

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 2:31 • 12 JULY 2019

Chevron accused of mismanaging Gorgon carbon capture program

Chevron has deliberately mismanaged the carbon sequestration program it promised in order to get approval for its Gorgon LNG development, according to the Conservation Council of WA.

The company's geosequestration program, intended to capture and store underground around 40% of the direct carbon pollution from the LNG plant, has not yet been brought online, despite promises from the gas giant that they were working to fix the many issues plaguing the capture mechanism.

Documents released this week by the Department of Environment and Regulation showed that Chevron has only made an application to operate the facility in May of this year, despite having planned for carbon storage to begin in the first half of 2017.

It was subsequently granted an extension by the environment minister to early 2019. The program also received \$60 million in funding from the Federal Government.

Chevron's WA operations produce the equivalent pollution of five coal fired power stations every year, making the company the state's biggest polluter by far.

Conservation Council of WA (CCWA) Director Piers Verstegen said that the geosequestration project has been fundamentally mismanaged from the outset.

"Despite Chevron's claims that they have been making best endeavours to get geosequestration working for



Chevron's Gorgon LNG project on Barrow Island, WA. The company's carbon capture and storage program, a critical factor in the project's approval, is two years behind schedule with no sign of getting started. Photo: Chevron

almost two years, they had not, until now, taken even the most basic step in seeking an operating license.

No intention of meeting target

"This is not the kind of oversight that a company the size of Chevron with its team of lawyers would make. It shows that Chevron had no intention to get the plant operating by the required start time, and their claims have been baseless because they had not even taken the first step in the process.

"What all this shows is that the geosequestration project has been fundamentally mishandled from the beginning.

"We are not just talking about technical problems here.

"The most basic fundamentals of environmental compliance have not been adhered to by Chevron, with the likely result being much longer delays and millions of tonnes of additional carbon pollution.

"It is hard to reach any other conclusion than this bungled handling has been deliberate on the part of Chevron, and enabled by a government and regulator unwilling to hold the company to account, despite serious harm to the environment and exposure of workers to pollution.

• Continued p2

• P3: Gas reservation policy saves money

• P3: Coal and gas drive rising emissions

• P4: Bomb Trains book exposes dangers

Gorgon spews carbon and BTEX, WA government fails to act

• Continued from p3

“According to those conditions, Chevron is required to provide alternative offsets like planting trees or renewable energy if the geosequestration does not work. But instead, the State Government is continuing to allow this company to string us along.

“It’s not only embarrassing, but it is exposing workers to toxic emissions and costing the state hundreds of jobs for carbon farmers, renewable energy installers, and other workers who could be employed right now offsetting Chevron’s pollution.

\$32 million profit every day

“Chevron has claimed its Gorgon and Wheatstone LNG projects are making the company \$32 million dollars per day in clear profits, while the company pays no tax and no royalties for the gas it exports.

“Offsetting the pollution from these operations by investing in tree planting, renewable energy, and carbon farming would cost the company less than 2% of these profits and deliver thousands of new jobs for West Australians.

“This is the latest sorry chapter in an ongoing delaying exercise by Chevron, aided by a lack of action by the government to make the company comply with its conditions.

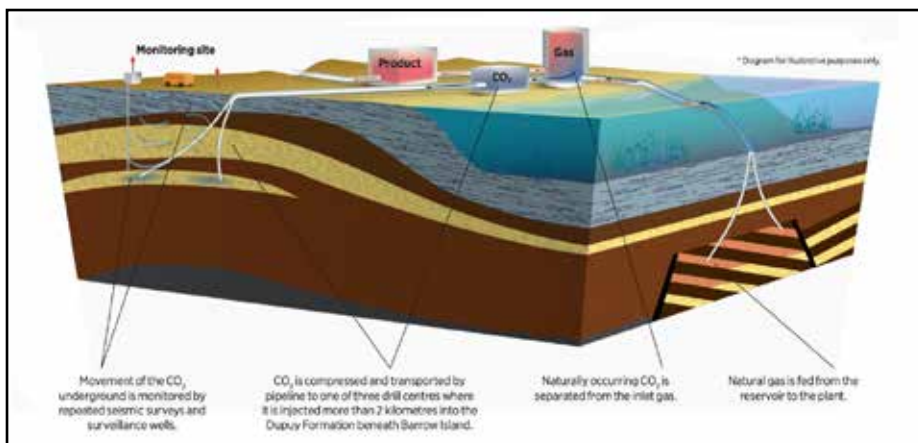
“It’s time this embarrassing situation is put to an end. Chevron must immediately provide alternative offsets for its pollution and stop the release of toxic emissions on Barrow Island. If it cannot comply with its conditions, the license for the LNG project should be suspended.”

Gorgon-tuan problems

Labelling Chevron’s project as a ‘Gorgon-tuan problem’, The Australia Institute said, “Despite being widely lauded as a success story for carbon capture and storage (CCS), the Gorgon LNG Project has failed to sequester CO₂ as promised over its first two years.

“This has led to millions of tonnes of additional emissions, likely at least half as large as the increase in national emissions last year.

“Chevron will not however face a penalty for this. It does not face penalties for breaching its Western Australian



A diagram from Chevron’s Gorgon fact sheet. The sheet omits mention of carbon capture and storage failure, yet boasts of a \$60 million federal government subsidy. It says, “The CO₂ Injection Project is the largest of its kind in the world, and represents the largest greenhouse gas abatement project undertaken by industry.”

approval, and the WA government remains ambiguous about when it would require Chevron to purchase offsets.

“[Chevron] has set an emissions limit for itself under the [government] safeguard mechanism that does not include operational CCS.”

Mishaps at Gorgon this year alone include:

Pipeline corroded

In March, Chevron further delayed the underground storage of carbon dioxide from the Gorgon LNG project in the Pilbara by up to nine months because of continuing technical problems.

Start-up checks in 2017 found leaking and the risk of corrosion in the pipeline that will take CO₂ from the LNG plant to the injection wells.

• *West Australian, March 6*

Workers exposed to BTEX chemicals

As well as carbon dioxide, Chevron had also intended to inject underground toxic chemicals including BTEX chemicals – benzene (a known carcinogen), toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene – and mercury.

Instead, along with the carbon dioxide it has vented into the atmosphere it has also been venting vapours containing 300 parts per million BTEX and 13,000 micrograms of mercury per cubic metre.

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation flagged “health and safety concerns”. The department granted a 12-month approval to

Chevron’s application to implement a temporary measure: to burn, or ‘flare’, these toxic substances until the carbon injection system is ready – estimated in the document at the second quarter of 2020.

This does not reduce the overall quantity of mercury being released as elemental mercury cannot be burnt.

In addition, two separate safety incidents at Gorgon occurred in April, potentially exposing workers to chemicals.

One involved a vent stack releasing mercury and caused a section of the project to be shut down for several days.

The second involved one of the three ‘trains’ transporting gas at the plant, which was accidentally shut down and vented gas.

• *Sydney Morning Herald, April 18*

FFB



Gas reservation policy could save \$270 on power bills

Domestic gas prices in Australia have become unaffordable for households, industry, and electricity production, while internationally, Australian gas prices are higher than the most expensive markets in the world, concludes a new report out this week.

Calling on the Australian government to implement a gas reservation policy, the new report, *Towards a Domestic Gas Reservation in Australia* by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) provides an overview of Australia's gas market including the damaging effect increasing gas prices are having on Australian consumers, as gas sets the price for electricity in the country.

Report author Bruce Robertson says everyone is aching for real relief on gas prices.

"Every household would save \$270 per annual electricity bill if the government intervened in the market and set a gas reserve price," said Robertson.

"This is a much healthier outlook than what is currently happening, with industry and small businesses

The east coast of Australia is controlled by a handful of private gas companies which behave as a cartel.

increasingly at risk and even closing operations, unable to afford their bills," he said.

The east coast of Australia is controlled by a handful of private gas companies which behave as a cartel, according to the report, setting the price and the supply of gas to the detriment of Australian consumers.

"Now that cartel wants to export Australian domestic gas, and then resell it to us domestically through five proposed import plants, at even higher prices again," said Robertson.

Govt must stop this madness

"Enough is enough. The government must intervene and stop this madness."

The report argues the solution to excessively high gas prices is a full domestic gas reservation policy fixing prices at \$5/gigajoule (GJ) on existing

and future gas production.

A \$5/GJ price would allow domestic wholesale gas prices to halve for gas intensive industry and gas-powered generators, in turn lowering the wholesale price of electricity, and allowing energy intensive manufacturing to prosper in Australia.

Every household could save \$270

The effect on commercial and industrial consumers of electricity would be to reduce their electricity bills by 27%, and an extra \$270 in every household's pocket would result in increased consumption in the economy.

"Every major gas producing nation in the world has some form of gas reservation policy, except eastern Australia," says Robertson. "Even Western Australia has successfully implemented one."

"The government has set a very public intention to bring energy prices down. A gas reservation policy is really the only solution."

• Read the report:

<http://ieefa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Towards-a-Domestic-Gas-Reserve-9-July-2019.pdf>

FFB

Gas and coal dominate Australia's rising emissions

New research has revealed that, despite Minister Angus Taylor's claims that Australia's total emissions are going down, Australia's total emissions in the past year are likely to have increased. Australia's gas and coal industries are the significant drivers of those rising emissions.

The Australia Institute Climate & Energy Program has released the latest National Energy Emissions Audit for the electricity sector, analysing the electricity sector over the previous month. The National Energy Emissions Audit is authored by renowned energy expert, Dr Hugh Saddler.

Key findings:

- Australia's emissions are rising, not falling, as shown in the National Energy Emissions Audit analysis of Australia's National Inventory Report to the UN
- Fugitive emissions from mining have increased by 55% and mining energy emissions have increased by 30% over the last 15 years (since 2005)

• Queensland's gas and coal mining emissions alone already accounted for 7% of Australia's total in 2016, this share is likely currently even higher

• Transport emissions have increased 23% since 2011, driven largely by diesel which has jumped by a staggering 50%

The electricity sector continues to reduce its emissions, which are down 17% since their peak in 2009.

"The new Minister for Emissions Reductions Angus Taylor has begun his term by delivering two key reports that confirm Australia's rising emissions," says Dr Hugh Saddler.

Taylor's claims contradicted

"What the latest National Energy Emissions Audit confirms is that Australia's emissions are rising, not falling. These findings fly completely in the face of Minister Taylor's claims to the contrary.

"Emissions directly from the gas and coal industries in Australia made up about 15% of all national emissions in

2017; given fossil fuel extraction has subsequently increased, it is hard to see how they wouldn't be even higher now.

"The complete absence of a Government plan to curb transport emissions is very troubling – emissions which have run rampant thanks to a 50% increase in diesel fuel use since 2011.

"Other industries like agriculture and waste have achieved decreases to their emissions but most significantly the electricity sector has decreased its emissions by 17% between 2009 and 2017 – it is time our fossil fuel industries followed suit."

FFB



**STOP
WATER
MINING**

THE NEXT
RESOURCES BATTLE

Bomb Trains: Book reveals how fossil industry obstructs safety improvements and kills people

In 2013 a runaway train loaded with crude oil from North Dakota's Bakken region derailed and exploded in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec – destroying the downtown area and killing 47 people.

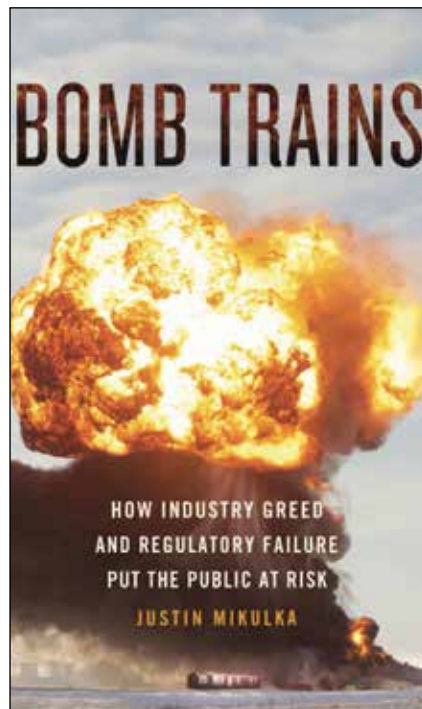
This was the first of many oil trains that began derailing and exploding across North America as oil companies ramped up shipping a glut of fracked oil by train. Serving in lieu of pipelines, the trains carrying volatile oil soon gained the nickname “bomb trains” from rail operators.

These trains continue to pass through small towns and major cities every day, putting an estimated 25 million people in North America at risk. The US and Canadian regulatory systems, corrupted by industry influence, enabled a variety of risk factors that led to these “bomb trains.”

While the system was broken then, prospects for government oversight have gotten significantly worse in the Trump administration. Under President Trump, critical regulatory roles have been filled by former rail executives, and federal agencies have rolled back the few meaningful protections meant to avoid another oil spill or fatal disaster.

Investigative journalist Justin Mikulka tells the story of how we got here, the communities fighting back, and where we could go next in an attempt to defuse the next “bomb train.”

Mikulka says, “I document how the rail industry lobbied against a rule requiring modern braking systems on oil trains and then, as soon as the regulation was released in 2015, set to



BOMB TRAINS

By Justin Mikulka

246 pages

Kindle edition \$8.70

amazon.com.au

work repealing it. While it took several years and the help of members of Congress, the rail industry succeeded in late 2017 when the Department of Transportation rule requiring modern braking systems on oil trains was repealed.

“In a more recent development, the Trump administration has also cancelled a proposed regulation requiring two-person crews for freight trains

and will not allow states to enforce existing regulations requiring two-person crews. In the document explaining this decision the Department of Transportation (DOT) clearly stated that the Federal Railroad Administration’s official policy is to allow the industry to self-regulate while removing existing regulations:

“DOT’s approach to achieving safety improvements begins with a focus on removing unnecessary barriers and issuing voluntary guidance, rather than regulations that could stifle innovation.”

“A richly researched, well-written, hugely important case study in the peril the public faces when federal agencies are captured by the industries they’re supposed to regulate. Profits and body count go up while public safety and confidence in government go down.”

– Marcus Stern, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist

“Justin Mikulka at DeSmog has been the indispensable journalist for all wrestling with the crude oil train crisis in North America in the last five years. His new book Bomb Trains ... outlines some needed concrete ways forward on rail safety, as well as valuable ammunition from a significant public safety sector for those who would insist on the need for fundamental political changes.”

– Fred Millar, rail safety consultant

“[Bomb Trains] is an invaluable resource for understanding how regulations get made; how they get blocked, delayed, diluted, reversed, etc. Its insights are a major contribution to understanding the power of the railroad and the petroleum industries, the acquiescence of the regulators, and the political accomplices. And how invariably profit trumps safety.”

– Bruce Campbell, author of The Lac-Mégantic Rail Disaster: Public Betrayal, Justice Denied

FFB

Lac-Mégantic before and after the July 2013 oil train explosion which killed 47 people



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



Tracking 2 degrees report shows Aus failing

Under the Paris Agreement, the Australian Government has legally committed to reducing our emissions by 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2030.

However, to ensure global warming remains under 2C, independent body the Climate Change Authority (CCA) has proposed Australia set a national Science Based Target. This is a target calculated from Australia's share of emissions for a 2C global outcome.

Ndevr Environmental has used this target to model a quarterly emissions budget for Australia. This report tracks Australia's performance against our Paris target and the CCA's carbon budget based on the latest available data, trends and industry movements for the months of January, February and March (Q3/FY2019).

Headline Results

- Emissions for Q3/FY2019 are projected to be 136.2 Mt CO₂-e. This is an increase of 1.2 Mt CO₂-e on the previous quarter's result and an increase of 3.4 Mt CO₂-e on the same quarter the year prior (Q3/FY2018).

- If Australia continues its current emissions trajectory, then by 2030, Australia would have cumulatively emitted over 970 Mt CO₂-e more than the Paris ERT trajectory. This equal to 1.8 years of Australia's entire national emissions.

- Emissions from electricity generation have increased 8.2% on the previous quarter after three consecutive quarters of decline. Total renewable electricity generation in the NEM

fell by 0.7 Tera Watt hours (TWh) while total fossil fuel electricity generation increased by 3.5 TWh.

- Fugitive emissions for Q3/FY2019 are the highest on record and are increasing in line with the rapid growth in Australia's LNG production for the export market.

Unadjusted land use emissions (LULUCF) were reported as 438.7 Mt CO₂-e between Sep-2001 and Sep-2018 in the previous NGGI report1 and have now been adjusted up to 669.8 Mt CO₂-e for the same period in the most recent NGGI report.

- Download the report here:

<https://ndevrenvironmental.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/FY-2019-Q3-vA.0.pdf>

FFB



**Fossil Fool
Bulletin**

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



Fossil Fool Bulletin



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

To subscribe free, click here:

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

**Focus
Publications**

Inside the news

Adani has doubled down on the Carmichael Mine (p6), saying it will be profitable and is needed because renewables are not enough for India. The \$10 billion man is using his power to crush an Aboriginal elder with **bankruptcy proceedings** for opposing the mine on **Wangan & Jagalingou** traditional land (p7).

As a government decision on Korean company **KEPCO's Bylong coal mine** draws near, the outfit is revealed to have already spent \$750 million on the project. This includes \$115 million buying up 13,000 hectares of land to smother dissent. Even the local school and church were snapped up, along with the historic Tarwyn Park sustainable agriculture icon (p7-8).

Origin's Mortlake gas-fired power station may or may not have experienced an **explosion** (p8-9), depending on whether you believe the local fire chief or the company's media flack. Either way, one unit will be out of action for months.

Climate crisis protests are ramping up (p10) with **Extinction Rebellion** blocking Brisbane traffic a couple of times this week, and more actions are planned. Vegan cookies were handed out to commuters caught up in the protests.

Federal energy minister **Angus Taylor** is avoiding his state counterparts by going slow on calling a COAG meeting. Taylor and his **climate denier mates** are dead set against the states' calls for an emissions reduction policy.

The renowned naturalist **Sir David Attenborough** has expressed dismay at the climate change deniers' grasp on power in Australia (p10). He has called for radical action on climate.

He'll get no encouragement from **Barnaby Joyce**, who has posted an extraordinary, long Facebook rant saying people who think climate change can be addressed are "**barking mad**" (p11) – an epithet more correctly applied to the **Beetrooter** himself.

Meanwhile, NSW Coalition energy minister **Matt Kean** says he would welcome proposals for a new **HELE coal power station** (p11).

FFB

In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 18,400 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links to view original articles.](#) (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<http://honisoit.com/2019/07/stop-adani-protesters-flanked-by-heavy-police-presence-in-sydneys-cbd/>

Stop Adani protesters flanked by heavy police presence in Sydney's CBD

Annie Zhang, Honisoit, 06/07/2019

Last night [Friday June 5], around 600 demonstrators marched through Sydney's CBD to protest the Adani coal mine. Mass protests occurred simultaneously in Brisbane and Melbourne, halting traffic in major cities as activists sought to "stop cities to stop Adani."

Sydney's protest was organised by three climate action groups: Uni Students for Climate Justice, Extinction Rebellion NSW, and Stop Adani Sydney.

Protesters were met with a significant police presence, including six riot squad cars and multiple mounted officers. ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/banking-and-finance/adani-insists-carmichael-project-is-fully-insured-20190707-p524x5>

Adani insists Carmichael project is fully insured

James Fernyhough, AFR, 07/07/2019

Indian conglomerate Adani Group insists its Carmichael mine is fully insured but has declined to reveal who is underwriting the project, as pressure mounts on insurers to shun the controversial mine.

Article says US insurer Chubb has joined numerous European and Australian insurers – including QBE – in limiting their exposure to coal. QBE saw a \$1.6 billion loss due to extreme weather events in FY 2018, while AIG and Suncorp have also been hit with natural catastrophe costs linked to climate change.

Market Forces is quoted saying that 55 global corporations – 14 of them insurers – have declined to work with Adani on the Carmichael project. They include insurers Allianz, AXA, Swiss Re and Munich Re, Suncorp and QBE. Banks including BNP Paribas, Citibank, ING and JP Morgan Chase, and each of the big four Australian banks, have ruled out financing the project.



Gautam Adani has doubled down on the Carmichael Mine this week.

Photo: Livemint

Market Forces says US insurance broker Marsh, of the Marsh and McLennan group which includes asset consultancy Mercer, is acting as broker for Adani.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/antiadani-activists-target-ceos-private-mobiles/news-story/7ed5d2e844589f3822726e8e9542caa>

Anti-Adani activists target CEOs' private mobiles

Sarah Elks & Charlie Peel, Aus, 09/07/2019

Anti-Adani protesters have published the private mobile phone numbers of executives from companies working with the Indian mining conglomerate, urging their supporters to bombard the firms' chief executives with calls and texts.

Article says Galilee Blockade has circulated phone numbers of the heads of Meales Concrete Pumping, construction materials company Wagners and mining services firm Macmahon.

Galilee Blockade spokesman Ben Pennings is quoted saying activists would politely get their point across.

An Adani spokeswoman said the companies should be "celebrated, not vilified ... legitimate law-abiding businesses should be able to conduct their day-to-day business free of harassment".

<https://www.afr.com/business/mining/coal/gautam-adani-doubles-down-on-his-2.8b-carmichael-investment-20190709-p525eu>

Gautam Adani doubles down on his \$2.8b Carmichael investment

Rajest Kumar Singh & Anurag Kotoky, Bloomberg/AFR, 09/07/2019

The Indian billionaire behind the Carmichael coal mine is hitting back at criticism the endeavour will be both unprofitable and too dirty.

In an interview, Gautam Adani said, "If the project wasn't viable, we wouldn't have pursued it. Renewable energy is good for the nation, but it can't meet our baseload power needs."

Adani's net worth of \$US9.8 billion makes him the sixth-richest Indian.

Wood Mackenzie analyst Brent Spalding is quoted: "The commerciality of Adani's Carmichael mine remains challenging given the significant capital spend and low-quality thermal coal product expected from the mine."

India already has a surplus of generation capacity, but loss-making, highly indebted state utilities struggle to purchase and distribute enough energy, leaving some power stations shut down and homes without electricity.



Galilee Blockaders have published the mobile numbers of Adani contractors, including Wagners. Photo: Galilee Blockade

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/hob-browns-big-plans-for-global-adani-mine-protests/news-story/59dad62bd4363db8b95add61a0f22725>

Bob Brown's big plans for global Adani mine protests

Matthew Killoran, Courier-Mail, 10/07/2019

Green crusader Bob Brown has promised more and bigger Adani protests in a global campaign, as central Queenslanders say they've had a "gutful".

But the crusade has been welcomed by federal LNP ministers, who declared every time he visits the state "another mine gets started".

Article says former Greens leader Bob Brown is hiring a new organiser to run several different environmental campaigns, including Stop Adani. The focus will be on the whole of the Adani empire's operations, not just the Galilee Basin. The Hobart-based job will pay \$67,000 plus super.

<https://www.9news.com.au/national/adani-bankruptcy-bid-an-abuse-of-process/db79e8b7-9b7f-4fad-ad73-48451f008c99>

Adani bankruptcy bid an 'abuse of process'

AAP/9News, 10/07/2019

Adani's bid to bankrupt an indigenous traditional owner by making him pay \$600,000 in legal costs has been labelled an abuse of court process.

Wangan and Jagalingou man Adrian Burragubba believes Adani wants to silence his opposition to its central Queensland coal mine after it filed a Federal Court petition seeking to bankrupt him. ...

His lawyer, Colin Hardie, says the bankruptcy proceedings are improper, unfair and intimidatory.

"I personally am offended that large companies such as Adani will use the court process in that way."

Burragubba said, "I'm going to continue fighting for our land."

The matter was adjourned to August 15.

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.theage.com.au/world/europe/germany-s-coal-exit-contrasts-with-australia-20190706-p524oz.html>

Germany's coal exit contrasts with Australia

Christine Flatley, AAP/Age, 06/07/2019

While the ink is still drying on the approval for Australia's new controversial coal mine, Germany is working to extinguish the coal industry entirely.

Article says Germany shut its last black coal mine last year, and will close all brown coal mines and power stations by 2038.

The black coal mines were economically unviable because the coal was cheaper to import from countries like Australia, while brown coal will go because of climate change.

The coal exit was accompanied by government subsidies for companies, a commitment to support workers to reskill or retire on good pensions, and investment in the region to attract new business.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-07-07/mining-death-bowen-basin-central-queensland/11286356>

Man killed in accident at Central Queensland coal mine

Kate McKenna & Sally Rafferty, ABC, 07/07/2019

A worker has died at a coal mine west of Gladstone – the fourth mining fatality in six months – prompting the Queensland mining union to declare a "safety crisis".

Police and emergency services were called to the Baralaba North coal mine in the Bowen Basin just after 2:00am on Sunday and a 27-year-old man was declared dead at the scene.

CFMEU Queensland mining and energy president Steve Smyth said the mining industry should be shut down for at least 24 hours so safety policy could be reset.

It was the second mining incident in the region in six hours, and the fourth mining death in six months.

Mines Minister Anthony Lynham and Queensland Resources Council chief executive Ian Macfarlane both ex-

pressed concern and promised to act on safety improvements.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/women-appointed-to-coal-mining-safety-and-health-advisory-committee/news-story/011b7134173ab61e7aded55076f63ce0>

Women appointed to Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee

Domanii Cameron, Courier-Mail, 10/07/2019

Two women have been appointed to a mining advisory committee that hasn't met since March because it didn't meet its gender quota.

Meanwhile, Queensland mines could be shut down for up to four days to allow shift workers the chance to take part in a "reset" following a spate of mining deaths.

Article says six people have been killed at mines and quarries in Queensland during the last 12 months prompting Mines Minister Anthony Lynham to call a meeting with the Queensland Resources Council, AWU and CFMEU.

Two safety reviews will be conducted, expanding the current review into coal mining deaths to include mineral mines and quarries.

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/energyaustralia-paves-way-for-nsw-coal-power-upgrade-20190705-p524ml>

EnergyAustralia paves way for NSW coal power upgrade

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 08/07/2019

EnergyAustralia is set to announce an upgrade of its Mt Piper coal power generator in NSW, part of a plan to secure the plant's future for another 24 years and help stabilise the east coast power grid.

Article says the company denies speculation that it is considering an early closure of its Yallourn brown coal plant in Victoria.

The Mt Piper upgrade will help prevent unscheduled power grid outages.

<https://www.newcastleherald.com.au/story/6265080/mine-company-alleges-government-encouraged-controversial-land-buy-up/?cs=12>

Korean energy company KEPCO raises \$750 million investment on eve of final Bylong mine decision

Joanne McCarthy, Newcastle Herald, 09/07/2019

A Korean Government-backed mining company has alleged the NSW Government and Department of Planning "encouraged" a controversial \$115 million land buy-up to reduce dissent over a Bylong Valley coal mine proposal.

KEPCO was “encouraged to acquire all of the land to be either directly or indirectly affected by the development”, it said in a June 27 submission to the NSW Independent Planning Commission.

Article says a final decision on the mine is due in the next few weeks.

A NSW Government spokesperson rejected allegations that a government minister encouraged KEPCO to acquire the properties at an on-site meeting in 2016.

KEPCO spent over \$750 million to establish the mine between Denman and Mudgee. This included \$115 million to buy properties including a church, the general store, the local public school, and significant private landholdings including the historic Tarwyn Park.

The company has bought up more than 13,000 hectares of Bylong Valley in a move Bylong Valley Protection Alliance spokesman Warwick Pearse calls the “silencing of dissent”.

Pearse said, “KEPCO had already spent about half a billion dollars by the time it applied for the mine approval. That’s a mighty weight of money and influence to put to a government and department assessing the project.”

The mine has a lifetime of 25 years, producing up to 6.5 million tonnes of coal annually for the domestic Korean energy market. It will provide 450 jobs and deliver \$278 million in royalties to NSW.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-07-11/fact-check-are-there-54000-jobs-in-thermal-coal-mining/11198150>

Are there really 54,000 people employed in thermal coal mining?

RMIT ABC Fact Check, 11/07/2019

The need for jobs in Central Queensland has been one of the key arguments made in favour of opening the Adani Carmichael coal mine and developing the thermal coal deposits of the Galilee Basin more broadly, despite environmental and economic arguments against the moves.

National Party Deputy Leader Bridget McKenzie recently said there are 54,000 people employed in the thermal coal industry, but Fact Check says Senator McKenzie’s claim doesn’t check out.

The ABS Labour Account places the entire coal mining industry at around 38,000, at last count, while the Labour Force Survey places the number at around 53,000.

A rough estimate for thermal coal mining component of employment comes to around 29,000 people

This long article provides heaps of information about coal production and employment.

OIL & GAS LEAKS

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/jul/07/fuelling-the-climate-crisis-why-lng-is-no-miracle-cure-for-australias-coal-addiction>

Fuelling the climate crisis: why LNG is no miracle cure for Australia’s coal addiction

Adam Morton, Guardian, 07/07/2019

On Thursday, Australia’s emissions reduction minister, Angus Taylor, told parliament the country’s thriving liquefied natural gas (LNG) trade – a fossil fuel industry – was cutting global greenhouse pollution by 150 million tonnes a year.

Article says LNG emissions in Australia are significant, but dwarfed by what is released when the gas is decompressed and burned in Japan, China and Korea.

Taylor claims these emissions are good “because LNG is taking the place of coal and there are fewer emissions than there would otherwise be. He is yet to address the inconsistency in the government promoting gas exports as good for the climate while also enthusiastically backing coal exports including Adani’s controversial Carmichael mine.”

Grattan Institute energy program director Tony Wood is annoyed by claims that gas is displacing coal. “It is a counterfactual – unprovable – but is speculative at best, highly questionable at worst.”

ANU Crawford School of Public Policy economist and professor, Frank Jotzo, says: “What is certain is the expansion of the LNG industry is holding up the transition to zero carbon fuels.”

He says any conversation about LNG emissions come with a significant caveat: we still do not have a good estimate of global fugitive emissions.

Gas has about half the CO2 emissions of coal when burned but methane leaked during processing – while lasting in the atmosphere only about 12 years – is so potent it has a warming power about 28 times greater than CO2 when calculated over a century.

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/companies/agl-says-narrabri-coal-seam-gas-project-won-t-ease-pressure-on-prices-20190707-p524xr.html>

AGL says Narrabri coal seam gas project won’t ease pressure on prices

Peter Hannam, SMH, 08/07/2019

A senior executive at energy giant AGL says coal seam gas projects including the contentious Santos-led Narrabri development will do little to ease power prices but cautioned politicians that misguided regulations could have unintended consequences by choking off new supply.

AGL’s head of wholesale markets, Richard Wrightson, said that while AGL did not know the precise economics of the Santos project it was unlikely to place much downward pressure on prices.

“If things work perfectly well, we might see \$9/gigajoule gas on the East Coast,” he said. “The downside scenario is a \$12-13/GJ price, and [Narrabri sits] somewhere in between those two ranges.”

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/woodside-ramping-up-activity-on-key-lng-projects/news-story/109a46c1526c1552422ba612253d9fc>

Woodside ramping up activity on key LNG projects

Paul Garvey, Aus, 09/07/2019

Woodside Petroleum’s ambitious plans for the development of its Scarborough and Browse liquefied natural gas projects have taken more steps forward, with the company lodging approval documents with key regulators.

Article says Woodside recently lodged paperwork with the federal Department of Environment and Energy for its proposed Browse LNG project, as well as documents for its proposed Scarborough development with the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority.

The planning documents confirmed that Woodside intends to make final investment decisions on both Scarborough and Browse by next year.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/origin-energy-plays-down-outage-fears-after-victorian-power-station-blast/news-story/4ab69b3f78a1e-85a44eff53a01715e38>

Origin Energy plays down outage fears after Victorian power station blast

Nick Evans, Aus, 09/07/2019

Origin Energy has played down the impact of a fire at one of its Victorian gas generators, saying only one of two generators were affected by an incident



*Origin Energy's Mortlake gas-fired power station (pictured in 2012) was damaged in an explosion, with one of its two generators knocked off-line for months.
Photo: Rob Gunstone*

at its Mortlake power plant yesterday and it is not clear whether the outage will have an effect on the Victorian grid over summer.

Article says Mortlake is a gas peaking plant, necessary to maintain stability of power supply at peak times during summer, but not a big supplier into the grid through the rest of the year.

A Victorian heatwave, combined with multiple faults at coal-fired generators, knocked out power to hundreds of thousands of Victorian homes and businesses last summer.

<https://www.standard.net.au/story/6264470/generator-offline-at-mortlake-power-station-after-electrical-fault/>

Origin Energy says no explosion occurred at the Mortlake Gas Plant

Rachael Houlihan, Standard, 09/07/2019

Emergency services were called to an electrical fault at the Mortlake Power Station when one of two generating units was extensively damaged.

Article says an Origin Energy spokeswoman said a generating unit at the Mortlake Power Station experienced an electrical fault early on Monday morning, but there was no explosion.

It could take up to six months for the generating unit to return to capacity.

Origin's claim contradicts Country Fire Authority commander Paul Marshall, who said firefighters were greeted by smoke "caused as a result of an explosion in one of the generators, that has caused significant damage."

"Three CFA appliances responded from Mortlake and Warrnambool," he said.

"Mortlake arrived on scene first and firefighters donned breathing apparatus to access the building. There was no fire present, but certainly there was a reasonable amount of smoke present."

There were no injuries caused in the incident.

Mortlake is a gas-fired power station comprising two generating units each of 292 MW.

The peaking power station is powered by gas from the Otway Basin.

HYDROGEN HYPE

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/woodside-doubles-down-on-hydrogen-future-in-40-million-partnership-20190705-p524fc>

Woodside doubles down on hydrogen future in \$40 million partnership

Yolanda Redrup, AFR, 08/07/2019

Woodside Petroleum is looking beyond gas to cleaner energy, jointly investing \$40 million in a new research partnership with Monash University to explore the possibilities of hydrogen as a source of energy and carbon abatement.

Article says Woodside has also committed \$16.5 million to fund the construction of a new technology and design building in Monash's Technology Precinct, which will be equipped with 250 kilowatts of solar panels.

Woodside CEO Peter Coleman said, "We're looking at blue hydrogen [made from Woodside's natural gas through a process known as steam methane reforming] and a large part of our production process will be electrified by renewables."

Producing blue hydrogen still produces carbon-dioxide emissions, which Woodside says it would strive to abate or offset.

CLIMATE CRISIS

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jul/08/fossil-fuel-exports-make-australia-one-of-the-worst-contributors-to-climate-crisis>

Fossil fuel exports make Australia one of the worst contributors to climate crisis

Adam Morton, Guardian, 08/07/2019

Australia is responsible for 5% of global greenhouse gas emissions and could be contributing as much as 17% by 2030 if the pollution from its fossil fuel exports is factored in, research suggests.

Under climate accounting rules that record carbon dioxide released within a country, Australia is responsible for about 1.4% of global emissions. The analysis by science and policy institute Climate Analytics found more than twice that, another 3.6%, are a result of Australia's coal, oil and gas exports.

If all proposed fossil fuel developments went ahead, including Adani's Carmichael mine, other proposed coal developments in the Galilee Basin and liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects in Western Australia, and other countries adopted policies consistent with the Paris agreement, Australia could be linked to 17% of carbon pollution.

The Australian Conservation Foundation says Australia is looking to become an emissions super-power.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jul/07/one-climate-crisis-disaster-happening-every-week-un-warns>

One climate crisis disaster happening every week, UN warns

Fiona Harvey, Guardian, 08/07/2019

Climate crisis disasters are happening at the rate of one a week, though most draw little international attention and work is urgently needed to prepare developing countries for the profound impacts, the UN has warned.

Catastrophes such as cyclones Idai and Kenneth in Mozambique and the drought afflicting India make headlines around the world. But large

numbers of “lower impact events” that are causing death, displacement and suffering are occurring much faster than predicted, said Mami Mizutori, the UN secretary-general’s special representative on disaster risk reduction. “This is not about the future, this is about today.”

This means that adapting to the climate crisis could no longer be seen as a long-term problem, but one that needed investment now, she said.

Estimates put the cost of climate-related disasters at \$520bn a year, while the additional cost of building infrastructure that is resistant to the effects of global heating is only about 3%, or \$2.7tn in total over the next 20 years.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-07-11/brisbane-climate-change-protest-commuter-traffic/11298146>

Climate change protesters cause peak-hour delays in Brisbane

ABC, 11/07/2019

Brisbane’s early morning commuters faced delays this morning [Thursday] as climate change activists stopped traffic for 10 minutes at a time creating congestion and disruption.

The tactic of the group was to block roads and traffic for 10 minutes at a time, then move off the road for three minutes to let the traffic through.

In a bid to ease the tension activists handed out vegan biscuits to motorists.

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/crime-and-justice/former-state-government-media-adviser-neil-doorley-alleged-leaks-from-environment-minister-steven-miles/news-story/>

Former State Government media adviser Neil Doorley alleged leaks from Environment Minister Steven Miles

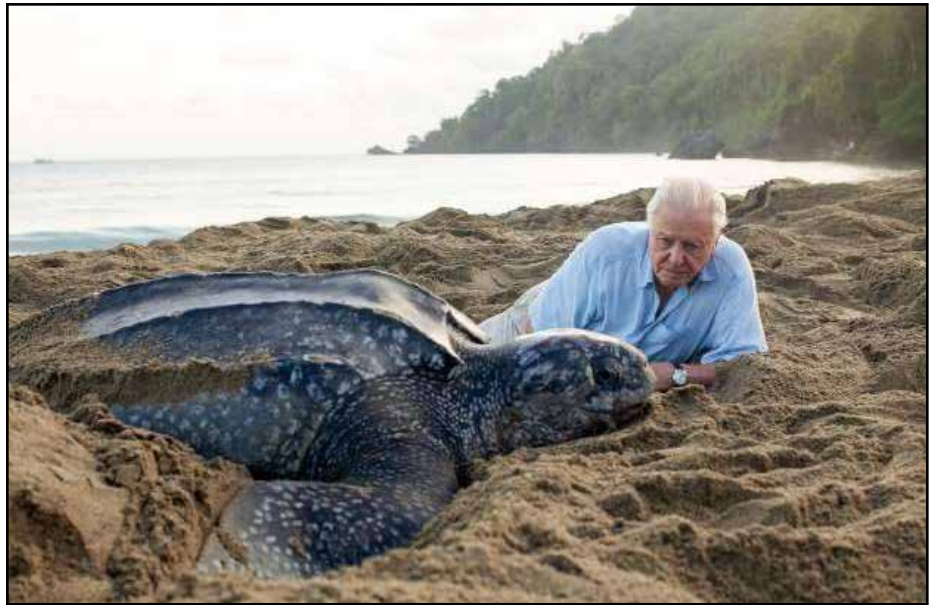
Kay Dibben, Courier-Mail, 06/07/2019

A former senior Palaszczuk government media adviser who is seeking compensation for his dismissal has revealed allegations of leaks by a minister, in new documents.

In a Queensland Industrial Relations Commission application, Neil Doorley has detailed five media stories that he claims resulted from leaks by then Environment Minister, Dr Steven Miles, while he was his senior media adviser.

Article says one of the minister’s leaks was about contamination near Linc Energy’s plant at Hopeland.

Doorley is seeking compensation for



David Attenborough has been outspoken about the climate change deniers running Australia. Photo: David Attenborough, Facebook

lost employment and income, damage to his career prospects and his professional and personal reputation and for pain, stress, anxiety and humiliation.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/gas-reset-could-cut-bills-by-270/news-story/822f400b-d5c7e32c2cbe7afb2796d6b2>

Gas reset ‘could cut bills by \$270’

Perry Williams, Aus, 09/07/2019

Government intervention in the east coast’s gas sector through a reservation policy could slash \$270 from annual household power bills, under modelling sent to the Coalition by the Centre Alliance as part of a major energy reform package.

Article says Centre Alliance senator Rex Patrick consulted with the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA). Australian households would save \$270 per electricity bill if the government intervened in the market and set a gas reserve price, the IEEFA study found.

It says the solution to excessively high gas prices is a full domestic gas reservation policy fixing prices at \$5 a gigajoule on existing and future gas production.

<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2019/jul/10/david-attenborough-says-its-extraordinary-climate-deniers-are-in-power-in-australia>

David Attenborough says it’s ‘extraordinary’ climate deniers are in power in Australia

Adam Morton, Guardian, 10/07/2019

David Attenborough has highlighted Australia as an “extraordinary” exam-

ple of a country where people in power remained climate change deniers despite the country facing some of the worst effects of global heating.

Article says Attenborough, appearing before a UK parliamentary committee on how to tackle the climate emergency, said: “I am sorry that there are people who are in power ... notably, of course, [in] the United States but also in Australia [who are climate change deniers], which is extraordinary because Australia is already facing having to deal with some of the most extreme manifestations of climate change.

“Both [in] Australia and America, those voices are clearly heard and one hopes that the electorate will actually respond to those.”

Asked to recall his most vivid impressions of humans’ impact on the planet, he said it was returning to the Great Barrier Reef, where he had first dived in the 1950s.

“I will never forget diving on the reef about 10 years ago and suddenly seeing that instead of this multitude of wonderful forms and life that it was stark white. It had bleached white because of the rising temperatures and the increasing acidity of the sea.”

Attenborough said radical action was needed to tackle the climate emergency – “we cannot be radical enough” – but also called for pragmatism in working out what was possible and how best to convince the public of the need for change.

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/angus-taylor-can-t-avoid-the-states-forever-20190710-p525tm>

Angus Taylor 'can't avoid the states forever'

Mark Ludlow & Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 10/07/2019

Energy Security Board chairwoman Kerry Schott said state governments could not be cut out of the loop on national energy policy.

Schott said federal Energy Minister Angus Taylor should call a meeting of the COAG energy council as soon as possible to deal with a backlog of issues.

Article says there is growing speculation Taylor is attempting to avoid dealing with a motion from last December's meeting to commit to a pathway for dealing with emissions reduction.

Schott said the state and territory ministers could not be sidelined by the Morrison government when it came to dealing with energy policy.

"There is a lot of governments sitting at that table and while the Commonwealth is the chair of the meeting, the roles of the state are almost more important," she said.

"I don't think he [Taylor] can avoid it forever."

Although former Liberal prime minister Tony Abbot has left parliament, the AFR says remaining conservative MPs who would be furious if emissions reduction was to become a key part of the energy policy debate.

"It would be toxic for him," according to one energy policy insider.

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/2019/07/10/barnaby-joyce-climate-change/>

'Barking mad': Barnaby Joyce slams the idea we can fix climate change

Samantha Maiden, New Daily, 10/07/2019

Barnaby Joyce says the idea Australia can stop climate change is "barking mad", and global warming is a better problem than the next ice age.



Extinction Rebellion protesters stopped Brisbane traffic on Thursday. Photo: XR, Facebook

"The very idea that we can stop climate change is barking mad. Climate change is inevitable, as geology has always shown," Mr Joyce said in a Facebook post.

Article describes a long rant in which Joyce espoused the views of New Zealand lecturer of geology David Shelley. Shelley says that sea levels are rising and have been for thousands of years and will fall during the next ice age, which is expected about now, give or take a thousand years.

Joyce suggested global warming was better than freezing to death.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/nsw-would-welcome-new-coal-plants-despite-zero-emissions-target-34091/>

NSW would welcome new coal plants, despite zero emissions target

Michael Mazengarb, Renew Economy, 09/07/2019

The New South Wales government says it would welcome proposals for new coal fired generators in the state, putting itself at odds with its own commitment to reach zero emissions by 2050.

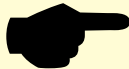

Article says energy minister Matt Kean, speaking at the announcement by EnergyAustralia of a \$80 million spending commitment to increase the output of its Mt Piper coal generator near Lithgow, said: "I'd welcome proposals from the market to deliver a HELE plant or deliver any other forms of generation in this state."

A new coal plant would likely take at least seven years to complete, and would want to operate for at least 40 years, taking the operating life of any new coal-fired power station well beyond the mid-2060s.

EnergyAustralia says the upgrade to Mt Piper will add around 60MW of capacity to the 1,400MW power station that supplies around 15% of NSW's electricity, without the need to burn more coal.



HELP W&J PEOPLE GET JUSTICE FROM ADANI: MAKE A DONATION
 Wangan Jagalingou Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
 BSB: 034-003
 Account number: 278038

Fossil Fool Bulletin is published every Friday (in your email Saturday).
 <https://knitting-nannas.org/bulletins.php> 
SIGN UP for your FREE subscription
 Past issues available to download

SAVING THE LAND, AIR AND WATER FOR THE KIDDIES
www.knitting-nannas.com 