



# Fossil Fool Bulletin

Fossil fools in the spotlight this week: A resource for people working to end the fossil fuel era in Australia

[Fossilfool.com.au](http://Fossilfool.com.au)

FFB 2:38 • 30 AUGUST 2019

## Bill calls for moratorium on CSG in NSW

**“This is a disaster industry: it is a disaster for land, water, local industries ... and local communities”**

By Eve Sinton

*A bill calling for a moratorium on coal seam gas was introduced to the upper house of the New South Wales parliament last week by Independent MLC Justin Field.*

Field said, “The uncontrolled move to a gas export industry – of which Santos is one of the big contributors – has made Australia the world’s biggest exporter of liquefied natural gas [LNG] but has left us with one of the highest domestic prices for gas. It is absurd that there are now proposals for two terminals to import gas into New South Wales.

“In the nine years since the public debate around CSG kicked off in a big way in New South Wales, most of the proposals for coal seam gas have fallen by the wayside as communities have risen up and as the truth about what coal seam gas and other fracked gases means for land, water and communities has become evident.

It is time for this Parliament to act to put the brakes on an industry that offers only downsides for our community and economy.

### Critical questions on toxic salt

“Critical questions remain about how massive volumes of salt that will be produced from the treatment of extracted water will be managed, and how the creeping industrialisation of the landscape as a result of this project – including massive pipelines to transport any gas that is produced to the east coast gas market – will impact on viable farmland. New South Wales sits at a crossroads on the CSG question.



*Independent MLC Justin Field says coal seam gas is a disaster industry and has introduced a bill for a moratorium on CSG in New South Wales. Photo: Contributed*

“This is a disaster industry; it is a disaster for land, water, local industries – particularly farming, and we now know for manufacturing across the country – and it is a disaster for local communities.”

### Continues the work of Bentley blockade

Field went on to say the bill continues the work of communities such as those in the Northern Rivers who have made their case and won their freedom from gas development, including the people of Bentley who stood in front of machines and police to protect their land and water.

Communities in Gloucester, the Hunter, the Central Coast, Sydney, the Blue Mountains, the Illawarra, the Moree

Plains have all rejected the industry.

“The question remains: If CSG was wrong for so many areas – and so many licences have been torn up in this State – why is it acceptable at Narrabri and in the Pilliga Forest? Members [who] think this is just a plan to drill a few holes in a dry forest have not listened to the communities who know that this is a foot in the door that will open up the entire region,” Field said.

Farmers from the NSW North West have welcomed the bill, which would:

- create a Standing Expert Panel on coal seam gas, as recommended by the NSW Chief Scientist five years ago;

• Continued p2

• P3: NT gas laws put landholders at risk

• P4: United Wambo mine gets tick to expand

• P5: Drilling will put 27k jobs at risk

## Bill calls for CSG moratorium in NSW

• Continued from p1

- exclude the industry from the Northern Rivers, coastal drinking water catchments and the southern recharge aquifer of the Great Artesian Basin;
- create a state-wide moratorium on exploration and production of coal seam gas until the Expert Panel has declared the industry safe;
- reintroduce the public interest test as a relevant ground when considering petroleum titles.

Mullaley farmer Margaret Fleck is a member of an alliance of community groups in the North West of the state fighting to protect groundwater from depletion and contamination by coal seam gas.

Fleck said, "We're grateful to Justin Field for his leadership in introducing this Bill which is a sensible way to address long-standing community opposition to this industry and implement the recommendations of the Chief Scientist.

"This is especially urgent for farmers in our region right now – faced with an ongoing and severe drought, we cannot afford to let CSG put our groundwater at risk.

"We urge the Labor Party, Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party, and all cross-bench MLCs to support this Bill and get it passed, given the risks of CSG and long-term community opposition.

"Most importantly, this is a key test for the National Party and we urge them to vote for this Bill – given their party has passed a motion to have expired CSG licences extinguished, they should step up and support this Bill to have the Chief Scientist's recommendations implemented."

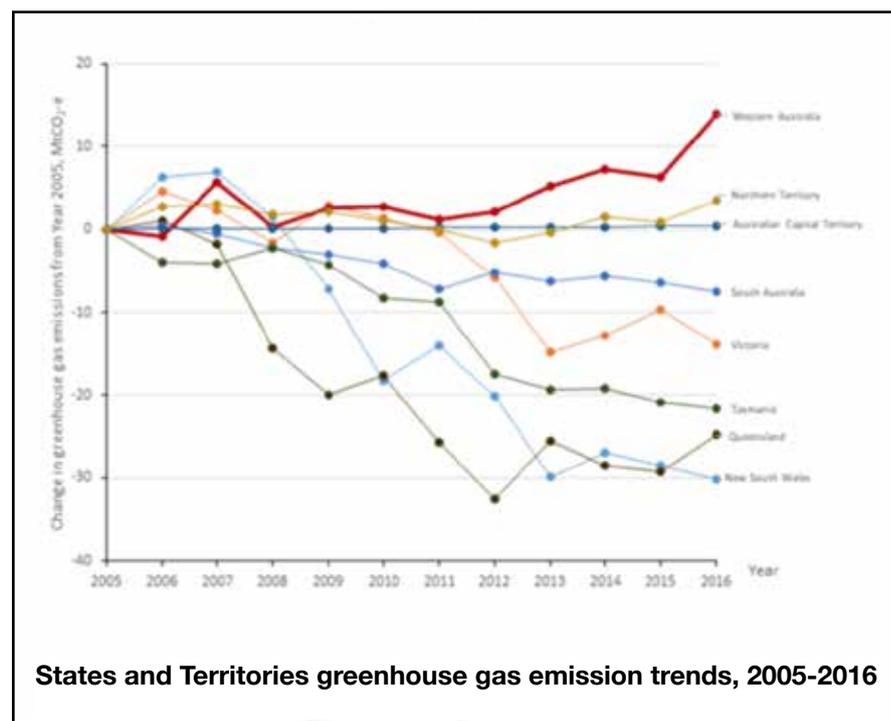
Lock the Gate Alliance NSW Coordinator Georgina Woods said, "Coal seam gas is expensive, damaging and unreliable and New South Wales can't afford to let it go ahead.

"The latest ACCC report has confirmed what we have always known – that eastern Australia is suffering from a gas price crisis, not a supply crisis.

"There is simply no need for more farmland to be destroyed so that expensive, polluting coal seam gas can be extracted."

FFB

## WA target a step towards credible policy



States and Territories greenhouse gas emission trends, 2005-2016

**Western Australia's environment groups and the Clean State campaign have welcomed the announcement that a new carbon pollution reduction target of net zero emissions by 2050 would be adopted by the McGowan Government.**

But the groups have cautioned that the policy must deliver immediate reductions, rather than increases in WA's pollution if it is to be taken seriously.

CCWA Director Piers Verstegen said "We welcome this target as the first step towards credible policy on climate change in Western Australia from the McGowan Government.

"The target provides clear guidance for polluters, while unlocking thousands of new jobs in clean industries, tree planting, carbon farming and renewable energy.

"At present, WA is the only state with rising pollution (see graph). Emissions growth in the WA LNG industry is cancelling out the gains that have been made in all other states.

"The key test of this policy is whether it will permit further short or medium-term pollution increases.

"The suggestion that industry will be able to nominate their own short-term targets under this policy is concerning.

"The McGowan government must now urgently set out an emissions reduction pathway for the state, which must be put into legislation. This must deliver immediate pollution reduction.

### LNG industry needs real solutions

"This policy puts the onus back on the Liquid Natural Gas industry to show its hand and come up with real solutions to its rising pollution, rather than hiding behind the falsehood that LNG is a climate solution.

"WA's biggest polluters must now put forward credible plans to reduce their emissions in line with the Paris Agreement on climate change, starting with immediate pollution reductions.

"Any industry plan or government policy that allows pollution to increase, even in the short term, will be rejected by the community.

"While we welcome the setting of a 2050 net zero emissions target for WA, it is concerning that the Government has asked the WA EPA to consult in good faith on its greenhouse gas policy, and before that consultation has even completed, the Government is now making policy which would appear to pre-empt the independent statutory advice of the Authority."

FFB

# NT legislation exposes landholders to risk

*Northern Territory landholders, pastoralists, Native Title holders and other occupiers are potentially exposed to significant legal risks regarding land access for petroleum activities due to the current legislative framework in the Northern Territory.*

Gas fracking companies, Origin Energy and Santos, have now commenced drilling and fracking a series of wells on cattle stations overlying the Beetaloo Basin. The NT Fracking Inquiry found that these activities have the potential to cause pollution events in both surface and groundwater.

There is an argument that the current NT petroleum and water legislation gives a potential defence to gas companies for water pollution in certain circumstances.

Further, owners and occupiers could be liable if they fail to 'exercise due diligence and take reasonable steps' to prevent harm in relation to the acts of a petroleum title holder on their land.

Protect Country Alliance spokesperson, Graeme Sawyer, urged the government to fix these loopholes in the legislation before it was too late.

## Rigs rolling across NT

"Rigs are now rolling across the NT and the risks are live, but the laws haven't caught up," he said.

"Right now, the loopholes in the Water Act and the Petroleum Act are leaving cattle stations and other landholders exposed to damage and legal risks, while the fracking companies appear to have legal protections they can use to avoid offences.

"We will be calling on the NT Government to repeal section 7(2) Water Act and amend s102(1) and s102A to ensure there are no unintended consequences.

"This fiasco confirms Territorians' worst fears, that the NT Government is incapable of properly managing fracking activity, and is putting landholders, water security and entire industries like our cattle trade at risk.

"Gas companies have been given the greenlight to start fracking, yet if there is an accident and pollution event, like inter-aquifer pollution, its landholders who will wear the direct legal and material consequences of the event,



*Daniel Tapp from Big River Station in the Roper region is among a growing list of pastoralists refusing access to gas companies on their properties. Photo: Contributed*

and any claims for compensation from neighbours that may arise."

"This situation is manifestly unfair. The laws are badly written and have clearly been influenced by the lobbying of gas and other resource companies, to their benefit."

Marylou Potts, solicitor, who advises landholders, communities and councils in NSW, QLD and the NT in relation to land access, believes that NT landholders, pastoralists and other occupiers are potentially exposed to significant risks regarding land access from petroleum activities.

Potts, in her recent visit to the NT said, "Currently in the NT landholders carry the risk of the petroleum activities for no benefit, in fact for significant detriment to their business operations, their time and their land."

It is Potts' view that landholders should have statutory immunity from the activities of petroleum companies on their land, as is the case in other jurisdictions.

She argued a landholder should be no worse off as a consequence of a gas company's activity on their land.

Daniel Tapp from Big River Station in the Roper region is among a growing list of pastoralists refusing access to gas companies on their properties.

"Once fracking companies gain access to our pastoral leases, our rights go out the window and we're at the mercy of invasive industrial activity, and potential land and water contamination," Tapp said.

"If contamination issues arise in our water & produce production, these industries will be gone for good.

## Landholder could be held responsible for gasco's pollution

"What is worse, under current laws it could be the landholder held responsible for any pollution or damage caused by these gas companies on our properties, despite the fact we have been given no choice about them being there. It's a disgrace.

"My family have run pastoral businesses in the Territory going back generations, and we hope the industry has a strong future going forward. But right now, food producers face no bigger threat than onshore gas fracking and the irreversible effects on our land, water and food security. To the Gunner Government I say, if you want a strong and profitable pastoral sector in the Territory, repeal these unjust laws and ban fracking before it's too late."

# New mine adds to Hunter air pollution



**NSW's Independent Planning Commission has approved a new open cut coal mine in the Hunter Valley despite air pollution in the Singleton area already breaching national standards.**

The IPC has granted approval to the contentious \$381 million United Wambo coal mine expansion, which will worsen air quality in the Hunter and adding to global greenhouse emissions.

The 'super pit' will see the Wambo Coal Mine and United Coal Mine, which has been under care and maintenance since 2010, join as one new operation.

The companies behind the joint venture, Glencore and Peabody, told the IPC it would provide 500 full-time-equivalent jobs and could extract 10 million tonnes a year for 23 years, operating 24 hours, seven days a week.

The ABC interviewed former mining electrician Rob McLaughlin and his wife AnneMaree, who live near numerous coal mines at their home at Bulga.

They said while they were disappointed United Wambo Coal had been approved, they were not surprised.

"We ring the mines on a daily basis [about air quality] and we have to, when we ring up, determine which mine the dust is coming from, which makes it very hard because we are just surrounded by mines," AnneMaree said.

"Their expansion is taking them over the ridge, which used to protect us a lot from noise and dust to a degree.

"So that means we're going to have more dust, more light, more blast

vibrations than we've ever had, and that's a scary thought.

## Pumping it out like there's no tomorrow

"Here we are in a climate emergency and they're just pumping it out like there's no tomorrow," she said.

Lock the Gate Alliance spokesperson Georgina Woods said, "This mine will increase harmful levels of particle pollution in the Hunter, which already regularly exceeds national air pollution guidelines.

"This mine is right in the central part of the Valley that is most badly affected by air pollution. Singleton residents will suffer as a result of this expansion."

## New export condition imposed

The IPC has for the first time imposed a condition that requires the mine owners – Glencore and Peabody Energy – to ensure the coal is only being exported to countries that are party to the Paris Climate Agreement, or are taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Woods said this was limited in its effectiveness, given the mine would still lead to nearly 260 million tonnes of additional greenhouse pollution in the atmosphere, which would have a direct impact on global warming.

"With the approval of United Wambo, the Planning Commission is burdening the future. It will add to the air pollution burden in the Hunter region and contribute hundreds of millions of tonnes of additional greenhouse pollution to the atmosphere," she said.

**FFB**

# PwC dumps Coal21

**Following revelations that the Minerals Council-related entity Coal21 was planning a multi-million-dollar pro-coal advertising blitz, the Sydney Morning Herald's CBD column has got wind of a split between Coal21 and Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC).**

"So long and thanks for all the fish.

"That's the departing message for the Minerals Council-related outfit Coal21 from PwC, who after being paid handsomely for their consulting work have ditched the coal outfit.

"CBD is told PwC has informed them it will not be pursuing more work with the Coal21 project, established to advocate for low-emission coal technologies," the column reported.

"And while the reasons haven't been made entirely clear, our sources suggested it was likely due to criticisms from environmental groups about PwC's work for mining companies."

CBD suspects "an estrangement from the Minerals Council – which this column understands is deeply displeased about the entire snafu – won't impact PwC all that much."

CBD pointed out that despite this hitch, PwC remain the Minerals Council's auditors.

"It was only earlier this month, with Russel Howcroft working on the Coal21 campaign, that Thinkerbell – a creative agency part-owned by PwC – appeared open to working with the outfit on a \$5 million advertising blitz designed to make us feel 'proud about coal'.

"CBD is told that after some discussion, and an in-person briefing, things soured.

"It didn't help that a confidential request for communications proposals made its way to the ABC.

"Many at Coal21 suspect Thinkerbell, although it remains a mystery.

"We were told PwC, which declined to comment, is making some inquiries.

"Meanwhile, Thinkerbell told us it was definitely not the leak," CBD told readers.

**FFB**

## SA leads with renewables

*New research shows South Australia's success in managing the electricity grid while simultaneously bringing a large volume of renewables into the energy mix, has positioned the state as a world leader in managing renewables transitions*

The Australia Institute Climate & Energy Program has released the latest National Energy Emissions Audit, analysing the electricity sector over the previous month.

### Key Findings:

- For nine of the last eighteen months, half of all electricity supplied in South Australia has been from renewable generators, including rooftop solar.
- Renewables generation has at times been large enough to meet all energy demand in South Australia and it will be able to gradually reduce market interventions such as directing gas generators to run.
- The South Australian electricity supply system demonstrates how technically and economically difficult – if not impossible – it would be to use generation technology that must operate continuously, such as nuclear, to complement a system dominated by variable renewable generation.

## Victoria risks blackout

Meanwhile, the AEMO Energy Statement of Opportunities (ESOO) confirms Australia Institute Gas & Coal Watch analysis that shows that Victoria's dependence on brown coal and gas is a serious risk to the state's energy supply this summer.

### Key points:

Based on operational experience, AEMO's modelling assumed

- There is a 30% likelihood the 530 MW unit at Loy Yang A coal power station will be closed all summer.
- There is an expect a 60% likelihood that half of Victoria's largest gas power station Mortlake will be closed all summer.
- There is an 18% chance both the Mortlake unit and the LYA unit will out all summer.
- Climate impacts are increasing the risk of blackouts including increasing extreme temperatures leading to high maximum demand, bushfire threat to transmission, drought threat to hydro and to coal plant cooling.
- Snowy 2.0 will lead to "no significant improvement in reliability" due to lack of transmission

FFB

# Bight drilling to threaten 27k jobs, environment: New report from TAI

*New research from The Australia Institute has shown that more than 27,000 jobs in South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania would be put at risk if drilling for oil in the Great Australian Bight is allowed to go ahead and a catastrophic spill occurs.*

New polling has also revealed that a majority of Australians, while hopeful of jobs being created by the project, expect drilling in the Bight would negatively impact the natural environment (65%), tourism (50%) and fishing (60%).

"This report shows that the economic and environmental cost of a major oil spill in the Great Australian Bight would be enormous," said Noah Schultz-Byard, The Australia Institute's SA Projects Manager.

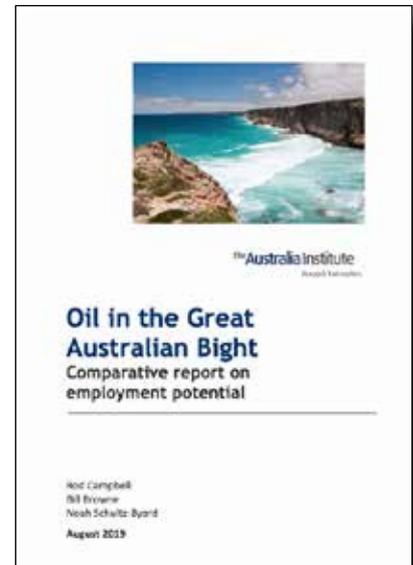
"Coastal tourism, fisheries and aquaculture are significant employers in South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania – the state's that are most likely to suffer the effects of a spill.

"Equinor have already had 239 oil spills in their history and, according to their own modelling, a major incident in the Bight would cover thousands of kilometres of the Australian coastline.

"With more than 27,000 jobs to be put at risk by drilling in the Bight, it's not hard to understand why three in five Australians are opposed to the idea.

"This new research has also revealed that a majority of Australians expect drilling in the Bight to have a negative effect on the environment, tourism and fishing.

"While many are hopeful that the project would bring jobs, drilling in the



Bight would actually create a relatively small number of employment opportunities, significantly fewer than the tens of thousands of already existing jobs that it would put at risk.

"Communities along the southern coast of Australia are being asked to shoulder extraordinary risk in relation to this project while a foreign oil company hopes to swoop in and take all of the financial gain.

"Any attempts to proceed with drilling in the Bight will risk tens of thousands of jobs and will be done in direct opposition to the wishes of the traditional custodians of the land and the broader Australian public."

The full report is available for download here:

<https://www.tai.org.au/sites/default/files/P757%20Drilling%20the%20Great%20Australia%20Bight%20Report%20%5BWeb%5D.pdf>

FFB

## Mangoola coal mine wants to expand operations

*A Hunter Valley community's struggle with the impact of nearby coal mining operations will worsen if multinational Glencore is allowed to extend the life of one of its projects and defer crucial transition planning.*

The Mangoola coal mine is proposing to expand its operation closer to the village of Wybong and inflict considerable further damage to the rural community for just five additional years of mining, which local landholders say

will have irreversible consequences for their community.

Wybong landholder Margot White said, "People in Wybong are hostages in their own homes because of government policy that says the Mangoola mine can operate 24 hours a day and create noise and dust pollution and we just have to put up with it. It has depopulated our district and left people stranded, unable to sell, driven mad by noise and sick from coal dust."

FFB

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



[fossilfool.com.au](http://fossilfool.com.au)

Every edition of Fossil Fool Bulletin • Feature stories • Links • Subscribe

## Inside the news

**Matt Canavan** has made a pilgrimage to India and presented **Gautam Adani** with a t-shirt (p7) while spruiking what even the Indian media calls 'low-quality coal' from the Galilee Basin.

Multiple **protests** against the mine, targeting **contractors** and prospective **insurers**, have continued. The **Murdoch** media has responded with its usual vitriol. The *Morning Bulletin* in Rockhampton has run a story on **Muzz Dreschler's** upcoming Mystery Dingo Environment Tour to Central Queensland. Dreschler's unique bus, **Blockadia** – which hails from Mullumbimby and once transported **FFB's** editor to a water mining meeting – will take a group of activists to the Adani frontline (p8). Coal fan **George Christensen** says the group are hypocrites for travelling in a steel, fuel-guzzling vehicle. **FFB** looks forward to news of Blockadia's adventures.

As if hydraulic fracturing isn't bad enough, an energy company is trying to get around the state of New York's fracking ban with a proposal for **propane fracking** (p10). While saving on water, the technology is highly explosive and has already resulted in workers being burned.

Meanwhile, Australian company **AJ Lucas** has triggered a 2.9 magnitude **earthquake** at its extremely unpopular drill site in England (p11), with officials calling a halt to the fracking operation.

Two thought-provoking articles on the **climate crisis** are summarised on pages 12-13, the first a handy report to climate deniers, and the second saying our entire industrial culture needs re-thinking, rather than just greenhouse gas emissions.

Large **super funds** are tackling climate action by redirecting investments to low-carbon options (p13), showing there's no need to wait on governments to make changes.

**Angus Taylor's** energy underwriting program is floundering. Commentators say his election promises weren't thought through, because the **Libs** didn't expect to win the election and actually implement the program.

PHICS GREEN PIGEON GRAPHICS GREEN

PROUD SUPPORTER OF  
THE FOSSIL FOOL BULLETIN

f GreenPigeonGraphics gpg@bordnet.com.au

Print ✓ Mailchimp ✓ Social ✓ Web ✓



**Fossil Fool  
Bulletin**

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

f Fossil Fool Bulletin

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

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

**Focus  
Publications**

**Fossil Fool Bulletin is free to read, but not free to produce. The editor works un-waged, but costs include news subscriptions, computer, software, internet and office expenses.**

**Donations to publisher Focus Publications are invited.**

**Whether a one-off or regular, \$5 or \$500, you can help keep this publication in action.**

(Note: donations are not tax deductible.)

**Bank details: Focus Publications**  
BSB: 062 578  
Account number: 10343666  
ABN: 24857882603

**FFB**

# In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 29,000 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

## THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.dailymercury.com.au/news/adani-whisperer-to-stand-down/3812135/>

### 'Adani-whisperer' to stand down

*Sarah Vogler, Daily Mercury, 22/08/2019*

The senior bureaucrat tasked with helping solve Adani's outstanding environmental approvals in the wake of Labor's Federal Election drubbing is moving on from his role after seven years.

Coordinator-General Barry Broe has advised the Government he would not be seeking a renewal of his contract. Broe – who was first appointed under the former Newman Government – will step down from the role this week.

The Coordinator-General is one of the most senior public servants within the Queensland Public Service, with a wide range of powers to assess and balance the pressures of economic development, environmental sustainability and social impact.

<https://www.livemint.com/companies/news/australian-minister-likely-to-meet-gautam-adani-in-india-1566737276152.html>

### Australian minister likely to meet Gautam Adani in India

*Livemint, 25/08/2019*

A senior Australian minister [Matthew Canavan] is likely to meet Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani during his trip to India beginning August 26.

The meeting is expected to discuss Adani's Rs10,000 crore Carmichael coal project where Australian authorities will try to persuade the Indian investor to begin construction at the earliest.

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/opinion/why-im-proudly-selling-aussie-coal-to-india-matt-canavan/news-story/>

### Why I'm proudly selling Aussie coal to India: Matt Canavan

*Matt Canavan, Daily Telegraph, 26/08/2019*

India is already Australia's biggest market for coking coal but our performance on capturing a share of its growing thermal coal market has not been as impressive.

In 2018, Australia supplied less than 5% of India's thermal coal imports.



*Federal Minister for Resources, Matt Canavan, met with Gautam Adani on his journey to India. Photo: Matt Canavan, Facebook*

The US exported nearly double the amount of thermal coal to India. Given the world's best thermal coal comes from the Hunter Valley in NSW, that record is not good enough.

We have a big opportunity to turn this around.

This week I am in India to discuss this potential. I will proudly sell the wares of Australian coal and try to secure more jobs for Australians.

We need to ignore the doom-mongers and continue to build on the great, successful, world-enhancing Australian coal industry and take it to even greater heights.

• *Matt Canavan is federal Minister for Resources and Northern Australia*

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/get-coal-mine-project-in-queensland-moving-aus-minister-to-adani-119082701429\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/get-coal-mine-project-in-queensland-moving-aus-minister-to-adani-119082701429_1.html)

### Get coal mine project in Queensland moving, Australian Minister tells Adani

*Press Trust of India, 28/08/2019*

Australia's Resources Minister Matt Canavan on Tuesday (August 27) asked Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani to focus on the coal mine project in central Queensland and get it "mov-

ing" forward, refuting reports of any "widespread" opposition against the controversial venture.

Canavan is on a four-day visit to India from Monday during which he is scheduled to hold several ministerial-level discussions.

The massive coal mine in Queensland state has been a controversial topic, with the project expected to produce 2.3 billion tonnes of low-quality coal.

Canavan met Adani and invited him to focus on project and get it "moving and going".

Refuting reports of widespread resistance against the project, Canavan said there was "no significant opposition" against it and it has "overwhelming support" from the local population.

"The groups protesting can be loud and noisy but they do not represent significant numbers," he told reporters.

On sale of nuclear energy to India, Canavan said Australia has signed an agreement with India for supplying uranium and they continue to remain in discussions about shipments in the future.

<https://www.qt.com.au/news/federal-election-result-has-led-to-mining-town-pro/3814576/>

## This year has been crazy: Mining town's property boom

Jack Evans, *Qld Times*, 25/08/2019

Clermont is hot property according to a large trend made apparent by recent property sales.

LJ Hooker in Clermont just recorded 20 sales in one month, and according to agent Amy Lamont who entered the real estate game in early 2018, they would have been lucky to make those numbers in a year.

This comes just days after RiskWise Property Research CEO said investors should be careful entering mining markets prone to fluctuation, particularly in Clermont.

She said investors were snapping up local units as well as plenty of house sales, which she came around the same time of the Adani groundwater environmental approval.

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/crime-court/two-women-charged-for-locking-themselves-to-iplex-fence-in-antiadani-protest-news-story/d5a4d60a68dd509fe14363c0c3e16dbd>

## Two women charged for locking themselves to Iplex fence in anti-Adani protest

Madura McCormack, *Townsville Bulletin*, 27/08/2019

Townsville civic leaders have strongly condemned anti-Adani protesters blockading a local business, with one Labor politician describing them as “idiots” who are not welcome in the community.

Two women from protest group Frontline Action on Coal locked themselves to the gates of Bohle-based pipe manufacturer Iplex using bicycle locks on Tuesday morning, demanding the company withdraw its tender to supply pipes to Adani's Carmichael mine.

Townsville MP Scott Stewart said everyone had the right to protest peacefully but “idiots” that disrupt businesses were not welcome.

An Adani spokeswoman said the mining giant would not confirm nor deny if Iplex was a contractor.

Police confirmed they were called to the business on Ingham Rd about 6am on Tuesday morning and moved more than 20 people bar two protesters who were locked to the gate.

A 68-year-old Nelly Bay woman and a 67-year-old Bilinga woman were charged with public nuisance, obstruct



*Frontline Action on Coal protesters at Iplex pipeline company near Townsville, thought to be involved in constructing water pipelines for Adani. Two women were arrested after locking on. Photo: FLAC*

police and contravene direction. They are due to appear in Townsville Magistrates Court in September.

<https://www.themorningbulletin.com.au/news/anti-coal-activism-bus-tours-launch-in-central-que/3815488/>

## Ridiculous amount it costs to ride anti-Adani bus

Ashley Pillhoffer, *Morning Bulletin*, 27/08/2019

A tour of a different kind is set to arrive in Central Queensland – only this one is unlikely to be popular with the locals.

Activists passionate about a future without thermal coal can secure a seat on a Mystery Dingo Environmental Tours bus and they will be taken, via the scenic route, to the frontline in the fight against Adani.

The man behind the idea, Murray ‘Muzz’ Drechsler said it was about more than fighting against the development of the Galilee Basin.

“It’s reconnection to nature,” he said.

Drechsler, who works as a traffic controller in NSW, said he started Mystery Dingo tours eight years ago as a business that took international-tourists to beautiful places around his home region.

Now, he uses his bus ‘Blockadia’ to take passionate activists from Mullumbimby to protest sites across the country – the bus regularly visits Canberra, followed the Bob Brown convoy and has gone as far as Western Australia.

A seat on the bus would set you back a “donation” of between \$200 and \$250.

<https://www.dailymercury.com.au/news/adani-protest-mp-hits-back-at-hypocrite-activists/3815412/>

## Adani protest: MP hits back at ‘hypocrite’ activists

Ashley Pillhoffer, *Morning Bulletin*, 27/08/2019

Driving in a bus made from steel, most likely guzzling fuel as it makes its way up the coast, protesters will visit the region to fight against a coal mine.

Dawson MP George Christensen has labelled these activists “hypocrites”, saying he does not think the trip would be “worth their while”.

Christensen [said] he did not believe the protests would impact the development of the Galilee Basin.

“This will peter out,” he said “It is probably a lot of fan fair because (Adani) has all of its approvals.

“There comes a point that people have to accept the government has made a decision.”

<https://www.afr.com/companies/financial-services/us-giant-aig-under-fire-over-adani-coal-mine-20190829-p52m4g>

## US giant AIG under fire over Adani coal mine

James Fernyhough, *AFR*, 29/08/2019

US giant AIG has become the latest insurer to feel the ire of the Stop Adani movement, after protesters descended on its Sydney headquarters on Thursday to urge the company to rule out insuring the Carmichael coal mine in Queensland.

The protesters, led by activist group Sum of Us, delivered a petition with 109,000 signatures calling for AIG

to become the 15th general insurer to confirm it will not underwrite the controversial project.

Friends of the Earth affiliate Market Forces led a smaller demonstration outside AIG's Melbourne offices.

## COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-26/elevated-dust-levels-concern-moranbah-residents/11431030>

### Spike in microscopic dust levels has Moranbah residents thinking of leaving their town

*Tim Shepherd, ABC, 26/08/2019*

Residents in a central Queensland mining town that has seen elevated levels of dust say more needs to be done to ensure it is not coming from nearby mining operations.

Figures from the Department of Environment and Science show annual levels of microscopic dust, known as PM10, were consistently above state guidelines at Moranbah.

PM10 are airborne particles less than 10 micrometres in diameter. They are small enough to enter the lungs, and can potentially cause respiratory problems and increase the risk of heart disease.

The figures show the 24-hour average guideline was exceeded 19 times in 2018 and the annual average was 20% higher than the recommended level.

A spokesperson for the department said PM10 exceeded the guidelines in 2018 due to lower-than-average rainfall and dry conditions.

Mother-of-two Tegan Hillier, who has lived in Moranbah with her partner for five years, said she was kept busy keeping dust out of her home.

She suffers from chronic sinusitis and said the symptoms had become more noticeable recently, causing her to consider moving to Mackay – more than two hours away from her partner's work.

Stephen Smyth, from the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU), said he was concerned about the PM10 recordings in Moranbah given the activity at nearby open-cut coal mines.

He said a lack of visibility at open-cut mines was regularly reported to the union.

"It's terrifying and obviously it's worrying that people are prepared to work in that sort of dust," he said.

"I've had a number of [workers] send through photos of what's happening at their mine site in relation to dust and I got one ... where you couldn't even see the equipment in use.

Queensland Resources Council chief executive Ian Macfarlane said the mining industry was governed by rigorous health and safety regulations.

<https://www.qt.com.au/news/the-town-where-breathing-is-like-smoking-a-cigarette/3816441/>

### The town where breathing is like 'smoking a cigarette a day'

*Zizi Averill, Qld Times, 28/08/2019*

On some days breathing the air in Moranbah is "equivalent to smoking a cigarette a day", University of Queensland senior lecturer of Primary Care Clinical Unit David King says.

Dr King said there was a proven correlation between elevated dust levels and increased pressure on the emergency department and local doctors.

And in regions near open cut mining, like Moranbah and the Hunter Valley in NSW, Dr King said the health concerns were greater.

Dr King advocated that DES and Queensland Health should collaborate to establish if there has been any affect of the elevated PM10 levels on Moranbah residents' health.

Dr King accused Queensland Health of being "reactive" in regards to dust related public health risks.

"Queensland Health doesn't see its role in the public health sphere unless they're really pushed," he said.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-27/shenhua-coal-mine-cultural-heritage-challenge/11443096>

### Legal challenge over Sussan Ley's decision to put potential mining jobs at Shenhua Mine before cultural heritage

*Isabella Higgins & Sarah Collard, ABC, 27/08/2019*

A family fighting to defend their traditional country from mining are suing Environment Minister Sussan Ley after she rejected their heritage protection bid in favour of a controversial Chinese coal project [the \$1.2 billion Shenhua Watermark Coal Mine].

Last month, the Gomeri Traditional Custodians failed in a bid to have sacred sites in north-west New South Wales preserved and protected from development due to cultural importance.

Ley rejected their application on the grounds that the potential jobs generated from the mine were more important than cultural preservation.

She acknowledged the project could cause "mental health impacts ... a sense of dislocation, displacement and dispossession," among Indigenous people, but determined the social and economic value of the project took priority.

On behalf of the Gomeri people, traditional owner Dolly Talbot has launched legal action against Ley, with the case due before court for the first time on Wednesday.

She is being represented by the NSW Environmental Defender's Office (EDO), which will argue that the minister's decision was "unlawful" and contravenes the constitutional basis of the heritage protection act.

The mine sparked vehement protests in recent years, with farmers, environmentalists and Indigenous groups all fiercely opposed to the development.

<https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/6348120/coal-mines-watering-down-droughts-impact-on-jobs/>

### Coal mines watering down drought's impact on jobs

*Jamieson Murphy, N Daily Leader, 27/08/2019*

Whitehaven Coal has hosed down concerns it will have to cut back mining production due to a lack of water, while the meatworkers' union says the government should be providing workers with monetary support before aiding abattoirs.

There are fears the region's big water-using businesses, such as the mines and abattoirs, may have to scale back their workforce if water becomes unavailable.

However, Whitehaven CEO Paul Flynn said the company had no plans to slow down production at any of its mines in the Gunnedah Basin.

"We're working very hard on a number of different water security initiatives ... our underlying assumption is that we'll be able to operate continuously throughout the year in the mode that we would like to operate without any constraints from a water perspective."

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/black-lung-disease-levy-flagged-by-cfmeu/news-story/35a94cdb8fd432c40549a50c560e4217>

## Black lung disease levy flagged by CFMEU

*Domanii Cameron, Courier-Mail, 27/08/2019*

Coal mines would be slugged with a new levy to help victims of black lung disease, potentially stinging companies hundreds of thousands of dollars each year, under a proposal put forward by the powerful mining union.

The CFMEU put forward a motion to create a fund to support victims and their families who have been diagnosed with black lung and other dust-related diseases at the Labor State Conference at the weekend.

The motion, which proposes coal companies pay a levy of \$0.01 for every tonne of coal produced each week, was carried.

Queensland Resources Council chief Ian Macfarlane said at this stage, the body didn't see why an additional levy was needed or how it could be administered.

"But we're happy to have that discussion with them (union)," he said.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-28/coal-mine-workers-withdrawn-over-breathing-equipment-issues/11458078>

## Two coal mines pull out hundreds of workers over mining equipment safety issue

*Kelly Fuller, ABC, 28/08/2019*

The New South Wales Resources Regulator has escalated concerns about breathing masks that have resulted in the removal of hundreds of workers from two Illawarra underground coal mines.

The NSW Resources Regulator is investigating the Dräger PSS 5000 Compressed Air Breathing Apparatus unit.

The mining union praised the miner for putting the safety of workers first.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/cfmeu-calls-for-new-royalties-in-fight-to-combat-mining-companies-moving-to-machines/news-story/>

## CFMEU calls for new royalties in fight to combat mining companies moving to machines

*Hayden Johnson, Courier-Mail, 28/08/2019*

Queensland's coal should stay buried rather than be used by global companies relying on robots to mine the precious resource, the CFMEU warns.

Fearing a loss of jobs and negative effect on regional communities,

CFMEU Mackay district president Stephen Smyth moved a motion at the weekend's Labor conference to take a stronger stand against automation in the state's largest industry.

The union argues mining companies who automate processes and sack workers should pay additional royalties "to offset the impact of the job losses" on communities.

Mining company Anglo American has started a study to determine the feasibility of replacing part of its truck fleet with an autonomous haulage system at its open-cut Dawson Mine in Central Queensland.

<https://www.dailymercury.com.au/news/treated-like-second-class-mine-workers-sue-for-12m/3817430/>

## Treated like second-class: Mine workers sue for \$12m

*Rainee Shepperson, Daily Mercury, 29/08/2019*

Hundreds of coal miners are locked in a multi-million dollar wages dispute against labour hire firm WorkPac.

Filed by national law firm Slater & Gordon on behalf of the CFMEU the case aims to win back \$12m in alleged unpaid entitlements for more than 600 coal miners, who claim they have been misclassified as "casual" workers by WorkPac since 2013.

CFMEU national president Tony Maher said out of the 600 miners taking part in the class action, about 440 were from Queensland. Most of those workers would have been employed at Central Queensland coal mines includ-

ing Hail Creek Mine, Saraji, Goonyella Riverside and Blackwater.

## OIL & GAS LEAKS

<https://www.desmogblog.com/2019/08/22/application-lpg-propane-fracking-new-york-ban>

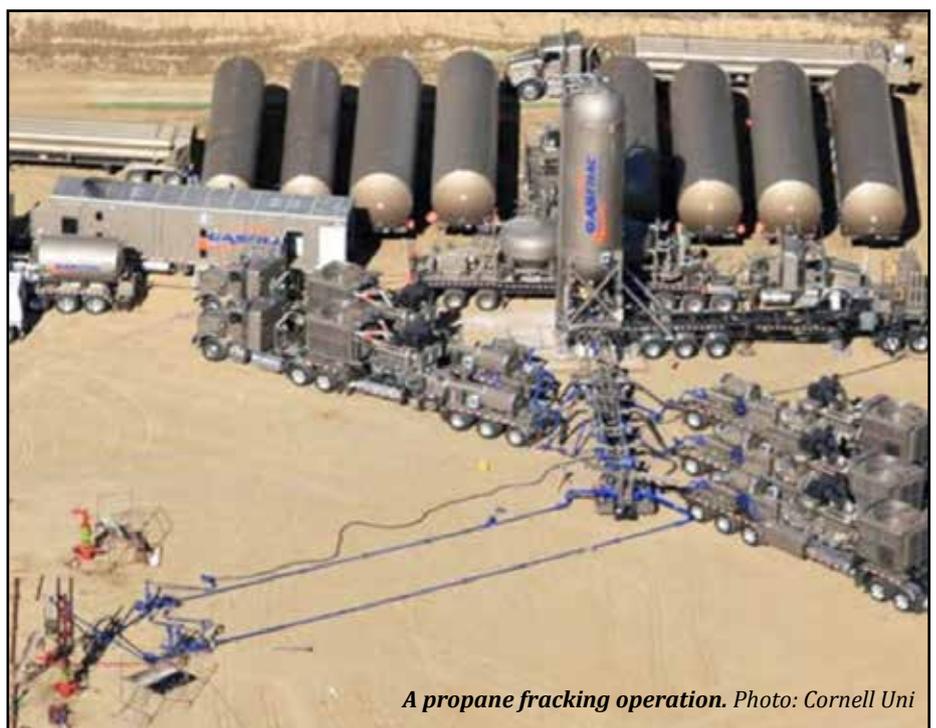
## How an application for propane fracking attempts to circumvent New York's fracking ban

*Justin Mikulka, Desmog Blog, 22/08/2019*

Four years after New York announced the state was banning hydraulic fracturing (fracking), Tioga Energy Partners, LLC has filed an application with the state to frack for natural gas, but there's a catch. The company is proposing to swap propane into the industry standard mix that usually calls for water.

Environmental advocates consider this application to use liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), and specifically a propane gel, an attempt to circumvent New York's 2015 ban on fracking for fossil fuels.

A broad coalition of groups is opposing the potential propane fracking project. Sixteen organizations, including Earthjustice, Catskill Mountainkeeper, Riverkeeper, and the Sierra Club, voiced concerns over the proposal to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). The letter describes the risks of LPG fracking, such as "...groundwater contamination, radioactive wastes, dangers in transport of LPG, harmful air emissions, and direct and indirect impacts upon public health."



*A propane fracking operation. Photo: Cornell Uni*

While fracking with propane does not require the large amounts of water currently used by the fracking industry, water does have the advantage that – unlike propane – it doesn't explode.

Even though propane fracking has not been used on any scale comparable to hydraulic fracking, its dangers are already apparent. When propane leaks, it can explode and cause fires, and it already has during early attempts to use the technology in Canada. One 2011 explosion burned about a dozen workers in Alberta, with three others injured while using the technique already that year.

<https://www.maitlandmercury.com.au/story/6343387/underground-toxic-tide-discovered-in-maitland-groundwater/>

### Toxic secrets of the underground: PFAS chemicals found in groundwater below Rutherford's former Truegain site

*Donna Page and Nick Bielby, Maitland Mercury, 23/08/2019*

Dangerous levels of toxic firefighting foam and cancer-causing chemicals have been found in groundwater below the heavily polluted former Truegain waste oil refinery site at Rutherford.

It's unknown how far the plume of contaminated groundwater has spread because no testing has been done.

An initial investigation by consultant WSP, using six groundwater wells on the troubled Kyle St site, revealed per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances [PFAS] – the chemicals at the heart of the Williamtown environmental scandal – in five wells.

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, zinc, copper and nickel at elevated levels, and recoverable hydrocarbons were also found in various wells.

The full extent of the pollution problem remains a mystery because the NSW EPA refused to make the consultant's report public because it was commissioned by the site owner.

The EPA has warned residents not to eat eggs, drink milk or consume meat from animals that have had access to Fishery or Wallis creeks.

The toxic chemicals would have made it to the Hunter River.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/aug/26/great-australian-bight-oil-industry-would-need-decades-of-subsidies-report-warns>

### Great Australian Bight oil industry would need decades of subsidies, report warns

*Katharine Murphy, Guardian, 26/08/2019*

The South Australian government needs to prepare itself for decades of subsidies if it wants to develop an offshore oil and gas industry in the Great Australian Bight, according to a new report.

The Australia Institute says SA is unlikely to receive any noticeable benefit from tax payments as a result of oil and gas production in the Bight, with the benefits mostly flowing to the Commonwealth. It also argues the employment effects would be modest.

The federal resources minister, Matt Canavan, said last year it was important not to let "activists" prevent projects from proceeding. "You have a bunch of activists running around saying we shouldn't explore in the Great Australian Bight".

"If we let these activists win, that would confine Australians to be dependent on overseas oil prices – not something ... in the long-term interests of Australia".

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-27/pelican-point-power-limited-taken-to-court-over-sa-blackouts/11452320>

### Pelican Point Power Station taken to court over 2017 South Australian heatwave blackouts

*Nick Harmsen, ABC, 27/08/2019*

The Australian Energy Regulator (AER) has launched legal action against the operator of a gas power plant in Adelaide, alleging it failed to notify authorities it had spare generator capacity which could have helped South Australia avoid widespread blackouts in 2017.

The Federal Court proceedings come just weeks after the AER launched similar legal action against the operators of South Australian wind farms over the events leading to a separate state-wide blackout in 2016.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-28/back-up-power-generators-leased-to-private-companies/11457824>

### Back-up power stations to prevent SA blackouts privatised but will contribute more to grid

*Nick Harmsen, ABC, 28/08/2019*

The SA Government has signed two 25-year leases to privatise the operation of two emergency power stations.

But the Government says it will retain the authority to order their use in emergencies

The Government has signed with Nexif and Infigen Energy to operate nine diesel aero-derivative turbines currently located at Elizabeth in Adelaide's north, and Lonsdale in the city's south.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/fracking-tremor-shakes-aj-lucas-investors/news-story/5217d256ae25cf00a77d776337ff65b1>

### Fracking tremor shakes AJ Lucas investors

*Sarah-Jane Tasker, Aus, 28/08/2019*

Engineering company AJ Lucas has sparked investor concern following reports of a major earth tremor at one of its UK fracking sites.

The Australian-listed company's shares slid 40% in early trade yesterday after it said work had ceased at its fracking operation, Preston New Road in Lancashire.

The British Geological Survey said a 2.9 magnitude earthquake occurred at the site.

AJ Lucas told the market only last week, when fracking resumed, that there were no breaches of the 0.5 "red light" limit on the microseismic traffic light system in any of the four fracking stages that had been completed.

The UK's oil and gas authority noted in its announcement on the latest incident that, to date, seven seismic events had exceeded the 0.5 magnitude threshold during Preston New Road well 2 operations.

<https://www.afr.com/rear-window/chevron-s-thankless-9-5b-20190824-p52ke3>

### Chevron's thankless \$9.5b

*Neil Chenoweth, AFR, 26/08/2019*

It's a troubled life for Chevron Australia's managing director Al Williams, copping accusations of foot dragging on the Browse project, wrestling with WA Environmental Protection Authority's carbon plans, while treated as villain in chief by Extinction Revolution protesters.

Natural gas production is a thankless task ... Thankless that is, apart from the \$9.5 billion operating cashflow that Chevron pulled out of the North West Shelf last year.

[fossilfool.com.au](http://fossilfool.com.au)

- Every edition of Fossil Fool Bulletin
- Feature stories • Links • Subscribe

## HYDROGEN HYPE NUKE MADNESS

<https://www.crikey.com.au/2019/08/29/hydrogen-boom-renewable-energy/>

### Is Australia really destined for a hydrogen boom?

Chris Woods, Crikey, 29/08/2019

Prior to May's "climate change election", Australians heard quite a bit about hydrogen. Chief Scientist Alan Finkel argued that the continent, with our immense wind and solar resources, was perfectly placed to develop the fuel as a low-emission replacement for fossil fuel exports. Former opposition leader Bill Shorten even pledged a \$1 billion hydrogen plant in Gladstone to help kick-start the industry.

Now, a Bloomberg New Energy Finance (BNEF) report finds that the global cost of "green hydrogen" — fuel cells created from renewables via electrolysis — could fall by almost 80% by 2030, a global analysis that follows similar predictions this year.

But even if hydrogen follows a similar price trajectory to wind and solar, could it become the next great Australian gold rush? Crikey examines whether hydrogen has a role in decarbonising Australia and the practical future for this very early-stage miracle fuel.

Hydrogen [HAS] two major possible domestic applications: long-distance transport where battery technology cannot compete, such as freight trucking and shipping; and industrial heat processes (e.g. steelmaking or cement mixing).

The best bet for a domestic hydrogen industry currently lies in exports.

The danger of pushing hydrogen in Australia [is that] it can be co-opted by both coal advocates looking to prolong a dying industry or gas groups like the Australian Pipelines and Gas Association, which boasts that "hydrogen can be mixed with natural gas in our distribution networks to lower emissions".

According to ARENA, which is currently undertaking a trial of this hydrogen-gas mix in NSW, it is only considered safe if it includes 10% hydrogen.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-27/energy-audit-finds-nuclear-power-is-not-the-answer-for-australia/11450850>

### Nuclear power not the answer as renewables continue to boom in Australia, report finds

Camron Slessor & Nick Harmsen, ABC, 27/08/2019

Australia's continuing renewable energy boom means the development of nuclear power is not a viable option, a new report from public policy think-tank the Australia Institute has concluded.

The Australia Institute's energy emissions audit for the month July found SA's renewable energy generation is setting a "real example" for other states, and also found nuclear energy would not complement a high renewables sector.

The think-tank's latest National Energy Emissions Audit found that for 44 hours during the month of July, South Australia generated enough wind and solar energy to power 100 per cent of its own demand, with some left over for export to eastern states.

The Institute's climate and energy director, Richie Merzian, said the power grid in SA is effectively eliminating the need for so-called "baseload" supply, the type typically supplied by coal or nuclear.

He said the other issue with nuclear energy was the cost and timeframe needed to build a nuclear power station.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/small-modular-reactors-and-the-nuclear-culture-wars-73761/>

### Small modular reactors and the nuclear culture wars

Jim Green, Renew Economy, 28/08/2019

Aaron Patrick, senior correspondent with the *Australian Financial Review* (AFR), is the latest journalist to enter the nuclear culture wars with some propaganda that's indistinguishable from that served up in the Murdoch tabloids.

There's lots of misinformation in Patrick's articles.

The focus of Patrick's recent articles is on small modular reactors (SMRs), which he describes as new, small, safe, cheap and exciting (and he continues to make such claims even as I continue to feed him with evidence suggesting alternative SMR adjectives ... non-existent, overhyped, obscenely expensive).

Some history is useful in assessing Patrick's claims. There's a long history of small reactors being used for naval propulsion, but every effort to develop land-based SMRs has ended in tears.

The Federal Parliament's Standing Committee on Environment and Energy has begun an 'inquiry into the prerequisites for nuclear energy in Australia' with a focus on SMRs.

The Committee is controlled by Coalition MPs and they need all the education we can offer them about the whole suite of energy options, not just nuclear power and SMRs so get your submission in by September 16.

• **Dr Jim Green is lead author of a Nuclear Monitor report on SMRs and national nuclear campaigner with Friends of the Earth Australia**

## CLIMATE CRISIS

<https://www.desmogblog.com/2019/08/19/yes-it-s-due-human-activity-new-research-should-finally-stop-climate-change-deniers>

### Yes, it's due to human activity: New research 'should finally stop climate change deniers'

Tim Radford, Climate News Network/Desmog Blog, 19/08/2019

European and US scientists have cleared up a point that has been nagging away at climate science for decades: not only is the planet warming faster than at any time in the last 2,000 years, but this unique climate change really does have neither a historic precedent nor a natural cause.

The present sustained, ubiquitous warming is unique in that it can be coupled directly with the Industrial Revolution, the clearing of the forests, population growth and profligate use of fossil fuels.

Research like this is a tidying-up operation. Climate scientists, conservationists, glaciologists, marine biologists, geologists and economists all know that climate change is happening, and that it is happening as a consequence of accelerated human activity over the last two centuries.

The *Nature* study clarifies a point of possible confusion. There have been changes in modern human history, but none of them global and synchronous (happening at the same time). They were random fluctuations within the climate system, and even changes in solar activity or volcanic surges could not affect all of the planet at any one time. Over the last 2,000 years the only time the global climate has changed synchronically has been in



the last 150 years when over 98% of the surface of the planet has warmed. This paper should finally stop climate change deniers claiming that the recent observed coherent global warming is part of a natural climate cycle.

<https://grist.org/article/2009-08-23-the-fallacy-of-climate-activism/>

### The fallacy of climate activism

*Adam Sacks, Grist, 24/08/2019*

In the 20 years since we climate activists began our work in earnest, the state of the climate has become dramatically worse, and the change is accelerating – this despite all of our best efforts. Clearly something is deeply wrong with this picture. What is it that we do not yet know? What do we have to think and do differently to arrive at urgently different outcomes?

The answers lie not with science, but with culture.

Climate activists are obsessed with greenhouse-gas emissions and concentrations. Since global climate disruption is an effect of greenhouse gases, and a disastrous one, this is understandable. But it is also a mistake.

There are two serious errors in our perspectives on greenhouse gases:

The first error is our failure to understand that greenhouse gases are not a cause but a symptom, and addressing the symptom will do little ...

The root cause, the source of the symptoms, is 300 years of our relentlessly exploitative, extractive, and exponentially growing technoculture, against the background of ten millennia of hierarchical and colonial civilizations.

The second error is our stubborn unwillingness to understand that the battle against greenhouse-gas emissions, as we have currently framed it, is over.

It is absolutely over and we have lost. We have to say so.

There are three primary components of escalating greenhouse-gas concentrations that are out of our control: The writer goes on to discuss the thirty-year lag, positive feedback loops and non-linearity

“Time is running very short, but the forgiveness of this little blue orb in a vast lonely universe will continue to astonish and nourish us – if we only give it the chance. Our obligation as activists, the first step, the essence, is to part the cultural veil at long last, and to tell the truth.”

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/world/hundreds-of-fires-erupt-as-troops-join-amazon-fight/news-story/f12327a6094f8fcc371e0621699329c4>

### Hundreds of fires erupt as troops join Amazon fight

*Marcelo Silva De Sousa, Aus, 26/08/2019*

Hundreds of new fires are raging in the Amazon rainforest in Brazil, official data showed yesterday, as thousands of troops started to help fight the worst blazes in years following a global outcry.

The fires in the world’s largest rainforest have triggered a global uproar, and are a major topic of concern at the G7 meeting in Biarritz in southern France.

World leaders at the summit agreed last night to help the countries affected by the huge wildfires ravaging the rainforest as soon as possible.

Brazil’s President Jair Bolsonaro has authorised deployment of the military to fight the fires and crack down on criminal activity.

He accused non-governmental organisations on Friday of starting the fires after their funding was cut.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/super-giant-to-impose-100pc-carbon-reduction-targets/news-story/72d8bb14b7c9c0e301fd23e0072aff5ef>

### Super giant to impose 100% carbon reduction targets

*Michael Roddan, Aus, 26/08/2019*

Australia’s biggest energy network will face an unprecedented emissions reduction target as its owner – \$140 billion industry superannuation giant IFM Investors – launches an ambitious project to cut carbon across its vast asset holdings.

Emissions reductions targets of up to 100% by 2030 will be slapped on a broad range of infrastructure assets across the nation, including the Ausgrid electricity network, Melbourne and Brisbane airports, and NSW ports.

The move risks stoking a conflict with the Morrison government, which has sought to clamp down on social and environmental activism by industry super funds.

IFM will invest in a range of solar energy projects, launch efficiency upgrades on its buildings, install thousands of energy-efficient lights and use low-emission vehicles.

<https://www.theage.com.au/business/companies/super-funds-set-carbon-targets-for-10bn-worth-of-infrastructure-assets-20190823-p52k6v.html>

### Super funds set carbon targets for \$10bn worth of infrastructure assets

*Patrick Hatch, Age, 26/08/2019*

A slew of Australia’s largest infrastructure assets, including airports, docks and a train station, have set carbon emissions reduction targets for the first time as part of a co-ordinated push led by industry superannuation fund manager IFM Investors.

The targets set by Melbourne Airport, Brisbane Airport, Ausgrid, NSW Ports, Port of Brisbane, NT Airports and Melbourne’s Southern Cross Station aim to eliminate 200,000 tonnes of carbon emissions annually by 2030.

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/companies/50b-super-fund-demands-woodside-santos-link-exec-pay-to-emissions-20190828-p52lj7.html>

### \$50b super fund demands Woodside, Santos link exec pay to emissions

*Matthew Dunckley & Ben Weir, SMH, 29/08/2019*

Superannuation giant HESTA has demanded Australian oil and gas companies explicitly link the pay of their top executives to their performance on reducing carbon emissions or risk an investor backlash.

The \$50 billion industry fund for health workers wants companies such as Woodside and Santos to follow the lead of international energy giants BP and Shell in directly tying executive remuneration to emissions reduction.

<https://www.communitynews.com.au/western-suburbs-weekly/news/wa-finally-sets-zero-net-emissions-target/>

### WA finally sets zero net emissions target

*AAP/Wst Suburbs Weekly, 28/08/2019*

A greenhouse gas emissions policy for major projects has finally been outlined by the West Australian government, which aims to achieve net zero by 2050.

Until now, WA has been the only Australian state without a net zero emissions.

Energy minister Bill Johnston announced the “aspiration” in parliament on Wednesday, saying it provided industry the certainty it sought for future major projects.

In March, WA’s Environmental Protection Authority was forced to rescind a guideline recommending carbon neutrality for new or expanding projects with emissions higher than 100,000

tonnes a year after an uproar from the oil and gas industry.

<https://www.afr.com/policy/energy-and-climate/wa-moves-to-muzzle-emissions-watchdog-20190828-p52ljb>

## WA moves to muzzle emissions watchdog

Brad Thompson, AFR, 28/08/2019

Western Australia's Labor government has split with the federal ALP and adopted the Morrison government's emission targets in order to prevent the state environment watchdog imposing investment-threatening climate targets on new projects.

The policy gives proponents of new high emissions projects worth tens of billions of dollars in the resources-rich state more than 30 years of breathing space to work towards achieving an aspirational target of net zero emissions.

The policy represents a pre-emptive strike and attempt to muzzle the WA Environmental Protection Authority after its move to introduce a net zero emissions regime for project approvals in March sparked howls of protest from the LNG industry.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-29/swedish-teen-greta-thunberg-un-summit-new-york-boat-arrival/11459966>

## Teen climate activist Greta Thunberg makes trans-Atlantic boat trip to attend global warming conference

AP/Reuters/ABC, 29/08/2019

Swedish teen climate activist Greta Thunberg has arrived in New York City to chants and cheers after a 14-day trans-Atlantic trip on a zero-carbon-emissions sailboat to attend a global warming conference.

Ms Thunberg, who set sail from Plymouth, England, on August 14 was greeted with cheers, chants and singing as her silver sailboat, the Malizia II, cruised past the Statue of Liberty through choppy waves and rain to drop anchor in Manhattan's yacht harbour on Wednesday.

The teenager waved, was lifted onto a dock, and then took her first wobbly steps on dry land.

"All of this is very overwhelming," she said of the reception.

She did not get seasick once, but stressed "this is not something I want everyone to do".

"It is insane that a 16-year-old would have to cross the Atlantic Ocean to make a stand," she said.



**Malizia II, the zero-emissions yacht which carried climate activist Greta Thunberg from Plymouth to New York.** Photo: Twitter

"The climate and ecological crisis is a global crisis, the biggest crisis that humanity has ever faced, and if we don't manage to work together and to cooperate and to work together despite our differences, then we will fail."

She is in New York to speak at the United Nations Climate Action Summit.

## FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/aug/29/energy-companies-frustrated-at-slow-progress-on-taxpayer-underwriting-deals>

### Energy companies frustrated at slow progress on taxpayer underwriting deals

Katharine Murphy & Adam Morton, Guardian, 29/08/2019

The outspoken power baron Trevor St Baker has urged the Coalition to avoid being a "government of inaction" on energy policy and called for the Liddell power station to be transformed into an "exclusive baseload power precinct".

It comes as companies that were shortlisted for taxpayer underwriting for energy generation projects before the May election continue to wait for information about how the program

will work or whether they will receive government support.

St Baker has two power generation projects on the shortlist, including a pumped hydro project in South Australia and a coal upgrade at Lake Macquarie being pursued by his company, Delta Energy.

Some other energy company managers with projects on the shortlist expressed frustration that they did not yet know how many the government planned to support, how those projects would be selected or what form of support the underwriting would take.

They said they believed the program had been announced ahead of the election without key decisions having been made before about how it would work on the assumption the Coalition was unlikely to win and the policy would not go ahead.

Tony Wood, the energy program director at the Grattan Institute, said he understood the government was struggling to turn what had been a pre-election thought bubble into reality.

The energy minister, Angus Taylor, said work on the underwriting program was progressing.

Wood said the underwriting program could work against the government's goals of ensuring there was enough dispatchable electricity and helping cut power bills. Major generators were less likely to invest in new power plants while the government was underwriting their competitors and the underwritten projects were likely to end up competing with the commonwealth-funded Snowy Hydro 2.0 project.

"It risks a future where people will not invest without government underwriting."

The Australian Industry Group last year said underwriting could leave taxpayers exposed to liabilities "with a net present value of billions of dollars".

<https://www.newcastleherald.com.au/story/6353836/coal-to-remain-lifeline-of-hunter-mckay-says-in-single-ton-visit/>

**Coal to remain 'significant contributor', NSW Labor leader Jodi McKay says in Hunter visit**

*Matt Carr, Newcastle Herald, 28/08/2019*

Jodi McKay has promised Hunter coal has Labor's support to play a major part in the local and state economy during her first visit to the region since becoming state Opposition Leader.

Ms McKay visited Rixs Creek mine, north of Singleton, with federal Hunter MP and Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Resources Joel Fitzgibbon and Swansea MP and NSW deputy leader Yasmin Catley on Wednesday.

McKay made the comments a week after independent Sydney MP Alex Greenwich, chair of a NSW parliamentary inquiry investigating energy supply and exports in the state, sought a 10-year transition plan and adjustment strategy for coal-mining regions.

McKay said a future Labor NSW government would ensure coal had a future.

She said that supporting coal would not stop the party taking a leading position on climate change or pushing for ambitious renewable targets.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/aug/28/the-koch-brothers-tried-to-build-a-plutocracy-in-the-name-of-freedom>

**The Koch brothers tried to build a plutocracy in the name of freedom**

*Nathan Robinson, Guardian, 29/08/2019*

It's hard to describe just what a negative force the Koch brothers have been in United States politics over the past several decades. They have used every means at their disposal to subvert democracy. They funded academic posts, thinktanks, lobbying groups, fake grassroots operations, and political campaigns. They used their tremendous wealth to push a radically far-right economic vision in which government protections and welfare programs would essentially cease to exist.

The Koch brothers profited handsomely from fossil fuels, and had a strong hand in muddying the debate around global warming, having spent more than ExxonMobil on funding climate denial.

Carbon regulation posed a significant financial threat to the Kochs, and they supported "perhaps the earliest known organized conference of climate-change deniers, which gathered just as the scientific consensus on the issue was beginning to gel". They helped to derail efforts at regulating carbon.

The effort to prevent action on climate shows just how fraudulent the Koch Brothers' professed love for "freedom" has been. The brothers presented themselves as "libertarians" who simply believed that the best way to advance human prosperity was a "free" market and the protection of private property rights. In reality, the only pri-

vate property rights they cared about were their own.

David Koch embodied all of the worst aspects of our political and economic system. He inherited a company, then used the spoils to try to manipulate American politics to destroy all of working people's hard-earned gains (Koch wanted to eliminate Medicaid, minimum wages, and workplace safety protections). He pushed fabricated science to protect his profits, with zero regard for the consequences this would have for humanity at large. And he had the audacity to do all of this while presenting himself as a freedom-loving philanthropist.

• *Nathan Robinson is the editor of Current Affairs and a Guardian US columnist*



[fossilfool.com.au](http://fossilfool.com.au)

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

Wangan Jagalingou Traditional Owners  
Aboriginal Corporation

**BSB: 034-003  
Account number: 278038**

**Focus  
Publications**



**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](http://www.knitting-nannas.com)