



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 2:22 • 10 MAY 2019

Rocky Hill coal project abandoned

By Eve Sinton

Gloucester Resources Limited this week announced it would not file an appeal against the ground-breaking February judgement that put a stop to their coal mining plans.

The judgement, by the Chief Judge of the Land and Environment Court, Justice Brian Preston SC, refused approval of a new open cut coal mine to be built just outside Gloucester in the Upper Hunter Valley.

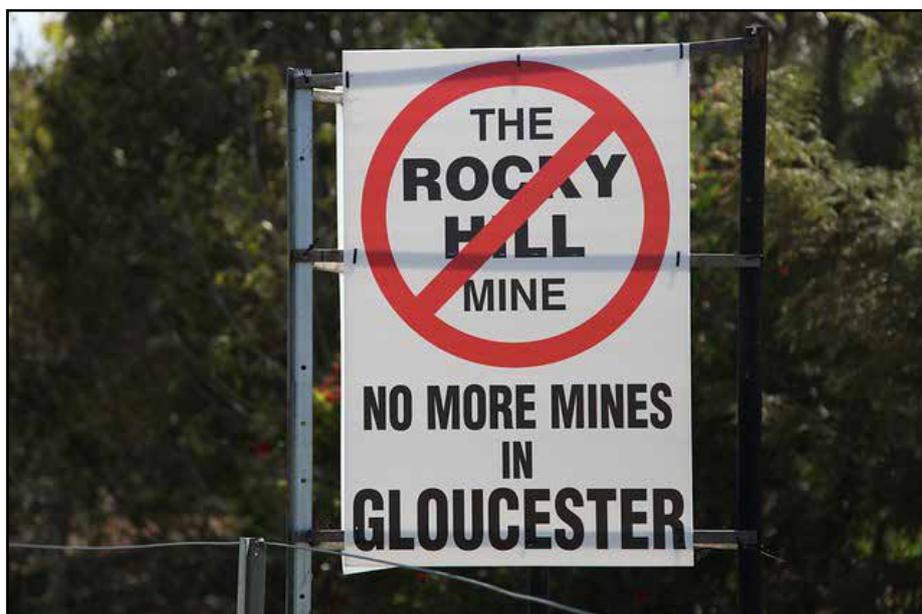
It was the first time an Australian court had refused consent for a coal mine on the basis of its climate change impacts, and marked a giant leap forward in terms of consideration of impacts on communities and on cultural heritage. The reverberations of this decision continue to be felt across Australia and internationally.

Community group Groundswell Gloucester and their legal representative, David Morris, of the EDO NSW, welcomed the news.

"It's been a long, arduous – but ultimately successful – road," Morris said.

"It's a sweet moment for our client and a huge win for the lawyers who have toiled long and hard on their behalf. The judgment is a game changer – both for what it says about climate change and also social and cultural heritage impacts.

"There's no longer any doubt hanging over the legality of that decision. The focus must now shift to the Government's response, which should be to codify the reasoning adopted by Chief Judge Preston, providing certainty to industry and other communities like the one in Gloucester."



Gloucester Resources Ltd has abandoned plans to appeal a court rejection of the Rocky Hill coal mine. Photo: Lock the Gate

Julie Lyford, chairperson of Groundswell Gloucester, said, "The community of Gloucester and most importantly the affected residents are absolutely delighted that they can now get on with their lives. The uncertainty and anxious waiting is over.

Community moving forward

"The decade-long fight to protect our homes, families and the beautiful Gloucester valley has been arduous and distressing. The community can now move forward with progressive and sustainable industry.

"Indeed, since the news in early 2016 regarding AGL not proceeding with their 330-well gas field, then the refusal of the Rocky Hill coal mine, house prices have risen and housing stock as well as new builds are in hot demand.

Tourism this Easter weekend was very strong. Service industries and light industrial business continue to grow.

"Gloucester has always been a desirable destination to visit, live and grow the economy. With climate change threatening the planet, we owe it to this and future generations to step away from fossil fuel, embrace renewables and work towards just transitions."

Lock the Gate said says NSW must take this historic opportunity to consider two pending new coal mine decisions in a new light.

Two other new NSW coal mines – United Wambo and Bylong – are now under consideration by the Independent Planning Commission, with an outcome possible at any time.

FFB

• P2: Greenpeace's 'Dirty Power' doco

• P3: Woodside ignores climate emergency

• P4: Fukushima: Ongoing catastrophe

Greenpeace launches Dirty Power doco



Greenpeace has teamed up with seasoned investigative journalist Michael West to lift the lid on the toxic stranglehold that Big Coal has over our political system. What they found was explosive.

“When we started this investigation we had a couple of burning questions: how does the Australian coal industry maintain its grip on our politics? And why do government decisions keep going the way of the coal industry and against the interests of the Australian people who have voted repeatedly for climate action?”

“We couldn’t possibly have anticipated the scale of what we discovered: a secretive network behind coal’s dirty power that has infiltrated Australia federal government to its core.

“We have uncovered the hidden links between the world’s biggest coal giants, industry groups, lobbyists and powerful media organisations, as they work to influence our political decision-making at the highest level: right up to the office of the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison.

“If enough of us can watch it and spread the word, we can turn the tide towards the clean future the majority of Australians want.

“And with all eyes on our politicians as the election fast approaches, we have an opportunity to change the system,” said Greenpeace.

• See the 15 minute documentary here

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=376426336310070>

FFB

Acland coal mine puts water, farming at risk

Groundwater vital for farming some of the country’s richest soils could be irreparably damaged if the Queensland Government signs off on the water licence for the next stage of the Acland coal mine on the Darling Downs.

Despite being knocked back due to groundwater concerns in the Land Court, the company behind the project, New Hope Coal, has appealed the decision and has applied for a water licence for Stage 3 of the mine.

Lock the Gate is urging the Department of Natural Resources and Mines and Minister Anthony Lynham to reject New Hope’s application. LTG has recorded that more than 420 submissions have been made.

Paul King from the Oakey Coal Action Alliance said if approved, Stage 3 of the

New Acland coal mine would have a disastrous impact both locally and on a global scale.

“The underground aquifers that many farms on the Darling Downs rely on are likely to experience significant drainage, including aquifers which are identified in the Murray Darling Basin Plan as already being over their Sustainable Diversion Limit volumes,” he said.

“Acland Stage 3, if approved, would also destroy farmland which has been confirmed by the Land Court as being among the best 1.5 percent of agricultural land in Queensland, including 1,3000 hectares of mapped Strategic Cropping Land.

“Ultimately, this mine expansion would make a significant contribution to climate change.”

FFB

Santos refuses to provide information

Farmers and concerned citizens in north west NSW say the latest submission made by Santos about its controversial Narrabri CSG project is “arrogant” and “dangerous”, with the company refusing to provide information and commitments requested by the State Government and Narrabri Council.

Santos recently submitted a ‘Supplementary Response to Submissions’ to 14 NSW Government agencies’ requests for information, data, and commitments from the gas company regarding the environmental risks of its proposed coal seam gas project.

In the submission, Santos refuses more than a dozen specific requests for information and commitments from the Environment Protection Authority, the Rural Fire Service, and Narrabri Council.

Local farmer Sally Hunter said, “Santos has refused the RFS’s request to not flare gas during catastrophic bushfire conditions. This shows an extraordinary and reckless disregard for the safety of our community.

“Santos has also refused the EPA’s request to assess the capacity of landfill facilities to accommodate huge volumes of salt waste with potentially high concentrations of metals and other contaminants.

“It has refused Narrabri Council’s request that it obtain environmental insurance for offsite and long-term environmental harms, despite this being a recommendation made by the Chief Scientist for all coal seam gas operations.

“This level of arrogance would be rejected totally if it came from a member of the community – the authorities must not allow this corporation to get away with flaunting standard requirements and endangering locals’ lives.”

Mullaley farmer Margaret Fleck said, “We are calling on Planning Minister Rob Stokes and Deputy Premier John Barilaro to stop coal seam gas putting our water resources at risk and back the people of the north west when we tell Santos that its gasfield is too risky and not welcome in our region.”

• The Supplementary Response:

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/10716>

FFB

Woodside ignores climate emergency

By Market Forces

In a week where climate change dominated global headlines with England's Parliament declaration of a climate emergency and school strikers taking to the streets in over 500 locations worldwide, corporate Australia was also facing increasing scrutiny on climate change.

Woodside's annual general meeting on May 2 in Perth was no exception, with question time taken up by shareholders' climate concerns.

Yet when asked if Woodside would align its strategy with the Paris Agreement target of keeping global warming to 1.5 degrees of pre-industrial levels, the answer was a flat "no".

"Our baseline is the two degree scenario. Let's be clear – the world has signed up for 2 degrees – 1.5 degrees is just a recent report that has been recommended but not accepted by anybody," commented CEO Peter Coleman.

The report in question is not 'just' any report. Produced by the world's leading Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – a United Nations body – it shows the stark and devastating difference between 1.5 and 2 degrees to our planet.

As a shareholder pointed out, the extra half degree is expected to expose tens of millions more people to life-threatening heatwaves, water shortages and coastal inundation, and spell the death of the Great Barrier Reef.

The IPCC's report and many others, including those published in recent years by the International Energy Agency and the World Energy Council, also make clear that any production from new oil and gas fields, beyond those already in production or development, is incompatible with limiting warming to 1.5 degrees.

Put simply, there's absolutely no room for new coal, oil and gas reserves.

It's a finding that Woodside's board and leadership have apparently chosen to ignore.

For in the next three years (2019 to 2022), Woodside and its subsidiaries will spend more than AU\$283 million on offshore oil and gas exploration activities for the petroleum exploration permits it holds.



A Woodside gas plant in Western Australia. Photo: Woodside

Out of line, out of time

Which is why the recent Market Forces report, *Out of line, out of time*, named Woodside as one of the companies acting out of line with keeping temperature rises to a safer 1.5 degrees.

The trillion-dollar Norwegian Sovereign Wealth Fund has already black-listed Woodside as an uninvestable company, primarily because it has no credible decarbonisation plan in line with the Paris Agreement. Woodside's share price has slumped significantly as a result.

When shareholders reiterated the importance of the 1.5 degree threshold, Coleman finally admitted that Woodside's business model could not be supported under this scenario. "Because it is 1.5 rather than 2 degrees there are a handful of scenarios where gas becomes less in the energy mix over time."

Political donations

Woodside is Australia's biggest fossil fuel company donor to political parties. Shareholders at the AGM asked why over \$200,000 needed to be given to the major political parties when other big companies such as Rio Tinto and BHP had decided to not donate anymore.

"We are part of political party business forums. We have representation in Canberra. That does give us good access to politicians on all sides of

the political spectrum. We think it's a worthwhile investment. It's important we are heard on our views on appropriate policies for the communities in which we operate," chairman Richard Goyder told shareholders.

With Woodside and Santos last year donating almost half a million dollars to political parties between them, and both companies banging on about the importance of "representation in Canberra", it's hardly surprising that Labor last month announced it would stump up a \$1.5 billion subsidy to open the Northern Territory to new gas projects if it wins the upcoming federal election.

Government handouts

Woodside, which made US \$1.5 billion in profits this past year, was also recently revealed to have asked Australia's export credit agency, EFIC, to subsidise a new oil and gas project off the coast of Senegal in West Africa.

"How does Woodside reconcile this large oil project, set to open a huge new fossil fuel resource, with its climate change policy that recognises the scientific consensus on climate change?" asked another shareholder.

Coleman responded that they were "looking for diversification in Woodside's portfolio."

• See marketforces.org.au

Dr Helen Caldicott on Fukushima: An ongoing catastrophe

Dr Helen Caldicott spoke to Michael Welch of Global Research earlier this year, on the eighth anniversary of the triple meltdowns at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear facility in Japan, which passed mostly without comment in mainstream media circles.

As part of efforts to normalise this historic event and cover it up in its magnitude, the Japanese government has invested considerable financial, public relations and other resources into what they are billing the 'Recovery Olympics' set to take place in a year's time in Tokyo.

But Helen Caldicott warns that the dangers associated with Fukushima have not gone away and remain a cause for concern.

Dr Helen Caldicott, an Australian, has been an author, physician and one of the world's leading anti-nuclear campaigners. She is the editor of the 2014 book, *Crisis Without End: The Medical and Ecological Consequences of the Fukushima Nuclear Catastrophe*.

She says it's difficult to fully assess the health impacts of the Fukushima disaster because the Japanese government has authorised only examination of thyroid cancer. Thyroid cancer is caused by radioactive iodine and there were many, many cases after Chernobyl.

"Already, they've looked at children under the age of 18 in the Fukushima prefecture at the time of the accident, and ... by June 18 last year... 201 had developed thyroid cancer. Some cancers had metastasised," Caldicott said.

"The incidence of thyroid cancer in that population normally is one per million. So obviously it's an epidemic of thyroid cancer and it's just starting now.

"What people need to understand is the latent period of carcinogenesis, ie the time after exposure to radiation when cancers develop, is any time from three years to 80 years. Thyroid cancers appear early. Leukemia appears about five to 10 years later. They're not looking for leukemia.

"Solid cancers of every organ, or any organ as such appear about 15 years later and continue, and in fact the Hibakusha from the Hiroshima and Nagasaki who are still alive are still developing cancers in higher than normal numbers."

Damage at Fukushima



Caldicott said the Japanese government has told doctors that they are not to talk to their patients about radiation and related illnesses, and if they do, they might lose their funding from the government.

"So, there's a huge, huge cover up," Caldicott said.

"There are ongoing emissions into the air consistently. A huge amount of water is being stored – over a million gallons in tanks at the site. That water is being siphoned off from the reactor cores, the damaged melted cores. Water is pumped consistently every day, every hour, to keep the cores cool in case they have another melt. And that water, of course, is extremely contaminated.

"Now they say they've filtered out the contaminants except for the tritium which is part of the water molecule, but they haven't. There's strontium, cesium, and many other elements in that water – it's highly radioactive – and because there isn't enough room to build more tanks, they're talking about emptying all that water into the Pacific Ocean and the fishermen are very, very upset. The fish already being caught off Fukushima, some are obviously contaminated. But this will be a disaster.

"Water comes down from the mountains behind the reactors, flows underneath the reactors into the sea and always has. And when the reactors were in good shape, the water was fine. But now the three molten cores are in contact with that water flowing under the reactors, and so the water flowing into the Pacific is very radioactive and that's a separate thing from the million gallons or more in those tanks.

"They put up a refrigerated wall of frozen dirt around the reactors to prevent

that water from the mountains flowing underneath the reactors, which has cut down the amount of water flowing per day from 500 tons to about 150. But of course, if they lose electricity, that refrigeration system is going to fail, and it's a transient thing anyway so it's ridiculous. So, over time the Pacific is going to become more and more radioactive.

Robots' wiring melts and disappears

"They talk about decommissioning and removing those molten cores. When robots go in and try and have a look at them, their wiring just melts and disappears. They're extraordinarily radioactive. No human can go near them because they would die within 48 hours from the radiation exposure. They will never, and I quote never, decommission those reactors. They will never be able to stop the water coming down from the mountains. And so, the truth be known, it's an ongoing global radiological catastrophe which no one really is addressing in full."

Chernobyl has killed a million

Caldicott said a book published by the New York Academy of Sciences, called *Chernobyl*, included over 5,000 studies of children and diseases in Belarus and the Ukraine, and all over Europe. It finds that over a million people have already died from the Chernobyl disaster.

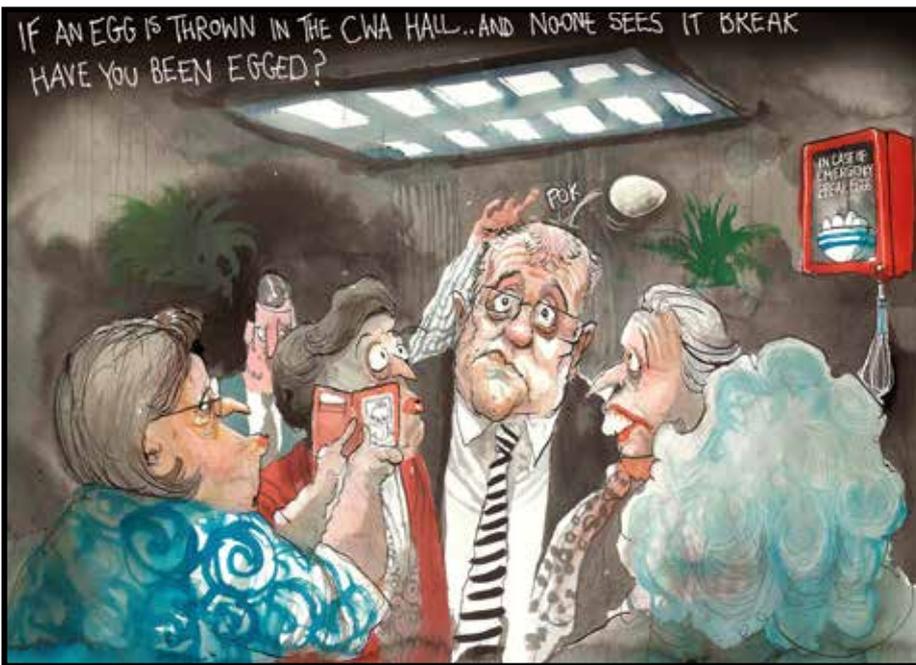
"May I say that parts of Tokyo are extremely radioactive," Caldicott said. People have been measuring the dirt from rooves of apartments, from the roadway, from vacuum cleaner dust. Some of these samples, they're so radioactive that they would classify to be buried in radioactive waste facilities in America.

"To have the Olympics in Fukushima just defies imagination. Some of the areas where the athletes are going to be running, the dust and dirt there has been measured, and it's highly radioactive. ... And those young athletes – and young people are much more sensitive to radiation, developing cancers later than older people – it's just a catastrophe waiting to happen."

• *The full interview transcript is available at:*

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/fukushima-an-ongoing-global-radiological-catastrophe-a-huge-coverup-dr-helen-caldicott/5672265>

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



Ocean Elders call for protection from oil co

A group of Ocean Elders including Richard Branson, Jane Goodall and Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan, as well as three Australian Nobel Laureates have today (May 10) written to Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Opposition Leader Bill Shorten urging them to protect the Great Australian Bight from oil drilling.

The 'Ocean Elders' call on the Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition to put in place a permanent ban on oil exploration in the Great Australian Bight. The letter is also signed by Nobel Laureates Peter Dougherty, Robin Warren, and J.M. Coetzee.

"Eighty-five per cent of the marine life in the Great Australian Bight cannot be found anywhere else on earth so it's essential we protect it," said Gerry Lopez, Ocean Elder. "The Bight is a unique treasure, one of the natural

wonders of the world and it must be saved for generations to come."

"Having this group of Ocean Elders and Nobel Laureates stand up to say that drilling for oil in the Bight would be disastrous and should not happen is a very significant moment," said David Ritter, CEO Greenpeace Australia Pacific.

"And Climate Change is already an emergency-we cannot afford to open up new oil fields that would push us closer to global catastrophe," he said.

The Great Australian Bight has more unique biodiversity than the Great Barrier Reef. Australian offshore oil and gas regulator NOPSEMA is currently considering whether to allow Norwegian oil company Equinor to proceed with deep-sea drilling in the Bight.

FFB

Inside the news

The **Murdoch media**, not content with **inciting hatred** for environmentalists, has now taken aim at the tiny black-throated finch which is likely to be driven to extinction by Adani's coal mine (p6-7).

Tim Blair, writing in the *Daily Telegrot*, said: "Most birds can fly ... All except the **black-throated finch**. When danger threatens, these do-nothing **bludger birds** apparently just sit there and await their demise. This is the only conclusion able to be drawn from the latest Queensland government demands made to operators of the proposed Adani coal mine."

Murdoch stable-mate *The Gladstone Observer* has made much of a '**start Adani convoy**' – **five blokes in four cars** – driving around north Queensland this week. It is led by Kelvin Appleton, the Clermont publican who warned Stop Adani convoyers not to enter his establishment.

There were two very contrasting stories about **Leigh Creek Energy's (LCK) unpopular gas project** (p10-11). *The Transcontinental* reported that Copley and Leigh Creek residents gathered at the Copley Hall to affirm their clear opposition to the underground coal gasification project at the old Leigh Creek Coal Mine. A survey reveals that **90% of the 200 residents are opposed** to the project.

Apparently the **ABC** is unaware of the survey, with a story alleging the project had **sparked hopes of revival** for Leigh Creek.

FFB's Leigh Creek source says LCK have advertised their trial project was a great success, but word is that government officials say the **trial was not a success** because it **only produced commercial flows for minutes**. LCK is not answering questions about how much LPG was used to run the failing project.

Our informant believes the project is really a **con** to get money out of naive or complacent governments and Chinese investors.

Beware former Linc Energy execs encouraging you to buy LCK shares! (Never forget Linc's Darling Downs catastrophe.)

FFB

FOR READERS ON FACEBOOK

If you clicked through to the Issuu version of **FFB** from a Facebook page, you'll notice the hyperlinks don't work.

To get a PDF version of **Fossil Fool Bulletin**, go to

knitting-nannas.org/bulletins

Where you can download or subscribe to the publication, with fully functional links.



Published by Eve Sinton
PO Box 555, Mullumbimby,
NSW 2482, Australia

 Fossil Fool Bulletin

 fossil.fool.bulletin@gmail.com
evesinton@gmail.com

To subscribe free, click here:
<https://knitting-nannas.org/bulletins.php>

In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 42,000 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/adani-faces-five-year-delay-over-new-finch-timeframe/news-story/4a422af705c142def28b71248cc0f95>

Adani faces five-year delay over new finch timeframe

Charlie Peel, *The Australian*, 04/05/2019

Construction on the Adani Carmichael coalmine could be delayed by five years after the Queensland Environment Department changed the timeframe for completion of the mining company's black-throated finch population and impact research.

Under its Environmental Authority, approved in 2016 by the Queensland government, Adani had planned to carry out the research over five years during the early stages of construction and operation of the central Queensland mine, but the Department of Environment and Science on Thursday requested that it complete its research prior to construction. The request is among several strict conditions put forward by the DES after an eleventh-hour review. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/federal-election-2019-adani-delay-blow-to-federal-labor-prospects/news-story/75ac9576e3c208e15928381e83416347>

Federal election 2019: Adani delay blow to federal Labor prospects

Steven Wardill, *Courier-Mail*, 04/05/2019

The Carmichael coal project could be delayed by up to five years after the State Labor Government demanded Adani count the precise number of black-throated finches living on the property. ...

Labor insiders said yesterday federal Opposition Leader Bill Shorten's camp was livid, while regional figures said the party had abandoned campaigns to win marginal Coalition electorates in regional Queensland in favour of city seats. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/opinion/the-battle-lines-drawn-over-adani-have-produced-strange-bedfellows/news-story/58f80a66918fef9b8b0ada96621beec>

The battle lines drawn over Adani have produced strange bedfellows

Michael Madigan, *Courier-Mail*, 04/05/2019

Around 10.30am at a pro-Adani coal mine rally on a rainy Saturday morn-



A crowd of 2,500 at the final rally for Bob Brown's Stop Adani Convoy in Canberra this week. Photo: Facebook

ing in the city of Mackay it suddenly becomes clear, with all the deep, calm clarity of a spiritual epiphany, that Australian politics has gone insane.

The Bob Brown Foundation's Stop Adani Convoy has rolled into town and with it that strange new political potpourri which has taken all the old certainties and thrown them into a stew so thick no one could hope to know where the ingredients ever originated.

The pro-mine tribe are camped on one side of the city council grounds, the anti-mine tribe on the other. ...

<https://www.thefifthestate.com.au/articles/the-stop-adani-convoy-what-really-happened-in-north-queensland/>

The Stop Adani Convoy: What really happened in north Queensland

Mick Daley, *Fifth Estate*, 03/05/2019

Bob Brown's "Stop Adani" convoy has raised hackles across Queensland and the broader political landscape, as it was intended to do. In the lead-up to the Federal election, it's been an effective litmus test of the state's volatility, right wing politics emerging as the primary battleground, with Hansen, Palmer and Morrison seeking to outdo each other in extremist positioning, while Shorten limps along behind. ...

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/6106546/bob-brown-it-is-up-to-us-to-stop-adani/>

Bob Brown: 'It is up to us,' to stop Adani

Colin Brinsden, *Canberra Times*, 05/05/2019

Veteran environmental activist Bob Brown has told thousands of climate action supporters they can't rely on divine intervention to prevent the Adani coal mine. "It is up to us".

The former federal Greens leader led the stop-Adani convoy that began in Hobart just before Easter and travelled to Clermont in central Queensland before reaching its final destination in Canberra on Sunday where a rally was held on the lawns of Parliament House.

Organisers estimated there were 2,500 people at the rally - "a bigger crowd than Bill Shorten will face today and a bigger crowd than Scott Morrison will ever face", Dr Brown said. ...

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/opinion/tim-blair-queensland-government-makes-demands-on-adani-over-protection-of-finch/news-story/>

Queensland Government makes demands on Adani over protection of finch

Tim Blair, *Daily Telegraph*, 05/05/2019

In the manner of Charles Darwin, I have spent most of my life closely studying animals.

Exactly like the celebrated naturalist, I exhaustively examine all types of creatures. Be they of land, sea or sky, I deeply consider every single one.

And then eat them. ...

Most birds can fly ... All except the black-throated finch. When danger threatens, these do-nothing bludger birds apparently just sit there and await their demise. This is the only conclusion able to be drawn from the latest Queensland government demands made to operators of the proposed Adani coal mine. ...

<https://www.themorningbulletin.com.au/news/department-defends-controversial-finch-decision/3720154/>

Department defends controversial finch decision

Jack Evans, Morning Bulletin, 07/05/2019

After coming under fire from Adani supporters and representatives last week, the State Department of Environment and Science has sought to address criticisms about environmental approvals.

Much of the criticism arose surrounding the approval of the Byerwen mine, another mine with a footprint on known black-throated finch habitat.

Minister for Resources, Senator Matt Canavan said it was “a joke” that a condition could be imposed that would require the proponent to “count every single bird”.

When asked why the department approved that mine with seemingly similar conditions and not Adani’s plan, a DES spokesperson said “these are two very different projects”. ...

“Two individual birds suspected to be the black-throated finch (BTF) were observed [at Byerwen] (without a positive identification) during baseline surveys near the large wetland in the south-west of the project – there are no previous records of this species in or near the project area,” a spokesperson said.

“By contrast, the site of the proposed Carmichael Mine is known to be home to the most significant population of the black-throated finch.” ...

<https://www.sunshinecoastdaily.com.au/news/delving-into-the-mind-of-an-adani-supporter/3720493/>

Delving into the mind of an Adani supporter

B Muir, Sunshine Coast Daily, 07/05/2019

Delving into the mind of an Adani supporter who works with the mining

corporation in a government capacity (who I cannot name) was a fascinating experience. ...

The biggest gripe he has with Australia is its treatment of Adani (he called it a “witch-hunt”) and the concerns he says that this could cause future relationships with foreign enterprise; especially that with Indian corporations. ...

Some issues he had with Adani was their treatment and belittling of women and “cultural issues”.

When asked to elaborate on this, he said that Adani are used to having free reign on whatever development project they set their hand to in Asia and they’re not used to being told to tow the line.

He said they were incredibly difficult to work with, especially in government negotiations.

He said Glencore are bullies and are doing more damage to the environment than Adani, but this is not publicised. ...

What is troubling is the water licence granted to Adani puts no limit on the water it can take from the GAB. No limit whatsoever, on a limited resource.

Perhaps I am a “soft-minded Greenie,” but from what I have seen, read, and studied, I am of the firm belief that mining in Australia is unequivocally not sustainable.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/may/07/adani-refuses-to-commit-to-size-of-scaled-down-carmichael-coalmine>

Adani refuses to commit to size of ‘scaled-down’ Carmichael coalmine

Ben Smee, The Guardian, 07/05/2019

Adani has refused to commit to the size of its “scaled-down” Carmichael coal project and is still pursuing final approvals based on plans for a 60m-tonne megamine in central Queensland.

The Queensland government has confirmed that while Adani announced last year it intended to build a much smaller mine, the Indian company has filed no formal plans on that basis.

Instead, the state is assessing Adani’s key environmental management plans on the assumption the project would produce up to 60m tonnes of coal a year. ...

Tim Buckley, the director of energy finance studies for the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, said potential financiers had balked mainly because of concerns about

environmental activism, outstanding approvals and the risk attached to a greenfield development.

Buckley said those concerns would be allayed once the mine was operational, and the “bankability” of the project for potential investors would increase. “I have absolutely zero doubt that once they get the initial 10m tonnes up and running, the discussion will become about how quickly can [Adani] ramp up,” he said. “It’s so much easier to expand brownfield and it’s so much lower risk than it is to expand greenfield.

“Adani mining has no revenue in Australia, so there’s nothing for a bank to lend to. Once you’ve got 10 [million tonnes a year of coal being produced], against that you can borrow.” ...

<https://theconversation.com/why-adanis-finch-plan-was-rejected-and-what-comes-next-116525>

Why Adani’s finch plan was rejected, and what comes next

Samantha Hepburn & April Reside, The Conversation, 07/05/2019

Adani’s plan to manage an endangered finch was rejected last week by the Queensland government, stalling progress on the Carmichael mine.

The mine would cover much of the best remaining habitat for the endangered black-throated finch. ...

Without state approval the Adani coal mine cannot proceed. The Queensland government has rigorously assessed Adani’s management plan by commissioning a report by an independent expert panel and then acting on the advice of this report.

This robust approach is crucial to the whole framework of environmental assessment. Genuine commitment to protecting endangered species and managing vital groundwater resources is vital if we want to reverse Australia’s dire trajectory of environmental decline.

• *Samantha Hepburn – Director of the Centre for Energy and Natural Resources Law, Deakin Law School, Deakin University* • *April Reside – Researcher, Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Science, The University of Queensland*

<https://newmatilda.com/2019/05/07/wangan-and-jagalingou-country-the-frontline-in-adanis-federal-election/>

Wangan and Jagalingou country the frontline in ‘Adani’s federal election’

Kristen Lyons, New Matilda, 07/05/2019

Far-right politicians turned out in force in a small Queensland town recently,

to back the construction of a coal-mine that will have more emissions in its lifetime than a small country. Kristen Lyons was there as well, along with the traditional owners of the country, determined to write their own future. ...

What happened in this country town, fearing it's decline as coal continues on its terminal trajectory, was no surprise. Clermont is the closest town to Adani's mega mine site in the Galilee Basin. It's here some locals (along with a bag full of pro-coal federal and state politicians) hold fast to the illusive dream of jobs and growth that Adani and their political backers promise will be realised if their mine goes ahead.

Clermont, and most of the Galilee Basin, is also Wangan and Jagalingou country. Here, the W&J Council are waging an internationally significant political and legal fight in defence of their country against destructive coal mining. ...

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/pro-adani-convoy-makes-pit-stop-at-hookup-event/>

Pro-Adani convoy makes pit stop at HookUp event

Gladstone Observer, 07/05/2019

A pro-Adani convoy travelling through the region took advantage of crowds at the Boyne Tannum HookUp at the weekend.

But convoy leader Kelvan Appleton denied the visit was to spread a "political message".

Mr Appleton was one of five men in the four-car convoy and said the visit was a "direct rebuttal" to Bob Brown's Stop Adani convoy which toured Queensland last month. ...

Mr Appleton said the convoy would travel through Mackay, Townsville and Bowen in the coming week.

<https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/townsville/anti-adani-protesters-moved-on-after-blocking-regional-headquarters/news-story/>

Anti-Adani protesters moved on after blocking regional headquarters

Jacob Miley, Townsville Bulletin, 08/05/2019

Anti-Adani protesters blocking the mining business' regional headquarters have been moved on by police.

More than two dozen protesters blocked the riverfront building's front entrance about 8.30am, which police said was hindering business and building staff. ... Frontline Action on Coal, who led the protest, said they were there to send a "clear message to the

conglomerate and political candidates alike that the proposed Carmichael mine is the last thing communities need". ...

<https://www.goldcoastbulletin.com.au/news/queensland/premier-dismisses-adanis-concerns-over-mine-approval-process/>

Premier dismisses Adani's concerns over mine approval process

Sarah Vogler, Courier-Mail, 07/05/2019

Adani will not score a meeting with Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk to discuss its Galilee Basin project until after its approvals have been finalised.

Ms Palaszczuk today dismissed the Indian miner's concerns about what it sees as hoops it is having to jump through to get its Carmichael coal mine approved. ...

Adani has written to the Premier with its concerns.

When asked if she would meet with the company, Ms Palaszczuk said not until after the project had been "ticked off". ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/labor-mayor-slams-antiinvestor-adani-rules/news-story/37e27289a0c4aa4d4cf50c8c3aa0fe1a>

Labor mayor slams anti-investor 'Adani rules'

Charlie Peel, The Australian, 09/05/2019

Townsville's Labor Mayor Jenny Hill fears the Queensland government's tough assessment measures for the Adani coalmine could frighten away investors in the region.

Her comments followed a press conference in Townsville where Queensland Infrastructure Minister Cameron Dick refused to accept findings from the Infrastructure Association of Queensland that delays in approving Adani's Carmichael mine were causing investor angst. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2019-05-09/coal-town-split-over-galilee-expansion/11090760>

Adani's proposed rail corridor and two-kilometre-long trains through Collinsville has residents concerned again

Tom Major, ABC, 09/05/2019

Concerned Collinsville locals say rail realignment is needed to lessen the impact of millions more tonnes of coal being hauled through their town if the Galilee Basin is opened to mining.

There are calls for planners to consider the effects on the town's 1,200 res-

idents, with worries the freight might lead to frustrating and dangerous road delays.

Already dozens of coal trains pass through the town, 180 kilometres south of Townsville, each day to the Abbot Point Coal Terminal, impacting road traffic at level crossings. ...

Collinsville-born Whitsunday Regional Councillor Mike Bruncker said residents had a right to demand solutions to cope with potentially longer coal trains to be used by Adani.

"I think a standard train might be 1.3 kilometres, the Adani train because they've got to shift more will be over 2 kilometres long," Cr Bruncker said.

"That has a flow-on effect ... parts of the town will be cut off for longer because the trains are longer. ...

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/rail-coal-peace-accord-brokered/news-story/5216f9a969a83bf41b618779ab862719>

Aurizon's coal deadlock ends in peace accord

Paul Garvey, The Australian, 04/05/2019

A peace treaty between Queensland rail group Aurizon and 11 Queensland coal miners is set to generate hundreds of millions of dollars of additional value for Aurizon while paving the way for a lift in coal exports.

Aurizon and a host of users of the Central Queensland Coal Network – including mining giants BHP, Anglo American and Glencore – yesterday formally reached an agreement to resolve their 18-month-old stand-off over the terms and conditions of their rail contracts. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-05-06/morwell-power-station-demolition-ramps-up/11080582>

Morwell Power Station stacks fall in demolition that changes the Latrobe Valley skyline forever

Amelia Bernasconi, ABC, 06/05/2019

The quartet of chimney stacks at the former Morwell Power Station in eastern Victoria has been halved as demolition of the derelict site ramps up.

The chimney stacks have graced Latrobe Valley's skyline since the coal-fired power station opened in 1956.

Now just two of the four towers can be seen. ...

Wire cables were run up the 94-metre stacks and the bases weakened before



A chimney falls at the old Morwell Power Station. Photo: supplied

they were pulled over by an 87-tonne excavator. ...

The total demolition is expected to be completed by September, 2020.

<https://www.nvi.com.au/story/6101332/independent-panel-lists-14-issues-with-vickery-mine-extension/>

Independent panel lists 14 issues with Vickery mine extension

Jamieson Murphy, Namoi Valley Independent, 02/05/2019

The NSW government's independent planning panel has handed down its report on the proposed Vickery coal mine extension, listing 14 key areas of concern.

The Independent Planning Commission (IPC) report said there were several issues that needed "detailed consideration", including project justification, groundwater, noise and blasting, air quality, traffic and transport, public interest, biodiversity and rehabilitation.

Boggabri farmer David Watt was encouraged by the IPC's report, which he said listed almost every problem raised by the community as an issue worthy of further investigation. ...

<https://www.echo.net.au/2019/05/time-us-shenhua-go-home/>

Your time is up: Shenhua, go home

Eve Jeffery, Echonet Daily, 07/05/2019

In a case of 'oh, look over there', while we are all focussed north to Adani and the Galilee Basin, a mining company is inching its way forward out west.

The Watermark Coal Project is a proposed coal mine in the Liverpool Plains

near the village of Breeza and carried out by state-owned Chinese mining company Shenhua Group.

The project is controversial, in fact critics say it is an insane move by a government who is supposed to be looking out for the country, because the proposed mine is in the Liverpool Plains, one of the major food bowls not only of Australia, but the world.

The locals have been fighting against this project for over ten years. That's a long time to have an axe held above you neck. The farmers don't want it, the country doesn't need it and it's beginning to feel like someone's pockets are being lined to make this happen. ...

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/6108381/hunter-gearing-up-for-low-carbon-economy/>

Wind and solar projects poised to lead Hunter's clean energy transition

Matthew Kelly, Newcastle Herald, 07/05/2019

Two renewable energy projects slated for the Upper Hunter are spearheading the region's transition away from coal to a low-carbon economy.

A proposed 250 megawatt wind farm at Bowman's creek east of Muswellbrook and a 25 megawatt solar farm on the site of the former Drayton colliery would provide power to more than 100,000 homes when operational.

The projects would contribute to offsetting the loss of AGL's 2000 megawatt Liddell power station, which is slated to close in 2022. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-05-07/nsw-crossbenchers-latham-and-nile-back-compensation-calls/11083436>

NSW crossbenchers Latham and Nile back compensation calls over scrapped mine deal

Giselle Wakatama, ABC, 07/05/2019

Christian Democrats leader Fred Nile and NSW One Nation leader Mark Latham have gone into bat for a company stripped of mining exploration licence after a corruption probe.

NuCoal had its Doyles Creek licence revoked in 2014 after an Independent Commission Against Corruption probe found the process for granting the licence was tainted by corruption.

The allegations relate to a time before NuCoal acquired the Hunter Valley mine licence for \$94 million in 2009.

Now Premier Gladys Berejiklian has agreed to reassess the decision, prompting Reverend Nile to announce that he will push for some form of mediation. ...

<https://www.theage.com.au/business/companies/coal-not-essential-to-human-progress-but-steel-is-says-rio-chairman-20190509-p511ob.html>

Coal 'not essential' to human progress, but steel is, says Rio chairman

Darren Gray, The Age, 09/05/2019

Coal is "not essential to human progress", Rio Tinto chairman Simon Thompson has declared in the face of pressure from activist shareholders over the mining giant's response to climate change.

Mr Thompson made the remarks in response to comments at the company's annual general meeting by Julien Vincent, executive director of the environmental finance group Market Forces.

"In the case of coal, there are viable alternative sources of energy, that do not produce greenhouse gases. So we would argue that coal is not essential to human progress," Mr Thompson said. But it was a different story with steel. "In the case of steel, there are no obvious substitutes in a whole range of applications," he said. ...

OIL & GAS LEAKS

<https://www.theage.com.au/business/the-economy/lng-prices-tipped-to-double-by-2020-20190502-p51jhe.html>

LNG prices tipped to double by 2020

Cole Latimer, The Age, 06/05/2019

The Competition Watchdog expects liquefied natural gas prices to almost double over the coming months as

Australia continues to grapple with a potential east-coast gas shortage.

A rise would be welcome news for energy companies that have seen the LNG price slide by around a third, in line with the global oil price, over the last three months but concerning for the gas-intensive manufacturing industry already struggling with domestic supply. ...

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/national/2019/05/05/protesters-turn-out-in-strength-to-stop-bight-drilling/>

Protesters turn out in strength to stop Bight drilling

AAP, New Daily, 05/05/2019

Hundreds of people have gathered on an Adelaide beach and elsewhere across Australia to oppose Norwegian energy giant Equinor's plans to drill in the Great Australian Bight.

Attending the Hands Across the Sand protest, Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young says the majority of South Australians don't want any oil drilling in the Great Australian Bight. ...

Equinor, who says the Bight "could be one of Australia's largest untapped oil reserves", wants to drill a well more than 370km off the coast of South Australia.

Drilling of the proposed Stromlo-1 well will begin in the summer of 2020/21 if it receives all necessary regulatory approval. ...

The South Australian director of environmental advocacy group Wilderness Society, Peter Owen, said there are "unprecedented levels of community concern" over the project.

Mr Owen says a delegation will be going to Norway on Monday to front Equinor's board at their annual general meeting. ...

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/6104608/protest-against-plans-for-seismic-testing-set-for-nobbys-beach/>

Protest against plans for seismic testing set for Nobbys Beach at Newcastle

Newcastle Herald, 05/05/2019

Protesters will again descend on Nobbys Beach this weekend to rally against plans for further seismic testing off the coast of Newcastle.

Asset Energy, the company that conducted seismic testing in search of gas last year, has not yet finalised a date for its next survey. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/the-economy/drilling-to-the-moon-and-back-oil-gas-boom-drives-exploration-surge-20190508-p5114g.html>

'Drilling to the moon and back': Oil, gas boom drives exploration surge

Cole Latimer, SMH, 09/05/2019

A surge in oil and gas exploration will see so many wells drilled over the next five years that they could cover the distance of going to the moon and back, with high oil prices pushing companies to uncover the next big find.

Global research house Rystad Energy forecasts that more than one million kilometres of new oil and gas wells will be drilled globally over the next five years as the resources sector undergoes a revival. ... This increase in drilling is expected to trigger \$US200 billion in global LNG construction between 2019 and 2025, when about 90 million tonnes worth of new gas projects are expected to be built. Woodside, Origin, Santos, Shell and Inpex are expected to carry out around \$23 billion worth of drilling activities to 2023. ...

Activity is likely to take place in highly prospective regions such as the Northern Territory's Beetaloo Basin, off Western Australia and South Australia's shores and in South Australia's Cooper Basin, Credit Suisse energy analyst Saul Kavonic said. ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/brickworks-weston-extend-line-up-for-narrabri-gas-20190508-p511c4>

Brickworks, Weston extend line-up for Narrabri gas

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 09/05/2019

Australia's largest brick company Brickworks and gas wholesaler Weston Energy have become the latest

energy users to sign up as customers for Santos' controversial Narrabri project, underscoring the level of local industrial support for the venture that still hinges on NSW government approval. ...

Together with the Peramon [fertiliser] deal, for 14.5 PJ a year over 20 years, Santos has secured customers for almost 40 per cent of the envisaged annual output of up to 73 PJ a year, for at least the first seven years. The project could meet half the gas needs of NSW, which relies on other states for 95 per cent of its supplies. ...

NSW's chief scientist Professor Mary O'Kane has already determined that with proper oversight coal seam gas can be extracted safely, but not all the recommendations she made in a 2014 report have yet been implemented. The project is set to go before the Independent Planning Commission, with a decision expected in the December half. ...

LEIGH CK STINK

<https://www.transcontinental.com.au/story/6108851/communities-celebrate-declaration-day/>

Communities celebrate declaration day

Transcontinental, 06/05/2019

Community members of Copley and Leigh Creek gathered at the Copley Hall to affirm their clear opposition to the Underground Coal Gasification project at the old Leigh Creek Coal Mine.

The UCG trial of Leigh Creek Energy (LKE) project is due to end on May 7.

Following a day of meeting, reflecting on country and culture, music and food around 100 community members



Leigh Creek and Copley locals opposed to Underground Coal Gasification (UCG). Photo: supplied

marched through the outback town of Copley to erect a permanent sign that declared their towns UCG free.

The Community invited the Minister for Energy and Mines Dan Van Holst Pellekaan to attend the declaration day.

The Minister reported to the community that Leigh Creek Energy, who had been running the UCG trial, had “packed up and gone home” but did not rule out this company or another making further or future applications.

“The Adnyamathanha people welcome the news that the trial is over and that LKE have gone from our country,” Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association Chief Executive Officer Vince Coulthard said.

“We have always been totally opposed to this project and now it’s time for healing.” ...

Almost 200 people in Leigh Creek and Copley were surveyed with an overwhelming 90 per cent majority declaring opposition to UCG.

This is the first community in Australia to declare a UCG free town and celebrate with a dedicated Declaration Day.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-05-08/controversial-coal-gas-ucg-tech-holds-hope-for-sa-town/11086634>

Underground coal gasification technology, banned in Queensland, holds hope for Leigh Creek

Patrick Martin, ABC, 08/05/2019

An outback town in South Australia is waiting to see if the controversial underground coal gasification (UCG) technology that has been banned in Queensland will be the answer to reviving their flagging community.

Leigh Creek Energy had been operating a UCG pilot plant at the former Leigh Creek coal mine for about six months, and is now considering tendering for an electricity supply contract previously held by a renewable energy project.

The same UCG technology was banned in Queensland after issues at Chinchilla in Queensland between 2007 and 2013.

The project has sparked hopes of a revival in the town which has experienced a significant downturn following the closure of its major employer – the Leigh Creek coal mine – in 2015.

At its peak in the 1980s, the town was home to 2,500 people.

Now fewer than 200 call Leigh Creek home.

But with the trial now over, locals will be forced to wait to see if controversial technology can revive their town. ...

Leigh Creek Energy chairman Justyn Peters said the size of the gas reserve gave the company options.

“It is the largest uncontracted gas reserve on the east coast of Australia,” Mr Peters said.

“We have the opportunity to pump gas to the Moomba reserve and then across to the east coast of Australia.

“That’s very attractive and becoming more attractive each day. But it is a higher capital expenditure project.”

He also said the company was considering tendering for the supply of 100 per cent of the South Australian Government’s energy needs for 20 years – a contract previously held by a renewable energy project. ...

“We have the capacity to produce electricity and we can produce quite large amounts of it. We’re in discussions on that, but we can assure you we haven’t taken any steps formally on that yet,” Mr Peters said.

He said the company could launch both fertilizer production and gas export models.

The projects would cost between \$1-2 billion, and external finance would be required.

“Optimistically the plants could be up and running in late 2022 and then any time on from there, depending on delays,” he said.

He said up to 500 local jobs could be created if the projects went ahead. ...

The company will decommission the pilot plant over 12 months, reporting environmental impacts back to the regulator. ...

The area holds significant cultural heritage for the Adnyamathanha people.

In the dreaming story, Yurlu started a fire which created the coal at Leigh Creek. ...

South Australian Mining Minister Dan van Holst Pellekaan said the State Government would consider UCG projects in the future. ...

IMPORT INSANITY

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/lng-import-terminals-not-the-answer-for-manufacturers-20190503-p51jou>

LNG import terminals ‘not the answer’ for manufacturers

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 03/04/2019

NSW manufacturers say relying on LNG imports or gas from the Northern Territory to satisfy the state’s needs will send them out of business and have stepped up calls for the government to get behind Santos’s Narrabri coal seam gas venture, which secured two prospective customers this week.

The NSW government’s support for the Port Kembla import terminal in preference to developing the state’s own gas resources has disappointed and frustrated manufacturers, who say they will never be able to afford imported fuel. ...

But asked about the competitiveness of imports versus gas from Narrabri, which is still going through the approvals process, NSW Deputy Premier John Barilaro said this week: “In the current market, it is more cost effective to import gas into the state of NSW than to source it locally or interstate.” ...

<https://www.macrobusiness.com.au/2019/05/lng-imports-are-economic-suicide/>

LNG imports are economic suicide

Houses & Holes, Macrobusiness, 06/05/2019

Even with the Asian LNG price cratered today to \$7Gj, NSW won’t see any for less than \$10Gj and the price will only rise from there. Futures markets are pricing Asian gas at \$12Gj by H1 2020 and if the AUD falls to 0.60 cents on RBA cuts then that price will be... wait for it...\$16Gj.

LNG imports are not only not the answer, they’re absolute madness, embedding an energy shock to be triggered the very moment that the currency is supposed to work as a shock absorber.

The astounding lunacy of this doesn’t become fully plain until one considers a few further facts. Those producing and selling the gas in Asia, like Shell, ConocoPhillips or others have extensive LNG portfolios around Australia and the world. The gas that Australian LNG importers buy will be provided by one such firm and do we really think that they will go to the trouble and expense of shipping gas from somewhere as distant as the US? No!

They’ll use the gas at hand. That means the great likelihood is that Aussie gas

will be frozen in QLD, shipped out to the reef and sailed south to NSW and VIC regasification terminals.

The hilarity of this circumstance only becomes fully apparent when we consider that VIC is large net gas exporter itself, to QLD, for the use of the very same LNG cartel.

In short, we will: • extract gas from Bass Straight for \$2Gj; • sell it to the LNG exporters in QLD for \$7Gj; • liquify and ship it out for \$2Gj; • ship it in and regasify it for \$2Gj.

End users in VIC and NSW will thus watch their own state's \$2Gj gas slip by their front door, do a fantastic \$9Gj rentier round trip, and return for \$11Gj a month later.

It's not just manufacturers. Every household and business east of Ayre's Rock pays for this higher gas plus the follow-up astronomical impact on power bills, because gas-fired power sets the marginal cost in the National Electricity Market. This is a \$15-20bn per annum scam. ...

<https://thewest.com.au/business/energy/chevrons-8b-profit-from-wa-but-just-50m-in-tax-ng-b881186276z>

Chevron's \$8b profit from WA ... but just \$50m in tax

Peter Williams & Peter Milne, West Australian, 03/05/2019

Chevron has made a \$US5.9 billion (\$8.4 billion) pre-tax profit from its WA operations — its first since building two massive LNG projects in the Pilbara — but paid only \$US35 million (\$49.96 million) in tax.

The US energy giant has defended the low tax bill as a consequence of the \$US88 billion spent over the past decade developing the Gorgon and Wheatstone projects.

Chevron has long been accused of dodging tax in Australia, and lost a Federal Court case in 2017 against the Australian Taxation Office over the interest rate it charged on inter-company loans.

Last year it paid \$US654 million to the ATO under a partial settlement of the dispute.

With both plants exporting LNG and gas prices increasing, Chevron's Australian arm reported to the corporate regulator this week that sales more than doubled in calendar 2018 to \$US8.7 billion. ...

CLIMATE CRISIS

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2019/may/01/microsoft-joins-group-seeking-to-avoid-climate-change-lawsuit>

Microsoft joins group seeking to kill off historic climate change lawsuits

Oliver Milman, The Guardian, 03/05/2019

Microsoft has joined a conservative-led group that demands fossil fuel companies be granted legal immunity from attempts to claw back damages from the climate change they helped cause.

The stated goals of the Climate Leadership Council (CLC) include a \$40-a-ton fee on carbon dioxide emissions in return for the gutting of current climate change regulations and "protecting companies from federal and state tort liability for historic emissions".

Microsoft has become the first technology company to join the CLC, which includes oil giants BP, ExxonMobil, Shell, Total and ConocoPhillips among its founding members. Handing legal immunity to these oil companies would squash a cavalcade of recent climate lawsuits launched by cities and counties across the US, including one by King county, Washington, where Microsoft is based. ...

<https://www.theage.com.au/environment/climate-change/our-carbon-budget-is-all-but-spent-but-who-in-canberra-is-counting-20190505-p51k8c.html>

Our carbon budget is all but spent, but who in Canberra is counting?

Penny Sackett & Will Steffen, The Age, 06/05/2019

The budget we haven't heard about in this so-called "climate election" is the carbon budget. That's the budget set by the laws of physics and chemistry to hold global warming to the safer side of 2 degrees. ...

With 10 billion tonnes of carbon emitted every year, without immediate action, humanity will burn through the remaining budget in just 10 years. At that point, the chances of holding warming to 2 degrees will drop below 2/3, and we might as well flip a coin to know whether the climate will exceed boundaries maintained for more than a million years. ... Fossil fuel reserves already being exploited contain more than enough carbon to consume the remaining carbon budget for the 2 degrees Paris target. Simply put, it is senseless, dangerous and irresponsible to expand fossil fuel facilities in Australia (or anywhere else). ...

• *Penny Sackett, former Chief Scientist for Australia, is a physicist and honorary professor at the Climate Change Institute,*

Australian National University; Will Steffen is an emeritus professor at ANU and a councillor at the Climate Council.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/unparalleled-a-million-species-at-risk-as-humanity-s-impact-rises-20190506-p51khl.html>

'Unparalleled': A million species at risk as humanity's impact rises

Peter Hannam, SMH, 06/05/2019

About 1 million species around the world face extinction because of humans, with the pace of destruction as much as 100 times faster than the natural rate over the past 10 million years, according to a global report prepared by 150 experts.

The 2019 report for the Intergovernmental Science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) – dubbed the "Paris Agreement for nature" – drew on 15,000 references and government data in its first update since 2005.

"Biodiversity - the diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems – is declining faster than at any time in human history," the report's summary for policymakers, released in Paris on Monday, said. ...

"The global assessment is clear – there are limits to the destructive human activity nature can withstand," Basha Stasak, nature program manager at the Australian Conservation Foundation, said. "We are not just pushing those limits, we are breaking them at unprecedented rates."

Ms Stasak said expanded land clearing in Australia meant more than 7.4 million hectares of threatened species habitat, or an area larger than Tasmania, had been lost since 2000.

The Coalition government had also slashed the national environment budget by 38 per cent, or \$533 million, since taking office in 2013. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/may/06/human-society-under-urgent-threat-loss-earth-natural-life-un-report>

Human society under urgent threat from loss of Earth's natural life

Jonathan Watts, The Guardian, 06/05/2019

Human society is in jeopardy from the accelerating decline of the Earth's natural life-support systems, the world's leading scientists have warned, as they announced the results of the most thorough planetary health check ever undertaken.

From coral reefs flickering out beneath the oceans to rainforests desiccated-

ing into savannahs, nature is being destroyed at a rate tens to hundreds of times higher than the average over the past 10m years, according to the UN global assessment report.

The biomass of wild mammals has fallen by 82%, natural ecosystems have lost about half their area and a million species are at risk of extinction – all largely as a result of human actions, said the study, compiled over three years by more than 450 scientists and diplomats. ...

Agriculture and fishing are the primary causes of the deterioration. ...

The study paints a picture of a suffocating human-caused sameness spreading across the planet, as a small range of cash crops and high-value livestock are replacing forests and other nature-rich ecosystems. As well as eroding the soil, which causes a loss of fertility, these monocultures are more vulnerable to disease, drought and other impacts of climate breakdown. ...

Josef Settele, an Ipbes co-chair and entomologist at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research in Germany, said: “The situation is tricky and difficult but I would never give up. The report shows there is a way out. I believe we can still bend the curve.

“People shouldn’t panic, but they should begin drastic change. Business as usual with small adjustments won’t be enough.”

<https://www.smh.com.au/world/europe/britain-goes-a-week-without-coal-power-saying-this-is-the-new-normal-20190509-p51lgy.html>

Britain goes a week without coal power saying this is ‘the new normal’

Nick Miller, SMH, 09/05/2019

Britain’s electricity grid has gone an entire week without burning coal for the first time since the Industrial Revolution.

And the country’s grid operator says this will be “the new normal” – and mean lower power prices for consumers.

The last coal generator went offline at 1.24pm on Wednesday May 1, local time. Since then Britain got by on 46 per cent natural gas, 21 per cent nuclear, just under 10 per cent from overseas connectors and more than 16 per cent from wind, solar and hydro.

Last year, coal provided 10 per cent of the country’s power. As recently as 2013, coal powered more than a third of the British grid. ...

“As more and more renewables come onto our energy system, coal-free runs like this are going to be a regular occurrence,” said Fintan Slye, director of grid operator ESO.

The country also plans to phase out gas power, he said.

“We believe that by 2025 we will be able to fully operate Great Britain’s electricity system with zero carbon.” ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/key-climate-ruling-against-coal-mine-stands-after-miner-declines-to-appeal-20190508-p51ld1.html>

Key climate ruling against coal mine stands after miner declines to appeal

Peter Hannam, SMH, 08/05/2019

A “game-changing” court decision blocking a coal mine in part because of its climate change impacts will stand after the project proponent dropped plans to appeal against the verdict.

Gloucester Resources had until Wednesday to oppose the rejection by the NSW Land and Environment Court in February of its proposed Rocky Hill coal mine near the town of Gloucester on the state’s Mid North Coast.

In a short statement, the company said it had “decided not to pursue its appeal options” through the Court of Appeal.

“This means the Rocky Hill Coal Mine will not proceed,” it said, adding the company would carry out “further assessment of its current exploration licences in the area”.

Groundswell Gloucester – the group that had earlier fought off AGL’s 330-well coal seam project near the town – welcomed the decision not to appeal.

“This is great news for a small town that has had this mine proposal hanging over its head for [more than] 10 years,” John Watts, a spokesman for the group, said. ...

Julie Lyford, chairwoman of Groundswell Gloucester, said “affected residents are absolutely delighted that they can now get on with their lives. The uncertainty and anxious waiting is over.

“With climate change threatening everyone and everything on the planet, we owe it to this and future generations to step away from fossil fuels, embrace renewables and work towards just transitions,” she said.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-05-09/rocky-hill-coal-mine-dead-as-company-abandons-appeal/11095326>

Rocky Hill open cut coal mine ‘dead in the water’ after Gloucester Resources abandons appeal option

Sarah Maunder, Michael Cavanagh & Lisa Rubbo, ABC, 09/05/2019

The company proposing a controversial open cut coal mine for New South Wales’ Manning Valley, refused by an environment court in February on the grounds of its contribution to climate change, will not appeal the decision. ...

Gloucester Resources Limited has announced it would not appeal, and said in a statement that it would now carry out further assessment of its current exploration licences in the area.

Julie Lyford from the local activist group Groundswell Gloucester said the town was thrilled that the mine would not go ahead.

“It’s over. The township is ecstatic and we do need to move on,” she said.

“83 per cent of the Gloucester community and the Manning Valley actually didn’t want this mine.”

Ms Lyford said it does not make sense for the company to now push to explore other options in the area further. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/5bn-climate-risk-to-apa-group-says-investment-fund-atlas-infrastructure/news-story/50741ffad8792911c07f6a861ceb59e4>

\$5bn ‘climate risk’ to APA Group, says investment fund Atlas Infrastructure

Perry Williams, The Australian, 08/05/2019

The Global Infrastructure Partners-backed investment fund Atlas Infrastructure says gas pipeline giant APA Group faces losing \$5 billion of its value from long-term climate change risks, as pressure grows for society to cut its reliance on fossil fuel use.

APA would see its market capitalisation slump by 42 per cent to just \$6.7bn from today’s \$11.5bn level under a “fast-change” scenario plotted by Atlas to test the exposure of infrastructure assets to climate transition scenarios.

Along with four North American pipeline operators — Williams Corporation, TransCanada, Kinder Morgan and Enbridge — the combined market value decline could top \$US100bn (\$142.6bn) when climate change policies are accounted for. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/norwegian-fund-klp-cuts-coal-firms-from-portfolio/news-story/d4f97df1ad280b5f87a7d607e102875>

Norwegian fund KLP cuts coal firms from portfolio

Perry Williams, *The Australia*, 09/05/2019

Norwegian pension fund giant KLP has sold its stakes in BHP, South32, Origin Energy and AGL Energy following a decision to cut its exposure to coal.

The \$97 billion fund has exited \$520 million of equity and bond holdings in 46 global companies – including the Australian operators – that obtain more than 5% of revenue from coal-based activities. ...

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/news/politics/2019/05/04/what-clive-palmer-wants-his-60m/155689200080677cb=1556925388>

What Clive Palmer wants for his \$60m

Mike Secombe, *Saturday Paper*, 04/05/2019

Despite Clive Palmer's outlandish claims of his party forming government, the United Australia Party leader has a canny election strategy: to benefit his mining interests. ...

Palmer's narrow goal is to ensure a right-wing government that will protect the fossil fuel industry, particularly the interests of coalminers in Queensland's Galilee Basin, which includes himself.

Palmer's not doing it [trading preferences with the Coalition] out of altruism towards the Libs; he expects something in return.

That thing, says Christian Slattery, campaigner for the Australian Conser-

vation Foundation, lies in the Galilee Basin. "He proposes two huge coalmines, one of which would be adjacent to Adani's Carmichael mine. He has made application to the federal government for approval for that mine."

According to documents submitted to the federal Department of the Environment and Energy by Palmer's Waratah Coal, his Alpha North project would involve a series of open-cut and underground mines covering an area of 144,000 hectares, and would produce about 33 per cent more coal than the Adani mine.

The fortunes of Adani and Palmer are linked: Adani's rail line would facilitate Palmer's mine, and potentially others, getting coal to port.

And so, we have seen in this election an extraordinary outpouring of hostility and untruths levelled against the Greens.

To offer a quick sample from the past week:

That they support death duties – they don't. That they would abolish the alliance with the United States – a distortion of a nuanced argument cautioning against following Donald Trump on foreign policy. That they would abolish Australia's defence force – a lie. That they would legalise heroin – a misrepresentation of a detailed drugs policy advocating harm minimisation. That they would "criminalise" the export of coal – they would phase it out by 2030, as the science indicates is necessary to avoid runaway global warming. ...

<https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/opinion/topic/2019/05/04/australians-want-leadership-climate/15568920008088>

Australians want leadership on climate

David Ritter, *Saturday Paper*, 04/05/2019

Climate is the meta-issue. Ultimately, no other national aspiration can be achieved, no other social problem solved in the long term, if we cannot effectively tackle global warming.

Emissions have continued to rise every year for the past four years under the Coalition. Prime Minister Scott Morrison's government has presented no credible pathway for reducing carbon pollution in the future and simply ignores the advice of the experts who point this out. The Coalition's approach to other environmental issues is similarly negligent.

While Labor's policies on climate and the environment are clearly superior, the real test for Bill Shorten's team is not whether they are a bit better than the Coalition. The question is whether the ALP can actually do what is necessary to swiftly reduce the sources of pollution that are driving global warming. ...

• David Ritter is CEO of Greenpeace Australia

<https://www.smh.com.au/federal-election-2019/us-versus-them-the-angry-and-unpredictable-politics-of-north-queensland-20190502-p51jf2.html>

Us versus them: The angry and unpredictable politics of north Queensland

Michael Koziol, *SMH*, 05/05/2019

Behind a bar in Yeppoon, not far from Rockhampton, business owner Tanya Lynch is talking about Fraser Anning. She is still upset about the criticism he copped from her local Liberal National MP Michelle Landry. ...

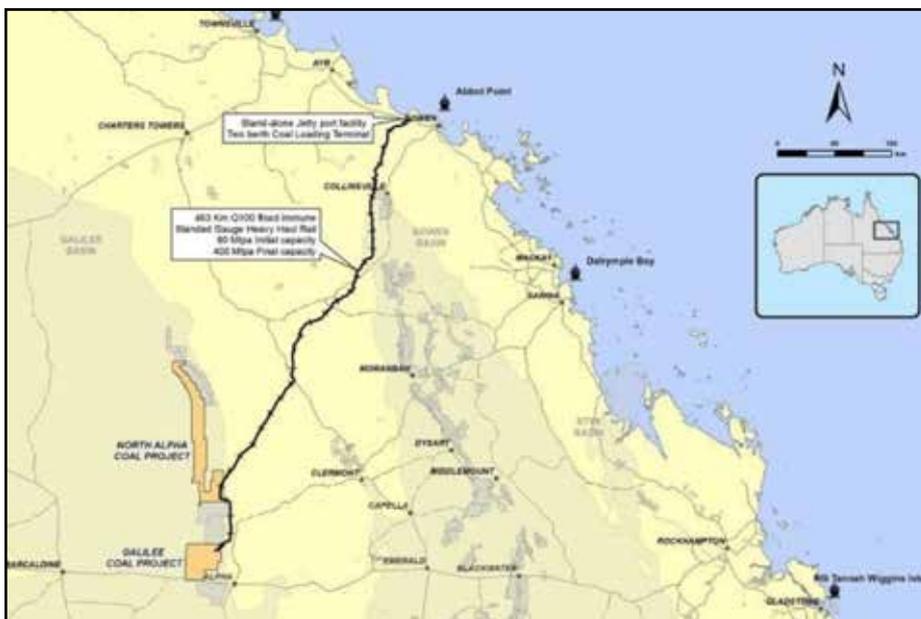
Welcome to the politics of north Queensland, marked by an undercurrent of anger, a deep suspicion of politicians' motives and a palpable sense that the rest of Australia is the enemy. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/may/05/im-willing-to-go-to-jail-to-stop-adani-and-save-our-beloved-country-will-you-stand-with-me>

I'm willing to go to jail to stop Adani and save our beloved country. Will you stand with me?

Richard Flanagan, *The Guardian*, 05/05/2019

In this anti-Adani rally speech, novelist Richard Flanagan says the fight against the Carmichael coalmine defines the fight against the climate crisis ...



Cliver Palmer's North Alpha and Galilee Coal projects. Graphic: Waratah Coal

When politicians talk of caring about miners I don't believe a word they say.

If they cared wouldn't they be advocating to end black lung disease, a 19th century industrial disease now returned, because of unsafe working conditions, to kill Australian coalminers in the 21st century?

If they cared wouldn't they be speaking out about the increasing casualisation and pay stripping of coalminers, supported by the Morrison government? And if they cared wouldn't they question whether Adani is an appropriate business to employ Australian miners? Adani, such a friend of the working man that, when building its giant Shantigram luxury estate in India, it housed workers in conditions so appalling that there were 15 recorded outbreaks of cholera. ...

Jabbering jobs, jobs, jobs, in a hard hat doesn't change these truths. It doesn't make a politician fair dinkum. It makes him or her a lying clown who sells every coalminer down the drain for another backhander from the bosses of the fossil fuel industry. ...

It's happening because of one thing: greed.

And that greed controls our politics. How can Scott Morrison claim to care about climate change when his political survival now hinges on a deal with Clive Palmer, a man whose own massive Galilee Basin coalmine is dependent on Adani getting up? What exactly did Scott Morrison promise Palmer? The Liberals' platform is nothing more than a smoking coal heap. ...

The drying out of Australia is the issue. The collapse of our fisheries is the issue. The likelihood of not having enough water to sustain our population is the issue. The threat greater and greater mega-fires pose is the issue. The decline of our agriculture is the issue. The inability of our infrastructure to cope with ever-larger floods and more frequent cyclones is the issue. Sea rises are the issue. The death of our rivers, the death of the Great Barrier Reef, the death of the Tasmanian rainforests is the issue. The drying wheatbelt is the issue. If our very fate as a species is not the issue, then what is? ...

The only thing that will save us is us. Half of the carbon in the atmosphere was put there by us in the last 30 years. And now we have 11 and a half years to reverse that disastrous act.

It is a time to act and it is for us to act. Because there is no one else and there

is no other time. And if our politicians continue to deceive themselves and deceive us, if after May 18 we end up with a government that will not act, and if we are only left with only our bodies to oppose this mine, if it takes putting our flesh between the past and the future, between the bulldozers and the earth, if it means a blockade of the Adani site, then I, for one, will be there. And if that means being arrested and going to jail then I will go to jail.

And my question to you today is this: will you? ...

• *This is from an edited version of a speech delivered to the anti-Adani rally in Canberra on 5 May*

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/premiers-ad-blitz-backs-mining-just-not-adani/news-story/2aba960d65c85843834c787de70a7827>

Premier's ad blitz backs mining – just not Adani

Charlie Peel & Michael McKenna, The Australian, 07/05/2019

The Palaszczuk government has launched a taxpayer-funded public relations blitz spruiking its support for the resources industry after Labor came under attack for being anti-coal.

The pro-mining advertisements first appeared last week in newspapers in the regional Queensland centres of Townsville, Rockhampton and Mackay, where Labor insiders say Bill Shorten is hurting because of state government-ordered delays to the proposed Adani coalmine.

On the same day the ad campaign was launched, Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk and several state ministers kicked off the resumption of parliament with a series of speeches promoting government approvals of other projects in the resources sector. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/labors-carbon-plan-to-cost-miners-2bn-wood-mackenzie/news-story/>

Labor's carbon plan to cost miners \$2bn: Wood Mackenzie

Perry Williams, The Australian, 07/05/2019

Australian coal miners face a \$2 billion-plus hit from Labor's enlarged carbon plan, with the cost of meeting emissions-reduction targets to dent the profits of large producers including BHP, South32 and Glencore, consultancy Wood Mackenzie has warned.

Labor plans to significantly expand the Coalition's safeguard mechanism to cover the nation's 250 largest emitters as part of its 45 per cent emissions re-

duction target on 2005 levels by 2030.

Bill Shorten's climate change policy would lower the threshold for inclusion from 100,000 tonnes of carbon emissions a year to 25,000 tonnes annually ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/solar-energy/st-baker-warns-on-over-ambitious-populist-climate-policies-20190507-p51kqjm>

St Baker warns on 'over-ambitious, populist' climate policies

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 07/05/2019

Coal power multi-millionaire Trevor St Baker has taken fresh aim at "over-ambitious, populist" climate policies, warning that Australia will lose businesses and jobs if it pursues the rapid growth of wind and solar power without maintaining enough dispatchable generation. ...

Mr St Baker insisted his comments were not "party-political" and that he was speaking out because someone with experience and a track record in the energy sector ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-05-08/clive-palmer-new-coal-mine-plan-waratah-coal-central-queensland/11092102>

Federal election 2019: Clive Palmer unveils new coal-fired power station plan in Qld marginal seat

Jemima Burt, ABC, 08/05/2019

Clive Palmer's coal company Waratah Coal has announced plans to build a coal-fired power station in central Queensland, saying the 24/7 baseload power supply would increase competition against state-owned generators. ...

The plant would connect to the National Energy Market, and local connections to the towns of Alpha and Jericho would also be explored with Ergon Energy. ...

Queensland's Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy is yet to receive any application from Mr Palmer's companies related to the proposal.

A State Government spokesman said Queensland did not need a new coal-fired power station. ...

The Australia Institute (AI) predicts that by 2070 there will be 35-day heatwaves and a 50 per cent reduction in rainfall in Capricornia due to climate change.

AI spokesman Mark Ogge said in light of the report, Mr Palmer's announcement was dangerous.

News this week ... from previous page

"It's just crazy at this point in time when we're facing a huge threat from climate change," Mr Ogge said. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/federal-election-2019/they-think-everyone-wants-to-stop-adani-anthony-albanese-slams-left-wing-grouphink-20190509-p51lkn.html>

They think everyone wants to stop Adani: Anthony Albanese slams left-wing grouphink

Michael Koziol, SMH, 09/05/2019

Labor frontbencher Anthony Albanese has accused Greens voters of not even knowing the location of the controversial Adani coal mine, as he slammed an "increasingly extreme" grouphink he said was damaging Australian politics.

Mr Albanese made the remarks during a revealing discussion with Liberal senator Arthur Sinodinos on Wednesday night in which both insiders made candid observations about the election and their party's strategies. ...

Senator Sinodinos and Mr Albanese agreed that grouphink – particularly as it proliferated online and through social media – was damaging Australian politics.

"The way the algorithms work, particularly with AI, is that they send you an increasingly extreme version of what you want to hear," Mr Albanese said. ...

Asked about the remarks on Thursday,

Mr Albanese said: "There is a perfectly legitimate campaign of opposition to Adani and opening up the Galilee Basin. The point I made is that not everyone thinks the same on any particular issue, including on this."

Jim Casey, the Greens candidate for Grayndler, said the comments were "proof that [Mr] Albanese is trapped in the past". He said voters knew "the Adani mine and other proposed mines in the Galilee Basin must be stopped if we have any chance of slowing catastrophic climate change".

<https://www.afr.com/news/politics/national/adani-could-cost-labor-victory-on-may-18-20190509-p51lks>

Adani could cost Labor victory on May 18

Mark Ludlow & Luke Housego, AFR, 10/05/2019

Bill Shorten's hopes for a clean sweep of Queensland's mining seats appears to be slipping with the party's conflicted position on Adani's controversial \$2 billion Carmichael mine shaping to hurt Labor at the ballot box.

The CFMEU – which last week accused the Palaszczuk state government of double standards over ongoing delays over the approvals for the Central Queensland mine – has taken the extraordinary step of placing a full-page advertisement in Rockhampton's local newspaper backing Labor's candidate

for Capricornia Russell Robertson.

Mr Robertson, who was an organiser for the CFMEU and worked in the coal mines for 17 years, has backed Adani's Carmichael mine, along with Labor's other candidates in crucial coal seats such as Dawson (based around Mackay), Flynn (based around Gladstone) and Herbert (Townsville).

While Mr Shorten has clarified federal Labor's position on the Adani mine – saying a future Shorten government will not review approvals or scrap it – the Palaszczuk government's ongoing delays over environmental approvals could cruel the party's chances of picking up a swag of Queensland seats on May 18. ...

"It's certainly not the landslide it was looking like two months ago. The issue of coal is hurting us," one Labor strategist told *The Australian Financial Review*.

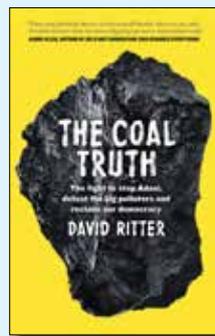
The strategist admitted the party's prevaricating over a clear position on Adani was not helpful to its cause in regional Queensland, which has long supported opening up the Galilee Basin to create more jobs. ...

FFB

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

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

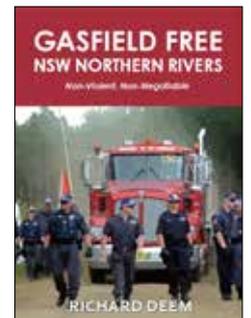
Contributors include Tara Moss and Berndt Sellheim, Adrian Burragubba, Lesley Hughes, John Quiggin, Hilary Bambrick, Ruchira Talukdar and Geoffrey Cousins. Lead author is David Ritter, CEO, Greenpeace Australia Pacific.



A struggle against the imposition by force of a CSG industry.

Download free from:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/sbtwhwoyqfqrqsy/Gasfield%20Free%20NSW%20Northern%20Rivers%20PDFpdf?dl=0>



HELP W&J PEOPLE GET JUSTICE FROM ADANI: MAKE A DONATION

Wangan Jagalingou Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation

BSB: 034-003
Account number: 278038

Fossil Fool Bulletin is published every Friday (in your email Saturday).



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



SIGN UP for your FREE subscription
Past issues available to download

SAVING THE LAND, AIR AND WATER FOR THE KIDDIES

www.knitting-nannas.com

