Wednesday for community discussion. ...

Senator Bernardi has introduced a bill into the federal Parliament to repeal the national ban on nuclear power plants in Australia. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-24/contamination-scare-at-australias-lucas-heights-nuclear-reactor/10422476>

Lucas Heights nuclear reactor in another contamination scare amid calls for safety review

John Stewart & Rebecca Trigger, ABC, 24/10/2018

There has been another contamination scare at Australia's only nuclear reactor in southern Sydney, in the same week a report was released recommending immediate action to review safety procedures at the site.

The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) confirmed five workers reported receiving a dose of radiation ...

The scare came in the same week as a report into the ageing facility found it failed modern nuclear safety standards, and needed to be replaced, after another worker was exposed to radioactive material last year. ...

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/labor-gas-policy-a-multibillion-dollar-hand-brake-on-producers/news-story/568b1d916227e9e1dc-460497c6da7e05>

Labor gas policy a multi-billion dollar handbrake on producers

Amos Aikman, The Australian, 21/10/2018

Gas producers and industrial players may pay billions of dollars annually under new Labor climate policies aimed at offsetting a forecast tripling of emissions once the Northern Territory's onshore gas industry ramps up. ...

Calculations based on government data and endorsed by senior figures within the NT bureaucracy show the cost of offsetting the NT's higher emissions could exceed \$4.5 billion in 2026, or about 10 per cent of gross state product in that year.

There are fears delays and uncertainty could damage the onshore gas industry before it gets started. The silver lining in Labor's plan is it might boost remote economies by creating new opportunities for Aboriginal rangers to do carbon farming. ...

https://reneweconomy.com.au/wentworth-wipe-out-wont-shift-coalition-idiocy-on-climate-and-energy-47342/?utm_source=RE+Daily+Newsletter&utm_campaign=6f24284447-EMAIL_CAM_PAIGN_2018_10_22_12_17&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_46a1943223-6f24284447-40461137

Wentworth wipe-out won't shift Coalition idiocy on climate and energy

Giles Parkinson, RenewEconomy, 21/10/2018

The breath-taking incompetence of the Coalition government – and the Mor-

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 with your comments & tips

riation chapter in particular – makes it difficult to be sure of attributing its assumed yet stunning loss of the seat of Wentworth on one particular issue. ...

But what we do know is this – for the second time in as many months, a long-standing Coalition seat has been lost to an independent candidate campaigning strongly on climate change and energy. ...

Certainly, the wins of Phelps and McGirr suggest there is a growing appetite for action on climate and energy, and somebody who can put together a credible vision of a clean energy transition has a chance of winning power. ...

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/senator-canavan-turning-to-japanese-to-boost-our-e/3555578/>

Senator Canavan is turning to the Japanese to boost exports

Leighton Smith, Gladstone Observer, 22/10/2018

While Independent candidate Kerryn Phelps rides towards victory in Wentworth on the back of an anti-coal/climate change agenda, Resources Minister Senator Matt Canavan is flying to Japan to champion Australian coal. ...

Promoting trade and investment opportunities linked to Australia's high quality resources sector will headline the agenda during a two-day visit to Japan by Senator Canavan.

Minister Canavan is in Japan to attend a series of conferences and hold high level meetings with resource industry leaders and Ministerial counterparts ...

<https://www.theage.com.au/business/the-economy/coal-s-days-are-numbered-top-government-adviser-says-20181022-p50b50.html>

Coal's days are numbered, top government adviser says

Adam Carey, Cole Latimer & Nick Toscano, The Age, 22/10/2018

The federal government's top energy adviser Kerry Schott says the plunging cost of renewables will force Australia's remaining coal plants to close even earlier than planned, as mining giant BHP renewed calls for a price on carbon to urgently slash national emissions. ...

Energy Security Board chair Dr Schott on Monday predicted that renewables would force many of Australia's remaining coal-fired power plants to make an early exit from the energy market, by beating them on price. ...

But she said the transition must be well managed to avoid a hasty rush to

renewables pushing up energy prices. ... A new report by consultants Wood Mackenzie forecasts that renewables will become the main global source of energy by 2035.

https://newmatilda.com/2018/10/19/dear-wentworth-voters-heres-123-things-leaders-confront-climate-change/?utm_campaign=shareaholic&utm_medium=facebook&utm_source=socialnetwork&fbclid=IwAR0fCkb3kX-0F2moi5utk-NE0GsQnNWY_Uk6CmLx4328fK6ZQuen1dh-Fk44

Dear Wentworth voters: here's 123 things our leaders did to 'confront' climate change

Liam McLoughlin, New Matilda, 19/10/2018

A recent ReachTel poll commissioned by Greenpeace Australia found that for the voters of Wentworth – former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's old seat – tackling climate change was their number one priority. ... Liam McLoughlin thought it timely to help the good voters of the eastern suburbs focus their minds on the Liberal Party's action on climate change over the last five years. It's a long list... actually, it's a long Shitlist. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/oct/24/coalition-could-indemnify-new-coal-projects-against-potential-carbon-price>

Coalition could indemnify new coal projects against potential carbon price

Katharine Murphy, The Guardian, 24/10/2018

The energy minister, Angus Taylor, has signalled the Australian government could indemnify new power generation projects against the future risk of a carbon price, and says it could also support the retrofitting of existing coal plants. ...

He also foreshadowed policy interventions to boost investment in new "reliable" power generation, including providing a floor price, contracts for difference, cap and floor contracts and government loans. ...

Taylor told Guardian Australia the government would look to remove the risks stopping investment in new power generation. "I'm saying we will look at whatever risks that can't be managed by the companies that need to be managed to get investment.

"What we are saying is the risks that government needs to absorb to get investment in reliable generation, we will look at absorbing. We need the investment."

Asked whether he acknowledged that would expose taxpayers to risk, Taylor said: "We'll look at the risks and we'll seek to minimise the risks to the commonwealth." ...

Asked how retrofitting an existing plant was bringing new generation into the market, he said: "It's new generation if it would otherwise be gone, that's the point. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/oct/24/labor-opposes-plan-to-indemnify-new-coal-plants-warns-it-could-cost-billions>

Labor opposes plan to indemnify new coal plants and warns it could cost billions

Katharine Murphy, The Guardian, 24/10/2018

The shadow climate change minister, Mark Butler, has issued a clear warning to Australia's energy sector that Labor does not support the government indemnifying new coal plants against the future risk of a carbon price – noting the cost to taxpayers could run into billions. ...

It is unclear whether any market participants would bring forward a proposal for a new coal plant before next January, and whether it would get regulatory approval.

Trevor St Baker, part-owner of the Vales Point coal generator and founder of the business electricity retailer ERM Power, has previously telegraphed interest if the government settles on a favourable energy policy.

<https://www.theage.com.au/politics/federal/two-out-of-three-formula-rudd-says-murdoch-and-mining-industry-support-now-key-to-political-power-20181022-p50b8w.html>

'Two out of three' formula: Rudd says Murdoch and mining industry support now key to political power

Peter Hartcher, The Age, 24/10/2018

Kevin Rudd is advancing a radical new theory of how political power works in Australia.

The former prime minister argues that holding the confidence of the House of Representatives – the constitutional definition of forming government – is not sufficient to hold power.

Mr Rudd claims that a government must also enjoy the support of Rupert Murdoch's media group, or the mining industry, or both. ...

He calls the mining industry the third centre of power: "The mining industry has serious money at its disposal. And because its corporate majors are usually foreign-dominated, they believe they owe only a fleeting allegiance to Australia, let alone the nation's democratically elected government.

He continues: "BHP and Rio Tinto are also the only Australian corporations

of truly global scale, with truly global interests, and they see themselves as much bigger than government – certainly much bigger than the Australian government – and woe betide any Australian politician with the temerity to challenge their interests.”

Mr Rudd says that the Murdoch media and the big miners came together to oppose his government: “Murdoch would become the mouthpiece of the mining industry.” ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/oct/24/anyone-but-nats-rural-figures-come-out-against-barnaby-joyce-and-nationals>

‘Anyone but Nats’: Rural figures come out against Barnaby Joyce and Nationals

Gabrielle Chan, The Guardian, 24/10/2018

Prominent rural advocates have become increasingly vocal over a potential return of Barnaby Joyce to the National party leadership as the prospect of a concerted independent push in rural areas gains momentum after the Wentworth byelection.

A nascent political movement, Anyone But Nats, has started to run advertising across northern NSW ahead of the 2019 state and federal elections. It has been funded by the IT businessman, Charles Tym, ...

Tym, who donated to Tony Abbott’s 2013 election campaign, describes himself as a “rank novice” in politics who was formerly a “mad Liberal party voter” but now is supporting candidates who are against coal seam gas and want progress on climate change.

“It was climate change that tipped me over and Abbott in particular. He’s done everything over the last few years to stymie progress on climate change and the Nats won’t stand up for their constituents and stand up for what they want because they are in the thrall of mining companies,” Tym told Guardian Australia.

“The National party turn their backs when a lot of rural people are very concerned about climate change and they are doing deals on water and it’s just not good enough.”

Tym is working with the former Barwon independent candidate Rohan Boehm, an agricultural consultant, to run candidate forums throughout northern NSW. He said there was a mood for change in rural Australia and they were targeting women and younger voters on climate change. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-24/stiglitz-warns-australia-economic-fallout-fossil-fuel-dependence/10424878>

Joseph Stiglitz warns Australia on economic fallout from fossil fuel dependence

Emma Alberici, ABC, 24/10/2018

Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz has warned Australia that its future prosperity is at risk if it continues its dependence on fossil fuels.

The former World Bank economist and 2001 winner of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences said successful countries “are those that are going to make, as soon as possible, the transition from the fossil fuel economy to the innovative economy”. ...

Professor Stiglitz said it would be “fundamentally short-sighted” not to be thinking about the serious climate change impacts in Australia and around the world and “over the long term, the real wealth of a country is based on the skills, the ability and the innovation of its citizens and that is going to depend on the investments that you put in to your people, not on coal, not on iron ore”.

When asked to reflect on the politicisation of climate change policy in Australia, Professor Stiglitz blamed “special interests that make a lot of money out of fossil fuels”. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/oct/27/institute-of-public-affairs-blasts-coalitions-un-liberal-energy-policies>

Institute of Public Affairs blasts Coalition’s ‘un-Liberal’ energy policies

Paul Karp, The Guardian, 27/10/2018

The Institute of Public Affairs has blasted the Morrison government’s “big stick” in energy policy – a threat to break up energy companies in a bid to lower prices – accusing it of breaching Liberal values and endangering investment.

The IPA executive director, John Roskam, ... warned against any form of subsidy for electricity generation including renewables subsidies, underwriting new power generation and indemnifying coal power against a possible future carbon price. ...

Although the IPA wants to see more coal power, Roskam said the government should “reduce the regulatory barriers to them being funded”, not keep the barriers and overcome them with subsidies. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/king-coal-surges-60pc-as-ministers-agree-to-work-on-reliable-power/news-story/9544147457a8807c47a47daebef43708>

King coal surges 60pc as ministers agree to work on reliable power

Joe Kelly, The Australian, 26/10/2018

Coal has emerged as the nation’s most valuable resource commodity – increasing in value by almost 60 per cent over the past five years – as states and territories agree to a December timeline for a deal to make electricity supply more reliable.

Following a meeting with his state and territory counterparts yesterday, federal Energy Minister Angus Taylor said progress had been made on a key element of the now-scrapped national energy guarantee, the “reliability obligation”. ...

Resources Minister Matt Canavan seized on the results, saying it was “another reminder that Australia’s mining industry remains crucial to our nation’s wealth”.

“Fossil fuel exports from Australia are helping our economy maintain positive growth and get the budget back into surplus,” he said. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/oct/27/coalition-embraces-economic-vandalism-with-worst-possible-energy-policy>

Coalition embraces economic vandalism with worst possible energy policy

Alex Turnbull, The Guardian, 27/10/2018

We joked the ACCC’s good advice could be turned into a policy to subsidise companies that own coal. Turns out that’s what happened.

When I saw the government’s latest energy policy proposal, I was disappointed but not surprised. ...

It allows redevelopment of existing projects, to extend their life. Which could these be? It is unlikely to be AGL, Origin, Alinta or Energy Australia, who all have commitments to decarbonisation and plans to gradually replace coal with renewables, gas and hydro. It could, however, be Sunset Power owned by Brian Flannery and former National party candidate and LNP donor Trevor St Baker.

The divestment proposal would appear to be designed to compel AGL to sell Liddell. St Baker has previously expressed a strong interest in this asset, and he could now also be eligible for a generous loan and off-take agreement from the government. ...

News this week ... from previous page

The most disturbing thing about current policy is that it is market intervention to the direct benefit of only some apparently favoured players. ...

https://www.theage.com.au/politics/victoria/planning-minister-richard-wynne-fast-tracks-coal-to-hydrogen-project-20181025-p50bzn.html?fbclid=IwAR3n0rXGcn85KfoXyWYcy9X-ir-atV5kPYmD6vWSIIFq3RZpb8QB8uvt_9Eg

Planning Minister Richard Wynne fast-tracks coal-to-hydrogen project

Adam Carey, *The Age*, 25/10/2018

Victoria's planning minister has intervened to push forward a contentious project to convert the Latrobe Valley's vast brown coal reserves into liquid hydrogen and export it to Japan.

Richard Wynne has taken the rare step of calling in a key part of the energy project, the construction of a terminal at Hastings, bypassing local government planning rules on the basis that it is of state significance. ...

It will be built at BlueScope Steel's terminal site at the Port of Hastings in Westernport Bay.

The surrounding coastline has the world's southernmost mangrove forest.

Mr Wynne's letter, dated October 16, says he intervened at the request of GHD, a professional services firm involved in the pilot project.

The Andrews and Morrison governments have each committed \$50 million to the pilot project, which has received heavy financial backing from the Japanese as they seek to wean themselves off nuclear power following the Fukushima earthquake in 2011.

Japan has identified Gippsland's abundant brown coal reserves as a cheap source of fuel to be converted to liquid hydrogen and exported in a project valued at \$496 million.

But its viability is dependent on the

ability, still unproven, to sequester carbon emissions from the brown coal in porous rock formations beneath the Bass Strait seabed. ...

Environment Victoria's Nicholas Aberle said the concept of converting Latrobe Valley brown coal to hydrogen was an expensive pipedream.

"Coal-to-hydrogen is going to be dead on arrival and is a waste of taxpayers' money," Mr Aberle said.

"Without carbon capture and storage, it is the dirtiest way of producing hydrogen," he said. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/oct/23/fossil-fuel-non-proliferation-treaty-climate-break-down>

We need a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty – and we need it now

Andrew Simms & Peter Newell, *The Guardian*, 23/10/2018

A moratorium could take the form of a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty. The threat of nuclear catastrophe provides a precedent for how, quickly, to stop a bad situation getting worse. The nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT), agreed 50 years ago between 1965-68, was a triumph of rapid diplomacy, at the height of cold war mistrust, and against an immense security threat (this is a different, far more comprehensive and important treaty than the one with Russia rejected by Donald Trump last week).

We could even adapt the classic "three pillar" structure of the NPT. The first is "non proliferation" itself. ... Why not cut to the chase and agree to assess those fossil fuel reserves which, if burned, would carry us across the 1.5C warming line, and monitor their non-use and any measures likely to lead to the proliferation of fossil fuels? ...

The second pillar of the NPT is disarmament. This means rapid sub-

stitution of clean energy for fossil fuels. ... "disarmament" would also be delivered by following the climate scientists' three point plan for action carrying the "highest benefits": lowering energy demand, lowering material consumption, and switching to food choices that are low carbon (in other words more plant-based food).

The final pillar concerns the promotion of the "peaceful" use of technology. In a climate context, that would mean massively expanding existing initiatives to compensate poorer countries for leaving fossil fuels in the ground, while ensuring access to clean energy and the technology needed for development. Funds could be also re-directed from the staggering \$10m per minute that governments give in fossil fuel subsidies ...

As far back as 1988 at the Toronto conference on the changing atmosphere, climatic upheaval was described as a threat "second only to nuclear war", a sentiment endorsed from the CIA to MI5 and the United Nations. National efforts are crucial, but a new fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty supported by movements calling to leave fossil fuels in the ground, would provide a transparent and fair means to stop climate breakdown. The best way to mark the 50th anniversary of the NPT, would be to begin negotiation of its fossil fuel equivalent.

• Andrew Simms is an author, political economist and campaigner. He is co-director of the *NewWeather Institute* and leading a new initiative on rapid transition. His last book was *Cancel the Apocalypse*

• Peter Newell is professor of international relations at the *Centre for Global Political Economy*, University of Sussex, and co-editor of *The politics of Green Transformations*

FFB

Fiona Wilson fundraiser

Gas industry whistleblower Fiona Wilson is still battling her incarceration and forced medication by Queensland's Fixated Persons Unit.

Fiona's story was told in FFB 1.2 and FFB 1.13. An update will be published soon.

She needs to fund about \$30,000 in legal fees and medical costs.

If you can help, click the link below:

<https://www.gofundme.com/barrister-needed-for-fiona-wilson>

Fossil Fool Bulletin is emailed to subscribers every Tuesday.



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



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