



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 2:1 • 20 NOVEMBER 2018

Pollution by postcode tool reveals massive emissions in Darling Downs gasfields

By Eve Sinton

A newly released tool for checking air pollution by postcode has been quickly put to use by people monitoring the impact of the coal seam gas (CSG) industry on Queensland's Darling Downs.

Researchers have found that postcodes in the middle of the gasfields rate high for reported pollutants emitted to air (see table, p2). The worst locations include Dalby, Kogan, Brigalow, Chinchilla, Miles, Condamine, Wandoan, Tara, Injune and Roma.

These areas have been invaded over the last decade by thousands of CSG wells, pipelines, compression stations, processing plants and power stations.

The pollution figures are reported by gas companies, based on estimates, and are generally un-monitored. The industry claims pollutants are dispersed in the air to 'safe' levels.

FFB notes that emissions from field compression stations are not reported, along with well head emissions, high point vents and low point drains.

Pollution reflected in hospital admissions

Health professionals have been unimpressed by safety claims – a peer-reviewed scientific paper published by Dr Geralyn McCarron earlier this year found soaring hospital admissions in the area coincided with the explosion of the CSG industry,

Dr McCarron concluded the negative health impact in the area points to inadequate environmental monitoring and regulatory failure by Queensland



QGC's 140 MW Condamine Power Station, 8km east of Miles, is powered by CSG running two gas turbines and one steam turbine. Photo: Contributed

government agencies.

Acute hospital admissions for circulatory and respiratory diseases increased by up to 142% between 2007 and 2014. During the same period, pollutants reported by the CSG industry and known to cause cardiopulmonary illnesses rose by up to 6000%.

"Acute circulatory admissions increased 133% and acute respiratory admissions increased 142%," Dr McCarron said. "CSG emissions increased substantially over the same period: nitrogen oxides (489% to 10,048 tonnes), carbon monoxide (800% to

6800 tonnes), PM10 (6000% to 1926 tonnes), volatile organic compounds (337% to 670 tonnes) and formaldehyde (12 kg to over 160 tonnes).

"Although reporting is a statutory requirement, data are self-calculated (estimated, not measured) and are not reported below a threshold. It is difficult to know how such reporting could be audited. It is plausible that emissions have been substantially underestimated," she said.

"Currently, production facilities act with the assumption that emitted

• Continued p2

• **P2: How to check pollution in your postcode**

• **P4: Leigh Creek Energy Project fizzles out**

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Massive gasfield emissions revealed

• Continued from p1

pollutants will be dispersed in the surrounding air to ‘safe’ levels – ‘dilution is assumed to be the solution to pollution’.

“Since there is an unexplained rise in hospitalisations for health conditions associated with exposure to CSG emissions coincident with the expansion of the industry, it is questionable whether this management strategy is effective,” she said.

Dr McCarron said air monitoring has been infrequent, ad hoc, episodic and reactive.

“Often, air monitoring did not occur until weeks after the local community reported extreme pollution events such as intense flaring. Monitoring and reporting practices for air quality appear inadequate to protect public health,” she said, pointing to regulatory failure.

Gas lobbyists want to hide figures

Last week *The Guardian* reported the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA) has called for liquid natural gas (LNG) plants to be able to apply for emissions data to be withheld from the public, on the grounds that releasing it could help its competitors overseas. It has been backed by Chevron, which operates the Gorgon and Wheatstone LNG developments in Western Australia.

The push follows the federal government reporting that the booming LNG sector is the main driver of Australia’s growing emissions (see p14).

Shareholder activist group the Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility’s climate and environment director, Daniel Gocher, told *The Guardian* that given emissions data for each Australian LNG development was already publicly available, it appeared APPEA and the gas industry wanted to avoid increased scrutiny if pollution was to rise.

The Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) says its nation-wide air pollution report proves our national environmental laws do not go far enough to protect us from harmful pollution. The ACF stated:

All Australians rely on having clean, safe air to breathe. The Australian government has a responsibility to safeguard the health of all Australians

• Continued p3

Darling Downs air pollution by postcode

Postcode	Location	Kgs of air pollution	Polluting facilities	Category
4350	Toowoomba	294,573.5424	8	Medium
4370	Goondiwindi	0.0000	0	Nil
4401	Oakey	4,788,627.2240	4	High
4405	Dalby	11,792,495.2600	13	High
4406	Kogan	1,387,582.7110	3	High
4412	Brigalow	22,071,950.3500	2	High
4413	Chinchilla	2,186,802.7270	2	High
4415	Miles	1,797,765.7510	3	High
4416	Condamine	3,652,489.6040	4	High
4419	Wandoan	4,348,149.5380	3	High
4421	Tara	2,419,933.0500	1	High
4427	Yuleba	206,660.9100	1	Medium
4428	Wallumbilla	392,357.2886	2	Medium
4454	Injune	3,372,964.9300	4	High
4455	Roma	2,426,158.1160	4	High
4680	Gladstone	97,159,201.5500	13	High

Using the ABC’s pollution mapping by postcode tool, FFB checked locations in the Darling Downs gasfields and found millions of tonnes of reported emissions to air. This is not healthy country living! Note that Goondiwindi, which is free of gasfields, has no reported air emissions. On the other hand, Gladstone, where the gas is piped for processing into liquid natural gas (LNG) and exported, has the highest pollution figure. Gladstone’s three LNG plants share the area with other highly polluting industries such as refineries. You can check your own postcode here:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-16/australian-pollution-mapped-by-postcodes/10478620#postcodes>



Australia's most polluted postcodes



How to get the ACF's Dirty Truth report

‘The Dirty Truth – Australia’s most polluted postcodes’ can be downloaded from the Australian Conservation Foundation here:

<https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/5115779/ACF-Pollution-Report.pdf>



Massive gasfield emissions revealed

• Continued from p2

and prevent air pollution from damaging and killing people. To deliver this basic but vital need, the Australian government must:

1. Establish new laws and a National Sustainability Commission to set national air pollution standards:

Establish an independent commission to introduce ambient air standards and stack emissions standards as part of a new national environment act for highly polluting industries, such as the coal-fired power sector, to ensure a consistent national approach applies to every community across Australia.

2. Establish a national Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to enforce the law:

Establish an independent Commonwealth regulator, a national EPA, responsible for monitoring, implementing and enforcing national air pollution standards.

3. Require states and territories to comply with national standards:

Develop implementation plans and criteria for the regulation of polluting activities to make sure the new standards are met.

4. Develop an environmental justice framework:

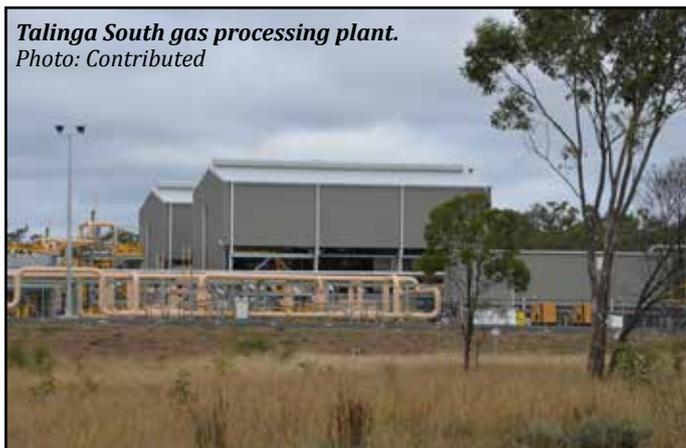
In conjunction with state and territory governments, ensure that disadvantaged communities do not continue to bear a higher burden of pollution than other Australians. An environmental justice framework should include requirements on decision-makers to consider environmental justice implications of their decisions, to take action to reduce pollution in disadvantaged areas, and to not approve any new polluting facilities in low-socio-economic areas.



*Wallumbilla gas hub.
Photo: Contributed*



*ABOVE: An aerial view nnear Roma reveals a landscape studded with CSG wells and infrastructure, generating Roma's high pollution status.
Photo: Angus Emmott*



*Talinga South gas processing plant.
Photo: Contributed*



*Santos Fairview gas processing plant.
Photo: Contributed*

Leigh Creek underground coal fire fizzles out: Company plans to inject fuel and light up again

By Eve Sinton

Leigh Creek Energy's first attempt to ignite an underground coal seam and initiate underground coal gasification (UCG) in South Australia has fizzled out.

Leigh Creek Energy (LCK) triumphantly announced the project a success to the stock exchange last month:

"The company successfully initiated the gasifier with the production of first syngas occurring on 10th of October, 2018. This is a tremendous endorsement of the LCK technical team, LCK's shareholders ... and LCK's management team and staff who have never wavered in their commitment to producing syngas," LCK said.

Gasification failed to progress

However, last week word got around that only trace amounts of combustion products were being observed, and LCK was about to inject "an approved fuel source" to kick syngas production along.

Only after a journalist from the *Adelaide Advertiser* made inquiries did LCK think to make another stock exchange announcement – admitting "the development of the gasifier has not progressed further" – describing the hiccup as merely "procedural and not material". The *Advertiser* article appears in full, below.

Nearby resident, Carrie-Ann Smith, has for weeks been requesting information from the company, and South Australian mining minister Dan Van der Holst Pellekaan.

Her queries have been met with deafening silence.

Stephen Batten, Stakeholder Relations Coordinator for LCK responded to her last email with an automated "I'm in a meeting" brush-off. None of the following questions have been answered:

- Why has production been suspended?
- Why does the gasifier need to be reignited?
- Would you agree that the Leigh Creek Energy Project does not really know what is happening underground and is therefore knowingly gambling with the health of workers, residents, wildlife and our environment?
- Has water seeped in from the "aquifers" creating a toxic chemical soup to be absorbed into the soil and underground water?
- Will more toxic chemicals be involved in the reignition process? If so which chemicals and how much?

Echoes of Linc Energy disaster

Smith's questions are pertinent when considering that Linc Energy's UCG environmental disaster in Queensland was partly caused when water seeped into the burning coal seam.

Combustion was suppressed, and air was pumped in to keep the fire burning. The air was forced in at such high pressure it fractured surrounding rock, creating pathways into the soil, water and air for highly toxic products of combustion.

Workers became ill and, later, EPA staff investigating the Linc site were hospitalised after exposure to toxins.

A number of former Linc Energy executives and consultants are involved with the Leigh Creek Energy Project. The government has favoured their advice over that of independent experts such as Prof. Campbell Gemmill and hydrogeologists Dr Gavin Mudd and Dr Matthew Currell when allowing LCK to go ahead without in-depth assessment of the project's risks.

LCK and another former Darling Downs polluter, Carbon Energy, both have extensive plans for UCG production in the Flinders Ranges and the Cooper Basin, despite the technology's 60-year history of disasters (documented in *Fossil Fool Bulletin* 1.41, 11 September 2018).

Traditional Owners remain opposed

Traditional Owners of the Leigh Creek site, the Adnyamathanha people, remain steadfastly opposed to the LCK project.

A last-minute application by the Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association to prevent the trial going ahead was refused by the Supreme Court on September 19.

"We're very concerned because people live in that area and it's time for healing of the site, not any more destruction," the ATLA's Vince Coulthard said.

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Leigh Creek gas project in four week reprieve to boost gas flow

Cameron England, The Advertiser, 16/11/2015

LEIGH Creek Energy has been granted a four-week suspension of the trial period for its underground gasification project in the Far North, as it looks at options to reignite the underground coal resource.

The company was granted approval for a 90-day trial project to show that it could safely and economically produce gas using the underground coal gasification method, which involves igniting coal underground and

capturing the synthetic gas which is produced. LCK said its gasifier was started on October 10 and "first syngas" was announced the next day.

"We have detected trace amounts of gasification products (methane, carbon monoxide) and have observed slowly increasing water content in the product gas and slowly rising casing shoe temperature, all indicative of combustion continuing," the company told the SA regulator on November 5.

"However, after three weeks of

careful management of gas flows to try to establish full gasification in the chamber, the development of the gasifier has not progressed further."

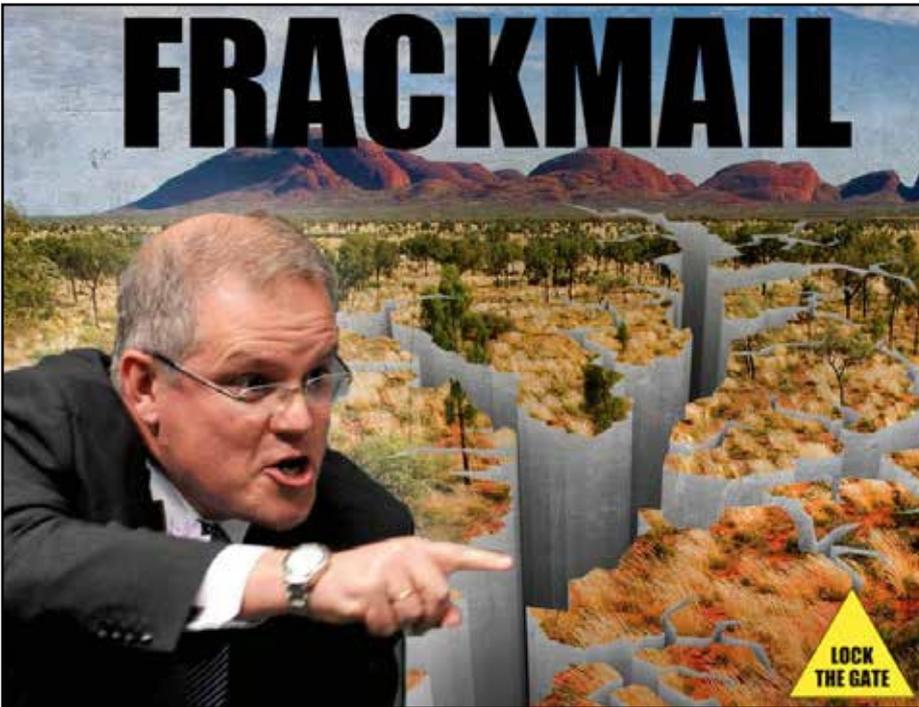
The regulator has granted the suspension, effectively giving the company more time to conduct its trial. LCK announced the news to the ASX after being contacted by *The Advertiser*, and said it had not released it earlier as it was deemed "procedural and not material".

"The site has been operating in exactly the same manner since

the 10th of October and continues that way now," the company said.

LCK said it was preparing to inject an "approved fuel source" to provide an additional heat source to accelerate the gasifier development process.

Greens environment spokesperson Senator Sarah Hanson-Young said the trial should never have been approved and the state should focus instead on renewable energy. The company's shares were trading 2c lower at 14c.



Frackmail? \$260 million NT deal rushed as fracking ban overturned

New research from The Australia Institute shows that, while treasurer, Scott Morrison rushed a \$260 million deal with the Northern Territory Government through in a matter of days, at exactly the same time that the NT announced it would overturn its moratorium on fracking.

The report shows that even under FOI the Government has blocked access to numerous documents regarding the deal, including a letter from Morrison to the NT Government where he first committed to the \$260 million in funding, sent three days after the moratorium was lifted.

The report outlines:

- Morrison received his first Treasury briefing on the 'GST top-up' payment just four days after talks with the NT about revenue, where Morrison highlighted both GST and fracking.
- Just six days later, the NT government decided to overturn its fracking moratorium.
- Scott Morrison committed to the funding just three days after the NT's fracking decision, in a letter to the NT offering the money that also referred to fracking.

"There is reason to doubt the timing of this deal or that it was a coincidence, and this new information now raises big questions," says Tom Swann, Researcher at The Australia Institute and

report author.

"Why did Scott Morrison rush through this \$260 million payment in just nine days and why did it happen at precisely the time the NT Government was making its fracking decision?"

"The Australia Institute tried to get to the bottom of this with FOI requests, but they were almost entirely blocked, and what we did receive had heavy redactions.

"Treasury says the documents requested would reveal cabinet decisions or deliberations not already disclosed, which poses the question, what is the government hiding?"

"While revenue is of course a concern for the NT, Commonwealth funding should be offered on the basis of need, not used as a form of leverage."

• See media reports, p17

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A struggle against the imposition by force of a CSG industry.

Free download from:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/sbtwhwoykfgqsy/Gasfield%20Free%20NSW%20Northern%20Rivers%20PDF.pdf?dl=0>

RICHARD DEEM

TAI: No legislative mandate for COALition energy investments

The Government program to underwrite new generation investments presents a number of risks that could jeopardise rather than improve the reliability and affordability of electricity, with the key question around whether the Government even has the authority to do so.

In a submission to the Department of Energy, The Australia Institute has questioned why the Government is seeking interest before the program is designed and whether it lacks the legislative mandate to proceed with the full suite of loans and contracts proposed.

"The Government is rushing to fund its pet projects: coal power, clearing the decks before the election," says Richie Merzian, Climate & Energy Program Director at The Australia Institute.

"Asking for expressions of interest before it even completed the funding guidelines is Minister Taylor putting the cart before the horse.

"The electricity sector is suffering from poor policy planning and the Government's knee-jerk response is policy on the fly – possibly without the authority to do so.

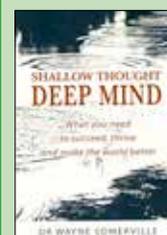
"Taxpayers should be concerned the Government is gearing up to sign risky contracts for billions of dollars without the authority to do so.

"To make matters worse, Minister Taylor wants the Australian taxpayer to take on the liability arising from our future climate policies."

• See media reports, p16

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Shallow Thought, Deep Mind



What you need to succeed, thrive and make the world better

<https://www.drwaynesomerville.com>
\$24.99 inc. postage • E-book on Amazon.

Qld miners strong-arm government as mine rehabilitation bill debated

Mining industry success in weakening mine rehabilitation laws this week will cost Queenslanders dearly, according to Lock the Gate Alliance.

Communities will be left with vast unfilled coal pits and polluted water after mining, and will miss out on the new jobs and investment that mine rehabilitation brings.

“The mining industry has strong-armed the Queensland Government to allow existing mines off the hook from properly cleaning up their mine sites” said Rick Humphries, Coordinator of Lock the Gate’s Mine Rehabilitation Reform Campaign

“Mining giants will make fat profits for overseas shareholders and then leave regional communities to live with the mess in perpetuity.

Coal pits left to scar landscape

“The mining industry already plans to leave 218 coal pits un-rehabilitated, many of which will drain groundwater permanently and will leave vast, deep scars on the landscape.

“We pushed the Government hard to phase in similar laws that have been in place in the US since the 1970s requiring all pits to be backfilled.”

“Instead, this back down from the Government will not only impact the environment, it will cost jobs and investment in regional Queensland.”

“The Queensland Resources Council is playing Queenslanders for mugs - expecting us to live with their toxic legacies permanently and squibbing on the rehabilitation jobs and investment that would flow from back-filling.”

Lock the Gate (LTG) hit back at the QRC over claims made in *The Australian* last week that thousands of jobs and investment could be at risk under proposed changes to the Mineral and Energy Resources Bill.

Contrary to the criticisms put forward by the QRC, LTG estimates more than

4,000 new jobs could be generated if mining companies were forced to clean up their own mess and fully rehabilitate mine sites after they close.

“Better rehabilitation means more earthworks, more bulldozers and more people to drive and maintain them. That’s more jobs and investment in regional Queensland.

“The QRC’s resistance to improving mine rehabilitation is completely out of touch with public opinion. They are eroding their social licence.”

Recent polling in the electorates of Herbert, Capricornia and Dawson revealed a massive 91% of voters wanted mining companies to backfill the coal pits.

Lock the Gate welcomed other aspects of the legal reforms, including improvements to mine planning and reporting and the application of binding targets for progressive rehabilitation.

The community group also welcomed an announcement by Deputy Premier Jackie Trad committing the Government to considering the establishment of a Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner.

Support for Mine Rehab Commissioner

“We strongly support a Commissioner being appointed, and we sincerely hope the Government follows through on this initiative. This is a glimmer of hope. The Commissioner must have the power to protect the interests of Queenslanders over that of mine shareholders,” Mr Humphries said.

“The Commissioner must have the legislative grunt to ensure the industry is delivering best practice mine rehabilitation at all mine sites.

“If the Government delivers on a Commissioner it would provide an opportunity to drive increased investment and job creation from improved mine rehabilitation in Queensland.”

• See media reports, p9-10

Victorian anti-fracking announcement welcomed

Community group Lock the Gate has welcomed Victorian Labor’s announcement it will enshrine anti-fracking legislation in the state’s constitution if the party is re-elected.

Lock the Gate spokeswoman Carmel Flint said Victoria had the strictest laws in the country prohibiting unconventional gas mining.

“We want to congratulate the Victorian Premier, Daniel Andrews, for putting farming and food production above unconventional gas,” she said.

“He has shown national leadership on this issue by standing by farmers and listening to communities across the state who are overwhelmingly opposed to this risky practice.

“We are now calling on the state’s Opposition to follow this move and match the commitment to enshrine anti-fracking laws in the constitution.

“Unless such a commitment is made, the community can have no confidence that the unconventional gas ban will continue into the future.”

Ms Flint said called on other state governments to follow the Victorian example.

“The Victorian Labor Government has led the way on this issue, and we’re calling on other state governments to follow that lead,” she said.

“Unconventional gasfields not only damage underground water sources and disrupt farming operations, but are a major contributor to climate change due to methane emissions from leaking wells and pipelines.”

“That is not something any state government should be signing up for at this point.”

• See media report, p18

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Inside the news

The week has once again been dominated by political debate around the inept **Morrison** government's energy muddle and **Angus Taylor's** crusade for coal-fired power stations (p16-18).

Morrison's 'fair dinkum power' slogan has been **hickjacked** – first by entrepreneur Mike Cannon-Brookes in a campaign for renewable energy, and now by The Greens, who have established a **Select Committee into Fair Dinkum Power** in the Senate. The committee will examine how customers can have a more important role in the electricity market (p18).

The Greens have also proposed legislation to **outlaw the burning or export of coal from 2030**. The legislation won't get up in the current climate, but whatever your political leanings, it's undeniable the Greens are the only party presenting real alternatives to fossil fuel domination (p17).

As the **Queensland** government passed legislation forcing future mining ventures to fund remediation, lobby group **QRC** kicked up a stink about mine closures and job losses (p9-10). It's a disgrace that the mining business model relies on leaving **hundreds of abandoned pits** and wells while maximising profits and sending most of the money to off-shore tax havens.

A concerning development is a push by **APPEA** and **Chevron** to avoid publication of their **pollution figures**, including CO2 (p14). The rapidly expanding liquid natural gas (**LNG**) export industry is pushing up Australia's greenhouse gas emissions so fast that savings made in electricity generations are being wiped out. It would be **incredibly dangerous** to allow the LNG giants to conceal their emissions under the guise of commercial disadvantage.

Adani (p8) continues to claim they 'almost' have the funding to start digging up the Galilee Basin. The company is **desperate** to get something underway before next year's election. However, besides the funding, they still have not signed a royalty agreement with the Queensland government and there are **outstanding approval issues**.

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Human Rights, FRACKING and Climate Change

Should Queenslanders have a right to a healthy environment?

Tuesday, December 4, 6-8pm

Griffith University, South Bank Campus
Hosted by Human Rights Impact of Unconventional Gas

PANELLISTS:

Shay Dougall – Initial findings of the International Permanent Peoples' Tribunal on Human Rights, Fracking and Climate Change held in 2018 and a summary of the witnesses testimonies from Australia

Dr Michelle Maloney – AELA – Earth rights and the right to a healthy environment

Revel Pointon – EDO Qld – How a Human Rights Act for Qld could help to empower Queenslanders to protect their health and the health of their environment

Aimee McVeigh – HRact4qld – on where the act is, what we can do to make it happen, how we can ensure these issues are addressed in the Act.

Free tickets at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/human-rights-fracking-climate-change-tickets-51735409001>

Fossil Fool Bulletin celebrates first year

Today's edition of Fossil Fool Bulletin marks the first year of publication, with 50 issues, and the beginning of Volume 2.

FFB has become a much bigger job than envisaged. Monitoring the big picture of fossil fuel industry activities in Australia reveals a country dominated by companies exerting extraordinary control over state and federal governments.

Communities are under seige from mining projects that continue to be planned and approved as if there were no climate crisis.

Many people are traumatised by the mining business model that relies on getting forced access to other people's land, trashing it with massive pits, and consuming and polluting vast amounts of water. When the resource becomes unprofitable, the company walks away, leaving unremediated damage for the taxpayer to fix – if it can be fixed at all.

Then there's the practice of calling our land 'basins'. We are not the Surat Basin, Cooper Basin, Clarence-Moreton Basin, or Amadeus Basin – we are the Northern Rivers, the Darling Downs, and so on.

Let's refuse to be called 'basins', these refer to geological oil, gas and mineral deposits that are only accessible by stealing our land and polluting the air and water.

In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 39,700 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links to view original articles.](#) (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/nov/11/adani-faces-questions-over-who-will-pay-for-aurizon-rail-link-upgrade>

Adani faces questions over who will pay for Aurizon rail link upgrade

Ben Smee, The Guardian, 12/11/2018

The Queensland freight rail operator Aurizon is understood to be in discussions with Adani that will hinge on who pays for upgrades to the existing rail network, as the Indian mining company tries to resolve significant elements of its scaled-down plans. ...

Aurizon is legally obliged by the Queensland Competition Authority to consider and assess the request by Adani to access the network. Both companies are bound to keep discussions about access confidential. But Guardian Australia understands the sticking point is likely to be who would pay for necessary upgrades to the Aurizon-run Goonyella railway. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/business/adani-close-to-finance-deal-but-wont-commit-to-any-self-imposed-timeline/news-story/cf7021e7b298f81d-184c389b389b56de>

Adani close to finance deal but won't commit to any "self-imposed" timeline

Clare Armstrong, Townsville Bulletin, 14/11/2018

Adani says it's "knocking on the door" of a funding deal that would kick off

the creation of 1500 direct jobs but won't commit to any "self-imposed" timeline.

Adani Mining chief executive Lucas Dow addressed a business event in Townsville today to "bust myths" and provide a progress update on the company's proposed Carmichael coal mine in the Galilee Basin. ...

"The ramp up of that initial phase, it will be over 1500 jobs created across the mine and rail project, and importantly there's the flow on of nearly 7000 indirect jobs on the back of that as well." ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/business/adani-accuses-townsville-protest-organisers-of-spreading-lies-and-risking-public-safety/news-story/fd9bb3125ec0f0e3ef-ce5af06792ed6c>

Adani accuses Townsville protest organisers of "spreading lies" and risking public safety

Clare Armstrong, Townsville Bulletin, 14/11/2018

Anti-coal protesters have been slammed for "spreading lies" and risking public safety as they plot to disrupt a business event in Townsville co-hosted by Adani.

Stop Adani organisers circulated an email to members encouraging them to come to a Townsville Enterprise breakfast event, where Adani Mining chief executive Lucas Dow is expected

to deliver an update on the Carmichael mine today. ...

Meanwhile a poll of more than 850 residents in the electorate of Herbert conducted by ReachTel on October 17 found 60.4 per cent of people either supported or strongly supported the Federal Government reviewing Adani's environmental approvals, including for water use at its Carmichael mine. ...

<https://www.greenleft.org.au/content/federal-government-water-gift-adani-exposed>

Federal government's water gift to Adani exposed

Margaret Gleeson, Green Left Weekly, 15/11/2018

Queensland is suffering through a severe drought. Despite this, state environment minister Melissa Price decided in September not to apply the "water trigger" assessment on Adani's proposal to extract river water for up to 60 years, expand a dam and build a pipeline to transport the water to its mine. ...

<https://www.begadistrictnews.com.au/story/5759988/railing-against-adani-18yo-bega-valley-activist-blocks-coal-port/?csc=12>

Railing against Adani: 18yo Bega Valley activist blocks coal port

Albert McKnight, Bega District News, 15/11/2018

An 18-year-old climate activist from the Bega Valley has blocked trains loaded with coal from reaching a Queensland port owned by Indian mining giant Adani.

For eight hours on Thursday, Hannah Doole was suspended 10 metres above Newlands rail line to stop coal reaching the Abbot Point Coal Port before being taken into police custody. ...

Ms Doole received three charges – including trespass on a railway – which she plans to plead guilty to.

COAL ROCKS ON

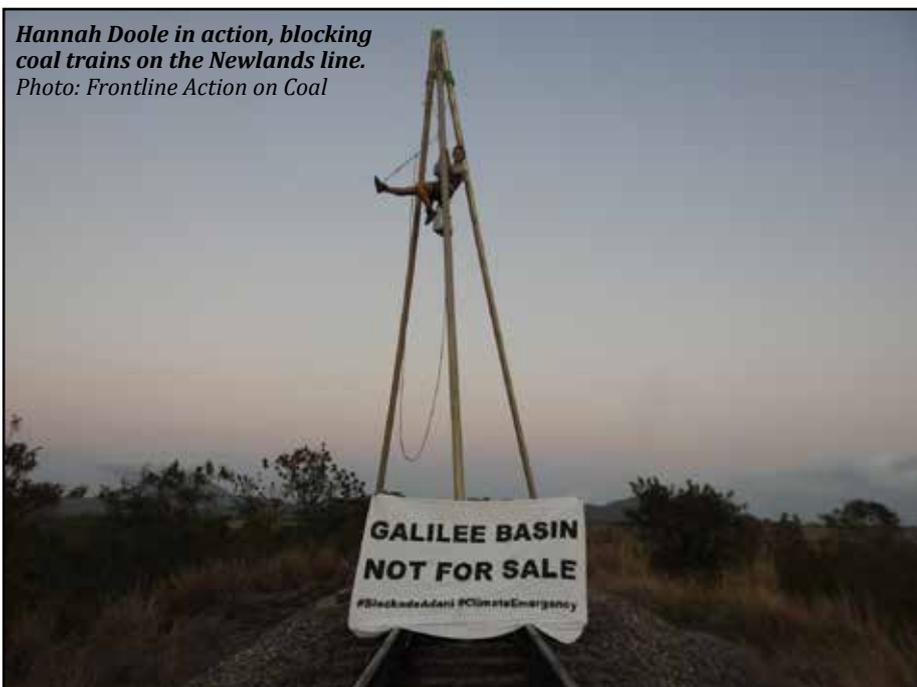
https://www.gloucesteradvocate.com.au/story/5747833/coals-drive-in-workforce/?fbclid=IwAR28blw3gONid-nUZ9GbQbFgDRCh_50il22FMYj-aYsn9c-4eBj1AywlElFlU

Joyce raises concerns about the number of 'drive-in' workers in mining industry

Louise Nichols, Gloucester Advocate, 10/11/2018

A hearing held in Singleton on Monday (November 5) was told by Singleton

*Hannah Doole in action, blocking coal trains on the Newlands line.
Photo: Frontline Action on Coal*



Council's general manager Jason Linnane that an estimated 9,000 workers drive-in each day to run the region's coal mining industry.

The hearing chaired by the Member for New England, Nationals, Barnaby Joyce is part of an inquiry into the mining sector's support for businesses in regional economies. It is held under the auspices of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry, Innovation, Science and Resources. ...

https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/worker-dies-after-explosion-at-yallourn-power-plant/3574565/?utm_campaign=alert&utm_source=Gladstone+Observer&utm_medium=email

Man killed in power plant blast

Shannon Molloy, *Gladstone Observer*, 13/11/2018

A man has died after suffering significant burns to most of his body in an explosion at a major power plant in Victoria.

Initial reports indicate the Yallourn Power Station employee, aged in his 50s, was working on a generator unit after an outage at about 4pm yesterday.

A high-voltage circuit breaker is believed to have exploded and the man suffered serious injuries as a result, including widespread burns to his upper and lower body. ...

https://thenewdaily.com.au/life/science/2018/11/13/gas-coal-solar/?utm_source=Adestra&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=PM%20Update%2020181113

Report claims the coal era is nearing an end

Rebecca Gredley, *New Daily*, 13/11/2018

Coal will be overtaken by gas and solar within two decades, the International Energy Agency predicts.

The agency's World Energy Outlook, released on Tuesday, uses existing policy and its predicted effects to model the sector's future.

Thermal coal is slated for long-term decline, although carbon dioxide emissions are increasing from energy sources despite global commitments to the Paris targets, the report says. ...

<https://www.theland.com.au/story/5754804/a-govt-planning-failure/>

'A govt planning failure'

Mark Griggs, *The Land*, 15/11/2018

NSW Farmers representative Mitchell Clapham didn't mince words at the Independent Planning Commission hearing into KEPCO's proposed coal mine in the Bylong Valley last week. ...

"The overarching reason we are here today is the complete and abject failure of government planning processes when it comes to extractive industries' development of state significant projects," Mr Clapham said. ...

Mr Clapham said agriculture was not a priority for government when it came to major mining proposals.

"We feel it is worth taking the opportunity to point out a number of severe deficiencies with government policies and indeed, quite shocking examples of the abuse of government power in order to achieve a favourable outcome for resource development." ...

https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2018-11-16/coal-price-drops-one-third-as-china-shuts-door-on-imports/10504276?smid=Page:%20ABC%20Rural-Facebook.Organic&WTsrc=Facebook_Organic&sf202450284=1

Coal price drops one third as China shuts door on Australian imports until 2019

Mike Pritchard, *ABC*, 16/11/2018

China has shut the door on coal imports until at least next year, creating uncertainty in the Australian market, according to one industry analyst.

Limits to imports were initially put in place in the middle of this year but now Chinese authorities have stopped all imports of coal from across the globe and the ban is not expected to be lifted until early 2019. ...

MINING MAYHEM

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/job-risk-from-100bn-mine-rehab-charge/news-story/ce89982db9fe985398c8c4de58a90728>

Job risk from \$100bn mine rehab charge

Perry Williams, *The Australian*, 12/11/2018

Sixteen Queensland mines may be forced to shut and more than 2500 jobs may be lost under a rehabilitation plan proposed by Treasurer Jackie Trad that could lead to a \$100 billion hit to the state's commodity producers.

Some of the world's largest resources companies, including BHP, Anglo America, Peabody Energy and Glencore, are reeling from amendments to the Mineral and Energy Resources Bill that threaten to impose crippling financial imposts on existing mines. ...

Modelling conducted by EY on behalf of the mining industry and issued exclusively to The Australian shows 11 producers controlling 16 mines are at high risk of "net asset deficiencies", which indicates potential insolvency. ...

EY says: "If the proposed changes require all new projects to backfill final

voids, the feasibility of many projects would be diminished." ...

Lobby group Lock the Gate said the QRC's criticisms of the bill didn't stack up and it estimated more than 4000 new jobs could be generated if mining companies were forced to clean up after they closed. ...

https://amp.smh.com.au/politics/queensland/four-in-five-queenslanders-want-miners-to-foot-clean-up-bills-20181113-p50fs2.html?csp=40f590f6ea6b76e18cba21351af776b8_twitter_impresion=true&fbclid=IwAR1tmIn70In0WT3MNpCaMUpFIEK4wXQLJziPYXUJ7nnV5XqB_RiTk1xMml

Four in five Queenslanders want miners to foot clean-up bills

Felicity Caldwell, *Brisbane Times*, 13/11/2018

The vast majority of Queenslanders want mining companies to clean up their own mine sites.

Leaked ALP research, obtained by the Brisbane Times, revealed 84.2 per cent of Queenslanders believed the mining industry should meet the cost of mine rehabilitation when mines closed.

That view was shared by the majority of Labor, LNP, Greens, One Nation, independent and other, and undecided voters, the leaked research showed.

Only 4.1 per cent of all people surveyed thought taxpayers should foot the bill. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-14/mining-rehabilitation-laws-pass-in-queensland-parliament/10498008>

Mining companies forced to pay towards rehabilitating abandoned mines

Laura Gartry & Ashleigh Stevenson, *ABC*, 14/11/2018

Queensland resource companies will be required to financially contribute to rehabilitate abandoned mines in Queensland, under new legislation passed in State Parliament.

Instead of a site-by-site approach, companies will be forced to contribute an amount into a pool of money to rehabilitate future abandoned sites if the owner goes bust.

Therefore if a new mine fails, the funds will be used to cover the cost to rehabilitate the site, removing liability from taxpayers. ...

The interest from the billion-dollar fund will be used to make a modest contribution to the overall cost of rehabilitating existing abandoned mines, and towards some research and development. ...

The laws would require new mines to

pay for areas such as voids and waste ponds to be rehabilitated, but existing mines won't face the same requirements. ...

Lock The Gate campaigner Rick Humphries said as a result, communities will be left with "vast unfilled coal pits and polluted water after mining".

"The mining industry already plans to leave 218 coal pits un-rehabilitated, many of which will drain groundwater permanently and will leave vast, deep scars on the landscape," he said. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/nov/14/queensland-mine-laws-would-leave-more-than-200-voids-across-the-state>

Queensland mine laws would leave more than 200 voids across the state

Ben Smee, The Guardian, 14/11/2018

Mine rehabilitation laws expected to be passed by the Queensland parliament this week would allow coalminers to leave more than 200 voids as pockmarks on the state's landscape.

In recent days the mining sector, in a campaign backed by both the Queensland Resources Council and the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union, has piled pressure on the government to delay the legislation and ensure new regulations would not be retrospective. ...

Rick Humphries from Lock the Gate said amendments to the laws were needed to "ensure taxpayers are not left with the clean-up bill when miners decide to abandon their responsibility". ...

"Whatever the cost of fixing up the mess is, the industry should pay for it," Humphries said. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/qld-mining-rehabilitation-late-amendments-spark-up-roar-in-parliament/news-story/77057505c1a766cad198b5f0968d9ea9>

Qld mining rehabilitation: late amendments spark uproar in parliament

Jared Owens, The Australian, 14/11/2018

Queensland Treasurer Jackie Trad has unveiled dozens of late amendments to the state's controversial mining rehabilitation bill in a move the opposition lambasted as making "mockery" of parliament.

Ms Trad unveiled the 39 pages of amendments following weeks of negotiations between the government and industry, but insisted they were not policy concessions designed to make peace with miners.

Rather, she said, the changes were

"some small amendments ... required to respond to critical issues raised by key stakeholders". ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/peace-declared-over-alp-mine-rehab-bill/news-story/967c10ac18e9f99792c7e480f37303de>

Peace declared over ALP mine rehab bill

Jared Owens, The Australian, 14/11/2018

Queensland's mining lobby has agreed to an uneasy truce with the Labor government to ensure new laws forcing companies to wear the cost of rehabilitating abandoned mines are not applied retrospectively to existing projects.

The outcome followed weeks of haggling between the government and industry over the draft laws, culminating in the industry releasing EY modelling showing the laws could close 16 mines with the loss of 2500 jobs.

The agreement also changes rules around the new "public interest test" for rehabilitation plans to reduce the amount of information about a company's activities being released publicly. ...

<https://thewest.com.au/business/mining/why-bhp-needs-to-come-clean-over-runaway-pilbara-train-fiasco-ng-b88102092z>

Why BHP needs to come clean over runaway Pilbara train fiasco

Ben Harvey, West Australian, 14/11/2018

Like the rest of Western Australia, I have no real idea what caused the spectacular derailment of BHP's iron ore train in the Pilbara last week.

That's because BHP has been particularly tight-lipped about what went on 200-odd kilometres south of Port Hedland. The information vacuum has been filled with all sorts of theories, one of which was aired this week by 6PR presenter Gareth Parker.

Parker is a sharp young man so would have had good cause to go to air suggesting the driver had got out to freshen up at a comfort stop somewhere along BHP's rail network.

The story goes he discovered the train was missing when he got back to the rail line. ...

There must have been a moment, when the train had disappeared into the distance and the noise of 50,000 tonnes of metal gathering speed had subsided, that the Pilbara outback returned to a silence punctuated only by crickets, the rustling of the odd tumbleweed and one lonely bloke whispering "Aww Jeez...".

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/driver-at-fault-over-bhp-runaway-train-company-says/news-story/6fb9c29c7d882ab05297dca3ff5ca963>

'Driver at fault' over BHP runaway train, company says

Andrew Burrell, The Australian, 16/11/2018

A spectacular derailment of a fully laden BHP iron ore train in the Pilbara occurred after the driver failed to apply an emergency air brake, an internal investigation has found.

The admission that human error played a key role in the incident, which has cost BHP tens of millions of dollars, is likely to quicken the company's move towards full automation of its trains.

BHP's investigation found that the train was stopped after a control cable in the braking system became disconnected. After the driver disembarked to carry out an inspection, the train – almost 3km in length and weighing more than 30,000 tonnes – began to roll away.

BHP said the electric braking system that initially stopped the train had automatically released after an hour, while the driver was still outside. Moreover, the emergency brake that could have stopped the train after it rolled away had not been applied as required under the company's operating procedures. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-14/wa-miners-are-searching-for-workers-again/10497646>

WA miners are searching for workers, but this time without 'mercenary-type salaries'

Erin Parke, ABC, 14/11/2018

Recruitment specialists say mining companies, desperate for workers in remote areas, are again turning to FIFO workers from the eastern states, but are unlikely to pay the sky-high wages seen in the last big boom.

After a flat few years, the Western Australia resources sector is picking up, and there are currently \$1 billion worth of new projects and mine expansions in the pipeline in WA. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-16/australian-pollution-mapped-by-postcodes/10478620>

Australia's pollution mapped by postcode reveals nation's 'dirty truth'

Norman Hermant & Emily Clark, ABC, 16/11/2018

On the fringes of Australia's biggest cities, people work, live, and play next to some of the nation's biggest polluters.

For the first time, Australia's pollution has been mapped by postcode in a report titled *The Dirty Truth* by the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF).

Some of the areas identified as being the most polluted in Australia's capital cities include:

Botany Bay in Sydney; Altona in Melbourne; Port of Brisbane; Parmelia near Perth.

ACF found the lower the postcode's weekly household income, the more likely it was to be home to polluting facilities such as factories and refineries. ...

The report relies on data from the National Pollution Inventory (NPI). It is collected from big polluters that self-report calculations as to what they're putting into the atmosphere. ...

The top five polluted postcodes are in regional Australia and the biggest polluting facility in each is either a coal-fired power plant or a mine.

But the most prevalent polluters are in manufacturing and they are primarily located where most Australians live. ...

GAS, GAS, GAS

<https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/controversial-seismic-testing-for-the-great-australian-bight-moves-closer/news-story/fc632a16e54e99d-2a6552bd53ee2f66>

Controversial seismic testing for the Great Australian Bight moves closer

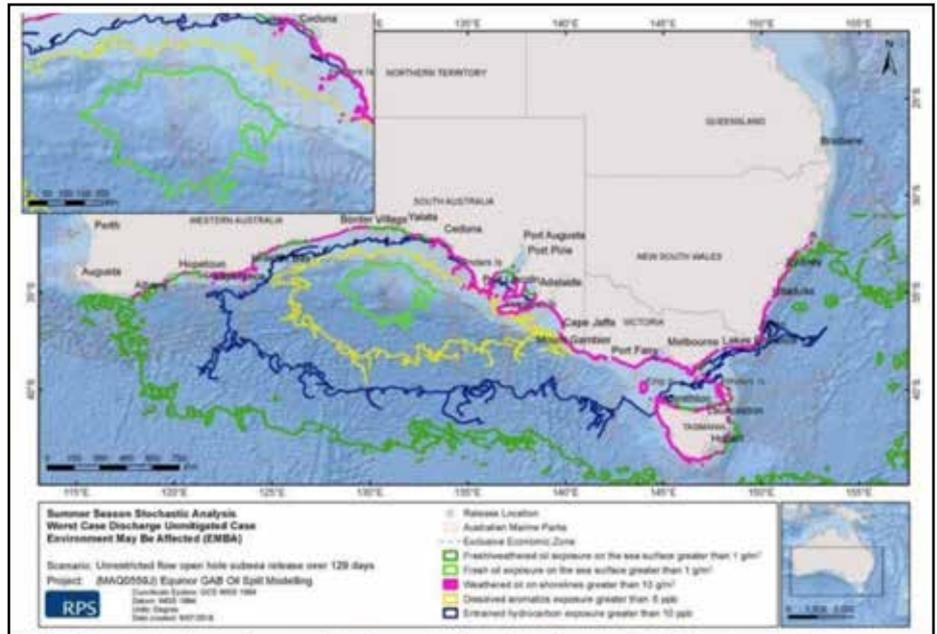
Matt Smith, Advertiser, 09/11/2018

Controversial plans to undertake seismic testing in the Great Australian Bight could receive final approval within weeks.

But the plans have come under fire from opponents who say the testing, to determine the area's viability for drilling, will put at risk the tourism reputation of nearby Kangaroo Island. ...

Norwegian-owned company PGS Australia has submitted environmental plans to undertake testing in The Bight over a 10-week period from March next year. ...

Australian Greens environment spokeswoman Sarah Hanson-Young told *The Advertiser* her party would move in the Senate on Monday to establish a senate inquiry into seismic testing. "We don't want dangerous blasting off Kangaroo Island and we don't want drilling in our Bight," Senator Hanson-Young said. ...



This map shows the possible extent of scenarios for an oil spill in the Great Australian Bight. Picture: Supplied to ABC

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-14/great-australian-bight-oil-spill-leaked-planning-document/10472922>

Oil spills in Great Australian Bight could reach Sydney's beaches, planning document shows

Eugene Boisvert & Rebecca Puddy, ABC, 14/11/2018

If an oil spill happened in the Great Australian Bight, it could reach as far east as Port Macquarie's beaches, two thirds of the way up the New South Wales coast, according to a leaked draft environment plan obtained by the ABC.

Under a "worst credible case discharge" scenario, up to 10 grams of oil per square metre could wash up on Australia's coasts, with the area potentially affected stretching from above Sydney to Albany in Western Australia, according to the document authored by Norwegian oil company Equinor.

Environmental group Greenpeace, which obtained the leaked draft Oil Pollution Emergency Plan, said it was the first time modelling had shown an oil spill could reach so far. ...

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/nov/11/fracking-firm-boss-says-it-didnt-expect-to-cause-such-serious-quakes-lancashire?CMP=share_btn_fb&fbclid=IwAR3EbpfyVp9Mr2mmpmcARL0BebDj-WKhr0DZ-vAepiw37YNdz_qu7RWj4DM

Fracking firm boss says it didn't expect to cause such serious quakes

Adam Vaughan, *The Guardian*, 12/11/2018

A senior executive at the fracking company Cuadrilla privately said this summer it did not expect to cause earthquakes that would be serious enough to force it to halt operations.

But despite that confidence, the company has triggered 37 minor quakes since it started fracking for gas at its Preston New Road site in Lancashire three weeks ago. ...

Jonathan Bartley, the co-leader of the Green party, said: "They were unaware they would cause tremors anywhere near this strong, and they evidently don't know how to stop them." ...

Francis Egan, the chief executive of Cuadrilla, last week urged the government to relax the regulatory threshold or risk stifling shale gas exploration. The energy minister, Claire Perry, rejected such calls, saying only a "very foolish politician" would do so at this point. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/nov/13/problem-in-waiting-why-natural-gas-will-wipe-out-australias-emissions-gains>

'Problem in waiting': why natural gas will wipe out Australia's emissions gains

Adam Moreton, *The Guardian*, 13/11/2018

LNG is often touted as a good alternative to coal but the increase in production means

Australia's carbon footprint has expanded for the last three years straight – and the coal industry is not to blame. The biggest driver has been liquefied natural gas, known as LNG.

Science and policy institute Climate Analytics found that between 2015 and 2020 the emissions growth from LNG will effectively wipe out the carbon pollution avoided through the 23% renewable energy target.

It leaves those watching the industry wondering why it is all but absent from national debates about climate policy – and just how long that can continue.

“It’s been incredible that until now this industry has gotten away with being such a massive source of carbon dioxide – and particularly carbon dioxide growth – while barely being acknowledged,” says Piers Verstegen, the director of the Conservation Council of Western Australia. ...

Bruce Robertson, an analyst with the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial analysis, says the LNG industry is the sole reason the amount of grid electricity used – affected by improving efficiency, manufacturing decline and the rise of solar panels – did not fall last year. “They are massive numbers. On the east coast, LNG is 25% of domestic gas usage and 3% of all electricity consumption,” he says. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/nov/14/half-of-australias-emissions-increase-linked-to-was-gorgon-lng-plant>

Half of Australia’s emissions increase linked to WA’s Gorgon LNG plant

Adam Morton, *The Guardian*, 14/11/2018

Half of the increase in Australia’s annual carbon dioxide emissions can be linked to a single issue: the failure to bury greenhouse gases underground at the country’s largest liquefied natural gas development.

Chevron’s Gorgon LNG development in the Pilbara is considered a landmark development in carbon capture and storage, a long-promised technology to limit emissions from fossil fuels. ...

But nearly two years after the start of LNG production from the Gorgon gas field, emissions storage is yet to begin.

A Chevron spokeswoman said technical issues were identified in the commissioning of the storage project and modifications were under way. She said it was expected underground injection would begin by March. ...

A new report has questioned whether the company expects the project to work. The analysis by research group the Australia Institute said Chevron has also applied – and been granted approval – to emit an average of 8.7m tonnes a year to 2020 ...

It said if the injection project does work Gorgon’s emissions would fall from between 8.5m and 10m tonnes to between 5.1m and 6m tonnes a year. The institute’s climate and energy



Inpex chief Takayuki Ueda inspecting the \$45 billion Ichthys LNG project. Photo: Inpex

program director, Richie Merzian, said by granting it a higher emissions limit the government was allowing Chevron to plan for the carbon storage project to fail. ...

“Rather than holding Chevron to account, the Morrison government is giving it as much leniency as it possibly can,” Merzian said. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-14/palmerston-residents-complain-of-gas-plant-noise-and-light/10495510>

Palmerston residents left with burning questions over noise and light from nearby gas plant

Jesse Thompson, Adam Steer & Tim Moore, *ABC*, 14/11/2018

Palmerston residents mystified by a low hum and a luminous cloud hanging overhead have a nearby gas plant to blame, officials say.

Listeners rang and texted ABC Radio Darwin to complain of the droning noise they said was audible in the suburbs of Durack, Driver and Marlow Lagoon.

Moulden resident Peter said he was fishing in a creek close to the plant when he heard it.

“It doesn’t sound like one fighter jet taking off; it sounds like half a dozen taking off simultaneously,” he said.

“It would roar at a higher pitch, then lower for a while, and then it would roar and roar and roar” ...

But the NT Environmental Protection Authority confirmed the noise, as well as the glowing cloud compared by some to a fluorescent light, were related to the start-up of the nearby INPEX Ichthys LNG Project.

Gas flaring involves the controlled release and burning of gas and is common during start-up, wind-down and maintenance phases of gas plants. ...

Peter Vassel, the EPA’s director of environmental operations, said the noise could persist for months.

“In the worst-case scenario, [INPEX] were looking at about a six-month period of on and off flaring, which is a vital part of the commissioning phase,” he said. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-15/inpex-ceo-in-darwin-ichthys-abe-shinzo-lng-gas/10500242>

Inpex boss touts potential expansion of Darwin’s Ichthys LNG Project ahead of opening

Matt Garrick & Jano Gibson, *ABC*, 15/11/2018

Darwin may reap far more than the expected 40 years of business from the biggest project ever undertaken on its soil, with a future expansion of the \$55-billion Inpex LNG gas processing facility mooted by the Japanese company’s chief executive. ...

Around 70 per cent of the gas processed in Darwin will be exported to Japan, with other nations taking the remainder. ...

He flagged the possibility of the plant expanding in years to come, if more gas reserves are located near the existing Ichthys field in the Browse Basin off the Western Australian coast. ...

“For example we have now two LNG trains (gas processing facilities) here, there is still room for the construction of additional four LNG trains here in this LNG plant. ...

Another factor that proved controversial during the Inpex project’s construction was the number of fatal incidents surrounding it including the tragic workplace death of Carl Delaney, 56, at the Bladin Point site in November last year.

More than a dozen employee suicides also took place during the project’s

duration, according to CFMEU organiser Kane Lowth. ...

“And obviously we haven’t got the figures on family breakdowns, drug and alcohol abuse – so those figures are not known, but obviously they’re there.” ...

<https://www.ntnews.com.au/business/inpex-top-brass-touches-down-ahead-of-official-opening/news-story/b66abc39f500b6d33666caad328e54afc>

Inpex top brass touches down ahead of official opening

Jason Walls, NT News, 15/11/2018

Inpex’s top brass took to Darwin Harbour to survey the company’s Bladin Point processing plant on Thursday ahead of Friday’s historic meeting between Prime Minister Scott Morrison and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe. ...

The Inpex delegation also used the visit to announce the signing of a landmark \$24 million “benefits agreement” with Darwin’s Larrakia people, to focus on education and support for the elderly. ...

The package will include a scholarship program for tertiary students and funding for primary and secondary programs as well as providing air-conditioning for elders and people with disabilities. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-16/inpex-signs-deal-to-pay-darwin-aboriginal-group-millions/10503416>

Inpex signs deal to pay Darwin Aboriginal group \$24 million over decades for education, jobs fund

Felicity James, ABC, 16/11/2018

Japanese gas giant Inpex has signed a \$24 million deal to set up a fund for Darwin’s Larrakia people almost a decade after it was first promised.

The project has already supported more than 60 Indigenous businesses and employed more than 1,400 Indigenous people, said Northern Australia Minister Matt Canavan

The fund will exist for the projected 40-year lifespan of the Ichthys LNG project at Bladin Point near Darwin, which has started production offshore in the Browse Basin.

Larrakia Development Corporation (LDC) chief executive Nigel Browne has been pushing for the fund, which was part of a memorandum of understanding Inpex signed with LDC in 2009.

“Absent any native title or land rights

on the Darwin side of the harbour, [it is] recognition of our status as traditional owners,” Mr Browne said.

“A package to assist Larrakia families, not only in everyday life but also [in] opportunities for training and employment and commercial engagement.” ...

The package has been set up with a trust structure to ensure the funds are distributed for the sole benefit of the Larrakia people, the traditional owners of the land on which the LNG plant has been developed. ...

Bill Risk, Larrakia elder and Inpex advisory committee chairman, said the agreement was very significant, and a major milestone for his people since the Bombing of Darwin in 1942.

“[The bombing] disrupted our lives to an extent where the fight for our land and native title, et cetera, was affected by the fact that it was the Australian government that removed our people from the land at that time of bombing,” he said. ...

<https://www.katherinetimes.com.au/story/5761253/bee-taloo-first-in-line-for-fracking/?fbclid=IwAR2UkZwRHA4E-C0xtqsFdxJRGvhhgvoBUQ5MbrggHdKra126QWugzjsbty>

Beetaloo first in line for fracking

Chris McLennan, Katherine Times, 16/11/2018

The Federal and NT governments have signed a deal to target the Beetaloo region, south of Katherine, as a “new world class gas province”.

Resources Minister Matthew Canavan signed a Memorandum of Understanding with NT Chief Minister Michael Gunner yesterday. ...

The moratorium on fracking for onshore gas was controversially lifted earlier this year.

Some gas companies have said Katherine stands to benefit as the staging post for workers and materials if the industry is allowed to mine deep beneath the Beetaloo’s sands. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-16/inpex-ichthys-lng-gas-project-foreign-investment-japan-abe/10505696>

Foreign investment could fuel ‘massive oil and gas base’ in NT within a decade, says senator

Matt Garrick, ABC, 16/11/2018

A surge of major foreign investments into Northern Territory resources could see the region transformed into a “massive oil and gas base” within 10 years, according to Northern Australia Minister Matt Canavan. ...

In front of Japanese ministerial

counterparts and business leaders, Mr Canavan leveraged off the historic moment to call for further Japanese investment into Northern Australia. ...

Japanese Trade Minister Hiroshige Seko said the NT could be at the forefront of fuelling a new “LNG revolution” within Asia. ...

At the peak of its six-and-a-half year construction phase, 10,000 workers were employed on the Inpex site in Darwin.

Now, around 2,500 remain, tying off the final stages of the plant’s construction.

Eventually, just 350 staff will be employed onsite at the LNG plant during the day, with another 60 working through the night. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/fracking-backed-to-beat-drugs/news-story/6970ee130b81ac8982b9cf12f81e7ea3>

Kimberley fracking backed by Yungngora Aboriginal Corporation ‘to beat drugs’

Andrew Burrell, The Australian, 14/11/2018

An Aboriginal group in the Kimberley that famously protested against oil drilling at Noonkanbah station in 1980 says it supports controversial gas fracking on the land so its young people can get off drugs and alcohol and find work.

In a submission to an independent West Australian inquiry into whether fracking should be allowed in Western Australia, the Yungngora Aboriginal Corporation said it backed plans by ASX-listed Buru Energy and Japan’s Mitsubishi to explore for gas at Noonkanbah, 320km east of Broome. ...

Two other Kimberley indigenous groups – the Nyikina Mangala traditional owners and the Nyul Nyul people – have voted to oppose fracking on their traditional lands.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/aboriginal-groups-join-antifracking-bid/news-story/19d9af0fd9d930ae4d0bd717ac21f06>

Aboriginal groups in anti-fracking bid

Andrew Burrell, The Australian, 14/11/2018

Two key Aboriginal groups in the Kimberley have voted to oppose fracking on their traditional lands – which contain vast untapped gas reserves – in a move aimed at intensifying pressure on the McGowan government to ban the practice. ...

On Thursday last week, the Nyikina Mangala traditional owners in

the Kimberley decided at a general meeting to call on the government to ban fracking on their country, covering about 26,000sq km extending south from King Sound, near Derby.

On the same day, the Nyul Nyul people, whose land is centred on Beagle Bay, north of Broome, also signed a declaration opposing fracking. ...

<https://thewest.com.au/business/energy/wes-farmers-and-perdaman-advance-wa-petrochemical-plans-for-burrup-peninsula-ng-b881021412z>

Wesfarmers and Perdaman advance WA petrochemical plans for Burrup Peninsula

Peter Milne, West Australian, 14/11/2018

Two proposed petrochemical developments on the Burrup Peninsula – Wesfarmers' methanol plant and Perdaman's urea plant – have taken a step forward today with separate referrals to the State's environmental watchdog.

Wesfarmers, together with Coogee Chemicals and Mitsubishi, is conducting a pre-feasibility study to build a 1.8 million tonne-a-year methanol plant estimated to cost about \$US1 billion (\$1.4 billion).

Perdaman proposes to build a 2mtpa urea plant at a cost of about \$US3.3 billion-plus (\$4.6 billion). ...

Among the issues listed by the Environmental Protection Authority for consideration is the potential for emissions from the urea plant to impact Aboriginal heritage sites and rock art. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/vast-gasfield-opens-on-basis-its-used-for-manufacturing-only/news-story/bc03802788a9db-01debdb5f1c7174c6>

Vast gasfield opens on basis it's used for manufacturing only

Jared Owens, The Australian, 15/11/2018

A vast gasfield on Queensland's Darling Downs will today be unlocked by the state government on the condition it is used solely for domestic manufacturing, in an Australian-first effort to bolster local companies struggling for secure gas supply.

The open tender in the proven Surat Basin near Chinchilla, 250km west of Brisbane, comes after Incitec Pivot last month warned that its Gibson Island fertiliser plant and the 450 jobs it supports were in jeopardy after it failed to sign a new gas contract to start in 2020.

However, the gas industry last night queried the government's decision to tie the gasfield to manufacturing, noting regulators' advice that the east coast gas market was currently "balanced". ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/png-backs-lng-expansion-by-energy-majors/news-story/a84735c59422e3715a080c3b5c18f8e5>

PNG backs LNG expansion by energy majors

Perry Williams, The Australian, 15/11/2018

A long-awaited plan by energy majors, including Australia's Oil Search, to boost LNG production in Papua New Guinea will take shape this week with its government signalling initial support for a gas expansion deal ahead of the APEC summit. ...

The draft scheme will set in motion an ambitious plan to double LNG produc-

tion from the South Pacific country via three new export trains to be added to the existing Exxon, Oil Search and Santos-owned PNG LNG plant near Port Moresby. ...

<https://thewest.com.au/business/energy/regulators-stop-order-on-pttep-oil-platform-montara-over-safety-fears-ng-b881021083z>

Regulator's stop order on PTTEP oil platform Montara over safety fears

Peter Milne, West Australian, 15/11/2018

The operator of the Montara oil field off the North West has halted production after a string of potentially fatal safety incidents and cannot restart until cleared by the regulator.

The field operated by Thailand's PTTEP is infamous for a wellhead blow-out and rig fire in 2009 that spilled millions of barrels of oil into the Timor Sea.

Offshore safety regulator NOPSEMA yesterday released details of the latest incident when attempts to start oil production resulted in the risk of a deadly fire or explosion.

Two NOPSEMA improvement notices released yesterday said workers who visited the normally unmanned Montara platform on August 27 had been at risk of death or injury from a gas leak causing a fire or explosion. There was no risk of an oil spill.

The notices cited numerous examples of PTTEP not following its own safety procedures. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/nov/16/nothing-to-hide-oil-and-gas-lobby-pushes-to-limit-data-on-its-emissions>

'Nothing to hide?' Oil and gas lobby pushes to limit data on its emissions

Adam Morton, The Guardian, 16/11/2018

The Australian oil and gas lobby is pushing to limit public information about greenhouse gas emissions from liquefied natural gas (LNG) plants, a move that contradicts the global industry's pledge to increase transparency about their impact on the climate.

The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (Apeea) has called for LNG plants to be able to apply for emissions data to be withheld from the public on the grounds that releasing it could help its competitors overseas. It has been backed by Chevron, which operates the Gorgon and Wheatstone LNG developments in Western Australia.

The push follows the federal govern-

Burrup Peninsula's North West Shelf LNG plant with Pluto LNG in the background, soon to be joined by two petro-chemical plants. Photo: Supplied to The West Australian



ment reporting that the booming LNG sector is the main driver of Australia's growing emissions. ...

Shareholder activist group the Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility said the push was at odds with a global campaign under which the industry's major players, including Chevron, Woodside and Santos, had committed to increased transparency about climate change. ...

Daniel Gocher, the centre's climate and environment director, said given emissions data for each Australian LNG development was already publicly available, it appeared Appea and Chevron wanted to avoid increased scrutiny if pollution was to rise.

He said industry concerns about competitive disadvantage may be genuine as investors across the world were increasingly aware of the climate impact of their investments, but that was not an argument to lower disclosure standards.

"As trite as it sounds, if these companies have nothing to hide then they shouldn't be concerned about transparency," he said. ...

HYDROGEN HORROR

<https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/business/australia-can-lead-world-in-hydrogen-energy-says-woodside-ceo/news-story/f32509d58c7c8a3da26cd79481f3c46f>

Australia can lead world in hydrogen energy, says Woodside CEO

John Dagge, Herald Sun, 14/11/2018

Australia can be a world leader in hydrogen fuel as major industrial customers in Japan and South Korea increasingly demand the energy source, Woodside Petroleum chief Peter Coleman says.

The head of the nation's biggest oil and gas pureplay said yesterday that so called "green hydrogen" — hydrogen fuel sourced from water using renewable energy — was set to emerge as a critically needed zero-emission fuel over the long term.

In the meantime, Mr Coleman said, the nation should focus on producing "blue hydrogen", which is made from natural gas.

The technology to produce blue hydrogen was already proven but breakthroughs in how to ship it were needed, he said. ...

PFAS POISON

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5740873/revealed-truegains-decades-of-illegal-dumping-in-hunter-creeks/?cs=7573&fbclid=IwAR00xG07rezfVrwillNMNs-gCftBXPBqAvgb6y0hwWWrmSVj9NL0dQ9A-kHbg>

Dirty Deeds Part I: Insiders reveal decades of dumping toxic waste by Rutherford waste-oil refinery Truegain, also known as Australian Waste Oil Refineries

Nick Bielby & Donna Page, Newcastle Herald, 10/11/2018

Millions of litres of toxic waste collected from across Australia has been secretly pumped into creeks or dumped on the ground over decades by a Maitland waste-oil refinery company.

A Newcastle Herald investigation can reveal that Truegain Pty Ltd, also known as Australian Waste Oil Refineries (AWOR), pumped vast quantities of a chemical cocktail polluting creeks that run to the Hunter River.

The contamination dates back to the 1990s.

Truegain was also dumping the notorious contaminant per- and poly-fluoro-alkyl [PFAS] into Maitland's sewer and the toxic firefighting chemicals — at the heart of the Williamstown's 'red zone' environmental scandal — have been detected in extremely high levels in a creek behind the refinery. ...

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5743285/worker-splashed-with-toxic-liquid-that-can-eat-through-a-stainless-steel-pipe/?cs=12>

Dirty Deeds Part II: How one small spill at Truegain's Rutherford plant almost cost worker's sight and left him with life-long skin problems

Donna Page & Nick Bielby, Newcastle Herald, 12/11/2018

More than six years after he was splashed with toxic liquid at Truegain's Rutherford plant, Jeff Gayford still suffers from skin problems no one can treat or properly explain.

Truegain, also known as Australian Waste Oil Refineries, was forced into liquidation in September 2016.

The company's atrocious environmental record... included oil and liquid waste dumping into surrounding waterways and properties dating back decades. ...

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5743317/sacked-workers-miss-out-on-unpaid-wages-as-truegain-debt-hits-579m/?cs=7573>

Dirty Deeds Part III: Truegain's Rutherford waste-oil refinery workers to miss out on unpaid wages and entitlements

Donna Page & Nick Bielby, Newcastle Herald, 14/11/2018

Noy paying bills and doing things "on the cheap" was the modus operandi of Rutherford waste-oil refinery Truegain.

So it comes as no surprise to former workers of the company, also known as Australian Waste Oil Refineries (AWOR), that two years after its collapse they are still out in the cold. The money they are owed — wages, holiday pay, superannuation, long service and termination payments — they will never see. ...

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5743353/exposed-truegains-dirty-little-secret-used-to-fool-authorities/?cs=305>

Dirty Deeds Part IV: Rutherford waste-oil refinery Truegain used heavily contaminated Sydney yard to hide toxic waste

Donna Page & Nick Bielby, Newcastle Herald, 16/11/2018

The industrial block in Sydney's outer west was supposed to be operating as a transfer facility, a yard for trucks servicing Truegain's Rutherford waste-oil refinery.

It wasn't until a raid by Penrith City Council in November 2015, that the yard gates were opened to reveal the health and environmental threat on Sydney's suburban fringe.

Toxic firefighting foam, shipping containers full of used oil filters, 300,000 litres of oil sludge, 40,000 litres of grease, 16 tonnes of contaminated soil and 90,000 litres of oil contaminated water.

More than 400 contaminated plastic bins, 200 contaminated steel drums, 12,000 litres of corrosive liquid and an unlined dirt pit dug into the back corner of the yard where waste oil was dumped.

The Charles St property was owned by Truegain, also known as Australian Waste Oil Refineries (AWOR), a serial environmental offender. The legacy of 13 years of Truegain ownership was a site laid waste by pollution. ...

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/nov/13/world-has-no-capacity-to-absorb-new-fossil-fuel-plants-warns-iaea>

World has no capacity to absorb new fossil fuel plants, warns IEA

Adam Vaughan, The Guardian, 13/11/2018

The world has so many existing fossil fuel projects that it cannot afford to build any more polluting infrastructure without busting international climate change goals, the global energy watchdog has warned.

The International Energy Agency said almost all of the world's carbon budget up to 2040 – the amount that can be emitted without causing dangerous warming – would be eaten up by today's power stations, vehicles and industrial facilities. ...

Overall, the world's appetite for energy is expected to grow by a quarter by 2040 because of an extra 1.7 billion people, growing affluence and a shift in demand from the west to Asia. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-13/international-energy-agency-world-energy-outlook-2018/10491734>

Renewables overtaking fossil fuels in new power generation: International Energy Agency

Stephen Long, ABC, 13/11/2018

Renewable energy has surpassed fossil fuels worldwide as the main source of new electricity generation, the latest report from the International Energy Agency has found.

The premier global energy research group warned that demand for coal is set to slump if the world is to achieve its commitment to limit global warming.

Thermal coal exports will fall nearly 60 per cent by 2040 under a "sustainable development scenario" that would keep global warming below 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels, according to the IEA. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/nov/14/woodside-petroleum-joins-bhp-and-rio-tinto-to-call-for-carbon-price>

Woodside Petroleum joins BHP and Rio Tinto to call for carbon price

The Guardian, 14/11/2018

Woodside Petroleum chief executive, Peter Coleman, has joined mining giants BHP and Rio Tinto in calling for a price on carbon to help with emissions reduction targets and the transition to renewable energy.

But the energy minister, Angus Taylor, has claimed Australia doesn't need a carbon price as emissions levels are coming ...

Woodside Petroleum had been an outspoken opponent of carbon pricing under Julia Gillard's former Labor government.

However, its current chief, Coleman, says investors are increasingly concerned about the company's sustainability measures, and the issue should be dealt with through an appropriate global approach. ...

"If you believe in the science or not really doesn't matter," Coleman said. "By the time the science is proven, it will be too late to act. So it's prudent to act today."

<https://www.theage.com.au/business/the-economy/talking-their-own-book-taylor-slams-woodside-s-carbon-price-call-20181114-p50ftwg.html>

Talking their own book: Taylor slams Woodside's carbon price call

Cole Latimar, The Age, 14/11/2018

Federal Energy Minister Angus Taylor has launched a spray at energy giant Woodside, dismissing its calls for a carbon price as a cynical effort to sell more gas. ...

Mr Taylor rejected Mr Coleman's attacks as an cynical attempt to push the role of Woodside's gas in limiting the impacts of climate change. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/nov/15/minerals-council-backs-coalitions-plan-to-underwrite-new-power-generation>

Minerals Council backs Coalition's plan to underwrite new power generation

Katharine Murphy, The Guardian, 15/11/2018

The powerful lobby group representing Australia's resources giants has backed the Morrison government's controversial plan to underwrite new power generation, and says the replacement of the Liddell coal-fired power station must be the focus.

The Minerals Council of Australia has endorsed the program in contrast to the blast it has received from the energy sector and renewable energy groups, telling the government the importance of replacing retiring baseload power generation "cannot be overstated", and baseload means coal, gas or hydro projects.

The MCA has also warned a future Labor government to honour any contracts for new power generation the Morrison government enters into

before the next federal election, saying "without this, private-sector investors will be wary of investing in any projects which may be proposed". ...

The progressive thinktank the Australia Institute has criticised the haste. The institute says the Coalition is calling on interested parties to pitch projects before the parliament has set up the necessary legislative framework – a procedure "which poses a number of risks".

It is unclear whether the government will be able to secure parliamentary backing for the program.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/liddells-planned-closure-exposes-fragile-energy-supply/news-story/64e403ef491039db6c61470b980b5e25>

Liddell's planned closure exposes 'fragile' energy supply

Perry Williams, The Australian, 16/11/2018

Australia's power grid faces further tightening and price hikes once AGL Energy's Liddell coal-fired power station closes with insufficient baseload supply in place to fill the gap, the Minerals Council of Australia has warned.

The mining lobby group said the focus of the federal government's proposal to underwrite new power generation should be replacing the capacity and output that will be lost with Liddell's closure, given the facility accounts for 10 per cent of NSW demand. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/nov/16/underwriting-coal-power-exposes-taxpayers-to-billions-industry-group-says>

Underwriting coal power exposes taxpayers to billions, industry group says

Katharine Murphy, The Guardian, 16/11/2018

A leading business group has expressed significant concern with the Morrison government's controversial plan to underwrite new power generation, noting it could leave taxpayers exposed to liabilities "with a net present value of billions of dollars".

The Ai Group has used its submission to flag major problems with the proposal, ranging from its "extremely aggressive" administrative timetable, with projects being drummed up before the next federal election; a lack of obvious "strong independent governance" arrangements, and the lack of an overarching climate and energy policy. ...

The Ai Group says: "Given that an underwriting program could result in long-term Commonwealth liabilities

with a net present value of billions of dollars, a strong governance arrangement is essential for the actual and perceived integrity of the process”.

It points out, for example, that the net present value of fully offsetting the lifetime emissions of a new 2GW high efficiency low emissions (HELE) power plant could be \$17.5bn, and more than \$1.3bn annually by 2030, depending on what carbon policies are ultimately adopted. ...

<https://www.chinchillanews.com.au/news/members-of-lnp-conduct-regional-energy-tour/3574534/>

Members of LNP conduct regional energy tour

Amani Vassilou, Chinchilla News, 14/11/2018

A spotlight was on the electorate of Callide’s energy sector last week when members of the LNP toured the region’s providers.

Member for Callide Colin Boyce and Member for Burleigh Michael Hart began their tour on Wednesday at Coopers Gap Windfarm. ...

Thursday saw the pair venture to the Origin Darling Downs gas power station at Kogan and the APA Darling Downs solar farm in Dalby.

Mr Boyce said the tour solidified how he perceived the energy future of the Callide electorate.

“We have the big end of the CSG industry with the three big gas companies, as well as the renewables,” he said.

“There are at least a dozen projects coming on for solar energy so in the future the Callide electorate can only be seen as a big energy provider for the state of Queensland.”

The tour concluded with a meeting with the Miles Chamber of Commerce, discussing the town’s housing issues resulting from the gas industry. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-14/gst-fracking-government-morrison-moratorium/10497850>

Letter from Scott Morrison raises questions about why the NT received GST top up

Jane Bardon, ABC, 14/11/2018

A Freedom of Information request has raised more questions about whether the Federal Government’s decision to give the Northern Territory \$260 million extra in GST was linked to removing its fracking moratorium.

The Australia Institute, an environmental think tank, has obtained a

partially censored copy of the Federal Government’s GST top-up offer letter to the Gunner Government, which refers to its decision to allow fracking to resume.

The \$260 million GST top up and \$550 million for Northern Territory remote Indigenous housing were announced by then federal treasurer Scott Morrison at a press conference in Alice Springs on April 23.

Both Mr Morrison and NT Treasurer Nicole Manison denied the funding was linked to the Territory Government’s decision to lift the fracking moratorium, announced on April 17. ...

But Mr Morrison’s April 19 letter offering the \$260 million GST top up to the Northern Territory, obtained from the Federal Treasury Department under Freedom of Information laws by the Australia Institute, referred to the decision to lift the moratorium.

“I also note the Northern Territory has announced that it will accept the recommendations of the final report of the scientific inquiry into hydraulic fracturing the Northern Territory,” Mr Morrison said in the letter.

Australia Institute researcher Tom Swann said there were now “a number of reasons to be suspicious” about the link.

“One is that the letter in which Scott Morrison offers the money refers to the fracking decision. The other is the timing, the sheer speed at which this was all rushed through,” Mr Swann said. ...

Before the GST top up was announced, the Federal Government was overt in putting pressure on the NT Government to lift its fracking moratorium, and stop denying its Treasury gas revenue.

When Ms Manison went to the state treasurers’ meeting with Mr Morrison in Melbourne on April 5, the Territory was facing a GST cut of at least \$136 million as a result of the new interstate carve-up.

At their Melbourne press conference on April 5, Mr Morrison made clear that the Territory moratorium was a key part of his discussions with Ms Manison. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/greens-bid-to-outlaw-thermal-coal-trade/news-story/139d-f9eb034f699f81215eef0e32cae>

Greens bid to outlaw thermal coal trade

Greg Brown, The Australian, 16/11/2018

The Greens want to criminalise the exporting and burning of thermal coal by the end of next decade, with up to seven years’ jail for executives of companies that break the proposed law.

Greens environment spokesman Adam Bandt will declare today that “coal kills” as he outlines an escalation of the party’s hostility to a mineral that makes up about 60 per cent of Australia’s baseload power generation.

Under the policy the Greens will take to the election, thermal coal exports would be phased out by 2030, as well as local coal-fired power production. There would be criminal liabilities for people who breached the laws, including jail time. There would still be a “short-term” role for coking coal, which is used to make steel. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/nov/16/greens-policy-would-outlaw-thermal-coal-as-it-is-no-longer-compatible-with-human-life?fbclid=IwAR1pKjF94POhP3LSSPKZdBMwbsZyWVEDc-8gl4au4P49fTMDPTowXQ-1E54>

Greens policy would outlaw thermal coal as it is ‘no longer compatible’ with human life

Katharine Murphy, The Guardian, 16/11/2018

The Australian Greens will propose a phase-out of thermal coal exports by 2030 in a significant strengthening of the party’s existing policy, which has focused on banning new mines.

The Greens’ climate change spokesman, Adam Bandt, will outline the shift on Friday in a speech to the United Firefighters Union in Hobart. The speech focuses on the growing risk of wildfires as a consequence of climate change. ...

Under the reworked Greens policy, by 2030, it will no longer be legal to dig, burn or ship thermal coal. The proposal includes maximum penalties for breaches of the prohibition of seven years imprisonment, and hefty fines.

Bandt will say on Friday the current outlook indicates Australia “will continue to export hundreds of millions of tonnes of coal every year which, when burnt, produces about twice as much global warming pollution than Australia’s domestic economy”.

“The reality is every tonne of coal that is burnt makes the bushfire threat worse, and every tonne of coal burnt brings us closer to climate catastrophe

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News this week ... from previous page

– in other words the burning of coal is no longer compatible with the protection of human life.”

Bandt will flag bringing forward legislation, based on laws regulating the use of asbestos, to ban thermal coal exports in January 2030, and impose quotas in the interim so exports scale down between now and the proposed cut-off.

The policy proposal would see export permits auctioned annually, with the revenue raised supporting a transition fund for displaced coal workers to assist with structural adjustment. ...

<https://thewest.com.au/politics/federal-politics/greens-push-for-fair-dinkum-power-inquiry-ng-b881021887z>

Greens push for 'fair dinkum' power inquiry

Matt Coughlan, AAP, West Australian, 14/11/2018

Prime Minister Scott Morrison's promise to deliver "fair dinkum power" has inspired the Greens to establish a parliamentary committee named after the phrase.

On Wednesday, the upper house voted to create the Select Committee into Fair Dinkum Power which will look at the potential to give customers a more important role in Australia's electricity market.

That includes energy generation, efficiency, grid stability and reliability services and peer-to-peer trading between households and businesses.

Due to report by June next year, the committee will examine how those services and renewable energy can deliver lower energy costs and increased reliability. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/climate/quit-paris-now-mining-chiefs-lobby-demands/news-story/c4b9ec92daa33367946f52912d02d0e7>

Quit Paris now, mining chiefs' lobby demands

Graham Lloyd, The Australian, 16/11/2018

Hugh Morgan, one of Australia's most outspoken and influential conservative voices, has joined former BHP chairman Jerry Ellis to lead a new lobby group calling for Australia to leave the Paris Agreement and stop funding global climate-change efforts.

Mr Morgan, a Liberal Party member and former chief executive of Western Mining Corporation, said Western millennials had embraced alarmism

over climate change as a new secular religion after being indoctrinated by the education system.

The new lobby, the Saltbush Group, rejects the idea of a consensus on man-made global warming. ...

The Saltbush Group is chaired by Mr Ellis, who has argued the balance has been lost between environmental and economic outcomes.

The group has been created by long-time climate sceptic and former coalmining executive Viv Forbes, and claims to have been created "from a country farmhouse in Queensland with no landline, no NBN and less than \$3000 in financial support".

A statement issued by the group said members included scientists, knights, senators and MPs including a former premier, cabinet ministers, mayors, company directors, corporate executives, international negotiators, and senior state and federal public servants.

A list published by the group included former Queensland premier Campbell Newman and former CRA chairman Roderick Carnegie.

The group said many members did not want their names made public because they feared that exposure would harm their prospects for employment, promotion or business.

Mr Morgan, who has been a leading conservative voice for industrial relations reforms, said the climate-change movement had a much broader agenda.

"People think the Paris Accord is just about commitments to lower CO2," Mr Morgan said in a statement.

"It is really about transferring wealth via the UN to the so-called less-developed countries.

"It's about advancing centralised control of people's lives on a global scale." ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/fracking-coal-seam-gas-gone-for-good-under-labor-daniel-andrews-vows/news-story/a104d4d-1aa5776a25c51c0b430076cf5>

Fracking coal seam gas 'gone for good' under Labor, Daniel Andrews vows

Samantha Hutchinson, The Australian, 16/11/2019

Premier Daniel Andrews has vowed to rule out fracking in Victoria for good by enshrining the state's fracking ban in its constitution. ...

"Only Labor will keep the ban for good," Mr Andrews said. "We won't let gas companies destroy our prime agricultural land."

The Premier said the fracking ban aimed to protect farmers. ...

In its summer outlook released today, the Australian Energy Market Operator reiterated concerns about the reliability of Victoria's electricity grid to withstand spikes in demand on very hot days. ...

When asked about the reliability measures, Mr Andrews said the steps were necessary but also came as the state's energy supply was growing because of new, renewable energy supply. ...

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 FFB1.2 and FFB1.13. 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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