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KNITTING NANNAS AGAINST GAS

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 2:4 • 11 DECEMBER 2018

ACF goes to court over Adani coal-washing water approval

ACF is taking the Federal Government to court over its flawed process for assessing Adani's plan for a water-guzzling pipeline to service its climate-wrecking coal mine.

The Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) will challenge Federal Environment Minister Melissa Price's decision not to apply the water trigger in assessing water infrastructure for Adani's proposed coal mine.

Adani wants to take up to 12.5 billion litres of water – the equivalent of 5000 Olympic-sized swimming pools – from the Suttor River in central Queensland. Farmers and wetlands rely on the Suttor River, which floods and dries up at different times.

Water to wash coal

Adani's North Galilee Water Scheme project would supply the mine with water to wash coal, keep dust down and reduce fire hazards.

In September, an Environment Department spokesperson said: "stand-alone proposals which involve only associated infrastructure, such as pipelines, are not captured by the water trigger because they do not directly involve the extraction of coal."

ACF will argue the Minister made an error of law in not applying the water trigger. ACF will argue the pipeline is essential infrastructure to service the coal mine and it would not be built at all if not for Adani's mine. Therefore, the water trigger should be applied.



A coal-washing plant uses vast amounts of water. But, as the Knitting Nannas (below) will tell you, coal never comes clean.

Flawed assessment process

ACF Chief Executive Officer Kelly O'Shanassy said: "ACF is taking the Federal Government to court over its flawed process for assessing Adani's plan for a water-guzzling pipeline to service its climate-wrecking coal mine.

"Water is precious on our dry continent, yet Adani wants to take billions of litres of river water every year, nearly as much as all local farmers combined. The water trigger requires the Federal Government to comprehensively assess all large coal mines and coal seam gas developments to determine if they will have a significant impact on our water.

"Our climate is breaking down and Queensland is in the grip of drought. This is not the time to be reckless with our water."

ACF lodged documents with the Federal Court last week. ACF will be represented in court by barristers



Kate Gover, Angus Scott, Neil Williams SC and the Environmental Defenders Office Queensland.

A background briefing on the ACF's court challenge can be read here:

https://d3n8a8pro7vnm.cloudfront.net/auscon/pages/10357/attachments/original/1543903428/Suttor_River_briefing_note.pdf?1543903428

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• P2: Gas harms health:
Evidence grows

• P4: WA subsidises
Kimberley fracker

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Health harm from gas industry: Evidence grows

Doctors for the Environment Australia

It is now recognised that the exploration and extraction of natural gas (methane) and oil from conventional and non-conventional sources poses many potential direct and indirect risks to human health and wellbeing.

As recently as 2013, there were few peer-reviewed publications available in the health science literature upon which to assess the potential local, regional and global health related impacts associated with these industries. Over the last six years, however, public health and environmental science researchers and doctors have published over 1500 papers, with a substantial body of research findings, mainly from the United States where rapid and expansive development of gas and oil fields has occurred in close proximity to residential areas.

A new paper from Doctors for the Environment Australia (DEA) presents a comprehensive review process that has been ongoing among for DEA's unconventional gas group since 2013. It is informed by literature searches on PubMed, Scopus and the ROGER (Repository of Oil and Gas Energy Research) database, which have enabled DEA to make many evidence-based submissions to governments on the health implications of gas development proposals across Australia.

Rising greenhouse gas footprint

Of particular concern is the clear evidence of the substantial and rising greenhouse gas footprint of the expanding gas and oil industry that threatens global efforts to urgently reduce emissions. This is often underestimated through:

- Failure to consider the footprint of the entire lifecycle of gas production, transport and use;
- Underestimation of the quantity and duration of fugitive methane emissions;
- Inappropriate application of climate-forcing potency of methane over a 100-year time timeframe (20 times more than CO₂), rather than the more appropriate 20-year timeframe (86 times higher potency) given the already measurable health impacts of current rapid warming;
- Failure to consider the potential significance of large scale methane-emitting



A gas well near Chinchilla, Qld. Photo: Eve Sinton

ting accidents (e.g. Aliso Canyon storage facility in California) and leakages that are difficult to stop quickly;

- Failure to incorporate the negative political influences and economic competition between abundant gas from large expansions and low emission renewable energies in the energy market.

Chemicals enter environment

In addition to greenhouse gas emissions, a second major concern to health associated with gas mining is the wide array of chemicals used in drilling and hydraulic fracturing, and released into the environment through airborne emissions and wastewater, and emitted from the high level of industrial activity (e.g. compressor stations, gas processing plants, on-site diesel-powered machinery and heavy vehicles) surrounding the production process.

Potential chemicals of concern within shale and coal seam gas mining wastewater include volatile organic compounds notably benzene, phenols, polyaromatic hydrocarbons, heavy metals, salt and technologically enhanced naturally occurring radioactive materials that may become concentrated through treatment processes.

Studies examining the potential tox-

icities of chemicals found in shale gas wastewater have reported that many have not been evaluated, including known carcinogens and/or have the potential for endocrine disruption, and neurological, reproductive and developmental harm.

Many studies report evidence of pathways through which ground and surface water can, and in some cases has, been impacted by gas well activity, through spillage, injection procedures, spills or deliberate discharge of inadequately treated water, leakage from wastewater pits and ponds.

Potentially harmful substances emitted into the atmosphere during dewatering, gas production and processing, waste water handling and transport include PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀, volatile organic compounds, hydrogen sulphide, formaldehyde, diesel exhaust and ground level ozone. Measuring concentrations and human exposures to these pollutants is complicated as levels vary widely over time and location, making it difficult to directly link airborne exposures to health impacts.

Gas industry associated with poor health

The review also found accumulating evidence of associations between residence close to gas mining activi-

Doctors report growing health harm from gas industry

• Continued from p2

ties and reports of poorer health such as asthma, sinus and migraines, skin rashes, headaches as well as hospitalisations for heart, neurological, respiratory, immune system diseases and some cancers. While most of these studies have been conducted in the US, exploratory hospital-based studies suggest that similar trends may be emerging between regions with and without coal seam gas mining in Queensland, Australia.

Increasingly consistent observations of higher frequencies of negative birth outcomes, such as low birth weight, extreme pre-term delivery, higher risk births and some birth defects, have been reported to occur in pregnancies spent close (within 3 km) to gas mining activities, compared to pregnancies spent further away, or in the same area before commencement of gas mining activities.

Stress, aggression, crime

Increased levels of stress, depression and sexually transmitted infections, aggression, criminal activity and traffic accidents have also been reported among those living near gas mining, likely reflecting psychological and social disturbance among individuals and whole communities. Australian researchers have found that stress and worries about coal seam gas mining may contribute significantly to mental health risks among directly affected farmers.

Of particular concern to Australian agriculture and remote communities is research showing an unpredicted but consistent rise in water footprint – up to 7.7 and 14 fold increases in water usage and waste used per well in semi-arid regions across the United States.

In summary, the review found growing evidence of direct health impacts as well as a clear potential for indirect impacts of gas and oil mining on essential environmental determinants of health, including a stable climate, air quality, water quality, water security, food security, community cohesion and, in some locations, geological stability. The cumulative impacts of these industries on the wider requirements for good health and wellbeing are extremely concerning.

At a time when the dangers of climate change are becoming readily apparent through record-breaking heat waves, droughts, floods, forest fires and cyclones and increasing food and water security concerns, accelerating new and expanding existing gas developments is counterproductive to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It is not possible to overemphasise the enormity of health, economic, security and environmental costs of an inadequate response to global warming.

Doctors for the Environment Australia urge the Australian government to commit to a national energy plan that prioritises the urgency of climate change. Accordingly DEA urges a ban on new gas and oil developments, and heavy regulation of existing gas developments while vigorously promoting a coordinated transition to renewable energy.

• *The story above comprises the executive summary of the paper:*

Haswell, M and Shearman, D (2018). The implications for human health and wellbeing of expanding gas mining in Australia: Onshore Oil and Gas Policy Background Paper. Doctors for the Environment Australia, College Park, South Australia.

Published by Doctors for the Environment Australia, 2018

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Mine rehab law reform urgent: LTG

A Land and Environment Court case loss in the Hunter Valley has highlighted the urgent need for mine rehabilitation law reform in NSW, according to Lock the Gate Alliance.

Last week, Muswellbrook Council lost the case against BHP after arguing “best practice” rehabilitation methods in landscape restoration should apply to the company’s whole mine site at the nearby Mount Arthur coal mine.

The Land and Environment Court upheld BHP’s and the Planning Department’s argument that new methods of “micro-relief” to restore natural landforms should only have to apply to the new areas being mined at Mount Arthur since approval was granted for the mine to expand four years ago.

Lock the Gate Alliance spokesperson Georgina Woods said the outcome was disappointing.

“This shows the mining industry is not serious about rehabilitating and restoring land in the Hunter Valley,” she said.

“They are clearly not using the highest standard of rehabilitation. We call on the NSW Government to implement mine rehabilitation reform to make companies clean up their mines in line with public expectations.”

Ms Woods said the outcome was unfair on the people of the Hunter Valley.

“An election will be held in NSW in March, and this policy failure will be firmly in people’s minds when they go to the ballot box.

“It is very concerning that the industry and the NSW government want to leave bad decisions from the past as they are, meaning mining companies are free to leave the Hunter Valley landscapes unnatural and unproductive after mines close down. That will include leaving over 30 salty pit lakes or ‘final voids’, and unnatural mounds of mine spoil.

“Clearly, without mandated standards and targets for progressive rehabilitation, mining companies will do as little as they can get away with.”

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WA subsidises Kimberley fracker

Western Australian taxpayers will gift private oil and gas company FINDER Shale a share of \$5.3M in handouts to undertake exploratory fracking in the Great Sandy Desert, south east of Broome.

The announcement of the taxpayer funded gift to a private fracking company comes just days after the WA Government announced its decision to give fracking the greenlight over most of the state's existing oil and gas leases.

A spokesperson for Lock the Gate in WA, Jane Hammond, said the gift was a massive smack in the face for communities that have fought long and hard to stop fracking across the state.

"First our Labor Government betrays West Australians by giving fracking the go-ahead across the vast bulk of areas the gas industry had already earmarked for exploration and development.

Dirty industry subsidised

"Now we learn that we, the people of WA, will directly subsidise this dirty fracking industry with a massive hand-out," Ms Hammond said.

"The nation's leading scientists including some of its top climate scientists have already warned that the development of a fracking industry in WA will have an adverse impact on global climate stability.

"Financial analysis shows that the economics of fracking simply don't add up so there is no way our tax dollars should be propping them up.

"The WA Government is ignoring the science of climate change and ignoring the advice of the financial experts by giving fracking the nod and shelling out taxpayer funds to a private fracking company.

"Why do private fracking companies need taxpayers funds to develop a dirty unpopular industry that the economists have demonstrated won't even deliver many jobs and won't deliver much in the way of royalties?

"The company involved claims to have assets of more than \$US200M and at least five offshore oil and gas wells. But for some reason it needs a cash hand-out from hard working West Australians to frack our state.

"The taxpayer funded gift, understood to be around \$200,000, is further evidence that fracking is not economically viable. It can't stand up to economic scrutiny. The people of WA will be the ones paying for it to happen in more ways than one and for decades will be paying for the clean-up long after the fracking companies have packed up and left.

"We are calling on the McGowan Government to make a firm commitment that no more public funds will be spent on fracking activities in WA."

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Leigh Creek Energy signs up Chinese firm

While Leigh Creek Energy continues with its underground coal gasification (UCG) project, the company has signed up with a Chinese investor to boost future developments

According to *Proactive Investors*, the company now has a Heads of Agreement with China Communications Construction Company Ltd (CCCC) to invest in large-scale infrastructure projects beyond UCG in South Australia.

The companies intend to cooperatively develop projects such as ports and railway.

The two parties will also sign a project cooperation agreement to establish the best model to go forward on the Leigh Creek Energy Project, with specific details to be included in a special vehicle project agreement.

CCCC is the world's largest port design and construction company, independently designing and constructing seven of the world's ten largest ports.

It is also the world's largest offshore oil drilling platform design company. The 63.8% Chinese state-owned enterprise has revenue of more than US\$70 billion and more than 118,000 employees.

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Call to stop mining approvals

All mining approvals underway should be halted while corruption allegations made against NSW Planning are investigated - including the Santos Narrabri Gas Project, says NSW Gas Ban.

The group says that, at Maules Creek and Werris Creek, Whitehaven is busy draining aquifers, polluting the air, decimating communities and attempting to start a new mega coal mine at Vickery.

People are urged to write to Planning Minister, Anthony Roberts, asking him to freeze all approvals until alleged corruption is investigated.

The minister's email address is:

office@roberts.minister.nsw.gov.au

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Community still fighting Santos gas project

Even though almost all of the 23,000 submissions in response to the the Santos Narrabri Project were against Pilliga CSG mining going ahead, locals a still fighting to have their voice heard.

Determined to forgive ahead, Santos are laying kilometres of new pipeline to get more gas from exploration wells, royalty free, to use at the Wilga Park power station.

The The North West Alliance group want to draw attention to the current gas expansion happening in Narrabri and the Pilliga State forest.

For over 10 years gas from exploration wells has been generating income for the gas company, while not paying a cent in royalties to NSW.

It has been estimated millions of dollars has been missed from going towards essential areas such as hospitals and schools, all because of a legal loophole being exploited.

Govt ignored departmental advice

Just recently Santos asked the NSW Coalition Government for an extra 1000 days to prove the viability of the Pilliga Gas resource, which was granted.

The Berejiklian government went against their own department's advice to exempt the royalties.

This exploration has continued to be an open-ended invitation to conduct production under the guise of exploration.

Considering the current scandals plaguing the NSW Dept of Planning, with whistleblowers leaking information on controversial mining decisions and links to alleged corruption, the North West Alliance believes that this current expansion to the Narrabri Gas project should be put on hold until an ICAC can conduct a full investigation. The integrity of the whole system is under question.

Bullying behaviour from Santos

The North West Alliance's Peter Small said Santos have had over 10 years to appraise the gas from their exploration.

"They know how much gas there is. This is just exploitation under the threat if they don't sell it, they will have to just flare it off.



Protesters in the Pilliga forest, where Santos is laying a pipeline. Photo: Supplied

"We do not accept this. This is bullying behaviour, when they should seal off all the exploration wells, end the flaring and wait for the final decision for the EIS."

Mr Small says the community has shown there is no social licence for this project.

"The recent door-knock of the entire Narrabri town resulted in less than one-third responding that they wanted it. Not to mention the record breaking submissions of 23,000 respondents, with 98% saying they objected to this project."

Aboriginal Land Council opposes project

Gomeri elder and Pilliga local, Aunty Sheryl, said that the Pilliga local Aboriginal Land Council carried a motion that they don't want any gasfields anywhere in or near the Pilliga local land council boundary area.

President for People For The Plains, Stuart Murray, said that this in effect re-establishes a 10 year Royalty free holiday where Santos produces gas from exploration wells, then generates electricity and revenue.

"The point is, Santos have been given a very long time to use our gas to make money without paying royalties.

"Add to this the fact that no royalties means there have not been any contributions, from the Government or Santos, to the estimated \$160 million Regional Community Benefit Fund,

which was a key plank in the Santos proposal.

"This, in our opinion, is Royalty-free gas production under the cover of gas exploration.

"This is gas production by stealth while not paying the people of NSW for the privilege."

• *This story first appeared in Echonet Daily,*

<https://www.echo.net.au/2018/12/community-still-fighting-gas-expansion-narrabri/?fbclid=IwAR066vUwYJXM-lmPziYDM8aPYA4Rc1F7xWkAJV03r5hrHrnJENkfy03SPQT4>

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Fiona Wilson fundraiser

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

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>



3CR Community Radio Earth Matters

'Knitting Nanas against gas, coal and greed', and other podcasts about coal, oil and gas can be found at:

<https://www.3cr.org.au/earthmatters>

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Adani promises land for rare finch

Adani says it has submitted a management plan to the Australian and Queensland Governments to protect the Black-throated finch.

A company spokesperson said, "As part of the plan to protect the finches' natural habitat, Adani has created a 33,000-hectare conservation area."

However, according to the *Brisbane Times*, this plan has not been approved – by either the Queensland or federal governments – and is awaiting evaluation before any mining can begin.

University of Queensland Emeritus Professor Tor Hundloe AM, a former chair of the Wet Tropic Management Authority and environmental author, told the newspaper, "Notwithstanding that they have changed the area of the mine, they do not have approval for their offsets."

"They have to get agreements with neighbouring farmers and there are five of them. They can try to translocate the finch because that is basically all the offset that they can do."

Professor Hundloe questioned the effectiveness of translocating birds, a process that has been questioned under Queensland's koala management policies.

"Good point. I don't know how they plan to do it," he said.

A spokesperson for Federal Environment Minister Melissa Price con-



firmed the management plan for the black-throated finch was one of three outstanding issues for Adani's Carmichael Mine.

"Adani still require approval of the following before the commencement of mining operations," he said:

"The Black Throated Finch Management Plan, a Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Management Plan, and a mechanism to establish a pool of funds for the better protection and long-term conservation of EPBC Act listed threatened species."

Inside the news

Adani has revived its exaggerated jobs figure propaganda, claiming the down-sized project will create 1,500 direct jobs and 8,250 indirect jobs (p7). The miner originally claimed it would create 10,000 jobs – but had to admit, in court, the true figure was 1,464 direct **and** indirect jobs. The statement that a much smaller scale project will generate the alleged 1,500 + 8,250 jobs must be considered an **outrageous lie**.

While the *Townsville Bulletin* has been urging people to apply for said jobs, just like in earlier days, Adani is only taking expressions of interest – there are **no actual jobs** listed.

In NSW, **coal mines** threaten to **swallow heritage sites**, including the location of a massacre of Aborigines at Ravensworth Homestead in the Hunter Valley (p8) and the homestead of Dorothea Mackellar's family near Gunnedah. Meanwhile, allegations of serious **corruption** relating to coal mine approvals continue to emerge from **NSW Planning**.

A character in past ICAC hearings, investment banker **Richard Poole** – with a corruption finding against his name – wants to re-open the Redbank **coal-fired power station** near Singleton (p9). His project is exposed in another splendid piece of journalism from the *Newcastle Herald's* Joanne McCarthy. She quotes Hunter Community Environment Centre spokesperson, Johannah Lynch, saying, "The Hunter Valley doesn't need any more **mates' deals and coal cronies** and it certainly doesn't need more coal fired power stations."

Korea takes piss with fifth LNG importer, says *Macrobusiness* (p12), pointing out a looming disastrous increase in Aussie gas prices. "That's before we confront the awful fact that the gas will very likely come from QLD, be piped and frozen by GLNG, driven out to sea, regasified in Newcastle and piped to Sydney. This is just handing a pack of rent-seekers control of your national security sensitive energy supply," the writer said.

Lastly, **Barnaby Joyce** is selling off his **Gwabegar gas territory property** to fund a divorce (p13).

In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 28,500 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-12-04/adani-water-licence-acf-court-challenge/10582602>

Adani coal mine water licence faces Federal Court challenge over move to bypass EIS

Kate McKenna, ABC, 04/12/2018

The Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) has launched a legal challenge to a Federal Government decision to bypass an impact assessment of planned water use by Adani's Carmichael coal mine in central Queensland.

The ACF applied to the Federal Court, challenging Federal Environment Minister Melissa Price's decision not to activate the "water trigger" for the proposed pipeline infrastructure, which avoided a full environmental impact assessment (EIS). ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/dec/04/court-challenge-launched-over-ministers-flawed-decision-on-adani-water-trigger>

Court challenge launched over minister's 'flawed' decision on Adani water trigger

Lisa Cox, The Guardian, 04/12/2018

The Australian Conservation Foundation has launched a federal court challenge to the environment minister Melissa Price's decision not to apply the water trigger in assessing water infrastructure for Adani's Carmichael coalmine. ...

ACF, which is being represented by the Environmental Defenders Office Queensland, will argue that the minister made an error in law in deciding not to apply the water trigger.

It will argue that the definition of coalmining activity extends to actions that are directly connected with a large coalmining project, including water pipelines like the north Galilee water scheme. ...

A spokesperson for Adani said they had not been served with any new proceedings by the EDO.

"This legal action will not stop the Carmichael Project proceeding because we do not need the North Galilee water scheme finalised in order to commence work on the project," the statement said. ...



Anti-Adani protests continued nation-wide last week. Photo: Stop Adani Kooyong

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/adani-boss-lucas-dow-says-carmichael-project-victim-of-mythmaking/news-story/269398967b-b302529698e00632514845>

Adani boss Lucas Dow says Carmichael project victim of 'myth-making'

Steven Scott, Courier-Mail, 02/12/2018

Adani Mining boss Lucas Dow has lashed out critics of the mine, saying the controversial project has been the victim of "myth-making and hysteria".

The mine's boss also hit back at concerns raised by Anastacia Palaszczuk and denied new approvals were needed because of changes that scale back the development. ...

Federal opposition frontbencher Penny Wong yesterday said an incoming Labor government would not intervene to stop the mine because this would create sovereign risk. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/business/shadow-minister-for-nq-dale-last-meets-with-adani-brass/news-story/a375ae1789c3ec185266f76758d94503>

Shadow Minister for NQ Dale Last meets with Adani brass

Madura McCormack, Townsville Bulletin, 04/12/2018

The shadow minister for North Queensland has walked away from a meeting with Adani "very positive" the

mining giant will keep its commitment to prioritise regional Queenslanders for jobs.

But Burdekin MP Dale Last has warned the Carmichael mine project cannot kick off until the State Government, specifically the Department of Environment and Science, signs off on two outstanding management plans.

The meeting between Mr Last, Adani Australia mining chief executive Lucas Dow and Adani Australia head of government and corporate affairs Paul Fennelly, was arranged after the state opposition asked the mining company to reaffirm their commitment to regional Queensland. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/business/mining-giant-confirms-real-jobs-for-real-people-at-carmichael-mine/news-story/3e123986caaa64952773f1a88bc86bdf>

Mining giant confirms 'real jobs for real people' at Carmichael mine

Madura McCormack, Townsville Bulletin, 03/12/2018

Adani has doubled down on its commitment to prioritise regional Queenslanders for jobs on its long-awaited Carmichael mine after a request by the State Opposition for clarification.

Adani Australia Mining chief executive

Lucas Dow, in a letter sent to the Bulletin, reiterated the company's commitment to providing "real jobs, for real people". ...

Adani has said the project would create about 1500 direct jobs and 8250 indirect jobs. ...

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5779093/massacre-site-or-mine-site-ravensworths-bloody-history/?cs=12>

Commonwealth protection sought for land where 18 Aboriginals were massacred in 1826

Matthew Kelly, Newcastle Herald, 02/12/2018

A stretch of the Upper Hunter where 18 Aboriginals were slaughtered in the 1820s could be protected from mining if a landmark Commonwealth application to have the area declared culturally significant succeeds.

Greens MP David Shoebridge, on behalf of the Plains Clan of the Wonnarua People, has asked the federal government to declare Ravensworth Homestead and the surrounding area as a site of special significance to Aboriginal people.

The application aims to stop the proposed Glendell Continued Operations Project open cut mining project, which would swallow the site if approved.

Colonial records show a series of attacks and counter-attacks between Aboriginals and settlers occurred at the Ravensworth Estate and the adjoining Lethbridge Estate between 1825 and 1826. ...

<https://www.nvi.com.au/story/5786915/under-threat-push-to-save-poets-historic-homestead-from-mine-expansion/#slide=1>

Gunnedah urged to fight for Dorothea Mackellar's homestead

Vanessa Höhnke & Jamieson Murphy, Namoi Valley Independent, 04/12/2018

Gunnedah residents are being urged to strap on their "battle gear" and fight to preserve a homestead of the late poet Dorothea Mackellar.

Bordering the Namoi River, about 25km out of Gunnedah on the Blue Vale Road, Kurrumbede, is the former family residence of the Mackellar family.

The property is said to have inspired the poet's famous ode My Country, but it is now owned by Whitehaven. ...

Susan Duncan, owner of Mackellar's Pittwater residence, Tarrangaua, is



Under threat from Whitehaven Coal: the homestead where Dorothea Mackellar was inspired to write, "I love a sunburnt country".

Photo: Dorothea Mackellar Memorial Society

calling on Whitehaven to save Kurrumbede in memory of the poet.

"Save [Kurrumbede] and hand it over to the community," Ms Duncan said.

"The only legacy a mine leaves is a great big scar." ...

The open-cut mine would be 1.2km away and the nearest "visible project infrastructure" including a train load-out facility and conveyor belt would be 800m away.

From outbuildings, the railway line would come within 100m.

Mackellar's works, particularly the second stanza of My Country – "I love a sunburnt country" – are widely known across the nation. ...

<https://www.nvi.com.au/story/5792117/narrabri-council-passes-vickery-mine-extension-motion-in-boggabri/?cs=12>

Narrabri council passes Vickery mine motion in Boggabri

Jamieson Murphy, Namoi Valley Independent, 04/12/2018

Narrabri Shire Council has outlined what it expects to have in its planning agreement with Whitehaven Coal, should the company's Vickery mine extension be approved by the state government.

In front of a large crowd in Boggabri, council agreed that the planning agreement should meet the demands created by the project for new public infrastructure, amenities and services.

It must also secure off-site planning benefits for the wider community, so that the project "delivers a net com-

munity benefit". Finally, there must be compensation for the loss of, or damage to, a public amenity, service, resource or asset by development through replacement, substitution, repair or regeneration. ...

https://reneweconomy.com.au/why-coal-and-not-renewables-is-root-cause-of-surg-ing-australia-power-prices-78405/?utm_source=RE+Daily+News-letter&utm_campaign=26bcd31ba2-EMAIL_CAM-PAIGN_2018_12_03_02_03&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_46a1943223-26bcd31ba2-40461137

Why coal – and not renewables – is root cause of surging Australia power prices

Giles Parkinson, Renew Economy, 03/12/218

New analysis from Bloomberg NEF (BNEF) shows that the rising cost of coal power generation in Australia's is the primary – yet often overlooked – cause of the recent doubling of power prices on the National Electricity Market (NEM).

The new analysis from BNEF confirms that thermal coal power prices have doubled in two years, and in turn caused a doubling in the price of coal capacity in the NEM, so much so that wind and solar are now lower than even just the short-run cost of thermal coal from the spot market. The short run cost does not include the money spent on building a coal plant. ...

SACRIFICE ZONE

Cloudcatcher Media's feature-length film: battle to save the Pilliga

<https://vimeo.com/257444267>

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/coal-protest-550k-compo-bid-up-in-smoke/3592583/>

Coal protest: \$550k compo bid up in smoke

John Weekes, Gladstone Observer, 04/12/2018

Protesters who fixed themselves to a railway to oppose a major coal project have avoided a \$558,000 restitution order.

But civil action could still loom for Emma Jade Dorge and Jonathan Manoel Pinheiro, who protested at the line near Jondaryan in June.

On Monday, police prosecutor Marshall Bostock said ... rail and mine operations were affected for six hours before "specialist" police dismantled the dragon.

New Hope Group, owners of the targeted New Acland coal project, wanted \$427,746.

Queensland Rail, Aurizon, and Qube Holdings also sought money in the "extraordinary" restitution bid, defence counsel Patrick Wilson said.

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5788159/bhp-wins-100-million-aspirational-coal-mine-rehabilitation-case/?cs=12>

Muswellbrook Shire Council lost its case against Mt Arthur coal mine, but a judge acknowledged its concerns

Joanne McCarthy, Newcastle Herald, 03/12/2018

BHP will not have to pay more than \$100 million to "retrospectively" rehabilitate the majority of its massive Mt Arthur open cut coal mine near Muswellbrook after a Land and Environment Court decision on Friday affecting 13 other major Hunter coal mines.

Justice John Robson rejected Muswellbrook Shire Council's argument that a 2014 approval required the mine to use a contemporary natural landform method to re-shape three huge embankment areas that have been rehabilitated over decades using the "traditional" method of benching slopes.

But while it lost the case the council's desire to improve mine rehabilitation standards was acknowledged by Justice Robson, who said there was no indication the Department of Planning had "embraced" the "more exacting conditions" supported by the council. ...

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5792161/mates-coal-a-mothballed-hunter-power-station-and-life-after-icac/>

Richard Poole has a corrupt finding on his CV but he wants to put the 'career-cruelling event' of ICAC behind him.

Joanne McCarthy, Newcastle Herald, 05/12/2018

It was a "mate of a mate of a mate" who told investment banker Richard Poole about a mothballed Hunter power station in 2016, not long after the High Court disrupted plans to challenge a corruption finding against him.

"I heard through the grapevine, from a mate of a mate of a mate. I looked at it and thought, why is this thing sitting here?" Mr Poole said of Redbank coal-fired power station near Singleton, which shut its doors in 2014 after owner Babcock and Brown's spectacular global collapse six years earlier.

"It appealed to me to own a generator if we could," he said, after co-developing and selling energy company Australian Power and Gas and helping establish a small American energy company.

Now Mr Poole is behind a push to re-start Redbank and put the "reputationally and career-cruelling event" of a corruption inquiry involving Eddie Obeid and Upper Hunter coal exploration licences behind him. ...

Mr Poole said a re-commissioned Redbank would include an application to reduce the percentage of mine tailings required under the environmental licence to be used as fuel, but there were "opportunities" for the power station to "burn biomass and waste". ...

Hunter Community Environment Centre spokesperson Johannah Lynch said the energy transition was underway, but "it's going to involve less, not more, coal being burnt for electricity".

"At a time when Australians are suffering the impacts of extreme weather and we're hearing warnings of a third year in a row of bleaching on the Great Barrier Reef, the idea of re-opening a coal fired power station is frankly madness," Ms Lynch said.

"The Hunter Valley doesn't need any more mates' deals and coal cronies and it certainly doesn't need more coal fired power stations."

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/emergency-run-away-train-107-illawarra-mountain-20181205-p50kba.html>

'We are in emergency': Out-of-control train hit 107 km/h on mountain

Matt O'Sullivan, SMH, 05/12/2018

A runaway [coal] freight train reached speeds of up to 107 km/h as it careered down one of NSW's steepest rail lines near Wollongong.

The danger of the over-laden grain train running into other trains was averted only after rail network controllers cleared a path for it as it sped uncontrolled down Illawarra Mountain between Dombarton and Unanderra in April last year.

Details of the incident are contained in a final report by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, which found the driver did not adhere to handling procedures and that the train, operated by Qube, was carrying about 10 per cent more load than had been recorded. ...

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/a-surge-in-investment-in-mining-exploration-in-que/3593712/>

Qld coal exploration booming

Stephanie Bennett, Gladstone Observer, 05/12/2018

A surge in investment in mining exploration in Queensland has boosted the resources industry, with confidence at a record high according to a new report.

The Queensland Exploration Council will today release its annual scorecard on the sector, noting coal exploration has increased for the first time since 2011-2012, up 27 per cent.

Expenditure on minerals exploration was up 35 per cent, while petroleum exploration expenditure was up by five per cent. ...

Queensland Government Mines Minister Dr Anthony Lynham will announce today almost \$2 million in collaborative grants would be injected into exploration of minerals in Queensland's north west, with the funds set to bolster 15 new exploration projects.

The government would also open tenders to explore 672 square kilometres of new land in the Bowen and Eroman-ga Basins. ...



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<https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/politics/queensland/lnp-wants-galilee-basin-royalties-stashed-in-investment-fund-20181206-p50knn.html>

LNP wants Galilee Basin royalties stashed in investment fund

Felicity Caldwell, Brisbane Times, 06/12/2018

Royalties from resources projects in the Galilee Basin would be poured into a new sovereign wealth fund to preserve the benefits of Queensland's coal boom under an LNP policy the opposition has urged Labor to support.

Shadow treasurer Tim Mander has written to Treasurer Jackie Trad to seek her support for the LNP's proposal.

A sovereign wealth fund is a state-owned investment vehicle, which invests in assets such as stocks, bonds, real estate or hedge funds.

Currently, royalties from resources projects are funnelled into consolidated revenue to be distributed during the budget process. ...

Ms Trad was not supportive of the idea. ...

"The fact is that they're spending money that doesn't even exist yet and that the state may never see." ...

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/new-deal-for-proposed-1b-gladstone-energy-project/3593325/>

New deal for proposed \$1b Gladstone energy project

Tegan Annett, Gladstone Observer, 04/12/2018

A global engineering firm has joined Australia Future Energy to help it progress its \$1billion energy and ammonia project in Gladstone.

Montreal, Canada-based engineering and construction company SNC-Lavalin signed a pre-feasibility study with Australia Future Energy for the development of the Gladstone Energy and Ammonia Project in Gladstone. ...

The proposed project would convert 1.5 million tonnes of coal a year to produce ammonia, synthetic natural gas and electricity using above-ground coal gasification technology. ...

GAS, GAS, GAS

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/fracking-bans-leave-forrest-eyeing-court/news-story/a846ff321c2aaa217be58e98f2593577>

Fracking bans leave Forrest eyeing court

Andrew Burrell, The Australian, 02/12/2018

Andrew Forrest has been barred from gas fracking in Western Australia's Kimberley region in a move that could prompt the mining magnate to consid-

er legal action against the McGowan government.

A spokeswoman for Mines and Petroleum Minister Bill Johnston told The Australian that none of the eight onshore licences held by Mr Forrest's Squadron Energy in the Kimberley could be fracked under new regulations being put in place. ...

The Perth businessman could follow in the footsteps of fellow WA billionaire Gina Rinehart, who sued the Victorian government over its statewide moratorium on exploring for unconventional gas. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/png-lng-majors-rush-to-strike-deal-with-port-moresby/news-story/a8f4c6ce84bd383a7f364f22f2b432bb>

PNG LNG majors rush to strike deal with Port Moresby

Perry Williams, The Australian, 03/12/2018

A gas expansion planned by energy majors in Papua New Guinea faces a rush to strike fiscal terms with the government as rivals compete to win deals with buyers and scoop up contractors to build export plants.

The Papua LNG project, controlled by France's Total in partnership with Oil Search and ExxonMobil, aims to reach an agreement by March with the PNG government on doubling exports from the Pacific nation. ...

The PNG development has three new equal-sized LNG trains being built at the existing PNG LNG plant, to produce an extra 8 million tonnes of LNG a year. ...

<https://theconversation.com/getting-to-the-heart-of-coal-seam-gas-protests-its-not-just-the-technical-risks-107086>

Getting to the heart of coal seam gas protests – it's not just the technical risks

Hedda Ransa-Cooper, Selen Ercan & Sonya Duus, The Conversation, 04/12/2018

Opposition to coal seam gas (CSG) in Australia is remarkable. CSG proposals – mostly affecting rural areas – have spawned hundreds of opposition groups across the country. Some are now household names, like Lock the Gate and Knitting Nannas Against Gas (KNAG). But there are also many others; small local groups without logos or official websites.

Our research reveals all sorts of concerns motivate the opponents of CSG. But one factor, emotions – in particular how people "do" emotions – helps explain how people mobilise and unite in their opposition. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/gas-investors-get-cold-shoulder/news-story/d32368f94765197d3d36ede7a19b5087>

States have an 'absurd' opposition to natural gas

Eli Greenblat, The Australian, 02/12/2018

Victoria, Tasmania and NSW have been lumped in with the bankrupt and broken socialist nation of Venezuela, war-torn genocidal Yemen and the failed state of Libya as the worst places in the world to invest in developing natural gas resources.

At the same time as businesses and consumers decry the rocketing cost of energy, states such as Victoria and Tasmania have effectively closed down the gas exploration industry, while NSW has built a global reputation for removing exploration rights from companies. ...

<https://theconversation.com/fracking-policies-are-wildly-inconsistent-across-australia-from-gung-ho-development-to-total-bans-108039>

Fracking policies are wildly inconsistent across Australia, from gung-ho development to total bans

Hannabeth Luke, Martin Brueckner & Nia Emmanouil, The Conversation, 04/12/2018

Last week, the Western Australian Government lifted its state-wide moratorium on hydraulic fracturing (fracking). Unconventional gas industries were given the green light to develop on existing petroleum leases, especially in WA's vast Kimberley region. ...

Fracking policies vary widely across Australia's states and territories, and so do community attitudes. Our review of the literature on unconventional gas development in Australia reveals an inconsistent approach in how governments have responded to the industry. ...

The industry has argued that "fugitive emissions" of methane from Australian unconventional gas wells are relatively low. However, more recent studies warn that we may be underestimating the true climate risks of unconventional gas.

Indeed, Australia's spike in greenhouse gas emissions is attributed to the expansion of unconventional gas production and exports. They underpinned a 13.7% increase in national fugitive greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to Australia recording its 15th consecutive quarter of greenhouse gas emission increases this year. ...

<https://www.crikey.com.au/2018/12/05/divide-and-conquer-fracking-developers-campaign-to-indigenous-groups/?ins=RFNxmKjRjB5K3RBNXF3Tys3NHVXZz09>

'Divide and conquer': fracking developers campaign to Indigenous groups

Brendan Foster, Crikey, 05/12/2018

Indigenous traditional owners from a remote part of Western Australia fear developers will use strong-arm tactics to get consent to frack their land for gas. ...

Farmers, landowners and native title holders can refuse fracking. But Bardu and Nyul Nyul traditional owner and Kimberley elder Albert Wiggan said the veto rights meant little, as developers would "assert themselves" into remote Aboriginal communities and offer traditional landowners "huge amounts of cash".

"It will create division among family groups and the developers will then only work with the families who are pro-fracking," he told *Crikey*. ...

<https://thewest.com.au/business/energy/red-tape-risks-holding-up-frackers-until-2021-ng-b881041043z>

Red tape risks holding up frackers until 2021

Peter Milne, West Australian, 06/12/2018

A long delay setting up the approval process could amount to "banning fracking by stealth" because smaller companies can ill-afford the red tape, some parts of the oil and gas industry fear.

As it becomes clearer that Premier Mark McGowan's fracking train has left Andrew Forrest on the platform, uncertainty about regulatory approvals could see other hopefuls waiting until 2021 to start operating. ...

One industry insider said he expected a long delay to set up the approval process as the EPA had no petroleum experience or relevant regulations in place.

He said "its almost banning fracking by stealth", as smaller companies may not be able to afford the delays and costs. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/an-abandoned-site-in-the-bowen-basin-could-turn-out-to-be-one-of-the-biggest-new-gas-fields-but-more-testing-is-needed/news-story/9c752b8095327055fda56e0ae55bc0d4>

An abandoned site in the Bowen Basin could turn out to be one of the biggest new gas fields but more testing is needed

Emmaline Stigwood, Courier-Mail, 05/12/2018

One of Queensland's newest gas developers has discovered what it says



Leigh Creek residents protest at the UCG site. Photo: Supplied

is potentially one of the state's biggest new gas fields.

State Gas executive director Greg Baynton said results from drilling at a Bowen Basin site first explored in the 1950s had in recent days shown potentially significant coal seam and conventional gas supplies. ...

The find comes from State Gas's exploration of an historic underground site called Reid's Dome, about 30km from Rolleston. ...

State Gas chairman Tony Bellas said the outcomes had "far exceeded the company's expectations and confirmed a significant coal seam gas project". ...

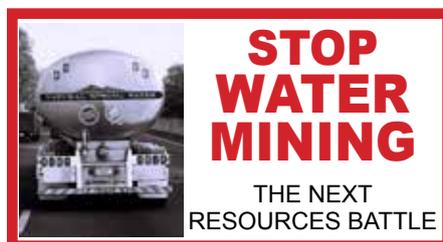
<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/lng-shipping-title-secured-now-to-stay-top-of-the-world/news-story/2fe0bab97795e1b85cbcd6eacfc5ad1>

Australia becomes an LNG power

Perry Williams, The Australian, 06/12/2018

Australia has snatched the title of the world's biggest LNG exporter from rival Qatar and is now the largest global shipper for gas, coal and iron ore, raking in \$165 billion in annual revenue. ...

After a \$200bn spending spree on new LNG facilities from offshore Western Australia and the Northern Territory to Queensland's coal-seam gas sourced industry, Resources Minister Matt Canavan said the focus now had to switch to ensuring the next wave of gas expansion projects was delivered to keep Australia competitive. ...



LEIGH CK STINK

<https://smallcaps.com.au/leigh-creek-energy-edges-closer-commercial-syngas-flows/>

Leigh Creek Energy edges closer to commercial syngas flows

Danica Cullinane, Smallcaps, 04/12/2018

Emerging gas developer Leigh Creek Energ is on the verge of achieving commercial flow rates of synthesis gas from its namesake energy project in South Australia.

The company today announced gas has been flowing continuously from its pre-commercial demonstration facility for the past 53 days and is anticipating reaching the commercial gas phase by the end of December. ...

The Leigh Creek pre-commercial demonstration is currently in [the] pyrolysis stage.

As the gasification chamber continues to increase in both size and temperature, very hot gases (typically at temperatures above 1000 degrees Celsius) interact with the coal to form syngas.

This is the commercial gas phase, which the company expects to be in by the end of the 2018 calendar year. ...

<https://www.transcontinental.com.au/story/5797059/locking-the-gate-on-underground-coal-gasification/?csc=1538>

Lock the Gate Alliance in Leigh Creek

Marco Balsamo, Transcontinental, 06/12/2018

Lock the Gate Alliance Director Sarah Moles visited Leigh Creek to share the lessons learned from Linc Energy's underground coal gasification (UCG) project near Chinchilla in Queensland.

"... For goodness sake, don't let South Australia go down this road," Ms Moles said about the proposed UCG project at Leigh Creek's former coalfield site.

Residents from Leigh Creek and Copley

met with Ms Moles to listen to details about the Chinchilla project, which led to widespread contamination and a statewide ban on UCG in Queensland.

Ms Moles said Leigh Creek locals showed deep concerns about the little regard shown for their health.

“They were alarmed that there could be such severe health impacts on people exposed to high levels of very toxic, volatile compounds,” she said.

“This is a very extreme example of developing fossil fuels and a very risky way of extracting fossil fuels. ...

Lock the Gate, a national grassroots organisation with more than 120,000 supporters, continued its protests in Adelaide ... urging the South Australian government to follow in Queensland’s footsteps and ban UCG. ...

Her meeting in Leigh Creek also highlighted the “putrid smell” generated from the UCG facility in Chinchilla, as well as the similarities between the two projects, with key personnel from Linc Energy now involved in Leigh Creek Energy (LCK).

However, LCK has maintained that there are significant differences between the Leigh Creek Energy Project and the facility in Chinchilla. ...

IMPORT INSANITY

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/companies/newcastle-port-could-be-home-to-500-million-gas-import-terminal-20181205-p50kc9.html>

Newcastle port could be home to \$500 million gas import terminal

Jessica Brown, SMH, 05/12/2018

A South Korean company has joined the jostle to provide the country with gas import capability proposing a \$500 million facility at the Port of Newcastle.

EPIK Co. Ltd, a liquefied natural gas floating storage and regasification unit

company, on Wednesday announced the commencement of preliminary works after securing an agreement with the port.

The project, named Newcastle LNG, will be situated at the back-end of the existing gas transmission network within the port. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/fifth-lng-import-terminal-planned-as-south-korean-developer-inks-deal-with-port-of-newcastle/news-story/08c06a4ada2e812316c6c796f0b1e81a>

Fifth LNG import terminal planned as South Korean developer inks deal with Port of Newcastle

Perry Williams, The Australian, 05/12/2018

Australia’s fifth LNG import terminal has been proposed by a South Korean developer, striking a preliminary deal with the Port of Newcastle to boost gas supplies to the nation’s east coast as part of a \$US430 million (\$586m) facility.

EPIK, described as a Seoul-based LNG project development company, says the Newcastle LNG facility covers an option agreement to start initial works on a floating storage and regasification unit followed by other projects including a gas-fired power plant and an LNG bunkering facility. ...

The four other Australian projects include AGL Energy’s \$250m LNG terminal in Victoria’s Crib Point, slated for the first half of 2020, with the Andrew Forrest-backed Australian Industrial Energy working to a similar timetable for its proposed Port Kembla facility in NSW.

Oil giant ExxonMobil is also considering a Victorian LNG import plant to replace rapidly declining Bass Strait gas fields with the facility expected to take advantage of existing infrastructure at the Longford gas plant.

While in South Australia, the Mitsubishi-based Venice Energy is also

looking to lock in first gas supplies by mid-2020 for its Pelican Point storage proposal.

<https://www.macrobusiness.com.au/2018/12/korea-takes-piss-fifth-lng-importer-nsw/>

Korea takes piss with fifth LNG importer for NSW

Houses and Holes, Macrobusiness, 05/12/2018

Can Australia’s gas catastrophe get any more stupid? Yes, it can:

Australia’s fifth LNG import terminal has been proposed by a South Korean developer, striking a preliminary deal with the Port of Newcastle to boost gas supplies to the nation’s east coast as part of a \$US430 million (\$586m) facility. ...

The arithmetic of LNG imports is disastrous. The current Asian gas price is at \$11.50Gj after heavy oil price falls. If we import it, the local cost will include: extraction; piping; liquefaction; shipping; gasification; piping again.

The price will be around \$14.50Gj and it will become the marginal price setter on the east coast.

That’s before we confront the awful fact that the gas will very likely come from QLD, be piped and frozen by GLNG, driven out to sea, regasified in Newcastle and piped to Sydney. This is just handing a pack of rent-seekers control of your national security sensitive energy supply.

Just toughen the ADGSM domestic reservation policy on KOGAS with the flick of a pen instead.

<http://mpnews.com.au/2018/12/04/extra-hurdle-for-agls-gas-plan/>

Extra hurdle for AGL’s gas plan

Keith Platt, Mornington Peninsula News, 04/12/2018

Power company AGL is now being called on by both the state and federal governments to provide further details about likely impacts of the floating gas import terminal it wants to operate at Crib Point. ...

The decision followed letters from residents to Environment Minister Melissa Price detailing their concerns about AGL’s plans.

The process will now require AGL and pipeline operator APA to provide more information, including an environmental impact statement (EIS) detailing likely hazards to Western Port and its endangered species and how these would be dealt with. ...

A fifth gas import terminal has been proposed for the Port of Newcastle. Photo: EPIK



Community group Save Westernport welcomed the state and federal governments' demands for AGL to provide greater detail about what it terms the project's "many hazards, including the potential health and safety risks to Crib Point residents". ...

PFAS POISON

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/dec/03/landowners-affected-by-toxic-firefighting-chemicals-should-be-compensated-mps-say>

Landowners affected by toxic firefighting chemicals should be compensated, MPs say

Michael McGowan & Christopher Knaus, *The Guardian*, 03/12/2018

A group of MPs from across the political divide has urged the commonwealth to consider compensation and property buybacks for people affected by contamination from toxic firefighting chemicals which leached off defence bases and into soil and waterways across Australia. ...

The committee, headed by the Queensland coalition MP Andrew Laming, said the government should consider providing "compensation, including the possibility of buybacks" for property owners affected by the contamination. ...

In total the committee made nine recommendations, including that the government "review its existing advice in relation to the human health effects of PFAS exposure, including to acknowledge the potential links to certain medical conditions".

The government has been criticised in the past for its refusal to acknowledge the growing body of studies which have linked high PFAS exposure to a range of health conditions. ...

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.realestate.com.au/news/barnaby-joyce-lists-rural-nsw-farmland-for-878000-to-fund-divorce-settlement/?rsf=syn:news:nca:dt:article>

Barnaby Joyce lists rural NSW farmland for \$878,000 to fund divorce settlement

Aidan Devine, *Daily Telegraph*, 03/12/2018

Nationals backbencher Barnaby Joyce is selling a plot of farmland with coal-seam gas potential to fund his impending divorce from wife Natalie.

The 1015ha of land in Gwabegar in northern NSW has been listed with an asking price of \$878,000.

It is covered by an unused coal-seam gas exploration license held by resources company Comet Ridge.



Divorce proceedings: Barnaby's land for sale at Gwabegar. Photo: Rural Property NSW

Mr Joyce has owned the estate since 2007, after joining two separate blocks together for a total \$572,000. ...

He had pledged to sell the land five years ago after acknowledging a potential "conflict of interest" due to the petroleum exploration license. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/dec/03/coal-coal-coal-and-soaring-emissions-as-a-liberal-i-have-had-enough>

Coal, coal, coal and soaring emissions – as a Liberal, I have had enough

Oliver Yates, *The Guardian*, 03/12/2018

Time is up. The Liberal party won't reform, so it is time to stop fighting, split and take the opportunity to compete for the support of the public. ...

The failure of the existing Liberal party to address climate change or to support an integrity commission is unacceptable.

Nowhere is this failure more obvious than in its continued support for the Adani coalmine and new coal-fired power stations. ...

We desperately need an integrity commission to investigate potential conflicts of interest that see a revolving door between the coal industry and minister's offices. It is hard to believe donors don't have influence on the selection of ministers to some degree. ...

As a Liberal, I have had enough and, as evidenced by the swing in safe Liberal seats in Victoria, I am not alone.

We must provide alternatives for

Liberals to vote for at the next federal election, and I hope to see independent Liberals provide electors in safe Liberal seats with that choice. ...

It is simply impossible for many Liberal voters to vote for a party that:

- works to prevent any action on climate change
- has the potential to be controlled by the mining industry or whichever new industry is willing to pay for favours (clubs, internet gambling, pokies, fire-arms and many more)
- rejects the establishment of an integrity commission
- rejects donation reform and transparency and promotes members for their fundraising skills rather than policy and communication skills
- backs the Adani coalmine, which has no social licence and is inconsistent with our need to tackle climate change; and
- regardless of the election result seems to be heading towards installing Tony Abbott or Peter Dutton as the next party leader ...
- *Oliver Yates is a member of the Liberal party and former chief executive of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation*

STOP WATER MINING
THE NEXT RESOURCES BATTLE



<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/dec/04/labor-backs-greens-plan-to-block-coalition-from-underwriting-coal-power>

Labor backs Greens plan to block Coalition from underwriting coal power

Katharine Murphy, The Guardian, 04/12/2018

Labor and the Greens will attempt to prevent the Morrison government from underwriting new coal-fired power as the energy policy battle moves into its next phase.

Labor on Tuesday resolved to support a Greens bill stopping the commonwealth from providing financial assistance to coal-fired power plants, and there is an effort to secure the requisite parliamentary numbers for an upset as the Morrison government moves ahead with its controversial energy package. Negotiations are under way with crossbenchers in both chambers. ...

https://reneweconomy.com.au/coalition-scuppers-greens-labor-efforts-to-block-new-coal-57474/?utm_source=RE+Daily+Newsletter&utm_campaign=898d9983ad-EMAIL-CAMPAIGN_2018_12_05_03_42&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_46a1943223-898d9983ad-40461137

Coalition scuppers Greens, Labor efforts to block new coal

Sophie Vorrath, Renew Economy, 05/12/2018

A Greens-led and Labor-backed effort to block the Coalition from using taxpayer funds to bolster coal-fired generation in Australia has been narrowly defeated in Parliament, after Coalition moderates linked arms with the hard right in support of the controversial plan.

Parliament voted on Wednesday on a bill introduced by Australian Greens MP Adam Bandt on Monday – legislation that would prevent Australian governments from providing financial assistance for building, refurbishing, or buying coal-fired power stations.

The Coal-Fired Power Funding Prohibition Bill 2018, which Bandt said “should not be necessary,” was drafted by the Greens to be wide enough to prevent the government using any of the mechanisms outlined in its “Underwriting new generation investments” consultation paper. ...

https://newmatilda.com/2018/12/04/big-coal-friends-track-shut-climate-activism/?utm_campaign=shareaholic&utm_medium=facebook&utm_source=socialnetwork&fbclid=IwAR15vx8NGUMk4gafShhPLyz3nlVvuVpFjYN3lxvReOzVCMVf6BqjEosfql

Big coal and friends on track to shut down your climate activism

Julie Macken, New Matilda, 04/12/2018

A major case opening in a Queensland court could have profound implica-



Coal train giant Aurizon wants to ban FLAC from using social media to incite protest against its activities and relationship with Adani. Photo: Aurizon

tions for climate activists around the country. Julie Macken explains. ...

The term, “climate crisis” is now the most commonly used descriptor when discussing global warming. ... But if we are really witnessing a climate crisis – one with the potential to destroy our way of life and end our lives – how should we respond as a community?

This is a question being tested in Australia’s classrooms and Parliament right now ... The Queensland Supreme Court will be asked to decide whether, despite this crisis, it is reasonable for a large corporation to dictate how the community should be allowed to use social media to try and prevent this crisis.

Aurizon, the rail freight company formerly owned by the Government of Queensland, has been targeted by a number of individuals and communities because it plays a key role in the coal industry managing the 2,670 km Central Queensland coal network. It is also critical to Indian mining company Adani’s plans ... Without Aurizon there is no Adani mine.

Aurizon has taken the extraordinary action of getting interim orders against Frontline Action on Coal (FLAC). Those orders include prohibiting FLAC from inciting anyone by Facebook, website, and Twitter to enter rail corridors across Aurizon’s network or interfering with any of the company’s coal trains.

On Tuesday the Supreme Court will be asked to make these interim orders permanent thus preventing FLAC from using social media to inform people

and to be prohibited from going within 20 meters of the entire Queensland rail corridor. ...

The company wants to prevent this small community group from encouraging, supporting or training anyone to take non-violent action to prevent this crisis.

The Supreme Court must decide if Aurizon, an enormously powerful and well connected corporation, should have the power to deny a small community group the right to inform Australians how to help to prevent this climate crisis. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/dec/05/corporate-whistleblowers-desperate-for-new-protections>

Corporate whistleblowers ‘desperate’ for new protections

Christopher Knaus, The Guardian, 05/12/2018

Whistleblower Sally McDow counts herself among the lucky few.

McDow was undermined, derided, marginalised, threatened with termination, and ultimately made redundant after blowing the whistle on corporate malfeasance at Origin Energy in 2015.

But she emerged with her life relatively intact. A highly experienced lawyer with a tight-knit family, McDow was able to withstand the immense pressure and find a new sense of purpose.

She launched the first ever court case testing the strength of Australia’s corporate whistleblower scheme in 2016, and created CPR Partners, a firm that supports fellow whistleblowers and trains corporates on their obligations.

She says the people she's helped have had their lives all but destroyed for speaking out.

"No one wants to be a whistleblower because it's just a fate worse than ... you wouldn't wish it on your worst enemy," McDow told Guardian Australia. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/dec/05/australian-mining-giants-may-be-breaking-law-by-ignoring-climate-change-risks>

Australian mining giants 'may be breaking law' by ignoring climate change risks

Ben Smees, The Guardian, 05/12/2018

More than a dozen of Australia's largest mining and infrastructure companies may be in breach of their legal duties by refusing to consider the financial risks posed by climate change, an investor action group says.

In September, the Australian Securities and Investments Commission published a report that said "the law requires" relevant companies to "include a discussion of climate risk" in their annual report.

Market Forces, a group that advocates for environmentally sustainable investment, assisted shareholders at company annual general meetings. Almost all of those companies ignored or dismissed climate change as a financial risk to their business. ...

In September Asic audited 60 companies and found only 10 identified climate as a material risk.

Among the findings of that report was that companies were legally bound to "include a discussion of climate risk when it could affect the entity's achievement of its financial performance or disclosed outcomes". ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/dec/05/school-students-protest-climate-change-canberra-morrison>

Students left hanging during Canberra trip to confront Morrison on climate change

AAP, The Guardian, 05/12/2018

High school students from across Australia calling for emergency action on climate change have travelled to Canberra to confront the prime minister ...

Students from Scott Morrison's southern Sydney electorate of Cook – as well as Townsville, Melbourne and Brisbane – arrived at Parliament House on Wednesday morning to meet with him. ...



Student protesters about to be dragged out of Parliament. Photo: Supplied

But one group of 11 students gathered out the back of Parliament House in the hope of speaking to Morrison had not yet had any luck.

Fourteen-year-old Tully Bowtell-Young travelled solo from Townsville for the chance to share her concerns with the prime minister – using her own pocket money to help cover costs. ...

The group of students tried numerous times to call the prime minister's office but were told they needed to have a prearranged meeting organised – in some instances they were hung up on.

Senator Jordan Steele-John and independent MP Kerryn Phelps both came out to meet with the students.

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/national/activists-take-over-parliament-house-foyer-in-protest-of-adani-coal-mine/news-story/68dec61745df18bff0cedb-4be7e00c4c>

Activists take over Parliament House foyer in protest of Adani coal mine

Claire Bickers, Daily Telegraph, 05/12/2018

Activists including students as young as 14 have been dragged out of Parliament House by security in dramatic scenes on the second last sitting day of the year.

The Stop Adani activists were given two minutes' warning before they were physically hauled out of Parliament House's foyer today after staging a sit in to protest the Adani coal mine in Queensland.

It took just over 10 minutes for dozens of security guards and Australian Federal Police officers to drag out more than 100 activists, including students as young as 14.

They were later banned from entering Parliament for three months. ...

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/mungo-maccallum-morrison-and-the-adani-lesson.12167>

Morrison and the Adani Lesson

Mungo MacCallum, Independent Australia, 04/12/2018

The future is not on the side of Adani or the PM, as the groundswell of youth leading the charge against climate change clearly shows.

Yet again we are assured that the Adani mine is going ahead — Adani Lite, they'll only put it in a little way and if it hurts, well, they'll just see how far they can keep shoving.

The promise – the threat – is that operations will begin by the end of the year, but we have seen Adani's delusional optimism many times. ...

But according to the experts, this will still not break even, so Adani may have a few more tricks to play. But the coal-lovers are not fazed: there will be jobs, jobs, jobs. Not, admittedly, the wildly exaggerated claim of 10,000 under the original idea, but at least a few. ...

And this was enough for our Resources Minister Matt Canavan who absurdly praised the Indian megacorp "a little Aussie battler". ...

The schoolchildren's crusade on Friday was immediately dismissed and denigrated by Canavan who said that by missing one day of classes, the kids were heading straight to the dole queue. ...

My granddaughter is one of them. She knew exactly what she was doing and why and she intends to keep on doing it until the politicians listen – if not this time, then the next and the next, and the next. Adani may or may not start digging before Christmas, but it would be most unwise to make long-term plans. ...

News this week ... from previous page

<https://www.chinchillanews.com.au/news/right-to-healthy-environment/3594259/>

Right to healthy environment

Brooke Duncan, *Chinchilla News*, 05/12/2018

A Chinchilla resident has weighed in on Queensland's new Human Rights Bill, to highlight the importance of including a right to a healthy environment.

The Australian Earth Laws Alliance (AELA) and Environmental Defenders Office Qld (EDO Qld) co-hosted a seminar in Brisbane on Tuesday to discuss the issue, where key speakers including Chinchilla's Shay Dougall took to the lectern.

Other speakers included EDO Qld's Law Reform Solicitor Revel Pointon, AELA's Dr Michelle Maloney, and Aimee McVeigh from Human Rights Act for Queensland (HRAct4Qld).

Mrs Dougall convened the Australian evidence provided to Permanent People's Tribunal (PPT) on Human Rights, Fracking and Climate Change, and has advocated for families impacted by the gas industry in the Western Downs.

She said the right to a healthy environment should be enshrined alongside the 23 other human rights contained in the Bill.

"Do we all have a right to clean air and clean water? Do we all have a right to a healthy environment that can sustain us, our children and grandchildren long into the future? We think so," she said. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/dec/05/brutal-news-global-carbon-emissions-jump-to-all-time-high-in-2018>

'Brutal news': global carbon emissions jump to all-time high in 2018

Damian Carrington, *The Guardian*, 06/12/2018

Global carbon emissions will jump to a record high in 2018, according to a report, dashing hopes a plateau of recent years would be maintained. It means emissions are heading in the opposite direction to the deep cuts urgently needed, say scientists, to fight climate change.

The rise is due to the growing number of cars on the roads and a renaissance of coal use and means the world remains on the track to catastrophic global warming. ...

The Global Carbon Budget, produced by 76 scientists from 57 research institutions in 15 countries, found the ma-

ajor drivers of the 2018 increase were more coal-burning in China and India as their economies grew, and more oil used in more transport. Industry also used more gas. Renewable energy grew rapidly, but not enough to offset the increased use of fossil fuel. ...

https://reneweconomy.com.au/energy-ministers-wife-says-rolling-blackouts-needed-to-teach-lefties-a-lesson-15482/?utm_source=RE+Daily+News-letter&utm_campaign=b9e55d6c56-EMAIL_CAM-PAIGN_2018_12_05_05_59&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_46a1943223-b9e55d6c56-40461137

Energy minister's wife says rolling blackouts needed to teach lefties a lesson

Giles Parkinson, *Renew Economy*, 06/12/2018

It was bad enough last year when Tom Elliott, the radio-talk back host and son of former business man and Liberal Party grandee John Elliott wrote that he wanted to see a major blackout to prove his theory that renewable energy doesn't work.

Now we have another – Louise Clegg, the barrister wife of federal energy minister Angus Taylor – suggesting that she, too, thinks that the best way to get the lefties to see the light about the error of their ways is to, well, have the lights go out.

"Recession, rolling blackouts, youth unemployment all necessary for people to realise left populism/culture, unrestrained spending, outlawing offensive speech, etc. not the answer," Clegg wrote on a Facebook post, in response to an article posted by conservative commentator Parnell Palme McGuinness. ...

<https://www.crikey.com.au/2018/12/03/kids-climate-action-policy/?ins=bFZvTlInMXF3VGtIM2hobU5NRj3UT09>

Finally, some hope in public policy

Bernard Keane, *Crikey*, 03/12/2018

Last week provided a glaring contrast between the shoddy, deeply dispiriting

politics-as-usual of 2018 and the hope that things might somehow improve.

First, there was the Adani announcement about its Carmichael project, which it insists will now go ahead in scaled down form, although whether it does or not still remains to be seen. The Carmichael project has long reflected everything wrong with Australian politics and its political system: an incompetent minister, a corrupt multinational, known for its Labor-connected lobbyist, its large donations to political parties and its ability to exercise direct influence over political leaders, which is proceeding with a scaled-down version of its coal project because it isn't commercially viable.

Well-known for a blatant lie about the number of jobs it will create, the project in its scaled-down form is being sold with more lies about its employment benefits — now, at 1500, apparently larger than when the project was several times bigger. ...

While politicians and business were celebrating the announcement of an extraordinarily damaging expansion of Australia's addiction to coal, thousands of schoolchildren were taking to the streets to protest against the government's climate denialism and rejection of any need to curb Australia's massive per-capita level of carbon emissions. ...

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