



# 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 2:27 • 14 JUNE 2019

## Adani gets final approval from Qld govt: Citizens get ready for action

*Despite more than eight years of legal, financial and community opposition, the final management plan for Adani's unpopular coal mine has been rushed through state government approval for construction to start.*

People from all over the country are making their way to central Queensland, where many are prepared to physically stand in the way of machinery in what has been described as the fight of a generation.

Frontline Action on Coal (FLAC) say they are prepared for a massive influx of citizens concerned about the mine's destruction of Indigenous sacred sites, water security, the Great Barrier Reef and a safe climate future.

After around two years of relentless activist blockades on Adani's mine site, its coal port and the connected railway line, Adani has vastly scaled back its proposal, while several partners have distanced themselves from the Carmichael project.

### Time to choose the future we want

"It's time for Australians to choose what kind of future we want to create for our children," said FLAC spokesperson Emma Briggs. "This will be a critical turning point in Australia's response to the climate crisis."

Polls have shown the majority of Australians are opposed to the mine, but billionaire miners Clive Palmer and Gina Rinehart have poured millions of dollars into advertising, political donations and right-wing think tanks



*People from all over the country are making their way to central Queensland, where many are prepared to physically stand in the way of machinery in what has been described as the fight of a generation.. Photo: Frontline Action on Coal*

connected with Murdoch media to support the Indian company in its efforts to open up the Galilee Basin to coal mining.

"If the railway line is built, Adani's mine will be followed by Palmer's, Rinehart's and others, meaning Australia's greenhouse emissions will more than double and any hope of averting the worst effects of climate breakdown will be lost," Briggs said.

"These automated mines will not provide the jobs people need. We need a fair transition into a renewable energy economy and when the government fails us we must take personal action to ensure this happens."

### Greens weigh in

Senator for Queensland and Greens spokesperson for mining and resources, Larissa Waters said, "Adani still doesn't have all its legal licences, and it's never had a social licence."

"People will rally in force to stop Adani – and the Greens will be right there with them. The big parties might have caved in to their coal donors, but the Greens stand with the people, demanding a safe future and a clean jobs plan for central Queensland communities."

Greens environment spokesperson Senator Sarah Hanson-Young said, "From fudging jobs figures and rushing

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• P2: Oil-based interiors accelerate deadly fires

• P3: Some good news: ACF wins Adani case

• P4: Aus company's radioactive stockpile

## The fight isn't over

• Continued from p1

final approvals, and ignoring scientific advice from the CSIRO and Geoscience Australia, this mega coal mine has been given every liberty by Adani's mates in the Parliament.

"If we had stronger environmental laws that required climate change to be considered, projects like Adani would never get off the ground," Hanson-Young said.

### Kick in the teeth for Galilee farmers

Central Queensland grazier Bruce Currie, whose groundwater will be put at significant risk should the mine be built, said it was a kick in the teeth for all primary producers operating in the Galilee Basin.

"State and Federal politicians have ignored the scientists and pleas of farmers who are acutely aware of how much damage Adani's mine will have on vital underground water resources, including the Great Artesian Basin," Currie said.

"We are sacrificing sustainable grazing land to greedy multinational mining companies so they can rip our resources out of the earth, and sell it overseas.

"Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk's rhetoric about supporting people in the bush means nothing if her government ignores farmers and scientists to rush through politically inconvenient and environmentally destructive projects like Adani.

The Australian Marine Conservation Council (AMCS) said the mine approval puts millions of corals and ocean wildlife on the state's iconic Great Barrier Reef at risk.

"Burning fossil fuels like coal is adding greenhouse gases to our atmosphere, that's heating our oceans. To give our Reef a fighting chance, we need to keep this coal in the ground.

"The Reef is still a magnificent World Heritage icon and 64,000 tourism jobs depend on its health.

"This decision is bad news for everyone who loves and relies on a healthy Reef and bad news for the dolphins, turtles, fish, sharks, rays and corals that call the Reef home, but the fight isn't over."

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# Fossil fuel-based products make house fires faster, deadlier

*Canadian firefighters say today's homes, furnished with modern technology and oil-based products, burn faster and present dangers never seen before. (The situation is similar in Australia.)*

"Typically, 50 years ago, if a wool or cotton sofa was on fire you didn't see the wool or cotton sofa drip," Windsor Fire and Rescue chief training officer Paul Acton said. "So, what you now see is the synthetic material dripping. It's the oils; that's what all of the studies are finding leads to rapid fire spread and rapid pyrolysis and rapid combustion."

Kingsville Fire Chief Bob Kissner has been fighting fires for 33 years and now teaches courses on fighting fires in the modern home.

Kissner said today's house fires burn eight times faster and produce 200 times the amount of smoke that a fire would have 50 years ago.

### Escape time less than two minutes

Chris Williams, Ontario's Assistant Deputy Fire Marshal, said even 30 years ago, a person had up to an estimated eight minutes to exit their home from the time their smoke detector went off. Today, a person has less than two minutes.

"And there's not a fire department in the world that can respond to your home and rescue you in that time," Williams said.

A test by Underwriter Laboratories, a not-for-profit product safety testing and certification organization, found that an average-sized room furnished with modern products is fully engulfed in flames in three minutes. The same room, furnished with items 50 years of age took 30 minutes to do the same.

Williams said many response benchmarks established by fire departments 30 or more years ago were based on the time it took a room to reach "full involvement" or "flashover," terms that describe a room fully engulfed in flames.

Kissner said tactics on scene have changed, too.

"[Previously], it was a green light to do what we call an offensive attack. We were going to go in the building and

we're going to go to the seed of the fire and put it out," Kissner said. "I believe we're on a change mode. Now, we're going to have to start thinking of going to the fire and saying, 'we're not going in until we assess all the factors and determine that it's safe to do so.'"

It used to take as long as 30 minutes for flames to engulf a room. Today, firefighters say it takes three. (Tecumseh Fire and Rescue)

Williams said there are a number of modern plastics, glues and hydro-carbon-based products that cause a faster "fire growth rate."

Individual items throughout the home combust more quickly, allowing flames and smoke to engulf rooms at a faster rate.

That's why, Williams said, "you have to react immediately to that smoke alarm."

"You have enough time to make sure you're heading to the door as quickly as possible," Williams said.

### Poisonous smoke, gas

Williams said not only the heat can incapacitate a person, but so can than poisonous smoke and gas that's created.

The plastic and glue create carbon monoxide and cyanide.

"Both of these are very lethal," Williams said.

"We are a consumer-oriented society," Kissner said. "We like stuff and unfortunately for us, the stuff we're putting into our houses today burns much more fiercely and produces volumes of greater amounts of smoke."

• Originally published in Canada:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/modern-homes-burn-8-times-faster-than-50-years-ago-1.17000632>

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**STOP WATER MINING**

THE NEXT RESOURCES BATTLE

# Fed govt didn't read thousands of submissions on Adani water scheme

*Not all this week's news about Adani is gloomy. The federal government has officially conceded the case EDO Queensland brought against it on behalf of the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF), over the assessment of Adani's North Galilee Water Scheme.*

It's a huge win – not just for their client but for the whole community, who have raised deep concerns about the effect this project would have on our precious water resources during a time of extreme drought.

In conceding the case, the Federal Government has admitted it failed to read thousands of valid public submissions about if and how the project should be assessed, in direct breach of the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

## Humiliating setback for government

Now the Federal Government will need to go back to the drawing board and open up assessment of the project for public comment again. It is a humiliating setback for the Federal Government.

Those people were denied their right to a voice in this process. This win will ensure their voice is heard.

Adani's North Galilee Water Scheme plans to pump up to 12.5 billion litres of water a year from the Suttor River to the company's Carmichael mine site.

The Federal Environment Minister has now admitted her delegate did not consider these comments, as required by law.

In fact, she has admitted that her Department lost an unknown number of public comments made over the controversial project.

This botched process points to a worrying lack of oversight in core assessment procedures designed to protect Australia's precious water resources.

The Federal Environment Minister did not concede ACF's initial argument in the case, which was that the 'water trigger' should have applied to the Scheme.

The 'water trigger' is a measure that ensures any action which has a significant impact on water resources and involves a large coal mining

development requires a more rigorous assessment under the EPBC Act.

The community is still no closer to having an answer on why the 'water trigger' should not have applied to the North Galilee Water Scheme – a project which will take billions of litres of water a year from Central Queensland to service a coal mine.

Australians have a right to know the impact big projects like this have on their precious water resources.

"Once again this case outcome shows the Federal Government failed to properly scrutinise Adani's proposed Galilee Basin coal mine," said ACF's Chief Executive, Kelly O'Shanassy.

"This raises questions about the influence companies like Adani have over governments in Australia. When a company wields such power that it can cause a Minister to rush an approval process, cut corners and make significant errors, it is cause for serious concern.

## Water trigger should apply to Adani

"The water trigger is in Australian law because water is scarce on our dry continent. It should be applied to every relevant proposal, including Adani's plan to take billions of litres of Queensland's precious water.

"The proposal must now go to the new Environment Minister, Sussan Ley, and be re-opened for public comment.

"We expect the Minister to listen to Australians' concerns and prioritise their needs over the profits of big polluting companies like Adani.

"ACF will continue to scrutinise all decisions around Adani's proposal, including groundwater approvals that were rushed through on the eve of the election."

## River water to be pumped 110km to mine

The North Galilee Water Scheme (NGWS) is a critical infrastructure project to support Adani's proposed Carmichael coal mine. The scheme proposes a 110-kilometre pipeline from the Suttor River, an ephemeral water source in central Queensland, to the mine site.

# Gasco's whine as Qld royalties bumped up

*Gas companies and their lobbyists complained bitterly when the Queensland government announced gas royalties would increase from 10% to 12.5% in this week's state budget.*

Royalties from Queensland's CSG industry in 2017-18 were only a fraction of the returns predicted by the government, budget papers reveal.

The 2014/15 budget forecast that petroleum royalties would reach \$636M in 2017-18, but this week's budget papers show actual royalties last year were just 29% of those forecast.

Lock the Gate Alliance Queensland spokesperson Ellie Smith said the CSG industry had completely failed to deliver meaningful benefits to Queensland, and the costs of the industry to farmers, water resources and communities had been far greater.

"The CSG industry promised the world in order to get approval to start work in Queensland, but it has abjectly failed to deliver, and communities are now counting the cost," Smith said.

"While Treasurer Jackie Trad complains that half of our LNG export royalties are being taken in GST redistribution, she should be looking at how little we're actually receiving compared to what has been budgeted in previous years.

"It's time to recognise that the vast majority of Queenslanders are not benefitting from this industry.

"Once we take into account the heavy loss of good farming land and water resources, and the communities that have suffered from the boom bust construction phase, the benefits are minuscule."

Smith welcomed the announcement it would increase LNG royalties would rise.

"But it's clear this will still not be enough to address the massive hole in royalty payments, nor to address the untold damage this industry has caused to farmers and communities in Queensland," she said.

# Aus company Lynas stockpiles 450,000 tons of radioactive waste in Malaysia

By Dennis Ignatius

*Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir's recent announcement in Tokyo that "Lynas will be allowed to carry on" regardless of whether the Australian company removed its radioactive waste from Malaysia came as a shock and disappointment to many Malaysians.*

Instead of insisting that Lynas remove the more than 450,000 tons of dangerous waste it has accumulated thus far in Gebeng (in violation of local regulations), Mahathir generously gave the company a free pass by offering to "spread" the waste around Malaysia!

It is, by all counts, a stunning betrayal and a shameful capitulation to Australian pressure. It prioritises profits ahead of the health of ordinary Malaysians and recklessly endangers our environment. Furthermore, it makes a mockery of the sterling efforts of our environment minister to ensure that Malaysia does not become Australia's garbage dump.

## People before profit

Mahathir's main argument is that Malaysia cannot afford to lose the huge investment that Lynas represents; the more critical issue, however, is whether Malaysia can afford the huge health and environmental risks that Lynas clearly poses.

Lynas should never have been allowed to set up shop in Malaysia in the first place. If it was such a great project, why didn't Lynas build their plant in Australia itself where the rare earth ores are mined?

Is it mere coincidence that the company chose to locate their hazardous processing facility in a country with less onerous environmental regulations than their own, with less effective enforcement and with a political system that can be easily manipulated?

It is telling (as Wong Tack, the MP for Bentong, pointed out in his recent letter to the Australian High Commissioner), that since setting up shop here, Lynas has violated a whole range of environmental regulations from storing radioactive waste in the open to storing more than the permissible amount of dangerous waste. And yet,

*Lynas mines rare earths at Mount Weld, WA. The raw material contains thorium, a radioactive contaminant. Ore produced at Mount Weld is shipped to the Lynas Advanced Materials Plant in Malaysia for refining. Many Malaysians want the radioactive stockpile returned to Australia.*

our regulators and politicians continue to bend over backwards to appease them. No wonder they love it here!

Whichever way you look at it, the growing stockpile of radioactive waste is a ticking time bomb; the longer it remains in Malaysia, the greater the danger it poses. It is simply irresponsible to allow such massive quantities of dangerous material to accumulate without a clear and safe plan for its disposal.

Of course, Lynas likes to tout the potential commercialisation of its waste including its application to enhance crop productivity and in construction. Its claims are, however, premature at best; no one really knows the long-term impact of using recycled radioactive waste in agriculture. Again, if it is such a great breakthrough, Lynas should test it out in Australia itself instead of using the people of Malaysia as their guinea pigs.

## Absurd and flippant

Given the enormous risks involved, Mahathir's suggestion to "spread [the radioactive waste] around somewhere so as not to have concentrated radioactive material in one place" is flippant, outrageous and ill-conceived. Where does he plan to spread the waste anyway? In Langkawi? Or perhaps a site might be found in Putrajaya, leadership by example and all that.

And, by offering the Australians a way out ahead of scheduled negotiations on the issue, Mahathir has undercut the efforts of his own environment minis-

ter to persuade Australian authorities to accept the waste. Why would Australia, which has always been reluctant to accept back the waste, now want to do so when Mahathir has made it clear that the company's licence will be renewed regardless? Indeed, Australian authorities are now saying that Minister Yeo Bee Yin would be "wasting her time" visiting Australia to discuss the matter.

## Another toxic legacy?

In 1982, another foreign rare earth manufacturer (Mitsubishi Chemical Industries) came in with all the right assurances, telling us how safe and wonderful their operations would be and how great it would be for the economy, only to leave behind a mammoth radioactive mess we are still dealing with decades after the plant closed.

Our politicians and regulators then were taken in by all those assurances; the people of Bukit Merah ended up paying a high price for their folly with leukaemia and birth defects. We must not make the same mistake again. The Bukit Merah disaster took place under Dr Mahathir's first term as prime minister; he must not leave another toxic legacy behind for future generations.

Every Malaysian who cares about our environment and the health and well-being of future generations must strenuously oppose this inane and insane decision by the Pakatan Harapan (PH) government to allow Lynas to continue operating in Malaysia regardless of whether it removes its radioactive waste.

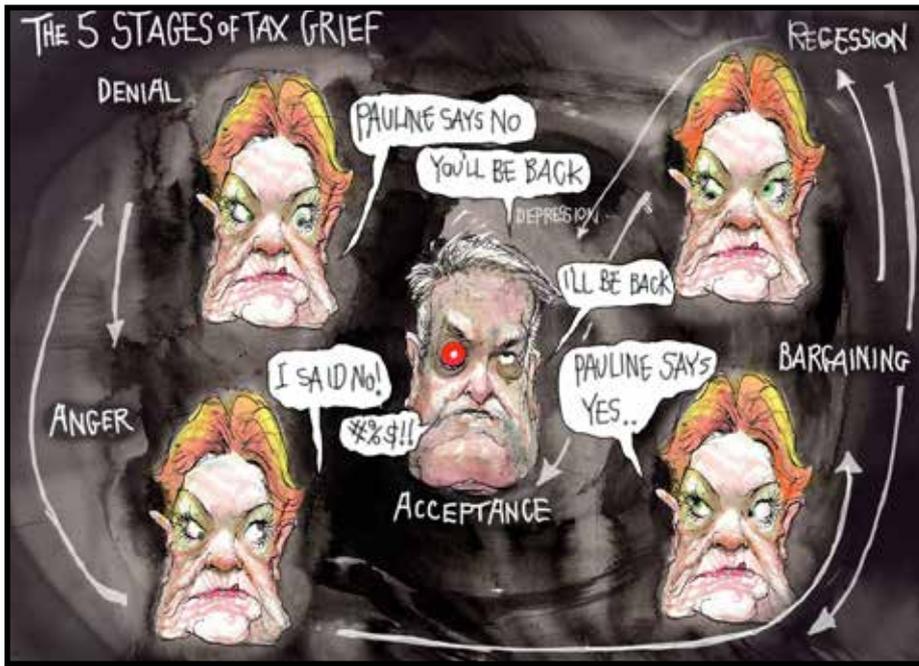
The removal of every last ounce of Lynas' toxic waste from our country as well as full and immediate compliance with all our environmental and health regulations should be non-negotiable. If PH cannot defend our rights, they no longer deserve our support.

• *Dennis Ignatius, a graduate in international relations from the University of Malaya, is a 36 year veteran of the Malaysian Foreign Service. He retired from the foreign service in June 2008 and is presently a foreign policy consultant.*

Originally published at:

<https://dennsignatius.com/2019/06/08/lynas-a-betrayal-of-trust/amp>

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



## LNG pollution out of control in WA

*Data on carbon pollution from Australian states and territories released this week by the Australian Department of Environment and Energy shows that out-of-control growth in LNG pollution in WA is putting Australia's Paris targets at risk, according to Western Australia's peak environment group.*

Conservation Council of WA (CCWA) Director Piers Versteegen said that the figures showed that WA was 'ground zero' in the battle to get Australia's pollution down.

"The numbers are clear. The complete failure to control runaway pollution from the WA LNG industry is now the biggest factor driving national pollution, and is compromising our international commitments on climate change.

"When at full production, the WA LNG industry will be producing nearly 40 million tonnes of carbon pollution every year. This is more than the entire savings achieved by the Morrison Government's Emissions Reduction Fund, and more than the combined savings of all Australian renewable energy capacity combined.

"Every other Australian state, and almost every other sector of the economy has now stabilised its pollution growth, while the big polluters in the LNG industry are being allowed to get away with runaway pollution with no limits in sight.

"Regulating this industry and controlling its pollution is the direct responsibility of the state government, but the state has been abrogating its responsibility in this area for years, and the results of this are now clearly visible in the national carbon accounts released today.

"The good news is that tackling pollution from this industry would deliver thousands of new jobs for Western Australian carbon farming, renewable energy, and other clean industries. The longer we sit back and do nothing about it, the faster our pollution rises, and the more jobs we miss out on.

"The ongoing failure of the LNG sector to control their emissions has been laid bare in these pollution accounts, which dispel the myth of 'clean gas'. The LNG sector can no longer hide behind this myth."

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## Inside the news

Adani is still chasing W&J traditional owner Adrian Burragubba with legal documents, in a vengeful attempt to bankrupt him for his opposition to their mine (p7). A court has ruled they can go after him on Facebook, after efforts to find him in person failed.

This week's hasty tick for Adani from the Queensland government may open up the Galilee Basin to several other coal mining projects shovelling out multi-millions of the filthy rock annually (p9). Gas companies are also headed for the Galilee.

Adani's approval triggered a frenzy of media stories, of which FFB presents a selection (p8). However, the company still has unfinished business such as a royalties agreement with the Queensland government, agreements for its railway line, and the unresolved native title issue. Adani can start work on the mine site, but it will be at least two years before coal ships to India – if matters like insurance can be resolved. Opponents have vowed to fight on – expect some serious episodes of civil disobedience.

Shell's massive WA Prelude floating LNG plant has shipped its first gas cargo (p10), after overcoming leaks and safety problems reported earlier in the year. WA's LNG industry is a major contributor to Australia's increasing greenhouse gas emissions.

Researchers at Newcastle University have come up with a new, very efficient and relatively low-cost energy storage material (p12). This sort of innovation is what Australia really needs, not more gas and coal.

Renew Economy has published a long article exploring the nuclear energy culture war, which also has detailed costings of various nuclear projects – well worth a read. Just click the link.

Queensland LNP politicians Matt Canavan, George Christensen and Michelle Landry are nurturing a plan to build a new coal-fired power station at Collinsville. The proponent, Shine Energy, is hoping for a share of Scott Morrison's \$10 million feasibility study fund that was promised in the recent federal election (p12-13).

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# In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 32,000 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

## THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.theleader.com.au/story/6206544/qld-treasurers-adani-job-claim-is-false/>

### Qld treasurer's Adani job claim is false

St George & Sutherland Shire Leader, 07/06/2019

AAP FactCheck Investigation: Is the number of jobs promised by the Adani coal mine equal to just 0.005 per cent of all jobs created over the past four years by the Queensland Labor government?

AAP FactCheck asked Ms Trad for the source of her claim and was told by a spokesperson the Queensland treasurer meant to say 0.05 per cent of jobs and had accidentally added a zero. ...

The number of jobs to be created by the Adani project is not clear. The company had promising up to 10,000 jobs in newspaper advertisements and on an online jobs portal. The Queensland Land Council in December 2015 found Adani had inflated its figures. In 2017 the company was referred to the Australian Consumer and Competition Commission for misleading advertising.

Adani Mining told AAP FactCheck the Carmichael project would create 1,500 direct jobs and 6,750 indirect jobs in the lead-up and construction phase. It said the number of jobs the mine would provide once operational was still being determined. Adani said there could be up to 1,800 direct jobs and 8,000 indirect jobs, based on mines of similar size in Queensland.

But an Adani spokesperson has been quoted in the media in the first week of June 2019, saying the number of direct jobs could be as low as 800 once operational.

Based on this evidence AAP FactCheck found Ms Trad's claim to be false.

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/townsville-labor-mps-meet-with-adani-ceo-lucas-dow-after-carmichael-crew-creation/news-story/55787ae4f7dfe1ca2338945eee02bc02>

### Townsville Labor MPs meet with Adani CEO Lucas Dow after 'Carmichael crew' creation

Madura Mccormack, Townsville Bulletin, 08/06/2019

Adani's first official meeting with the Townsville half of the 'Carmichael



*"The decision of the Queensland Government to approve Adani's ground water management plan imperils our sacred Doongmabulla springs and the water essential to our lives. Draining our water for Adani's massive coal mine will irreparably damage the ecology of our homelands. Without the water, everything will struggle to survive ...*

*We will not be subjected to these actions and stay quiet. We speak for our law on that country and we will speak out against those who would allow its destruction. We will stand our ground in defence of country.*

– Wangan & Jagalingou Traditional Owners Council. Photo: W&J, Facebook

crew' was – "productive", as the Labor MPs vow to keep the mining giant true to its commitment of local jobs.

Chief executive Lucas Dow and Townsville MPs Scott Stewart, Aaron Harper and Coralee O'Rourke met for the first time yesterday.

It comes after a band of six regional Queensland MPs, including the three from Townsville, created a group dedicated to holding Adani to account on delivering regional jobs, dubbing themselves the 'Carmichael crew'.

Mr Stewart and Mr Harper said the meeting was constructive.

"We've asked if we can meet on a regular basis and (Mr Dow's) only condition was that we continue in the same respectful way," Mr Stewart said. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/scientists-warn-ancient-desert-springs-may-dry-up-under-adani-plan-20190608-p51vqn.html>

### Scientists warn ancient desert springs may dry up under Adani plan

Nicole Hasham, SMH, 09/06/2019

A group of Australia's pre-eminent water scientists say a rare desert oasis may dry up under Adani's "flawed" protections for groundwater near its proposed Carmichael mine, in a scathing assessment days out from a crucial ruling on the plan. ...

Seven leading experts from four Australian universities examined the latest groundwater plans and conducted on-site analysis at Doongmabulla Springs.

The team was led by Flinders University hydrogeology professor Adrian Werner, a former adviser to the Queensland government.

Their report concluded that the Carmichael project may cause the springs to stop flowing permanently, pushing the wetland to extinction.

It found Adani is likely to have underestimated future impacts on the springs – partly because the aquifer feeding the wetland had not been identified and Adani's estimates did not consider possible water leakage between underground formations.

The void left behind at the end of the mine's life would draw down water for many years, meaning the worst groundwater impacts would occur after the company left the site, they said.

The scientists rejected Adani's so-called 'adaptive management' plan to mitigate risks to the wetland. The method – essentially a learning-by-doing approach – was unsuitable partly because of lag times between mining activity and the effect on the springs, they said.

Possible cumulative impacts to the wetland from other proposed coal projects have also not been properly considered, the report added. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/adani-fights-to-clear-final-hurdle-for-mine-signoff/news-story/aeb675b05284772a25fbc43731c13a7>

### **Adani fights to clear final hurdle for mine 'sign-off'**

*Sarah Elks, The Australian, 10/06/2019*

Adani will deliver an updated groundwater plan to Queensland's Environment Department today, after the CSIRO raised fresh concerns ahead of Thursday's anticipated sign-off for the coalmine.

The Department of Environment and Science confirmed yesterday that it had provided "additional requirements" to Adani on Friday, after it commissioned the national science agency and Geoscience Australia to provide further advice on the miner's groundwater strategy.

Indian mining conglomerate Adani said it would hand over an updated version of the document to the department today, with both the company and the environment officials insisting they were working "constructively" together. ...

<https://www.afr.com/news/policy/budget/qld-to-sign-adani-royalties-deal-if-mine-approved-20190610-p51w3y>

### **Qld to sign Adani royalties deal if mine approved**

*Mark Ludlow, AFR, 11/06/2019*

The Palaszczuk government will have to strike a royalties agreement with Indian energy company Adani if it gains final environmental approvals on

Thursday for its controversial mine in Central Queensland. ...

<https://www.dailymercury.com.au/news/protesters-gather-to-stop-the-clock-on-adani/3751284/?cspt=1560294964f0ea697771a4a32d1322e9a17aab9d0b1>

### **Protesters gather to 'stop the clock' on Adani**

*Melanie Whiting, Mackay Daily Mercury, 11/06/2019*

Hundreds of protesters gathered outside Queensland Parliament today in a last-minute push to 'stop the clock' on the approval process for Adani's groundwater plan.

Central Queensland grazier Bruce Currie, who joined the protest with about 300 others, said more time was needed for the concerns of scientists and the community to be appropriately investigated and considered.

"The State Government should listen to scientists, listen to farmers like me and listen to the majority of the community who choose Queensland's vital water resources over the risks of Adani's coal mine," Mr Currie said. ...

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/galilee-basin-farmer-pleads-for-promised-land-to-be-spared-by-adani-20190611-p51wir.html>

### **Galilee Basin farmer pleads for 'Promised Land' to be spared by Adani**

*Tony Moore, The Age, 11/06/2019*

Galilee Basin cattle farmer Bruce Currie jokes he lives close to Queensland's 'Promised Land', near Jericho in central-western Queensland.

"You go north of Jericho and you cross the Jordan River and we are 80 kilometres south of Lake Galilee," Mr Currie said. ...

The proud farmer was joined by anti-Adani protesters at a rally outside Queensland's Parliament House on Tuesday.

Since 2013, Mr Currie has opposed moves for new coal mines in the Galilee Basin ...

Mr Currie said mines take more water from the groundwater supplies for the benefits they give to the community, despite the billions in royalties they pay to the Queensland government. ...

He said local landholders are being gagged by confidentiality agreements.

"A woman got called last week by a solicitor who said 'Get your comment off Facebook because you are mentioning the mining industry,'" Mr Currie said. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/crime-and-justice/adani-uses-facebook-to-slap-traditional-owner-with-bankruptcy/news-story/846605e9ccad1e-fa2bc1218b74ae95fd>

### **Adani uses Facebook to slap traditional owner with bankruptcy**

*Vanda Carson, Courier-Mail, 12/06/2019*

Mining giant Adani has been given the green light to serve bankruptcy documents on a traditional land owner who fought to stop its \$2 billion Carmichael mine via his Facebook account, email, text message and his post office box.

In the Federal Court today, Registrar Michael Buckingham ordered that service of the creditors petition on Wangan and Jagalingou traditional owner and lead spokesman Adrian Burragubba, from Woolloongabba, could be done by mail instead of in person.

Adani's lawyers had earlier told the court that they had tried but failed to find Mr Burragubba at an unspecified residential address. ...

The company alleges that Mr Burragubba owes them \$637,960 after the Federal Court and the Court of Appeal ordered he pay legal costs of failed fights against the miner. ...

Outside court Adani has reportedly said it will donate the cash to charity.

The case was adjourned for hearing on July 10.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jun/12/adani-coalmine-federal-government-loses-legal-challenge-on-water-assessment>

### **Adani coalmine: minister loses legal challenge on water pipeline assessment**

*Lisa Cox, The Guardian, 12/06/2019*

The federal government will have to reassess water infrastructure for Adani's Carmichael coalmine after conceding in a legal challenge that was lodged with the federal court.

The Australian Conservation Foundation has succeeded in its appeal against the government's assessment of Adani's north Galilee water scheme, with the federal government admitting it failed to properly consider public responses to the proposal and even lost some submissions. ...

The new environment minister, Sussan Ley, will now have to reconsider the proposal, which would see a 100km-long pipeline constructed to transport 12.5bn litres of water a year from the Suttor river and Burdekin basin. The project would also expand an existing 2.2bn-litre dam to 10bn litres. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/legal-setback-for-adani-on-eve-of-mine-signoff/news-story/e94ba25b2e68946dab04772d3c77de0b>

## Legal setback for Adani on eve of mine sign-off

*Charlie Peel & Saharh Elks, The Australian, 13/06/2019*

Late yesterday, the federal department admitted in the Federal Court that it could not prove it had considered all of the 2200 public submissions – and had since lost some – regarding Adani’s unrelated plans to build a 110km pipeline to the Suttor River to access up to 12.5 billion litres of floodwater a year.

The administrative error, revealed after a legal challenge by the Australian Conservation Foundation, will force the commonwealth to reopen Adani’s plans to public comment and reassess its ruling that the project did not need to be assessed on its impacts to water resources. ...

The latest hurdle comes as Queensland Greens MP Michael Berkman asked Speaker Curtis Pitt this week to refer Adani mining chief executive Lucas Dow to the parliamentary ethics committee for allegedly overstating the number of workers the company would employ. ...

*The Australian* revealed last week that the workforce at the operational Carmichael facility would be “between 800 and 1500”.

Yet Mr Dow, when he appeared before a parliamentary committee in March, said the mine would result in “over 1500 direct jobs created through the ramp-up of construction, with a further 6750 indirect jobs created as a consequence of our development”. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/the-way-you-spell-jobs-in-queensland-is-a-d-a-n-i-government-hails-mine-s-approval-20190613-p51xek.html>

## The way you spell jobs in Queensland is A-D-A-N-I: government hails mine’s approval

*Judith Ireland, SMH, 13/06/2019*

The Morrison government has hailed the approval of the groundwater plan for the controversial Adani coal mine as a “historic day” and a “great win” for jobs, with Resources Minister Matt Canavan calling on the Queensland government to now approve other coal mines in the state. ...

Employment Minister Michaelia Cash described the decision as “a great win today for Queenslanders and of course for job creation in Queensland”.

She told Sky News that when she

visited Queensland during the recent federal election campaign, people told her, “Michaelia, the way you spell jobs in Queensland is A-D-A-N-I”. In a statement on Thursday, Adani Mining chief executive Lucas Dow said the project will create 1500 direct and 6750 indirect jobs, mostly in Rockhampton and Townsville. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/queensland/adani-approval-welcomed-by-industry-decried-by-environmentalists-20190613-p51xjb.html>

## Adani approval welcomed by industry, decried by environmentalists

*Lucy Stone, SMH, 13/06/2019*

Adani is preparing to break ground on the controversial Carmichael mine in central Queensland after the state government gave it the final tick, sparking outrage from conservationists and support from mining groups and communities. ...

Federal Resources Minister Matt Canavan, who had lobbied intently for the state government to approve the mine, said it was a “historic” day for Queensland.

“It has been more than 50 years since a new coal basin has opened in Queensland, so this development is of huge importance to the economic future of Queensland,” he said.

“The Queensland government must now help facilitate the other mines in the Galilee to get more jobs going before they can be trusted again by the Queensland people.” ...

Bob Brown, who led a hundreds-strong convoy of anti-Adani environmentalists and campaigners into the Galilee Basin earlier this year to protest the mine, decried the approval process as “corrupted”.

“Independent science shows Gautam Adani’s coal extraction will most likely lead to the death of the Doongmabulla Springs, sacred to the Wangan and Jagalingou people, but here are the powers-that-be giving it a tick,” he said.

“Australia’s environmental processes are a farce and today’s anti-science decision shows it up.

“Overarching all this is the absence of an assessment of the impact that burning the Galilee Basin coal will have on Earth’s climate emergency – culpable behaviour by both the Coalition and Labor in office.” ...

<https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/politics/queensland/greens-foreshadow-legal-challenges-to-adani-approval-20190613-p51xf3.html>

## Greens foreshadow legal challenges to Adani approval

*Felicity Caldwell, Brisbane Times, 13/06/2019*

The Adani mine could be further mired in legal challenges, as the Greens vow the fight against the project is not yet over. ...

Queensland Greens MP Michael Berkman, a former environmental lawyer, said, “There is a huge and growing movement of people who will fight this project right to the end. ...

“These are certainly decisions that are open to judicial review ... I think there is a real prospect that we will see groups bring legal challenges.” ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/adanis-lucas-dow-vows-to-deliver-on-promises-of-jobs-for-townsville/news-story/d2fddb290a31cf7c33bdcd2afe82ca3>

## Adani’s Lucas Dow vows to deliver on promises of jobs for Townsville

*Madura McCormack, Townsville Bulletin, 14/06/2019*

Adani will deliver on its promise of jobs for Townsville, chief executive Lucas Dow has vowed.

The mining giant is expected to ramp up physical activity at its 10 million tonne per annum Carmichael mine within weeks after clearing its final environmental hurdle. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-13/adani-mine-approval-still-big-questions-remain/11205280>

## Adani’s mine has the green light but questions remain about its viability

*Josh Robertson, ABC, 13/06/2019*

The most divisive project in recent Australian history can finally break ground.

Virtually all that is left is for Adani to put its money where its mouth is.

If it doesn’t pave the way for the world’s last big energy coal rush in central Queensland’s Galilee Basin, no one else will.

Sceptical observers still struggle with the forbidding arithmetic of Adani, or whoever follows it, trying to turn a profit from a remote thermal coal mine in the era of the Paris climate agreement. ...

## COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-12/adani-approval-could-be-galilee-basin-ice-breaker/11194510>

### Adani could be 'ice-breaker' for six more proposed Galilee Basin mines, resources body says

Jemima Burt, ABC, 12/06/2019

A decision on the Adani groundwater management plan is set down for tomorrow with environmentalists saying if the Queensland Government gives the green light it will set a precedent for six other mines also planned for the region and allow Adani to break ground within weeks.

The Queensland Resources Council (QRC) said the other projects would have a "much easier run" if the rail line was already established and the environmental approvals had been cleared.

QRC chief executive Ian Macfarlane said Adani was "actually the ice-breaker that will lay down those baselines and will provide the infrastructure". ...

[The proposed mines are]: Carmichael Coal Mine and Rail Project • Alpha North Coal Mine Project • Galilee Coal and Rail Project (formerly known as China First Coal Project) • China Stone Coal Project • Alpha Coal Project • South Galilee Coal Project.

• See graphics, top right of page.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/coal-fired-power-plants-face-early-exits-from-grid/news-story/2b6148327d4448913cc155fdb56c9bf1>

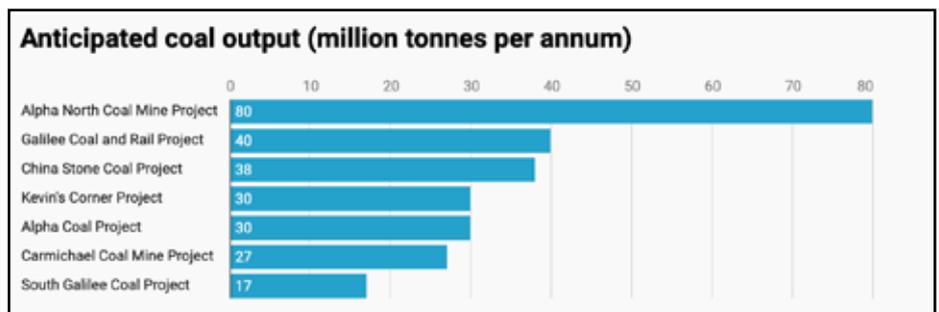
### Coal-fired power plants face early exits from grid

Perry Williams, *The Australian*, 08/06/2019

Some of Australia's fleet of coal-fired power plants could be forced out of the electricity grid earlier than expected, under new modelling that predicts coal profits may be squeezed by increasing competition from renewables.

The Australian Energy Market Operator, which runs the national electricity market, has released new scenarios that highlight a "significant threat" to the returns from coal power stations, raising fresh concerns over volatility as the grid transitions away from fossil fuels. ...

The Queensland government-owned Stanwell power station, Trevor St Baker's Vales Point B plant in NSW and EnergyAustralia's Yallourn facility in Victoria all face "challenging economics" under a long-term plan that seeks to map out the future make-up of the grid. ...



Proposed Galilee Basin mines and their projected annual output. Graphics: ABC

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/electricity/agl-energy-flags-seven-month-outage-at-victoria-s-loy-yang-power-plant-20190607-p51vpy>

### AGL Energy flags seven month outage at Victoria's Loy Yang power plant

AFR, 07/06/2019

Australia's top power producer AGL Energy Ltd said on Friday that a unit outage at its Loy Yang A power station in Victoria will likely extend to seven months and impact its fiscal 2020 earnings. ...

The company said the shut unit has been out of service since May 18 following an electrical short that damaged the generator. Following a technical assessment, the company now expects it may take until December to return the unit to operation. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/glencore-maps-tailings-failure-risk/news-story/e1b-1f20103e3376fc66b184de8ed2a66>

### Glencore unearths tailings dams risk

Paul Garvey, *The Australian*, 10/06/2019

An in-depth study of tailings dams owned by mining giant Glencore has identified several Australian facilities that present a "high" risk to people and the environment. ...

The state of tailings dams across the mining industry has been under intense scrutiny in recent months fol-

lowing the January collapse of a dam at Vale's Brumadinho iron ore mine in Brazil. The catastrophe killed more than 230 people ...

Glencore's response identified nine tailings facilities in Australia, including at its Macarthur River mine in the Northern Territory, its Murrin Murrin nickel mine in Western Australia and its Ernest Henry and Mount Isa mines in Queensland where a catastrophic failure would result in a "high" impact on people, the environment and infrastructure. ...

BHP named two Australian mines as posing an "extreme" risk in the event of a failure, namely the Olympic Dam copper mine in South Australia and its Mount Whaleback iron ore mine in Western Australia. An extreme rating applies to dams where a failure could result in more than 100 deaths. ...

## OIL & GAS LEAKS

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/andrew-forrest-plans-gas-and-hydrogen-power-plant/news-story/3e3a412a0ddb4d58cd2f91f90851b02e>

### Andrew Forrest plans gas and hydrogen power plant

Rhiannon Hoyle, *The Australian*, 07/06/2019

Billionaire Andrew "Twiggy" Forrest says he is determined to build a dual gas- and hydrogen-fired power station

in New South Wales, tapping into a [Port Kembla] liquefied natural gas import terminal that is proposed by a consortium he leads. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/carbon-emissions-soar-place-the-west-as-ground-zero-in-climate-war-20190606-p51y97.html>

### Carbon emissions soar, place the West as 'ground zero' in climate war

Emma Young & Nathan Hondros, SMH, 07/06/2019

New data released by the Commonwealth shows Western Australia's carbon emissions are way up, sparking fresh debate over whether the state should join the others in setting its own emissions targets, with environmental groups saying WA is now "ground zero" in Australia's climate war. ...

Conservation Council of WA director Piers Verstegen said increasing LNG pollution in WA was driving Australia's overall increase.

"That sector is now producing about 40 per cent of total carbon pollution and rising fast and Woodside's [Browse and Scarborough] proposals will significantly expand the LNG industry and add further emissions," he said. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/shell-ships-first-gas-from-massive-floating-prelude-project/news-story/b05d31eff99c87c70b134cf3b3d7525b>

### Shell ships first gas from massive floating Prelude project

Robb Stewart, The Australian, 11/06/2019

Royal Dutch Shell PLC's massive floating gas factory off Australia's northwest coast, a multi-billion dollar engineering achievement years in the

making, has shipped its first cargo of liquefied natural gas.

Roughly the size of four soccer fields and displacing six times as much water as the biggest aircraft carrier, Shell's Prelude has sent its first tanker loaded with fuel to customers in Asia. ...

Secured by mooring chains to the floor of the Indian Ocean almost 300 miles off the remote town of Broome, the vessel has been designed to operate in place for 25 years and withstand even the fiercest storm. ...

<https://thewest.com.au/business/energy/first-lng-cargo-sets-sail-from-shells-giant-prelude-ng-b881226637z>

### First LNG cargo sets sail from Shell's giant Prelude

Peter Milne & Daniel Newell, West Australian, 11/06/2019

Almost two years after sailing into Australian waters Shell's giant Prelude – the biggest offshore facility ever constructed – has at last shipped its first cargo of LNG.

As flagged by The West Australian last week, Shell and joint venture partners Inpex, Kogas and OPIC this morning announced Spanish carrier Valencia Knutsen had left Prelude, 475km north-east of Broome, with a full load of LNG for customers in Asia. ...

The Valencia Knutsen was alongside the 488m-long Prelude for 2.5 days from Saturday morning to late Monday night, according to vessel tracking website MarineTraffic.

To receive LNG a carrier must berth alongside the Prelude as the two vessels bob about in the sea and the Prelude "weathervanes" around its mooring turret.

More common floating oil production facilities offload oil to a tanker a safe distance away through long flexible hoses and avoid the difficulties of two vessels being alongside each other. ...

Prelude must load a carrier every five to seven days – a process that planned to take about 15 hours – to produce its nameplate capacity of 3.6 million tonnes a year of LNG. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/gas-tax-hike-treasurer-sparks-energy-backlash/news-story/de55021ea1b99f8878f2211774f25f3f>

### Gas tax hike: Jackie Trad sparks energy backlash

Jamie Walker & Sarah Elks, The Australian, 12/06/2019

Former federal resources minister Martin Ferguson warned last night that the Queensland government's surprise 25% hike of gas production royalties in the state budget would jeopardise investment in mining and increase energy prices. ...

[Queensland Treasurer Jackie] Trad rejected claims she had ambushed the \$80bn liquefied natural gas industry, saying she had met APPEA representatives last week and refused to rule out a royalty rise to them.

"Royalties have been frozen for LNG for 10 years," she told The Australian last night. "LNG grew by more than 40 per cent last year and it continues to grow and we think now is the right time to bring it in line with other exports, other minerals, and to make sure that Queenslanders are getting a good return on the resource." ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/domestic-gas-exemption-flagged/news-story/a4a194da63f8b6f8c626d5e27240718>

### Domestic gas exemption flagged in Queensland

Nick Evans, The Australian, 12/06/2019

Queensland's Labor government has flagged the prospect of discounting royalties for producers that deliver gas to the local market, after Treasurer Jackie Trad unveiled a \$476 million slug to gas producers through a hike in the royalty rate. ...

Although the rate hike takes effect almost immediately, it comes with the promise of a broad review of Queensland's petroleum royalty system, and the prospect of royalty relief for LNG producers that sell product into the domestic market. ...

Industry sources suggested even a substantial cut in royalty rates would



Shell's Prelude team farewells its first export cargo aboard the Valencia Knutsen. Photo: Shell

not be enough to divert gas from international markets, saying an extension of the Queensland government's program of opening up new acreage to explorers, but only for local supply, is more likely to have an impact over the long term.

Ms Trad defended the royalty hike yesterday, saying the fact the industry was an established and growing exporter meant it was time to review the royalty system.

"To get that industry up and running there were a number of arrangements that were put in place to stimulate investment in the industry. I think it's time for us to review them. A 10 per cent royalty rate, particularly when LNG exports are growing at a rate of over 40 per cent, we believe it's time for that industry to do a bit more."

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/qld-resources-body-hits-25-petroleum-royalties-hike-in-budget/news-story/4f31ec8bd0b-0f01e19823e13dea3e036>

### **Qld resources body hits 2.5% petroleum royalties hike in Budget**

*Domanii Cameron & Antonia O'Flaherty, Courier-Mail, 12/06/2019*

Queensland's peak resources body has savaged a decision to hike petroleum royalties by 2.5 per cent, claiming it will make the state's gas less competitive and cost jobs.

About \$450 million will supplement the state's coffers from petroleum royalties in 2018-19 – soaring to \$577 million during the following financial year.

The hike, which will jump from 10 to 12.5 per cent from July 1, will see a dividend return of \$476 million in coming years. ...

<https://www.afr.com/news/politics/blindsided-gas-industry-blasts-qld-royalty-hike-20190611-p51wn7>

### **'Blindsided': Gas industry blasts Qld royalty hike**

*Luke Housego & Liam Walsh, AFR, 11/06/2019*

The resources industry has erupted at the Queensland government's decision to lift royalties on the gas industry.

"This will make Queensland gas less competitive and will risk jobs and future investment, and the creation of new jobs," Queensland Resources Council chief executive Ian Macfarlane said on Tuesday. ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/gas/arrow-warns-of-1b-wound-from-gas-royalty-hike-20190613-p51x9n>

### **Arrow warns of \$1b wound from gas royalty hike**

*Liam Walsh & Luke Housego, AFR, 13/06/2019*

A major coal-seam gas operation predicts that the Queensland government's shock move to lift royalties will cost it at least \$1 billion more over the lifetime of a project.

The initial modelling from Arrow Energy, which is proposing a 27-year project, comes amid acrimonious debate about whether the gas sector should be paying more to Queenslanders. ...

Industry association the Queensland Resources Council has been ferocious in attacks on the plan, accusing the government of betrayal. ...

The proposition of increasing royalties was also backed by the vocal opponent of the CSG sector – protest group Lock the Gate Alliance.

"In the end these are the resources that belong to the people of Queensland, and Queenslanders need to have the benefit of these resources," Ellie Smith of Lock the Gate said. "So it makes sense to increase these royalties."

Ms Smith argued increasing royalties was also justified due to the effects of the industry.

"Queensland as a state has paid dearly for this industry, whether it's the environmental impacts, the impacts on communities, or even just looking at price of gas being linked to the international market and the impact that's had on manufacturing in Australia," she said. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-12/nt-fracking-exploration-could-begin-within-days-gas-wells/11204340>

### **Fracking exploration in NT to begin in 'coming days, if not weeks'**

*Jane Bardon, ABC, 12/06/2019*

The Northern Territory Government has lifted its three-year moratorium on exploration fracking for onshore shale gas in the Beetaloo Basin, and expects engineering works could resume within days. ...

## **NUKE MADNESS**

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/jun/12/angus-taylor-wont-rule-out-reversing-nuclear-energy-ban-if-business-case-stacks-up>

### **Angus Taylor won't rule out reversing nuclear energy ban if business case stacks up**

*Amy Remeikis, The Guardian, 12/06/2019*

The energy minister, Angus Taylor, has not ruled out the Morrison government reversing the nuclear energy ban, if a "clear business case" showed the economics were sound as he dodged questions about how Australia would meet its Paris agreement targets.

The first energy battle of the new parliament comes from within the party room, with a group of Queensland MPs, emboldened by that state's strong showing for the Coalition in the May election, leading a push to have nuclear energy reconsidered as part of Australia's power plan ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/ranger-uranium-mine-rated-a-potential-catastrophe-risk-by-rio/news-story/809c24b8510d280bd-668d9ee8347805b>

### **Ranger uranium mine rated a potential catastrophe risk by Rio**

*Nick Evans, The Australian, 13/06/2019*

A tailings facility at the Ranger uranium mine in the World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park is among facilities owned by Rio Tinto that present a potentially "catastrophic" risk of damage to people and the environment should they fail. ...

ERA estimates it will cost up to \$830 million to rehabilitate Ranger when it closes in 2021, and the company held cash resources of only \$388m at the end of December last year. ...

BHP said two of its Australian mines would pose an "extreme" risk to people and the environment if they failed. They are the Olympic Dam copper mine in South Australia and the Mount Whaleback iron ore mine in Western Australia. An extreme rating applies to dams where a failure could result in more than 100 deaths.

Glencore identified nine tailings facilities in Australia, including its Macarthur River mine in the Northern Territory, its Murrin Murrin nickel mine in WA and its Ernest Henry and Mount Isa mines in Queensland, where a catastrophic failure would result in a "high" impact on people, the environment and infrastructure.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/nuclear-power-exits-australia-energy-debate-enters-culture-wars-47702/>

## Nuclear power exits Australia's energy debate, enters culture wars

Jim Green, *Renew Economy*, 13/06/2019

What do these politicians and ex-politicians have in common: Clive Palmer, Tony Abbott, Cory Bernardi, Barnaby Joyce, Mark Latham, Jim Molan, Craig Kelly, Eric Abetz, and David Leyonhjelm?

Yes, they're all men, and all so far to the right of the political spectrum that right-wing ideologues think they are right-wing ideologues.

And they all support nuclear power.

To the far-right, pro-nuclear luminaries listed above we could add the right-wing of the right-wing National Party (pretty much all of them), the Minerals Council of Australia (who lobby furiously for clean nuclear and clean coal), the Business Council of Australia, media shock-jocks Alan Jones and Peta Credlin (and others), the Murdoch media (especially *The Australian* newspaper), the Citizens Electoral Council, and the Institute of Public Affairs and its front group the Australian Environment Foundation. ...

• *Dr Jim Green is the editor of the Nuclear Monitor newsletter and national nuclear campaigner with Friends of the Earth Australia*

## CLIMATE CRISIS

[https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-08/michael-bloomberg-donates-\\$500-million-to-climate-change/11193712](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-08/michael-bloomberg-donates-$500-million-to-climate-change/11193712)

### Billionaire Michael Bloomberg pledges \$715 million to close US coal power plants

ABC, 08/09/2019

Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg has said he will contribute \$US500 million (\$715 million) toward closing coal-fired power plants across the United States, in a clash with White House efforts to revive a fossil fuel blamed for climate change. ...

<https://www.camdencourier.com.au/story/6212539/erratic-weather-boosts-energy-demand-bp/>

### Erratic weather boosts energy demand: BP

Ron Bousso, *Camden Haven Courier*, 12/06/2019

Extreme temperatures around the globe drove a sharp acceleration in energy demand and carbon emissions last year, oil giant BP says. The company has issued a stark warning that the

world risks losing the battle against climate change. ...

China, India and the United States accounted for around two-thirds of the growth in energy demand. In the US, demand rose by 3.5 per cent, the fastest rate in 30 years following a decade of declines. ...

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/6205433/newcastle-researchers-make-world-first-material-for-storing-energy/>

### University of Newcastle researchers create a new material capable of storing energy when heated

Matthew Kelly, *Newcastle Herald*, 11/06/2019

A new material capable of revolutionising energy storage systems is on the verge of being commercialised at the University of Newcastle.

A research team led by materials scientist Professor Erich Kisi has spent the past eight years developing and refining a method of blending metals such as zinc and non-metals such as carbon into a modular form capable of storing energy when heated.

The world-first technology will help accelerate the shift to renewable energy by providing clean, economic, and scalable storage of energy. ...

Unlike batteries, which can explode and combust, MGA Thermal technology stores energy in the form of a non-toxic brick.

Another advantage is cost. The team created the technology from common materials and manufacturing processes.

As a result, MGA bricks can be made for about 10 per cent of the cost of lithium batteries yet produce the same amount of energy. ...

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/global-fossil-fuel-subsidies-reach-5-2-trillion-and-29-billion-in-australia-91592/>

### Global fossil fuel subsidies reach \$5.2 trillion, and \$29 billion in Australia

Michael Mazengarb, *Renew Economy*, 13/06/2019

New analysis commissioned by the International Monetary Fund has shown that global fossil fuel subsidies continue to grow, despite the growing urgency of the need to decarbonise the global economy.

The working paper prepared by the IMF Fiscal Affairs Department estimated that, in 2017, global fossil fuel subsidies grew to \$5.2 trillion, representing 6.5% of combined global GDP.

China leads all countries in the level of subsidies provided to fossil fuels, which the IMF report estimated to total \$1.4 trillion in 2015. The United States followed with \$649 billion in subsidies, Russia with \$551 billion and the EU with \$289 billion.

The IMF estimates that annual energy subsidies in Australia total \$29 billion, representing 2.3 per cent of Australian GDP. On a per capita basis, Australian fossil fuel subsidies amount to \$1,198 per person. ...

## FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jun/07/angus-taylor-claim-lng-exports-reduce-global-emissions-likely-wrong-climate-expert>

### Angus Taylor's claim LNG exports reduce global emissions 'likely wrong' – climate expert

Lisa Cox, *The Guardian*, 07/06/2019

Claims by the energy and emissions reduction minister, Angus Taylor, that Australia's liquefied natural gas exports are reducing global emissions are "grossly exaggerated", one of Australia's most renowned climate scientists has said.

Bill Hare, who has worked in climate science for 30 years, including on UN negotiations, has questioned Taylor's statement that Australia's LNG exports cut global emissions by up to 148m tonnes because they replace higher-emission alternatives such as coal.

"Government claims that Australia's LNG exports are reducing emissions globally are grossly exaggerated and, depending on the real level of methane leakages, reservoir CO2 venting and losses, and where the LNG is coming from in Australia, likely to be wrong," Hare said. ...

The director of the Australia Institute's climate and energy program, Richie Merzian, said if Australia was now trying to argue it should get credit for reducing emissions overseas, it should also take responsibility for fueling the climate crisis as the world's largest exporter of coal. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/2bn-target-for-company-behind-bold-indigenous-power-project/news-story/cffa4293fa6e68af70b-291d594e74a34>

### \$2bn target for company behind bold indigenous power project

Joe Kelly, *The Australian*, 08/06/2019

The indigenous company proposing a 1000MW "clean" coal plant in north Queensland says it is confident of rais-

ing \$2 billion in finance before the next state election. ...

Representatives from Shine Energy, including chief executive Ashley Dodd, met with senior officials from the Energy Department in Brisbane yesterday to discuss the \$10 million promised by Scott Morrison before the election for a bankable feasibility study into the project. ...

The new coal plant is planned for Collinsville in the electorate of Capricornia, held by LNP MP Michelle Landry, and would couple a new ultra-supercritical coal plant with a solar PV farm.

Shine Energy says the project would create 2000 jobs in the construction phase and 600 permanent jobs in operation and maintenance. ... The \$10m in funds is to flow in the new financial year. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jun/13/as-angus-taylor-ducks-weaves-and-dithers-china-zooms-past>

**As Angus Taylor ducks, weaves and dithers, China zooms past**

*Simon Holmes a Court, The Guardian, 13/08/2019*

As the gravity of the unfolding climate emergency begins to dawn upon Australians, instead of lies and obfuscation from our elected representatives, we urgently need leadership capable of navigating our economy to a prosperous, zero-emissions future. ...

Australia is the most vulnerable nation in the developed world.

At 2C we effectively lose the Great Barrier Reef, the natural wonder, the biodiversity and the tens of thousands of jobs.

We're on track for 4C of warming, which would make much of the country a living hell.

This month I travelled to China as part of a 'Smart Energy' delegation. ... We toured the factory of BYD, ... building the energy storage and transport systems of tomorrow [and] the highly advanced factory of Jinko Solar ... the largest solar panel manufacturer in the world. ...

As we dither, China zooms past. ...

Has Angus Taylor ever set out a vision for Australia's energy future that's even remotely compelling? Anything other than caretaking a highly polluting 20th century energy system while we push civilisation further into climate chaos?

No. Taylor ducks and weaves around



**LNP politicians Matt Canavan, Michelle Landry and George Christensen with Shine Energy's CEO Ashley Dodd. Shine Energy wants to build a coal-fired power station in Queensland, with government support. Photo: Michelle Landry, Facebook**

the bad news in our quarterly emissions data, suggesting that Australia should be applauded for exporting gas. ...

History won't be kind to this energy minister for approaching the climate challenge with all the care and subtlety that Captain Smith of the Titanic approached the fatal iceberg. ...

• *Simon Holmes à Court is senior adviser to the Climate and Energy College at Melbourne University*

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/ccs-says-jackie-trads-resources-infrastructure-fund-not-extortion/news-story/be1b-819779c6bbf7e5b533b14c038d86>

**CCC says Jackie Trad's resources infrastructure fund not 'extortion'**

*Sarah Vogler, Courier-Mail, 14/06/2019*

Queensland's Crime and Corruption Commission has ruled Treasurer Jackie Trad's new "voluntary" resources infrastructure fund does not amount to an extortion. The \$100 million fund

was announced by Ms Trad last month with the resources industry asked to contribute cash in exchange for a three-year royalties freeze.

LNP Leader Deb Frecklington referred it to the CCC arguing it "may constitute an offence of extortion under section 415 of the Criminal Code 1899".

The watchdog issued a statement today advising it did not believe extortion was involved. ...



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