



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 2:14 • 15 MARCH 2019

Acland Stage 3 coal mine gets environmental tick while community waits on appeal decision

Lock the Gate has called on the Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Anthony Lynham, to wait until a decision has been made in the Court of Appeal before granting a mining lease for the Acland Stage 3 coal expansion on the Darling Downs.

It was revealed this week that the Department of Environment and Science had issued an Environmental Authority for the project.

The Queensland Court of Appeal is currently considering an appeal by local community group Oakey Coal Action Alliance against a Supreme Court decision in favour of the project.

“The Queensland Government has repeatedly said it will wait for the legal process to take its course in relation to this damaging project, and we’re asking it to stick to its word,” said Carmel Flint, spokesperson for Lock the Gate Alliance.

Urgent confirmation sought

“We’re seeking urgent confirmation from Minister Lynham today that he is not going to approve a mining lease against the wishes of the local community whilst it is being considered by the Court of Appeal.

“It would cause enormous angst and distress for the local farming community if he were to give New Hope a mining lease while the Court of Appeal decision is still pending” she said.

Key facts in relation to Acland Stage 3 established by the original Land Court decision that have not been challenged include that:



The Acland coal mine is devouring prime agricultural land. Photo: Lock the Gate

- The proposed mine is located on land that is among the best 1.5% of agricultural land in Queensland.
- The full impacts of groundwater drawdown are uncertain, but it has the potential to adversely affect surrounding farmers for hundreds of years to come.
- More than 93% of royalties – equivalent to an estimated \$436M – will be foregone by the Queensland Government, because the mine is situated on old land titles.
- The existing mine has greatly impacted local residents from noise and dust, and has caused the town of Acland to functionally no longer exist.
- New Acland significantly over-estimated the job impacts and the net jobs created is substantially smaller than that stated in the EIS.

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• P2: Resources industries trash planet

• P3: Kingaroy coal uneconomic, says TAI

• P4: NT govt funds pro-gas research

UN report shows how resources industries are trashing the planet

Rapid growth in extraction of materials is the chief culprit in climate change and biodiversity loss – a challenge that will only worsen unless the world urgently undertakes a systemic reform of resource use, according to a report released at the UN Environment Assembly.

Global Resources Outlook 2019, prepared by the International Resource Panel, examines the trends in natural resources and their corresponding consumption patterns since the 1970s to support policymakers in strategic decision-making and transitioning to a sustainable economy.

Over the past five decades, the population has doubled and global domestic product has increased four times. The report finds that, in the same period, annual global extraction of materials grew from 27 billion tonnes to 92 billion tonnes (by 2017). This will double again by 2060 on current trends.

According to the report, “the extraction and processing of materials, fuels and food make up about half of total global greenhouse gas emissions and more than 90% of biodiversity loss and water stress”. By 2010, land-use changes had caused a loss of global species of approximately 11%.

No tomorrow for many people, unless we stop

“The *Global Resources Outlook* shows that we are ploughing through this planet’s finite resources as if there is no tomorrow, causing climate change and biodiversity loss along the way,” said Joyce Msuya, Acting Executive Director of UN Environment. “Frankly, there will be no tomorrow for many people unless we stop.”

Since 2000, growth in extraction rates have accelerated to 3.2% per annum, driven largely by major investments in infrastructure and higher material living standards in developing and transitioning countries, especially in Asia. However, the wealthiest countries still needed 9.8 tonnes of materials per person in 2017, mobilized from elsewhere in the world, which is also driving this trend.

More specifically, the use of metal ores increased by 2.7% annually and the associated impacts on human health

- **Resource extraction has more than tripled since 1970, including a fivefold increase in the use of non-metallic minerals and a 45% increase in fossil fuel use.**
- **By 2060, global material use could double to 190 billion tonnes (from 92 billion), while greenhouse gas emissions could increase by 43%.**
- **The extraction and processing of materials, fuels and food contribute half of total global greenhouse gas emissions and over 90% of biodiversity loss and water stress.**

and climate change doubled during 2000-2015. Fossil fuel usage went from 6 billion tonnes in 1970 to 15 billion tonnes in 2017. Biomass increased from 9 billion tonnes to 24 billion tonnes – mostly for food, feedstock and energy.

Severe climate change impact

By using data from historical trends, the report projects into the year 2060. From 2015-2060, natural resource use is expected to grow by 110%, leading to a reduction of forests by over 10% and a reduction of other habitats like grasslands by around 20%. The implications for climate change are severe, as there would be an increase in greenhouse gas emissions of 43%.

The report says that if economic and consumption growth continue at current rates, far greater efforts will be required to ensure positive economic growth does not cause negative environmental impacts.

The report argues that resource efficiency is essential, though not enough on its own. “What is needed is a move from linear to circular flows through a

combination of extended product life cycles, intelligent product design and standardization and reuse, recycling and remanufacturing,” it says.

Resource efficiency good for economy

If the recommended measures are implemented, it could accelerate economic growth, outweighing the up-front economic costs of shifting to economic models consistent with holding global warming to 1.5°C this century.

“Modelling undertaken by the International Resource Panel shows that with the right resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production policies in place, by 2060 growth in global resource use can slow by 25%, global domestic product could grow 8% – especially for low- and middle-income nations – and greenhouse gas emissions could be cut by 90% compared with projections for continuing along historical trends,” the Co-Chairs of the Panel, Izabella Teixeira and Janez Potočnik, wrote in the joint preface to the report.

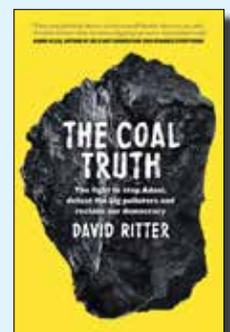
• Download the report here:

<http://www.resourcepanel.org/reports/global-resources-outlook>

The Coal Truth: the fight to stop Adani, defeat the big polluters and reclaim our democracy (\$29.99)

A timely and colourful contribution to one of the most important struggles in our national history – over the future of the coal industry.

Contributors include Tara Moss and Berndt Sellheim, Adrian Burragubba, Lesley Hughes, John Quiggin, Hilary Bambrick, Ruchira Talukdar and Geoffrey Cousins. Lead author is David Ritter, CEO, Greenpeace Australia Pacific.



Byron Bay community radio journalist roughed up by Gladys Berejiklian's security guards



Journalist Jim Beatson had injuries to his arms and back after being prevented by security guards from asking Gladys Berejiklian a question. Photo: supplied

Jim Beatson, a long-time journalist currently working for radio Bay FM, sustained injuries after rough handling from security guards who stopped him asking the Premier about koala policies.

Beatson, 73 and in frail health, approached Berejiklian as she announced funding for the Brunswick Heads Surf Livesaving HQ, near Byron Bay.

The announcement was staged to boost the hopes of local Nationals candidate Ben Franklin, who hopes to take the marginal seat off Greens MP, Tamara Smith, in this month's election.

The Premier has made several visits to northern NSW electorates where there are three-way contests between the Coalition, Labor and the Greens.

Berejiklian uses these excursions to announce pork barrel-style grants, but goes to great lengths to avoid local people with awkward questions.

She was accompanied by heavy-handed security personnel who didn't hesitate to shove, drag and man-handle Beatson when he tried to ask Berejiklian about protection for vulnerable local koala populations.

Koalas have been heavily impacted by residential development and highway construction in the area.

Video of the incident, circulating on social media, is truly disturbing to watch. It is likely to backfire on Franklin's election chances.

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Kingaroy coal proposal to hit local industries

New research released by The Australia Institute finds that a coal project proposed near Kingaroy, Queensland, should be rejected by policy makers on economic grounds.

The report finds that the project is unlikely to be economically viable, faces huge barriers in getting coal to market and would adversely impact key local industries.

"The Kingaroy economy is focused on services and agriculture.

"A major coal project would work against existing industries and the local government's stated plans for the future," said Rod Campbell, Research Director at The Australia Institute and co-author of the report.

\$1 billion rail link required

"While there is a coal-fired power station nearby, it owns its own coal mine and has publicly stated that it does not need coal from other mines for 'many more years'.

"For this new project to get coal to other markets it would need to build a rail link.

"This could cost \$1 billion and also displace recently-built tourism infrastructure.

"As renewable energy gets cheaper and coal demand declines, new coal mine proposals are just not economic.

History of environment & tax problems

"Even projects with the backing of large corporations like Adani and Glencore's Wandoan mine have stalled. A project proposed by a small company with a history of environmental and tax problems has very little chance of proceeding.

"Policy makers should rule out the project due to the low likelihood of economic benefit, potential environmental and economic risks and the costs associated with ongoing uncertainty for the community."

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NT govt funds pro-gas research group

The Protect Country Alliance condemns the use of more public money by the gas-loving Gunner Government to prop up the fracking industry in the Northern Territory, following reports \$450,000 in taxpayer funds had been granted to the pro gas industry arm of the CSIRO, GISERA.

“Let me be clear, GISERA (Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance) is not an independent scientific body, rather it is overseen by a collection of fracking executives who want to see gas wells pierce the Territory like a pin cushion,” PCA spokesman Jesse Hancock said.

Funded and influenced by frackers

“There is no hiding the fact that historically this CSIRO research arm has been heavily influenced and funded by the gas fracking industry.

“And now gas-loving Gunner is allocating public money to keep GISERA going in the NT.

“We wouldn’t be accepting cigarette research from tobacco companies, so why are we accepting fracking research from the fracking industry?”

“This is a totally unacceptable use of taxpayer funds.

“From Texas junkets to paying gas-linked researchers to tell us problems could be managed with Govern-

ment-funded regulation – it’s inappropriate that taxpayers are footing the bill at a time when money is tight in the Territory.

“The fracking industry has been proven to be financially unviable off the back of a full decade of losses in the United States.

“Gunner is throwing taxpayer cash at an industry that will do very little for our economy, and guzzle up and pollute precious water in the meantime.

“Protect Country Alliance calls on the NT Government to end the cash giveaways to the fracking industry, and to explicitly publish how much money has been spent on fracking related expenses since elected in 2016,” Hancock said.

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

Inside the news

The recent NSW **Land and Environment Court** decision to reject **Rocky Hill coal mine**, partly due to its climate impact, will be **appealed** (p5). Local residents were dismayed to hear the proponent, **Gloucester Resources Ltd**, has lodged the appeal.

The decision had shocked the **entire coal industry**, which is behind the push for an appeal.

Industry **reaction** has also **sunk** a proposal by the EPA in Western Australia to impose **tough new measures** around carbon dioxide emissions (p7).

Described by resources minister **Matt Canavan** as a ‘**brain explosion**’, the measures were the subject of a meeting on Thursday between the WA Premier, resource companies and **APPEA**, (p8). Following the meeting, a phone call from **Premier Mark McGowan** to **EPA chief Tom Hatton** resulted in the proposal being withdrawn.

Never doubt the power of the oil and gas barons like **Chevron, Woodside** and **Wheatstone**, who **shot down** this reasoned approach to environmental protection less than a week after it was announced.

With two elections imminent – for NSW and the Federal government – **climate policy, coal power** and **politicians** made frenzied headlines in the media (p11-14). **Barnaby Joyce** combined a push for a coal power station in Queensland with a tilt at regaining leadership of the Nats.

Craig Kelly ran wild on Facebook (see Giles Parkinson’s article on p11 – worth clicking the link for a full read). **Matt Canavan** and **George Christensen** slammed coal critics and raged about protesting school children.

Ian Dunlop wrote one of the best opinion pieces of the week, in the *Sydney Morning Herald* (p14), saying: “Given the overwhelming evidence and repeated warnings of the dangers we face, even as a former oil, gas and coal industry executive I find it incomprehensible that **proposals for new fossil fuel projects proliferate**, encouraged by government and opposition alike.”

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In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 38,700 words of news for your convenience.
[Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/mar/08/adani-accused-of-deceptive-conduct-in-campaign-criticising-state-government>

Adani accused of 'deceptive conduct' in campaign criticising state government

Ben Smees, *The Guardian*, 08/03/2019

The Australian consumer watchdog and the corporate regulator have been asked to investigate "patently false" statements made by Adani in its recent advertising campaign criticising the Queensland government.

The complaints, lodged by the Lock the Gate Alliance, relate to a series of billboard and digital advertisements by Adani, which claim the company is "ready to start work on the Carmichael mine" and criticises the state for "moving the goalposts".

In a letter to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, Lock the Gate says Adani's advertising constitutes "misleading and deceptive conduct". ...

The letter from Lock the Gate alleges that Adani is not ready to start work for several reasons beyond the control of the Queensland government, including because it does not have federal approval for groundwater management plans, and because it has not yet reached a rail access agreement with track operator Aurizon. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/mar/14/aurizon-sues-environmental-activists-and-seeks-375000-after-protests-stop-coal-trains>

Aurizon sues environmental activists and seeks \$375,000 after protests stop coal trains

Ben Smees, *The Guardian*, 14/03/2019

The freight rail operator Aurizon has launched legal action against five environmental activists and is seeking \$375,000 in compensation for a series of recent protests that stopped coal trains.

Aurizon lodged a statement of claim in the Queensland supreme court in January against the group Frontline Action on Coal (Flac) Incorporated, seeking "user-rent" from the organisation as damages for five separate protests in December and January that blocked the rail line. ... Ahead of the hearing



A coal ship at Adani's Abbot Point export terminal. Photo: Adani Australia

Aurizon has sought to also name the individual activists as co-defendants in the case. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/mar/15/tobacco-lobbyist-and-former-nationals-official-is-large-one-nation-donor>

Tobacco lobbyist and former Nationals official is large One Nation donor

Michael McGowan & Josephine Tovey, *The Guardian*, 15/03/2019

A former deputy director of the Nationals and a key lobbyist for the tobacco industry and Adani has emerged as one of the biggest donors to One Nation in the last six months.

Strategic Political Counsel, a Sydney-based lobbying firm headed by Michael Kauter, has donated \$30,000 to the far-right party's Queensland branch since November. ...

Strategic Political Counsel's clients include British American Tobacco and its e-cigarette offshoot Nicoventures, Adani, gas pipeline company APA Group and the Australian Lotteries and Newsagents Association.

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/coal-miner-lodges-plan-to-appeal-against-landmark-nsw-climate-verdict-20190308-p512sc.html>

Coal miner lodges plan to appeal against landmark NSW climate verdict

Peter Hannam, *SMH*, 08/03/2019

The developer of a controversial coal mine in NSW plans to appeal a land-

mark decision that blocked the project in part on climate change grounds.

Gloucester Resources Ltd – which last month had its Rocky Hill open-cut mine near the mid-north coast of NSW blocked in the Land and Environment Court – lodged its intention to appeal on March 5, the Supreme Court said. ...

Gloucester Resources confirmed it had filed a Notice of Intention to Appeal the refusal of its coal mine. It declined to comment further. ...

Julie Lyford, a spokeswoman for Groundswell Gloucester, a local group opposed to the mine, said the decision to appeal had left people "deeply distressed". ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-03-10/coal-ash-has-become-one-of-australias-biggest-waste-problems/10886866>

Coal ash has become one of Australia's biggest waste problems – and a solution is being ignored

Ben Millington, *ABC*, 10/03/2019

Coal ash is one of Australia's biggest waste problems and accounts for nearly one-fifth of the entire nation's waste stream.

Key points: Coal ash accounts for 18 per cent of Australia's entire waste stream; 43% of that coal ash in Australia is repurposed, and only half of that is for beneficial purposes; Some people believe the concrete industry is intentionally limiting the use of coal ash as a substitute for cement; Every year Australian coal-fired power stations

produce 12 million tonnes of ash from burning coal. ...

Coal ash contains high concentrations of heavy metals, which ... can pollute surrounding areas, either by controlled releases by the power stations, emergency dam overflows in heavy rain, or through seepage into the soil. ...

The southern end of Lake Macquarie in NSW is home to two ageing coal-fired power stations which store a combined total of 60 million tonnes of coal ash in dams next to the lake.

Extensive water and sediment sampling has been conducted around the Vales Point and Eraring power stations by the Hunter Community Environment Centre.

It found levels of selenium, zinc, nickel, copper, aluminium, iron, manganese, cadmium and lead in most samples were above healthy environment guidelines set by the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-03-11/crabs-lake-macquarie-nsw-contaminated-with-cadmium/10887750>

Crabs in Lake Macquarie contaminated with 'unhealthy' levels of cadmium

Ben Millington, ABC, 11/03/2019

Concerning levels of the heavy metal cadmium has been found in crabs dwelling in Lake Macquarie, north of Sydney, a report obtained under freedom of information from the NSW Environment Protection Authority has revealed. ...

"The bottom-dwelling organisms are absorbing the cadmium in the sediment to such an extent that it's becoming unhealthy to eat," said Paul Winn from the Hunter Community Environment Centre.

"And this has not been communicated to the public. ...

For nearly two decades, the EPA has warned people not to eat more than two to three servings of fish from the lake a week due to high levels of selenium. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/coal-cuts-continue-as-china-cleans-up/news-story/800c0a2c0fb2d34de2c8b913edb5ca2b>

Coal cuts continue as China steps up efforts to improve environment

Glenda Korporaal, The Australian, 11/03/2019

Australia's coal exports to China could face a continued slowdown as Chinese authorities step up their campaign to

improve the environment, with new figures showing a sharp cut in coal imports into China in February. ...

https://thenewdaily.com.au/life/science/2019/03/11/coal-fired-power-plants/?utm_source=Adestra&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Morning%20News%20-%2020190312

Coal-fired power plants disrupt rainfall and threaten human health, study shows

Isabelle Lane, New Daily, 12/03/2019

Coal-fired power plants can pose a bigger threat to human health and the environment than cars, a groundbreaking long-term global study has revealed.

Modern coal-fired power stations emit higher levels of dangerous pollutants known as "ultrafine dust particles" than urban road traffic, and can even redistribute rainfall patterns, researchers from Australia and Germany have found. ...

Led by Professor Jorg Hacker of Flinders University in South Australia, and Professor Wolfgang Junkermann of the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in Germany, the study's key findings were that:

Modern coal-fired power stations emit more UFP than urban road traffic; UFP can harm human health; UFP can affect rainfall distribution on local to regional scales by increasing the condensation nuclei count; UFP can be transported in layers with high concentrations for hundreds of kilometres and then lead to localised "particle events" (dramatic spikes in short-term particle concentrations on the ground) far away from their source. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/new-hopes-1b-expansion-plan-for-darling-downs-mine-gets-environmental-approval/news-story/c20025ca72b31b49466fda29fd17ae7>

New Hope's \$1b expansion plan for Darling Downs mine gets environmental approval

Michael Wray, Courier-Mail, 13/03/2019

The \$1 billion expansion of a Darling Downs coal mine is a step closer after it overcame fierce local opposition and a lengthy legal battle to win environmental approval.

Queensland's Environment Department on Tuesday ticked off on coal miner New Hope's amended Environmental Authority for the New Acland Stage 3 Project, west of Toowoomba.

New Hope's final application included a range of stringent conditions to limit noise after local landowners had challenged the mine expansion in court.

New Hope managing director Shane Stephan said the project still needed to secure mining leases and an associated water licence. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/wealth/coal-firing-on-all-cylinders-but-industry-remains-on-borrowed-time/news-story/3aef2d31e06da56863c77f0e81e0ef90?c-spt=1552515123|b5829e5245a47be51e81396b95f0ab47>

Coal firing on all cylinders but industry remains on borrowed time

James Kirby, The Australian, 13/03/2019

Coal investors must surely be puzzled: it's the best spell for making money in the sector for years yet inside the National Party a fight has broken out over subsidies for coal-fired power stations.

Certainly shareholders in the Riversdale Resources coal group must find the Queensland coal story a paradox. Riversdale is a takeover target, with Australia's richest woman Gina Rinehart trying very hard to buy the coal miner for 47% more than she was willing to pay just last year. ...

Economically – it's more a case of making money before the environmental regulations around the world ultimately strangle the industry. ...

The end game for coal is still some years away as every bank in the world knows all too well.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-03-14/bimblebox-153-birds-exhibition-takes-aim-at-coal-mining/10886712>

Bimblebox 153 Birds art exhibition takes aim at coal mining, highlights environmental issues

Erin Semmler, ABC, 14/03/2019

Artist Jill Sampson has collaborated with hundreds of people to create an exhibition featuring 153 bird species found within the Bimblebox Nature Refuge in central-west Queensland.

The exhibition, Bimblebox 153 Birds, is named for the number of species known in the refuge at the time, but extra birds found since have been included in the show.

Ms Sampson said she started Bimblebox 153 Birds after her family's farm, west of Kingaroy, was the site of mining exploration.

"I was living on my parents' farm with my own family from 2010 to 2015 and our farm itself had a mining exploration lease over it ... many places in Queensland and Australia did and many still do," she said.

"The idea that you could lose the place that you've spent your life living on and building an agricultural business



The Coal Throated Finch, by Rew Hanks, is one of the exhibits at Bimblebox 153 Birds. Picture: Rew Hanks

on ... or even just looking at the future and passing that onto your children, that really frustrated me. ...

"I think art can be a wonderful way of growing conversations about difficult issues because it is difficult in Queensland, the issue of what land is used for and whether land can be protected or not."

The 8,000-hectare Bimblebox Nature Refuge is located 450 kilometres west of Rockhampton in the south Galilee Basin — an area known for mining exploration. ...

Waratah Coal, owned by Clive Palmer, was given ... approval ... for a major thermal coal mine near Alpha in the Galilee Basin.

The Gina Rinehart-backed GVK Hancock Alpha coal mine project is also proposed for the Galilee Basin. ...

Bimblebox 153 Birds is currently showing at the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery and Museum. ...

MINING MAYHEM

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/work-suspended-after-dam-collapses-at-australia-s-largest-gold-mines-20180310-p4z3s7.html?fbclid=IwAR1EicEx3SXPtqpOWI-lwVNIv8ByPgkkJKyblj6aieALVjdZXP4pl0yqEdI>

Work suspended after dam collapses at one of Australia's largest gold mines

William McInnes, SMH, 10/03/2019

Operations at one of Australia's largest gold mines had to be temporarily suspended on Friday after a partial wall collapse at one of the mine's tailings dams.

The wall collapse at the Cadia mine comes just a few days after two earthquakes hit the area, located just south of Orange. ...

The tailings dams contain byproducts of mining and can contain materials which are harmful to the environment and human health. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-03-12/brakes-applied-to-wrong-bhp-train-before-derailment-atsb-says/10893206>

Handbrakes applied to wrong BHP iron ore train before Pilbara runaway derailment, ATSB finds

David Weber, ABC, 12/03/2019

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) has found there were several issues which led to the derailment of a BHP ore train in WA's Pilbara, including how a rail gang had started locking down the wrong train. ...

The train had taken off while its driver was out of the cabin, travelling more than 90km before being derailed by workers at BHP's Integrated Remote Operations Centre in Perth, about 1,500km away.

A report by the ATSB said a rail gang was sent to help the driver after the ore train came to a stop with a disconnected cable, but they mistakenly went to another train on an adjacent track.

As the gang started applying handbrakes to cars on the wrong train, the one they were supposed to be working on started rolling away. ...

OIL & GAS LEAKS

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/billion-dollar-wa-projects-at-risk-from-new-epa-emission-rules/news-story/99b046d9b752952d-f7aeeb75fd040b52>

Billion-dollar WA projects at risk from new EPA emission rules

Paul Garvey, The Australian, 08/03/2019

Tens of billions of dollars in new resource projects will be at risk after Western Australia's Environmental Protection Authority announced tough new measures around carbon dioxide emissions.

The EPA, which makes recommendations to the WA government about whether major projects should proceed, revealed new requirements for companies to demonstrate how they would offset all emissions from their developments.

The new regulations will affect planned projects such as Woodside Petroleum's \$US11 billion (\$15.6bn) Scarborough gas project and its \$US20.5bn Browse development, as well as existing projects such as the \$US34bn Wheatstone LNG plant and the \$US54bn Gorgon LNG plant.

EPA chairman Tom Hatton said yesterday the tougher interpretation reflected the lack of progress being made by Australia in meeting its climate targets, arguing that current federal regulations did not go far enough. ...

Federal Resources Minister Matt Canavan slammed the EPA's new position as "a homemade sledgehammer" against the WA economy. ...

A spokesman for Chevron said the EPA's guidance had the potential to discourage future investment in WA gas projects, while a spokeswoman for Woodside said the changes could hurt projects that would otherwise replace dirtier sources of emissions elsewhere in the world. ...

The EPA's new stance was widely praised by green groups.

Conservation Council of WA director Piers Verstegen said previous policies had allowed some of Australia's largest polluters to operate with no effective emissions controls. ...



<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/mar/07/western-australia-environment-watchdog-plans-tougher-curbs-on-emissions>

Western Australia environment watchdog plans tougher curbs on emissions

Lisa Cox, *The Guardian*, 07/03/2019

Western Australia's environmental protection authority has announced tough new measures aimed at curbing greenhouse gas emissions from large projects. ...

Under the guidelines developers proposing projects with direct emissions of more than 100,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per annum would be required to demonstrate they have taken all "reasonable and practicable design measures", including use of renewable energy, to reduce or avoid emissions.

They will also have to offset all net direct emissions associated with the project. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-03-08/mark-mc-gowan-attacks-epa-carbon-emissions-policy/10882946>

WA Premier Mark McGowan attacks EPA guidelines aimed at cutting carbon emissions

Elicia Kennedy, *ABC*, 08/03/2019

WA Premier Mark McGowan has attacked the state's environmental watchdog for going too far with its new guidelines aimed at cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

The Premier said the new guidelines would hinder investment in the state ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/mar/08/was-plan-to-curb-emissions-unworkable-says-morrison>

WA's plan to curb emissions 'unworkable', says Morrison

Lisa Cox, *The Guardian*, 08/03/2019

The Morrison government has criticised as "unworkable" a plan by Western Australia's environment watchdog to impose tougher measures to curb greenhouse gas emissions from large projects. ...

According to ABS census data, gas-related industries account for about 1% of WA's workforce.

[The Australia Institute] said that as a highly profitable industry, the LNG industry was capable of paying for the pollution it produced and that many businesses had already factored some sort of shadow carbon cost into their accounting and decision making. ...

<https://thewest.com.au/business/epa-chairman-tom-hatton-defends-carbon-emissions-plan-despite-premier-mark-mcgowan-rejection-ng-b881129035z>

EPA chairman Tom Hatton defends carbon emissions plan despite Premier Mark McGowan's rejection

David Johns & Peter de Kruijff, *West Australian*, 08/03/2019

Environmental Protection Authority chairman Tom Hatton has defended the watchdog's recommendation that big polluters pay for their carbon emissions, despite Premier Mark McGowan rejecting the plan. ...

Speaking on 6PR this morning, Dr Hatton said he felt the environmental watchdog needed to step in because the Federal Government had failed to do the "heavy lifting" in terms of climate policy. ...

"It's worth noting that this State is the only state or territory in the country that doesn't have an emissions reduction target and it's the only state or territory that in recent years has a very significant increase in our emissions. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/carbon-offsets-threaten-projects/news-story/eb82979f72d-6846643fa0e4f452b8af>

Carbon offsets threaten projects

Paul Garvey, *The Australian*, 14/03/2019

Australia's oil and gas heavyweights will intensify their push for the West Australian government to legislate against the new carbon offset measures put forward by the state's environmental regulator, amid fresh forecasts that the proposals will kill off projects worth tens of billions of dollars.

But WA Mines and Energy Minister Bill Johnston has said he does not believe that any such legislation is required, setting the scene for a tense meeting between industry and government in Perth today. ...

Yesterday's opening proceedings at the Australian Oil and Gas conference were briefly disrupted when a group of environmental activists stormed the stage.

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/the-economy/brain-explosion-woodside-canavan-pile-on-wa-government-to-dump-epa-guidelines-20190313-p513r9.html?c-spt=1552515010j484137ed2db31267605c5dad90acac6>

'Brain explosion': Woodside, Canavan pile on WA government to dump EPA guidelines

Cole Latimer & Hamish Hastie, *SMH*, 13/03/2019

Woodside and Federal Resources Minister Matt Canavan have blasted new

emissions rules in Western Australia as analysts warn the policy could delay major LNG projects and a deliver wider hit to the gas industry worth up to \$US10 billion (\$14.2 billion). ...

Mr Canavan described the new carbon emission guidelines as a "brain explosion" and called on the WA government to formally reject them. ...

<https://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2019-03-14/epa-scrap-carbon-emissions-guidelines-for-wa-resources-projects/10901574?fbclid=IwAR1HUjldjDWD8BDc-py5O7-81jecEB9iXMF5M89t23pm7Bzj8b91BLi2ey9Y>

EPA scraps new carbon emissions guidelines for resources companies amid industry pressure

Nicolas Perpitch, *ABC*, 14/03/2019

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has withdrawn its contentious guidelines requiring major WA resources projects to completely offset their greenhouse gas emissions.

Top executives from some of the world's biggest resources companies met Premier Mark McGowan this morning to voice their strong opposition to the environmental watchdog's recommendations.

Mr McGowan rang the EPA's chairman Tom Hatton after the meeting to discuss industry's concerns.

He said shortly afterwards, the EPA informed him it would be withdrawing the guidelines while it consulted further with industry.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/mar/14/wa-watchdog-abandons-carbon-neutral-push-after-oil-and-gas-industry-criticism>

WA watchdog abandons carbon-neutral push after oil and gas industry criticism

AAP/*The Guardian*, 14/03/2019

Western Australia's environmental watchdog has abandoned a recommendation to the state government that new emissions-intensive projects should be carbon neutral following widespread criticism.

The Environmental Protection Authority last week released updated guidelines on mitigating emissions from new or expanding projects, suggesting proposals with emissions higher than 100,000 tonnes a year should be fully offset.

The idea was shot down by the oil and gas industry, which warned it could jeopardise billions of dollars worth of new liquefied natural gas projects, and the WA government swiftly rejected the advice.



A seabed compressor will pump gas to the Gorgon LNG plant. Photo: Chevron

After meeting with industry associations on Thursday, the premier, Mark McGowan, told reporters the EPA had withdrawn its recommendation and would consult more with the sector.

<https://thewest.com.au/business/energy/new-sub-sea-technology-to-keep-gas-flowing-to-gorgon-ng-b881133455z>

New subsea technology to keep gas flowing to Gorgon

Peter Milne, West Australian, 13/03/2019

The Gorgon LNG project has moved closer to installing the world's second subsea compression facility to maintain gas flow to its five LNG trains on Barrow Island.

Chevron, and its partners Shell and ExxonMobil, yesterday engaged Norway's Aker Solutions to perform front-end engineering and design for compressors that will sit 1350m below sea level. ...

The Asgard equipment, 260m below the surface of the North Sea, is complicated. The raw gas from the wells is cooled and separated into gas and liquid streams, which are compressed and pumped respectively. The gas is then cooled, combined with the liquids and flowed through a 40km pipeline. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-03-08/solomon-islands-to-blacklist-companies-over-oil-spill-disaster/10882610>

Solomon Islands threatens to blacklist companies after 'irreversible' oil spill disaster

Evan Wasuka, ABC, 08/03/2019

"The impact on the marine life and the coral is already massive with much of it irreversible."

The bulk carrier MV Solomon Trad-

er, ran aground on a reef near the remote island of Rennell in the south of the Solomon Islands over a month ago, while attempting to load bauxite from a nearby mine in poor weather.

A Solomon Islands bid for an insurance payout from the ship's owners is likely to be delayed, with the country not party to a key maritime treaty that allows payouts directly from insurance companies. ...

Footage taken this week shows little progress has been made in stopping the flow of oil since the ship ran aground.

International Lawyer and Solomon Islands fisheries expert Transform Aqorau said the scale of the disaster was unprecedented in the island's history.

"It's the worst environmental man-made disaster and we have never experienced something like this," he told the ABC.

<https://www.ntnews.com.au/business/nt-steps-up-on-shore-gas-push-with-csiro-research/news-story/37c41a3a-329366961679ca8e156bae9a>

NT steps up onshore gas push with CSIRO research

Gary Shipway, NT News, 08/03/2019

The NT Government's push for the Territory to be a world-class hub for gas production, manufacturing and services by 2030 continues with confirmation a grant agreement has been signed.

CSIRO's Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance (GISERA) will conduct research into the social, economic and environmental impacts of the onshore gas industry in the Territory.

The Territory Government has contributed \$450,000 in seed funding for the research.

CSIRO research director onshore gas and GISERA director, Dr Damian Barrett, said the research was crucial in the long term to understand potential impacts from shale gas developments. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/oil-and-gas-hit-as-norway-exits/news-story/b7f50036750c93fe95a1151c6d04b2d8>

Oil and gas hit as Norway exits

Ben Wilmott, The Australian, 11/03/2019

More than \$870 million worth of shares in key Australian oil and gas players could be dumped after moves by Norway's giant sovereign wealth fund to reduce its exposure to energy explorers and producers globally.

The vehicle, the world's largest sovereign wealth fund with \$US1 trillion (\$1.42 trillion) in investments, is seeking to help the oil-dependent country avoid overreliance on permanently lower crude oil prices.

The fund announced its decision at the weekend, also calling out climate risk as an "important financial risk factor" that will have an impact on several of the companies in which it invests. ...

The shift is expected to put pressure on the share performance of key companies including Woodside Petroleum, Santos, Oil Search, Caltex Australia and Beach Energy, in which the Norwegian fund holds stakes worth hundreds of millions of dollars. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-03-11/great-australian-bight-norwegian-mp-against-oil-drilling/10890322>

Great Australian Bight oil drilling proposal gains attention in Norway

Helen Frost, ABC, 12/03/2019

A Norwegian MP has called for a state-owned Norwegian oil and gas company not to start drilling in the Great Australian Bight, while a scientist says noise from the project could hurt marine life.

The Norwegian Government has a 67 per cent majority stake in Equinor, which wants to start searching for oil off the coast of South Australia at a depth of almost 2.5 kilometres by the end of 2020.

It needs approval from the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority.

MP Kristoffer Robin Haug addressed the Norwegian Parliament last week

and said going ahead with the project could see Norway become the enemy. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/mar/15/environment-groups-urge-oil-watchdog-not-to-speak-at-pro-industry-event>

Environment groups urge oil watchdog not to speak at pro-industry event

Christopher Knaus & Lisa Cox, The Guardian, 15/03/2019

Environmental groups have written to Australia's offshore petroleum-watchdog to urge him against speaking alongside the oil lobby at a pro-industry event titled The Great Australian Bight: The Big Opportunity.

The head of the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (Nopsema), Stuart Smith, is listed as one of three keynote speakers at the South Australian "parliamentary friends of the resource sector" forum dinner on Tuesday.

The event is described as a "deep dive into oil exploration and its economic potential for South Australia", featuring speeches from Equinor, the Norwegian oil giant currently seeking regulatory approval to drill in the Bight, and the Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association, the oil and gas industry body. ...

Nopsema says its participation is completely neutral, and is being used only to explain its regulatory role and functions. The agency – like many other regulators – regularly provides briefings to government and industry as a way of effectively raising awareness about the nature of its work. Nopsema said it would not, in any way, express a position on the value of resources or their exploitation. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/mar/15/coal-seam-gas-nsw-communities-in-limbo-due-to-expired-licences>

Coal seam gas: NSW communities in limbo due to expired licences

Lisa Cox & Nick Evershed, The Guardian, 15/03/2019

The NSW government has failed to close a loophole that effectively allows expired coal seam gas exploration licences to be extended indefinitely, despite calls from rural communities for certainty ahead of the state election.

More than a dozen licences, mostly in the state's north-west, have remained active past their expiration dates while the government assesses renewal applications from gas companies. In some cases, those applications have been

held up in the system for years. ... Despite being past the expiry date – some by as much as six-and-a-half years – under NSW law the tenements remain in force until the government deals with the renewal application, meaning companies can continue to use the licences as if they hadn't expired. ...

The majority of the licences are owned or operated by Santos. A Santos spokeswoman said the company's focus remained on one project, the Narrabri gas project which sits within expired PEL 238. ...

George Woods, the NSW coordinator for the anti-mining group Lock the Gate Alliance, said communities left in limbo wanted answers. "We are raising it. Lock The Gate raises it, farmers of the north-west alliance have raised it," she said.

"But this is an issue that has been limping along for a few years now and you just get tired of not getting a response from the government."

IMPORT INSANITY

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/gas/newcastle-lng-import-project-expects-to-hold-its-own-against-rivals-20190306-h1c2y0>

Newcastle LNG import project expects to hold its own against rivals

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 07/03/2019

The under-the-radar EPIK Newcastle LNG import venture expects to partner with global LNG players such as Shell or traders Trafigura and Gunvor, giving it a step-up to hold its own against more advanced rival import projects. ...

The list of potential users of the Newcastle terminal, in which Hyundai LNG Shipping is involved, lengthens the line-up of major LNG players backing rival projects around the south-east coast, only one or two of which are expected to succeed. ...

A final investment decision for the project, budgeted at up to \$US430 million (\$610 million), is targeted for January or February 2020, with start-up 12 months later.

As the fifth LNG import terminal proposed in south-east Australia and with little-known backers, the Newcastle venture has been largely discounted by more established import proponents. They include local retailing major AGL Energy, with a proposed terminal in Victoria's Crib Point, ExxonMobil and Australian Industrial Energy (AIE), backed by mining billionaire Andrew Forrest and Japan's JERA and Marubeni. ...

The Newcastle project would involve a new 170,000 cubic metre floating import terminal and onshore infrastructure, as well as potential LNG storage and a gas-fired power plant. ...

<https://www.spglobal.com/platts/en/market-insights/latest-news/natural-gas/030619-aie-expects-to-get-state-development-consent-for-aus-lng-import-project-within-weeks>

AIE expects to get state development consent for Aus LNG import project within weeks

Nathan Richardson, S&P Global, 06/03/2019

The approval is part of the AIE plan of making a final investment decision on the project in the April-June quarter so that construction can begin and first gas be delivered in the second half of 2020, Johnston and AIE CEO James Boulderstone noted during a presentation. ... "The specific site within Port Kembla has been selected, Front End Engineering and Design has been completed, the FSRU vessel has been secured, the Environmental Impact Statement has been submitted and reviewed, and a number of key commercial contracts including LNG supply, port access, shortlisted EPC [Engineering, Procurement and Construction] contractors, and customer offtake agreements are nearing finalization," AIE said in a statement Wednesday. ...

He also noted that there "is a very good chance" that some of the project's LNG supply will come from Western Australia – which is not linked to Australia's east coast via pipelines. ...

HYDROGEN HYPE

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/inquirer/floating-figures-on-hydrogen-fuels-hot-air-brigade/news-story/fd02a67dcbdd3a8c4c1e72a5a9c36a1c>

Floating figures on hydrogen fuels hot-air brigade

Judith Sloane, The Australian, 09/03/2019

I'm not a fan of science fiction. But I'm not against a bit of blue-sky thinking on technologies of the future. So the government's decision to allocate several million dollars to look at the potential of hydrogen as a fuel source of the future is fair enough.

Through the Australian Renewable Energy Agency, \$7.5 million has been allocated to a trial in western Sydney that will use renewable energy to split water into oxygen and hydrogen molecules.

The hydrogen will be then injected into an existing gas network "in small amounts".

There are also several trials being conducted in the Latrobe Valley using brown coal as the source of the hydrogen. ...

While hydrogen is everywhere, it can't be conveniently accessed as a stand-alone gas or liquid. Energy-intensive processes are required to release the hydrogen.

There are essentially two choices: gasification (of coal or coal seam gas, for example) or electrolysis of water. The first process releases carbon dioxide as one of the by-products and is unlikely to garner support from environmentalists. It is also an expensive process because energy is required for the gasification process. ...

The second option requires clean water, and this is an issue in Australia (and elsewhere). A first, energy-intensive step requires the water to be purified. After that, electrolysis separates the hydrogen and oxygen molecules, thereby providing a source of hydrogen. The argument is made that renewable energy — wind and solar — can be used to power the electrolysis process. ...

<https://theconversation.com/hydrogen-fuels-rockets-but-what-about-power-for-daily-life-were-getting-closer-112958>

Hydrogen fuels rockets, but what about power for daily life? We're getting closer

Zhenguo Huang, The Conversation, 11/03/2019

Hydrogen ... holds potential as a source of energy for our daily activities – driving, heating our houses, and maybe more. ...

But is Australia ready to explore this competitive, low-carbon energy alternative for residential, commercial, industrial and transport sectors?

There are two key aspects to assessing our readiness for a hydrogen economy – technological advancement (can we actually do it?) and societal acceptance (will we use it?). ...

As a fuel, hydrogen has some properties that make it safer to use than the fuels more commonly used today, such as diesel and petrol.

Hydrogen is non-toxic. It is also much lighter than air, allowing for rapid dispersal in case of a leak. This contrasts with the buildup of flammable gases in the case of diesel and petrol leaks, which can cause explosions.

However, hydrogen does burn easily in air, and ignites more readily than gasoline or natural gas. This is why

hydrogen cars have such robust carbon fibre tanks – to prevent leakages.

Where hydrogen is used in commercial settings as a fuel, strict regulations and effective measures have been established to prevent and detect leaks, and to vent hydrogen. Household applications of hydrogen fuel would also need to address this issue. ...

• *Zhenguo Huang is a Senior lecturer, University of Technology Sydney*

NUKE MADNESS

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-03-12/gold-fields-council-continues-support-for-nuclear-waste-facility/10887644>

Outback WA council keeps hand raised for nuclear waste facility, as legal action halts progress on SA sites

Gary-Jon Lysaght, ABC, 12/03/2019

While the search for a place to store Australia's nuclear waste remains on hold pending a decision by the Federal Court, a small council in outback Western Australia still has its hand raised as a potential site.

Leonora, a WA Goldfields town about 200 kilometres north of Kalgoorlie, is being touted as a potential location for an underground nuclear waste disposal facility.

The Federal Government is considering sites at Kimba and Hawker in South Australia for an above-ground facility capable of permanently storing low-level waste and temporarily storing intermediate-level waste. ...

The Azark Project, the company behind the Leonora proposal, said a site 15km outside of the town was the best place for a permanent nuclear waste facility.

The company is headed by George Gear, who was an assistant treasurer in the second Keating Government. ...

The Leonora Shire Council remains in favour of a nuclear waste facility near the town, saying it could provide jobs and much-needed infrastructure for the small town.

However, Shire President Peter Craig said that support could wane because of what he described as a lack of consultation from Azark. ...

Throughout the site selection process at both Kimba and Hawker there has been opposition from local Aboriginal groups, who say a facility would impinge on sacred land.

Dave Sweeney from the Australian Conservation Foundation said local Ab-

original groups at Leonora remained strongly opposed to the facility. ...

CLIMATE CRISIS

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/mar/12/resource-extraction-carbon-emissions-biodiversity-loss>

Resource extraction responsible for half world's carbon emissions

Johnathon Watts, The Guardian, 12/03/2019

Extraction industries are responsible for half of the world's carbon emissions and more than 80% of biodiversity loss, according to the most comprehensive environmental tally undertaken of mining and farming.

While this is crucial for food, fuel and minerals, the study by UN Environment warns the increasing material weight of the world's economies is putting a more dangerous level of stress on the climate and natural life-support systems than previously thought. ...

FOSSIL POLITICS

https://reneweconomy.com.au/coalition-loses-the-plot-as-window-closes-on-fantasy-coal-plans-16796/?utm_source=RE+Daily+Newsletter&utm_campaign=c-731c5ae29-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_03_08_01_06&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_46a1943223-c731c5ae29-40461137

Coalition loses the plot as window closes on fantasy coal plans

Giles Parkinson, Renew Economy, 08/03/2019

Craig Kelly hasn't been very noisy of late – too preoccupied, it seems, on filling his Facebook page with some of the biggest nonsense you will find anywhere about climate hoaxes, renewables and batteries.

This week, however, he couldn't help himself, when it was revealed that a consortium comprising a couple of two-bit companies from western Sydney and the Cayman Islands and a Chinese backer had agreed to explore a plan to build some new coal-fired generators in the Hunter Valley.

Never mind that this could never happen – the proposed site is too close to a hospital and homes, and it has not even filed a DA, yet alone considered a business plan or a market opportunity.

Two of three companies included in the "memorandum of understanding" might struggle to fund the building of a road to a coal plant, let alone the plant itself. Yet Kelly applied his normal analytical brain and declared it to be "fantastic" news. ...

Kelly is running wild on Facebook, with daily posts such as "the imaginary climate crisis", "cooling is the enemy",

and a series of articles about “climate alarmism” and the failure of renewables and batteries. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/mar/09/george-christensen-defends-using-pro-coal-posts-from-covert-glencore-campaign>

George Christensen defends using pro-coal posts from covert Glencore campaign

Christopher Knaus, *The Guardian*, 09/03/2019

The Liberal National party MP George Christensen has defended sharing pro-coal material from a supposedly grassroots group linked to Project Caesar, Glencore’s covert communications campaign.

Glencore has attracted significant criticism for operating a multimillion-dollar shadow campaign to bolster demand for coal, run by political operatives at the C|T Group. ...

One source with knowledge of Project Caesar said a site linked to Project Caesar was “Energy in Australia”, a Facebook group and associated website which pushed pro-coal, anti-renewable messaging to an audience of more than 20,000 people.

Energy in Australia was also aided by politicians such as Christensen, who shared its material on his own Facebook page. ...

A spokeswoman said Christensen was pro-coal, and welcomed the fact that coal companies were sharing pro-coal material online.

About one-third of his electorate was employed directly or indirectly in the resources sector, the spokeswoman said. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/mar/12/authorities-can-do-nothing-about-pro-coal-ads-linked-to-glencore-campaign>

Authorities can do nothing about pro-coal ads linked to Glencore campaign

Christopher Knaus, *The Guardian*, 12/03/2019

Electoral authorities say they are powerless to take further action over a lack of transparency on pro-coal Facebook advertisements linked to a secret Glencore-funded campaign. ...

Nowhere on Energy in Australia’s website or Facebook page is any link to Glencore disclosed. The pages are authorised to a former Queensland Liberal National Party MP, Matt McEachan.

The Energy in Australia website and page were removed following questions to Glencore and the C|T Group



Barnaby Joyce, the ‘elected Deputy PM’, still wants to be leader of the Nats.

Screenshot: 9 News

about their links to Project Caesar. ...

The Australian Electoral Commission is the principal body charged with ensuring the origins of political ads – including paid Facebook political advertising – are properly disclosed.

The AEC received a complaint about the Energy in Australia site in October last year, but said it could find nothing wrong, because the Facebook page, associated advertising and the website contained an authorisation. ...

https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/national/2019/03/10/nationals-leadership-coup-mccormack/?utm_source=Adstra&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Morning%20News%20-%2020190311

Nationals MPs won’t rule out move against leader over coal issue

New Daily, 11/03/2019

Nervous Nationals MPs are not ruling out a move on their leader, Michael McCormack, before the next election unless he significantly hardens his calls for a taxpayer underwrite of a coal-fired power station.

In what looms as a dilemma for the Coalition, Queensland Nationals told the ABC they want coal generation among the projects shortlisted for taxpayer subsidy by Energy Minister Angus Taylor – and they want Mr McCormack to demand it. ...

Former Nationals leader Barnaby Joyce supports underwriting new coal-fired generation.

Mr Joyce told the ABC he would be a contender if there was a vacancy, but insisted he would not be calling for a leadership spill.

“I was elected by the Australian people as Deputy Prime Minister. I’ve got no

intention of spilling the numbers ... but I do say if the position was vacant then of course I’d stand,” he said. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/promise-new-coal-plant-at-election-barnaby-joyce-urges-morrison/news-story/aa87473d82054c8e17fa83929d050058>

Promise new coal plant at election, Barnaby Joyce urges Morrison

Greg Brown, *The Australian*, 11/03/2019

Barnaby Joyce has demanded Scott Morrison go to the May election promising government support for a new coal-fired power station in central Queensland, as the former deputy prime minister positions for a post-election tilt at the Nationals leadership.

Mr Joyce wants more taxpayer funds to be invested in coal, putting him at odds with his party leader Michael McCormack, who yesterday said the government should only support a coal station that “stacks up” financially. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/half-coal-plants-to-shut-in-alp-plan/news-story/dd1341ad5624e7ff1f138f0bdd6d9ee>

Half coal plants to shut in ALP plan

Simon Benson, *The Australian*, 11/03/2019

Coal-fired power generation would fall by 60 per cent within the next decade to meet Labor’s 45 per cent emissions-reduction target, leading to the likely closure of more than half the existing east coast plants, according to independent expert modelling.

The closures would bring an end to coal-fired generation in Victoria. But the retirement of coal assets would also be inevitable under the Coalition’s commitment to the Paris target, with up to three early closures and a reduc-

tion of almost 20 per cent in the total share of coal generation by 2030. ...

https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/national/2019/03/11/barnaby-joyce-coal/?utm_source=Adestra&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Morning%20News%20-%2020190312

Barnaby Joyce's rebellion highlights the Liberal-National divide

Paul Bongiorno, *New Daily*, 12/03/2019

In a reckless play to save four, maybe five, seats north of Gympie in Queensland, Barnaby Joyce has declared war on vulnerable Liberals in metropolitan seats.

The self-described former "elected deputy prime minister" says he's "not going to throw someone under a bus in Mount Morgan (Qld) because of the views of someone in Sydney or Melbourne". ...

The issue firing up the controversial Nationals MP is coal-fired power.

He backs the call of six rebel Nationals from Queensland who broke ranks with the government last week and demanded it underwrite a new coal plant before the election. ...

Mr Joyce is in a world of unreal denial: He says emissions figures are "presuppositions" and "assumptions".

New coal-fired power would deliver "cheaper reliable power" – something the market and investors judge to be wrong and risky. ...

And Mr Joyce is blind to the fact that in Queensland the Nationals are married to the Liberals in a party called the Liberal National Party. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/the-economy/big-power-companies-snub-government-underwriting-for-new-coal-plants-20190311-p513a2.html?cspt=1552344986jb-c98ab49dde796adcfccce5a23a97ca1>

Big power companies snub government underwriting for new coal plants

Cole Latimer, *SMH*, 12/03/2019

The nation's largest electricity companies have snubbed calls for them to use the government's power subsidy scheme to build new coal-fired power stations.

Federal Energy Minister Angus Taylor has said 10 of the 66 submissions to the scheme, that will subsidise new energy plants, involved coal-fired generation. ...

Several major companies told the Sydney Morning Herald and The Age that they have either not applied to the scheme or had focussed their proposals on renewable energy.



Of the country's three largest generators - AGL, Origin, and EnergyAustralia - Origin has not submitted a proposal, AGL has sought support for a major battery at a Queensland wind farm and EnergyAustralia has asked for funding to upgrade a turbine at its Mt Piper coal plant in NSW.

Queensland's largest generator, CS Energy, has not put forward a proposal. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/nationals-face-climate-change-backlash-internal-polling-reveals-20190312-p513lv.html>

Nationals face climate change backlash, internal polling reveals

David Crowe, *SMH*, 12/03/2019

Nationals MPs have been warned they should heed the concerns over climate change in their own communities ahead of the federal election, with internal research revealing the risk to the party in key electorates from a bitter Coalition split on coal-fired power.

The Nationals have been briefed on party polling showing that climate change is a key issue for voters in their federal seats, highlighting fears of a backlash in some electorates from a public crusade for coal. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/mar/13/rural-women-condemn-barnaby-joyces-nationals-leadership-aims>

Rural women condemn Barnaby Joyce's Nationals leadership aims

Gabrielle Chan, *The Guardian*, 13/03/2019

Prominent rural women expressed their anger at a potential return of Barnaby Joyce to the Nationals leadership, with one accusing the party of turning a blind eye to his past behaviour in order to raise funds and votes in some quarters.

Those speaking out, including a number of Rural Women award winners, raised issues such as public trust,

personal integrity, respect for women, policy failure over water, live export and drought as well as support for mining over farming. ...

A number of women also mentioned the National party's investigation process into sexual harassment allegations made by 2012 WA Rural Womens award winner and advocate Catherine Marriott against Joyce, and the leaking of her name to the media. ...

Farm succession planner, farmer and 2013 New South Wales Rural Woman of the Year, Isobel Knight, said Joyce was not the right person for the leadership and it was a common view in his seat of New England, where she lives.

"I don't think he is the right person to be in leadership regardless of which side of politics you support, because of his personal integrity and lack of respect for women as well as his adherence to mining interests over farmers," Knight said. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/mar/13/former-labor-ministers-ex-chief-of-staff-lobbying-for-norwegian-oil-giant>

Former Labor minister's ex-chief of staff lobbying for Norwegian oil giant

Christopher Knaus, *The Guardian*, 13/03/2019

The chief of staff to the former Labor resources minister Martin Ferguson is lobbying for a Norwegian oil giant seeking to drill in the Great Australian Bight.

The release of the government's new foreign influence register has revealed the lobbying activities of individuals and companies who are otherwise hidden by Australia's deeply flawed, decade-old lobbyist transparency regime.

The resources giants Woodside Petroleum and WorleyParsons Services both list themselves on the foreign influence

News this week ... from previous page

register and say they are conducting “general political lobbying” but appear nowhere on the federal lobbyist register.

The foreign influence register also includes Bindi Gove, who headed Ferguson’s office until 2012, and recently began lobbying on behalf of Equinor, the Norwegian oil and gas giant. She also does not appear on the lobbyist register. ...

There is no suggestion of any wrongdoing on behalf of Gove, Woodside or WorleyParsons. But the cases again highlight the flaws with the federal lobbyist register, which is supposed to act as the public’s window into the world of lobbying. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/underfire-barnaby-joyce-gets-coal-comfort-from-matt-canavan/news-story/c96816bc0080a7ee272f5268984ca6a2>

Under-fire Barnaby Joyce gets coal comfort from Matt Canavan

Renee Viellaris, *Courier-Mail*, 13/03/2019

Matt Canavan has become the first Cabinet Minister to break ranks to back in Barnaby Joyce’s call for a new coal-fired generator in Queensland. ...

It comes as Dawson National MP George Christensen writes in today’s *The Courier-Mail* that inner city voters’ push for the end of coal is a push for the end of job security in Gladstone, Rockhampton, Mackay and Townsville.

Senator Canavan told *The Courier-Mail* yesterday that North Queenslanders “had a clear need” for a coal-fired power station. ...

Mr Christensen said common sense on the value of coal seemed to be uncommon outside of regional Australia.

“Despite what Labor and the Greens may think, neither solar panels nor wind turbines nor fairy dust nor unicorn farts will supply the baseload

power needs of this nation, particularly if we want to keep our heavy industries,” Mr Christensen said.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/as-an-ex-coal-boss-i-m-telling-politicians-wake-up-to-climate-threat-20190313-p513qj.html>

As an ex-coal boss, I’m telling politicians: wake up to climate threat

Ian Dunlop, *SMH*, 14/03/2019

Human-induced climate change is happening faster than officially acknowledged. Extreme events intensify, particularly in Australia, Asia and the Pacific. Victoria and Tasmania are ablaze again. Queensland needs a decade to recover from recent floods. Much of south-east Australia has become a frying pan, curtailing human activity.

The economic and social cost is massive – as Reserve Bank deputy governor Guy Debelle warned us this week – but too many of our leaders refuse absolutely to acknowledge climate change as the cause.

Given the overwhelming evidence and repeated warnings of the dangers we face, even as a former oil, gas and coal industry executive I find it incomprehensible that proposals for new fossil fuel projects proliferate, encouraged by government and opposition alike: Adani’s Carmichael, Glencore’s Wandoan, Kepco’s Bylong, Whitehaven’s Maules Creek, Shenhua’s Watermark, along with 20 other NSW coal projects, Shell’s CSG and LNG expansion, Northern Territory and West Australian fracking, Statoil in the Great Australian Bight, HELE coal-fired power stations ... the list goes on.

These projects are crimes against humanity. Fossil fuel investment must stop, now. ...

Business, investors and lobbyists must stop immoral, predatory delay. They must stop publicly advocating urgent

climate action while privately maximising returns from unsustainable practices before the shutters finally come down on fossil fuels.

To halt our suicidal rush to oblivion, the community must ensure no leader is elected or appointed in this country unless they are committed to emergency action.

• *Ian Dunlop is a former international oil, gas and coal industry executive, chair of the Australian Coal Association and CEO of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He is co-author of What Lies Beneath: the understatement of existential climate risk, and of the Club of Rome’s Climate Emergency Plan.*

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/mar/13/coal-baron-trevor-st-baker-says-he-has-not-sought-taxpayer-support-for-liddell>

Coal baron Trevor St Baker says he has not sought taxpayer support for Liddell

Katharine Murphy, *The Guardian*, 14/03/2019

The coal baron Trevor St Baker has clarified he has not sought taxpayer support to redevelop a power station he doesn’t own, and insists he is not “compulsively wanting or needing” to build a new coal-powered station in Australia. ...

St Baker said he had not discussed his interest in Liddell with the current energy minister, Angus Taylor, and he had not put a proposal concerning the future of the plant to the controversial underwriting program, where taxpayers will help fund new power generation. ...

The coal baron’s proposal in NSW relates to a new coal development at Vales Point, which he controls.

But St Baker made it clear he would prefer to redevelop Liddell rather than pursue the Vales Point project that was the subject of his expression of interest; and he continued to express frustration with AGL’s refusal to sell the plant. ...

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