



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 2:29 • 28 JUNE 2019

Equinor plan knocked back by regulator

By Eve Sinton

Norwegian company Equinor's plan for petroleum exploration drilling activity in the Great Australian Bight has been knocked back by the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA).

On June 27, NOPSEMA requested further information from Equinor on its environment plan for drilling activity, and halted assessment of the plan for up to 60 days until Equinor submits the requested information.

NOPSEMA declined to elaborate on the nature of the information required.

Greenpeace said NOPSEMA should have just rejected Equinor's environmental plan outright because of the unacceptable risk of a catastrophic accident and oil spill this project poses to the Great Australian Bight.

According to Equinor's own report, a catastrophic oil spill in the Great Australian Bight could smash the coastline from South Australia to Sydney and as far north as Port Macquarie – coating Sydney beaches such as Bondi with oil, destroying World Heritage coastline in Tasmania, and devastating tourism and fishing industries.

Extreme project defies logic

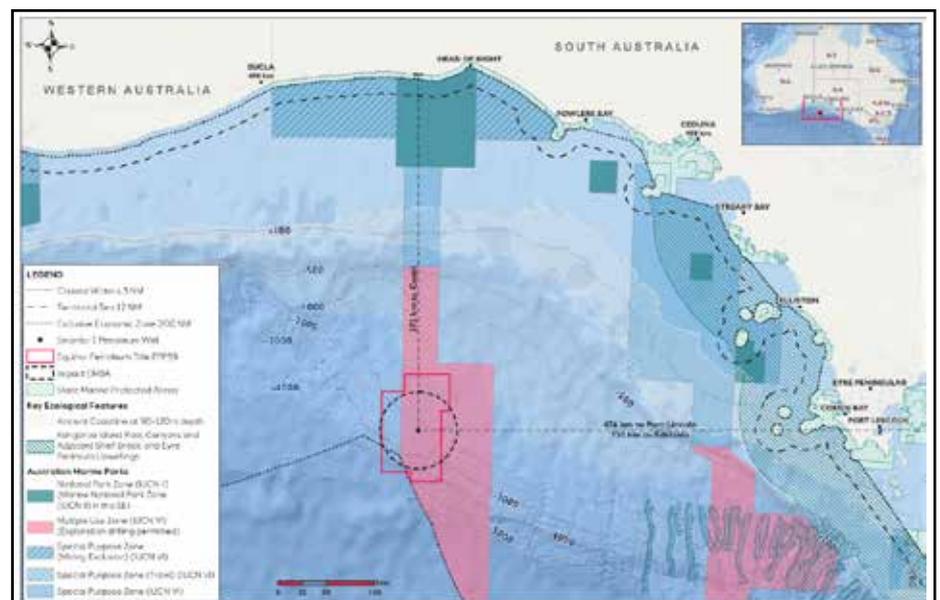
"Extreme oil projects like Equinor's proposal to drill in Australia's pristine Great Australian Bight defy all logic and fly in the face of climate science. We can't afford to burn this oil if we want to avoid the worst climate damage – increased heat waves, droughts, fires, and related ecological catastrophes like widespread extinctions. Any

• Continued p2



ABOVE: Equinor's Peregrino B platform. Photo: Ole Jørgen Bratland

BELOW: The Stromlo-1 exploration drilling program location. Map: Equinor



• P2: Concert helps fight Bylong mine

• P3: Fracking end-game – it's us or the frackers

• P5: Call to extend CSG no-go zone

Equinor gets knock-back

• Continued from p1

new oil is unburnable and unjustifiable," Greenpeace said.

The Australia Institute welcomed Equinor's setback.

"NOPSEMA have made the right decision in knocking-back this application. BP and Chevron have already been sent packing and now the other companies lining up to exploit the Bight should take the message and move on," said Noah Schultz-Byard, The Australia Institute's SA projects manager.

"Our research has found that the majority of people in South Australia and across the country do not want to see the Great Australian Bight opened up to drilling."

Equinor's poor safety record exposed

The news comes after Equinor evacuated oil workers from its Statfjord A platform in the North Sea after it was struck by a supply vessel on June 7.

There was also a major gas leak in Equinor's Aasta Hansteen gasfield in the Norwegian Sea, which shut the platform from April 8-17.

That followed an Equinor well incident during exploration drilling in the Barents Sea on January 16. The Norwegian oil industry safety watchdog PSA Norway said, "During the drilling operation, the lower marine riser package on the blowout preventer was unintentionally disconnected and the work, therefore, had to be halted. No personal injuries or environmental discharges have been reported as a result of the incident. Its cause is so far unknown."

In the last three and a half years, Greenpeace has identified more than 50 separate incidents (onshore and offshore) at Equinor facilities, with Norwegian regulators noting a troubling number of "non-conformities" in Equinor's safety procedures and equipment maintenance.

The research shows that Equinor had experienced six offshore incidents since the start of the year – a shocking average of almost two a month.

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Concert helps fight Bylong mine



Hundreds of people passionate about saving the picturesque Bylong Valley and its water resources are set for a special performance by country music stars Sara and Greg Storer.

The gig will be held in Bylong to help the local farming community, who are under threat from multinational mining giant Kepco.

KEPCO has plans to build a damaging new coal mine in the valley which, if approved, would ravage high quality farmland and drain underground water aquifers in a previously unmined rural valley adjacent to the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

The combined open cut and underground mine would produce 6.5 million tonnes of thermal coal for the export market, and would create more than five times the carbon emissions than the now scrapped Rocky Hill mine, which was rejected in the Land and Environment Court in February in part due to the greenhouse gases it would produce.

Dangerous coal mine 'a crime'

Bylong sheep farmer, Phill Kennedy said, "This valley is gorgeous and so productive. It would be a crime to ruin it with a dangerous coal mine, putting water resources and the Bylong River under strain.

"We're looking forward to welcoming the Storer and hundreds of people from across NSW to Bylong and showing them why this valley is too precious to plunder for coal."

Greg Storer said, "Farming is hard work and a gamble a lot of the time, so why the powers that be want to make

the odds even longer for people on the land and in our farming communities by jeopardising our precious water resources is baffling.

"Hope to see you all in the beautiful Bylong Valley on the July 7. Save the Bylong Valley Food Bowl."

The Bylong coal mine is currently being assessed by the NSW Independent Planning Commission, and a decision could be made at any time.

The threat the deeply unpopular mine poses to the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is set to be discussed at the annual meeting of the World Heritage Committee in Azerbaijan on Sunday.

A report prepared for the meeting by the World Heritage Centre cites the Bylong coal project among a series of developments on the perimeter of the heritage area that have been raised in the last two years as having the potential to affect its "outstanding universal value."

The Centre notes that "it is of concern that several mining projects exist in the vicinity of the property and that some mining activities have resulted in impacts on the property, as evidenced by the incident at the Clarence Colliery" referring to the collapse of a coal waste stockpile into the Wollangambe River four years ago.

A draft decision has been prepared for the meeting that includes a request that Australia undertake an assessment of potential cumulative impacts of all existing and planned mining projects.

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Fracking endgame: it's literally us or the frackers

By Food & Water Watch

With just a few years left to transition to 100% clean, renewable energy, the pressure is on to pivot away from fossil fuels as fast as we can. But if the frackers get their way, it's game over for a stable climate. It's them or us.

Fracked gas production in the US surged between 2000 and 2018, which pushed prices to their lowest levels in decades.

Now frackers are in the midst of a gas glut and they cannot profit off of the excess cheap gas without new outlets to sop up the surplus supply.

Persistently low prices have challenged the economic viability of the fracking industry's continuous and steady expansion.

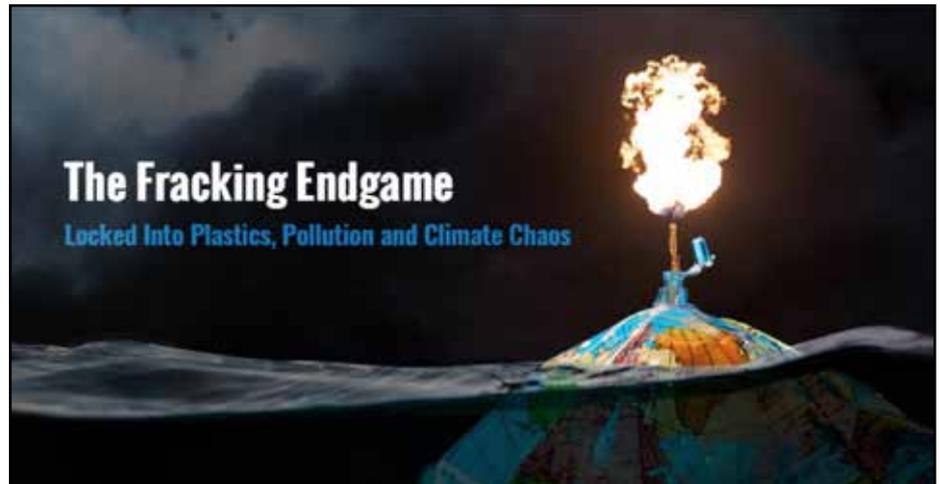
So now, frackers are banking on polluting partnerships with three industrial players:

- The petrochemical and plastic industries that use natural gas liquids as feedstock for manufacturing;
- Gas exporters building liquefied natural gas terminals to ship gas overseas;
- The electric power industry, which is using fracked gas for unnecessary gas-fired power plants.

These industries are throwing an economic lifeline to the fracking industry, and it's all in service of creating new demand for what has been becoming a sinking investment.

Why the rush?

Right now, the basic economic problem for the fracking industry is that overproduction has created a gas glut that greatly outpaces domestic demand. By building infrastructure that relies on



natural gas, frackers can keep drilling and cement us into a fossil-fuelled future.

But across the country activists and organizations like Food & Water Watch are becoming more successful at shutting down dirty infrastructure projects and getting fracking banned.

With the climate change report released in 2018 from the United Nations, it's clear that cutting out the biggest contributors to carbon emissions is necessary to stave off the worst effects of climate change.

We also know that the buildout of these proposed and planned facilities will have an effective lifespan far longer than the point when experts agree the world must shed all fossil fuels, meaning that these will be stranded assets and wasted economic investments.

Instead of doubling down on these facilities, it would make more sense to invest in clean, renewable energy.

That means frackers have to act fast and in a big way to cement their investment – they want to make sure they have their claws in us for as

long as they can. Passing legislation to ban fracking becomes even more difficult when politicians and systems have signed off on new facilities and infrastructure that required billions of dollars in investment.

It's simple: frackers know that the people want out of this deadly power racket. So, they're hurrying to lock us in.

700 reasons to ban fracking now

At a time when we need to pivot away from fossil fuels in the US, over 700 new facilities have been built, proposed, or are under development to capitalize off of an oversupply of cheap fracked gas.

This shocking buildout is simultaneously fuelling the construction of dangerous pipelines that connect shale fields to facilities.

This buildout will lead to more plastics, liquefied natural gas exports, and gas-fired electricity that will increase air pollution, greenhouse gasses, and plastic waste.

And government policies are propping up polluting partnerships by giving these industries new tax breaks and subsidies and lax permitting, while supporting continued fracked gas exploration and overproduction

Public health threatened

Power plants and facilities that convert natural gas into petrochemicals emit massive amounts of air and climate pollutants. Natural gas-fired power plants are major emitters of nitrogen oxides and contribute to ground-level ozone and smog. Likewise, petrochemical facilities release numerous pol-



The fracking end-game

• Continued from p3

lutants and flaring leads to ozone formation.

Prolonged contact with ground-level ozone from these facilities is linked to asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and studies have shown exposure to petrochemical facility pollutants is associated with heightened cancer risks, acute irritative symptoms and respiratory illnesses, especially for children.

Industrial pollution, including emissions from chemical and plastics facilities as well as power plants, impacts the health of nearby communities that often lack resources to fight back.

Often, these plants are disproportionately sited in communities of color and low-income areas, an issue of deep environmental injustice.

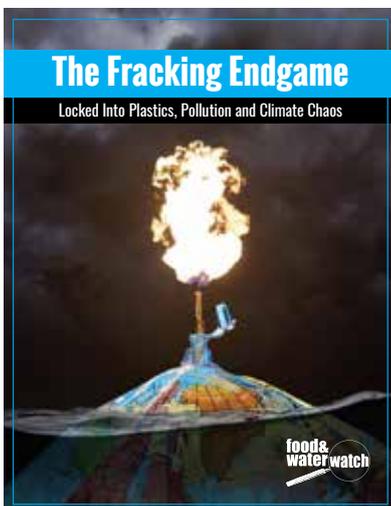
We must escape this deadly plan

It is long past time to transition to a clean energy future, but the deep-pocketed fossil fuel, petrochemical and plastics industries are trying to derail this necessary transformation. Luckily, there is still time to change the outcome and thwart these plans.

It's going to require a massive movement among people like you and everyone you know, and organizations like Food & Water Watch.

• **Download the full report here:**

<https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/insight/fracking-endgame-locked-plastics-pollution-and-climate-chaos>



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Three informative reports to download



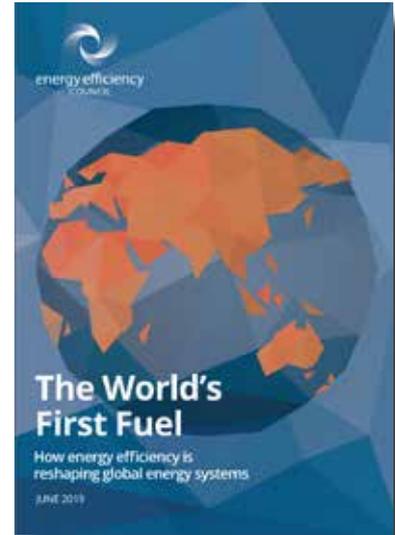
Renew

Hydrogen: Help or Hype?

When produced from renewable electricity, hydrogen is a renewable, emission-free fuel. Its main downside is inefficiency, because the required energy conversions waste most of the original renewable energy in losses.

• 29 pages.

<https://renew.org.au/research/hydrogen-help-or-hype/>



Energy Efficiency Council

How energy efficiency is reshaping global energy systems

How energy management reduces energy bills, ensures energy security, reduces emissions and creates jobs.

• 52 pages.

eec.org.au/handbook



Nuclear Monitor

Small Modular reactors

Small modular reactors (SMRs) are generally defined as those with a capacity under 300 megawatts. Some small reactors exist, and there are hopes and dreams of mass factory production of SMRs. But currently there is no such mass manufacturing capacity.

• 48 pages.

www.wiseinternational.org/nuclear-monitor

BELOW LEFT: Illustration of a South Korean micro-modular reactor.

BELOW RIGHT: World Nuclear Association vision of a Generation IV reactor.



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

Call for CSG no-go zone to be extended

Lock the Gate Alliance is calling for an extension of a coal seam gas no-go zone above the former Linc underground coal gasification site on the Western Downs after former Linc staff raised serious concerns new CSG developments could spread contamination. (See p11.)

Arrow Energy plans to drill CSG wells across 2,500 km² of land in the Western Downs, including on two new petroleum licences granted this year that sit above and near the former Linc underground coal gasification site.

One of the environmental authorities granted to Arrow prohibits CSG drilling within 10km of the Linc site due to the risk of mobilising the “existing contamination” but the second authority does not, and instead only requires groundwater monitoring.

A number of CSG wells have already been drilled by other gas companies including Origin and QGC within a 10km radius of the Linc contamination site, and landholders now fear this may have already spread the contamination.

Lock the Gate Alliance Queensland spokesperson Ellie Smith said comments from the Linc UCG experts turned whistleblowers showed the government needed to act and ban all coal seam gas drilling that had the potential to spread contamination from the Linc site.

“Linc’s foray into underground coal gasification is a total environmental

disaster that will take decades and many millions of taxpayer dollars to fix,” she said.

“These whistleblowers have accused the Government of ignoring repeated warnings that chemicals such as BTEX in groundwater could spread to the south and south-west of the contaminated site. By signing off on CSG production nearby, the Government shows a flagrant disregard for the dangers.

“Allowing CSG wells to be sunk at the site is totally unacceptable given the potential risk of contamination to underground water and land.

“The State Government must listen to the experts and protect the people and environment in this area, otherwise the clean-up bill for taxpayers and the impact on the environment will continue to worsen.”

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

Inside the news

Gautam Adani himself flew into **Townsville** this week (p7), in his Lear jet, via Indonesia. There was much secrecy covering the visit, which was apparently for ‘executive meetings’ and no journalist got near the man. It is thought activists may have noticed Adani’s plane on a flight tracking app.

Bob Brown responded with a serve over the secrecy and a list of questions that should be asked, if ever a journalist had the opportunity. Adani’s preference is for a well-controlled soft interview, such as that he recently gave fossil fan **Peta Credlin**. She was enjoying an all-expenses paid journey to India as his guest at the time. He could be sure there would be no awkward questions about environmental destruction and displacement of impoverished villagers associated with his Indian ports and power plants.

The *Daily Mail*’s story on **Adani** (p6) is worth a read.

The ABC has interviewed a coal seam gas **whistleblower** (p11) whose life has been wrecked by his involvement in establishing the prosecution case against **Linc Energy**. There are continuing concerns that the **Queensland government** has **failed** to do on-ground research and establish the extent of ongoing contamination around Linc’s **Hope-land** site, likely to be a problem for generations of surrounding farmers.

Renew Economy has an excellent article, with a link to a very important report, on the pros and cons of hydrogen fuel (p11).

Week by week the **Coalition** and **mining lobbyists** are pushing for nuclear power in Australia (p12), occupying increasing space.

In **Scott Morrison**’s first major policy speech since the election, he has taken a leaf from **Donald Trump**’s playbook and wants to slash red-tape for **miners** (p14). There’s horse-trading with the cross-bench over their support for tax cuts if Morrison does something to reduce **gas prices**. The **Centre Alliance** wants a stronger domestic gas security mechanism, while the **gasco**’s want more gasfields.

FFB

In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 33,300 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-21/adani-protest-in-brisbane-cbd/11236554>

Adani protesters arrested after gluing themselves to Brisbane road during rally

ABC, 21/06/2019

Several people have been arrested and released without charge after gluing themselves to a Brisbane road during a protest against the Queensland Government's approval of the Adani coal mine.

Article says 700 people rallied Brisbane Friday evening (March 21), marching over one of the CBD's main bridges at peak hour and causing major delays. The crowd was mostly peaceful, but of seven people arrested, five had glued themselves to Russell Street in South Bank. They were removed by police and no charges have been laid. Speakers included Greens councillor Jonathan Sri and Bob Carnegie from the Maritime Union Australia.

<https://www.echo.net.au/2019/06/twelve-arrests-galilee-blockade-group-dob-adani/>

Twelve arrests as Galilee Blockade group Dob In Adani

Echonet Daily, 25/06/2019

A group of activists from the Galilee Blockade group took over the foyer of the Adani HQ at Eagle Street in Brisbane yesterday saying they wouldn't leave until they were arrested.

After three and a half hours blocking the building's lift access and engaging staff, 12 people in total were arrested and removed by police, the youngest a 47-year-old father of four and the oldest a 74-year-old grandmother of four.

The group refused to leave the building and were arrested for Breaching The Peace.

The disruptive action marks the beginning of Dob In Adani campaign, a project for activists to obtain hidden information about Adani and their contractors. ...

The Galilee Blockade is encouraging people to Dob In Adani at:

www.galileeblockade.net



A group of activists from Galilee Blockade occupying the foyer of the Adani HQ at Eagle Street in Brisbane. Photo: Galilee Blockade

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7136023/Gautam-Adani-Indian-self-billionaire-Australias-biggest-mine.html>

Secrets of Mr Adani: Indian billionaire, 56, was kidnapped and ransomed, survived a terror attack and dropped out of high school – and will now start Australia's biggest ever coal mine

Daniel Piotrowski & Shive Prema, Daily Mail, 22/06/2019

Article says school dropout Gautam Adani, 56, is behind Australia's controversial new mine. He has a net worth of \$16.5 billion and brushes shoulders with global politicians. Adani was kidnapped and ransomed for \$3 million in a 1997 hostage crisis and saw gunmen being shot during the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks (he was hiding in the basement as armed men killed more than 160 people in a luxury hotel). He grew his empire (trading diamonds) by using debts to fund expansions into other businesses ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/jun/23/queensland-approval-of-adani-plan-unlawful-say-environment-groups>

Queensland approval of Adani plan 'unlawful', say environment groups

Ben Smea, Guardian, 23/06/2019

The Queensland environment department may have acted "unlawfully" when it approved of Adani's ground-water plan, in the process backing

down on a longstanding requirement that the miner provide definitive proof about the source of an ancient desert spring.

Environmental groups are now considering a legal challenge to the approval, partly because the state's Department of Environment and Science (DES) appeared to negotiate a last-minute compromise with Adani rather than applying strict conditions. ...

<https://www.insurancenews.com.au/local/adani-gets-insurance-but-wont-say-where-from>

Adani gets insurance, but won't say where from

Insurance News, 24/06/2019

The Adani Group's Carmichael coal mine project in Queensland has been underwritten by a group of insurers whose identities remain confidential. IAG, Suncorp and QBE have told insurancenews.com.au they are not involved. US-based Liberty Mutual has also ruled itself out. ...

STOP WATER MINING
THE NEXT RESOURCES BATTLE



<https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/politics/queensland/queensland-pushes-galilee-basin-wide-plan-to-protect-endangered-bird-20190621-p52022.html>

Queensland pushes Galilee Basin-wide plan to protect endangered bird

Tony Moore, Brisbane Times, 25/06/2019

A Galilee Basin-wide plan to protect the endangered black-throated finch is being prepared by Queensland's Department of Environment and Science.

This comes three weeks after the department controversially approved Adani's plan to manage the endangered black-throated finch ...

The need for a Galilee Basin-wide black-throated finch management plan was identified by Queensland's Coordinator General in November 2018 as he investigated the environmental impact study of the China Stone mine, to the immediate north of the Carmichael coal mine. ...

Article lists the mines lining up behind Adani in the Galilee Basin:

- Alpha Coal Project – GVK Hancock; 30 million tonnes per year.
- Alpha North Coal Mine Project – Waratah Coal; 56 million tonnes per year.
- Galilee Coal Project – Waratah Coal; 40 million tonnes per year.
- China Stone Coal Project - MacMines Austasia; 38 million tonnes per year.
- Kevin's Corner Project – GVK Hancock; 30 million tonnes per year.
- South Galilee Coal Project – AMCI (Alpha); 17 million tonnes per year. ...

Story goes on to quote Dr April Reside, from University of Queensland's Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Science, saying that in theory, the bio-regional planning approach was a good thing. But the approval of Adani's black-throated finch management plan didn't give her much faith in the bio-regional plan. Land offsets for black-throated finch habitat cleared on the Carmichael mine sit on another mine's footprint and unlikely to be effective.

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/business/gautam-adani-spent-15-days-in-townsville-for-internal-meetings/news-story/f564fe86f315d899325e0f5cf6e2f8fc>

Gautam Adani spent 1.5 days in Townsville for 'internal meetings'

Madura McCormack, Townsville Bulletin, 26/06/2019

The head of mining giant Adani has flown into Townsville for meetings ... chairman Gautam Adani had been in Townsville since Monday morning, flying in on his personal jet from Jakarta.



Ninety people from 23 #StopAdani groups across Queensland came together, making plans to stop Adani destroying groundwater and overheating the planet. There will be more #StopAdani Assemblies in Sydney and Melbourne this weekend.

Photo: #StopAdani www.stopadani.com/assemblies

Article says Adani flew out of Townsville about 2pm Tuesday. A spokeswoman for Adani would not comment on whether he was in Townsville but said that Adani executives were in Townsville for "internal meetings". ...

<https://www.crikey.com.au/2019/06/27/adanis-rules-media-townsville/>

Adani's rules: the media misses out on secret flying visit

Bob Brown, Crikey, 27/06/2019

Indian multi-billionaire Gautam Adani flew into Townsville via Jakarta on Monday and out again on Tuesday in his personal jet.

Obviously the visit has to do with his contentious coal mine in the Galilee Basin in central Queensland and just as obviously he did not want Australians to know he was here.

Article asks, why the secrecy in Townsville? Adani's advisers are hoping that the contention surrounding the mine will dissipate if he starves it of oxygen, but there are questions journalists should be asking.

"For example, where now are the guarantees of thousands of jobs for locals promised by Adani? Will he stop the mine if it is found to be killing the Doongmabulla Springs oases as independent scientists predict? Or if the endangered black-throated finch is found to be pushed to extinction? Or if the Wangan and Jagalingou Family Council wins it's current court action?"

Negotiations over royalties, whether Adani will pay for land acquisitions needed for the 200 kilometre rail link, and the \$3 billion destined for Adani's Cayman Islands family trust are mentioned.

"Secret visits or not, the issue of Adani's coal mine is far from going away."

• Bob Brown is the former leader of the Greens and led the Stop Adani Convoy during the 2019 federal election.

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/crime-court/growing-threats-from-adani-protesters-call-for-harsher-laws/news-story/1a62671a108914f0fd1dc17d63346301>

'Growing threats' from Adani protesters call for harsher laws

Madura McCormack, Townsville Bulletin, 26/06/2019

Growing threats from anti-Adani protesters on businesses mean tougher trespass laws are needed, Burdekin MP Dale Last has said. ...

Article says Last has introduced amendments to an Opposition trespass Bill, in the parliamentary committee stage, so "a person who commits aggravated trespass would face up to three years in jail or \$13,000 in fines and if they commit further crimes on the premises they face up to 10 years in jail or fines of over \$390,000". The Bill is open to submissions until July 15; public hearings will be held in August, and the committee will report in November.

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/business/phillip-thompson-to-establish-friends-of-galilee-basin-in-parliament/news-story/f30b240419268c3266c7009307c81d56>

Phillip Thompson to establish 'friends' of Galilee Basin in parliament

Madura McCormack, Townsville Bulletin, 27/06/2019

First-time Herbert MP Phillip Thompson will attempt to establish a group of 'friends' in parliament that support the Galilee Basin.

Article says Thompson would be creating a 'Parliamentary Friends of the Galilee Basin' – a parliamentary friend group being a group of politicians from different parties that share a common interest. There were about 65 'friends' groups in the last parliament.

Thompson expects support from Senator Matt Canavan, Dawson MP George Christensen, and Capricornia MP Michelle Landry. An Adani spokeswoman said support for the mining industry was always welcome.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/opinion/protesters-are-alienating-the-very-voters-who-would-support-their-cause/news-story/111034f1df6adac64a5b8469dfcc465f>

Protesters are alienating the very voters who would support their cause

Paul Williams, Courier-Mail, 28/06/2019

Setting aside the very real concerns many have about a coal mine that potentially threatens groundwater, local animal species and the Great Barrier Reef, a recent protest where green activists glued themselves to a Brisbane

city street was clearly inappropriate – even stupidly counter-productive.

Article says the protest, which disrupted traffic, was "embarrassingly juvenile ... the equivalent of a political tantrum", and will not win the hearts and minds of those people needed to reach a critical mass of public opinion.

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/nsw/political-football-controversial-nsw-coal-project-granted-mining-licence-20190621-p52056.html>

'Political football': controversial NSW coal project granted mining licence

Tom Rabe, SMH, 21/06/2019

The Wallarah 2 coal project on the NSW Central Coast has been granted two mining leases by the state government after more than a decade of controversy and scrutiny.

Article says that Wallarah 2 is owned by Kores Australia, a subsidiary of Korea Resources Corporation. The \$800 million mine is expected to create more than 1700 direct and indirect jobs over a 28-year lifespan.

It was unsuccessfully challenged by the Environmental Defenders Office NSW earlier this year. The mine was rejected by NSW Labor planning minister Tony Kelly in 2011 due to the impacts on drinking water. But later, Coalition premier Barry O'Farrell broke a promise to oppose the mine, instead recommending the project be approved under strict conditions three years later.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/agl-to-tweak-bayswater-output/news-story/24518d859ecec2a49b5d0ac0bb579bf5>

AGL to tweak Bayswater output

Perry Williams, Aus, 24/06/2019

Power giant AGL Energy will consider tweaking output from its NSW Bayswater coal plant during the day as cheaper solar and wind challenges the long-term role of fossil fuels in the grid.

Article says that with solar now beating coal on price during the day, plant owners are looking at shutting down generator units after meeting morning demand and firing them back up to meet evening peaks. Origin Energy is trialling a similar shift at its Eraring plant, and an AGL exec says all of Australia's coal plants will need to take similar action as renewables grow.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/public-to-have-say-on-1-billion-coal-mine/news-story/439c577f8b5cb2f9c7ccfa7dab4defb9>

Public to have say on \$1 billion coal mine

Michael Wray, Courier-Mail, 23/06/2019

Environmental conditions for a \$1 billion coal mine in central Queensland with up to eight endangered species on the site, including a rare finch, will be open to the public from today.

Article says Queensland's Coordinator-General has released draft terms of reference for an environmental impact statement for Whitehaven Coal's Winchester South metallurgical coal mine, about 30km southeast of Moranbah in the Bowen Basin. It will produce up to eight million tonnes of metallurgical coal a year for 30 years, with 500 construction and 450 operational jobs. There are eight potential endangered species on the site, including the Star Finch (eastern) and southern snapping turtle. Feedback can be submitted until July 19.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/g20-nations-aid-for-coal-fired-power-triples-in-three-years-report-20190625-p5213r.html>

Australia leads the G20 nations' pack in aid for coal-fired power

Peter Hannam, SMH, 25/06/2019

Subsidies for coal-fired power production almost tripled in the three years to 2016-17 among G20 nations, with Australia providing among the largest support, an international study has found.

Article says the Overseas Development Institute in the UK found aid for coal power stations grew from US\$17.2 billion (\$24.7 billion) in 2013-14 to \$US47 billion by 2017, in contrast to pledges made by the 20 biggest economies in 2009 to phase out subsidies, to reduce the risks of climate change.

The report said total support for coal, including production, was US\$63.9 billion in the 2016-17 year. Of that, about US\$3.1 billion went to fiscal aid for communities to transition off coal.

The highest amounts of total support to coal consumption were identified in Indonesia at US\$2.3 billion per year, Italy and Australia, both about US\$870 million, the US at US\$708 million, and the UK with US\$682 million.

<https://www.theage.com.au/politics/victoria/yallourn-coal-fired-power-plant-due-to-shut-down-from-2029-20190625-p5212q.html>

Yallourn coal-fired power plant due to shut down from 2029

Adam Carey & Nick Toscano, Age, 25/06/2019

Yallourn coal-fired power plant is due to start shutting down from 2029, progressively switching off its four units one by one until its full closure in 2032.

Article says Energy Australia warns of record high household energy prices if the shutdown is poorly planned, but that changes to the energy market could lead it to close the Latrobe Valley power plant even earlier. Yallourn, running on brown coal, is one of the most polluting power stations in Australia.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/india-cutting-australian-coal-imports/news-story/d7f08b193fea98b3342f2c1202c7de0c>

India cutting Australian coal imports

Sudarshan Varadhan, Aus, 26/06/2019

India has moved to reduce its dependence on Australian coal by increasing shipments of coking coal from the United States and Canada, with those countries' share rising to a sixth of all Indian imports of the fuel.

Article says Australia's share of India's coking coal market has fallen to from 88% to 71% in the last three years. Supply disruptions, including a flood and cyclone in Queensland, have caused worries in India.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/man-killed-in-mine-wall-collapse-at-middlemount-coal-mine/news-story/d4b2a5a414de999b1cd9958805bb016a>

Man killed in mine wall collapse at Middlemount Coal Mine

Nic Darveniza & Sarah Matthews, Courier-Mail, 27/06/2019

A miner has been killed in a mine wall collapse at the Middlemount Coal Mine in central Queensland.

The miner was operating a digger on a shelf inside the mine, about 90km southeast of Emerald, when the wall collapsed sometime after 2pm. ...

OIL & GAS LEAKS

<https://www.chinchillanews.com.au/news/when-csg-comes-to-town-researchers-share-their-fin/3755974/>

When CSG comes to town: researchers share their findings

Brooke Duncan, Chinchilla News, 17/06/2019

Researchers from the Centre for Coal Seam Gas have toured the region to share their latest findings looking into

the impact of the CSG industry on local communities.

Article says researchers ran workshops on social and economic changes and levels of trust regarding CSG in Roma, Miles, Chinchilla, Dalby, and Toowoomba.

The research showed that landholders and regulators have both increased their trust in CSG companies since 2015, but landholders have the lowest levels of trust compared to regulators, community members, and industry employees.

<https://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/story/6244096/its-just-smoke-and-mirrors/>

The unmeasured impacts of CSG

Hayley Kennedy, Qld Country Life, 27/06/2019

The latest Underground Water Impact Report for the coal seam gas industry may have been released, but landholders continue to voice concerns over unmeasured impacts.

The CSG tenure footprint in Queensland now totals about 26,000 square kilometres, with 21,000 CSG wells projected for the Surat Cumulative Management Area.

Article tells the story of Stephen and Vicki Bock of Eddington, Chinchilla, who have been battling the CSG industry since 2013. Their land is surrounded by gas pipelines and infrastructure. Their only water bore has dried up and they fear weed invasion from a pipeline easement.

They are struggling to pay lawyers and are doing their own baseline testing so their case will hold up if they have to go to court.

"The farmer is ... expected to become an expert, and... be able to manage every aspect, or be left to deal with the legacy of the issues that come after," the couple say.

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/markets/santos-coal-seam-gas-plan-still-has-hurdles-to-clear-nsw-government-20190621-p5202c.html>

Santos coal seam gas plan still has hurdles to clear: NSW government

Peter Hannam & Nick Toscano, SMH, 22/06/2019

The Minister in charge of assessing the \$3 billion coal seam project proposed by Santos for the NSW north-west says the process is ongoing, downplaying speculation that an approval is imminent.

Article says that Planning and Public Spaces Minister Rob Stokes has

said the Berejiklian government had made no decision on its assessment of the Narrabri Gas Project, contrary to media reports it was "on track to be approved" by the end of the year.

Deputy Premier and Resources Minister John Barilaro says there is no deadline for determining the application and the Independent Planning Commission also needs to sign off on it.

An un-named major gas user said the Narrabri project would produce high cost gas, while the construction of a pipeline and other works mean it could be years before substantial supplies can begin. The executive believed it wouldn't change the need to import gas.

Meanwhile, a Santos spokeswoman said customers were crying out for Narrabri gas and it will be cheaper than imported gas from other states or overseas.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/lng-oversupply-costs-billions-in-lost-exports/news-story/8540e9784ba579abe32311f897057ff2>

LNG oversupply costs billions in lost exports

Perry Williams, Aus, 22/06/2019

Australian LNG producers face a slump in export revenue amid indications a global supply glut may persist up to three years longer than anticipated, depressing prices and weakening company earnings. ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/agl-among-dozens-of-potential-buyers-of-narrabri-gas-20190621-p51zzl>

AGL among 'dozens' of potential buyers of Narrabri gas

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 22/06/2019

AGL Energy has declared it is a potential customer for gas from Santos' \$3 billion Narrabri gas venture in NSW but has balked at co-investing with the gas producer, pointing to the contentious nature of coal seam gas production.

Article says AGL exited gas production in 2016 after community opposition saw off its proposal for a CSG project in Gloucester.

Narrabri gas could feed AGL's proposed gas power station at Tomago, near Newcastle.

AGL is pushing forward with its proposed LNG import terminal at Victoria's Western Port, and also talking to the Andrew Forrest-backed LNG import project in Port Kembla.

<https://www.katherinetimes.com.au/story/6232945/another-backflip-on-promises-to-stick-to-fracking-rules/>

Another backflip on promises to stick to fracking rules

Chris McLennan, *Katherine Times*, 21/06/2019

The NT Government has again been accused of failing to keep its promise to implement all the key rules to allow fracking for onshore gas to continue.

Enclosed tanks will not be used on drill sites to store wastewater from the fracking, promised at all times.

Article says open air ponds will be used for evaporation of wastewater as well, and Protect Country Alliance spokesman Graeme Sawyer says people's worst fears have been confirmed.

"Not only will poisonous fracking waste water be left in open dams, potentially harming animals and the environment, but that the NT Government sees nothing wrong with this.

"The doublespeak used to justify the process, whereby the wastewater goes out of a holding tank into the open-air evaporation pond and then back in again is galling, and resembles something out of a Monty Python movie script.

"This is a clear rejection of Justice Pepper's recommendations, and should outrage every Territorian who cares about our unique natural environment.

"At the crux of this problem is a government captured by the gas fracking industry and a disregard for biodiversity. It's a classic example of watering down the recommendations to make it cheaper and easier for the frackers."

The NT government has repeatedly promised to faithfully implement all the 135 recommendations from the Pepper inquiry into hydraulic fracturing, which allowed the mining moratorium to be lifted, but now says it is responding to industry concerns.

The newspaper says it has reached out to the Independent gas industry regulator Dr David Ritchie over the past month on this issue with no response.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-23/billionaire-businessman-takes-on-origin-energy-super-preme-court-nt/11237598>

Billionaire businessman launches legal action to keep Origin Energy fracking off NT cattle station

Jane Bardon, *ABC*, 23/06/2019

A billionaire businessman has launched court action against Origin Energy over its plan for gas exploration

on a Northern Territory cattle station.

Retail magnate Brett Blundy's company BB Retail Capital and co-owners Bullwaddy Pastoral Co are accusing the gas company of not properly consulting them about the environmental risks associated with the planned "test fracking" operation.

Article says they're seeking to stop the NT Government from approving test fracking on part of the station, in the first case of its kind for the Territory.

Blund owns Amungee Mungee, near Daly Waters, 600 kilometres south of Darwin, and nearby cattle stations, OT Downs and Mungabroom.

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/companies/santos-demands-clear-timeline-on-narrabri-gas-project-20190623-p520hg.html>

Santos demands 'clear timeline' on Narrabri gas project

Nick Toscano, *SMH*, 24/06/2019

Santos has ramped up pressure on the New South Wales government to provide a clear timetable for the approval of its \$3 billion Narrabri gas project, which could supply up to half of the state's gas needs.

A Santos spokeswoman said customers were crying out for Narrabri gas.

"Santos has always said the environmental impact statement process has to be robust, independent and based on the best available science to provide confidence for the community, but a clear timeline is also important to provide investment certainty for Santos, for NSW gas customers and for the workers that depend on a secure, reliable and affordable gas supply."

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/nsw/i-won-t-be-pushed-around-resources-minister-warns-santos-over-gas-20190624-p520r2.html>

'I won't be pushed around': Resources Minister warns Santos over gas

Peter Hannam, *SMH*, 24/06/2019

The NSW government has blasted Santos for ramping up public pressure to secure approval for a \$3 billion coal seam gas project, with Deputy Premier John Barilaro warning he "won't be pushed around".

Article quotes Barilaro, who is also Resources Minister, saying Santos was to blame for any delays to the Narrabri Gas Project in north-western NSW.

He said, "We won't truncate any process because they see a political opportunity off the back of Adani."

Barilaro said Santos had been slow to prepare information on its plan to drill 850 coal seam gas wells in stage one of the Narrabri project. "Proper decisions are based on proper processes and I won't be pushed around by Santos."

<https://nit.com.au/nt-residents-fear-fracking-will-imperil-local-enterprises/>

NT residents fear fracking will imperil local enterprises

National Indigenous Times, 25/06/2019

The Central Northern Territory community of Minyerri has declared itself a 'No Go Zone' to fracking after protesting at being left out of the NT Government's fracking protection areas.

A community-led survey revealed that 99 percent of Minyerri residents said they do not want fracking on their land. The survey also showed 93 percent of residents wanted a Territory-wide ban on fracking. ...



Minyerri residents protests about fracking and declare their land a 'no go zone'

Photo: Seed Indigenous Youth Climate Network

Article says a Minyerri protest saw 100 community members put their anti-fracking placard into the ground to show the NT government and gas companies that their country wasn't open for fracking.

It quotes Alawa woman Naomi Wilfred saying, "We got to stop this fracking, because we got people working on pastoral leases, people working on bush medicine. People are interested in buying our bush medicine because it heals them. If fracking goes ahead, how are we going to heal people and ourselves?"

<https://www.yanheapnews.com.au/gingin-supports-anti-frackers-but-has-no-control/>

Gingin supports anti-frackers but has no control

Anita McInnes, Yanheap News, 25/06/2019

Gingin councillors unanimously voted on Thursday, June 20 to take a position against unconventional fracking but also said the council had no control over fracking in the shire.

Councillors said they supported the overwhelming decision of the annual meeting of electors held on 19 February who wanted the council to refuse to allow unconventional fracking in the Shire of Gingin.

Article says they revoked a resolution carried on May 16, 2017 to develop a policy on fracking within the shire.

GASIFICATION STINK

<https://smallcaps.com.au/leigh-creek-energy-completes-syngas-pilot-plant-shutdown-commercial-talks/>

Leigh Creek Energy completes syngas pilot plant shutdown, advances commercial talks

Danica Cullinane, Smallcaps, 26/06/2019

Emerging gas developer Leigh Creek Energy has completed the decommissioning of its syngas pre-commercial demonstration (PCD) plant in South Australia, paving the way for the company to start commercialising the project.

Leigh Creek Energy hailed the pilot plant a "great success" in February after it proved the production of synthesis gas, or 'syngas' via in-situ gasification (ISG) could be achieved at commercial levels.

Article says a monitoring regime has started and there are no reported environmental impacts or safety issues occurring from the zone of operation.

The company is holding talks with

potential joint venture partners and gas sales customers in Hong Kong and Beijing.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-27/csg-contamination-risk-prioritised-over-royalties-whistleblower/11247518>

Linc whistleblower says future CSG royalties prioritised over toxic contamination risk

Josh Robertson, ABC, 27/06/2019

Whistleblowers in Queensland's worst contamination scandal have accused the State Government of raising the risk that a burgeoning coal seam gas (CSG) industry will spread toxic chemicals left by Linc Energy's failed gas project.

Ray Cowie, a former Linc drilling engineer turned expert witness for the investigation and prosecution of the company, said he had felt compelled to become a whistleblower twice – this time against the Department of Environment and Science (DES).

Speaking out for the first time, Mr Cowie said he and former Linc hydrogeologist Gary Love had seen their careers in the gas industry destroyed because of their role in helping departmental officials over the environmental disaster.

Article says Cowie and Dr Love are two of a handful of experts on UCG in Australia, and worked with investigators and prosecutors to help convict Linc of serious environmental harm.

They have since accused environmental officials of failing to properly investigate the source of underground contamination at the Hopeland site, saying it was a problem that could haunt local farmers for generations.

Cowie said the Government had also ignored their repeated warnings that chemicals such as BTEX in groundwater could spread to the south and south-west of the contaminated site by signing off on CSG production nearby.

Cowie is quoted saying CSG wells in the region targeting the same coal seams used by Linc would shift groundwater "like a bathtub" and potential contaminants with it.

But he said department officials had repeatedly indicated the river of royalties from CSG would trump a moratorium in a region where a single gas tenement could deliver \$7 million a year into government coffers. The Queensland government has failed to do appropriate investigations, such as drilling investigation of deep hydrocar-

bon contamination and groundwater modelling on potential influence of CSG operations to the west and south-west on contaminant transport.

Cowie and Love's careers have both suffered from their work on the Linc contamination incident, with severe consequences for their families. Cowie's wife Donna said they had nearly lost their home and at times relied on food parcels from friends.

Cowie is preparing to sue the DES.

HYDROGEN HYPE

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/hydrogen-holy-grail-for-100-renewables-or-hype-85164/>

Hydrogen: Holy grail for 100% renewables – or hype?

Andrew Reddaway, Renew Economy, 25/06/2019

Article says that while there are several Australian trials and proposals to use hydrogen to transport and store energy, there has been little discussion of hydrogen's drawbacks.

There is an interesting discussion of the manufacture and uses of hydrogen. Battery-electric cars, for example, are much more efficient than hydrogen-powered vehicles.

It concludes, "Hydrogen produced from renewable energy is a renewable, storable fuel but it has several drawbacks and should only be pursued when more direct uses of renewable energy are impractical. Australia should not devote resources to a network of hydrogen refuelling stations because battery charging is much more efficient. Hydrogen should not be piped into homes and businesses because efficient electric appliances are much more economic. And we should be wary of hydrogen proposals used as a fig leaf to continue fossil-fuel business-as-usual.

"Exporting renewable hydrogen to countries with poor renewable resources is a great opportunity and has the potential to replace our fossil fuel exports."

• *For deeper analysis and references, see:*

<https://renew.org.au/research/hydrogen-help-or-hype/>

**FOSSIL FOOL
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NUKE MADNESS

<https://www.michaelwest.com.au/whats-more-chilling-watching-chernobyl-or-cogitating-the-cost-of-going-nuclear/>

What's more chilling: watching Chernobyl or cogitating the cost of going nuclear?

Noel Wauchope, Michaelwest.com, 20/06/2019

The sudden push by the Murdoch media and Coalition right-wingers to overturn Australia's nuclear power ban ignores the chilling economic cost – huge public subsidies, storing radioactive waste for thousands of years, the heavy costs of decommissioning and, potentially, radiation-related health costs. Veteran nuclear writer Noel Wauchope reports on the popular TV series, Chernobyl, and the economics of nuclear power. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-24/lucas-heights-nuclear-facility-workers-exposed-to-radiation/11242278>

Lucas Heights nuclear medicine production halts after workers exposed to unsafe radiation

Belinda Kontominas, ABC, 24/06/2019

Production has stopped at a newly opened nuclear medicine facility at Sydney's Lucas Heights after workers there were exposed to an unsafe dose of radiation.

The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) said three workers were "attended to by radiation protection personnel" after contamination was detected on the outside of a container holding 42 millilitres of Molybdenum-99 (Mo-99) on Friday morning.

Article says the incident comes less than two weeks after ANSTO was licenced to begin supplying Mo-99 – the parent isotope of technetium-99m, used in 85% of all nuclear medicine.

It follows a series of contaminations scares at the Lucas Heights facility in recent years in which several workers were exposed to radiation.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/super-industry-gets-behind-nuclear-power/news-story/45235a8f4f8d620fc427d99b272ea136>

Super industry gets behind nuclear power

Graham Lloyd, Aus, 26/06/2019

Australia's union-backed superannuation industry has made the case for nuclear energy and demolished repeated claims wind and solar are the cheapest long-term option for reliable power.



Article says backing up a renewable energy system for 1½ days would require about 100 Snowy Mountain 2.0 pumped-hydro schemes at a total cost of \$700 billion. This was the same as building 100 to 150 nuclear reactors, which could provide well over half of Australia's needs. The superannuation industry report is based on meeting a carbon-neutral objective by 2050 and challenged repeated claims that renewable energy projects were the cheapest option to replace Australia's ageing coal fleet.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-26/industry-super-funds-consider-the-nuclear-option/11248202>

Industry super urges Australia to consider the nuclear power option

Peter Ryan, ABC, 26/06/2019

Nuclear reactors should be considered as a realistic option to confront Australia's deepening energy crisis, according to a study from industry superannuation's chief lobby group.

Article reports that Industry Super thinks Australia should "build some capacity to operate a nuclear facility" and that nuclear is often dismissed as "even more immoral than burning coal". It suggests a future energy mix including solar, wind, gas, coal and carbon capture. Cashed-up industry super funds are ready to invest in energy infrastructure but are waiting on policy direction from the government.

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/money/finance-news/2019/06/26/nuclear-power-not-the-answer/>

Nuclear energy 'not the answer' to Australia's power price hikes

Rod Myer, New Daily, 27/06/2019

Nuclear energy is unlikely to fill the growing void in Australia's energy system caused by the closure of old power

stations and spiking electricity prices, industry insiders say.

Australians are paying about 120 per cent more for electricity than in 2008 after the closure of major coal-fired power stations and spikes in gas prices.

Article quotes Andrew Richards, CEO of the Energy Users Association of Australia saying, "We've been down the nuclear path before with Ziggy Switkowski's report to the Howard government, which showed it would take at least 10 years to get a project up".

Richards said the costs of nuclear power are far greater than the design, construction and maintenance of power stations, and governments would need to back the technology financially. The private sector was unwilling to support insurance, dismantling and disposal costs for nuclear power stations.

Renewable-energy generation costs are falling, while nuclear power prices are shooting up.

Recent costs of plant construction in Europe and North America have been between \$14 billion and \$24 billion.

<https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/6243218/deputy-premier-says-a-nuclear-power-station-could-be-built-in-new-england/>

Deputy premier John Barilaro says nuclear power station could be built in Tamworth or Armidale

Andrew Messenger, Nth Daily Leader, 27/06/2019

John Barilaro said Tamworth or Armidale could be the site of a new nuclear power station.

The comments come after the NSW Deputy Premier and Nationals leader on Wednesday called for a national vote on whether to eliminate a

long-standing federal ban on the power source.

Article quotes Barilaro saying that small modular reactors are not as water hungry as traditional nuclear power plants, because they use air or sand to cool the core. Nationals MP for New England, Barnaby Joyce, has also been spruiking nuclear power.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/inquirer/we-cannot-afford-to-ignore-the-case-for-nuclear/news-story/cc04fba52c97d51b732d1254884962ff>

We cannot afford to ignore the case for nuclear

Tania Constable, Aus, 28/06/2019

Momentum is building to right the wrong of two decades ago that banned nuclear energy in Australia. Removing this ban is long overdue and community support is building.

Article says One Nation's NSW Senator Mark Latham, a Labor dropout, has introduced a bill in to permit of uranium mining and nuclear energy. NSW Deputy Premier John Barilaro is a nuclear enthusiast, having attended a US seminar promoting small modular reactors last year, and believes the can provide affordable, low-emissions, reliable power.

He would have one in his seat of Monaro, which he won with an 11 per cent swing towards him.

Federal Coalition backbenchers keen on nukes to, calling for an enquiry into the nuclear issue.

Constable outlines a widespread softening of opposition to nuclear power (although omits the statistic that 60% of people don't want to live near a nuclear power plant).

"Nuclear power should be legal in Australia and it's time to get on with it to benefit families, businesses and the planet," she concluded.

• *Tania Constable is chief executive of the Minerals Council of Australia.*

CLIMATE CRISIS

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jun/26/shell-not-green-saviour-death-machine-greenwash-oil-gas>

Shell is not a green saviour. It's a planetary death machine

George Monbiot, Guardian, 26/06/2019

It is hard to believe it needs stating, but it does. The oil industry is not your friend. Whatever it might say about its ethical credentials, while it continues to invest in fossil fuels, it accelerates climate breakdown and the death

of the habitable planet. Article says Shell's \$300m fund for investment in 'natural ecosystems' is trivial when compared with Shell's annual income of \$24bn. Meanwhile, Shell poured \$25bn of investment into oil and gas in 2018.

Monbiot says well-meaning people are being duped by Shell's 'greenwash' if they think the company is contributing to a climate solution.

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.michaelwest.com.au/shine-energy-behind-the-push-for-a-new-coal-fired-power-station/>

Shine Energy: behind the push for a new coal-fired power station

Michaelwest.com, 20/06/2019

Article looks at Shine Energy and its plan to build a new coal-fired power plant at Collinsville in Northern Queensland. It says the proposal ignores two important facts; new coal-fired power plants don't stack up either environmentally or economically.

"Adani's bankers fled the scene four years ago and Adani has been soliciting the Government for subsidies and guarantees ever since; free water, relief from royalties, a billion-dollar taxpayer subsidy for its putative rail line.

"No amount of logic however can deter the LNP in Queensland who are hell-bent on getting the rest of Australia's taxpayers to fund coal mines and coal-fired power stations.

A \$10 million grant is on offer therefore for a bankable feasibility study and Shine Energy wants it."

Shine's pitch for indigenous employment is useful to the pro-coal lobby, as it represents a wedge to the Left and those who would support renewable jobs creation.

But Shine Energy lacks the expertise to build and operate a power station.

"The aim of bringing jobs to Collinsville is to be applauded. Likewise Ashley Dodd's ambition to foster economic growth for the Birri Nation. Most taxpayers though would no doubt prefer their taxes were deployed in an investment which made economic and environmental sense such as renewable energy."

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/jun/22/australias-energy-future-the-real-power-is-not-where-you-d-think>

Australia's energy future: the real power is not where you'd think

Katharine Murphy, Guardian, 22/06/2019

In Canberra, a month on from Scott Morrison's election victory, there is talk of feasibility studies for a new Queensland coal plant, and a nascent nuclear debate. But if we shift our vantage point to Adelaide, Australia's near-term energy outlook looks very different.

Article looks at states' ambitions for renewable energy, such as South Australia's plan to hit 100% net renewables by the 2030s.

It is understood the Liberal states have caucused, and they want the newly elected Morrison government to reboot the Neg, or something very like it, despite resistance from energy minister Angus Taylor.

Using the Coag energy council, the states can force this issue if they can agree among themselves about what needs to happen. They can create a framework for transition even if the commonwealth resists.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/energy-titans-brace-for-profit-shock/news-story/8e8b949d85241ebd7fca8d2892a819f3>

Energy titans brace for profit shock

Andrew White & Perry Williams, Aus, 22/06/2019

Australian energy retailers and the investors behind them are bracing for a hit to profits from next month after Energy Australia's value was written down by \$1.3 billion to cover the expected impact of new government schemes to lower default market prices.

Fellow "big three" generators and retailers AGL and Origin Energy are also expected to book lower profits ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/jun/23/culture-shock-politics-upended-in-era-of-identity>

Culture shock: politics upended in era of identity

Clive Hamilton, Guardian, 23/06/2019

This is the first piece in 'Next left: where to now for Australian progressives?', a new series on what the election result means for the progressive side of politics and the path forward.

Political commentators reflexively overinterpret election results. The story we've been told is that the Coali-

tion's win means that "Australian voters" have rejected Labor's radical plan for reform of the tax-and-spend system, confirming that Australians prefer stability and incremental change.

Yet if one in 50 (2%) had voted the other way the pundits would have junked this narrative and told us, with great authority, that by endorsing Labor's vision "Australian voters" showed they're ready to embrace change.

Article looks at the phenomenon of people voting against their economic interests, and says they are voting to protect a culture – a social environment and way of life made up of values, behaviours and symbols that accord with their sense of who they are and where they fit.

While the deniers have been returned to office, they can't hold back the call for change for long.

"The school kids who staged this year's strikes sense they live under an ever-darkening shadow. Their fate is to be born into a time when there are no more dreams of utopia; the only hope is to avoid a worse dystopia."

They will be the future of politics in Australia.

• *Clive Hamilton is professor of public ethics at Charles Sturt University in Canberra*

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/wa-s-secret-carbon-tax-plan-revealed-20190622-p520cs>

WA's secret carbon tax plan revealed

Brad Thompson, AFR, 24/06/2019

The West Australian government is not ruling out a carbon tax on the local resources industry ... the secret tax plan, revealed in documents belatedly tabled in Parliament, risks putting more strain on government's relationship with major oil and gas players with a \$50 billion-plus suite of projects in the pipeline for WA.

The documents outline a working plan for a "carbon abatement fund underpinned by industry contributions" to support a WA transition to a lower-emissions economy.

Federal Resources Minister Matt Canavan blasted what he described as a plan for a backdoor carbon tax. ...

Article says offset compliance costs could be up to \$127 million a year for the Chevron-operated Wheatstone project, or about \$3.8 billion over its 30-year life. Chevron's Gorgon project could face compliance costs of up to \$114.5 million a year while the bill for Woodside-operated Browse was

estimated at up to \$91 million, as well as \$100 million annually for the North West Shelf project.

Woodside is quoted at length, attacking the proposal.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jun/25/no-faith-in-coal-religious-leaders-urge-scott-morrison-to-take-climate-action>

'No faith in coal': religious leaders urge Scott Morrison to take climate action

Adam Morton, Guardian, 25/06/2019

More than 150 religious leaders have called on Scott Morrison to acknowledge the world faces a climate emergency and block all new coal and gas projects, including Adani's Carmichael mine.

In an open letter headed "no faith in coal", the leaders say the climate crisis is a profoundly moral problem and Australia's response will be crucial in addressing it. ...

It asks the prime minister to make the climate emergency his number one priority and endorses the three demands of protesting school students: stopping the Adani mine in central Queensland, not allowing new coal or gas developments and moving Australia to run entirely on renewable energy by 2030. ...

Signatories to the letter include bishops, rabbis, theologians, the grand mufti of Australia and the heads of the Uniting Church, the Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils, Muslims Australia and the National Council of Churches. ...

<https://www.australianmining.com.au/news/scomo-pledges-to-cut-red-tape-for-new-mines/>

ScoMo pledges to cut red tape for new mines

Vanessa Zhou, Aus Mining, 25/06/2019

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison has pushed regulators to improve approval timeframes and reduce regulatory costs instead of 'making

things worse'. Article says that Morrison, Trump-style in cutting red tape, demanded the government take the perspective of a business in opening a mine, for example, rather than 'setting targets' for departments or government agencies.

The Minerals Council of Australia says this reform could unlock up to \$170 billion of resources investment in Australia.

Morrison also criticised the Western Australian Environment Protection Authority (WA EPA) for creating uncertainty over emissions requirements for the resources sector.

Morrison has appointed Ben Morton as Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister to tackle barriers to investment and create more jobs.

<https://www.afr.com/news/politics/national/senators-demand-gas-surplus-in-return-for-tax-cuts-20190626-p521ha>

Senators demand gas 'surplus' in return for tax cuts

Angela Macdonald-Smith & Tom McLroy, AFR, 27/06/2019

Senate crossbench powerbroker Rex Patrick is demanding Queensland's LNG export "cartel" provides enough gas into the east coast market to ensure a surplus of supply amid other measures under discussion as the price for the Centre Alliance's support for the Coalition's proposed tax cuts.

Article says Senator Patrick and Centre Alliance colleague Stirling Griff are prepared to vote with the government, if it acts to bring down gas prices.

They want Resources Minister Matt Canavan's Australian Domestic Gas Security Mechanism (ADGSM) to be strengthened, which could require Queensland's LNG shippers to divert export gas into the local market. Patrick says prices should be lowered to \$7 a gigajoule or less.

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