



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 2:20 • 26 APRIL 2019

Stop Adani Convoy confronted by pro-Adani Murdoch media and miners in Queensland

By Eve Sinton

As Bob Brown's Stop Adani Convoy left a friendly crowd of 3,000 at its last stop in New South Wales, the mood changed.

Over the border in Queensland, the convoy was met with a vicious media campaign from the Murdoch empire, an advertising blitz from Adani and anti-convoy demonstrations from coal supporters.

While about 4,000 friendly supporters turned out in Brisbane, the further north the convoy travels, the greater the negative reaction from pro-mining interests.

"Rag-tag anti-mine mob"

The *Courier-Mail* and regional Murdoch-owned newspapers have printed inflammatory articles, drawing on a single anonymous comment on a convoy Facebook page to tar all anti-Adani people as a "ragtag anti-mine mob – mostly from prosperous inner-city suburbs in southern capitals," and revolting extremists.

In response, convoy leader Bob Brown said, "The hate media works by attacking those it disagrees with when it cannot fairly meet their point of view, especially where ethics like those of the worsening global climate emergency are involved.

"Our convoy is committed to lawful and peaceful process.

"Conversely, this opinionated reportage aims to raise anger rather than promote civil discussion. I hold the



Coal minister Matt Canavan made a visit to Clermont on April 24, in advance of Bob Brown's Stop Adani Convoy. Posting this pic on his Facebook page, Canavan said, "Great to be in Clermont this evening supporting the local businesses that back jobs! We need jobs. Kel runs a fantastic pub at the Grand in Clermont."

Kel is on record in the Murdoch press as saying he won't serve the convoy in his pub.

This week there was a comment on the convoy's Facebook page, saying, "Been kicked out of the pub at Clermont. We were the only ones in the pub. Approx eight meals had been ordered and we were all wetting our whistles.

"Local copper told us to get out of town before dark as our safety was uncertain."

Photo: Matt Canavan, Facebook



ABOVE: A photo from the Courier-Mail website today, showing Knitting Nanna Jally (bottom left corner) and another convoy participant photo-bombed by pro-coal demonstrators.

The convoy will have a police escort during the rest of its journey to Clermont, the nearest town to the site of the proposed Adani mine, 160km away.

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• P3: Labor gas pledge horrifies campaigners

• P4: Call for action on Chevron's toxics

• P6: More Adani news coverage

Tensions rise as Stop Adani Convoy enters deep north Queensland

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Murdoch media responsible for any harmful outcome of this reportage.”

Murdoch’s News Corp-owned regional papers, even in southern states, also ran the media magnate’s favoured Foxtel commentators’ opinion pieces, condemning the convoy.

Meanwhile, convoy critics were silent on comments made on Liberal MP Michelle Landry’s Facebook site stating: “Is it too early to start culling the green activist herd... I really believe we would benefit from shooting a thousand or so.” These comments have been referred to the Australian Federal Police for investigation.

Police are now escorting the convoy as it heads inland from Airlie Beach to Clermont, when Coalition Senator Matt Canavan has been encouraging businesses to refuse service to convoy members.

The Murdoch press has published suggestions that the power to the convoy camping ground be turned off.

The Bob Brown Foundation says it will accept Isaac Regional Mayor Anne Baker’s request for the parties for and against the Adani Mine to have a round table meeting on Friday before the convoy enters Clermont.

Adani counter-attack

As the convoy arrived in Airlie Beach on Friday, preparing for a Great Barrier Reef rally, Adani launched a full-throttle counter-attack against former Greens leader Bob Brown.

Adani Mining chief executive Lucas Dow said the company’s ‘Know the Facts’ campaign would counter the “lies, insults and hysteria” from anti-coal activists. “As we have always said, everyone has the right to voice their opinion but the past week has seen extremist green activists insult the tens of thousands of Australians who make up our coal mining industry, likening them to drug dealers and Nazis during the holocaust,” he said.

Adani is encouraging people to buy pro-coal T-shirts and attend a For The Future Of Our Region rally in Mackay on the weekend.

The company vigorously promotes the notion that a halt to new coal projects will leave north Queensland in economic ruin.



ABOVE: The Stop Adani Convoy drew a 100% welcoming crowd to the Mullumbimby showgrounds on its last NSW stop, with many more unable to enter the rally due to traffic congestion in the small town.

RIGHT: The Murdoch-owned Northern Star newspaper joined News Corp’s anti-convoy chorus. This raises the question of whether the Bentley Blockade, which ended coal seam gas development in the Northern Rivers, would have been so successful if Murdoch had owned the paper in 2014. At the time, owned by APN, the paper was supportive of the blockade. Murdoch bought APN in 2016.



BELOW: Courier-Mail spread on Friday, April 26, portraying the convoy in very negative terms.



Labor's gas pledge horrifies environmentalists

By Eve Sinton

Opposition leader Bill Shorten's plan to create a \$1.5 billion fund to encourage the unconventional gas industry in Queensland and the Northern Territory is a disastrous move for landholders, regional communities, and the climate, according to environmentalists.

Responding to reports a Shorten Government, if elected, would replace the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility with a fund to encourage onshore gas projects, Lock the Gate spokesperson Naomi Hogan said the announcement would not win votes during an election where climate change was at the forefront of people's minds.

"The unconventional gas industry is a massive carbon polluter," she said.

"Fracking for gas in the Northern Territory's Beetaloo Basin could unleash a carbon disaster that would make it impossible for Australia to meet our Paris targets."

Mungo MacCallum: A distraction

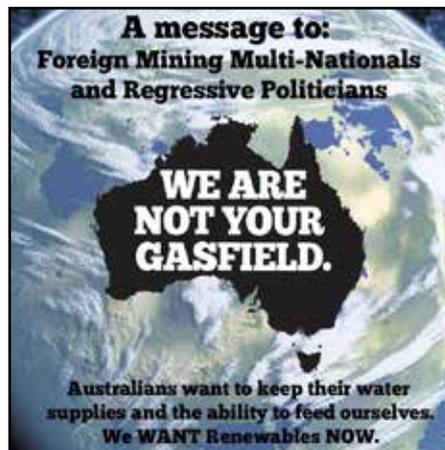
Political commentator Mungo MacCallum told FFB, "Shorten is, basically, trying to please as many people as possible or at least offend as few as possible.

"Gas is regarded a less political toxic than coal, so the 'I'll only put it in a little way' approach might work in both Victoria and Queensland – at least for the next three weeks, which is all that matters.

"It is not actually a policy, more of a stopgap to switch the attention away from his fence-sitting on Adani. But it probably won't work – the Murdoch media won't stop badgering him for a straight answer. So I consider it more of another distraction than a solution," MacCallum said.

Chemical engineer Tim Forcey, who has over 30 years of experience in the petrochemicals industry, said no government can responsibly encourage fossil fuel development.

"Given the large shale deposits of the Northern Territory, the potential for greenhouse gas emissions stemming from these fossil fuels are four-to-seven times larger than that of the Adani mine: 20-35 billion tonnes of carbon-dioxide, volumes equivalent to 40-70 years worth of Australia's annual emissions," he said.



TOP: After Labor leader Bill Shorten announced a \$1.5 billion fund to encourage the unconventional gas industry in Queensland and the Northern Territory, protesters descended on Labor candidate for Page, Patrick Deegan's office in Lismore.

ABOVE RIGHT: Deegan attempts to explain the gas pledge to Gasfield Free Northern Rivers campaigner, Annie Kia. Photos: Andrya Hart

ABOVE LEFT: A poster quickly appeared on social media.

Gasfield Free Northern Rivers campaigner, Annie Kia, said: "The ALP announcement came on the same day Global Witness found that any production from new oil and gas fields, beyond those already in production or development, is incompatible with limiting warming to 1.5°C.

"For a decent chance to achieve this goal, the IPCC's latest report models declining gas use for primary energy and electricity generation from 2020 onwards. Yet Mr. Shorten says the Beetaloo Basin has 'enough gas to supply the domestic market for up to 400 years.'

"Companies like Santos and Origin Energy (some of the country's biggest political donors) will be licking their lips at having taxpayers open up new, unsustainable gas fields," Kia said.

Lock the Gate's Naomi Hogan added, "It will raise Australia's emissions by 6%, at a time we need to be bringing them down.

"Fracking the gas out of the Beetaloo Basin has been measured to be the pollution equivalent of building and operating at least 50 new coal fired power stations – it's the wrong move for Australia.

"The CO2 emissions created during the extraction and transport process are far greater than any offsets created by burning the gas for power.

"The industry has also still been unable to address the issue of releasing methane emissions from gas wells," Hogan said.

Call for govt action against Chevron's toxic gas

Conservation groups have renewed calls for the Western Australian government to take urgent action against WA's biggest polluter, following revelations that Chevron's ongoing failure to meet pollution control conditions at its Barrow Island LNG project is leading to workers and wildlife being exposed to toxic air-borne emissions, including BTEX and mercury.

Chevron is WA's biggest polluter and its WA LNG operations have been the main driver of Australia's increasing carbon pollution over the last 18 months

Chevron pays no tax or royalties for the gas it is exporting, despite its WA operations earning the company \$32 million dollars per day in clear profits

Environment groups are calling tougher action by the State Government to control Chevron's pollution and require the company to comply with its conditions of approval

Documents recently released by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) reveal that Chevron will construct new flaring equipment, in an attempt to burn toxic gases containing 300 parts per million of BTEX chemicals 13,000 micrograms of mercury per cubic metre. The vapors are currently being vented into the atmosphere, exposing workers to health risks.

Geosequestration fails

The stopgap measure to burn the toxic gases is necessary because Chevron has failed to commission its 'geosequestration' facility, which is a condition of approval for the Gorgon project. Chevron says it intended to use the facility to bury a cocktail of other toxic material under the island, despite there being no provision for this in the project approval. Environment Minister Stephen Dawson has triggered a review of Chevron's unmet conditions almost a year ago, however despite this, Chevron has been allowed to continue deferring the start date for meeting its conditions.

Conservation Council of WA (CCWA) Director Piers Versteegen said the State Government had failed to hold Chevron to its approval conditions, and this has consequences for the health of both workers and wildlife on Barrow Island.

- Documents reveal Chevron's ongoing failure to meet pollution control conditions on Barrow Island is exposing workers to toxic chemicals, including BTEX chemicals and mercury
- The company admits that stopgap measures to burn the toxic gases will not solve the problem
- Chevron has been repeatedly allowed to delay meeting its pollution control commitments, despite a review being called by the Minister for the Environment
- Chevron is WA's biggest polluter and its WA LNG operations have been the main driver of Australia's increasing carbon pollution over the last 18 months
- Chevron pays no tax or royalties for the gas it is exporting, despite its WA operations earning the company \$32 million dollars per day in clear profits

"The lack of action to address Chevron's ongoing non-compliance is not only causing millions of tonnes of additional carbon pollution, but has now been revealed to have direct consequences for the health of workers who are being exposed to a carcinogenic cocktail of BTEX and mercury vapours on Barrow Island.

Burning gas makes pollution worse

"By the company's own admission, Chevron's latest stopgap measure to burn toxic gases will not reduce workers exposure to toxic mercury, and will only make the Company's already appalling carbon pollution issue worse.

"The documents released today are an embarrassment to Chevron and the State Government regulator. They reveal that the company has no intention or ability to comply with its pollution control conditions any time soon, and instead is scrambling to employ stopgap measures which won't solve the problem.

"It is time WA's biggest polluter is held to account. Minister Dawson commissioned a review almost a year ago, yet there has been no concrete action to address Chevron's ongoing refusal to comply with its conditions of approval.

"Chevron's conditions of approval require the company to capture and bury carbon pollution underground, and a separate DWER-approved pollution abatement plan relies on this same method for disposal of other toxic gases. Despite this, the company is yet to even apply for the license it requires to operate the pollution control equipment that taxpayers help pay for on Barrow Island.



Chevron's toxic Gorgon plant on Barrow Island, viewed in Google Earth.

"Chevron's pollution is getting beyond a joke. The company is being allowed to expose workers and wildlife to toxic chemicals and release millions of tons of greenhouse gases with no sign of when it will be made to comply with its approval conditions.

"Chevron's WA operations are making the company \$32 million dollars per day in clear profits, while the company pays no tax and no royalties for the gas it exports. Addressing its carbon pollution by investing in tree planting, renewable energy and carbon farming would cost the company less than 2% of these profits and deliver thousands of new jobs for West Australians.

"It is a disgrace and an embarrassment that instead this company is being allowed to get away with ignoring its conditions of approval, poisoning its own workers, and destroying our future by making climate change worse.

"If Chevron cannot immediately address its pollution problems then operations at the Barrow Island LNG facility should be suspended until the problems are fixed."

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



Climate action to save \$130 billion per year

Unless national action is taken to meet the Paris Target to limit global warming to less than 2 degrees, Australia's GDP faces a hit of an average of \$130 billion per year according to a new briefing note by The Australia Institute.

The analysis released this week by the Canberra-based think tank shows that the current climate debate is largely missing three key points:

- The cost of inaction on climate change is huge – Australia's GDP would average \$130 billion per year lower if the Paris Agreement is not achieved according to a prominent study.
- Under the carbon price period, Australia successfully reduced emissions by 2% while the economy grew by 5%.
- Economic literature suggests the economic impacts of climate policy will be minor.

"As an economist, it is hard to understand why policymakers are ignoring Australia's own recent history in climate policy and the clear costs imposed by climate change," said Rod Campbell, Research Director at The Australia Institute.

"Australians have seen first-hand how emissions reduction and economic growth are possible at the same time – as a nation Australia experienced this very phenomenon five years ago.

"For political leaders to suggest we now need economic modelling to tell

us whether this is indeed possible after all is a furphy.

"In just two years Australia reduced emissions by 2% and grew the economy by 5% under a carbon price and the sky did not fall in. In fact, employment grew by 200,000 jobs.

"Analysts cannot claim to base their work on the likes of Lord Nicholas Stern or Professor Joseph Stiglitz and then ignore the conclusions drawn by those very same pieces of research.

"Nicholas Stern's own conclusion was that "the benefits of strong and early action far outweigh the economic costs of not acting [on climate change]."

"Similarly, consultant Brian Fisher cites a study that estimates climate costs to Australia of \$130 billion per year, but ignores the conclusion of that very same study."



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

Inside the news

Almost five years ago, on May 15, 2014, the **Bentley Blockade** triumphed over **Metgasco's plans** to produce coal seam gas (CSG) in the Northern Rivers of NSW.

The blockade was compared with Bob Brown's campaign to save Tasmania's Franklin River – a vital victory in Australia's environmental history.

At the time of the Bentley Blockade, the local daily newspaper – *The Northern Star* – was owned by Australian Provincial Newspapers (APN). It was regarded as a conservative paper, but soon supported community sentiment at the time, that CSG was an environmental hazard which had no social licence in the area.

FFB wonders how much more difficult the anti-CSG campaign would have been had *The Northern Star* been owned by **Rupert Murdoch's News Corp**, as it has been since 2016.

When viewing News Corp's current fanatical campaign to support the **Adani mine**, it is obvious that if the Bentley Blockade was in progress today, the local newspaper would have had orders from above to support Metgasco and CSG.

It would have vilified activists and spread misinformation about the supposed benefits of a local gas industry.

And as it also owns all but one of the weekly community newspapers in the Northern Rivers, they would have played the same tune.

Earlier this week, as it reported on the Bob Brown Stop Adani Convoy's rally at Mullumbimby, further back in its pages *The Northern Star* obediently printed a diatribe from Murdoch-employed Fostel commentator, Paul Murray.

Murray slammed the convoy for 'religious zeal' and was outraged that Queenslanders were being told what they should be allowed to do for work. He praised a Clermont publican for refusing to serve convoy members.

Imagine the vicious junk the *Star* may have been instructed to print during the Bentley Blockade. A sobering thought.

In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 37,000 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links to view original articles.](#) (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.news.com.au/national/breaking-news/adani-did-not-accept-key-scientific-advice/news-story/aa2eef1b-496ca1d14eeb80c7b8f4bb8c>

Adani did not accept key scientific advice

Katina Curtis & Rebecca Gredley, AAP, News.com, 18/04/2019

Indian mining company Adani didn't accept expert scientific advice on how to limit the environmental impact of its Carmichael coal mine, documents have revealed. ...

Documents from Geoscience Australia, released under Freedom of Information, show Adani did not accept key advice and recommendations for its groundwater plan.

The company refused to acknowledge the model used to determine the Carmichael coal mine's impact was not fit for purpose and that a new model might show the mine would breach environmental approvals, notes from three Geoscience Australia executives taken during a briefing from the environment department on April 5 show. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/federal-election-2019/adani-no-saviour-of-india-s-poor-despite-the-rhetoric-20190418-p51fcy.html>

Adani no saviour of India's poor, despite the rhetoric

Dhanya Mani, SMH, 19/04/2019

I was surprised this week to hear Coalition MP Michelle Landry come up with a new argument in favour of the Adani coal mine that is to be located in her electorate of Capricornia.

Landry argued that profits from the Adani coal mine would be "going to hundreds of millions of Indians who do not have electricity ... this is about women and families that are cooking over open fires in huts. They are burning cow dung. There is little ventilation in those huts." ...

Adani isn't [saving the poor]. It's just hurting them. Mumbai – the only place Adani is an electricity provider in India – experienced a 50% increase in its electricity bills after Adani took over.

The poor are also the collateral of Adani's ongoing expansion. Sixteen residents of four villages recently



An Adani-aligned group with a Facebook page – Don't Go Cold on Coal – and advertising material including corflute signs and cars with logos – is making appearances at Stop Adani Convoy events in Queensland.

Photos: Don't Go Cold on Coal, Facebook

filed a motion in the Jharkhand High Court to set aside the government's acquisition of their land (for an Adani project) as fraudulent and illegal. They argue the legally-required consent of 80% of villagers was not obtained. Then there's evidence of Adani's shell companies linked to tax havens, proving later charitable giving seems unlikely.

So, let's be clear on who Landry and Adani are helping. It isn't poor Indian women. Pretty simply, there's no evidence that it's anybody except themselves and their bottom line.

• Dhanya Mani is a member of the Liberal Party.

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/apr/18/briefing-notes-show-coalition-approved-adani-water-plan-despite-knowing-of-risk>

Briefing notes show Coalition approved Adani water plan despite knowing of risk

Ben Smees, The Guardian, 18/04/2019

The federal government approved groundwater plans for the Adani coal project despite acknowledging the risk that the project would breach environmental approvals and draw excessive water from an ancient springs complex. ...

The Environmental Defender's Office Queensland says it has been asked by community clients to examine the issue, and that the revelations strengthen the legal case for a judicial review of Price's approval. ...

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

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/aussies-back-coal-mining-but-not-adani/news-story/e8fa25dcd014d2d8fb6a74ad26085a98>

Aussies back coal mining but not Adani

Matthew Killoran, *Courier-Mail*, 20/04/2019

Activists have tarnished Adani's name to the extent that while half of Australians back coal mining, this support plummets to just 31% when the company's name is mentioned, shock new polling reveals. ...

While Labor is often criticised for saying "one thing about Adani in north Queensland and another in Melbourne", polling has shown there is virtually no difference between the two state's opinions on the coal mining project.

It showed 51% of Queenslanders and 50% of Victorians support coal mining in Australia, while 37% of Queenslanders backed the development of Adani, compared to 32% in the southern state. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/leaders-sign-pledge-to-support-adani/news-story/9b21f2682d76a3598a063e1627d6f3ab>

Leaders sign pledge to support Adani

Madura McCormack, *Townsville Bulletin*, 20/04/2019

Business leaders in Townsville, Mackay, and Rockhampton banded together to call on all elected representatives and political candidates to step up for the region and make clear their position on mining in the Galilee Basin.

Politicians have until April 26 to sign the pledge.

[Those who have signed include] Herbert MP Cathy. LNP candidate for Herbert Phil Thompson, KAP candidate for Herbert Nanette Radeck, [and Townsville] Mayor Jenny Hill.

Greens candidate for Herbert Sam Blackadder said he would not be signing the pledge.

"We are not against mining but we are against new thermal coal mines," he said.

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/queensland/welcome-to-queensland-bill-hope-you-survive-the-experience/news-story/7def441bb1fefad35de2fea789a93993>

Welcome to Queensland Bill, hope you survive the experience

Matthew Killoran, *Courier-Mail*, 19/04/2019

Queenslanders back coal and don't want to pay more for groceries, fuel or power to cut carbon pollution as cost of living pressures bite, revealing new polling shows.

It is a stark message for Opposition leader Bill Shorten who touches down in the Sunshine State tomorrow as Labor comes under fire for its confused position on Adani and the lack of detail around his climate policy. ...

The findings were revealed in *The Courier-Mail* YouGov-Galaxy poll, which has been one of the most extensive political surveys conducted. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/adani-sues-activists-for-blocking-coal-trains/news-story/1b2f1cd194548b91b69fae15bd4a2d0e>

Adani sues activists for blocking coal trains

Vanda Carson, *Sunday Mail (Qld)*, 21/04/2019

Militant anti-Adani protesters say they are facing possible bankruptcy in a landmark lawsuit which could make them personally responsible for the financial fallout of blocking coal trains.

The case in the Supreme Court in Brisbane has unmasked a handful of activists who have boasted about their dangerous stunts, which have brought a freight business to a standstill for days and cost millions in lost time.

Four of the five activists, who have now been joined as party to the action brought by stockmarket-listed Aurizon, are from Brisbane and interstate and travelled hundreds of kilometres to interfere with the rail line which connects to the Abbot Point terminal, north of Bowen. ...

The anti-coal campaign allegedly began with a train stoppage on October 30 and Front Line Action on Coal Inc (FLAC) planned to run disruptions until "mid-December" 2018, the court heard. The blockages planned by FLAC have ceased because on December 4 last year, FLAC agreed to an undertaking to not "procure, incite or counsel any person to" interfere with Aurizon trains or enter any rail corridor and specifically the Brisbane, Blackwater, Newlands, Goonyella or Moura rail corridors until the case was heard. ...

• *FFB Editor's note: The headline here is misleading, as it's Aurizon suing the activists. No doubt encouraged by Adani.*

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/anti-adani-convoy-heads-north-from-sydney-20190420-p51fvc.html>

Anti-Adani convoy heads north from Sydney

By Dominica Sanda, *SMH*, 20/04/2019

Up to 1000 people have joined an anti-Adani rally in Sydney's west as part of a convoy travelling north to protest against the proposed coalmine.

The convoy, spearheaded by veteran conservationist Bob Brown, includes electric vehicles and 180 cars which stopped in Parramatta in Sydney's west on Saturday as part of its two-week campaign up Australia's east coast.

The Parramatta rally was attended by up to 1000 people ahead of the convoy's journey north to Coffs Harbour. ...

<https://www.echo.net.au/2019/04/bob-convoy-stop-adani-mullum>

Bob and the convoy stop Adani in Mullum

Echonet Daily, 22/04/2019

Over 3,000 people packed into the Mullumbimby showgrounds yesterday to show support for Bob Brown and the Stop Adani Convoy which left Tasmania last week.

The rain which had been falling for days, magically stopped for a man some call Saint Bob, who is leading the charge to the Galilee Basin. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/media/time-for-bob-browns-environmentalists-to-tell-the-truth-about-adani-coal/news-story/1484fa97e55494be47069ac7422e14e9>

Time for Bob Brown's environmentalists to tell the truth about Adani coal

Chris Mitchell, *The Australian*, 22/04/2019

Environmentalists don't have to tell the truth or support logical policies to get media backing from the ABC and the Nine newspapers, which have been campaigning against the Adani coal mine in central Queensland for years. ...

Once the Left of politics used to care about workers' jobs here and for the poor in India. Now not so much. More than 90 per cent of India's villages have no access to electricity. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/hands-off-adani-militant-mining-union-tells-shorten/news-story/3a5fed78d8b2e3798cccd3aebc864e>

Hands off Adani, militant mining union tells Shorten

Greg Brown, *The Australian*, 22/04/2019

The mining union has warned Bill Shorten against taking any action that could jeopardise the Adani coalmine ahead of a campaign stop today in north Queensland where the issue threatens to cost Labor the Townsville-based seat of Herbert.

The Construction Forestry Maritime Mining and Energy Union warning comes as Labor headquarters appears open to the prospect of revisiting the Adani approval process as it questions

whether Environment Minister Melissa Price gave the mine a green light after being bullied by colleagues. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/bob-browns-mob-of-revolting-protesters-liken-coal-mines-to-gas-chambers/news-story/bc280000c6ca540cf69539de4b10a041>

Bob Brown's mob of revolting protesters liken coal mines to gas chambers

Renee Viellaris, *Courier-Mail*, 22/04/2019

Militant anti-Adani activists supporting the Bob Brown-led convoy have compared Queensland coal miners to Nazis who exterminated millions of Jews in gas chambers during the Holocaust. ...

The *Courier-Mail* revealed last week residents in Clermont, which is the closest community to the Adani mine, will refuse to serve anti-Adani activists who will descend in their tiny town this Saturday and camp in their show grounds. ...

A private Facebook group called the Stop Adani Convoy, which shows the Bob Brown Foundation logo, has posted a number of repugnant messages in response, targeting Queenslanders, coal miners and Clermont residents, and arguing miners could re-skill into hemp industries.

One wrote, "all of us will be faced with this dilemma, a job or the future," to which a user named Ringo Dingo responded, "There were jobs for locals in the gas chambers in Nazi Germany too. There is such things as a bad job". ...

After Dr Brown was contacted about the Nazi comment, The *Courier-Mail* was told it would be removed.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-pulls-the-welcome-mat-on-antiadani-protesters/news-story/278cfbddcc8bb268a660f4a75d722a18>

Queensland pulls the welcome mat on anti-Adani protesters

Renee Viellaris, *Courier-Mail*, 22/04/2019

Dear Dr Bob Brown and your anti-Adani convoy, welcome to Queensland, the best state in Australia, and home to the biggest selling newspapers in the state, *The Courier-Mail* and *The Sunday Mail*.

The weather is great and usually the people are just as warm. But Queenslanders are also frank.

On Thursday, we published a front-page story about residents in Clermont telling you and your convoy to turn back because they are pro-Adani and desperate for jobs.



The Courier-Mail's inflammatory coverage of Bob Brown's Stop Adani Convoy on April 22. The newspaper continues daily tirades against the convoy.

Your foundation responded by putting out a press release labelling me an "activist journalist" and inevitably taking a swipe at *The Courier-Mail*. ...

<https://www.9news.com.au/national/news-australia-scott-morrison-lashes-keyboard-warrior-anti-adani-protesters-over-nazi-comments/ff412023-bc17-47d3-9f7f-93885ead7e54>

Scott Morrison lashes 'keyboard warrior' anti-Adani protesters over Nazi comments

Luke Cooper, *9News*, 22/04/2019

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has lashed out at anti-Adani coal mine protesters who likened working for the Indian multinational business group to being an employee of the Nazis. ...

"What I find appalling about that is it's not an isolated view among a lot of those protesters. Go and look at their social media contributions, you see a fair bit of that." ...

It comes after News Corp yesterday reported one of his supporters had posted remarks comparing workers to Nazis during the Holocaust in a private Facebook group. ...

Mr Brown said he told the reporter prior to publication that he absolutely repudiated such comments, and they had been taken down.

"I hold the Murdoch media responsible for any harmful outcome of this reportage," Mr Brown said.

"The hate media works by attacking those it disagrees with when it cannot fairly meet their point of view, especially where ethics like those of the

worsening global climate emergency, are involved." ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/opinion/india-poor-wont-benefit-from-adanis-carmichael-mine/news-story/ff42e72fe9bd4f82ee5c25c1248708>

India's poor won't benefit from Adani's Carmichael Mine

Charles Worringham, *Courier-Mail*, 22/04/2019

Anyone who travels outside India's cities can witness signs of rural distress and ... seeing people cook over open fires or using kerosene lamps. It's a big leap, though, to imply that Australian thermal coal is the solution to energy poverty in India. ...

I've visited solar microgrids in rural Uttar Pradesh, seen wind farms in Karnataka, attended energy access and development summits, heard from leading scientists and engineers and watched more trains hauling coal from Jharkhand and Odisha than you can shake a stick at.

India, despite its current appetite for coal, is undergoing an energy transition and tracking the numbers from their National Load Dispatch Centre and Central Electricity Authority tells the story. ... Of the millions who still have no power in states such as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, home to about 300 million people, many still have no grid connection despite real progress in rural electrification (only 10 per cent of households must be connected for a village to count as "electrified"). More coal wouldn't help them one bit.

For these families, solar and battery micro-grids can provide reliable power on a pay-as-you-go basis, and they increasingly support income-producing activity such as efficient milling machines or refrigeration. ...

• *Charles Worringham edits the not-for-profit India Power Review website and is a former spokesman for Queensland Greens*

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/opinion/lets-keep-adani-protests-peaceful-as-bob-browns-convoy-heads-north/news-story/da816dee4e2b49f43da715c007fd5fe8>

Let's keep Adani protests peaceful as Bob Brown's convoy heads north

The Editor, Courier-Mail, 22/04/2019

It will be interesting to see if the convoy heading to central Queensland to protest against the Adani mine west of Moranbah can swell in size from the 1000 who had gathered by the time the group arrived in Brisbane yesterday, and if they can rekindle the anti-development sentiment seen in Tasmania 36 years ago. ...

There is every chance inflamed emotions will erupt when the ragtag anti-mine mob – mostly from prosperous inner-city suburbs in southern capitals – reach the mine. Businesses in Clermont – the last central Queensland town the protesters will pass through on their way to the mine site – have ripped up the welcome mat, saying the environmentalists will not be served and will be shunned when they arrive. ...

At the same time, local businesses in places such as Clermont can serve or not serve whomever they like, but they also should follow the tenets of non-violence and be content to make their views known without disrupting the activities of those in the convoy aggressively. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/federal-election-2019/can-you-hear-the-thunder-senator-s-bluster-on-adani-20190420-p51ft3.html>

Can you hear the thunder? Senator's bluster on Adani

Peter FitzSimons, SMH, 21/04/2019

My question didn't get through on Q&A, so I'll ask it here. I refer to the appearance of the Queensland LNP senator James McGrath and how truly shocked he was that donations from the Adani coal-mining mob might affect LNP policies.

"I want to address that," the good Senator thundered. "I'm outraged, I'm actually outraged about that. It is actually offensive for any politician on this panel or anywhere to say that the

Liberal National Party or people who support the Liberal National Party are taking policy positions based on donations. That is actually offensive and it is wrong."

So here's the question, Senator. What's in it for Adani to make the donation, then? If it won't affect LNP policy one way or another, why would a corporation give any money at all? I am genuinely interested in your answer. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/apr/22/bob-brown-accuses-news-corp-of-disgraceful-coverage-of-stop-adani-convoy>

Bob Brown accuses News Corp of 'disgraceful' coverage of Stop Adani convoy

Ben Smees, The Guardian, 22/04/2019

The conservationist and former federal Greens leader Bob Brown delivered a broadside at "disgraceful" coverage in News Corp newspapers as his Stop Adani convoy arrived in Queensland to fervour among activists and stoushes in the local press.

About 5,000 people joined Brown at a rally in the Brisbane central business district on Wednesday afternoon, protesting against the proposed Carmichael coalmine.

But Brown, whose Stop Adani convoy resembles its own mini election campaign, has attracted the ire of News Corp's Brisbane masthead, the *Courier-Mail*. ...

Brown said ... "Some of the headlines in the Murdoch media are simply disgraceful. They're a disgrace to journalism and they're a disgrace to the fourth estate's responsibility for fair and balanced journalism in this biggest debate facing humanity," ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/bill-shorten-has-no-plans-to-send-back-adani-mine-approvals/news-story/4d7a8f2827249c28eb2c48fe58202b09>

Bill Shorten has no plans to send back Adani mine approvals

Jack McKay, Courier-Mail, 22/04/2019

Bill Shorten has refused to rule out reviewing key Adani mine approvals signed off by Environment Minister Melissa Price just days before the election was called.

Speaking in Cairns this afternoon, the Opposition Leader said there was currently "no plan" to send the approvals back to the drawing board if Labor wins power on May 18.

Despite repeated questions from reporters, Mr Shorten refused to be

drawn into the issue. ... "If I'm Prime Minister, I'm going to be governed by the law.

"I'm not going to be governed by either a mining company or an environmental activist.

"I'm not in that caravan coming from the south." ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/police-block-streets-as-4000-people-attend-brisbane-rally-protesting-adani-mine/news-story/f61cd0a5ee792fc583c157384f1197e>

Police block streets as 4000 people attend Brisbane rally protesting Adani mine

Domanii Cameron, Courier-Mail, 23/04/2019

Thousands of people have flooded Brisbane's CBD to protest Adani in a massive rally ... Police blocked off several streets yesterday as activists marched from Queens Gardens to Adani's Brisbane headquarters opposite Eagle Street Pier.

Former Greens leader Bob Brown told cheering crowds he thought there were 4000 people taking part in the march. ...

Mr Brown yesterday dismissed comments that activists in the convoy were "blow-ins".

"This year: floods in Townsville, homes washed away, people died, bushfires in Tasmania," he said.

"Are you going to pay for that Guatam Adani? Will you sign up to responsibility for that Scott Morrison? Will you get off the fence ... Bill Shorten?

"This is the single biggest election gathering so far in this crucial 2019 election anywhere in Australia because we register that there is a climate emergency." ...

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/exclusive-facebook-re-moves-illegal-pro-adani-social-media-advertising>

Facebook removes illegal pro-Adani social media advertising

Jarni Blakkarly, SBS, 23/04/2019

SBS News can reveal the Australian Election Commission has requested Facebook and Twitter take down political advertising from a group called 'Unemployed in QLD' after SBS News made the commission aware of the unauthorised advertising.

Advertisements seen by SBS News accused Labor Deputy Leader Tanya Plibersek of not caring about unemployment in the state due to her criticism of Adani.

The election has highlighted the murky waters around social media advertising. ...

The anonymous 'Unemployed in QLD' Facebook page has 1800 followers and the corresponding Twitter account has 1600 followers.

Both of Unemployed in QLD's social media accounts regularly post anti-Labor party posts and are supportive of the controversial Adani coal mine. ...

The Australian Electoral Commission told SBS News that Facebook had blocked and taken down paid ads from the page after being alerted to them.

Dr Stephen Dann from the Australian National University said the Electoral Commission's monitoring of political advertising authorisation was one of the most important jobs of the commission. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/traditional-owners-blast-bob-browns-coalmine-protest/news-story/7c8931388ca75583824cb5ba64a03642>

Traditional owners blast Bob Brown's coalmine protest

Jared Owens, The Australian, 24/04/2019

Traditional owners on the land slated for Adani's coalmine have blasted former federal Greens leader Bob Brown as a modern-day Captain Cook, as his protest convoy prepares to roll on to their ancient lands without their consent. ...

Les Tilley, a W&J native title claimant, criticised Dr Brown for not seeking permission from elders. "I kind of liken him to Captain Cook, you know? He's coming to our country, but he hasn't asked permission to walk on our country," Mr Tilley said. ...

The Bob Brown Foundation's Stop Adani convoy is supported by a minority faction of W&J people who are challenging the land-use agreement — endorsed by 294 of 295 clan members in the 2016 vote — as illegitimate.

The foundation said it approached this splinter group, the W&J Family Council, "as it encompasses the families that make up the claim group and is self-determined".

"Adrian Burragubba was consulted on the rightful primary traditional owners and we sought an invitation to be on Wangan Country," a spokesman said. ...

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/6079863/environmentalists-say-department-bosses-must-go>

Environmental groups call for change in department over Adani concerns

Finbar O'Mallon, Canberra Times, 23/04/2019

Environmental groups are calling for a change in the federal environment department's leadership.

Wilderness Society federal policy director Tim Beshara and the Australian Conservation Foundation's anti-Adani campaigner Christian Slattery said executive change at the Department of Environment and Energy was needed to restore public confidence.

It follows reports the department asked the CSIRO and Geoscience Australia to give formal assurances to the government that Adani's environment commitments for its Carmichael mine were up to scratch. ...

Wilderness Society federal policy director Tim Beshara said ... the department's charter had seemingly shifted from applying the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act to helping industry minimise their interaction with it. ...

Adani has remained mute on comments made on Liberal MP Michelle Landry's Facebook site stating: 'Is it too early to start culling the green activist herd... I really believe we would benefit from shooting a thousand or so.'

These comments have now been referred to the Australian Federal Police for investigation.

Meanwhile the News Limited media have continued their attack on those who oppose the mine.

The Courier Mail today printed a call for power to be cut off from the Clermont Showground where the convoy will be camped next weekend. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/crime-and-justice/adanis-bid-to-bankrupt-traditional-owner-to-hit-court-before-election/news-story/046f35a50fef4c0e15051fb5500fa0c0>

Adani's bid to bankrupt traditional owner to hit court before election

Vanda Carson, Courier-Mail, 24/04/2019

Indian mining giant Adani's bid to bankrupt a traditional land owner who fought to stop its \$2 billion Carmichael mine in the courts will be heard next month, three days before the Federal election.

The Adani Mining case against Wangan and Jagalingou traditional owner and lead spokesman Adrian Burragubba,

from Woolloongabba, was briefly mentioned in the Federal Court in Brisbane this morning before Registrar Michael Buckingham.

The case was adjourned for hearing on May 15 ... The company alleges that Mr Burragubba owes them \$637,960 after the Federal Court and the Court of Appeal ordered he pay legal costs of failed fights against the miner.

Outside court Adani has previously been reported as saying it will donate the cash to charity.

<https://www.smh.com.au/federal-election-2019/sally-mcmanus-refuses-to-back-adani-coal-mine-20190424-p51gsh.html>

Sally McManus refuses to back Adani coal mine

Sumeyya Ilanbey & Dana McCauley, SMH, 24/04/2019

Australia's top union leader has hedged on whether the Adani coal mine should be approved, putting her at odds with Queensland workers campaigning for the controversial project to go ahead.

Australian Council of Trade Unions secretary Sally McManus said she would not sign a pledge being circulated by the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union outlining support for coal jobs.

"We're not a political party, we're the ACTU," Ms McManus told The Sydney Morning Herald and The Age on Wednesday.

Ms McManus ... said it was ACTU policy to not take a position on "individual projects" ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/rendezview/coal-miners-and-farmers-were-not-so-different/news-story/9c6ccfac1d8bb90b8963611a440491e3>

Coal miners and farmers – we're not so different

Bruce Currie, Courier-Mail, 24/04/2019

As the anti-Adani convoy winds its way north from Hobart, I'm calling on farming and coal mining families to come together around a new vision for the future of our region.

I'm a second-generation grazier near Jericho, two hours away from Adani's proposed Carmichael coal mine, but I also understand the fears of the many families in my region who rely economically on mining. ...

Coal miners and farmers, we're not so different. We've all been subject to government neglect, soul-destroying droughts; baking heatwaves, and

heartbreaking floodwaters which swept away homes, cattle, fences and livelihoods last summer. ...

Sunrise industries like renewable energy, agriculture, value adding, electric vehicles, and energy efficiency ... offer Queensland an exciting alternate vision for the future.

This is a region bursting at the seams with the engineering, mining, and technical skills that will be needed in these industries. It's time we seized these opportunities and reclaimed our future. ...

Together let's take proper stock of the options on the table and demand integrity and transparency from our politicians and ensure that they back us (not the global mining giants) to build a bright future for our region.

• *Bruce Currie is a Jericho grazier and member of Farmers for Climate Action.*

<https://www.theage.com.au/politics/queensland/greens-push-to-ban-adani-one-step-closer-to-failure-20190423-p51gcs.html>

Greens' push to ban Adani one step closer to failure

Felicity Caldwell, The Age, 24/04/2019

An optimistic Greens push to ban coal mining in the Galilee Basin, including the controversial Adani mine, has moved another step closer to failure.

A Queensland parliamentary committee has recommended Greens MP Michael Berkman's private member's bill, which would ban the granting of coal mining leases in the Galilee Basin and tear up any existing leases, not be passed.

Both Labor and the LNP were highly unlikely to support the proposal, which would also have affected the planned Adani Carmichael mine. ...

Queensland Resources Council chief executive Ian Macfarlane urged all MPs to vote against the bill.

"This sort of bumper sticker legislation is dangerous," he said. ...

<https://www.star1063.com.au/news/local-news/139188-adani-activists-launch-protest-ival-climate-code-red>

Adani Activists Launch Protest-ival 'Climate Code Red'

Star 106.3 Radio, 24/04/2019

Activists based near the Central Queensland Adani mine site have launched a month long "Protestival", named ReAct, which kicked off on Good Friday. The event comes as the Bob Brown Convoy heads north, and in

the wake of Environment Minister Melissa Price's rushed approval of Adani's groundwater management plan.

The 'Protestival', located strategically between Adani's coal export facility Abbot Point and the proposed mine site, will run from April 19 right up until election results are announced on May 19. The month-long event will include music, art, activist trainings and community actions to stop the mine. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/undercover-cops-on-antiadani-convoy-as-tensions-rise/news-story/f9908b9745336890d75f6d8ab344667>

Undercover cops on anti-Adani convoy as tensions rise

Renee Viellaris, Courier-Mail, 26/04/2019

Police are secretly travelling with the Bob Brown-led anti-Adani convoy heading to Clermont as pro-mining supporters prepare for their own counter protest.

Tension is mounting in Central Queensland as locals prepare for anti-Adani protesters to arrive in Airlie Beach today before heading to Mackay and then Clermont, the closest town to the controversial coal mine.

A number of community-led Facebook pages have now been set up to peacefully rally against the protesters, including one called "Protest Against the Protesters".

Separately, a pro-Adani meeting is expected to be held tomorrow outside of the Office of Deputy Premier Jackie Trad.

"The convoy plans to impose itself on the Clermont Community this weekend ... (and) we invite you who have the time to join with us and help protect our community, our lifestyle and our futures in a peaceful protest against these self righteous fools," the Facebook page says. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/opinion/adani-convoy-attacks-regional-queenslands-history-life-style-and-future/news-story/04387f35b135315dcd948d7ea45cebb>

Adani convoy attacks regional Queensland's history, lifestyle and future

Anne Baker, Courier-Mail, 26/04/2019

While in every sense Isaac Regional Council has sought to be a voice of reason, make no mistake, Bob Brown's Stop Adani Convoy is an absolute affront to the proud resource communities of Queensland.

The convoy represents an attack on our history. An attack on our lifestyle.

An attack on our very future. It is, in a word, offensive...

Council is allowing the convoy to use our local showground because it minimises the impact of their presence on our community. ...

• *Anne Baker is mayor of Isaac Regional Council*

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.muswellbrookchronicle.com.au/story/6088107/muswellbrook-council-ordered-to-pay-legal-costs-after-failed-rehab-bid/>

A Land and Environment Court judge has rejected Muswellbrook Council's argument on expensive case

Joanne McCarthy, Muswellbrook Chronicle, 24/05/2019

Muswellbrook Shire Council has been ordered to pay the Department of Planning and BHP's legal costs after its failed bid to improve rehabilitation of the Mount Arthur coal mine.

Land and Environment Court Justice John Robson last week ordered the council to pay the costs for the original hearing of the rehabilitation issue in 2018, and the council's recent application to have the department and BHP pay their own legal costs.

Justice Robson found while the council harboured a "genuine concern" rehabilitation of the massive mine site near Muswellbrook town was not being conducted appropriately, the public interest issue was not significant enough to warrant relieving the council of paying all legal costs after it lost the case. ...

OIL & GAS LEAKS

<https://www.watoday.com.au/national/western-australia/doctors-very-worried-at-chevron-venting-toxic-chemicals-at-gorgon-20190419-p51foy.html>

Doctors 'very worried' at Chevron venting toxic chemicals at Gorgon

Emma Young, WA Today, 20/04/2019

The West Australian Premier has defended Chevron's actions following revelations that continuing failure of the carbon storage facility at its Gorgon LNG project in the Pilbara exposed workers to toxic chemicals.

But Doctors for the Environment Australia called the news "startling ... very, very worrying", and called for immediate state government action and a Health Department referral.

Since beginning operations at Barrow Island, 85 kilometres off the north-west coast, Chevron has failed to commission the facility that was to



The Chevron Gorgon project on Barrow Island, WA. Photo: Chevron

bury carbon pollution underground to comply with the conditions of its environmental approval. ...

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/too-big-to-fail-too-arrogant-to-care-gorgon-gas-venting-provokes-union-attack-20190423-p51gik.html>

'Too big to fail, too arrogant to care': Gorgon gas venting provokes union attack

Emma Young, *The Age*, 24/04/2019

The country's peak energy union has attacked the West Australian Premier's response to concerns over worker health at Chevron's Gorgon project, saying "our state is being taken for a ride by a tax-avoiding multinational corporation ... with the complicity of our own government." ...

Chevron's original approval for the gas plant at Barrow Island off the state's Pilbara coast was given on condition it inject carbon pollution underground into a storage facility.

It was revealed last week that Chevron's continuing failure to get this working had not only released millions of tonnes of carbon pollution into the atmosphere but also exposed workers to toxic chemicals. ...

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation flagged "health and safety concerns" in issuing an approval to allow Chevron to 'flare' the vapours further from workers for up to 12 months as a stop-gap measure, which, however, does not lessen the quantity of mercury being released. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/apr/21/australia-will-pay-back-timor-lestes-oil-revenue-jose-ramos-horta-says>

Australia will pay back Timor-Leste's oil revenue, Jose Ramos-Horta says

Helen Davidson, *The Guardian*, 21/04/2019

Jose Ramos-Horta, the former president of Timor-Leste and Nobel laureate, says he believes Australia will reimburse "every cent it wrongly received" after the countries signed a maritime border treaty last year.

His comments are in response to revelations in *Guardian Australia* that the Australian government was taking millions of dollars a month in oil revenue which should belong to Timor-Leste because it hasn't ratified the treaty.

Both major parties have been called on to make a pre-election commitment to repay the money – estimated to be more than \$100m. ...

The Labor party, which is currently considered likely to win next month's election, has ignored multiple requests for their stance on repayment and on a timeline for ratification. The Coalition government's foreign minister has previously provided comment but not responded to queries about repayment.

<https://www.chinchillanews.com.au/news/qld-gas-delivers-jobs-after-sealing-supply-contract/3705162/?fbclid=IwAR0kp7ODmLsGppqhs1aGWkv3lynnjdHTnnMLjub0qJG-yzlupuCqxa8Bw4A>

Qld gas delivers jobs after sealing supply contract

Chinchilla News, 18/04/2019

Southwest Queensland natural gas from Senex Energy's Project Atlas will fuel more than 200 Queensland

manufacturing jobs in a national first. Mines and Energy Minister Anthony Lynham yesterday congratulated gas producer Senex on sealing the first supply contract from Project Atlas with southeast Queensland manufacturer CSR Limited.

In an Australian first, Project Atlas in the Surat Basin is delivering Queensland gas quarantined for sale to the Australian market only. Senex expects production later this year. ... Gas from Senex's wells will be compressed at a Jemena processing plant and transported in Jemena's pipeline to Wallumbilla.

<https://www.theage.com.au/business/the-economy/from-beetaloo-to-the-bight-the-search-is-on-for-the-next-gas-frontier-20190411-p51d9h.html>

From Beetaloo to the Bight the search is on for the next gas frontier

Cole Latimer, *The Age*, 23/04/2019

The prospect of Australia's east coast suffering gas shortages in as little as five years has prompted calls for new sources of gas but there are no easy roads to fresh supply.

Bans on gas exploration in Victoria and New South Wales and declining gas levels in old fields saw the energy market operator, which controls the grid and flow of gas, warn in March of a 20 petajoule gas shortfall in 2024. ...

It said new sources of gas had to be discovered and states needed to lift bans on onshore exploration to avoid shortages even as the nation has become the world's number one gas exporter.

Unexplored regions like the Northern Territory's Beetaloo and the Great Australian Bight off South Australia's coast have been named as the frontier regions to watch by the industry and [resources minister Matt] Canavan. ...

Early estimates for the Beetaloo's prospect run as high as 6.6 trillion cubic feet of gas: enough to power Australia for about 400 years. ...

The Great Australian Bight is really a wild card ... conditions looked promising but it was still high risk as there was little infrastructure to support development of the region ...

STOP WATER MINING THE NEXT RESOURCES BATTLE



<https://www.kathrinetimes.com.au/story/6087783/bee-taloo-gas-may-be-a-decade-away-explorer-warns/>

Beetaloo gas may be a decade away, explorer warns

Chris McLennan, *Katherine Times*, 24/04/2019

Oil and gas exploration company Blue Energy says it will take 5-10 years before any gas will flow to market from the Beetaloo basin, south of Katherine.

The company welcomed yesterday's announcement by ALP leader Bill Shorten of a \$1.5 billion commitment to build gas pipelines in Queensland and the NT to transport the gas to east coast markets.

The Liberal Party has also made a pledge to fast track development of the Beetaloo. ...

Blue Energy cautioned, however, that any expectation of "immediately available gas" was unrealistic except for the already producing Bowen Basin.

"Environmental and regulatory approvals processes for any totally new gas development, pipeline infrastructure and commissioning requirements for these prospective gas zones, put Basins such as Galilee and Beetaloo years down the track before they actually 'delivered gas' to market," the company said.

Blue Energy said it was the only company with acreage in all three regions - the North Bowen, Galilee and the Beetaloo/Greater McArthur Basins. ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/gas/solution-to-our-east-coast-gas-crisis-is-hard-yards-not-silver-bullets-20190422-p51g5g>

Hard yards, not silver bullets, will fix gas crisis

Matthew Stevens, *AFR*, 22/04/2019

Beyond the supply solutions offered by proposed LNG import facilities in NSW, Victoria and South Australia, there are no silver bullets for the east coast gas crisis beyond finding, appraising and developing big pools of onshore gas. ...

Comet Ridge is one of the next most likely to follow the Senex Energy trail by delivering pools of new Queensland gas to east coast markets.

Comet Ridge and its partners Santos and the APLNG joint venture are closing in on an investment decision that will fulfil the promise of the Mahalo gas project in the southern Bowen Basin of Queensland. ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/labor-s-gas-pipeline-funding-pledge-sparks-manufacturer-hopes-20190423-p51gdj>

Labor's gas pipeline-funding pledge sparks manufacturer hopes

Angela Macdonald-Smith & Tom McIlroy, *AFR*, 23/04/2019

Industrial energy users have seized on Labor's pledge to channel \$1.5 billion of funding towards pipelines to unlock gas resources in the Northern Territory and inland Queensland as a potential lifeline that could save thousands of jobs among manufacturers on the east coast. ...

Some funding would help fast-track development of gas resources lying in the Galilee and Bowen Basins in Queensland, and in the Beetaloo Basin in the NT.

Gas could flow from the Galilee Basin in just two to three years, said Antoon Boey, manager of corporate development at Jemena, which opened an \$800 million gas pipeline from the NT to Queensland early this year and is considering a major expansion.

The Energy Users' Association of Australia, a group that includes BlueScope and Incitec Pivot ... said ideas that accelerate gas into the east coast are "a great step forward". ...

Labor's pipeline plan would be a "game-changer" for Australian manufacturing and save thousands of jobs on the east coast, said Australian Workers' Union national secretary Daniel Walton. ...

But fossil fuel activists oppose Labor's plan, with the Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility's Dan Gocher saying it "makes a mockery" of the ALP's climate commitments.

"In a time of climate crisis, public subsidies for fossil fuels expansion cannot be on the table," Mr Gocher said. ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/oil/glut-forces-lng-producers-to-offer-flexible-deals-20190424-p51gpg>

Glut forces LNG producers to offer flexible deals

Reuters, *AFR*, 24/04/2019

The world's biggest liquefied natural gas producers including Shell, Total and Petronas are increasingly selling from global supply pools instead of dedicated projects as buyers leverage a fuel surplus to force ever more flexible deals.

This marks an accelerated turning from traditional long-term contracts that lock customers into taking regular

volumes from specific projects under oil-linked pricing formulas.

Global oversupply that has pulled spot LNG prices down more than 50 percent over the past half-year has producers succumbing to consumer demands for fuel on shorter notice and without sourcing or destination restrictions. ...

IMPORT INSANITY

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/apr/22/who-opposes-agls-gas-terminal-more-julia-banks-and-greg-hunt-fight-in-flinders>

Who opposes AGL's gas terminal more? Julia Banks and Greg Hunt fight in Flinders

Lisa Cox, *The Guardian*, 22/04/2019

In a few weeks, candidates in the seat of Flinders, on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula, will be asked a single question at a community forum: what will you or your party do about AGL's proposal to develop a floating import gas terminal at Crib Point? ...

Every contender for the seat, including the sitting MP, Greg Hunt, has stated they are opposed to the development, which would moor the LNG terminal at Crib Point, near the port of Hastings.

A 55km pipeline would be built, by APA Group on behalf of AGL, connecting the development with an existing gas pipeline in Pakenham ...

Candidates expressing their opposition is one thing. But locals say they want to know what they actually plan to do about the proposal, which has emerged as a key issue for voters in the suburbs around Western Port bay.

"We understand you're against it, but what will you or your party actually do?," Louise Page asks.

Page is the president of Save Westernport, the community action group hosting the forum. ...

Even the resources minister, Matt Canavan, who has been vocal about mining projects and securing Australia's gas supply, says: "I agree with Minister Hunt that this terminal is a bad idea. ...

"The government is not opposed to import terminals per se, but any proposal must get the support of its local community and this proposal doesn't appear to have that." ...

NUKE MADNESS

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/commentary/no-logic-in-our-nuclear-allergy/news-story/35d9e1c-81497cc94e62b332d54352c34>

No logic in our nuclear allergy

Adam Creighton, The Australian, 23/04/2019

How depressing to see Scott Morrison having to backtrack after making the obvious and sensible remark that nuclear power shouldn't be off the agenda if it stacks up economically.

Labor environment spokesman Tony Burke bristled at the idea that the most reliable and clean form of energy the world knows should even be discussed. "Nuclear power is against the law in Australia," he chirped, as if being the only G20 nation to have such a ban were a good idea.

It's embarrassing to tell people in the US that nuclear energy is banned in Australia. "But don't you export uranium?" "Umm, yes," I say, "but flower power has more adherents than nuclear among Australia's political class." ...

With almost a third of the world's known uranium reserves, you'd think we might try to develop a comparative advantage in nuclear energy. Instead, we'd put these scientists in jail for breaking the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, which outlaws nuclear power here. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-04-26/government-approved-uranium-mine-day-before-election/11047252>

Government approved controversial uranium mine one day before calling the election

Michael Slezak, ABC, 26/04/2019

The Morrison Government signed off on a controversial uranium mine one day before calling the federal election, and did not publicly announce the move until the environment department uploaded the approval document the day before Anzac Day.

The state approval of the proposed mine is still being fought in the state's Supreme Court by members of the Tjiwarl traditional owners.

In 2016, the West Australian Environment Protection Agency advised the mine not be approved, concluding it posed too great a risk of extinction to some native animals.

The former Liberal Barnett government controversially approved the mine in 2017, just weeks before it lost the West Australian election. ...

Canadian company Cameco, the world's largest uranium producer, is seeking to develop the uranium mine, which would cover an area 9km long and 1.5km wide.

It would involve the clearing of up to 2,422 hectares of native vegetation.

It is also approved to cause groundwater levels to drop by 50cm, and they would not completely recover for 200 years, according to Cameco's environmental reports.

Dave Sweeney, an anti-nuclear campaigner at the Australian Conservation Foundation said the timing suggested the decision was political. ...

Over its life, the mine would produce around 36 million tonnes of radioactive waste, which would be stored at the site.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/coalition-go-ahead-for-giant-uranium-mine/news-story/bbc334bf3ff685f3c84e57235006fa7d>

Coalition go-ahead for giant uranium mine

Nick Evans, The Australian, 26/04/2019

Environment Minister Melissa Price signed off on one of Western Australia's most contentious mining projects the day before Scott Morrison called the federal election, setting up a showdown with anti-nuclear and environmental campaigners.

The Australian has learned Ms Price signed the final environmental approval documents allowing the development of the massive Yeelirrie uranium mine on April 10, despite an earlier promise to delay any decision until the WA Supreme Court ruled on the legitimacy of state government approvals over the mine.

Cameco Australia general manager Simon Williamson confirmed the company would not bring Yeelirrie into production until "challenging" conditions on the uranium market lift. ...

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://thewest.com.au/politics/federal-politics/greens-senator-jordan-steele-john-wants-wa-to-move-from-coal-gas-to-renewables-ng-b881170765z>

Greens Senator Jordan Steele-John wants WA to move from coal, gas to renewables

Nick Butterly, West Australian, 17/04/2019

Greens leader Richard Di Natale has been forced to clarify his party's policies after his WA Senate candidate left open suggestions the Greens wanted to shut down the State's gas export sector

by 2030. ... Speaking at the launch of the Greens' jobs policy in Perth, Senator Steele-John was pushed as to how the Greens' plan to have 100 per cent of the nation's energy needs supplied by renewables by 2030 would hit WA's resources sector.

Asked if gas needed to be phased out completely, Senator Steele-John replied: "Absolutely there needs to be an across the board transition to renewable energy." ...

Senator Di Natale stressed that the Greens plan to shift to 100 per cent renewables by 2030 was for domestic energy generation only and the Greens' main emphasis was on ending the use of coal.

He said the Greens wanted to end coal exports by 2030.

"It's about coal. Not gas – I make that point very very clear," Senator Di Natale said. ...

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/election-2019/2019/04/18/bill-shorten-climate-change/>

Election 2019: Shorten slams 'coal-wielding, climate-denying cave-dweller' Morrison

New Daily, 18/04/2019

Labor leader Bill Shorten has launched a full-frontal assault on the "big lie" of News Corp newspapers' "climate change deniers, and their ally, the Prime Minister – a coal-wielding, climate-denying cave-dweller."

Stung by days of questions about the cost of his climate change policy, the Opposition Leader attempted to reset the debate in Darwin on Thursday, accusing media outlets of running a "malicious and stupid scare campaign".

Asked about a report in *The Australian* that businesses might be forced to spend \$25 billion on international carbon credits to meet Labor's emissions reduction targets, Mr Shorten said it was built on "a big lie". ...

"The News Corp climate-change deniers, and their ally, the Prime Minister – a coal-wielding, climate-denying cave-dweller on this issue – they all say, 'Look at the cost', but never mention the cost of extreme weather events, do they?"

"They never mention the cost of not getting into renewables and they never mention energy prices, do they? Energy prices are up 15 per cent." ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/apr/19/extinction-rebellion-activists-stop-coal-train-in-brisbane>

Extinction Rebellion activists stop coal train in Brisbane

AAP, The Guardian, 19/04/2019

One protester is in custody and another was taken to hospital after Extinction Rebellion activists stepped in front of a moving coal train headed for the Port of Brisbane.

The train driver was forced to slam on the emergency brakes after a group of protesters climbed on to the freight tracks in Wynnum on Thursday afternoon, police said. ...

About 2am on Friday, an activist chained herself to a concrete-filled 44-gallon drum placed on the same railway line in Wynnum West. ...

The woman remained locked to the drum until she released herself and surrendered to police about 7am. "She had a low body temperature so Queensland Ambulance took her to the Princess Alexandra hospital," [Police said].

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/northern-australia-infrastructure-facility-to-be-killed-under-labor-leader-bill-shortens-15b-gas-plan/news-story/bdff4eb08cbcc2f29a3705b332340860>

Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility to be killed under Labor leader Bill Shorten's \$1.5b gas plan

Renee Viellaris, Courier-Mail, 23/04/2019

Bill Shorten will kill off the embattled \$5 billion Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility and divert \$1.5 billion to unlock gas reserves in the Galilee Basin.

The Opposition Leader's plan to redirect the funds is in part an overture to the marginal LNP seats of Flynn and Capricornia, which are fighting Labor on the coal wars.

Mr Shorten will honour more than \$1 billion in projects already announced under the NAIF but repurpose about \$3 billion into a new fund. ...

"Labor's Northern Australia Development Fund will provide a financing facility and work with infrastructure Australia to identify and support projects of national economic significance – such as gas pipelines – in Australia's north," Mr Shorten said.

"As part of these changes, up to \$1.5 billion will be set aside to unlock gas supply in Queensland's Galilee and Bowen basins and connecting the Beetaloo to Darwin and the east coast.

"This project would support Darwin as a manufacturing and gas export powerhouse as well as increasing supply to Queensland and the eastern seaboard to put downward pressure on prices for gas users.

"Opening up the Beetaloo alone could provide enough gas to supply the domestic market for up to 400 years." ...

<https://www.afr.com/news/politics/national/labor-to-overhaul-controversial-northern-australia-fund-20190422-p51g94>

Labor to overhaul controversial Northern Australia fund

Tom McLroy, AFR, 23/04/2019

Labor will overhaul the Coalition's signature Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility if it wins next month's election, repurposing the fund for infrastructure with national economic significance – including gas projects.

Five years after the \$5 billion fund was established by the Abbott government and with only \$15 million spent, Labor says the NAIF is one of the Coalition's biggest failures in government.

A Shorten Labor government will rebrand the NAIF as the Northern Australia Development Fund and prioritise \$1.5 billion for projects designed to unlock the gas supply in Queensland's Galilee and Bowen basins. ...

Labor says it will "take into account" all of the Auditor-General's recommendations in the design of the new fund. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/apr/26/labors-support-for-carbon-disaster-in-beetaloo-basin-condemned>

Labor's support for 'carbon disaster' in Beetaloo basin condemned

Helen Davidson, The Guardian, 26/04/2019

Labor's support for unlocking the gas supply from the Northern Territory's Beetaloo basin has drawn the anger of environmental groups, who say its emissions would dwarf those from Adani's proposed Carmichael coalmine.

Naomi Hogan, a spokeswoman for the Lock the Gate Alliance, said unlocking it could "unleash a carbon disaster which would make it impossible for Australia to meet our Paris targets".

"Fracking the gas out of the Beetaloo basin has been measured to be the pollution equivalent of building and operating at least 50 new coal-fired power stations," she said. ...

<https://www.armidaleexpress.com.au/story/6080371/inverell-farmer-faces-five-day-ride-to-urge-climate-change-action/>

Glenn Morris prepares to ride for the environment

Naomi Shumack, Armidale Express, 22/04/2019

Etched in Australia's collective memory since their ride across the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 2016, Inverell farmer Glenn Morris and his horse Hombre will once again ride to urge action on climate change this Anzac Day.

The pair will take a five-day trip from Glen Innes to Uralla to encourage voters to consider the environment in the upcoming election.

"This is an urgent message. We need climate action, we need our leaders to step up and we also need our community to demand more from our leaders," Glenn said. ...

Glenn believes that as the climate crisis has worsened, so has the general public's understanding of the issue. He said in the late 1980s, reports suggested that Australia was one of the most climate change savvy countries in the world.

"There was no division. They were rolling out strategies across the local areas, across the states, across the nation, in every capital city and we were actually making headway. But then the economists stepped in and the politicians that had friends in the fossil fuel industry started to go 'this isn't where we want to go, we want to hang onto those old industries,'" he said.

"Electric cars aren't new, renewable energy's not new, regenerative agriculture, rehydrating landscapes... none of that is new. What we've lacked is the leadership and the honesty and integrity. So when a lot of farmers still don't get climate change, they're actually believing what they've been told." ...

<https://www.afr.com/news/policy/climate/labors-carbon-plan-to-have-slight-impact-20190424-p51gri>

Labor's carbon plan to have 'slight' impact

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 24/04/2019

Analysis by Citigroup on the likely cost of meeting Labor's expanded carbon scheme has demolished the Coalition's scaremongering over "reckless" impacts on industry, deeming the impact "slight" and "manageable" even for the biggest emitters.

Costs for even major emitters are likely to rise by less than 1 per cent a year from 2020 to 2030 under Labor's scheme as Citi envisages it would be

News this week ... from previous page

implemented. The research by the bank's respected environmental, social and governance team dashes several of the key assumptions made by the Coalition, which has released estimates of crippling bills for industry of as much as \$1.66 billion for Chevron and several tens of millions for companies such as Woolworths and Brickworks.

It looks set to fuel debate around the costs of Labor's carbon policies ahead of the May 18 election. ...

The report points out that in contrast to some calculations on costs, which are based on companies' total carbon emissions, Labor's expanded Safeguard Mechanism is likely only to penalise companies emitting about their baseline, which will trend down over time.

That means only the wedge of emissions above the baseline would be subject to cost, not the whole emissions load of a company. ...

The bank points out that in many cases, companies will not pay the carbon price but instead the cost of actually reducing emissions, which Reputex has put at less than \$20 a tonne in order to reach a 45 per cent emissions reduction target. Trade-exposed companies would also enjoy some shielding from the cost.

"Our analysis suggests that impacts will be fairly immaterial, with larger estimated exposures for non EITE [energy-intensive, trade-exposed] industrials in the range of sub-1 per cent per annum inflation in existing cost bases across the decade," Citi said. ...

Citi finds that assuming a \$40 emissions price, the ASX-listed stocks most affected by Labor's carbon plan by 2030, proportional to their cost base, are the utilities, Santos, Incitec Pivot, Woodside, gas pipeline owner APA Group and underground gold miner Northern Star. In each case the cost



A Coalition billboard which uses a misleadingly cropped photo of Bill Shorten attempting to move away a protester's sign. Photo: Matt Canavan's Facebook page

implications are less than a 1 per cent rate of cost inflation over 10 years.

It pointed to Qube Holdings, Incitec Pivot, Northern Star, Ausnet Services and Orica as stocks that appear to be "running furthest off the trajectory" on emissions although noted it had made numerous assumptions and wrangled with at-times limited disclosure to reach the findings.

<https://www.smh.com.au/federal-election-2019/worse-than-getup-coalition-slammed-over-misleading-adani-billboard-20190425-p51h51.html>

'Worse than GetUp': Coalition slammed over 'misleading' Adani billboard

Dana McCauley, SMH, 25/04/2019

The Morrison government has been accused of misleading Queensland voters in a seat set to benefit most from the controversial Adani coal mine with a billboard that appears to show Labor leader Bill Shorten participating in a campaign to stop it.

The tightly-cropped image, taken during Labor's national conference in November, captures the moment when a protester stormed the stage to derail Mr Shorten's opening address and shows the Opposition Leader grasp-

ing a red Stop Adani flag as he tries to remove it.

But, in the billboard – which places the photograph next to a quote in which Mr Shorten voiced his opposition to Adani's Carmichael project – there is no sign of the protester, who moments later would be hauled out of the venue by security.

Critics have condemned the billboard as a misuse of political advertising after Liberal National Senator for Queensland Matt Canavan posted a photograph of it on social media boasting that it had "just gone up in Rockhampton to remind everyone - including Bill - what he actually said".

FFB

SACRIFICE ZONE

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

<https://vimeo.com/257444267>

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