



# 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](mailto:fossil.fool.bulletin@gmail.com)

FFB 2:2 • 27 NOVEMBER 2018

## Carbon capture & storage fails again: International Energy Agency report

*Carbon capture and storage (CCS) has failed to meet any global or local targets, according to new research from The Australia Institute Climate & Energy Program.*

The release of The Australia Institute report coincided with the International Energy Agency's (IEA) World Energy Outlook report which suggests there is still a role for CCS, continuing the organisation's love affair with the technology.

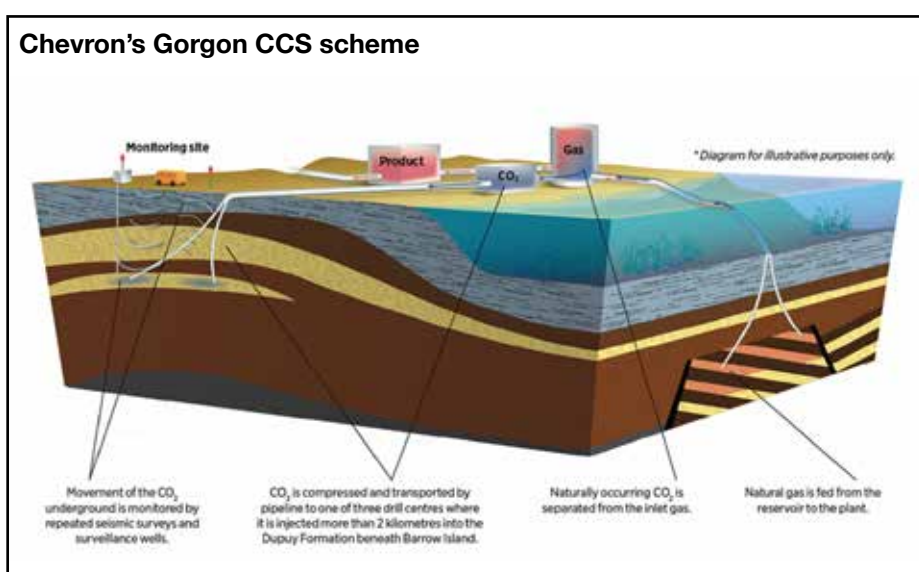
### CCS in Australia misses every target

"Despite targets being lowered to make them more achievable, carbon capture and storage is still on track to miss every future target, showing the technology is an unrealistic and unviable solution to emissions reduction," says Richie Merzian, Director of The Australia Institute Climate & Energy Program.

"To put the failure of CCS in context, the now-closed Hazelwood Power Station emitted over 12 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. The closure of Hazelwood in 2017 made a bigger difference to world emissions than all CCS projects built anywhere in the world since 2011 put together.

"The IEA said coal alone would need 94 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> per year by 2020, but it's only projected to get to 2.4 million tonnes. You would have to shut down 10 coal stations the size of Liddell to make up for that shortfall in emissions.

"If the IEA's original target of 19 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> per year capacity for



*Chevron's carbon capture and storage scheme for its Gorgon gas plant is years behind schedule, although its website fails to mention this. Graphic: Chevron*

the OECD Asia-Pacific had been met, Australia could expect to have seven or more working CCS projects by 2020 – instead of the currently none and possibly one by 2020.

### Pursuing CCS fiction is fruitless

"Pursuing the fiction that is currently CCS would be a fruitless undertaking, particularly when there are existing technologies which are already more affordable and more effective at reducing emissions.

"The best way to reduce Australia's emissions is through more renewables and the phasing out of fossil fuels."

Key targets missed by carbon capture and storage include:

- Based on the Global CCS Institute database, Australia had seven CCS projects expected to be operating by 2020; Australia currently has no operating CCS projects.

- The IPCC said CCS had the potential to reach 4,900 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> of capacity by 2020, but on current projections CCS will only store 38 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2020.

- The IEA set a target of 94 million tonnes of coal-with-CCS by 2020, but coal-with-CCS will only reach 2.4 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. 10 coal stations the size of Liddell would have to be shut down to make up for that shortfall in emissions reduction.

The TAI report comes as a study published last week by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis concludes that costly efforts

• Continued p2

• **P3: List of failing Aussie CCS projects**

• **P4: China Stone coal mine approved**

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# Carbon capture & storage's dismal performance a warning: IEEFA

• Continued from p1

undertaken in North America to develop workable, economic technology to capture carbon from coal-fired generation have come up short.

## Renewables make CCS redundant

Further, the study concludes that technology developments in the renewable energy and natural gas sectors have obviated the need for continued efforts to retrofit carbon capture technology on the nation's shrinking coal fleet.

(FFB notes emissions from natural gas, including methane, mean it is no better than coal as an energy source.)

The report – 'Holy grail of carbon capture continues to elude coal industry' – tracks the history and performance of four highly touted projects: Saskatchewan Power's Boundary Dam Power Station in Canada, NRG's Petra Nova project in Texas, Southern Co.'s Kemper plant in Mississippi, and Duke Energy's Edwardsport plant in Indiana.

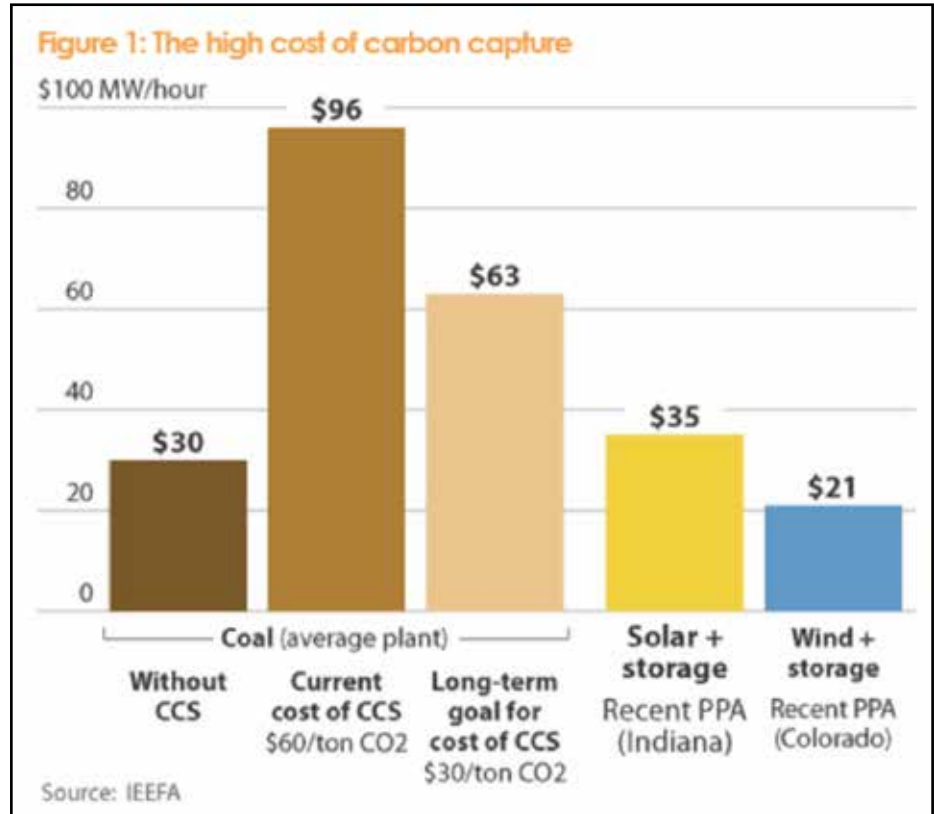
"What all four of these projects have in common is their dismal performance," said David Schlissel, IEEFA's director of resource planning development and lead author of the report. "While Petra Nova and Boundary Dam are both operational, neither in truth can be considered anything other than demonstration units, the integrated gasification combined cycle project at Edwardsport has performed abysmally, and the Kemper clean coal project was essentially abandoned."

While the report focuses on North American initiatives, it speaks as well to long-standing US coal industry plans to sell carbon-capture technology abroad.

## A cautionary tale for any country

"Our findings serve as a cautionary tale for any country considering broad adoption of CCS for coal," Schlissel said. "The technology remains unproven at full commercial scale, it is wildly expensive, there are serious questions regarding after-capture transport, injection and storage of the captured CO<sub>2</sub> and – most important – more reliable and far cheaper power-generation options exist."

The report traces a legacy of costly experimentation that began over a decade ago under the direction of the US Department of Energy, which began in the early 2000s to seek ways to cap-



ture coal-generated carbon emissions to address climate change. American electricity markets relied on coal for more than 50% of power generation nationally at the time, a figure that has dropped to less than 30% and is continuing to shrink as natural gas and renewables gain market share.

"Electricity produced by renewable energy, particularly wind and solar, amounted to little more than a rounding error in the Energy Information Administration's 2003 edition of its Annual Energy Review," the report notes. "Today they account for more than 10% of the nation's electricity generation, and both continue to gain market share fast."

Meanwhile, technology-driven advances in natural gas production have given the energy sector a huge lift: "Supplies have soared and costs have been cut to the point that gas is now the only viable option for developers looking to build new fossil-fuel generation. Further, the utility industry itself, long a source of support for coal in general and specifically for CCS development financing, is now moving quickly away from coal."

The report describes further how market forces have undercut the economics of retrofitting carbon-capture technology on the aging American coal fleet: "High-risk, high-cost CCS

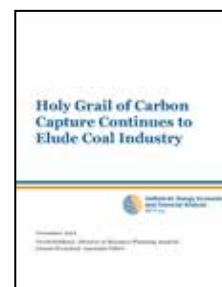
investments looked potentially viable a decade ago but are being eclipsed today by less-costly ways to produce electricity while curbing carbon emissions," it states.

**The TAI report can be downloaded here:**



<http://www.tai.org.au/sites/default/files/P546%20Sunk%20costs%20%5BWWEB%5D.pdf>

**The IEEFA report can be downloaded here:**



<http://ieefa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Holy-Grail-of-Carbon-Capture-Continues-to-Elude-Coal-Industry-November-2018.pdf>

# Australia's floundering CCS projects



Australia's only full-scale CCS project under construction, Gorgon Gas Project, is four years behind schedule and now expected in the first half of 2019.

*The Australia Institute report says Australia did not build any full-scale projects by 2015, as promised by the Australian Coal Association.*

The one full-scale project under construction, Gorgon Gas Project, is four years behind schedule and now expected in the first half of 2019.

In 2010, the Global CCS Institute identified seven large-scale CCS projects that could meet the G8 criteria, including being operational by 2020 or earlier. It also indicated that Australia had committed to build three to five large-scale CCS projects by 2020.

Those projects were:

## Coolimba Power Project:

A proposal to build a 400–450 MW coal-fired power plant in Western Australia, capturing 2 Mtpa. It was scheduled to be operational by 2015.

## Wandoan Power IGCC CCS Project:

A proposal to build a 400 MW IGCC39 power plant in Queensland, capturing 2.5 Mtpa. It was scheduled to be operational by 2015 but was cancelled in 2013.

## CarbonNet CCS Project:

A proposal to build a range of CO<sub>2</sub> capture facilities in Victoria, capturing 4–10 Mtpa. It was planned to be operational between 2015 and 2019. As of November 2018, it has been moved back to an operation date of “2020s”, a reduced capture of 1–5 Mtpa and a capture type of “under evaluation”.

## Collie South West Hub Project:

A proposal to build a range of CO<sub>2</sub> capture facilities in Western Australia, capturing 2.5–7.5 Mtpa. It was planned to be operational by 2015. As of November 2018, it has been moved back to an operation date of 2025 and a reduced capture of 2.5 Mtpa.

## ZeroGen Commercial Scale Project:

A proposal to build a 400 MW IGCC plant in Queensland, capturing 2 Mtpa. It was planned to be operational by 2015, but it was cancelled in 2011.

## Browse LNG Development:

A proposal to build an LNG plant in Western Australia, capturing 3 Mtpa. It was planned to be operational by 2017 but the project no longer appears as a current project in the Global CCS Institute database.

## Gorgon Carbon Dioxide Injection Project:

A proposal to build an LNG processing plant in Western Australia, capturing 3.4 Mtpa. It was planned to be operational in 2014, but the CCS component is now only expected to be operational in 2019. Since the project began in 2016, it is estimated to have released 5.5 to 8 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> that would have been sequestered if the CCS technology were functioning.

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## EJA report calls for action on power station pollution

*Environmental Justice Australia (EJA) has published a new report, 'The health burden of fine particle pollution from electricity generation in NSW', by epidemiologist, Dr Ben Ewald to investigate the serious health damage NSW's five coal-fired power stations are causing.*

The findings are far worse than expected.

Air pollution from coal-fired power stations in NSW is hurting communities from Newcastle, Lithgow, Central Coast and the Hunter Valley all the way to Sydney.

Each year, the five coal-fired power stations in NSW cause:

- 279 premature deaths;
- 233 low birthweight babies (less than 2500g); and
- 361 new cases of type 2 diabetes.

The community that bears the greatest health burden is Sydney, as weather conditions push much of the pollution into the Sydney basin. In Sydney, each year, pollution from coal-fired power stations causes 153 premature deaths – more than half of the state's total.

The companies that own these power stations have the technology to reduce toxic pollutants from coal-fired power stations by up to 98% – they just don't bother to install it and the government doesn't make them.

Right now, power station licences are being reviewed in NSW. EJA is calling on the NSW Government to use this opportunity to make these companies clean up their act.

**To download the EJA report, click here:**

<http://www.envirojustice.org.au/healthstudynsw/>



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# China Stone mine, next to Adani, gets Qld approval

*Central Queensland graziers already battling the twin threats of Adani and a crippling drought have been dealt yet another blow with the approval by the Queensland Government of the water hungry mega mine, China Stone.*

The proponent, MacMines Austasia Pty Ltd, proposes to construct and operate an open-cut and underground thermal coal mine in the Galilee Basin, 300 kilometres west of Mackay and 190 km west of Moranbah.

At peak production, the project would produce up to 38 million tonnes per annum of coal for export to the Asian market, principally China. The mine life will be around 50 years.

The project would include the development of mine infrastructure areas, a coal handling and preparation plant, a tailings storage facility, a rail loop and train-loading facilities, a coal-fired power station and power station waste storage facility, a private airstrip and an accommodation village.

The project's environmental impact statement (EIS) states the project would require significant capital expenditure of around \$6.7 billion

According to *The Australian*, MacMines is a division of coking coal company Shanxi Meijin Energy, which is owned by the billionaire Yao family. If it goes ahead, China Stone would rival the nation's biggest coal mines.

Coordinator-General Barry Broe gave China Stone's environmental impact statement approval on Friday, with conditions that included doing more analysis on whether a planned 1000MW coal-fired power station was necessary.

*The Courier-Mail* says the proposal will now go to federal Environment Minister Melissa Price, who has six weeks to make a decision under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

## Conservationists react

"The Queensland Government has failed to protect our communities by giving this mine a tick," said Australian Conservation Foundation chief executive Kelly O'Shanassy. "The Federal Government must now reject it ... Just like Adani, this mine also represents a major threat to Queensland's precious clean water and would destroy habitat for native species like koalas, the



Map showing the location of China Stone coal mine. Source: China Stone EIS

black-throated finch and short-beaked echidna."

O'Shanassy said: "This movement won't quit until the Adani mine, the China Stone mine, and others that would open the Galilee Basin and unleash massive amounts of climate pollution are stopped."

Ben Pennings, a spokesman for the Galilee Blockade movement, said: "If the China Stone mine gets further approvals, we'll work from the Stop Adani playbook. People power will eventually change politics enough so that any new coal mine becomes unpalatable."

## Water security threat

Lock the Gate spokesperson Carmel Flint said greenlighting another massive thermal coal project in the Galilee Basin was a terrible move for water security, even without taking into account the huge increase in carbon emissions the project would produce.

"This mine will double the take of water from local rivers – with this company seeking another 12.5 billion litres of river water each year – about 5000 Olympic sized swimming pools and on top of the 12.5 billion litres

which Adani plan to take," she said.

"MacMines has not even identified which river system it will come from and has done no environmental assessment, but the Coordinator General suggests the water is likely to come from the Belyando/Suttor River system.

"That is the same system from which Adani will take its water, which large numbers of landholders rely on.

"This mine will also drain massive volumes of groundwater each year, with more than 5.8 billion litres of water flowing into the mine each year, and it is likely to affect 17 private bores.

"Lock the Gate is calling for an urgent assessment of the full cumulative impact of all the Galilee Basin mines on river water, especially in the context of a changing climate and more severe droughts" she said.

**The EIS for the China Stone Mine can be downloaded here:**

<https://www.dsdmip.qld.gov.au/resources/project/china-stone-coal-project/china-stone-coal-project-eis.pdf>

**MacMines Austasia Pty Ltd's website is located here:**

<http://www.macmines.com/index.asp>

# PEOPLE IN ACTION AGAINST FOSSIL FUELS



A group of Northern Territory tourism operators and Aboriginal Traditional Owners is making an epic journey to from Darwin to Canberra, via Queensland and western New South Wales. They are gathering information from the gasfields along their way.

They are concerned that over 50% of the Northern Territory has just been greenlighted for fracking. They are wanting to protect their land and waterways.

The group will meet with politicians in Canberra to express their concerns.

LEFT: The brightly painted our bus.

BELOW: Meeting with gasfield residents near Chinchilla, Qld.



ABOVE: Larrakia Elder, June Mills, challenged the consent claims of the Japanese and NT Governments over Inpex gas plant expansion plans week in Darwin. Mills accused gas giant Inpex of a fraudulent deal, ignoring the opposition of a majority of Larrakia Traditional Owners.

"This swindle is not just an attack on Larrakia people - the Inpex deal and project is a problem for every Territorian who values clean water, healthy country and a safe climate.

"Inpex has been a disaster for our people's human rights, and the health of Darwin harbour, with dredging, spills and pollution already having an impact," she said.

BELOW LEFT: Two Knitting Nannas recently paid a visit to Leigh Creek Energy's HQ in Adelaide. "We took the lift up to the 11th floor, asked to talk with the stakeholder relations coordinator. A helpful worker looked for him; we were told he wasn't in the office. So we explained our concerns and wrote a note to remind everyone that 'the Nannas are watching!'"

BELOW: Knitting Nannas presenting letters to politicians at NSW Parliament House on November 21. "Our question to all the politicians in both houses of the NSW Parliament is this: What will you do to ensure that NSW chooses the environment, water, food production and the economy over the Santos Narrabri Gas Project?"



# Report shows how Aus states can beat the federal government to ban fossil fuel developments

By Margaret Hender

*There is a disconnect between what 'everyone agrees' we need to do in response to the climate emergency – stop using fossil fuels – and their response when anyone seriously proposes any fossil fuel bans. "Oh we can't do that!" they say, perhaps thinking that the lights will go out or the economy will collapse.*

The October 2018 IPCC Special Report urges very rapid reductions in the use of coal and fossil gas, and in November 2018 even the Director of the International Energy Agency said, "We have no room to build anything that emits CO2 emissions".

## No More Bad Investments legislation

Under No More Bad Investments (NMBI) legislation, state and territory governments can take the first and easiest step by banning NEW climate-damaging projects in their own jurisdiction.

They could get rid of coal and fossil gas one chunk at a time and achieve what the federal government seems reluctant to tackle.

All Australian states and territories could immediately ban at least some types of new coal and fossil gas activities, and some could adopt all the bans discussed in States Can, without the lights going out and with very little adverse economic impact.

All states and territories could immediately ban new fossil fuel exploration. They could limit new coal and gas export contracts by banning any new export-oriented coal and gas extraction and infrastructure projects. It would be particularly beneficial from a climate perspective to stop all new LNG export contracts. The quantity of emissions caused just by LNG processing itself is so high that it more than cancels out the climate benefit of our emissions reduction progress in the electricity sector.

## No risk of supply shortage

Existing export contracts might make it difficult for Queensland and NSW to ban all new coal mines and gas wells, but they could allow only those necessary to meet domestic demand and current export contracts. All other

states and territories could ban new fossil fuel extraction projects without risking supply shortages.

All jurisdictions could ban new coal-fired power generation without any risk of the lights going out. Most if not all could also ban new fossil gas-fired electricity generation as long as they allow sufficiently rapid expansion of renewable electricity generation, storage, and interconnector capacity. If new fossil fuel extraction and infrastructure are banned, market certainty would make a rapid transition almost inevitable.

In the short term it might be necessary to continue to allow new industrial facilities that use coal or fossil gas in some supply chains, but bans could apply to new facilities immediately in cases where climate-safe alternatives already exist.

These days all-electric households with modern efficient appliances have fewer greenhouse gas emissions and lower energy costs than dual-fuel (gas plus electric) homes even without solar PV, and particularly so if they have solar. All jurisdictions could immediately ban new fossil gas reticulation and the sale of new gas heating and hot water appliances.

## Minimal economic impact

The economic impact of banning new coal and fossil gas extraction would be minimal. Any reduction in jobs would be more than met by an increase in renewable energy jobs. The state revenue from coal and gas royalties is surprisingly small, and subsidies reduce that benefit even further.

Coal and fossil gas export profits primarily benefit the mostly foreign-owned export companies and their shareholders rather than the Australian economy. In 2015-16 there were 39 fossil fuel companies who paid no income tax. Between them they had an income of \$71.9 billion.

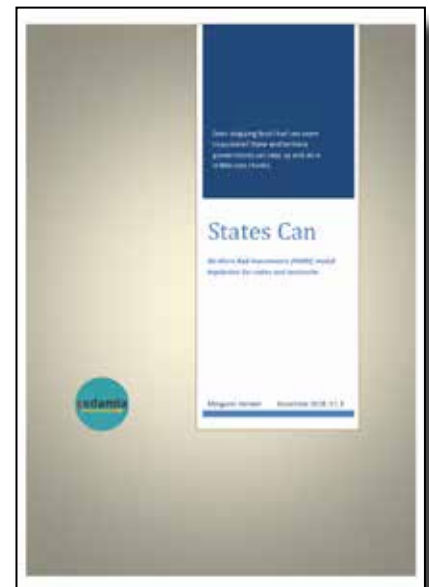
Woodside is the only LNG export company that has paid any Petroleum Resource Rent Tax (PRRT) so far.

The public might look to the federal government for action on the climate emergency, but sub-national governments have the power to make many of the necessary changes in their own

jurisdictions. One by one, all states and territories could enact fossil fuel bans until a patchwork of bans covers all of Australia.

## Which state will be first climate hero?

Which state will be the first to step up as a climate hero, brave the ire of the fossil fuel industry, and ban NEW and avoidable fossil fuel projects explicitly on climate grounds?



Download an electronic copy of States Can:

<https://www.cedamia.org/states-can-nmbi-analysis/>

Download the No More Bad Investments (NMBI) model legislation:

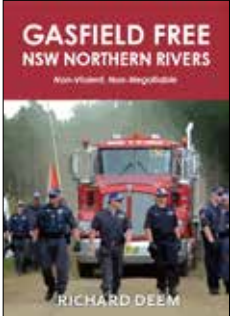
<http://www.green-innovations.asn.au/RSTI/NMBI.doc>

Download the NMBI model legislation Q&A:

<http://www.green-innovations.asn.au/RSTI/NMBI-Q&A.doc>

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



**Download free from:**

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

# Hundreds say no way to gasfields in Wide Bay

*Copies of more than 500 letters written by Wide Bay farmers, business owners and concerned locals were handed to Blue Energy executives and Queensland Government officials last Thursday, as part of a campaign to stop gasfields being developed in the region.*

Two of Blue Energy's petroleum licences in the Wide Bay are due to expire next month, and its third is due to expire in March.

The delivery of the letters comes after Lock the Gate released mapping showing the petroleum licences covered 40,000 ha of the Bundaberg region's high quality strategic cropping land.

Cane farmer and business owner Judy Plath said the sheer number of letters demonstrated beyond all doubt that Blue Energy did not have a social licence to operate in the region.

## Farmers represented

"The 135 farmers who wrote a letter represent the bulk of our key farming



land - an incredible 46,413 ha," she said.

"The remainder of the letters were written by doctors, nurses, business owners, and concerned local residents

who do not want to see our valuable farming land turned into gasfields.

"These people don't want this invasive, divisive and polluting industry in their backyards, they don't want the risk to soil and water quality in the region, and they don't want our multi-million dollar tourism industry's reputation shattered due to the presence of unconventional gas mining."

Lock the Gate Wide Bay co-ordinator Vicki Perrin reiterated Lock the Gate's call for Blue Energy to relinquish their licences, and for the Queensland Government to extinguish the licenses so they could never again be bought by a gas company.

"The Palaszczuk Labor Government must support long term industries like tourism and agriculture over boom and bust gas mining," she said.

"Gas companies will never have a social licence to operate in our region - it's time the government realised this."



# Leak suggests WA inquiry report favours fracking

*A media report suggesting that the yet-to-be-released WA Fracking Inquiry report has found fracking can be done without harming the environment has alarmed West Australians.*

The WA fracking Inquiry handed its report to the State Government on September 12 but the findings have yet to be made public.

A spokesperson for Lock the Gate in WA, Jane Hammond, said the purported finding went against the vast majority of the science on fracking coming out in peer reviewed studies from around the world.

"We know that the WA Fracking Inquiry was hamstrung from the start with very limited terms of reference and no scientists from the crucial areas of health and climate science, so its findings were always going to be limited," Ms Hammond said.

"It's terms of reference meant that it would also fail to examine the real social and economic impacts on communities of fracking. It was limited



to looking at how fracking should proceed not whether or not it actually should go ahead.

"However, the inquiry was given plenty of evidence that fracking does harm the environment and no amount of regulation can prevent it from impacting negatively on climate stability, human health and the environment.

"We are keen to see the WA Fracking Inquiry's report and to go over its findings in the context in which they were made.

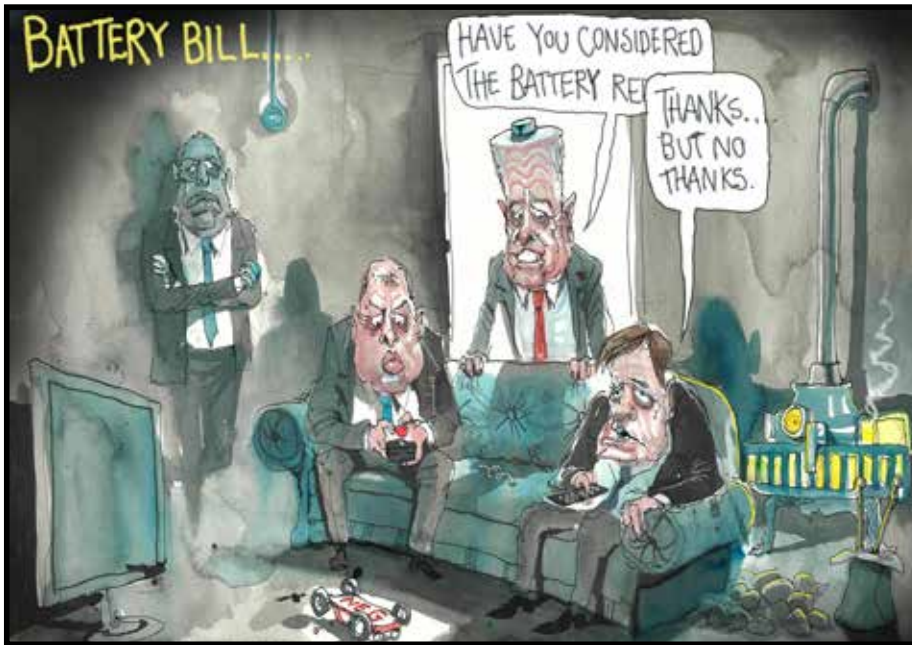
"There is a groundswell of concern about fracking in Western Australia. So far, we have prominent Australians including Professor Fiona Stanley and

Janet Holmes a Court calling for a fracking ban, alongside the state's most powerful unions; the Country Women's Association the Country Regions Council of WA Inc; two of the biggest Aboriginal groups in the Kimberley; musicians like John Butler and Jimmy Barnes; 50 of the nation's top scientists including some of the best-known climate scientists in the world; and the State executive of the Labor Party.

"All of these individuals and organisations have joined in the chorus calling for a permanent, legislated state wide ban on fracking in WA. In addition, more than 14,000 people have signed a paper petition calling for a permanent, legislated state wide ban on fracking our state.

"We think it is well past the time that the WA Government started to listen to the science, the people and the community and followed the lead of Victoria in moving to ban fracking permanently across the whole of WA."



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

## Inside the news

The approval of **China Stone's** coal mine, next to **Adani's** Carmichael project (p4 & 9), still leaves a trail of approvals to be negotiated. Unfortunately, climate change appears to have little impact on the approvals process. China Stone wants to use Adani's railway. If Adani doesn't get up, other **Galilee Basin** projects are likely to remain dormant.

The *Newcastle Herald* has exposed more **corruption** related to coal mines in **NSW Planning** (p11). A **whistleblower** in the department has been **sacked** after raising questions about payments made to an individual's credit card, and the apparent concealment of a farmer's objection to a coal mine proceeding on his land. It's time for this department to be cleaned out from top to bottom, as it is **seriously compromised** and acting to facilitate mining, not to protect the people of NSW.

Another massive **carbon-bomb** project – **Woodside's Browse LNG** project (p12) demonstrates the utter disregard for the climate crisis from industry and government.

**Chinchilla** land-holders are making a last-ditch effort to stop a **salt dump** going ahead in the headwaters of the Murray-Darling (p13). Contaminated **salt never degrades** and is a major hazard which has never been addressed by the fracking industry. It has to be kept contained **forever** – a feat which can never be guaranteed to succeed.

People in the gasfields are also dismayed that a legislative change appears to **deny them compensation** when impacted by activities on neighbouring land (p14). **Flaring, venting and noise** all travel well beyond the boundaries of the location where they sit, often driving neighbours off their properties and rendering land **worthless**.

**Labor** made a major **energy policy statement** (p16-17). Over coming months, until the election, *FFB* will not attempt to cover every permutation of the energy wars between Labor and the Coalition, but will record highlights.

The **Coalition** is **terminally compromised** by fossil fools and Labor is little better.

## 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>

## 'Rapid regional prioritisation for tight and shale gas' triggers alarm bells

A *Federal Government report* titled 'Rapid regional prioritisation for tight and shale gas potential of eastern and northern Australia', July 2018, has surfaced, triggering alarm bells for anti-gas researchers.

The report, by the Department of Environment and Energy, and Geoscience Australia, identifies nine basins which could be developed in the next 10 years: the Aamadeus, Bowen, Clarence-Moreton, Cooper, Georgina, Gippsland, Isa, McArthur and Otway basins.

### You can download the report here:

[https://www.bioregionalassessments.gov.au/.../gba-stage1\\_appen...](https://www.bioregionalassessments.gov.au/.../gba-stage1_appen...)



### Correction: Leigh Creek Energy

Last week's *FFB* 2:1's story on the Leigh Creek Energy Project stated the company's Stakeholder Relations Coordinator, Stephen Batten, had not answered questions from community activist Carrie-Ann Smith. Ms Smith informs *FFB* that Mr Batten did answer some questions, although the most important ones have not been addressed to her satisfaction.



# 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.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/politicians-respond-to-negative-poll-on-adanis-wat/3578977/>

### Politicians face local backlash against Adani's water use

Leighton Smith, Gladstone Observer, 19/11/2018

Political figures overseeing water usage for Adani's Carmichael coal mine have weighed in on polling results which show local community reservations.

Last month, conservation group Lock the Gate Alliance commissioned a Reachtel poll of 830 Capricornia residents revealing more than two-thirds supported government action to protect water resources. ...

Queensland Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, Anthony Lynham noted that water licences provide the mine with a volume about 1 per cent of what farmers were able to use in the Burdekin catchment now.

Capricornia MP Michelle Landry said she wouldn't trust a push poll from Lock The Gate "as far as I could throw it". ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/breaking-news/adani-wont-affect-emissions-shorten/news-story/7b833b81b5d57cd2e055de3a7682c0e5?csp=6f93cdeb-01121b7778c5090902abf2d2>

### Adani won't affect emissions: Shorten

AAP, Townsville Bulletin, 22/11/2018

Adani's proposed coal mine in Queensland would not worsen Australia's greenhouse gas emissions, according to federal Labor leader Bill Shorten. ...

"I believe that our policies on renewable energy will actually reduce our emissions. The actual decision about Adani is not going to affect Australian emissions," he said after a speech on Thursday. ...

His comments came as dozens of activists opposed to the Carmichael coal mine in the Galilee Basin rallied outside the Sydney event.

Others formed queues on Thursday morning outside Mr Shorten's Melbourne office and the offices of senior Labor MP Anthony Albanese in Sydney and Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk. ...

Queensland premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk did not emerge to speak with anti-Adani protesters outside her Brisbane office last Thursday.

Photo: Stop Adani Brisbane, Facebook



<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/palaszczuk-puts-adani-on-notice/news-story/98c5b6d812eebc74b88ca6bcd4d7ec2>

### Palaszczuk puts Adani on notice

Jamie Walker, The Australian, 23/11/2018

Anastacia Palaszczuk has put Indian developer Adani on notice that its planned Carmichael coal project in central Queensland is "not the be all and end all" of mining, amid growing disquiet at the company's failure to lock in financing to start construction.

In an interview to mark the anniversary of her re-election last November 25 as Queensland Premier — making her Australia's only serving political leader to post back-to-back election wins, pending Daniel Andrews's fate in Victoria today — she refused to explicitly endorse the Adani mine. ...

## COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/queensland-co-ordinator-general-gives-green-light-for-7-billion-galilee-basin-coal-mine/news-story/9927711cda6bec42c541dc-c36ebc1280>

### Queensland Co-ordinator-General gives green light for \$7 billion Galilee Basin coal mine

Sarah Vogler, Courier-Mail, 24/11/2018

A new \$7 billion mega-mine in central Queensland's Galilee Basin that will create thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in royalties has been given the green light ...

MacMines Austasia's 20,000ha China Stone thermal coal project is bigger than Adani's scaled back plans for the first phase of its Carmichael mine.

China stone is tipped to produce 38 million tonnes of coal annually at peak to supply power stations in China and other parts of Asia.

The project will create almost 4000 jobs during construction and almost 3400 jobs when the mine is operational.

It is expected to have a 50-year lifespan, contributing an annual average of \$188.26 million in royalties for the State Budget in its first 25 years of operations.

It is situated beside Adani's project and is expected to loop into the Indian conglomerate's planned railway line. ...

It is the sixth Galilee Basin project to be given approval by the Co-ordinator-General.

Federal Resources Minister Senator Matt Canavan welcomed the co-ordinator-general's approval. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-24/china-stone-coal-mine-qld-approval-reckless-conservationists-say/10551484>

### China Stone thermal coal mine gets coordinator-general approval but conservationists unhappy

Andree Withey, ABC, 24/11/2018

A new nearly \$7 billion mega-mine in Queensland's Galilee Basin is a step closer after gaining approval from the state's coordinator-general, who released has an evaluation of the environmental impact statement (EIS), but conservationists say the decision is "reckless". ...

A spokeswoman for Queensland Environment Minister Cameron Dick said the project was still subject to plenty of strict conditions.

"This is just another step in the process — not a final approval," the spokeswoman said. ...

Australian Conservation Foundation chief executive officers Kelly O'Shanassy said the approval was "reckless".

"The environment groups will not sit by and allow governments and corporations to build these coal mines which will threaten life on Earth because they fuel global warming" she said. ...

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5761483/30000-fine-for-hunter-valley-operations-after-water-hits-creek/?fbclid=IwAR2MTWQvnpfAHW5majRC-wA9xpjggNTQ1-gu-ph55-OajHwW-Qtr3m-VC9yc>

### \$30,000 fine for Hunter Valley Operations after water hits creek

Newcastle Herald, 16/11/2018

A mine outside Muswellbrook has been hit with \$30,000 in penalties for allegedly discharging mine water into a nearby creek.

NSW Environment Protection Authority director Hunter Karen Marler said the Hunter Valley Operations mine, outside Muswellbrook, had allegedly made the unauthorised discharge from a coal loading area in May.

The water reached Bayswater Creek, she said. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/sustainability/scandal-nsw-coal-power-plants-will-kill-thousands-before-they-close-20181120-p50h66.html>

### 'Scandal': NSW coal power plants will kill thousands before they close

Peter Hannam, SMH, 21/11/2018

Air pollution from NSW's five coal-fired power stations carry a "substantial health burden", including leading to an estimated 279 deaths a year with



The 200-metre stack at Port Augusta's Northern Power Station was demolished last week. Screenshot: ABC

thousands more to come before they close, a new study has found.

Ben Ewald, a GP and public health lecturer at the University of Newcastle, said the impact – including 233 low-birth weight babies and 369 people developing Type 2 diabetes annually – was much worse than he expected.

"Literally hundreds of people are dying preventable deaths every year because of coal-fired power," Dr Ewald said, adding, it was "nothing short of a public health scandal" that 3429 more people will die before the plants reach scheduled closure dates. ...

But community groups said tougher controls were well overdue.

"It's weak legislation" that had allowed high pollution levels to continue, Julie Favell who convenes the Lithgow Environment Group, said. "It's shocking to think that it's gone on for so long." ...

Greens environment spokeswoman Cate Faehrmann has introduced a bill into the NSW parliament to limit the amount of toxic air pollution from coal-fired power stations in the state. ...

<https://www.northqueenslandregister.com.au/story/5757377/you-wont-believe-how-this-country-looks-now/>

### How Wilkie Creek went from being a coal mine to productive pasture

Nth Qld Register, 22/11/2018

Ongoing rehabilitation work is giving the Wilkie Creek coal mine near Dalby a new lease on life as the site moves beyond mining.

A 10-person team is methodically reshaping and stabilising disturbed areas, as well as monitoring and managing groundwater flows to prepare the rehabilitated land for cattle

Peabody Australia president George J Schuller jun. said Peabody under-

stood that mining played an important, but temporary role in the life of a region. ...

Peabody has progressed rehabilitation of its Wilkie Creek site following the completion of coal mining in 2013 with over 60 per cent of rehabilitation now complete.

This includes backfilling of open cut voids, re-shaping of dumps and undergoing demolition and associated works. Included within the final land-form planning process are paddocks and cattle watering systems to support the end land use of grazing and hay bailing. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-23/port-augusta-power-station-chimney-stack-comes-down/10547202>

### Port Augusta's Northern Power Station chimney stack demolished by explosion

ABC, 23/11/2018

One of Australia's tallest chimney stacks has been demolished in a controlled explosion at the site of a former coal-fired power station.

The 200-metre stack at the Northern Power Station site once towered over the outskirts of Port Augusta in South Australia's north, and became a local landmark.

Commissioned in 1985, the chimney has gone up in a cloud of dust ...

Locals lined the streets to watch it be brought down, with the stack slowly tipping and crashing to the ground, billowing dust hundreds of metres into the air. ...

It is the final major demolition planned for the site which closed in May 2016, resulting in about 400 workers to lose their jobs at both the power station and the associated Leigh Creek coal mine in the state's Far North.

Since the closure, the town has been plagued by health concerns associated with dust from the former power station site. ...

## MINING MAYHEM

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/queensland-resource-sector-approaches-levels-of-mining-boom/news-story/0453e100bbcbfedecf4214cfa540b45b>

### Queensland resource sector approaches levels of mining boom

*Daryl Passmore, Courier-Mail, 19/11/2018*

The economic clout of Queensland's resources sector is powering back towards the levels reached at the height of the mining boom.

The industry's peak body, the Queensland Resources Council ... reveals that international demand for the state's coal, gas and other minerals is pushing the sector's performance back towards the peak of the once-in-a-generation boom.

A 14 per cent increase during 2017-18 took the value of economic contribution to \$62.9 billion. ...

The report describes Brisbane as the state's biggest mining town, with the industry contributing \$28.9 billion to the city's economy and supporting 142,447 jobs, including everything from lawyers to environmental scientists. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/opinion/editorial-resources-sector-and-coal-crucial-to-queensland-economy/news-story/6b652aa8b9d9ed5508c7fe65b1ee84f>

### Editorial: Resources sector and coal crucial to Queensland economy

*The Editor, Courier-Mail, 19/11/2018*

It is worthy of note that coal production in Queensland employs about the same number of people as there is in the entire workforce of Canberra. This demonstrates how critical resources have become to the Queensland economy in the decades since the Bjelke-Petersen government opened up vast tracts of the state's west to mining exploration. ...

The Queensland Resource Council's latest report into the sector exposes the folly of undermining the state's mining sector through excessive regulation and pandering to noisy and misinformed minority groups. ...

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5757672/i-wouldnt-play-ball-sacked-department-of-planning-manager-alleges-corruption/>

### Calls for investigation into relationships between public servants and the mining industry

*Joanne McCarthy, Newcastle Herald, 20/11/2018*

A department of Planning manager turned whistleblower who repeatedly reported corruption allegations linked to Hunter mine titles in 2017, including mining industry payments to a department employee's personal credit card, was sacked in May because "I wouldn't play ball".

Rebecca Connor's two-year stint as head of the mining titles operations unit included reports of serious conflicts of interest between department staff and the mining industry; allegations of former titles staff modifying mining files; the alleged leaking of confidential information by staff to mining companies; meetings between department staff and mining representatives they had previously worked with, and former department staff making inappropriate direct appeals to senior department employees to benefit their mining industry clients. ...

"I don't think it's changed at all. The culture is still there," said Ms Connor, who was shocked when staff used department emails to invite mining industry representatives to a department staff farewell and asked for payments and a gift contribution to be made to a department staff member's personal credit card. ...

Ms Connor said the credit card case demonstrated "there was no real understanding of what corruption is and what could be perceived as corruption" by some within the department.

"They don't see that there's a line they're crossing and there's industry capture in the way they're doing things. They just see this as how they do business with the mates from the mining industry they see all the time. Obviously I became the pain in the ass who kept saying 'You can't do it that way,'" Ms Connor said. ...

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5769617/i-smelt-a-rat-the-farmer-the-mine-and-the-disappearing-objection-letter/>

### The NSW Department of Planning sacked Rebecca Connor after she fought for an unknown farmer

*Joanne McCarthy, Newcastle Herald, 22/11/2018*

An elderly farmer smelt a rat in September when the Department of Planning confirmed what he had always

known – that he lodged a valid agricultural land objection against a NSW mine in 2016 that the department lost, only to find again when the mine was approved and its licence granted.

On Wednesday the farmer, 83, learnt what the department didn't tell him – that former department titles operations manager Rebecca Connor was suspended after making what she argues was a protected disclosure to a superior that the handling of the farmer's case was wrong.

She was sacked while arguing the mine licence should be revoked as the department pursued allegations against her. ...

NSW Greens MP and planning spokesperson David Shoebridge said the case was "either gross negligence or worse, and neither conclusion is flattering for the department".

"We now repeat our call for a special commission of inquiry with royal commission powers to review this sorry history of planning approvals for mines in this state. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/nov/20/nsw-whistleblower-says-mining-industry-made-payments-to-officials-personal-credit-card>

### NSW whistleblower says mining industry made payments to official's personal credit card

*Christopher Knaus, The Guardian, 20/11/2018*

A government whistleblower says she witnessed "extraordinary" payments from the mining industry to a public servant's personal credit card, but says she was treated as a "leper" and pushed out of her department after making a series of corruption complaints.

The New South Wales department of planning whistleblower Rebecca Connor has made damning allegations of corruption involving the approval of mining licences ...

Connor managed the department's titles operations unit for two years, between 2015 and 2017. ...

Connor said the incident was one of many showing serious conflicts of interests and the close relationship between department and industry. She said that relationship had become normalised and was distorting the department's consideration of the public interest.

Connor said she had examples brought to her of staff modifying mining documents prepared by other staff, without

consequence. The department, she said, allowed anyone to access the department's electronic management system freely and without reason.

"There was no integrity in the system, at all." ...

The allegations have prompted the NSW opposition to call for a "full and external inquiry" to be conducted with urgency.

## GAS, GAS, GAS

<https://www.katherinetimes.com.au/story/5764966/top-end-tourism-operators-launch-4500km-anti-fracking-tour/>

### Top End tourism operators launch 4500km anti-fracking tour

Roxanne Fitzgerald, Katherine Times, 19/11/2018

Top NT tourism operators concerned with fracking impacts on the environment have embarked on a 4,500km journey to deliver a key message to Australian leaders.

The Fracking Fact-Finding Tour dispatched from Katherine yesterday after officially departing from Darwin to deliver a message in Canberra at the final sittings of Federal Parliament for 2018.

The tour operators, who are in strong opposition with the NT Government's plans for large scale onshore gas industry development, will join a delegation of Territory pastoralists and Traditional Owners to deliver the message:

"Fracking the NT means trashing any credible climate action plan for Australia." ...

The tour operators are also on a mission to see first hand how fracking has impacted the environment in other regions of Australia.

"We've all heard the stories from other gasfield regions, places like Chinchilla QLD, where there are thousands of gas wells piercing farmland like a pin-cushion, and where the Condamine River and surrounding bores can be set alight.

"Now we want to see the impacts firsthand, and to bring those messages back to the Territory and wake this Government up before it's too late," Mr Woods said. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/farmers-support-for-lifting-fracking-bans/news-story/469a4a5559e58acb8f52dcdc0cdc9275?csp=cceff7ee-061a15f7d3c4b53ba798be8e>

### Farmers' support for lifting fracking bans

Andrew Burrell, The Australian, 19/11/2018

A major farmers' group in Western Australia is supporting gas fracking, saying the practice can be done safely and would bring major economic and social benefits to rural communities.

With the McGowan government on the verge of announcing whether it will permit fracking in WA, the Pastoralists and Graziers Association said it would be "hypocritical" for it to oppose frack-

ing when productivity in agriculture depended on access to energy, including gas.

The stance contrasts with concerns raised by farmers in other states ...

WA's other agricultural lobby group, WAFarmers, was more cautious in its submission, saying individual land owners should have the right to decide what occurred on their land. It wants farmers to have a right of veto. ...

<https://thewest.com.au/business/energy/woodside-browse-lng-project-tipped-to-be-among-nations-biggest-polluters-ng-b881025569z>

### Woodside's Browse LNG project tipped to be among nation's biggest polluters

Peter Milne, West Australian, 20/11/2018

Environmental documents show Woodside's Browse LNG project will produce the same greenhouse emissions just to get gas to shore as the entire Gorgon project, one of the nation's biggest polluters.

The proposed \$US20.5 billion (\$28 billion) Browse project about 400km north of Broome would on average emit the equivalent of 4 million tonnes of carbon dioxide a year for 50 years, with emissions peaking at 7 million tonnes a year.

In a filing with the Federal Environment Department, Woodside said most of the carbon dioxide would come from gas burnt to power two floating production vessels and pump the gas 900km to the North West Shelf's Karatha gas plant.

In addition, 10 per cent of gas from the offshore project's reservoirs would be made up of carbon dioxide, which would be vented to the atmosphere. ...

**NT tourism operators and Indigenous residents at Longreach, on the Fracking Fact-Finding Tour from Darwin to Canberra. The group also toured the Chinchilla gasfields. Photo: NT Fracking Fact-Finding Tour**



<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/woodside-stakes-out-north-west-shelf-pipe-plan/news-story/4af0a6dda4b8622b656f1ef7929f6559>

### Woodside stakes out North West Shelf pipe plan

Matt Chambers, The Australian, 20/11/2018

Woodside Petroleum's big and long-studied Browse LNG project off Western Australia has entered the commonwealth approvals process for the third time in the past 10 years, this time as a \$US15 billion (\$20.5bn) development that will pipe gas 900km to the North West Shelf LNG plant for up to 50 years. ...

Documents filed with the federal Environment Department show Woodside plans to start building the project in early 2021, anchoring two floating

storage, production and offloading vessels (FPSOs) at the project's three fields, known as Torosa, Brecknock and Calliance. ...

Woodside said the Browse project would emit an average four million tonnes of carbon dioxide a year and a maximum seven million tonnes.

"This is inclusive of all vented reservoir gas, the drilling, installation and commissioning, 50 years of operations, and associated decommissioning activities," Woodside said. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/nov/23/woodside-applies-to-build-big-polluting-lng-plant-with-no-emissions-plan>

### Woodside applies to build big-polluting LNG plant – with no emissions plan

Adam Morton, *The Guardian*, 23/11/2018

Oil and gas giant Woodside Petroleum has applied for environmental approval to build one of Australia's biggest emitting industrial developments – a liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant 425km north of Broome – without a plan to reduce or offset its greenhouse gas pollution. ...

The total pollution from the Browse development could be significantly higher once processing the gas for export – usually the most emissions-intensive part of LNG projects – at an existing plant at Karratha is factored in ...

The Browse proposal comes as Woodside is being audited by the WA government after it tried to sell carbon credits that it created under a state requirement to offset emissions from its Pluto LNG project. ...

A department spokeswoman said the audit was expected to be finished by February, but the results would not be made public.

<https://thewest.com.au/business/energy/svstem-fails-to-bury-gorgon-greenhouse-gases-ng-b881029276z>

### System fails to bury Gorgon greenhouse gases

Peter Milne, *West Australian*, 23/11/2018

The Gorgon LNG project pumped out 3.5 million tonnes of greenhouse gases last financial year that could have been buried by its troubled \$2.5 billion carbon dioxide injection system. ...

A Chevron report to the State Government released yesterday said work continued on problems revealed during start-up checks last year on "the world's largest greenhouse gas abatement project to be undertaken by industry".

Chevron now plans to start injecting carbon dioxide underground by March and take three to four months to have the system fully operational. ...

<https://www.afr.com/news/politics/aplng-challenges-lng-royalty-determination-by-queensland-government-20181119-h183mn>

### APLNG challenges LNG royalty determination by Queensland government

Mark Ludlow, *AFR*, 20/11/2018

The Australia Pacific LNG consortium, including Origin Energy, is attempting to have the Queensland government's determination on the amount of royalties it pays from its \$25 billion LNG export facility at Gladstone declared invalid.

In a decision that has big repercussions for the two other big consortiums in the state's \$80 billion LNG export industry, APLNG is seeking a judicial review of the Treasurer's 2015 decision on the amount of royalties it pays into state coffers.

Lawyers for APLNG - the consortium consisting of Origin (37.5 per cent), ConocoPhillips (37.5 per cent) and Sinopec (25 per cent) - have asked the Supreme Court in Brisbane to throw out the royalty determination, given there is no option to appeal the original decision. ...

While the LNG industry was hoped to be an economic bonanza for the Queensland government, it only delivered an estimated \$188 million in royalties in 2017-18, which is expected to increase to \$447 million this financial year, according to Queensland Treasury budget papers. ...

[https://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/story/5740151/chinchilla-landholders-still-fighting-proposed-salt-dump/?cs=4785&fbclid=IwAR1E3CAxVvPd-DrSlrYungv8M0Uhm1kl-jk-1\\_PWv00foenhasd9At5\\_2Jek](https://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/story/5740151/chinchilla-landholders-still-fighting-proposed-salt-dump/?cs=4785&fbclid=IwAR1E3CAxVvPd-DrSlrYungv8M0Uhm1kl-jk-1_PWv00foenhasd9At5_2Jek)

### Last-ditch effort for concerned Chinchilla landholders

Hayley Kennedy, *Qld Country Life*, 12/11/2018

In light of a new study, Chinchilla landholders are calling for Federal Agriculture and Water Resources minister, David Littleproud, to intervene and stop a waste salt landfill site approved beside river systems and priority agricultural land, in what they see as their last-ditch effort.

The commercial salt storage facility situated on Baking Board Hill was approved by the Western Downs Regional Council in 2016 after an appeal in the Planning and Environment Court.

The project from company We Kando Pty Ltd would store up to 450,000 tonnes of waste landfill, 900,000 tonnes of product salt landfill and 45,000 tonne of waste salt landfill each year, and will see salt waste from coal seam gas operations be stored fewer than 100 metres from Stockyard Creek.

A report prepared for the NSW Environmental Defender's Office by Stuart Khan, an environmental engineering professor at the University of New South Wales, concluded there was considerable risk of water contamination. ...

Professor Khan identified the failure of the landfill liner and seepage of saline water (leachate) to groundwater and the creek as one of several potential hazardous events.

"There are measures proposed to be in place to manage this risk, but these measures will not completely eliminate the risk," he concluded.

"Importantly, the lifespan of this salt storage will need to be properly considered.

"Salt does not biodegrade in the environment and has an infinite environmental residence time.

"Consequently, salt storages will need to be maintained on a permanent basis (decades or longer) or until the salt is re-mined and removed from the facility."

Failure to do so will guarantee that the salt will eventually contaminate the local environment including groundwater and surface water, and unless satisfactory measures are in place to manage this risk over many decades, or longer, the risk is not managed. ...

Local landholders of the Cameby Concerned Citizens Group continue their fight to have the approved facility overturned due to its locality within 500m of Stockyard Creek which flows into Rocky Creek and then on to the Condamine River.

Cameby Concerned Citizens Group member Glen Beasley said the group believed the issue had national implications and the indifference of the community to the issue was really disturbing. ...

"Salt disposal in the CSG industry has been the elephant in the room; it was never addressed properly at any level of government what was to be done with the salt, but there was a vague hope that there would be some sort of commercial sale-ability of it, but the reality is it's too toxic for anything like that."

Despite the group's best efforts, Mr Beasley said they had struggled to have their concerns heard by any level of government. ...

<https://www.dalbyherald.com.au/news/csg-compensation-woes/3581665/?fbclid=IwAR3130podf0oW8gm-j3TrFocmhVxGY5l-8F7hZnluoHvPQKoXzhJNqq0UwbE>

### CSG compensation woes

*Brooke Duncan, Dalby Herald, 22/11/2018*

Concerns have been raised over landholder compensation for CSG activity after changes to legislation passed Parliament last month.

Toowoomba-based principal of Landholder Services Pty Ltd George Houen said changes to the Minerals, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Act meant compensation entitlements for landholders' neighbouring properties with CSG works had been restricted or removed entirely.

He said it was all to do with one clause, which he said removed effects 'relating' to a person's land.

This, Mr Houen said, meant effects like noise or dust that didn't recognise property boundaries, might not be compensatable.

"A lot of people who might have very, very serious issues with excessive noise, or dust, or odours, or fugitive gases, or even flares... none of those things would give them any entitlement to compensation whatsoever under the amendment, whereas previously, ever since the legislation really began in 2004 that has been a compensatable effect."

In a statement, Natural Resources Minister Dr Anthony Lynham said access wouldn't change.

"Environmental nuisance impacts from resources activities, such as noise, dust and light, are dealt with through environmental authority conditions and alternative arrangements.

"Neighbouring landholders who are affected by these impacts may be entitled to compensation through an alternative arrangement. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-22/timor-lestes-buys-shells-greater-sunrise-oil-and-gas-stake/10534814>

### Timor-Leste buys Shell's stake in Greater Sunrise oil and gas in controversial plan to build hub

*Stephen Dziedzic, ABC, 22/11/2018*

Timor-Leste has bought Shell's stake in the rich Greater Sunrise oil and gas fields as it presses ahead with its

contentious plan to pipe the natural resources to its south coast for processing.

It's another twist in a long saga as Timor-Leste, Australia, and energy companies tussle over how to exploit the reserves which are key to the small nation's economic future.

Timor-Leste has pursued its vision for a pipeline and a domestic LNG industry for years, arguing the plan is crucial to its national development.

But Australia remains deeply sceptical, and officials worry the small nation is plunging finite resources into a doomed project which is technically and financially unfeasible. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/nov/24/drilling-in-the-great-australian-bight-is-not-worth-the-risk>

### Drilling in the Great Australian Bight is not worth the risk

*Rick Steiner, The Guardian, 24/11/2018*

The Great Australian Bight is one of the most unique and productive marine ecosystems in the world. ... By any measure, the Bight is a national and global treasure, but this treasure is now at risk from proposed deepwater oil drilling.

Norwegian oil company Equinor (formerly Statoil) is proposing to drill a deepwater (2,239 m water depth) exploratory oil well 370 km offshore in the Bight next year. Given the extreme depths and uncertainties in oil reservoir characteristics involved, this should be considered a high-risk project. Regardless of the safeguards employed in drilling a deepwater well such as this, the risk of a blowout and large oil spill is very real and cannot be entirely eliminated.

As is customary in the industry, in my opinion Equinor understates risks and impacts of the project and overstates its mitigation and response capability ...

Trajectory models predict that a spill ... could spread over thousands of square kilometres of offshore waters, all the way to Tasmania, past Sydney, and even to New Zealand. ...

• *Rick Steiner is a marine conservation biologist from Anchorage, Alaska. He was commissioned by Greenpeace Australia to review the Bight drilling proposal.*

## IMPORT INSANITY

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/nov/20/importing-gas-to-replace-domestic-supply-could-push-emissions-up-20-agl-says>

### Importing gas to replace domestic supply could push emissions up 20%, AGL says

*Adam Morton, The Guardian, 20/11/2018*

Controversial plans to import liquefied natural gas into Australia to fill a shortfall as domestic gas is exported to Asia would significantly increase greenhouse gas emissions, AGL has conceded.

Energy companies have proposed four LNG import terminals for the east coast to ensure gas supply and ease high prices. The imported natural gas would effectively replace the two-thirds of gas sold overseas from export plants in Queensland. ...

In an email to conservation group Environment Victoria seen by *Guardian Australia*, AGL said it could lead to a 20% increase in emissions compared with the same amount of gas extracted and used in Australia due to additional production, processing and transport of the LNG. Some of that increase would be counted as part of Australia's emissions, and some in the country where the gas originated. ...

The dispute calls into question the idea that gas should be considered "cleaner" energy, the descriptor used by the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (Apea), which represents the LNG industry. ...

Opponents to gas industry expansion, including Environment Victoria, said further investment in the fossil fuel made little sense on environmental or economic grounds as it was more expensive than genuinely clean alternatives – solar or wind energy backed by batteries or pumped hydroelectricity. ...

## LEIGH CK STINK

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/sa-labor-does-a-uturn-on-coal-gas-project/news-story/422cf67ea28e7a05eb1b7ea4c9cfd05f2csp=91c255c46756323a648897981d397b50>

### SA Labor does a U-turn on coal-gas project

*Luke Griffiths, The Australian, 20/11/2018*

Labor wants a coal project that it supported while in government banned because it is offensive to the site's traditional owners.

A motion was passed at the ALP's state conference in South Australia last month that called for the ban of underground coal gasification at Leigh Creek,

550km north of Adelaide, effectively making it party policy. The Greens hold the same position.

Details of the policy change were leaked to The Australian after repeated requests since the convention for a copy of carried motions were ignored by Labor. ...

The motion moved by the Australian Services Union states that "South Australian Labor stands with the Adnyamathanha people and commits (Labor) to doing everything in our power to ban this dirty and dangerous technology". It also warns of significant environmental risks and condemns the Liberal government, which came to power in March, for approving a three-month trial that had been three years in the making.

While in government, Labor facilitated environmental studies and regulatory approvals for ASX-listed Leigh Creek Energy. ...

<https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/business/sa-business-journal/leigh-creek-gas-project-to-focus-on-fertiliser-as-gas-and-energy-options-scrapped/news-story/40b8350c4e7065283826ec17e0621e3d>

### Leigh Creek gas project to focus on fertiliser as gas and energy options scrapped

*Cameron England, The Advertiser, 20/11/2018*

Leigh Creek Energy will no longer consider commercial gas supply or energy production for its syngas project in South Australia, but will focus instead solely on fertiliser production.

The company said an analysis of the three potential commercial streams had concluded that fertiliser production was the best commercial pathway. ...

The company said risks with both electricity and natural gas markets in Australia were major factors in LCK no longer considering both options, along with the superior returns the fertiliser business case displayed over electricity and natural gas.

LCK is currently testing the viability of its underground coal gasification process at Leigh Creek, and has asked for and received a four-week suspension from the state government regulator while it looks at ways to reignite the underground combustion process. ...

<https://smallcaps.com.au/leigh-creek-energy-fertiliser-production-plan-south-australia-syngas-project/>

### Leigh Creek Energy confirms fertiliser production plan for South Australian syngas project

*Danica Cullinane, Smallcaps, 20/11/2018*

Junior gas developer Leigh Creek Energy announced through a media release that it has elected fertiliser production as the commercial pathway for its namesake synthesis gas project in South Australia. ...

Global demand for urea fertiliser is also increasing due to factors associated with population growth and urbanisation, rising living standards in emerging economies and GDP growth in stable economies.

In addition, the project has the geological advantage of being close and connected to Port Augusta through the existing rail network. ...

Last month, Leigh Creek Energy announced the maiden production of synthesis gas from its pre-commercial demonstration at the Leigh Creek coalfields.

Today, it provided an update on the demonstration, which has now been continuously flowing gas for 39 days.

According to the company, the process of developing the gasifier is continuing, with key indicators being injected air flow rates, rising temperature in the gasifier and decreasing oxygen levels in the outlet gas.

The company told the market last week that it was adjusting the operating parameters of the pre-commercial demonstration and planned to accelerate gasifier development in the "very near future".

## HYDROGEN HORROR

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/csiro-and-fortescue-metals-group-sign-up-to-begin-an-energy-revolution/news-story/d257835daecb0381ad7630096794e99e>

### CSIRO and Fortescue Metals Group sign up to begin an energy revolution

*Courier-Mail, 22/11/2018*

Queensland will be home to a new hydrogen industry with a \$20 million deal between the CSIRO and mining magnate Andrew Forrest's Fortescue Metals Group announced in Brisbane on Thursday.

The centrepiece of the five-year partnership is a commercialisation agreement of CSIRO's metal membrane technology, that allows the extraction of pure hydrogen from ammonia.

The technology, which has applications for hydrogen storage and transport, has been under development in Queensland for more than 10 years and future R&D in Queensland labs will be funded as part of the deal. ...

CSIRO's National Hydrogen Roadmap, released earlier this year, found an economically-sustainable hydrogen industry could soon be a reality. ...

## FOSSIL POLITICS



[https://reneweconomy.com.au/ageing-ex-mining-chiefs-set-up-new-ginger-group-urging-paris-exit-50400/?utm\\_source=RE+Daily+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=c1b-da22eea-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2018\\_11\\_15\\_11\\_57&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_46a1943223-c1b-da22eea-40461137](https://reneweconomy.com.au/ageing-ex-mining-chiefs-set-up-new-ginger-group-urging-paris-exit-50400/?utm_source=RE+Daily+Newsletter&utm_campaign=c1b-da22eea-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_11_15_11_57&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_46a1943223-c1b-da22eea-40461137)

### Ageing ex mining chiefs set up new ginger group urging Paris exit

*Sophie Vorrath & Giles Parkinson, Renew Economy, 16/11/2018*

Not satisfied with Australia's appalling international standing and complete lack of federal policy on emissions reduction, a new super-group of some of Australia's most senior and coal-connected climate deniers has formed, to lobby for Australia's withdrawal from the Paris accord. ...

Dubbed the Saltbush Club, the new group made its debut in – where else, but Murdoch's Sky News and *The Australian* – and features the former heads of BHP, Jerry Ellis, and WMC, Hugh Morgan. It follows and presumably augments the parliamentary-based "Monash Forum" that is proud to wear its climate denial on its collective sleeve. ... The group's founder and executive director is Viv Forbes. ...

Alongside Queensland geologist and farmer Forbes, a well-known climate denier, at least in the narrow confines of climate denialism, the Club boasts a board of those ageing mining and energy industry veterans and other career climate deniers, including Ian Plimer and Jo Nova. ...

Morgan, apart from being the former CEO of Western Mining Corporation, was President of the Business Council of Australia from 2003 to 2005, and served on the Reserve Bank of Australia under the Howard from 1996 where he remained until 2007.

Morgan also co-founded the Australian anti-Kyoto Lavoisier Group in 2000, and more recently, was a founding member of “Clexit” an hastily put together international group calling for governments to “abandon this suicidal Global Warming crusade.” ...

Ellis, who is named as the chair of Saltbush Group, was at BHP for three decades and had various board roles on Newcrest Mining, Aurora Gold, the International Copper Association, the International Council on Metals and the Environment and the American Mining Congress.

Ellis is also former President of the Minerals Council of Australia – whose former operatives now hold key roles in the Coalition government, and is currently on the advisory board of Anglo Coal Australia. ...

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5764799/minings-impact-on-public-health-alarming/>

### **Why aren't public institutions managing the greatest public health threat of the 21st century?**

*Kathleen Wild, Newcastle Herald, 19/11/2018*

Driving along the winding highways and roads that led to Mudgee last week was a study in contrasts. Coming from the Hunter to the Central Tablelands led us along the New England and Golden highways first, a set of roads taking you past the lunar landscape created by the overburden from the mines near Singleton and Jerrys Plains.

An hour later we turned onto the Bylong Valley Way. Appreciating this extraordinarily beautiful bit of country was tinged with the sadness of why we drove through it in the first place, and

the hope that this valley will not come to resemble the barren stacks of mine waste we had passed by earlier.

In October, the State Department of Planning and Environment approved construction of a new mine in the Bylong Valley, to be owned and operated by the South Korean energy company KEPCO over 25 years.

Last Wednesday was the final opportunity for public consultation on the project: a meeting of the Independent Planning Commission to seek public feedback.

I attended to speak for Doctors for the Environment Australia (DEA), a non-profit grassroots organisation that works for the recognition of the public health impact from environmental degradation. And the public health impact of the Bylong Coal Project, and any expansion of coal mining in Australia, is alarming. ...

Amazingly, the government's approach to the impact of coal mined here is that if it is not burned here, it won't affect us. We know this is not the case. ...

When food becomes scarce, it becomes more expensive, and people find it hard to live a healthy nutritious lifestyle. We know that more people die on very hot days, and more very hot days are coming. Natural disaster events are more likely with increasing climate change, and these can result in a range of negative health outcomes, from the trauma of the initial disaster, pollution from air and water and disruption to normal health service access. Infectious diseases such as malaria and dengue fever will have different habitats as the climate changes. And, not least, we know too that the

mental health of the global populace is suffering due to climate change. ...

If the assessment of coal projects can't take into account the impact on the greatest public health threat of the 21st century, we no longer have a planning process that works in the public interest.

**• Kathleen Wild is a GP working in the Hunter with a special interest in paediatric medicine. As a member of Doctors for the Environment Australia, she appeared before the Independent Planning Commission to speak about the KEPCO coal mine planned for the Bylong Valley.**

<https://www.theage.com.au/politics/federal/labor-to-dispense-with-bipartisanship-in-power-plan-targeting-coal-workers-and-energy-efficiency-20181120-p50h5w.html>

### **Labor to dispense with bipartisanship in power plan targeting coal workers and energy efficiency**

*Nicole Hasham, The Age, 20/11/2018*

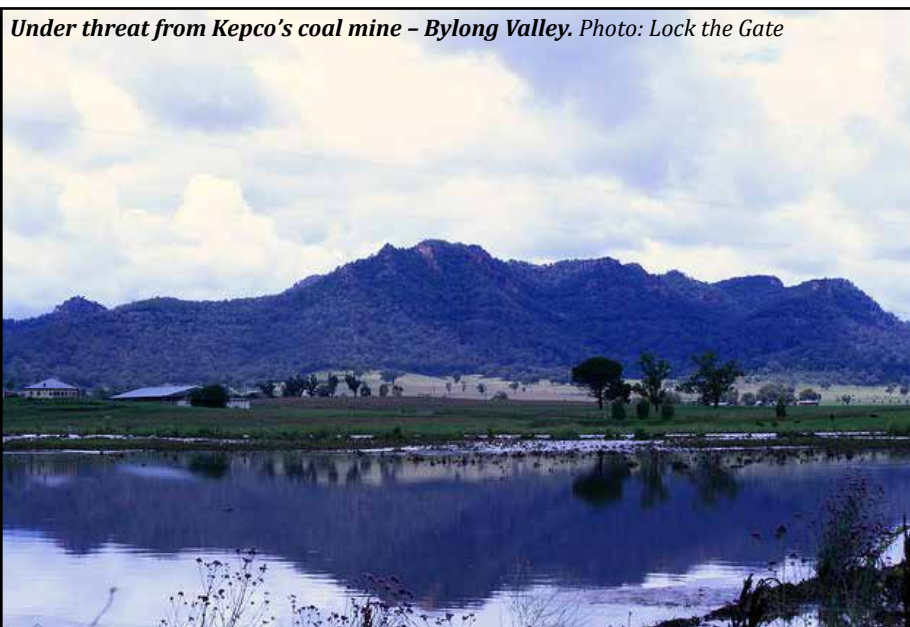
A future Shorten government would seek to bypass Parliament as part of its bid to drag Australia's electricity sector away from fossil fuels, suggesting hopes of a bipartisan approach to climate policy are dead.

Energy efficiency measures to reduce demand and help homes and businesses struggling with high electricity prices are also expected to form part of the package, alongside a plan to help coal workers and their communities adjust following plant closures. ...

Bipartisan consensus over climate policy has eluded the Australian Parliament for more than a decade. Most recently, Labor had warmed to the government's National Energy Guarantee, however the policy was dumped when Scott Morrison became prime minister.

As previously reported, Labor's policy is expected to contain a resurrected version of the energy guarantee. But the passage of that policy through the next Parliament is not assured, and Labor is expected to focus strongly on supporting investment in new renewable energy generation through means it can better control.

This might involve rules, regulations or other changes that can be implemented solely by government and would not require parliamentary assent – however regulation can be disallowed by the Senate. ...



*Under threat from Kepco's coal mine – Bylong Valley. Photo: Lock the Gate*



**News this week** ... from previous page



Protestors outside Bill Shorten's office last Thursday. Photo: Contributed

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/climate/shorten-plan-rewards-energy-giants-says-taylor/news-story/54c30bd33185483552b189fd27244210>

**Shorten plan 'rewards energy giants', says Taylor**

Joe Kelly, *The Australian*, 23/11/2018

The Morrison government has escalated its assault on Bill Shorten's \$10 billion plan to turbocharge clean energy investment, saying Labor will reward energy giants AGL, Origin and Energy Australia with "hundreds of millions of dollars" to support an accelerated rollout of renewables. ...

Energy Minister Angus Taylor said yesterday Labor's plan to provide a \$10bn capital injection for the Clean Energy Finance Corporation would boost the profits of the big gentailers ...

Opposition energy spokesman Mark Butler hit back at the government, saying it was attacking the CEFC mandate. He did not reject claims hundreds of millions of dollars in extra funding would go to the big gentailers.

"The CEFC invests in line with its mandate, which is to provide additional support to projects that help Australia's transition to a clean energy economy, that otherwise wouldn't proceed due to market gaps," he said.

"It is the Liberal Party that wants to deliver an \$80bn tax cut to the big end of town, and wants to give taxpayer money to big energy companies to build un-investable, expensive coal plants."



<https://www.echo.net.au/2018/11/alp-closes-offices-following-release-energy-policy/>

**ALP closes offices following release of energy policy**

Echonet Daily, 22/11/2018

The call that went out to climate change activists across the country following the release of the Labor party energy policy led to Bill Shorten, Annastasia Palaszczuk and Anthony Albanese locking down their electorate offices. Faced with long 'queue-ins' of constituents seeking meetings to discuss climate change and the Adani coal mine, as Shorten launches his Energy Policy constituents were keen to make their voices heard. ...

Water Engineer, StopAdani campaigner and Brisbane resident Dr Anne Gardiner who said, 'Australia faces another record-breaking summer of extreme heat, bushfires and drought. With the impacts of climate accelerating, the world just can't afford to mine and burn more coal or allow unprecedented volumes of water to be extracted from inland rivers and precious water basins.

'Long queue-ins outside Shorten, Palaszczuk and Albanese's offices are a physical reminder that voters are sick of waiting for the Labor Party to promise it will Stop Adani.'

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/labors-energy-target-needs-reality-check-warns-minerals-council/news-story/ae9fa2f9155050c5119e683c5ead9508>

**Labor's energy target needs 'reality check', warns Minerals Council**

Matthew Denholm, *The Australian*, 22/11/2018

Labor's decision to lock-in a 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030 will cause the early closure of four coal-fired power stations, dramatically hike prices and slash reliable baseload power, warns the Minerals Council of Australia. ...

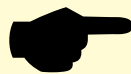
"This should not be cause for celebration. With Liddell Power Station closing in 2022, (we have) ... identified four additional power stations which could also close: Yallourn in Victoria, Vales Point in NSW, Gladstone C in Queensland and Torrens B in SA. ...

However, the CFMEU mining and energy union backed Labor's plan, saying its "just transition" package — to train workers for renewable energy jobs and assist coal workers with redundancies and redeployment — was a "game changer". ...

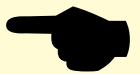
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