



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 2:21 • 3 MAY 2019

Finch safe from Adani – for now

By Eve Sinton

The Queensland government advised Adani Australia late Thursday (May 2) their management plan for the endangered black-throated finch has been rejected.

Adani can't begin digging up coal until they have an approved plan to save the birds from extinction.

The company's groundwater management plan is also flawed, and remains under scrutiny in Queensland, despite being ticked off by the federal environment minister a day before the election was called.

CEO for Adani Mining, Lucas Dow, said that off the back of the State again delaying the approvals process by requesting an eighth round of new revisions, which he believes goes well beyond what is required to meet Adani's environmental requirements, the environment department still refused to provide any firm dates to finalise the Black-Throated Finch Management Plan or the Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Management Plans.

"After receiving this advice from the Queensland Environment Department late yesterday, we are now feverishly working through their new requests," Dow said.

"Although we believe the current version of the Black-Throated Finch Management Plan already meets our project conditions, we are not going to be pig-headed about it and we will review the feedback from the Queensland Department and respond accordingly."

The news was welcomed by the Australian Conservation Foundation



Adani's Carmichael Mine will dig up the home of Australia's last stronghold of the black-throated finch. Photo: Ian Montgomery

(ACF), which said that management plans are where the rubber hits the road for threatened species and Adani's proposed Galilee Basin coal mine would devastate critical habitat for the bird.

ACF's Stop Adani Campaigner, Christian Slattery, said: "The area where Adani wants to dig the Carmichael mine is home to the largest known population of black-throated finches and some of the best remaining habitat.

"Adani says the approvals for its mine are subject to the strictest environmental conditions in history, but these conditions are only meaningful if they are backed by credible management

plans. Adani has relentlessly attacked and undermined the scientists who conducted an expert review of its black-throated finch management plan.

ACF: Extinction is forever

"Extinction is forever – Adani must not be allowed to consign this bird to history. Already 29 Australian birds have gone extinct in the last 200 years.

"To prevent the extinction of the black-throated finch we need to stop ripping up its habitat for dirty new coal mines and companies like Adani should stop trying to discredit scientists."

• Continued p2

• **P3: How renewables lead to the future**

• **P4: Climate leadership failure of the decade**

• **P5: Claremont violence condemned**

ACF analysis reveals the scale of destruction if Galilee Basin developed

• Continued from p2

ACF analysis shows six proposed mines – including Adani’s Carmichael project – would disturb 155,491 hectares of land, 81,493 hectares of which would be completely cleared.

The proposed Galilee Basin mines would disturb 50,977 hectares of black-throated finch habitat, 34,156 of which would be completely cleared.

“The black-throated finch is on the verge of extinction and these coal mines would totally destroy or degrade most of the high-quality finch habitat that’s left,” said Christian Slattery, the Australian Conservation Foundation’s Stop Adani Campaigner.

“A recent scientific paper in *Environmental Science and Policy* journal set out how the endangered finch, which was once widespread across north-eastern Australia, is no longer found in 88 per cent of its former range.

The analysis examined data from the Queensland Coordinator General and environmental impact statements relating to six proposed coal mines: Carmichael, China Stone, Kevin’s Corner, Alpha Coal Project (mine only), Galilee Coal Project (mine only) and South Galilee Coal Project.

The analysis did not consider Clive Palmer’s Alpha North mine because it is too early in the assessment process to accurately quantify the damage it would do to the finch’s habitat.

Adani’s planned ‘conservation area’ for the finch is on the proposed Alpha North mine site.

Adani’s chief cheerleader, the Murdoch media, responded with appropriate headlines.

Coal minister accuses Labor, Greens

Federal Resources Minister Matt Canavan told the ABC the State Government’s decision was a classic example of the Labor Party siding with the Greens.

“We’ve seen Bob Brown and his convoy come up here this week, we’ve seen the Labor Party do a preference deal with the Greens and surprise, surprise, the Labor Party once again caved in to the demands of the Greens and the likes of Bob Brown,” he said.

“The reason they’re singling out this mine is because the Greens have asked them to do it.”



Species going extinct world-wide

Stop Adani Townsville spokeswoman Wendy Tubman said she was not surprised it failed to meet the environmental requirements.

“We’re talking about an endangered species, we’re talking at a time where we are facing its mass extinction worldwide and we have to take protection of our endangered species very seriously,” she told the ABC.

The *Guardian* ran an opinion piece by economics professor John Quiggin, who said the Adani mine is unlikely to go ahead, and most people know it.

“Despite his unwillingness to admit defeat, Mr Adani understands that the Carmichael project is hopelessly uneconomic. When the project was launched in 2010, the prospects for thermal coal looked rosy. But the “triple whammy” of disappearing demand in developed countries, import substitution in India and China, and competition from gas and renewables has changed all that,” Quiggin wrote.

“The current price of thermal coal (about US\$90/tonne for top quality Newcastle coal) is well below the level that would make Carmichael viable (over US\$110/tonne), and it is only likely to decline in future.

Adani hanging on for compensation from the Australian public

“Adani is hanging on, in part to avoid recognising on its books the loss of the \$3bn or so spent to acquire the mine and in part in the hope of extracting compensation from the Australian public.”



TOP: A predictable reaction from Murdoch’s Australian.

ABOVE: Black-throated finch portrait from HBW Alive. Only about 1,000 of the birds remain in the wild, but they are often found in bird fanciers’ aviaries.

Quiggin said that almost the only ones taking Adani’s claims at face value are members of the environmental movement.

“Given the urgency of ending coal-fired electricity generation, environmentalists are attacking every stage of the production chain.

“If the Carmichael project went ahead, it would open up the entire Galilee Basin, with catastrophic consequences for the global climate. Conversely, a clear-cut victory over Adani would signal the end of new thermal coal mines in Australia and, before too long, globally,” he said.

Adani can still submit a revised plan to the Queensland Environment Department.

Adani’s Lucas Dow said, “We will continue to work with the Queensland Government to finalise these plans ... We are not going away.”

Renewables will lead Australia into the future: IEEFA

Renewables are the lowest cost, most sustainable solution to Australia's energy policy crisis and potentially one of the country's largest export industries of the future, according to a briefing note published last week by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA).

The briefing note, *Why Renewables are the Solution for Australia: The Low-Cost Source of New Electricity Generation*, highlights recent technological advances that have made renewables one of the country's fastest growing industries, and Australia a world leader in battery storage.

Author Tim Buckley, IEEFA's Director of Energy Finance Studies Australasia, says the integration of renewable electricity generation is already being achieved at a world-leading scale in the Australian Capital Territory, Tasmania and South Australia, with Victoria and Queensland recently lifting ambitions for 50% renewables by 2030 and, as a result, unlocking large-scale regional investment and employment opportunities.

Adding resilience to electricity grid

"The expanding ability to integrate domestic renewables adds resilience to Australia's electricity grid while providing sustainable national energy-security benefits," said Buckley. "It also delivers on the country's international obligations under the Paris Agreement."

The briefing note compares the fossil fuel and renewable energy industries, noting that the fossil fuel industry is still heavily subsidised by Australian taxpayers via diesel fuel rebates, free water and carbon emissions, taxpayer-funded enabling infrastructure and long dated royalty holidays (as offered to Adani, for example).

"The renewable energy industry no longer requires major subsidies going forward, only transparent, effective policies," said Buckley.

"Most fossil fuel projects in Australia are owned by foreign multinationals that use tax haven-based offshore marketing hubs and also have a history of paying next to no corporate tax in Australia – ever," said Buckley, "there is no other private industry so dependent on using public, finite assets for private, foreign, largely tax-free gain at such a cost to the community."



Renewable costs are expected to continue to fall some 10% annually over the coming decade

With renewables now the low-cost source of new electricity generation, solar and wind projects are being built across Australia at just A\$40-50/megawatt hour (MWh), down some 70% in the last three years. In contrast, a new coal-fired power plant would cost over A\$100/MWh (and up to A\$150/MWh including carbon costs and increasing capital requirements).

Renewables are deflationary

"Renewables are deflationary," said Buckley. "Once built, there is no fuel cost, with proponents primarily bearing only the interest cost on their debt capital. And like storage costs, renewable costs are expected to continue to fall some 10% annually over the coming decade due to economies of scale and accelerating technology gains."

Further, renewables are clean and sustainable, use almost no water, and once built, create no air or particulate pollution, nor do they discharge carbon emissions, said Buckley.

Meanwhile, thermal coal-fired power plants are struggling to get debt or equity financing, as highlighted when over 100 major global lenders recently announced exits from thermal coal-fired power, and Australia's three largest electricity generators, Energy Australia, Origin Energy and AGL, all ruling out any involvement in new coal-fired plants.

"There is a major pivot towards renewables globally and Australia should have been at the head of that market shift," said Buckley. "There have been major technological advances in strengthening the country's electricity

supply, and the markets are responding, making Australia a world leader in adopting new battery technology and rooftop solar. With multiple proposals and investments in utility-scale batteries underway, there is a clear endorsement for the bankability and viability of this technology."

Investing in renewable energy infrastructure builds Australia's engineering and scientific capacity, leverages its financial capacity, creates multiple jobs, and builds export industries of the future, according to the briefing note.

Call for outright ban on thermal coal

In addition to investing in renewables, Australia needs to reintroduce a "whole-of-economy" price on carbon emissions as the low-cost solution to achieving the deep decarbonisation of the entire economy. Australia should also belatedly consider an outright ban on any new thermal coal mine development, consistent with its Paris Climate commitments, and particularly given that Australia is a top-three exported-emissions nation globally, according to the briefing note.

"The inevitability of renewables is not happening fast enough in Australia to deliver on Paris," said Buckley. "Without a national energy policy, this leaves a growing stranded asset risk, as recently highlighted by both the Reserve Bank of Australia and the Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority, as well as the Bank of England. Australia must step up and take advantage of this increasingly low-cost, sustainable solution for its energy future – today."

• *The IEEFA briefing note is here:*

<http://ieefa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Why-Renewables-are-the-Solution-for-Australia-April-2019.pdf>

Climate: The defining leadership failure of the decade

The Climate Council rates the Federal Government's climate performance over the past five-years as the defining leadership failure of the past decade.

The Government's tenure has been characterised by slashing climate science funding, cutting effective climate change programs, rejecting advice from expert domestic and international bodies, misleading claims from Federal Ministers, a lack of any effective climate programs, and consistently covering up poor performance.

Deep funding cuts and job losses at the CSIRO have weakened Australia's climate science capability. As a result, Australia is unprepared to cope with the impacts of climate change.

Effective programs have been abolished or scaled back, for instance, half a billion dollars was cut from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency, while the Renewable Energy Target was slashed.

Misleading claims and censorship

The Federal Government has covered up poor performance with misleading claims, dubious accounting and censorship.

Greenhouse gas emissions have risen for four years running. Australia is unlikely to meet its 2030 emissions reduction target according to the government's own department. Regardless, senior ministers continue to falsely claim that emissions are going down and targets will be met.

In 2016, the Federal Government censored a UN report about climate change and World Heritage sites, asking the authors to remove any reference to Australian sites.

The Federal Government has consistently delayed releasing information on Australia's greenhouse gas emissions, often publishing data just before Christmas when it faces less scrutiny.

The government has used discredited accounting methods, for instance including land-use emissions or Kyoto "carryover credits", which makes its record look better than reality.

The government's lack of climate change action is the defining leadership failure of the past decade. We have not tackled climate change, the consequences are with us, and we must work very quickly to prevent catastrophic consequences.

Govt has squandered its tenure

Delaying action has not made the problem go away. It has just shortened the time we have left to reduce emissions and made it more challenging to do so. The Federal Government has squandered its tenure and that will cost us dearly.

Australia has missed many opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition our economy in the cheapest, most gradual and effective ways possible.

Australians are on the frontline of worsening extreme weather. Heat-

waves have become hotter and last longer, droughts, intense rainfall and dangerous bushfire conditions have become more severe and now test the limits of our coping capacity. We must now address the accelerating consequences of climate change and we are unprepared.

As Australians experience escalating consequences into the future they will likely view this period of missed opportunities and failed leadership with deep dismay.

Australia's next government must adopt credible climate policy and a transparent and accurate approach to reporting and tracking Australia's climate performance to ensure the public can appropriately evaluate its performance.

The Federal Government needs to urgently adopt credible climate policy to help protect Australians from the rapidly escalating risks of climate change.

The Climate Council has established a 'Charter of Integrity' for the Federal Government to use as a benchmark to track and monitor climate performance, specifically around issues of accountability, transparency, timeliness and accuracy.

• ***The Climate Council report can be downloaded here:***

<https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Climate-Cuts-Cover-Ups-and-Censorship.pdf>



Whitehaven's failure to assess impact of Vickery coal mine exposed

Whitehaven Coal has been exposed for failing to assess its planned Vickery coal project's impact on global climate, local communities and the environment.

Lock the Gate Alliance has welcomed the Independent Planning Commission's Issues Report for the proposed Vickery coal mine near the Namoi River at Boggabri, saying mining company Whitehaven Coal and the NSW Government are now on notice.

"Clearly, the Commission will not accept corners being cut in the assessment of the mine's impact on the environment, local community and the global climate," said LTG spokesperson Georgina Woods.

The Commission's report highlights a long list of issues that need addressing by Whitehaven or the Department, from the local and immediate effects of noise and air pollution to global and intergenerational considerations of climate change and groundwater impacts expected to last for centuries.

Local farmer Sally Hunter, who addressed the Commission's preliminary public hearing in Boggabri in February, said, "We're heartened to see the serious issues raised by the community reflected in the Commission's report, particularly the risk to water resources, the displacement of farming and our towns, and the ques-

tion of inter-generational equity.

"The proof of how seriously the Independent Planning Commission takes its consideration of these issues will come down the track, when it is called upon to make a decision whether to allow this damaging mine to proceed and turn the Namoi valley into a mining Mecca of overburden piles and open pits.

The report will now be handed over to the Department of Planning for consideration.

• ***The Commission's report is available here:***

<https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/resources/pac/media/files/pac/projects/2018/11/vickery-extension-project-issues-report/20190430-vickery-extension-project-issues-report.pdf>



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

Injured Stop Adani convoyer returns home

A woman injured in an incident at the Bob Brown Stop Adani Rally in Queensland has been released from hospital.

The woman said she would be returning home to northern NSW (see p7).

“Although bruised and battered, my injuries are not as severe as they might have been,” the 62 year old said.

“I would like to thank the staff of Mackay Base Hospital, the helicopter rescue team, the ambulance officers and the Clermont Hospital, with special mention of the wonderful nurses Jo and Paula.

“I would also like to thank the folk of Clermont who sent flowers and wishes for my speedy recovery.”

W&J Council spokesperson Adrian Burragubba said: “This assault was the consequence of the fear and loathing being stirred up by right wing politicians who came to Clermont on the weekend.

“Adani must distance themselves from this. They cannot hide behind PR on this matter. They give financial support to the Liberal and National Parties and One Nation through political donations. They have thanked them and Clive Palmer’s United Australia Party, and the people who came to Clermont to protest against the Bob Brown convoy, for their support.

“We organised the Karmoo Dreaming event as a celebration of our people as

‘water protectors’. We welcomed the Bob Brown Foundation.

“This attack took place on our country at our event. This is an attack on us.

“People charging horses through our ‘camp’ is familiar from this region’s colonial history, from which our people suffered immeasurable harm. It reminds us of the fear and intimidation that is still used to try to silence us.

“This incident, and the people who were applauding the horse rider at the gate to the showgrounds as he left, were incited and inflamed by a bunch of overbearing politicians and high-viz wearing blow-ins,” Burragubba said.

Despite the incident, the Karmoo Dreaming event continued peacefully and was an inspiration to all those present.

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

Inside the news

As the **Adani** coal mine stalls again, it was revealed (p8) the company has insufficient water permits for the mine’s construction.

Union backing for the mine got a set-back when **Maritime Union** members split from the CFMEU’s position and said Australia doesn’t need new coal mines.

Bob Brown’s **Stop Adani Convoy** was met with **drunken intimidation** in Clermont last weekend (p7), stirred up by right wing politicians – **Canavan, Palmer, Hanson** and others – who entertained a yobbo mob at two pubs in the town for hours before the convoy arrived.

Adani’s smug satisfaction over the unseemly spectacle was quickly overtaken by news that its **finch conservation plan** doesn’t cut the mustard with the Queensland government. Its groundwater plan is likely to encounter a similar hurdle.

Plans to **import liquid natural gas** (LNG), despite Australia being the world’s largest exporter of the stuff, took a step forward with the NSW government ticking off **AIE’s Port Kembla terminal** project (p12). This may have some impact on **AGL’s plans** for a similar terminal at the environmentally sensitive **Crib Point** – which is strongly opposed by the community.

The plan also has implications for the **Santos Narrabri gasfield**, which may look less viable if its potentially high-cost gas extraction can be undercut by AIE’s imports.

Clive Palmer is emerging as a **Trump-like figure** as he attempts to return to Parliament using a heavy-weight advertising campaign, thought to cost upwards of **\$50 million**. He’s reticent about actual policies, but wants a **nuclear power** industry in South Australia.

It’s a fair bet he will also use his position – despite an outrageous conflict of interest – to push for the approval of Adani and other **Galilee Basin coal mines**, so he can get his own Alpha North mine going (p14 & 16).

Alpha North is the site of Adani’s finch refuge – **fly over there, little birds, and die on his coal mine, not ours.**

FFB

In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 42,300 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-04-26/what-we-know-about-adanis-carmichael-coal-mine-project/11049938>

What we know about Adani's Carmichael coal mine project

Josh Robertson, ABC, 26/04/2019

Adani's Carmichael coal mine looms as a federal election issue after the miner was granted a contentious eleven-hour environmental approval by the Morrison Government in April.

That takes Adani another step closer to a golden-shovel moment which is already four years overdue. ...

Here's what we know – and still don't know – about the project. ...

Adani would blaze a trail for five other mining hopefuls in Queensland's Galilee Basin, which contains enough coal to outstrip Australia's annual carbon emissions if it was all burned. ...

• **FFB Editor:** *click the link and read to be sure you're across all the Adani issues.*

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/apr/26/want-to-stop-adani-fight-the-labour-hire-creep>

Want to stop Adani? Fight the labour hire creep

Van Bahdham, The Guardian, 26/04/2019

To Australia's right, the political conflict surrounding the proposed Adani coalmine surely represents the perfect wedge of Australia's left. ...

The real battlefield is a quiet one – and its combats are taking place, right now, in the offices of the Fair Work Commission and the federal court.

Adani isn't really in the coal business. They're in the profit business ...

There's no romance to the risks of blacklung disease, respiratory illness, cancer and accidents that dog the Queensland coal industry.

But a process of undermining job security and workplace standards in the mines has been going on for years. Pay-cutting, condition-stripping labour hire employment models are creeping across mining sites throughout that state, and elsewhere.

You can see the appeal for a company like Adani. The foreign multinational has already earned an international



Frontline Action on Coal blockaded the road to Adani's Abbot Point coal terminal this week. Photo: FLAC

reputation for exploitative labour practices, dubious financial management and opaque tax affairs.

This is a company that is facing accusations in India not only of wage theft on a mass scale, but also of exposing its workers to cholera. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/opinion/townsville-at-risk-if-adani-is-lost/news-story/994913254b74ae980ac4de84bd7c327c>

Townsville at risk if Adani is lost

Bernard Salt, Townsville Bulletin, 27/04/2019

It is the question that everyone in Townsville and beyond is asking.

What would be the effect of Adani not proceeding? The Adani issue is one of the great turning points in the development of Australia. ...

The first point I would make is a decision not to proceed with a mine (such as Adani) is less devastating for a region than a decision to close a major employing entity.

The second point I would make is regardless of whether an ongoing concern closes, or a proposed development fails to proceed, the impact on the local region is shaped by the state of the local economy. ...

So, what are the lessons for Townsville? Adani is an opportunity cost; it is not an existing arrangement that is being withdrawn. ...

This might appear somewhat cynical, but in some respects the best thing for a local economy isn't so much to develop a new wealth-generating industry, it's being able to remain a permanently marginal seat. The worst thing for Townsville might not be Adani failing to proceed, it could be a shift in the politics of Herbert such that it is viewed as a safe seat, regardless of who wins it.

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/6092702/anti-adani-convoy-rides-into-hornets-nest/>

Anti-Adani convoy rides into hornet's nest

Warren Barnsley, Canberra Times, 27/04/2019

A protest convoy aimed at stopping Adani's Bowen Basin mine will get "a very, very hostile reception" from hundreds of counter-protesters as it rolls into the coal-rich Queensland region.

The convoy of about 400 mine opponents, led by Bob Brown, plans to arrive in the mining town of Clermont on Saturday afternoon.

The former Australian Greens leader has urged coal advocates to "use your God-given intelligence" to stop the "worsening climate emergency due to the burning of fossil fuels".

But local publican Kel Applegate has organised a rally in support of the Adani project, with politicians Matt

Canavan, George Christensen, Malcolm Roberts and Clive Palmer, as well as Katter's Australia Party, joining his pro-coal cause. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/federal-election-2019/we-haven-t-done-this-before-pro-coal-activists-hit-the-streets-to-spruik-mining-20190427-p51hry.html>

'We haven't done this before': Pro-coal activists hit the streets to spruik mining

Michael Koziol, SMH, 27/04/2019

Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks? When mining lobbyist Mick Crowe asks the 250 pro-coal protesters gathered in Mackay's central square whether this is their first ever rally, almost every hand shoots up.

This regional city of almost 80,000, about 1000 kilometres north of Brisbane, doesn't really do demonstrations. ...

As director of the Resource Industry Network, an industry-funded lobby group, Mr Crowe's newest job is to lead and amplify a groundswell of support in favour of coal mining. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/antiadani-convoy-rides-into-hornets-nest-in-mackay/news-story/e191f01460ca607aee2b902d24cd46cc>

'Thuggery' complaints as Adani groups face off in Queensland coal town

Warren Barnsley & Gemma Najem, The Australian, 28/04/2019

[Bob] Brown said pro-Adani supporters had threatened local restaurants, forcing them to cancel reservations for members of his convoy, describing an "air of thuggery" about the group.

Police redirected the convoy to an alternate road, away from the main street, in a bid to avoid violent clashes, he said. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/regional/claims-cars-stoned-threats-made-as-convoy-reaches-clermont/news-story/207cc3d8c0a1c567c2ecf206c912892b>

Claims cars stoned, threats made as convoy reaches Clermont

Melanie Plane, Mackay Daily Mercury, 28/04/2019

Cars were allegedly stoned and young families threatened as tensions between anti and pro coal supporters reached boiling point at Clermont yesterday.

Video has emerged on social media of Clermont residents and pro-coal mining advocates lining the streets and making themselves heard at the Bob Brown Foundation's Stop Adani Convoy arrived in the coal mining town.

The Bob Brown Foundation made claims that overnight, cars were stoned, older women travelling alone, along with young families in cars, were abused and threatened and flags were ripped off vehicles. ...

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/opinion/tim-blair-bob-browns-climate-change-convoy-met-with-supporters-of-coal-and-jobs/news-story/bd84e4366e2d855b5d9dc3d796323f45>

Bob Brown's climate change convoy met with supporters of coal and jobs

Tim Blair, Daily Telegraph, 28/04/2019

Everyone in regional Queensland just hates employment and welcomed Brown and his followers as an angelic force able to forever liberate them from the nightmare of productivity.

Even Brown couldn't keep up his optimism for long, however. "There's an air of thuggery in the pro-Adani camp," he claimed ...

Queenslanders are very alive to the absurdity of climate criminality accusations coming from people who in some cases drove all the way from Tasmania in petrol-powered vehicles. ...

It's anyone's guess what is going on here. Returning to work seems unlikely. Maybe the lack of vegan dining establishments up north has sent convoy comrades back to their secure inner-city enclaves, or stragglers are being picked off by armed Queensland coal insurgents. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/claims-cars-stoned-threats-made-as-convoy-reaches-clermont/news-story/207cc3d8c0a1c567c2ecf206c912892b>

Firecrackers and stones thrown, threats made as convoy reaches Clermont

Elise Williams & Melanie Plane, Mackay Daily Mercury, 28/04/2019

A woman has been struck by horse at an anti-Adani protest in Clermont in central Queensland this afternoon.

About 3.40pm emergency services were called to the Clermont Showgrounds after reports of a woman being struck by a horse ridden by a man. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/adani-protest-injured-woman-reportedly-flown-to-mackay/news-story/d75d8e3c-c004df150ff39a235c16140>

Injured woman reportedly flown to Mackay

Nick Wright & Melanie Plane, Mackay Daily Mercury, 28/04/2019

A woman allegedly knocked to the ground by a man on a horse at Cler-

mont this afternoon has been taken to hospital. ...

A man was taken into police custody just after 4pm. ...

Isaac Region Mayor Anne Baker condemned the rider's actions.

"This act is deplorable and I condemn it in the strongest of terms," Cr Baker said.

"We made it absolutely clear from the outset that disruptive behaviour from any party or person would not be tolerated.

"This rider has ignored the shared expectation for an environment of mutual respect.

"I expect they will face the full force of the law for their actions and the injury caused.

"Our thoughts are with the injured woman and we wish her a speedy recovery.

"This rogue act by an individual does not reflect the community of Clermont or the wider Isaac region.



A horse rider shown invading Clermont showground shortly before a woman at the event was seriously injured.

Video grab, contributed

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/regional/rider-accused-of-knocking-down-protester-appears-in-court/news-story/40640b27ee60a501d5feb256e6142976>

Rider accused of knocking down protester appears in court

Janessa Ekert, Daily Mercury, 29/04/2019

A Clermont truck driver accused of running a protester down while on horseback during a tense stand off in the mining town has been granted bail.

Clinton Morris McDonald was warned to stay away from any Stop Adani protesters as part of his bail conditions.

The 41-year-old is charged with dangerous operation causing grievous

bodily harm, common assault, trespass and obstructing police at the Clermont Showgrounds on Saturday.

He became emotional during his brief mention in Mackay Magistrates Court today when Acting Magistrate Athol Kennedy told him he needed to stay away from the Showgrounds.

"I don't want to even go into town," Mr McDonald said wiping tears from his eyes while standing in the dock.

He told the court he drove road trains carting coal.

Police allege Mr McDonald entered the entertainment ring at the Showgrounds on a horse about 3.30pm and as a result a 61-year-old woman from New South Wales, who was heading towards a gate, was struck by the animal.

She was flown to Mackay Base Hospital where she remains.

Senior Prosecutor Sheena Gravino told the court the dangerous driving charge "must proceed on indictment" meaning it will be dealt with in the District Court.

Duty Lawyer Rosie Varley asked for an adjournment and said the case would need to be returned to Clermont for the next mention.

Mr McDonald was granted bail with conditions that he not directly or indirectly contact any Stop Adani protesters or the complainant Robin Bekker.

The case will be mentioned on August 22 at Clermont Magistrates Court with the brief of evidence due by August 15.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/antiadani-protester-released-from-hospital-after-alleged-horse-incident/news-story/c516d-6f912b5021214331b28bb0efdc6>

Anti-Adani protester released from hospital after alleged horse incident

Gerard Cockburn, Courier-Mail, 01/05/2019

An anti-Adani protester allegedly injured by a horse rider in Clermont has been released from hospital and returning home.

The woman in her 60s was struck by a horse allegedly ridden by Clinton McDonald when she was heading towards a gate at the Clermont showgrounds in Central Queensland.

"Although bruised and battered, my injuries are not as severe as they might have been," she said in a statement.

Mr McDonald appeared in court on Monday and was granted bail.

His matter was adjourned for mention in August at Clermont Magistrates Court.

The 41-year-old has been charged with one count each of dangerous operation of a vehicle, namely the horse, causing grievous bodily harm, common assault, trespass and obstructing police.

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/apr/28/carmichael-coalmine-adanis-own-modelling-reveals-water-permit-shortfall>

Carmichael coalmine: Adani's own modelling reveals water permit shortfall

Ben Smee, The Guardian, 28/04/2019

Carmel Flint, from the environmental group Lock the Gate, said the new information suggested Adani "does not have the water permits it needs to construct the mine, which is more evidence Adani's claims that it is ready to start work are bogus".

"It's clear Adani has created a fake urgency for approvals in the lead-up to the election, and the company got exactly what it wanted: a rushed approval from Scott Morrison's government which was tainted by political interference," Flint said. ...

In that context, Adani has heaped on pressure by ramping-up an advertising campaign, including billboards, print advertisements and letterbox drops, that attack the Queensland government for "moving the goalposts".

Adani told Guardian Australia in March: "We are not engaged in political advertising." ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/antiadani-convoy-organisers-may-have-been-paid-30k/news-story/578281a7dc90a5579a-0c3a3cf109129d>

Anti-Adani convoy 'organisers' may have been paid \$30k

Renee Viellaris, Courier-Mail, 30/04/2019

Anti-Adani crusader Bob Brown may have paid protest "organisers" more than \$30,000 to help his convoy get to Clermont, ground zero for the activism.

The Bob Brown Foundation advertised to hire five "Stop Adani Convoy Rally Organisers" for \$36 an hour, three days a week over seven weeks. ...

The revelation have been swiftly condemned by Adani boss Lucas Dow, Queensland Resources Council chief executive Ian Macfarlane and Resources Minister Matt Canavan. ...

It comes as Adani Mining is providing free "Start Adani" supporter packs. ...

Banners, placards, shop window posters, bumper stickers, bunting and T-shirts have been produced and will be available for free for community members to show their support.

<https://www.afr.com/news/mua-leader-declares-opposition-to-adani-20190429-p51i8x>

MUA leader declares opposition to Adani

David Marin-Guzman, AFR, 30/04/2019

Labor left union leaders have split from the mining union and urged Bill Shorten not to support the controversial Adani coal mine if he is elected.

Maritime Union of Australia Queensland secretary Bob Carnegie broke his silence within the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union on Monday to publicly oppose the Adani mine on grounds it would worsen climate change, while Electrical Trades Union state secretary Peter Ong warned the mine would worsen the conditions of other mine workers. ...

Mr Carnegie said: "We stand by our mining brothers and sisters in the CFMEU mining division but as Queensland state branch secretary I do not stand by the fact that another coal mine is going to be built to further enrich the world's CO2 emissions. The world doesn't need another thermal coal mine."

He said Labor's focus should be on "long-term, good paying union jobs" rather than "a 20-year coal mine" and stressed mine workers and the people of Clermont "have to be given every single possibility of a just transition from thermal coal to renewables and other industries". ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/may/01/independents-pledge-to-block-adani-mine-in-event-of-minority-government>

Independents pledge to block Adani mine in event of minority government

Katharine Murphy & Sarah Martin, The Guardian, 01/05/2019

Seven potential lower-house independents have signed a joint statement pledging to pursue a number of climate change actions in the event the election makes them kingmakers in the next parliament – including working to stop the controversial Adani coalmine.

Andrew Wilkie in Denison, Kerryn Phelps in Wentworth, Julia Banks in Flinders, Helen Haines in Indi, Zali Steggall in Warringham, Rob Oakeshott in Cowper, and Oliver Yates in Kooy-



Doongmabulla Springs complex, under threat from Adani's mine. Photo: Lock the Gate

ong, have signed a pledge coordinated by the Australian Conservation Foundation setting out 10 measures they will pursue in the next parliament in the event they win their seats, putting the major parties on notice in the event either has to form a minority government. ...

<https://medium.com/@TheAustraliaInstitute/explained-adanis-continuously-changing-jobs-figures-e2a67baac540>

Explained: Adani's continuously changing jobs figures

The Australia Institute/Medium.com, 26/04/2019

Will the Adani coal mine create 'thousands of jobs'? No, more like 100 jobs ...

When it comes to the Adani coal mine, Adani has put out so many different job creation numbers, at different times and for different audiences, it's hard to know what's what. ...

One trick Adani uses in its jobs claims is to conflate the short burst of construction jobs with far fewer jobs during operations. But helpfully, Adani supporter Senator Bridget McKenzie makes this clearer:

"[Adani will] be employing 1500 through the construction phase and around about 100 ongoing."

100 ongoing jobs. Some jobs 'bonanza'. ...

Contrary to popular belief, coal mining is a small employer by Australian standards. ...

Across Australia, coal mining accounts for half of one percent of all jobs (0.5%), that's half a job out of every hundred.

In Queensland, coal mining is just 1.1% of all Queensland jobs. Coal mining comes in far behind far bigger

employers like health, education, retail, agriculture, public administration, construction, as well as accommodation and food services ...

• *FFB Editor: this article goes on with many useful facts and figures to counter-act exaggerated claims from the coal mining industry of its importance.*

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-05-01/adani-coal-mine-poses-alarming-risk-to-sacred-wetlands/11058854>

Adani coal mine poses 'alarming' risk to sacred wetlands, traditional owners say

Josh Robertson, ABC, 01/05/2019

Traditional owners who are fighting the Adani mine in central Queensland say they welcome scientists' concerns about impacts on the Doongmabulla Springs but do not trust any government to ensure the miner protects their sacred wetlands.

The ABC this week became the first media organisation to visit the remote springs complex – one of the world's last unspoiled desert oases ...

The trip to the nationally important wetlands was at the invitation of a determined group of mine opponents within the Wangan and Jagalingou (W&J) people, who have vowed to take their fight all the way to The Hague. ...

Adrian Burragubba, a spokesman for traditional owners who oppose the mine, said scientific concerns about the mine's risk to the springs were "alarming to us and anybody that comes to this beautiful place". ...

Some experts have warned the mine could cause the springs to dry up, which Mr Burragubba said would be "devastating" for the W&J. ...

<https://www.star1063.com.au/news/local-news/139337-anti-adani-ads-to-air-in-townsville-rocky-and-mackay>

Anti Adani ads to air in Townsville, Rocky and Mackay

Star1063 News, 30/04/2019

Central Queenslanders will be reminded of what the Mackay Conservation Group said is Adani's poor track record on water. The group will launch a major advertising campaign, highlighting that Adani has broken Queensland laws. The ads will run in Townsville, Rockhampton and Mackay in the lead up to the Federal election.

Peter McCallum, Mackay co-ordinator of the Defend our Water Campaign - Not One Drop for Adani said, "We've taken out these ads to make sure the community knows that before Adani has even been granted final approvals for their mine, they're already breaking the rules. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/black-throated-finch-flies-again-to-stall-adani/news-story/6bae635a6bf5ac237f1727dc63e262d4>

Black-throated finch flies again to stall Adani

Charlie Peel & Michael McKenna, The Australian, 03/05/2019

Adani's proposed coalmine was dealt a massive blow last night when the Queensland Labor government rejected the company's critical environment management plan to protect an endangered bird that inhabits the region around the project site.

In a hardline move, state environment regulators ordered Adani to overhaul its Black-throated Finch Management Plan because it "did not meet requirements", indefinitely delaying construction of the mine. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/new-delay-for-adani-coal-mine-after-independent-report/news-story/a3e9790e27d0c7278f671dba14c30da6>

New delay for Adani coal mine after 'independent' report

Steven Wardill, Courier-Mail, 03/05/2019

The Palaszczuk Government has laid out a series of bizarre new conditions for the Carmichael coal mine which include demands that people conducting field work for the black-throated finch have certain university qualifications.

Despite waving through another coal mine that contained the same threatened species, Department of Environment and Science has demanded the Indian miner meet extraordinary new requirements before it can proceed.

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/state-government-rejects-adanis-finch-management-plan/news-story/ed659803ff591a8330373c2f8ce7d854>

State Government rejects Adani's Finch Management Plan

Madura McCormack, Townsville Bulletin, 03/05/2019

Adani's Carmichael mine has been dealt a significant blow after the State Government rejected one of two environmental plans crucial to the project's progress.

But the mining giant has slammed the decision as "another government approval "merry-go-round" akin to the Ekka, with bureaucrats now specifying the academic qualifications Adani's researchers need. ...

Adani labelled the department's correspondence as reading more like a "wish list generated from the Wintle "Report" as opposed to "feedback that is science based".

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/same-bird-but-different-approach-to-mine-approval/news-story/ad1ac617afeld7a3507938fa7602a34d>

Same bird but different approach to mine approval

Steven Wardill, Courier-Mail, 01/05/2019

A major new coalmine was waved through environmental approvals by the Queensland Government despite the presence of the same bird that has left Adani's Carmichael project languishing in limbo.

The Courier-Mail can reveal that official reports found the endangered black-throated finch likely lived on land within the footprint of the \$1.7 billion Byerwen open-cut coalmine in the Bowen Basin. ...

QCoal was allowed to proceed with the 10 million tonne-a-year mine in exchange for preserving thousands of hectares of land to benefit several at-risk species. ...

The company's offset management plan mirrors what Adani has proposed for the Carmichael coalmine, which will also produce 10 million tonne a year during its first phase.

However, the State Government's decision not to intervene with QCoal's plans when it ticked off the mine's environmental approvals are in stark contrast to its controversial move to appoint a panel of experts to conduct a review of the Carmichael mine's management plans. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2019-05-01/shenhua-watermark-coal-proposal-under-fire-for-flawed-eis/11062444>

Shenhua mining under fire after 'damning' report highlights flawed environmental modelling

Lara Webster, Cecilia Connell & Joanna Woodburn, ABC, 01/05/2019

A Chinese mining giant is being accused of underestimating the impact a proposed open cut mine will have on groundwater on the New South Wales Liverpool Plains.

The research was funded by the Carona Coal Action Group (CCAG), which is opposed to the project, but stakeholders claim it is independent because it was peer-reviewed

The University of New South Wales' Water Research Laboratory conducted a study into the Shenhua Watermark Mine's environmental impact statement (EIS), and in particular its findings around the project's potential effect on water. ...

The study has found that the modelling used by the mining company was flawed, because it relied upon incorrect data on the storage volume of groundwater aquifers.

"The values used were implausibly high based on our research," Ian Acworth, UNSW Emeritus Professor, said. ...

The NSW Minerals Council and Shenhua have declined to comment.

<https://www.afr.com/business/mining/peabody-takes-34m-in-impairments-over-mine-fire-20190501-p51j6k>

Peabody takes further \$34m in impairments over mine fire

Peter Ker, AFR, 01/-/5/2019

The damage bill from Peabody Energy's Queensland mine fire is continuing to rise, with the company taking further impairments on the back of last year's inferno.

Peabody's North Goonyella coking coal mine was brought to a halt in September when high gas levels and oxidation of coal led to a major fire.

The mine remains out of action, and while Peabody intends to resume production within the next year, it has not ruled out the possibility of permanent closure.

Peabody is expected to tell US investors on Thursday morning (Australian time) that it needs to record a further \$34.3 million (\$US24.2 million) of impairments in relation to the fire.

Those impairments are expected to be on top of the impairments and provisions announced in February (\$82.19 million of idling costs and \$91.1 million for equipment losses) and the lost revenue from the mine. ...

OIL & GAS LEAKS

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/investors-ally-with-green-groups-over-bight-oil-drilling-20190425-p51h1c>

Investors ally with green groups over Bight oil drilling

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 25/04/2019

Controversial frontier exploration planned far off the South Australian coast looks certain to come under even closer scrutiny after the Norwegian oil and gas producer leading the drilling lodged a formal submission for approval just as it beefed up its commitment to align with Paris climate goals.

After engaging with Climate Action 100... Equinor agreed to "stress test" its portfolio against the goals of the Paris accord, including new material capex investments, and to explain how exploration is handled in that context.

The company, known as Statoil until 2018, also pledged to review membership of industry associations to ensure its participation doesn't undermine its support for emissions reductions to limit global warming. The review is understood to include the Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association. ...

The Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility said that in discussions with Equinor and Climate Action 100 investors in recent months it had raised concerns about the "unusually close relationship" between Equinor and APPEA. It claimed APPEA has "continually obstructed the uptake of sensible policy to reduce emissions in Australia".

<https://www.theage.com.au/business/the-economy/lng-boom-is-back-surge-in-projects-tipped-for-next-six-years-20190426-p51h3.html>

'LNG boom is back': Surge in projects tipped for next six years

Cole Latimer, The Age, 27/04/2019

Energy forecasters have tipped a \$US200 billion global LNG surge with Australia's exports forecast to reach \$49 billion in value in 2019-20, overtaking Qatar as the world's largest LNG exporter.

Total industry capital expenditure is expected to reach more than \$US200 billion (\$285 billion) between 2019

and 2025. Much of it is likely to be spent in Canada, Mozambique, Qatar and the US ...

Wood Mackenzie's latest gas report forecasts about 90 million tonnes (mmtpa) worth of LNG development projects around the world will reach a final investment decision and start construction over the next two years. ...

The previous LNG construction boom ran from 2010 to 2014, with Australia investing \$US200 billion in major gas projects. Santos was spending \$10,000 a minute at its peak.

Australia's exports should reach \$49 billion in value in 2019-20, but the level of new construction will be lower than other countries. ...

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/labor-accused-of-refashioning-naif-into-gas-fuelled-carbon-disaster-58866/>

Labor accused of refashioning NAIF into gas fuelled "carbon disaster"

Sophie Vorrath, Renew Economy, 26/04/2019

Federal Labor's pledge to spend up to \$1.5 billion unlocking gas supply in Queensland and the Northern Territory has angered green groups, and blurred the lines between Bill Shorten's apparently climate-forward policies and those of Scott Morrison's climate-denying Coalition.

Labor this week announced plans to refashion the Coalition's \$5 billion Northern Australia Infrastructure Fund – which Shorten has described as an "abject failure" as has promised would not be used to back Adani's Queensland coal mine – into its own version of a "fossil fuel slush fund," but with a focus on gas instead. ...

Critics of Labor's gas plan say it would have little to do with fixing Australia's broken gas market, and everything to do with propping up existing industry assets that, without government subsidisation, would make little economic sense.

And in terms of the climate, the policy makes no sense at all, and risks dealing a major blow to Labor's momentum in the polls ...

<https://www.theage.com.au/business/companies/origin-hits-new-gas-revenue-record-20190430-p51iij.html>

Origin hits new gas revenue record

Cole Latimer, The Age, 30/04/2019

Origin Energy's Australia Pacific LNG gas business has leapt more than 50 per cent year on year as it rides the oil price boom.

Origin's joint venture Australia Pacific LNG (APLNG) delivered its highest ever quarterly revenue of \$764 million, up 53 per cent compared to the same time last year. This was despite actual gas sales from APLNG only rising by 1 per cent. ...

Origin chief executive Frank Calabria said, "This result was driven by continued reliable operational performance and higher realised commodity prices." ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/regional/worker-sues-for-1.4m-after-gas-well-injury/news-story/3347973778675fd76ddb02ad419bfa15>

Worker sues for \$1.4m after gas well injury

Peter Hardwick, Chronicle, 29/04/2019

Nic Barr had a good life, his dream job from which he earned good money, a wife and two children – then one step backward changed it all. A diesel fitter by trade, Mr Barr was working as a field service technician on gas fields near Kogan west of Dalby in August 2015 when he suffered what he thought to be a minor injury but what turned out to be a broken back that was to change his life considerably.

He has not been able to work since and still suffers from permanent nerve damage despite spinal fusion surgery and has been on Centrelink benefits since his Work Cover ended. ...

He blames a simple 30cm step down from a gas well head.

He had been checking well heads in a field on which 1m high grass had been slashed but left on the ground.

Mr Barr stepped down onto the grass under which was a rock on which his heel landed, rolling his ankle. ...

Shine Lawyers ... said "Our client's claim alleges that both his employer and the entity responsible for the gas well had an obligation to provide a safe place of work and by failing to remove the slashed grass and rocks from the work area, they have failed to do that," he said.

"It is claimed that both defendants are liable for the significant injuries that have been caused and which have prevented Nic from returning to work in the coal seam gas industry." ...

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/darwin-lng-works-to-create-500-600-jobs/news-story/49a7c61d081e6ae897497d4c5958d590>

Darwin LNG works to create 500-600 jobs

Gary Shipway, NT News, 01/05/2019

The project that paved the way for the energy industry in Darwin is gearing up for another 20 years of operation and with it comes forecasts of between 500 to 600 jobs.

ConocoPhillips' will brief local businesses next week on new works, running into the hundreds of millions of dollars, that will be undertaken at Darwin LNG in the not too distant future.

The Darwin Harbour project currently has a residential workforce policy, providing employment for about 350 local residents. ...

ConocoPhillips said as part of this backfill of an alternative gas supply to Darwin LNG, a work program will be undertaken at DLNG to prepare the facility for another 20-plus expected years of operation. ...

<https://www.theage.com.au/business/companies/santos-defends-climate-actions-defying-shareholder-activists-push-20190502-p51je0.html>

Santos defends climate actions, defying shareholder activists' push

Cole Latimer, The Age, 02/05/2019

Energy giant Santos has faced down environmental activist shareholders at its annual general meeting, saying it was offsetting carbon emissions by selling LNG to Asian consumers who would have otherwise used dirtier coal.

Activist investors, the Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility (ACCR), challenged Santos on its climate change action at the gas company's AGM on Thursday. It put forward resolutions that would require the company to slash its emissions and reduce the emissions of those using its gas, and review its relationship with industry lobby groups.

Santos chairman Keith Spence said the company already had strong climate change commitments and had set a net-zero emissions target by 2050. ...

"What the chairman is saying about this company's role in advancing the Paris climate agreement is simply not how the Paris agreement works and it is not being bought by some of the most sophisticated investors in the world," ACCR executive director Brynne O'Brien said.

STOP WATER MINING
THE NEXT RESOURCES BATTLE



“Gas cannot simply displace coal as a primary energy source if we want to limit global warming to well under two degrees.

“We do not believe the board is being genuine with shareholders about their climate commitments.”

IMPORT INSANITY

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/forrest-backed-port-kembla-lng-import-project-gets-green-light-20190429-p51138>

Forrest-backed Port Kembla LNG import project gets green light

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 29/04/2019

The Andrew Forrest-backed Port Kembla LNG import terminal in NSW has become the first of five competing projects on the south-east coast to get the green light from government, paving the way for it to start bringing extra gas into the eastern states from late next year.

The NSW government announced approval for the \$250 million project on Monday, with Deputy Premier John Barilaro said it would give a boost to the local economy and help bring down the cost of living across the state.

“This terminal could supply 70 per cent of our state’s annual gas demand and help ease the cost of energy bills for NSW families and small business owners,” said NSW Energy and Environment Minister Matt Kean. ...

Santos is still seeking government approval for its Narrabri coal seam gas project in north-central NSW, which it says would provide cheaper gas and which is supported by several manufacturers. ...

AGL Energy is still going through the approvals process for its LNG import project proposed for Crib Point in Victoria, while import ventures are also being studied by ExxonMobil in Victoria, by Korea’s EPIK in Newcastle and by Venice Energy in South Australia.

<https://www.theage.com.au/business/companies/port-kembla-gas-terminal-gets-planning-go-ahead-20190428-p511hys.html>

Port Kembla gas terminal gets planning go-ahead

Emma Koehn, The Age, 29/04/2019

The New South Wales government has given a planning approval green light to a \$250 million gas terminal project at Port Kembla with deputy premier John Barilaro asserting it will help cost of living pressures by lowering gas prices. ...



A model of AIE’s proposed gas import terminal in Port Kembla, where a floating storage and regasification unit will unload LNG tankers. Picture: AIE

The project will involve building a new berth at Port Kembla for liquefied natural gas (LNG) carriers, a handling facility and a new pipeline to connect to the existing gas network. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-04-29/australian-first-lng-import-terminal-at-port-kembla-green-light/11054028>

LNG import terminal approval – an Australian first – a sign of hope for NSW manufacturing

Kelly Fuller & Gavin Coote, ABC, 29/04/2019

Industry leaders are celebrating the approval of a \$250 million gas import terminal in New South Wales which is tipped to meet the majority of the state’s gas needs and secure thousands of manufacturing jobs.

A consortium backed by billionaire Andrew Forrest and Japanese energy giants is behind the project, and will be subject to conditions aimed at minimising impacts of dredging in the harbour, as well as regulating air and water discharges during construction. ...

The gas terminal itself would create 150 construction and 50 ongoing jobs, but the Illawarra Business Chamber said it would secure 15,000 jobs in gas-dependent businesses across the region. ...

Regional Development Australia Illawarra chief executive, Debra Murphy, said the LNG import terminal was “just the beginning”, with the potential for a gas-fired power station nearby.

The proposed gas-fired power plant was among 12 projects shortlisted last month for Federal Government underwriting ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/forrest-s-aie-takes-the-lead-in-the-race-to-import-lng-20190429-p511an>

Forrest’s AIE takes the lead in the race to import LNG

Matthew Stevens, AFR, 29/04/2019

Having begun life maybe a year behind the most mature of the proposals that aim to quench the east coast gas drought by importing boat loads of liquid natural gas, AIE now finds itself maybe two years ahead of AGL’s proposal to anchor a regasification and storage facility in Victoria’s Western Port Bay. ...

Port Kembla is a perfect choice and not just because it is so close to an inviting bounty of potential industrial customers. The project’s relatively speedy progress through the NSW approvals process has been rendered smoother sailing because AIE has found a host with a rich industrial legacy that rather needs refreshing.

AGL, on the other hand, finds itself stuck in the gluey mire of community ill-content born of predictable environmental concerns. For all Western Port hosts its share of industrial infrastructure, it has ever been a sensitive issue to locals. ...

So who might [its] customers be? Well, it is hard to see how they could be anyone but a major retailer and the retailer most vulnerable to gas shortage right now is AGL. ...

Work on procurement has continued apace while Hoegh, the Norwegian shipper that will lease the LNG boat that will be AIE’s regas facility, has confirmed the vessel will be in service by mid-year and it will run gas around the region while it awaits deployment at Port Kembla. ...

It needs to be remembered here that AIE gas will not be cheap. What AIE is offering is security and flexibility of supply at a predictable price. What it is not offering is anything like a bargain. AIE has consistently floated a price of around \$10 a gigajoule (GJ) ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/may/02/agl-sought-victorian-rule-change-to-clear-way-for-controversial-gas-terminal>

AGL sought Victorian rule change to clear way for controversial gas terminal

Calla Wahlquist, The Guardian, 02/05/2019

The gas company AGL asked the Victorian government to change a wastewater policy that could be used to block the proposed Crib Point gas import terminal.

AGL made the request in public submission on a draft environmental regulation. The company wants to build a 290 metre-long floating storage and regasification unit at Crib Point in Western Port Bay, 80km south-east of Melbourne. ...

The unit would use seawater as part of a heat exchange to convert shipments of imported liquid natural gas back into gas, but the discharged water would be 0.3C cooler than the ambient seawater and contain chlorine rates of 0.0005mg/L. ...

Legal advice provided to Environment Victoria from Environment Justice Australia said the clause required that wastewater released into high conservation value areas fulfilled an environmental purpose, and it was not enough under the legislation that a release merely avoided causing harm.

On that basis, the advice said, “we consider that it is likely that the EPA [Environment Protection Authority] is prohibited from approving a new wastewater discharge” for the Crib Point project.

“It’s quite a significant hurdle for them and we are not sure why they are continuing to persist with the project,” the chief executive of Environment Victoria, Jono La Nauze, told Guardian Australia. ...

AGL general manager of energy supply and origination, Phaedra Deckhart, said the company would not preempt the approvals process, but added: “We expect the application will demonstrate that we can satisfy the relevant environmental and other regulatory requirements for this project.” ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-05-02/federal-election-2019-greg-hunt-julia-banks-battle-flinders/11065504>

Federal election battle for Greg Hunt’s seat fires up over AGL’s proposed gas terminal

ABC, 02/05/2019

A proposed floating gas terminal in Western Port Bay is shaping up to be a key election issue in the Victorian seat of Flinders, where sitting MP Greg Hunt faces a challenge from independent Julia Banks.

More than 300 locals packed into a community hall in Balnarring last night to hear what their federal candidates were doing to halt plans for the terminal in Western Port Bay, south-east of Melbourne. ...

The project is opposed by all the major candidates putting their hand up to represent the federal electorate, currently held by Greg Hunt with a margin of more than 7% ...

HYDROGEN HYPE

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/coal-vital-for-cheap-hydrogen-production/news-story/a9a-b0956eea0e5da6d8fea89c052b4b8>

Coal ‘vital’ for cheap hydrogen production

Graham Lloyd, The Australian, 29/04/2019

Using coal to produce hydrogen would be the best and cheapest way to build a low-emissions export industry and provide an alternative to battery-powered cars.

In a submission to the National Hydrogen Strategy today, industry group Coal21 will say using coal to produce hydrogen is up to 13 times cheaper than using curtailed renewable energy.

State and federal governments are supporting development of a hydrogen industry that could be a major domestic and export opportunity.

Coal21 will say a technology-neutral approach should be taken to include black and brown coal.

Established in 2006, Coal21 is a \$555 million investment by Australia’s coal industry to research, develop and deploy low-emissions coal technology such as carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) and coal gasification.

The group says black coal combined with CCUS offers the real prospect of low-cost and reliable hydrogen but has been largely overlooked. ... According to Geoscience Australia, Australia has 10 per cent of the world’s known black coal reserves, enough to continue production at current rates for more

than 112 years. Brown coal reserves, which currently were not exported, were sufficient to continue production at current rates for more than 1000 years.

• *FFB Editor: CCS remains a dismal failure after years of investment, and hydrogen is not an environmentally friendly fuel unless produced from renewables.*

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/coal-based-hydrogen-offers-cheaper-faster-solution-coal21-20190428-p51hzz>

Coal-based hydrogen a faster solution: COAL21

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 29/04/2019

Australia’s coal miners have told the federal government that producing hydrogen from coal can be done at a fraction of the cost of the renewable energy-based process, with the technology already ready to go.

The mining industry’s COAL21 initiative argues that Australia must have a “technology-neutral” approach to producing hydrogen, using “mature” technologies such as coal gasification and carbon capture and storage to smooth the transition to a lower-emissions future.

But the argument, put forward in COAL21’s submission to the government’s national hydrogen strategy taskforce, looks set to provoke opposition from environmental groups and others that argue hydrogen must be produced from renewable energy for it to preserve its credentials as a clean fuel. ...

NUKE MADNESS

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/apr/27/uranium-miner-coaxed-government-to-water-down-extinction-safeguards>

Uranium miner coaxed government to water down extinction safeguards

Adam Morton, The Guardian, 27/04/2019

A multinational uranium miner persuaded the federal government to drop a requirement forcing it to show that a mine in outback Western Australia would not make any species extinct before it could go ahead.

Canadian-based Cameco argued in November 2017 the condition proposed by the government for the Yeelirrie uranium mine, north of Kalgoorlie, would be too difficult to meet.

The mine was approved on 10 April, the day before the federal election was called, with a different set of conditions relating to protecting species.

Environmental groups say the approval was politically timed and at odds with a 2016 recommendation by the EA Environmental Protection Authority that the mine be blocked due to the risk to about 140 subterranean stygofauna and troglofauna species – tiny animals that live in groundwater and air pockets above the water table. ...

A decision to advance the Yeelirrie mine would depend on market conditions, which were currently challenging. The mine is also the subject of a legal challenge in the WA court of appeal by the conservation council and three Tjiwarl traditional owners.

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.theage.com.au/politics/victoria/coastal-campaigners-look-to-ride-big-wave-of-worry-over-gas-oil-plans-20190426-p51hkd.html>

Coastal campaigners look to ride big wave of worry over gas, oil plans

Benjamin Priess, The Age, 27/04/2019

As massive waves and the world's best surfers descended on Bells Beach this week, Damien Cole seized the chance to draw attention to his cause.

The Surfrider Foundation ambassador and independent candidate for the coastal Corangamite electorate is on a mission to fight plans to drill for oil in the Great Australian Bight.

He ... recruited professional surfers, including John John Florence and Owen Wright to his environmental fight. ...

About 180 kilometres to the east in Flinders, another Liberal-held seat, Louise Page is waging a similar battle against a massive floating gas hub in Crib Point.

The Tyabb resident ... says the campaign against the proposed terminal in Western Port has gathered pace in recent months but the federal election has now thrust it into the spotlight.

"It's like Mornington Peninsula's Adani," Ms Page says. "The timing for this election is perfect ... We've really tried to maintain the pressure at every step."

The campaign has borne some fruit, with all Flinders candidates including the sitting Liberal member, Health Minister Greg Hunt, confirming their opposition to the natural gas terminal amid rising community anger. ...



<https://www.northernstar.com.au/news/community-protests-over-labors-latest-gas-pipeline/3711931/>

Community protests over Labor's latest gas pipeline promise

Aisling Brennan, Northern Star, 2/04/2019

Anti-coal seam gas protesters rallied in Lismore on Wednesday following Labor's policy announcement they would build new gas pipelines to fast track future gas projects in the Northern Territory. ...

The news did not sit well with Northern Rivers residents after thousands campaigned five years ago to put a stop to the coal seam gas industry in this region.

Outside Labor's candidate for Page Patrick Deegan's office on Wednesday, anti-CSG campaigners protested against Labor's decision to support gas projects in other parts of the country. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/lmp-plans-to-throw-book-at-militant-activists/news-story/579e6be7f6c063c74075d7ed1628d62e>

LNP plans to throw book at militant activists

Domanii Cameron, Courier-Mail, 01/05/2019

Militant activists who wreak havoc on workplaces will face hefty fines of up to \$400,000 or be thrown behind bars under a major crackdown proposed by the State Opposition.

The new trespass laws would target powerful unions, Stop Adani protesters and vegan activists among a raft of hecklers that plague Queensland worksites.

Under the industrial sabotage laws, to be introduced in Parliament today, anyone charged with organised tres-

pass would face 10 years in jail or cop a \$391,650 fine. ... The new laws also include aggravated trespass, which would carry a maximum of three years jail imposed or a fine of up to \$13,055.

Under current laws, general trespass laws carry a maximum fine of \$2600 or one year imprisonment.

Trespass on farmland carries a maximum fine of \$1300 or six months jail.

Meanwhile the Labor Government introduced tougher fines for vegan activists last month – after they stormed Queensland farms and even an abattoir – with police and department officers now able to issue on-the-spot fines of \$652.75. ...

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/election-2019/2019/04/30/clive-palmer-scott-morrison>

Scott Morrison should not have done a deal with Clive Palmer – Here's why

Paula Matthewson, New Daily, 01/05/2019

Looking at the controversial issue from the Prime Minister's perspective, it's easy to see why doing a preference deal with Clive Palmer is so attractive to Scott Morrison.

Disgruntled voters are deserting the major parties in droves, making the parties of government heavily dependent on the preferences of minor parties that attract and then redirect the protest vote back to the majors. ...

But considered from the public interest perspective, there are three monumental reasons why the PM should not make a preference deal with the UAP leader.

Firstly, Mr Palmer has shown little or no interest in the wellbeing of the people left jobless when his Queensland Nickel refinery collapsed three years ago.

Legal action is now under way to get Mr Palmer to reimburse the \$67 million of taxpayer funds the Coalition government spent to meet the outstanding entitlements of stranded refinery workers with 10 years' service or more.

In recent days, the born-again politician – who has reportedly spent \$50 million so far on his re-election campaign – promised to pay the remaining \$7 million owed to former Queensland Nickel workers, but not until after polling day.

This curious proviso suggests Mr Palmer is using the shafted workers as pawns in a political game, which should be more than enough to disqualify him as a credible collaborator for the Prime Minister.

Yet in addition to his callous disregard for voters, Mr Palmer is also facing criminal charges laid by the business regulator, the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, over an alleged illegal takeover attempt at one of his operations. ...

Finally, and perhaps most significantly, Mr Morrison should have avoided doing political deals with Mr Palmer because the businessman is a walking, talking conflict of interest. ...

[Palmer is] waiting on federal (and state) government approvals to develop a huge coal mine in central Queensland, which could produce 33 per cent more coal than the Adani Carmichael mine ... the viability of Mr Palmer's coal mine depends on the Adani operation going ahead, or another mine in the Galilee Basin with a rail link to the coast. ...

<https://www.theage.com.au/federal-election-2019/emissions-from-big-polluters-will-fully-erode-the-benefits-of-coalition-s-climate-policy-20190501-p51j1o.html>

Emissions from big polluters will 'fully erode' the benefits of Coalition's climate policy

Nicole Hasham, The Age, 01/05/2019

Energy analysts Reputex say Morrison government rules that allow polluting companies to increase their greenhouse gas emissions will wipe out all environmental benefits claimed under its centrepiece climate change policy, the Emissions Reduction Fund.

A so-called safeguard mechanism attached to the \$2.55 billion fund is supposed to ensure that pollution reductions are not offset by emissions increases elsewhere. But Reputex says exemptions granted to industrial polluters will lead to huge emissions increases to 2030, effectively cancelling out carbon savings made under the fund. ...

The report said some of the biggest increases to emissions had been granted to coal mines. Large liquified natural gas projects were driving forecast increases, such as Chevron's controversial Gorgon operation off Western Australia.

Reputex executive director Hugh Grossman said while the Emissions Reduction Fund has contracted large volumes of abatement, "industrial emissions increases will ... fully erode these gains". ...

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/climate-change-environment-emergency-commons-motion-mps-vote-latest-a8895456.html>

MPs make history by passing Commons motion to declare 'environment and climate change emergency'

Ashley Cowburn, The Independent, 01/05/2019

MPs have passed a motion making the UK parliament the first in the world to declare an "environment and climate emergency".

The symbolic move – recognising the urgency needed to combat the climate crisis – follows a wave of protests launched by the Extinction Rebellion strikers in recent weeks.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn called for the motion to "set off a wave of action from parliaments and governments around the globe".

He added: "We pledge to work as closely as possible with countries that are serious about ending the climate catastrophe and make clear to US president Donald Trump that he cannot ignore international agreements and action on the climate crisis." ...

<https://www.commondreams.org/news/2019/05/01/activism-works-uk-parliament-makes-history-declaring-climate-emergency>

'Activism Works': UK Parliament Makes History in Declaring Climate Emergency

Andrea Garmanos, Common Dreams, 01/05/2019

The U.K. Parliament made history on Wednesday by becoming the first to declare an environment and climate emergency.

MPs in the House of Commons passed the motion put forth by Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn following debate.

"This can set off a wave of action from parliaments and governments around the globe," Corbyn said in a statement, which called attention to the recent wave of actions demanding urgent action on the climate crisis.

"Protesters and school-strikers told us to act," he said. "Governments never act without pressure and we must keep the pressure up. I'm proud that the Labour Party brought this motion to the House, and now we will carry on this work by developing our plans to deliver a Green Industrial Revolution."

"Now it's time for real action to tackle climate change," Labour added on Twitter.

Climate activists welcomed the development – and the grassroots power that made it happen – but also stressed that it must be followed by a dismantling of business-as-usual to truly behave as though it's an emergency.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/gas-giants-call-for-clarity-on-climate-policy-as-big-calls-loom/news-story/1b5801a2ed8821d8296d08590c0f72c2>

Gas giants call for clarity on climate policy as big calls loom

Perry Williams, The Australian, 02/05/2019

Australia's largest gas producers, Woodside Petroleum and Santos, have called for more responsible and clearer direction from the Coalition on climate and energy policy as they weigh looming investment decisions.

Both companies argue their large LNG portfolios are part of the solution towards cleaner energy but Woodside said more needs to be done at a national level to help cut carbon emissions on a global basis. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/may/02/shortens-climate-policy-and-why-we-dont-need-to-fear-the-coalitions-big-scary-numbers>

Shorten's climate policy and why we don't need to fear the Coalition's 'big scary numbers'

Katharine Murphy, The Guardian, 02/05/2019

.Instead of beginning at the logical starting point, looking at what the climate science tells us, and understanding the risks associated with failing to take action (which is the conventional conversation), the Australian campaign conversation is wedged in a cul-de-sac about the (alleged) costs of acting to avoid the worst-case scenar-

News this week ... from previous page

io. We are stuck in a loop of Big Scary Numbers™ not because that's the most fundamental issue to consider, but because Scott Morrison wants voters to think that Bill Shorten is risky and reckless. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-05-02/clive-palmer-campaigns-for-federal-election-in-south-australia/11069286>

Clive Palmer says SA needs nuclear to stop being a 'backwater' during federal election visit

ABC, 02/05/2019

Clive Palmer has described South Australia as a "backwater" which lacks "enterprise, energy and investment" during a campaign visit to Adelaide to spruik his party's pro-nuclear policies.

However, Mr Palmer said South Australia had the "world's largest uranium deposits" and should embrace nuclear technology.

"Australia has had nuclear reactors for 50 years at Lucas Heights in the middle of Sydney," he said.

"There's no safety issues with them. They operate every day and they're still there today."

In 2018, an independent expert review found the Lucas Heights nuclear medicine lab failed modern nuclear safety standards and had a culture of "make-do and mend".

A contamination incident at the facility was deemed the most serious in the world in 2017 according to the International Nuclear Event Scale — the global grading system for nuclear incidents.

Days after the review was released, another contamination scare at the reactor occurred, in which radiation levels rose "above allowable limits set by the regulator".

Mr Palmer said he hoped to secure the "balance of power" to work towards establishing "nuclear reactors and a vibrant manufacturing industry in South Australia". ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/may/03/clive-palmer-100m-aboriginal-foundation-only-has-109-in-it-records-show>

Clive Palmer's \$100m Aboriginal foundation only has \$109 in it, records show

Lorena Allam, *The Guardian*, 03/05/2019

Clive Palmer's \$100m foundation to benefit Aboriginal people launched 10 years ago only has \$109 in it, despite never having disbursed a grant or allocation, according to financial records published by the Australian charity commission.

WA's Aboriginal affairs minister, Ben Wyatt, told *Guardian Australia*.

"Clive Palmer has proven himself time and time again to be no friend of West Australians and certainly no friend of Aboriginal West Australians. I would encourage all West Australians to look at his record when he last appeared in our nation's parliament and judge him accordingly when they are at the ballot box on election day."

Palmer announced the foundation in 2008 and said it would allocate \$100m for medical research in the Pilbara. It was hailed at the time "as the greatest single act of charity in Australian history".

Palmer Care was then registered as a charity in 2012, "to cover areas of Australian Aboriginal health and welfare including communities and organisations dedicated to the betterment of Aboriginal society, physical and mental health and for the creation of employment opportunities".

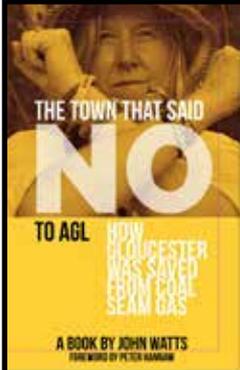
The foundation was established in the wake of a series of court battles

between Palmer's Mineralogy and traditional Aboriginal land owners in the Pilbara.

The Kuruma-Marthudundera people hold native title over the lands on which Mineralogy acquired mining and exploration leases in 2000. ...

The Kuruma-Marthudundera native title holders claimed the leases were operating in the middle of three important sites, including sacred areas and a burial site, and that Mineralogy were "not genuine in their consultations".

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