



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 2:13 • 8 MARCH 2019

Knitting Nannas call for action in Sydney: “No water – no life”



On International Women’s Day – Friday, March 8 – Knitting Nannas Against Gas/Greed (KNAGG) from all over NSW converged on Sydney to protest the lack of government action to address climate change.

Women from the Northern Rivers, Gloucester, Grafton, Coonabarabran, Dubbo, New England-North West, MidCoast, Central Coast, Great Lakes, Hunter, Illawarra and Sydney delivered their ‘Knagging List’ to politicians.

The Knitting Nannas united with other environmental groups with the message ‘United to Protect Our Water – No Water, No Life’.

The Knitting Nannas said governments at all levels are stealing our water, selling it to the highest bidder (cotton farms, coal and gas miners, water miners etc), or giving it away, and leaving those most vulnerable with no drinkable water.

An example of this is last week’s water auction, where coal miners outbid NSW farmers for scarce water in the Namoi Valley. Whitehaven Coal paid three times what farmers could afford



for this water, in a time of unprecedented drought.

This is human rights abuse – and must be stopped. On the driest continent on Earth, protecting water is critical to every Australian.

“With climate change impacts increasing daily, we the people must step up to our politicians and demand they implement a climate action policy NOW if we are to leave our kiddies and future generations a liveable planet,”

said spokesnanna Rosie Lee. “We were joined by some School Strike 4 Climate youth. These young adults are an incredible inspiration to the Knitting Nannas, with their global movement growing daily.”

“They will continue their monthly strike, the next being Friday, March 15, until governments take climate action seriously, and the nannas support them by providing clean drinking

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Who forgot the oil?

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approval for gas pipeline

• P4: Call to block
all new coal mines

Knitting Nannas 'knag' Sydney politicians on International Women's Day

• Continued from p1

water, sun protection and lots of nanna hugs to show them we care."

Water mismanagement by govts

The Nannas say, with the Menindee fish kills last month, the whole state of NSW was alerted to the sad reality of water mismanagement by governments.

The Nannas have been actively taking concerns to MPs for more than six years, and with the NSW election looming they have been 'KNAGging' candidates across the State with the KNAGging list (below, right).

Some water issues of concern in New South Wales include:

• North West – Santos CSG in Pilliga State Forest

After Santos being fined \$1,500 for operating without a Water Use Approval in 2018, the Department of Planning is still assessing the company's Narrabri gas project which is slated to extract over 35 billion litres of groundwater, much of it in the first five years. The water impact is of extreme concern to farmers in the district.

• North West – Whitehaven Coal at Maules Creek

Whitehaven Coal at Maules Creek have blown farmers out of the water at a recent groundwater auction in Gunnedah successfully bidding \$930 per megalitre for 460mL of groundwater in Zone 4.

The under-bidder was Boggabri coal. This diabolical situation that sees farmers unable to compete with miners should be illegal.

Farmers can't afford more than \$300 per megalitre.

• North West – Whitehaven's proposed Vickery mine

Awaits planning approval and will need vast amounts of water.

• Illawarra – Sydney drinking water under threat

The Greater Sydney Water Catchment area provides water to five million people and yet this vital area to life has to compete with the damage caused by aggressive long wall coal mining.

This is the only publicly owned drinking water catchment in the world where coal mining is allowed!



• Murray-Darling river system

Unprecedented fish kills – over a million dead fish, bird-life diminishing; the river has run dry with just a few stinking, algae-infested pools of water left. This comes after years of warning that management of the river system is slanted in favour of big irrigators, inept and possibly out-right corrupt.

• Hume Coal, Southern Highlands

This underground mine would be located in Sydney's drinking water catchment and independent experts have identified major impacts on surface and groundwater.

The towns and villages of the Southern Highlands, and their water, must not be sacrificed so a multinational company can dig up coal for export.

• Wallarah 2 Coal Mine underneath Central Coast drinking water catchment

Federal Environment Minister Melissa Price's decision, in January, to give the go ahead to the Wallarah 2 Coal Mine, will harm residents of the Central Coast and threatened wildlife.

The proposed mine will result in the loss of up to 300 ML a year from the Central Coast's drinking water catchment during its 28 year lifespan.

Five towns without water

• Towns without water and dams emptying fast

Five towns have no water: Walgett,

KNAGGING LIST

- Climate action immediately*
- Transition to %100 renewables*
- End water mining*
- Every person to have access to potable water 24/7*
- NSW gas ban*
- Protect and respect Aboriginal sacred sites*
- Protect prime agricultural land*
- Create a youth advisory panel*
- Revoke anti-protest laws*

Don't forget to keep your promises!

Knitting Nannas Against Gas/Greed



Brewarrina, Menindee, Wilcannia, Murrurundi.

Coonabarabran and Tamworth are in danger and under severe water restrictions.

NT fracking: Who forgot the oil?

By Tim Forcey

For years gas fracking has been the topic of official inquiries and much discussion in the Northern Territory. But somewhere along the line, they forgot to tell us about the oil.

But the frackers didn't forget to alert their investors. Origin Energy announces the first order of business in the Beetaloo basin is to target the "liquids-rich" Kyalla and Velkerri shales. Falcon Oil and Gas adds that the Hayfield sandstone is "anticipated to have the highest liquid yields". Federal Minister Canavan hopes the Beetaloo will produce more oil than the Bass Strait.

Normally an oil and gas company loves to shout from the rooftops about the prospects for oil. As a liquid, oil is easier to deal with and worth ten times as much as gas, molecule for molecule.

Gas, on the other hand, is a problem. It needs to find a market, sometimes as far away as Queensland or even China. Getting it there takes pipelines thousands of kilometres long, or multi-billion dollar liquefaction plants, LNG ships, and then LNG import terminals, regasification facilities, and more pipelines. For what, billions of dollars of asset write-downs and the opportunity not to pay any tax?

BHP lost billions of dollars in the USA shales hoping to find oil but found only gas. Today some US fracked gas is so worthless they are flaring it off, venting it, or paying people to take it.

By comparison oil is easy. Get it out of the ground, put it in a tank, "weather off" the benzene-containing light ends, put it in a truck and now someone will pay you fifty US dollars per barrel for it, or more.

So why all the talk in the NT about gas, and so much silence about oil? Because although gas isn't so easy to sell to a distant customer, it can be easier to try and sell it to the Australian public.



Northern Territory landscape - to be fracked for oil as well as gas. Photo: Eve Sinton

After all gas is a "clean green fuel" isn't it - but only if you compare it to coal, and if you ignore all the "fugitive" greenhouse gases released into our air.

And we have a gas shortage crisis in Australia don't we - even though we are the largest gas exporter with 81% of our gas slated to leave the country.

And people down south need gas in winter to keep warm don't they - only if you don't know that it's far cheaper these days to heat your home with a modern reverse-cycle air conditioner.

Cooking with gas? With gas, one thing you can definitely cook up is a case for fracking it.

Oil harder to sell to the public

Whereas it's harder to argue that NT oil would satisfy some greater good. With so many oil spill disasters around the world and electric vehicles on the way, no company suggests oil is a clean-green fuel. Nor would they even

hint that NT oil is going to reduce the price you pay for petrol by even one cent.

So the miners went silent on the real prize, oil, and also silent about its risks. Oil was explicitly left out of the Terms of Reference for the NT Fracking Inquiry. There has been no review into the threats oil poses to our air, water, land, and health - even though cancer-causing oil components have been widely found to cause harm in the fracked lands of the USA.

It's time the oil and gas companies were honest with Territorians about their real plans, and about the problems fracking for both oil and gas will bring to the NT.

• Tim Forcey worked for 40 years as an engineer and manager in the petrochemical, oil, and gas industries in the US and Australia. More recently he has published energy research with the University of Melbourne.

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Jeremy Buckingham on gas failures

Independent senate candidate Jeremy Buckingham has launched into the failures of Australia's gas industry in a punchy video. It's worth a look:

https://www.facebook.com/jeremybuckingham/videos/767079270329141/UzpiSTewND01Nzg-1MDg6Vks6MjM2MDk0OTk0Mzk2OTY3M0Q/Z-multi_permalink=2360949943969671¬if_id=1551819666744636¬if_t=group_activity

SACRIFICE ZONE

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

<https://vimeo.com/257444267>

Gas pipeline gets last-minute reprieve

Farmers from North West NSW and the Hunter Valley have slammed the actions of Planning Minister Anthony Roberts after he flaunted established planning processes in favour of a pipeline company, which could carry gas from the Santos Narrabri CSG project.

The Hunter Queensland Gas Pipeline was approved over ten years ago but did not commence. In November the company applied for an extension for another five years, but the approval lapsed on February 1 this year, without an extension being granted.

However, on the very last day before the caretaker period commenced ahead of the NSW election, Minister Roberts made a new regulation which appears specifically designed to extend the lapsed deadline on the pipeline by 12 months.

Scott McCalman, a farmer near Mulla-ley said, "Anthony Roberts has flaunted the proper NSW planning process, changing the rules for the convenience of the CSG industry and leaving farmers and landholders in agonising limbo.

"Roberts has abused his power and shown contempt for the public and

the farmers of North West NSW by backdating this extension after it had already lapsed."

Last year, over one hundred objections were lodged against the proposal to extend the approval.

Submitters argued that the ten-year deadline for approved projects was important to provide certainty to local communities and currency to the planning process.

"The effect of this dodgy extension for a CSG pipeline is to extend uncertainty for landholders along the pipeline route, bending and making new rules for the benefit of the proponent, the Hunter Gas Pipeline Pty Ltd," Mr McCalman said.

"This pipeline has been directly linked to the proposed Santos Narrabri CSG project that farmers in North West NSW have fought tooth and nail against for nine years.

"Coal seam gas puts our precious groundwater at risk and to see the NSW Government bending the rules for a gas company .. is a real kick in the teeth."

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Call for Adani to accept responsibility

Mining company Adani must accept responsibility for polluting the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area at levels eight times greater than its licence allowed, the Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) says.

Adani pleaded not guilty this week in Bowen Magistrates Court to breaching its pollution licence and polluting the Great Barrier Reef in 2017, with a hearing date set for July 22.

Adani, the operator of the Abbot Point port, is being prosecuted by the Queensland government for the pollution breach in 2017 during cyclone Debbie, when it spilt water with more than eight times the allowable level of coal particles into the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

Dr Lissa Schindler, AMCS Great Barrier Reef Campaign Manager, said:

"Adani is refusing to take responsibility for its pollution breach. Adani's own letter to the Queensland government following the incident showed it discharged water contaminated by

coal in amounts well above the temporary licence it was handed by the Queensland Environment Department during Cyclone Debbie.

"This is not a one-off event. This year Adani again breached their licence when coal-contaminated water overflowed from their Abbot Point port into the Caley Valley Wetlands.

"The second breach in only two years shows Adani is failing to comply with its legal obligations to protect the environment.

"Our Great Barrier Reef is a global treasure and one of the world's most biologically diverse ecosystems that gives jobs to more than 64,000 people. But it is in grave danger due to climate change that's being mostly driven by mining and burning coal.

"Our choice is clear. We can give our Reef a fighting chance and treat it as the World Heritage treasure that it is, or we can let mining giants wreak havoc on its very future."

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Call to block new mines

Proposed changes to Queensland minerals laws to block coal mining in the Galilee Basin need to go further to safeguard a Great Barrier Reef already hit hard by climate change, the Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) told a public hearing on Monday.

Dr Lissa Schindler, AMCS Great Barrier Reef campaign manager, told the Queensland hearing the conservation group "strongly supports" the proposed changes to the state's Mineral Resources Act 1989.

But Schindler said the changes should go further by blocking any new thermal coal mines in the state, not just those proposed for the Galilee Basin.

"If we want a future with the Great Barrier Reef and if we want to protect the sustainable \$6 billion tourism industry that goes with it, then the state can no longer approve and support the development of new thermal coal mines," she said.

At the hearing, Schindler outlined the impacts of warming oceans and marine heatwaves on the reef in 2016 and 2017 that saw back-to-back mass coral bleaching events for the first time on record.

Burning of coal for electricity is a major driver of rapid rises in ocean temperatures around the globe.

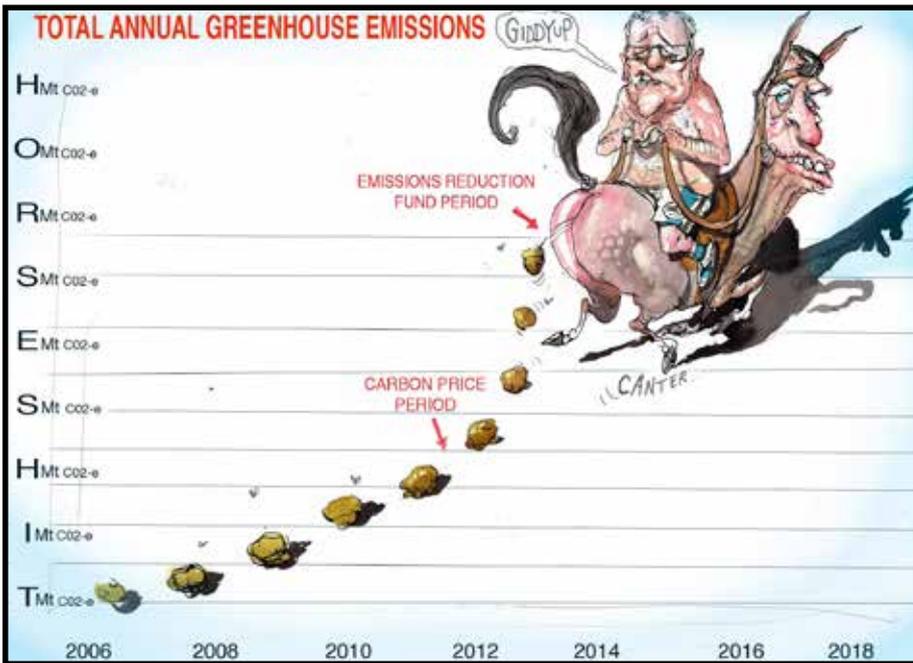
Schindler said: "Those bleaching events are an emergency alarm being sounded by the reef. If we ignore this alarm and continue on the pathway we are on then the Great Barrier Reef will be one of the first huge casualties of climate change.

"We are at a crossroads and the state can no longer continue with business as usual."

Schindler, who said Queensland had a duty of care as a custodian of a natural global icon, was appearing before the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee.

That committee held a public hearing in parliament on Monday 4 March 2019 to consider amendments to the Mineral Resources Act. The amendments are proposed by Queensland Greens MP Michael Berkman.

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Desmog exposes danger of fracking for plastics



New warnings have emerged on plastic's health risks as the fracking industry promotes a new 'plastics belt' build-out in the USA.

Sharon Kelly's new *Desmog Blog* story traces the life cycle of plastic from the moment an oil and gas well is drilled to the time plastic trash breaks down in the environment, finding "distinct risks to human health" at every stage.

Virtually all plastic – 99% of it, according to a Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) report – comes from fossil fuels. And a growing slice comes from fracked oil and gas wells and the natural gas liquids they produce.

The report concluded that plastics bring toxic or carcinogenic health risks to people at every stage.

This is a recommended must read for FFB subscribers. Click here for the full story:

https://www.desmogblog.com/2019/03/05/health-risks-fracking-shale-industry-plastics-belt-ohio-river-valley?fbclid=IwAR022Khngx6aw-jj0_Xu9rCnx9XnKA-GoSBMf3U7nBIE1h611E5tcphsupws

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

Inside the news

An obscure **Cayman Islands**-listed company has joined forces with a Hunter Valley property developer and others to announce a plan for **two 1,000 MW coal-fired power stations at Kurri Kurri** (p9-10).

The proponents are **billions short of money** for the project, but obviously hoping to pick up tax-payer dollars from **energy minister Angus Taylor's** frantic bid for fossil fuelled electricity.

FFB notes the site has no obvious large water source – most coal-fired power stations are built next to rivers or lakes, due to their massive demand for **cooling water**. Add those limitations to the site being a last **breeding refuge of the regent honey-eater**, and the **unfavourable** investment prospects for coal power, and it looks like **they're dreaming** – but keep an eye on them!

Adani and its coal mining fans now have Queensland deputy premier **Jackie Trad** in their sights (p8) – proclaiming her to be anti-coal and calling for mining minister **Anthony Lyneham** to take over negotiations with Adani. The company also complained about '**anti-coal zealots**' blocking rail shipments to its export terminal.

Glencore has been exposed as the force behind a globally coordinated campaign to prop up coal demand by **undermining** environmental activists, **influencing** politicians and spreading sophisticated **pro-coal messaging** on social media (p15).

The campaign was linked to '**Energy in Australia**', a Facebook group and website that attacked renewables, while supporting high efficiency, low emissions (Hele) coal plants through data, memes, graphics and video. The on-line sites were taken down as enquiries about them began.

Nationals Leader **Michael McCormack** floundered on national television, unable to think of a **single time** when the Nationals had **backed farmers over miners** – a simple, killer question from Waleed Aly on *The Project* (p16) – which exposes how far his party has **strayed from its rural roots**. The '**Anyone But the Nats**' slogan is hitting home in rural electorates.

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In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 32,500 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.themorningbulletin.com.au/news/increased-police-presence-around-bowen/3660254/>

Police squads brought in over Adani activists

Kyle Evans, Morning Bulletin, 01/03/2019

An increased police presence is around Bowen following the arrival of a large activist group looking to take “radical non-violent action” against Adani. ...

A public safety response team, a tactical crime squad, and extra traffic units are among those included in the increased presence. Also on hand are specialised police “cutters” trained in cutting off devices used to lock onto infrastructure.

Sen Sgt Shepherd said police would pay close attention to the group who were currently based at an activist camp outside of town. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/protest-hit-adani-says-prosecute-the-zealots/news-story/52874162f17a5d5f7a5afbab961e67ef6>

Protest-hit Adani says prosecute the zealots

Jared Owens, The Australian, 02/03/2019

Adani wants to see “anti-coal zealots” prosecuted after deliveries to its north Queensland port were disrupted for more than 24 hours, warning lives could be lost unless the protests stop.

Police yesterday clashed with Extinction Rebellion – a British-based group advocating a “citizens uprising” against fossil fuels – following a 19-hour stand-off with a young woman who stopped coal trains by suspending herself from a tree above the railway near Collinsville.

The 28-year-old was removed from the tree about 12.30pm, prompting more protesters to storm the tracks, with one locking themselves to a train. ...



One of many activists who have blockaded Adani's coal rail line and port for the past week, with a heavy response from police. Photo: supplied

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/business/adani-claims-state-government-delays-on-royalties-agreement-sign-off/news-story/a01515d70a970bb61af46a9eed5a8311>

Adani claims State Government delays on royalties agreement sign off

Madura McCormack, Townsville Bulletin, 02/03/2019

Adani has yet to sign a royalties agreement for its Carmichael mine because Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk and her deputy Jackie Trad have not accepted requests to meet personally, the mining giant has claimed.

It has been nearly two years since the in-principle agreement about a royalties framework was brokered between both sides. ...

But Deputy Premier Jackie Trad said it was the Government that was waiting on Adani to sign off on the terms. ...

<https://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/national/adani-in-line-for-hearing-on-galilee-mine-ban-bill/news-story/153d6179d112415208abb4280a4f1b71>

Adani in line for hearing on Galilee mine ban Bill

Domanii Cameron, Courier-Mail, 02/03/2019

Adani will give evidence during the public hearing of a Bill put forward by the Greens, which aims to ban coal mining in the Galilee Basin.

The hearing for the Mineral Resources (Galilee Basin) Amendment Bill will take place on Monday, with Greens

MP Michael Berkman to give evidence first.

He introduced the Bill to Queensland Parliament last October, when he stated thermal coal mines and power stations needed to be phased out, while new mines in the Galilee were a “dangerous dead end”. ...

Meanwhile, more than 50 Queensland farmers and graziers yesterday sent an open letter to Federal Environment Minister Melissa Price and Queensland Environment Minister Leeanne Enoch, calling on them to reject Adani's groundwater plans.

“The last thing we need are new mines messing around with water, the lifeblood of our industry,” the letter reads.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/townsville/adani-to-give-evidence-at-public-hearing-into-bill-trying-to-stop-mining-in-galilee-basin/news-story/dcab72107d75d172d6c4e75286edf8>

Adani to give evidence at public hearing into Bill trying to stop mining in Galilee Basin

Madura McCormack, Townsville Bulletin, 04/03/2019

Adani will tell a State Government inquiry today that a Greens bill attempting to block mining in the Galilee Basin puts “empty environment symbolism” above Queenslanders. ...

The Queensland Law Society, which is expected to give evidence, has flagged



concerns the Bill breaches “fundamental legislative principles” ...

The Bill seeks to be retrospective, effectively terminating any existing coal mining leases in the Galilee Basin, affecting Adani and numerous other operators including Gina Reinhart’s GVK Hancock Coal.

Chief executive Lucas Dow will tell the hearing that constructing the Carmichael mine will create long-term jobs and opportunities for communities, particularly in Townsville and Rockhampton, and provide revenue for vital government services like hospitals and schools. He will also say that stopping the mine’s development will not have an impact on global emissions

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/adani-says-qld-greens-push-to-ban-coal-dangerous-for-economy/news-story/8fa15b7667171282b46f98cfd426e636>

Adani mine could be blocked without compensation: Mines department

Jared Owens, The Australian, 04/03/2019

Queensland’s parliament could block all coalmining in the Galilee Basin – including Adani’s proposed Carmichael project – without paying compensation to the companies involved, the state’s Mines Department said today.

Appearing before a parliamentary hearing in Brisbane, Adani chief executive Lucas Dow said his company would be entitled to “sizeable” compensation if the Palaszczuk government moved to strip the company of its right to mine thermal coal in central Queensland. ...

However senior Mines Department bureaucrat Claire Cooper outlined three examples when the previous Labor government passed laws to cancel mining rights last decade, only one of which involved paying any compensation. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/adani-coal-mine-public-hearing-ban-bill-dangerous/news-story/938a9a8ae994c6c2ce34d195ec9512f9>

Adani coal mine public hearing: Ban bill ‘dangerous’

Domanii Cameron & Tracey Ferrier, Courier-Mail, 04/03/2019

Concerns have been raised around whether compensation would need to be paid to three companies granted exploratory mining leases in the Galilee Basin if the Greens’ Bill seeking to ban thermal coal mining was successful.

It comes after Adani labelled the Bill “dangerous” for Queensland. ...

https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/politics/queensland/adani-expects-green-light-on-environmental-plans-in-the-near-term-20190304-p511ip.html?fbclid=IwAR0RW4DayxcP0fr4R_KPxbkfrKIncXNIDrTnSgkIhAQoG7Ghknx2seAhns

Adani expects green light on environmental plans ‘in the near term’

Felicity Caldwell, Brisbane Times, 04/03/2019

Adani expects government environmental approvals for its Galilee Basin coal mine will be signed off very soon.

The Indian mining giant is waiting on approvals of its environmental management plans for the black-throated finch and groundwater. ...

Mr Dow’s comments at Tuesday’s meeting of the parliamentary Natural Resources committee came after Queensland’s Resources Investment Commissioner Caoilin Chestnutt said the Adani approvals process was a “mess” and could take up to two years. ...

Mr Dow said the mine would create 1500 direct jobs during ramp-up and construction and 6750 indirect jobs, and there would be no automation of the mine site.

Previously, the company confirmed that all mining operations from pit to port would be fully automated. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/katters-australian-party-call-for-multiuser-stateowned-railway-line-in-the-galilee-basin/news-story/710ffd5d2b9049ecf74c57fceb3e6ac>

Katter’s Australian Party call for multi-user state-owned railway line in the Galilee Basin

Julia Bradley, Townsville Bulletin, 05/03/2019

Katter’s Australian Party leader Bob Katter, Traeger MP Robbie Katter and Hinchinbrook MP Nick Dametto have announced what they call their “fool-proof/future-proof solution” to coal mining in the Galilee Basin.

Kennedy MP Bob Katter said the railway line in the Galilee Basin must not be owned by Adani, but instead it should be a multi-user state-owned and built asset.

“Whoever owns the railway line will control the Galilee no question about that,” Mr Katter said.

Mr Katter said his party would build a state-owned railway line in the Galilee Basin if they gained the balance of power. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/mar/04/sizeable-compensation-adani-could-sue-if-leases-cancelled-executive-says>

‘Sizeable compensation’: Adani could sue if leases cancelled, executive says

Ben Smees, The Guardian, 04/03/2019

Adani Australia’s mining chief executive has suggested the company could seek “sizeable compensation” – potentially billions of dollars – from the Queensland government if its mining leases are cancelled.

A state parliamentary committee is hearing evidence in relation to a private member’s bill, tabled by the Greens MP Michael Berkman, to ban coalmining in the Galilee Basin. ...

The Adani Australia mining chief executive, Lucas Dow, told the committee the company had spent “\$1.4bn to date” on the Carmichael mine and associated rail plans.

“Clearly there would be a legal recourse to this, not only to the cost incurred but also the future profits that would have been forgone as well. So that would be a sizeable compensation,” he said. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/proposed-law-to-ban-coal-mining-in-the-galilee-basin-would-cost-the-state-billions/news-story/e075c2c25e9b0a69904bbad8748514d3>

Proposed law to ban coal mining in the Galilee Basin would cost the state billions

Michael Wray & Domanii Cameron, Courier-Mail, 05/03/2019

Adani could take legal action if a proposed law to ban coal mining in the Galilee Basin goes ahead, to claw back the \$1.4 billion it has already invested in the project.

But a senior Mines Department official said Adani and other companies granted a mining lease in the basin might not be entitled to compensation if the Greens-backed Bill was passed. ...

https://www.4mk.com.au/news/local-news/114253-adani-abbott-point-port-blocked-for-past-week?fbclid=IwAR2pXxVHaNpxNqY-jDg8h_5dW4U17E8alltVux3Z20G-76CuHttzSm0Gjn2A

Adani’s Abbott Point port blocked for past week

4MK News, 05/03/2019

Before being arrested by police, they shared their actions in real time with thousands across the globe through live video streams, engaging with viewers, answering questions, and encouraging others to join their struggle. Activists said the Police response was substantial, with specialist units

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

brought in from across Queensland in preparation for major disruption. A spokesperson said they set up road blocks, harrassing activist cars with vehicle searches and repeated breath tests. Meanwhile, peaceful protesters at the Abbott Point Coal Port were met with lines of heavily equipped riot-ready officers, and were constantly followed by airborne surveillance. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/fear-of-foreigners-is-driving-foes-of-adani/news-story/a89633b79bf7c13780c83d25a318bd80>

'Fear of foreigners' is driving foes of Adani

Jared Owens, *The Australian*, 06/03/2019

A former Queensland Labor MP has warned opposition to Adani's proposed Carmichael coalmine has been fuelled by fears of foreign companies exploiting Australia's natural resources.

Brian Courtice, who held the Queensland seat of Hinkler during the Hawke-Keating years, criticised the state Labor government for stalling the Indian company's approvals, saying it sent a "dreadful" message that the state no longer backed new thermal coal mines.

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/townsville/adani-calls-out-deputy-premier-jackie-trad-over-royalties-agreement-meeting-claim/news-story/0dba1ab2764e04a-b1aae664d96cf6353?cspt=1551905600|98cfe333c79b6b-0c39065a7bb99d3ddc>

Adani calls out Deputy Premier Jackie Trad over royalties agreement meeting claim

Madura McCormack, *Townsville Bulletin*, 06/03/2019

Deputy Premier Jackie Trad has rejected claims Adani has been unable to sign its royalties agreement with the State Government because the mining giant's requests to meet with her and Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk personally have been denied.

Ms Trad, in Townsville yesterday, said the in-principle agreement hadn't been signed due to ongoing "complex negotiations". ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/labor-colleague-accuses-jackie-trad-of-conflict-of-interest-over-adani-due-to-mining-stance/news-story/3819b32e1e-b8967a766094743375dc0c>

Labor colleague accuses Jackie Trad of 'conflict of interest' over Adani due to mining stance

Madura McCormack, *Townsville Bulletin*, 08/03/2019

Deputy Premier Jackie Trad must "declare a conflict of interest" and step away from negotiations with Adani

due to her "anti-mining" stance, in a sensational salvo from a Labor colleague.

Repeat Labor candidate and Whitsundays Regional Council councillor Mike Brunner accused Ms Trad of having a "clear" conflict of interest in relation to the Adani project and should step aside.

"I ask that the (Minister for Natural Resources, Energy and Mines) Dr Anthony Lynham takes over the negotiations (with Adani)," he said.

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/opinion/coal-is-part-of-the-solution-to-a-transition-to-new-energy-sources/news-story/4927b7388874eced31d208fa961e51d9>

Opinion: Coal is part of the solution in transition to new energy sources

Graham Young, *Courier-Mail*, 04/03/2019

The cowardice of Australia's largest coal miner Glencore in bowing to activist pressure and capping its coal production torches the reputation of coal by implying coal mining is unethical. This is grossly unfair to the industry and those who work in it, or use its products, which is all of us. The ethical case against coal is weak.

Yes, coal produces CO2, which is a greenhouse gas, but modern living is so dependent on electricity, and electricity so dependent on coal, that you just can't abolish it. ...

Climate change is what economists call a "wicked" problem. Solutions are not simple, and unintended consequences are numerous. It won't be solved by chanting slogans, and it certainly won't be solved by stopping Adani.

Those who think it will are ethical impostors.

• *Graham Young is the executive director for the Australian Institute for Progress and a former vice president and campaign chairman of the Liberal Party in Queensland*

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5932482/piper-joins-push-for-coal-transition-plan/>

Lake MP Greg Piper says Hunter must prepare to transition away from coal

Matthew Kelly, *Newcastle Herald*, 02/03/2019

A plan by NSW independent MPs Alex Greenwich, Joe McGirr and Greg Piper to introduce an adjustment strategy for coal mining-affected communities will be launched on Sunday.

The plan seeks to diversify regional coal dependent economies that are likely to be impacted by a falling demand for thermal coal

The MPs, who have written to the Premier and Opposition Leader about the plan, have also called for the establishment of a transition authority. ...

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5931402/investors-start-to-move-against-fossil-fuels/>

The end of coal in the Hunter is coming

Phillip O'Neill, *Newcastle Herald*, 03/02/2019

Twenty years after the end of steel, the Hunter Valley stares at the end of coal. The signs have been there, but the ringing of the last drinks' bell came on February 20 from Glencore, the valley's biggest miner.

The critical thing about the Glencore announcement was not so much that Glencore will cap the quantity of thermal coal it will ship annually worldwide, but that it is yielding to investor demands to act in the interests of the planet (and its humans) and limit fossil fuel production. ...

The end, though, won't be quick. When the corporations who feel the heat of ethical investors leave coal mining in the Hunter, there will still be those who operate outside the scrutiny of global ESG metrics, like Yancoal. And there will be the cowboys who ride in when the corporates depart, raiding surviving pits for easy gains. ...

• *Phillip O'Neill is professor of economic geography at Western Sydney University*

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-03-05/hunter-coal-in-dustry-future-could-learn-from-kentucky/10867348>

Concerns for the future of Hunter Valley coal mining, despite it driving the local economy

Greg Miskelly, *ABC*, 05/03/2019

Inside Singleton's Diggers club, Hunter Valley residents are debating the future of the world's coal industry.

Key points: • Overseas demand for Australian coal remains strong but there are signs of shifting global investment; • More than 100 major financiers have withdrawn from thermal coal projects over five years; • The Minerals Council of Australia says the nation's coal is needed in developing countries.

Coal is the big employer in this region with 40 different mines employing about 9,000 workers to drive the local economy, in turn helping Australia generate billions in export revenue. ...

<https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/5937637/how-can-they-expand-a-mine-when-they-already-dont-have-enough-water/?fbclid=IwAR0BPi9SsAEHvniqSZcxaSSiGdQMj009vI0SnMbx5gJ5CAffZs7a2yPKUbeo>

Vickery expansion water question raised following Whitehaven buying up groundwater

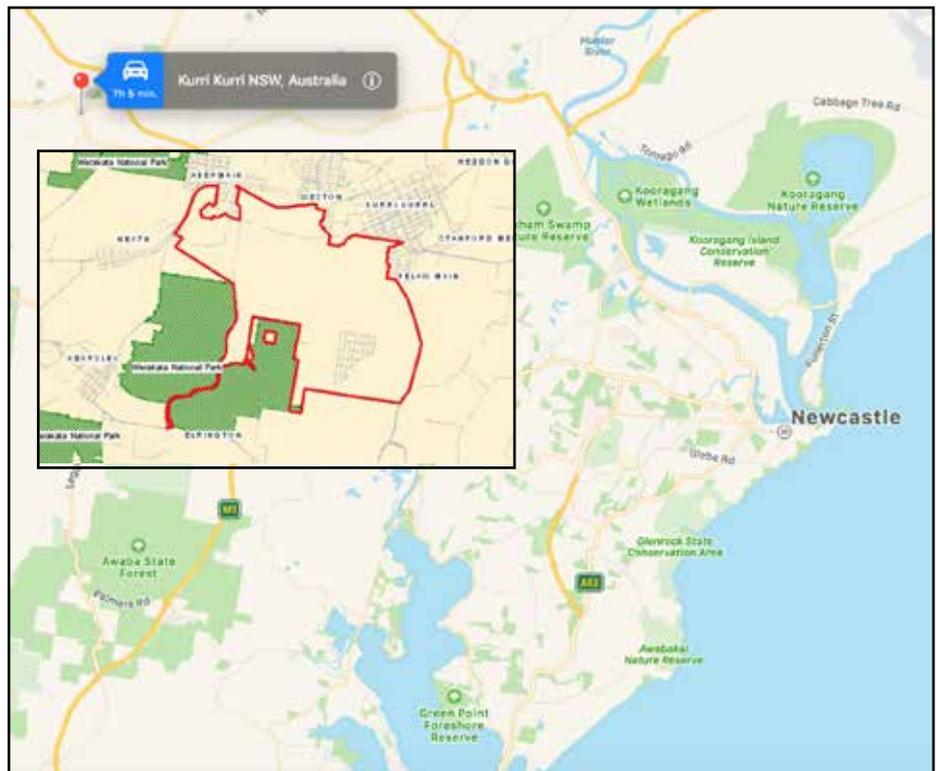
Jamieson Murphy, Northern Daily Leader, 06/03/2019

"If they don't have enough water for the mines they've already got, how can they expect to have enough for the Vickery expansion?"

That was the question on the lips of Boggabri cropper David Watt, as he watched Whitehaven spend hundreds of thousands of dollars outbidding farmers for groundwater.

"Whitehaven is already short of water at Maules Creek, but at the same time they are saying they don't need any more licences to open up the new Vickery coal mine," Mr Watt said.

"It just doesn't make any sense. It must mean their models don't account for these kinds of dry times." ...



Kurri Kurri is the site of two proposed 1,000MW coal-fired power stations. Inset: The Hunter Economic Zone where the power stations will go. Apple Maps and Google

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/mar/06/deal-huge-coal-fired-power-plant-hunter-hong-kong>

Deal signed for huge coal-fired power plants in Hunter Valley, Hong Kong firm says

Ben Smee, The Guardian, 06/03/2019

A deal has been signed to develop two massive new coal-fired power stations near Kurri Kurri in the NSW Hunter region, according to a Hong Kong-based investment firm.

Guardian Australia can reveal that local authorities – including the Cessnock mayor, Bob Pynsent – have been briefed about the unusual plans to turn the failed Hunter economic zone into a 2,000 megawatt coal power plant. ...

Kaisun Holdings announced it had signed a memorandum of understanding with a Chinese state-owned power provider and a tiny Australian private company to build two 1,000MW power stations. ...

It said the heads of agreement had been signed with a subsidiary of China Energy – part of the company's engineering group – and Cavcorp, a company worth \$25,000 on paper and wholly owned by the Parramatta businessman Frank Cavasinni.

Cavasinni is the also the director of a company that paid \$5.5m in 2012 to buy a 70 hectare parcel of the Hunter economic zone, a largely failed proposal to stimulate the local economies

of Kurri Kurri and Cessnock after a slowdown in local mining and heavy industry. ...

The federal energy minister, Angus Taylor, said earlier this year said the government had received 66 submissions from power generation projects for taxpayer support. A spokesman for Taylor told *Guardian Australia* the government was aware of reports of the Hong Kong agreement.

"The government is not involved in this MOU," the spokesman said. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/mar/07/site-planned-hunter-coal-plant-is-endangered-birds-only-nsw-breeding-area>

Site of planned Hunter coal plant is endangered bird's only NSW breeding area

Ben Smee, The Guardian, 07/03/2019

The site flagged for a 2,000 megawatt coal-fired power plant in the New South Wales Hunter region is the only known breeding site in the state for the regent honeyeater, a critically endangered bird whose plight has blocked previous development plans.

In 2016 the NSW land and environment court overturned the approval for a steel plant on the grounds it would destroy the honeyeater's habitat. Mick Roderick, the NSW woodland bird program manager for BirdLife Australia, said the HEZ was the most

important conservation property in the Hunter Valley. "It's unparalleled in terms of the number of threatened species," he said.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/hong-kong-firm-lobbs-bid-to-build-hunter-valley-coal-fired-power-plant-20190306-p5127p.html>

Hong Kong firm lobs bid to build Hunter Valley coal-fired power plant

Matt Carr & Peter Hannam, SMH, 06/03/2019

An obscure Hong Kong-listed company claims to have sealed early plans to develop a low-emissions coal-fired power station in the Hunter Valley - although NSW Planning is yet to receive a formal approach. ...

At [2000 megawatts], it would more than replace AGL's ailing Liddell power plant, with its 1680MW-capacity, that is due to close in 2022.

Kaisun, which provide coal services and is incorporated in the Cayman Islands, said it had entered into a "strategic cooperation framework" with China Energy Engineering Group - one of the country's biggest power plant developers.

The two would work with Cavcorp, a Parramatta-registered company with \$25,002 in paid up shares that is the "initiator for the project", and which has plans to the develop the HEZ site near Kurri Kurri. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-03-07/new-coal-fired-plant-in-nsw-hunter-valley-reignite-climate-wars/10877470>

Plans for Chinese-backed coal-fired plant in NSW's Hunter Valley could reignite the climate wars

Tom Iggulden & Amy Greenbank, ABC, 07/03/2019

Chinese-backed plans to build a massive new coal-fired power plant in New South Wales are reopening hostilities in the so-called climate wars.

The Greens say a "veritable army" is ready to stop the plant from being built.

But Coalition backbencher Craig Kelly calls the plan "fantastic" and is urging Prime Minister Scott Morrison to pour taxpayer subsidies into it. ...

Greens energy spokesman Adam Bandt says the plan is "madness".

"It will make the Franklin Dam campaign look like a Sunday picnic," Mr Bandt said, referring to the successful movement in 1983 to stop a dam being built in the remote Tasmanian wilderness. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/mar/08/planned-5bn-hunter-valley-coal-project-will-re-quire-investors>

Hunter Valley coal project billions of dollars short of reality

Ben Smees & Anne Davies, The Guardian, 08/03/2019

The Hong Kong and China-based companies behind a plan to build new coal-fired power plants in the Hunter region have access to only a fraction of the required capital, an analysis of their finances shows. ...

Hong Kong-based company Kaisun Holdings has said it will need to "look for potential investors" for the project, which energy market analysts estimate would cost between \$4bn and \$5bn to build. ...

<https://www.themorningbulletin.com.au/news/federal-government-planning-to-underwrite-coal-fir/3665050/?cspt=15519053791d0e2313d00f-d745aac11b81ff2dc9556>

Federal Government planning to underwrite coal-fired power

Leighton Smith, Morning Bulletin, 07/03/2019

More of CQ's coal will burn in Australia under the federal government's well-advanced plan to underwrite construction of new coal-fired power stations.

Due to commercial in-confidence considerations, exact locations for new coal powered projects were still unknown

but Minister for Resources and Northern Australia Matt Canavan revealed on Monday that he would like to see one built north of Rockhampton. ...

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5939322/climate-is-changing-so-are-attitudes-to-coal/>

Opinion: Climate is changing, so are attitudes to coal

Rob McLaughlin, Newcastle Herald, 07/03/2019

The winds of change are in the air, and they carry no coal dust.

I was thrilled to read of the recent announcement by three NSW independent MPs, calling on the government to introduce an adjustment strategy for NSW coal mining communities, soon after the NSW Greens made a call for a transition fund financed through a levy on the coal industry.

It came a week after Glencore, Australia's biggest coal miner, announced it would cap coal mining due to investors' concerns over climate change.

Both announcements followed the now worldwide famous Rocky Hill decision, where the Land and Environment Court rejected a proposed mine near Gloucester, partially on the grounds it would contribute to climate change.

Clearly, many attitudes towards coal are changing with the climate. Unfortunately, not everyone can see the writing on the wall.

I live in the village of Bulga and we know a lot about the Land and Environment Court.

We know about how bosses of the coal industry refuse to accept judgements the court makes about new coal mine proposals. ...

My village won a historic case in the Land and Environment Court in 2013 to stop a coal mine expansion that would make life in our village unlivable.

But our victory was short lived - multinational mining giant Rio Tinto worked with the NSW government to bring the same mine expansion back for reassessment and changed the regulations and policies that were there to protect the peaceful way of life we lead here, and the bushland that we love. It's under construction now. We've lost the woodland and people have started leaving, because of the noise and the dust. ...

• Rob McLaughlin, of Bulga, is a retired electrician and Lock the Gate supporter.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/mar/06/korean-company-planning-bylong-valley-mine-dismisses-climate-threat>

Korean company planning Bylong Valley mine dismisses climate threat

Lisa Cox, The Guardian, 06/03/2019

The company behind a proposed coalmine in the Bylong Valley in NSW has claimed the project will make a "negligible contribution" to global climate change, in a fresh submission responding to the historic Rocky Hill judgment.

Kepeco, the South Korean company that plans to develop an open-cut mine in the valley, has written to the state's independent planning commission ...

In its 18-page submission, Kepeco defended its Bylong Valley proposal by arguing that emissions from burning the coal overseas remained an accounting matter for South Korea under its Paris agreement targets, not for Australia. ...

As part of environmental assessments it had already conducted, Kepeco assessed that the emissions from burning coal from the project would be 197.4m tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent over 23 years.

In its new submission, Kepeco said if the Bylong project did not go ahead, the company would have to use lower quality coal that would lead to "a poorer environmental outcome" - a familiar argument made to defend new coal projects in Australia. ...

OIL & GAS LEAKS

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/gas/santos-ceo-comes-out-firing-on-labors-threat-to-block-narrabri-gas-20190225-h1bpgl?fbclid=IwAR32Z5CCjUWiBV-m99iBP04sv3Nr-MleRH5levfXXBrwiXn7wR1SgZayUCqk>

Santos CEO comes out firing on Labor's threat to block Narrabri gas

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 26/02/2019

Santos chief executive Kevin Gallagher has declared there is "no place for politics" in the independent planning approvals process for the Narrabri coal seam gas project after NSW Opposition Leader Michael Daley pledged a Labor state government would block the \$3 billion investment. ...

"The process has to be comprehensive and robust so the community can be confident in the outcome," Mr Gallagher said.

"There is no place for politics in the independent planning process." ...

<https://www.chinchillanews.com.au/news/new-jobs-created-with-10b-surat-gas-project/3659853/>

New jobs created with \$10B Surat Gas project

Meg Gannon, Chinchilla News, 28/02/2019

Dalby businesses are set for a cash injection after Arrow Energy was given the green light to a new \$10 billion Surat Gas project which will create up to 1000 new jobs.

The State Government granted approval for 14 petroleum leases between Dalby and Wandoan to bring an extra 5000 petajoules of gas to market throughout the next 27 years.

It is being labelled as the largest new resources project for Queensland in eight years and is tipped to generate 800 construction jobs and 200 operational jobs. ...

<https://www.yanchednews.com.au/call-for-gingin-to-say-no-to-fracking/>

Call for Gingin to say no to fracking

Anita McInnes, Yanched News, 03/03/2019

Gingin [WA] ratepayers have asked their council to adopt a 'no fracking' policy but the shire's previous responses to the issue won't give them much hope of achieving that outcome.

At the council's annual electors' meeting on Tuesday, February 19 Jenny Walker of Woodridge put forward a motion that the council have a policy to not support unconventional gas fracking within the Shire of Gingin.

Jill Brown of Woodridge seconded the motion which was supported 43-2.

But the shire's chief executive officer Aaron Cook said fracking had been raised at the annual electors meeting on December 22, 2016 and at its May 17, 2017 meeting the council had voted unanimously to not adopt a position on fracking as it had no control over fracking, which was governed by the Department of Mines and Petroleum. ...

<https://www.southburnettimes.com.au/news/community-leaders-rally-to-protect-farms-from-mini/3662595/?csp=1551672649%7Cf3fd6900ab777db04962f7633942bb9c>

Community leaders rally to protect farms from mining

Claudia Williams, Sth Burnett Times, 04/02/2019

Regional planning laws have failed to protect Queensland's best farmland and community living areas from mining and gas.

That's according to regional Queensland community representa-

tives who met at the Bunya Mountains on the weekend to talk about strategy and planning to protect farmland and communities. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/accc-to-investigate-origin-energy-sale-of-ironbark-project-to-aplng/news-story/0a88a2dbb9766a5c1e-feaba9eee4ad08>

ACCC to investigate Origin Energy's sale of Ironbark project to APLNG

John Durie, The Australian, 04/03/2019

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is investigating Origin Energy's in-house deal to sell its Ironbark gas project in Queensland to its 37.5 per cent owned APLNG consortium for \$231 million.

Ironbark was acquired by Origin for \$660 million a decade ago but it has not lived up to expectations. ...

The ACCC's concern is the big Gladstone LNG facilities like APLNG may gobble up too much of the Queensland gas reserves, denying access to the domestic market. ...

The asset sale is subject to ACCC approval. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/powering-australia/south-australias-energy-supply-boosted-by-gas-plant/news-story/7d6820f6a83a587825aba0f566c06a7d>

South Australia's energy supply boosted by gas plant

Perry Williams, The Australian, 05/03/2019

AGL Energy expects a \$295 million fast-start gas power plant, replacing part of its old Torrens Island generator, to boost the reliability of South Australia's power supply and provide back-up for the state's wind-reliant grid.

The new Barker Inlet power station will bring 210 megawatts of capacity to the state once it starts operations in August, with two of the four gas generators at Torrens A to be shut down from September. The more modern four-turbine, 800MW Torrens Island B plant will continue to run as usual.

AGL says the Barker Inlet "peaker" facility, situated next to Torrens, can charge up to full capacity with five minutes' notice in response to falls in renewable energy supply, compared with several hours for the ageing Torrens A plant. ...



Baker Inlet Power Station, SA. Photo: AGL

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/the-economy/former-santos-chief-calls-for-more-exploration-less-export-of-gas-20190304-p511m8.html>

'We need to get this sorted': Ex-Santos chief urges gas co-ordination

Cole Latimer, SMH, 04/03/2019

The former head of gas giant Santos, John Ellice-Flint, has suggested the creation of an independent central gas authority could help remove barriers to exploration and reduce tight domestic supplies.

Mr Ellice-Flint, currently the chairman of junior gas company Blue Energy, said a mismatch of government policy and state-by-state regulation had slowed the development of new exploration fields. ...

Mr Ellice-Flint said a combination of government regulations and anti-industry campaigns were creating a lag on approvals. ...

Mr Ellice-Flint said the development of an overarching, independent body, like a central bank for gas, could resolve some of these issues by streamlining exploration approvals and removing duplication of processes. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/the-economy/orica-chief-calls-for-gas-export-caps-to-save-manufacturing-20190305-p511v1.html>

'Perfect market storm': Orica chief calls for gas export controls

Cole Latimer, SMH, 05/03/2019

Explosives manufacturer Orica's chief executive, Alberto Calderon, has called on the government to ensure domestic gas demand is met before allowing exports in order to safeguard local industry.

Speaking at the Australian Domestic Gas Outlook (ADGO) Conference on Tuesday, former BHP executive Mr Calderon said manufacturing would not survive unless the government expanded its threatened gas export cap to address domestic gas shortages. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/the-economy/sense-of-contempt-accs-boss-slams-gas-suppliers-20190305-p511s8.html>

'Sense of contempt': ACCC boss slams gas suppliers

Cole Latimer, SMH, 05/03/2019

Competition tsar Rod Sims has accused the gas industry of treating the domestic market with "some sense of contempt" and warned more manufacturers could go under unless wholesale gas prices softened.

Speaking at the Australian Domestic

Gas Outlook Conference on Tuesday, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) chairman said the gas industry had brought government intervention on itself and its behaviour put more businesses at risk of failure.

"Gas suppliers have been showing some sense of contempt to the domestic market," Mr Sims said.

"More businesses will fail [due to high gas prices], I believe they will." ...

He said government intervention was necessary to stop more businesses failing.

"The gas industry complained about the government's intervention ... my strong view is that they brought it on themselves," Mr Sims said.

"I have absolutely no sympathy for them, they should have been paying much more attention to what was going on in the market. Some of the comments I got was 'we didn't know the market was short?', give me a break." ...

<https://www.katherinetimes.com.au/story/5940813/santos-applies-for-water-licence/>

Santos applies for water licence

Chris McLennan, Katherine Times, 06/03/2019

Gas explorer Santos has applied for a water licence as it continues its search for shale gas in the Beetaloo Basin.

Santos has applied for a maximum amount of 193.5 megalitres a year.

There are few details available on the application but Santos says it wants the water for petroleum activity.

The application has been made to the NT Government and advertised in the Katherine Times this week. ...

An Onshore Gas Non-Compliance Hotline has also been established as a way for people to report potential non-compliance of the onshore gas industry.

The 24-hour toll-free hotline number is 1800 413 889. Calls can be made anonymously.

Comments on Santos' application can be made to the Controller of Water Resources until April 5.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-03-07/inpex-gas-plant-noise-questions-continue-despite-epa-ok/10877110>

EPA says 'constant roar' from INPEX gas plant within acceptable noise levels

Jesse Thompson, ABC, 07/03/2019

The Northern Territory's environmental watchdog says it has no concerns about noise pollution from a late-night 'roar', although it continues to disturb and mystify nearby residents.

In November, people in Palmerston and the rural area complained of an occasional droning they likened to fighter jets taking off, as well as the formation of an orange-tinted fluorescent cloud.

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) confirmed both phenomena were associated with flaring during the start-up of the INPEX Ichthys LNG project.

Peter Vassel, the EPA's director of environmental operations, said a worst-case scenario would see the flaring last



A Darwin resident's view of night-time flaring at the INPEX gas processing plant. Photo: Troy Rivers

on and off for six months and urged the gas company to engage with the community. ...

An INPEX spokesperson confirmed start-up activities were continuing in order to ensure safe operation at the plant, and that flaring was “potentially more visible recently due to reflection from cloud cover”.

The company did not answer questions about what consultation it had undertaken with people in affected areas. ...

Troy Rivers said depending on the direction of the wind, he could hear the noise early some mornings from his balcony in Darwin.

Mr Rivers lodged a formal complaint with the EPA about the luminescent cloud in November and was told in subsequent emails that it would investigate. ...

Mr Rivers said he was irate and that he remained concerned the EPA was relying on second-hand information from INPEX rather than conducting its own regular, independent monitoring.

“They’re sitting on their hands,” he said. ...

<https://www.theage.com.au/business/the-economy/when-insanity-makes-sense-australia-s-best-option-is-lng-imports-20190307-p512bo.html>

When insanity makes sense: Australia's best option is LNG imports

Clyde Russell, The Age, 07/03/2019

Australia has painted itself into a corner with its natural gas industry and faces the stark reality that there are no easy choices to alleviate the dual problem of a looming supply crunch and the associated higher prices. ...

There was grudging acknowledgement at this week's Australian Domestic Gas Outlook (ADGO) conference that LNG imports were likely the “least worst option”, as one of the delegates put it. ...

• *Clyde Russell is a Reuters columnist, and chaired the first day of the Australian Domestic Gas Outlook Conference.*

NUKE MADNESS

<https://thewest.com.au/business/uranium/battle-against-yeelirrie-uranium-mine-continues-for-traditional-owners-and-conservation-council-ng-b881125927z>

Battle against Yeelirrie uranium mine continues for traditional owners and Conservation Council

AAP/West Australian, 05/03/2019

Traditional owners and the Conservation Council of WA are continuing

their fight against a proposed uranium mine, fearing unique subterranean fauna in the project area will be made extinct if it proceeds.

Former State environment minister Albert Jacob gave the green light to Cameco's Yeelirrie mine proposal in January 2017, just 16 days before the pre-election caretaker mode began. ...

Together with members of the Tjiwarl native title group, CCWA challenged the approval in the Supreme Court but lost, and have now taken their battle to the Court of Appeal. ...

CLIMATE CRISIS

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/higher-education/australian-alchemy-turns-carbon-dioxide-into-coal/news-story/c5ae7bef0295bc02f030a2d6f826f8c5>

Australian 'alchemy' turns carbon dioxide into coal

Graham Lloyd, The Australian, 06/03/2019

In a feat of modern alchemy, Australian scientists have found a way to “rewind the emissions clock” by turning carbon dioxide into coal.

In a paper in the journal Nature Communications, researchers from Melbourne's RMIT detail a low-cost method that could transform the way the world thinks on carbon sequestration. ...

The process offers a new way to solve the problem of carbon dioxide emissions from cement, steel-making, and gas and coal electricity production. The carbon product can be used to produce more energy or safely buried as an alternative to pumping liquid CO2 deep underground. ...

[The paper said] “Negative emission technologies that convert emitted anthropogenic CO2 into solid products that are suitable for indefinite storage are expected to play a crucial role in stabilising the global climate, once the current transition of the world's economy to carbon-neutral energy sources has been completed.”

https://thenewdaily.com.au/weather/2019/03/07/extreme-weather-records-broken/?utm_source=Adstra&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Morning%20News%20-%2020190307

Australia's 'record-setting' extreme summer

New Daily, 07/03/2019

Australia's summer of 2018-19 has broken more than 200 extreme weather records, becoming the hottest in history, according to a new Climate Council report.

The report ... delivers a dire warning about climate change upon declaring that Australia has posted its hottest summer on record.

It reveals 206 weather records were broken in just 90 days around the country, highlighting the extremes Australians have dealt with over the past three months. ...

The report says the record-breaking summer was driven by greenhouse gas pollution from the burning of fossil fuels and land clearing. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/mar/08/emissions-safeguard-switch-big-polluters-greens>

Emissions safeguard switch will relax controls on big polluters, Greens say

Katharine Murphy & Lisa Cox, The Guardian, 08/03/2019

The Greens have expressed alarm over changes to the emissions safeguard mechanism that will make it less likely that heavy polluters such as mines and smelters will be caught by the scheme – at least in the short term.

In the week following an attempted pivot on climate change policy by the Morrison government, the Department of Environment and Energy has published amendments to the safeguard mechanism that take effect immediately.

The Greens climate spokesman, Adam Bandt, says the changes outlined in the new departmental edict “were requested by big polluters and they will make it easier for them to pollute more”. ...

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/inconvenient-truths-for-our-coal-cuddling-pm-20190301-p5119o.html>

Inconvenient truths for our coal-cuddling PM

Peter Hartcher, SMH, 01/03/2019

Australia this week farewelled its hottest summer on record and entered autumn with heatwave warnings across the southern part of the continent. And if you happen to be the Prime Minister famous for posing in Parliament holding a lump of coal, there was worse news to come.

The Bureau of Meteorology forecast that the outlook for all of autumn is for unusually warm and dry conditions. Which will keep the weather in the news all the way to election day and dismay farmers. But this can't have anything to do with the mythical beast known as “climate change”, can it?

Consider just the first two dot-points in the summary of the bureau's annual "State of the Climate" report for 2018. One: "Australia's climate has warmed just over 1°C since 1910 leading to an increase in the frequency of extreme heat events." Two: "Oceans around Australia have warmed by around 1°C since 1910, contributing to longer and more frequent marine heatwaves." ...

To top it off, the inconsiderate climate scientists at the California Institute of Technology this week produced a new glimpse of a possible long-term future for the planet if emissions stay as they are.

Their study, based on two years of complex supercomputer calculations and published in *Nature Geoscience*, shows that if the accumulation of carbon in the atmosphere continues at the current rate for another century or so, it could precipitate the breakup of the subtropical cloud belt that currently reflects back into space about 30 per cent of the sun's light.

With that giant stratocumulus reflector gone, the earth's surface temperature would rise quite abruptly. By about 8 degrees Celsius ...

The voters, looking at all of this frenetic new talk about climate solutions, will not be sure how to interpret the specifics. But they will consider the future of energy and climate under Morrison and likely recall the indelible image of Morrison and his pet rock in parliament. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/foreign-energy-giant-wants-australia-to-foot-bill-for-fossil-fuel-projects-20190228-p510vf.html>

Foreign energy giant wants Australia to foot bill for fossil fuel projects

Nicole Hasham, SMH, 05/03/2019

A major oil and gas company wants Australian taxpayer money spent on overseas energy projects, stoking fears that a Morrison government plan to boost development in the Pacific is a smokescreen for fossil fuel investment.

A government amendment to the operation of its export credit agency, the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation, quietly passed Parliament's lower house with support from Labor last month. It is now being considered by a Senate committee.

The changes would allow the corporation to make larger investments in overseas infrastructure, targeted to the Pacific region. Assistant Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Mark Coulton said the proposal would en-

able the corporation to fund essential overseas infrastructure such as energy, telecommunications and water projects, where it is commercially viable.

He cited the potential construction of overseas LNG terminals to increase Australian energy exports.

A submission to the Senate inquiry by Papua New Guinean oil and gas company Oil Search suggests fossil fuel projects may be lining up for funding under the proposed laws. ...

The submission cited the finance corporation's US\$350 million loan to an ExxonMobil-led liquefied natural gas project in PNG, saying it encouraged finance from other prospective lenders.

Oil Search also has a large stake in the project, which critics say has triggered blockades, tribal violence and extensive environmental damage. ...

Mr Bandt, the [Green] party's climate change and energy spokesman, said the bill would "expand Australia's fossil fuel exports at taxpayer expense". ...

Tom Swann, a researcher with progressive think tank The Australia Institute, said the government was seeking to create business for fossil fuel exporters under the guise of overseas development. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/independents-push-on-coal-climate-action/news-story/006a439554e4365b3f6cc777120d5e467c-spt=1551904649jb7dee7b1446d2c160930597efeadc40e>

Independents' push on coal, climate action

Andrew Clennell, *The Australian*, 07/03/2019

NSW is headed towards the Left on renewable energy and policy around coal-fired power stations if a minority government is formed, after three independents who could be crucial to a hung parliament wrote to the Premier and Opposition Leader demanding action on climate change.

Independents Greg Piper, Alex Greenwich and Joe McGirr, who will hold the balance of power if Premier Gladys Berejiklian loses six seats on March 23, wrote to Ms Berejiklian and Opposition Leader Michael Daley last week asking them to act on transitioning from coalmining to clean energy.

Their move comes with the Greens party, which has three lower-house MPs, indicating it would not back Ms Berejiklian but would back Mr Daley if a hung parliament situation arose. ...

The letter from the three independents says: "Research from the Australia

Institute suggests that the renewable energy industry alone could create up to 60,000 new jobs and we want as many of these jobs in NSW as possible.

"Addressing climate change and transitioning jobs from the coal industry must be a package deal. We ask you to commit to a 10-year adjustment strategy for coalmining communities backed by financial resources to affected regions." ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/mar/07/now-is-the-time-for-new-coal-plants-resources-minister-says>

'Now' is the time for new coal plants, resources minister says

Katharine Murphy, *The Guardian*, 07/03/2019

The resources minister, Matt Canavan, has declared "now" is the time to build new coal-fired power ...

On the imperative of having taxpayers underwrite new investment in new coal-fired power, the resources minister told reporters on Thursday: "I think perhaps the best time to start building a coal-fired power station was 10 years ago, and the second best time is now." ...

Canavan noted that his cabinet colleague, the energy minister, Angus Taylor, had received over 60 proposals for underwriting and he noted "some of them are very attractive". ...

<https://www.nvi.com.au/story/5940686/locals-quiz-candidates-on-keepit-water-mining/>

Gunnedah shire Q&A with state candidates raises local issues

Vanessa Höhnke, *Namoi Valley Independent*, 06/03/2019

Water - the lack of it - and the proposed Shenhua coal mine were among the topics residents raised with state election candidates in Gunnedah on Wednesday. ...

Lake Keepit Sailing Club commodore Ian Pine asked the candidates if they would support a minimum reserve of 10 per cent capacity in the dam for "social benefit"; actively lobby for the Namoi water sharing plan to be amended to that effect "regardless of the composition of the next parliament"; and to commit to legislation to the point they would "cross the floor".

"[It's] a disaster in both environmental and human terms that continues to worsen at Lake Keepit," Mr Pine said.

"Surely as our political representatives, you must recognise the importance for legislation to make sure a disaster like this does not occur again." ...

Shenhua was at the centre of discussions on water management and Gunnedah's economy. ...

<https://www.portnews.com.au/story/5939476/knitting-nannas-supporting-sydney-womens-day-campaign/>

Hastings-Macleay Knitting Nannas supporting International Women's Day event in Sydney

Peter Daniels, Port News, 06/03/2019

The Hastings-Macleay Knitting Nannas will be supporting their fellow nannas during Friday's International Women's Day event in Sydney.

The local group will not be attending the Sydney event, but spokesperson Ellen Whelan said she was expecting a strong turnout.

"We wish our fellow Knitting Nannas a wonderful day in Sydney on Friday," she said.

"We know their enthusiasm and exuberance will continue to shine on the day. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/mar/07/revealed-glencore-bankrolled-covert-campaign-to-prop-up-coal>

Revealed: Glencore bankrolled covert campaign to prop up coal

Christopher Knaus, The Guardian, 07/03/2019

The multinational mining giant Glencore spent millions bankrolling a secret, globally coordinated campaign to prop up coal demand by undermining environmental activists, influencing politicians and spreading sophisticated pro-coal messaging on social media.

An investigation by *Guardian Australia* can reveal the covert campaign, dubbed "Project Caesar", was orchestrated by world-renowned political operatives at C|T Group, the firm founded by Sir Lynton Crosby and Mark Textor. ...

Project Caesar began in early 2017 with an annual war-chest of between £4-£7m. Glencore has confirmed the project's existence but said it moved to shut it down last month to "ensure alignment" with its recent decision to limit coal production for environmental reasons. ...

Intelligence was collected about key coal detractors, including Greenpeace and 350.org, detailing their budgets, social media reach, and issues that could be used to embarrass or undermine them.

A sophisticated digital campaign was mounted to help shift public sentiment towards coal, using messaging

informed by research, focus groups and polling conducted in multiple countries.

Campaign teams helped set up online grassroots groups to push positive messaging about clean coal technology, attack renewables and criticise the Australian Labor party. The practice is commonly known as astroturfing.

One source with knowledge of Project Caesar said it was linked to Energy in Australia, a Facebook group and website that attacks renewables, while supporting high efficiency, low emissions (Hele) coal plants through data, memes, graphics and video. ...

Both the Energy in Australia website and Facebook group were taken offline following questions to Glencore and the C|T Group about the links to Project Caesar.

The sites are publicly authorised by a former Queensland Liberal National Party state MP, Matt McEachan.

When contacted by the Guardian, he could not say who else might be producing content for the group, aside from himself and other volunteers.

McEachan would not say who was providing funding, and said he did not know whether the C|T Group was involved in producing content for the site. ...

Energy in Australia is similar in design and tone to a second pro-coal website, Australian Power Project, which was revealed in 2017 to have links to an employees of the C|T Group. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/mar/08/national-disgrace-glencore-coal-campaign-revelations-prompt-calls-for-reform>

'National disgrace': Glencore coal campaign revelations prompt calls for reform

Christopher Knaus, The Guardian, 08/03/2019

Revelations that Glencore used a secret multi-million dollar project to bolster support for coal have outraged environmentalists and transparency advocates, who are calling for democratic reform to bring such campaigns out of the shadows. ...

The Australian Conservation Foundation said Glencore was using the campaign to muddy the science and attack renewable alternatives for the purposes of profit.

"This is about putting private profit ahead of the safety of the community and the viability of our planet," ACF chief executive, Kelly O'Shanassy, said. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/mar/07/queensland-nationals-demand-action-on-energy-before-federal-election>

Queensland Nationals demand action on energy before federal election

Katharine Murphy, The Guardian, 07/03/2019

Six Queensland Nationals have demanded Michael McCormack and Angus Taylor take "immediate action" to underwrite new power station construction in regional Queensland, and pass the "big stick" package in the final sitting week of the 45th parliament.

George Christensen, Michelle Landry, Ken O'Dowd, Keith Pitt, Llew O'Brien and Barry O'Sullivan have fired an internal warning shot across the bow of the Nationals leader by demanding that McCormack insist the Liberals take concrete action on energy before the coming election. ...

While it has shelved the so-called "big stick", the government has flagged an intention to proceed with taxpayer underwriting of new investments in power generation – including, potentially, new coal plants.

The resources minister, Matt Canavan, has confirmed the government is currently considering the merits of around 10 coal projects, but it is unclear whether anything can be locked in before the election. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/rebel-nationals-ignite-energy-war-over-big-stick-laws-power-prices/news-story/dc298e9c943a9fd83360a81c68118977>

Rebel Nationals ignite energy war over 'big stick' laws, power prices

Joe Kelly, Richard Ferguson, The Australian, 07/03/2019

Six Queensland Nationals MPs have reignited the Coalition's civil war on energy policy, demanding that Scott Morrison put his shelved "big stick" laws to a vote in budget week and fast-track a decision on the underwriting of a new cleaner coal plant.

The energy rebels have signed a letter to Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack, challenging his authority with written demands calling for "immediate" action to address "unsustainable Queensland electricity costs", after he failed to avert the deferral of the legislation to bring energy companies to heel. ...

Mr Pitt and Mr O'Brien yesterday urged the government to put the "big stick" laws to a vote, even if Labor and the Greens tried to sabotage or defeat the bill in the house. ... Opposition treasury spokesman Chris Bowen said this morning he agreed with the rebel

News this week ... from previous page

National MPs about bringing on a vote on the “Venezuelan-style” big stick bill in the budget sitting week.

“I’m happy for it to come to a vote because Labor will be voting against it,” he told ABC radio.

“The National Party are right to say parliament should have a say ... this is an anti-business, anti-investment, Venezuelan-style, socialist intervention from a government that believes in nothing.” ...



https://www.themonthly.com.au/today/paddy-manning/2019/07/2019/1551933910/nats-knackery?fbclid=IwAR14JRH-ybFt68xlr6f4VG_SVbWh0u9SqTuDlvGuVQyUz-VfzRRylmBkW6Gg

Nats for the knackery

Paddy Manning, The Monthly, 07/03/2019

Nationals Leader Michael McCormack is the proverbial rabbit caught in the headlights, shown floundering on national television last night and now the subject of a front-page insurgency in *The Australian* by a group of “energy rebels” in Queensland. On *The Project*, McCormack was unable to think of a single time when the Nationals had backed farmers over miners – a simple, killer question from Waleed Aly – which exposes how far his party has strayed from its rural roots. There are plenty of times when the Nationals have backed miners over farmers, of course – particularly where coal or coal seam gas projects are involved. And there are also some very high-profile examples of former Nationals MPs who have done very nicely out

of the resources industry after leaving politics, including former leaders Mark Vaile and John Anderson (and former leader Barnaby Joyce’s close relationship with Gina Rinehart is well known).

Aly’s segment, “Nats in Crisis?”, tapped into a backlash against the party, expressed most potently in the “Anyone but Nats” slogan: put the Nats last. ...

McCormack’s response is to tell Aly the climate’s been changing since “the year dot”. Country voters, quite simply, aren’t going to buy this head-in-the-stand stuff much longer.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/sustainability/disappointing-last-minute-pipeline-land-clearing-changes-rile-foes-20190307-p512ho.html>

‘Disappointing’: Last-minute pipeline, land-clearing changes rile foes

Peter Hannam, SMH, 07/03/2019

The final Berejiklian government moves before entering caretaker mode included easing the way for a gas pipeline to the proposed Narrabri coal seam gasfield and easing the rules of clearing native vegetation.

Planning Minister Anthony Roberts retrospectively extended the approval process for the Hunter-Queensland gas pipeline despite consent for the pipeline officially lapsing 17 days earlier. The extension is for a year.

The change - which also extended the approval process for a coal-fired power plant expansion and two gas ones - was “an underhanded move” that left landholders in limbo with the threat from CSG in north-west NSW, said Georgia Woods, a spokeswoman for activist group Lock The Gate.

The Berejiklian government is in caretaker mode up until the March 23 election. Other last-minute changes included an amendment to the Local Land Services Act, that allowed clearing of native vegetation on category

2-vulnerable regulated land and category 2-sensitive regulated land for certain reasons without any approval.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/coal-fired-power-plants-energy-bosses-refute-shortens-view/news-story/c480fc66c3ef922132e03b828d71204d>

Coal-fired power plants: Energy bosses clash with Shorten

Joe Kelly & Olivia Caisley, The Australian, 08/03/2019

Energy and resources chiefs have clashed with Bill Shorten over the outlook for cleaner coal, arguing the market case for a new high-efficiency, low-emissions power plant will be strengthened by Labor’s higher renewable targets.

A day after six Nationals rebels pushed Scott Morrison to promise to build a new power station in regional Queensland, energy baron Trevor St Baker argued that it was inevitable there would be a new coal-fired plant in Australia.

Queensland Resources Council chief executive Ian Macfarlane also said there was a growing incentive for competitive power to supply energy-intensive industries under higher renewable targets. ...

But the Opposition Leader yesterday played down the prospect of new coal plants getting off the ground ...

“What we see is that most investors aren’t interested in spending a whole lot of money on new coal-fired power stations without massive taxpayer subsidies,” Mr Shorten said.

“A government I lead is not going to invest taxpayer money in uncommercial, unenvironmental, new coal-fired power stations”.

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