



# Fossil Fool Bulletin

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

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FFB 2:43 • 4 OCTOBER 2019

## Australian trade groups amongst the world's biggest fossil fuel pushers

By Eve Sinton

*New InfluenceMap research has produced a list of the world's most impactful climate policy opponents, with four Australian organisations listed in the top 30.*

The Minerals Council of Australia (MCA) was ranked at number eight, while the Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association (APPEA) was 18th, the Business Council of Australia (BCA) 20th and Australian Industry Group (Ai Group) 30th.

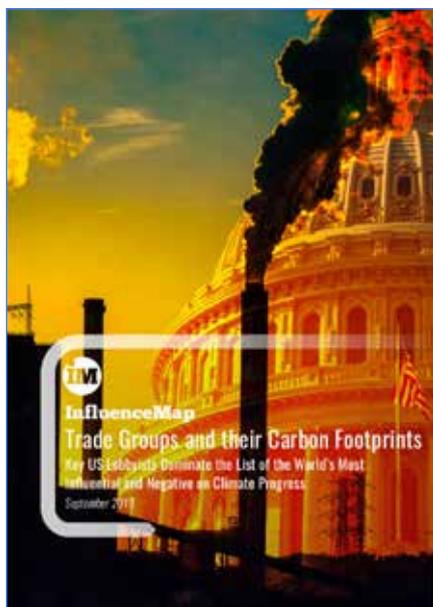
The research found US organisations dominate the list, with seven out of the 10 most negative and influential business associations globally based in Washington DC.

The finding reflects the extent to which US lobbyists have stoked, harnessed, and guided the Trump Administration's deregulatory agenda to undermine climate policy progress since 2016.

The NY School of Law determined the subsequent rollbacks in policy will add 200 Mn tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions a year by 2025, placing the US on a pathway consistent with 4°C+ warming globally, according to think-tank Carbon Action Tracker.

The two most powerful and oppositional trade groups are the US Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers.

Following successful campaigns to get the US to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, they have pursued wide-ranging strategies to undermine climate leadership and install a deeply



pro-fossil fuel legal framework since 2016.

Powerful sector-specific groups such as the American Petroleum Institute, the American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers and the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers are close behind in terms of opposition to climate policy progress.

Outside the US, the Japanese Business Federation (Keidanren), ranks highly due to its key role in pushing for a coal-focused energy policy for Japan, the world's third largest economy. The Minerals Council of Australia and the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers are also noted as highly climate-oppositional groups that have had a significant impact in undermin-

ing climate action in key fossil fuel exporting countries.

InfluenceMap says many oppositional lobby groups have found it expedient to be nominally positive on climate in their PR and top-line statements. InfluenceMap's analysis finds such messaging to be deflection techniques, to distract the media and politicians from their recently successful and ongoing lobbying to hold meaningful climate regulations at bay.

### Australian fossil lobby groups listed

- **The Minerals Council of Australia**  
The MCA remains highly engaged and oppositional to climate change policy. The MCA has consistently emphasized concerns around competitiveness and energy poverty.

The MCA has lobbied to preserve the dominance of coal in the energy mix, organizing the marketing campaigns, "Coal. It's an amazing thing" in 2015 and 'Making the Future Possible' in 2017-18, espousing the importance of coal to Australia's economy.

In 2017-2018, the group has also continued to strongly promote Australian thermal coal exports and the role of coal in Asia.

- **Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association**  
APPEA appears to recognize IPCC science, but has emphasised the need to balance climate action with competitiveness and growing energy demand. Shortly before COP24 in December

• Continued p2

• P3: Maules Ck mine takes unlicensed water

• P4: Nuke power too expensive, too slow

• P5: Coal touts miss the mark

## Australia's fossil fuel pushers

• Continued from p1

2018, APPEA stressed the need for policies which reduce emissions at "least cost." APPEA has promoted the role of gas Australia's energy mix, including as an alternative to coal.

### • The Business Council of Australia

The BCA is negatively lobbying Australian climate change policy.

Despite communicating support for the Paris Agreement, BCA has emphasized the economic costs of greenhouse gas emission reductions and in 2019 opposed the Labor Party's plan to increase Australian GHG emissions targets to 45% by 2030.

BCA opposed the Australian carbon tax, supporting its repeal in 2014, which it was reportedly instrumental in achieving.

The BCA in 2016-17 has consistently opposed Australian state-level and federal level renewable energy targets and subsidies.

### • The Australian Industry Group

Ai Group is actively and negatively lobbying climate change policy in Australia.

Despite communicating support for the ratification of the Paris Agreement in 2016, and in 2015 helping to create the Climate Roundtable, which supports a 2°C global warming limit, Ai Group has consistently advocated against dramatic GHG emission reductions in Australia.

In 2016 the Australian Industry Group opposed binding greenhouse gas targets for Victoria state.

Ai Group were prominent supporters for Australia's carbon tax repeal, with CEO messaging in 2016 suggesting continued opposition to a tax.

The Australian Industry Group has consistently endorsed policies supporting unconventional gas production, calling for an end to all state moratoria on seam gas.

• Download the report here:

<https://influencemap.org/report/Trade-Groups-and-their-Carbon-Footprints>

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## Murdoch maintains hate Greta campaign

By Eve Sinton

*Nothing makes Murdoch's stable of right-wing climate deniers more angry than Greta Thunberg: a kid who dares speak truth to power.*

A small selection of the week's anti-Thunberg headlines appears at right. She's considered a threat to capitalism, a kid-terrorising fearmonger and a stooge for socialist green activists.

Dinosaur Andrew Bolt wrote, "We cannot allow professional fearmongers to terrorise children with fake claims about the end of the world ... hold them to account, starting with these 10 names." He lists:

• **David Attenborough**, nature filmmaker • **Tim Flannery**, Climate Council • **Jonathan Franzen**, novelist • **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez**, US congresswoman • **Antonio Guterres**, UN Secretary-General • **Richard Di Natali**, Greens leader • **Chris Barrie**, former Australian Defence Force chief • **James Lovelock**, Gaia theorist • **Elizabeth Warren**, US Democrat presidential frontrunner • **Extinction Rebellion**, activists.

Fossilfool.com.au applauds them!

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29/9/2019 The Daily Telegraph

### + Capitalism has improved the planet, not ruined it

All we wicked capitalists genuinely wish to accomplish is the earth's total and final annihilation, but every single damn thing we do just keeps improving the place, writes Tim Blair.

ANDREW BOLT 29/9/2019 Herald Sun

### + Name and shamed: The fearmongers terrorising our kids

We cannot allow professional fearmongers to terrorise children with their fake claims about the end of the world, instead we must hold them to account — starting with these 10 names, writes Andrew Bolt.

CONFIDENTIAL 29/9/2019 The Sunday Telegraph

### + Is Greta stressing out our kids?

Greta Thunberg's emotional public comments spurred plenty of angry debate among adults last week but an internationally renowned clinical psychiatrist is confident our kids are coping very well with the teen's apocalyptic predictions.

RENDEZVIEW 28/9/2019 The Sunday Telegraph

### + Wake up and smell the climate change socialism

If we learnt one thing from the UN last week it's that the Left hide their globalist agenda behind the guise of saving the planet, writes Peta Credlin. Green activists care more about socialism than the environment.

## WA people support emissions policy

*Consultation on the Environmental Protection Authority's (EPA) paused carbon pollution policy has revealed overwhelming support for the policy to be reinstated and strengthened, according to submissions published on the EPA website this week*

The EPA policy, released earlier this year, proposed new rules requiring WA's biggest polluters offset emissions through projects such as tree planting, carbon farming and renewable energy.

A campaign by WA's biggest polluters in the LNG industry spearheaded by Woodside and the West Australian led to the EPA withdrawing the guideline subject to further consultation.

Submissions received by the EPA reveal overwhelming support from the community, scientists, business and the general public for the policy to be reinstated and strengthened.

Over 6,500 submissions were received, many from expert scientists, industry groups and organisations concerned about the impacts of climate change and the rapidly rising and uncontrolled pollution from WA's LNG industry.

Conservation Council of WA (CCWA) Director Piers Verstegen said the submissions process had revealed that the campaign by WA's biggest polluters did not have the backing of the community, who were overwhelmingly supportive of the EPA's proposed guideline.

"Very few submissions received by the EPA support the self-serving efforts of WA's big polluters to block action on climate change and avoid their responsibility to clean up their act.

"Predictably, WA's biggest polluters in the LNG industry have argued that other sectors of the community and business should bear the cost of their rapidly rising pollution, but the consultation shows that Western Australians are not having a bar of it.

"Action to offset carbon pollution from WA's biggest polluters as proposed by the EPA would cost a fraction of their record profits yet would deliver over 4,000 new jobs for Western Australians in industries such as tree planting, carbon farming, renewable energy and clean technology.

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# Maules Creek mine takes water without licence

By Eve Sinton

*After a lengthy investigation, the NSW Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) has found the capture of surface water at Maules Creek coal mine by Whitehaven is unlawful.*

Lock the Gate Alliance submitted a detailed complaint last year alleging that Maules Creek coal had not obtained water licences for the large amount of surface water it was capturing and using to run the mine.

The regulator issued a statement saying, "NRAR finds the mine does not have sufficient entitlements on its water access licences for the take at the mine site and does not fall within a licence exemption under the Water Management Act 2000.

"NRAR met with representatives of the mine and delivered the preliminary findings for comment. NRAR is reviewing its regulatory options including accepting a proposal for an enforceable undertaking or taking criminal or civil proceedings.

## Mine told to install water meters

"Maules Creek Coal Mine has been issued with a draft direction requiring installation of meters at key locations within the mine. Current and future surface water access licences are also being reviewed to ensure the monitoring program is able to accurately account for surface water taken on site."

Lock the Gate Alliance spokesperson Carmel Flint said, "This confirms our worst fears that Whitehaven has no valid legal grounds to be taking billions of litres of water a year without water licences.

"We want to see strong action taken now by the Natural Resources Access Regulator to prosecute Whitehaven for these serious breaches.

"It's crucial the company feels the full force of the law to make sure this



*Leard Forest pictured in the upper part of the image and below Maules Creek coal pit filled with water that Whitehaven claimed they were "asked" by Water NSW to "store" in the pit from late 2017. Photo: Wando Conservation and Cultural Centre*

appalling practice is stopped and a message sent to the mining industry that it is not above the law.

"As the drought bites hard, it is an absolute scandal that Whitehaven has been taking water without a licence to do so and we're calling on the Water Minister and Deputy Premier to ensure there is swift action to address this breach and get the mining industry under control.

## Call for industry-wide audit

"This serious breach of the law by Maules Creek may be the thin edge of the wedge. Numerous other mines in NSW may be using the same approach to dodge water licensing laws and there needs to be an immediate audit of the issue across the industry," she said.

Maules Creek farmer Sally Hunter said, "As farmers we are struggling with a devastating drought and we are gob-smacked to learn that the Maules

Creek coal mine has been capturing vast quantities of water for years without holding the relevant water licences.

"It seems that mining companies are intercepting large volumes of surface water entirely outside the water planning system. That is water that should go to recharging our aquifers and running into our creeks and rivers. It's an outrageous double-standard.

"The farming community has accepted very large reductions in water allocations over the last decade so we are floored to learn that big mining has come in and dodged the rules.

"That means that there is far less water running into our creeks and rivers and there is no accountability for the role mining giants like Whitehaven are playing in drying out our landscape."

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# Nuke power: too expensive, too long to build

Photo: Hitachi



By IEEFA

***As fossil fuels come under increasing pressure, the conversation on whether to install nuclear energy is heating up in Australia, with the New South Wales government now calling for a vote within three years.***

As the UK's latest foray into building nuclear power plants only too well demonstrates, massive cost blow-outs and extensive delays are par for the course. Hinkley Point C in Somerset could now cost more than £22bn and is running the risk of further delays.

The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) has identified that the construction of nuclear power plants globally has proven to be an ongoing financial disaster due to extraordinary cost and construction time blow-outs and the industry's ongoing reliance on financial subsidies,

The evidence is presented in a new submission to the Australian government inquiry into the prerequisites for nuclear energy in Australia.

IEEFA notes that instead of wasting time talking about installing expensive nuclear technology at some stage post 2030, governments should meet the energy needs of their populations today, at this crucial climate turning point.

## Four steps to meet energy needs

There are four clear steps:

- providing bi-partisan national policy certainty in Australia's energy market;
- putting in place policies and investments to deliver more than Australia's 'fair share' of the lifting towards the critically important Paris Climate Agreement commitments, rather than

using Kyoto accounting tricks that fool no one and make Australia an international pariah;

- promoting commercially proven low emissions technologies available today; and
- encouraging investment in least cost renewable energy, smart grid and energy efficiency technologies over high emitting and high cost new gas and coal-fired power to sustainably meet energy consumer's needs.

Tim Buckley, director of energy finance studies with IEEFA, says Australia needs to implement a domestic energy plan now, relying on safe renewable technologies already commercially proven, today.

"Nuclear is one of the most expensive sources of new energy generation," says Buckley.

## Track record of massive cost blow-outs

"Plants take ten to 20 years to plan and build, have a track record of seriously massive cost blow-outs, and continue to rely on huge taxpayer subsidies during their operation, all while having no end-of-life rehabilitation or waste disposal plan.

"In contrast, renewable energy technologies are escalating at an unprecedented rate, and their cost is on a massive ongoing deflationary trend, leaving nuclear technology well behind the 8-ball."

The world is yet to see a single successful commercial deployment of small modular nuclear reactors (SMRs), and SMR proponents do not expect to make a commercial deployment at scale within the next decade, if at all.

IEEFA notes even if SMR technologies are eventually proven commercially viable overseas, Australia would need to rely on both imported technologies and technicians to meet the technical skillsets required.

## AEMO has plan to solve energy crisis

The Australian government's own agency – the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) – has already put forward an excellent, widely endorsed, and cost effective plan to solve the Australia's energy crisis right now, not through nuclear, but with grid upgrades, and the rapid deployment of renewables complemented by battery and pumped hydro firming capacities.

AEMO's plan relies on commercially proven, low carbon emitting, fast-to-deploy technologies already being used in an unprecedented scale today to accelerate deployment of expanded interstate grid connectivity, behind-the-meter solutions and demand response management technologies.

"AEMO's plan is an achievable roadmap for fixing Australia's energy crisis at least cost to Australians, now and into the future," says Buckley.

"It also enables us to deliver on our Paris commitments, a small ask considering the magnitude of response demanded of leaders from children recently demonstrating around the world."

## Action need now, or a decade of wasted

IEEFA concludes that although nuclear options might open up in future decades in Australia, without a sensible energy policy, nothing will happen this coming decade.

## Nuke debate wastes time

• Continued from p4

“The chorus of voices demanding government draft a national energy policy cannot get any louder,” says Buckley.

“Australia urgently needs to create certainty for energy users and investors alike, while ensuring we’re on the same playing field as the rest of the globe in the take-up of renewables.

“As one of the three largest fossil fuel exporters globally, Australia’s economy is especially vulnerable to other countries taking a lead in zero emission industries of the future.

“Rather than denying the science and hoping for delay, it is critical for Australia’s future economic prosperity that we prepare now for this inevitable transition.”

IEEFA’s submission highlights a number of overseas case studies showing nuclear power plants in the US, Finland and UK that have suffered extreme time and cost blowouts, while Japan’s disastrous Fukushima is wearing a US\$200bn clean-up bill.

Today, Germany, France and the US are moving away from nuclear as renewable energy with firming is the new least cost solution.

Deflation has been running in renewable energy and batteries at double digit annual rates for the last decade, and IEEFA expects deflation to continue at 5-10% annually over the coming decade.

Further, wind and solar are without any of the environmental legacy issues of nuclear waste disposal, nor does this technology need for the massive financial capital subsidies that nuclear relies upon – in fact wind and solar are now largely subsidy free.

“Rather than relying on unproven claims of SMR and cold fusion commercial viability at some point in the distant future, IEEFA notes the government should focus on solving Australia’s energy system crisis now through a national energy policy and the deployment of available low-cost renewable technologies.”

• Read IEEFA’s submission here:

[http://ieefa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/IEEFA\\_Nuclear-Inquiry\\_September-2019.pdf](http://ieefa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/IEEFA_Nuclear-Inquiry_September-2019.pdf)



# Coal touts miss the mark

By IEEFA

*The proposition touted by the NSW Minerals Council and echoed by NSW Deputy Premier John Barilaro that the rejection of the Korean-owned Bylong coal mine proposal last week by NSW’s Independent Planning Commission (IPC) could have an impact on schools and hospitals, and on the growth in coal exports to South Korea is way off the mark, asserts IEEFA Energy Finance Analyst Simon Nicholas.*

“Exports to South Korea were declining already,” says Nicholas.

“NSW thermal coal exports to South Korea peaked back in 2015. In 2018, thermal coal exports from NSW to South Korea were down 35% from that 2015 peak.

“The Australian Government’s Office of the Chief Economist clearly understands that South Korea has entered an energy transition away from coal and towards renewable energy and LNG”.

The idea also being floated that the rejection of the Bylong proposal will impact on hospitals and schools via reduced mining royalties also fails to see the bigger picture.

### Seaborne thermal coal market declines

“The decline in global seaborne thermal coal market is what is going to affect royalties, not the rejection of the Bylong mine,” says Nicholas.

The Office of the Chief Economist (OCE) forecasts that the importance of thermal coal mining to the Australian economy will decline in the current financial year.

Previously Australia’s fourth largest energy and resources export, thermal coal will decline to the sixth biggest in 2019-20, falling behind base metals and gold. It is forecast to fall further behind in 2020-21.

“The fall in the value of Australian thermal coal exports is being driven by a decline in global thermal coal prices which is itself a result of too much supply in the market, a situation the Office of the Chief Economist acknowledges in its latest report,” says Nicholas.

In its September update, the OCE stated that weak demand from Japan, South Korea and the EU has coincided with increased supply “resulting in an oversupplied market”.

According to the OCE’s latest Energy and Resources Quarterly report, South Korea’s thermal coal imports were down 10% year-on-year over the first seven months of 2019. Going forward, the OCE forecasts a moderate decline in South Korean thermal coal imports out to 2021.

The OCE has stated that South Korea’s coal imports will continue to decline in the future as its energy transition accelerates, with the OCE noting that the South Korean government has been taking a range of measures since 2017 to reduce reliance on imported thermal coal.

### New coal plants cancelled

These include the cancellation of new coal power projects, plans to close aging coal power plants and the temporary closure of others to address air pollution concerns.

In April this year, the South Korean government raised the coal import tax by another 28% (after a 20% raise the previous year) whilst at the same time reducing the LNG import tax by 75%. The coal import tax has now reached around US\$40/tonne.

“The South Korean government’s intention is clear; it is incentivising a switch from coal to LNG. In the long term, the South Korean power system will switch from reliance on coal and nuclear to reliance on LNG and renewables,” says Nicholas.

IEEFA noted at the time of the Independent Planning Commission’s decision to reject the Bylong coal project on environmental grounds, that the mine could have been refused for economic and financial reasons given the seaborne thermal coal market is already oversupplied and increasingly challenged by lower cost alternatives.

“With the market oversupplied, coal prices falling and the value of Australian thermal coal exports declining, rejecting new greenfield coal mines makes economic sense,” says Nicholas.

“No new thermal coal mines means reduced oversupply, lowering pressure on coal prices which may actually help protect mine royalties in the long term.”



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



## Inside the news

There's a strong push from both state and federal governments to ramp up **penalties for protesters** getting in the way of fossil fuel companies.

Burdekin MP **Dale Last** (LNP, Qld) has a private members bill on the go to crack down on protesters, claiming people are "living in fear" of them (p7-8).

There's a '**Right to Farm**' bill going through the NSW Parliament that could see **Knitting Nannas** locked up for three years or fined \$22,000. The bill is aimed at **militant vegans**, but could be used against people such as Knitting Nannas and farmers protesting against the **Santos Narrabri gasfield** (p11-12).

Meanwhile, federal employment minister **Michaelia Cash** has joined a chorus with home affairs minister **Peter Dutton** calling for protesters to be kicked off welfare payments. Dutton also wants their photos circulated in a name and shame exercise (p13).

Next thing, they'll be calling for the Knitting Nannas to be stripped of their **age pensions!**

A proposal has emerged for what could become '**Tasmania's Adani**', with coal explorer **Midland Energy** scoring a \$50,000 government grant to boost exploration efforts. Midland thinks it will export to India and Asia, but has been warned to expect deep community opposition (p9).

NSW National Party politicians **John Barilaro** and **Michael Johnsen** are going after the **Independent Planning Commission** following recent decisions in which the commission cited greenhouse gas emissions (p12).

Two mines – **Rocky Hill** and **Bylong** – were rejected on grounds which also included impacts on water supplies and surrounding communities. **United Wambo** was approved, but with the condition it could only sell coal to Paris Agreement signatories.

The coal industry is seething, and the **National Party** clearly prefers the interests of its fossil fuel political donors over farmers and rural communities.

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# In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 17,500 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

## THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/adani-sets-up-new-infrastructure-division/news-story/a9ba26fa963b9322a511a0b58659f7c8>

### Adani sets up new infrastructure division

Samantha Bailey, Aus, 28/09/2019

India's Adani has carved off its infrastructure business into a separate division as its Carmichael coal mine in north Queensland progresses towards operation.

Adani has appointed Trista Brohier as chief executive of its newly established infrastructure division, as it looks to maximise the value of its Australian port and rail assets.

Brohier, who joined Adani Australia in April as head of commercial for Adani Mining, will head up the company's rail asset infrastructure, Carmichael rail network below rail operations and above rail operations, as well as Abbot Point port operations.

Prior to joining Adani, Brohier was head of alliance planning and asset management at BHP. She previously held senior finance roles in a number of organisations.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/state-government-wont-meet-deadline-for-adani-royalties-agreement/news-story/>

### State Government won't meet deadline for Adani royalties agreement

Jessica Marszalek, Courier-Mail, 30/09/2019

The Palaszczuk Government won't meet its own deadline to shore up its royalties deal with Adani.

Deputy Premier and Treasurer Jackie Trad announced both parties had mutually agreed to extend the target date from today to November 30 after they failed to come to agreement.

"Adani has advised that the commencement of construction of the Carmichael mine is not dependent on the finalisation of the Resources Regional Development Framework negotiations," Ms Trad said.



A blockade of the Abbott Point Coal Terminal at Bowen, North Queensland at dawn on October 1. A group from the Frontline Action of Coal camp supported two other people (not pictured) who were on the coal rail with their arms locked in a barrel of concrete. Photo: Graeme Dunstan

<https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/queensland/eight-week-delay-on-controversial-adani-royalty-payments-20190930-p52wbf.html>

### Eight-week delay on controversial Adani royalty payments

Tony Moore, Bris Times, 30/09/2019

The Queensland government has arranged an eight-week delay to finalise the complex mining royalty agreement with Indian coal mining giant Adani.

One complicating factor in the royalties agreement is the recent falling price of Australian thermal coal.

Neither the Queensland government nor Adani could meet the September 30 deadline set by Co-ordinator General Barry Broe in May.

Adani's deferred royalty agreement is meant to outline how the company allows and cost-shares any infrastructure that could help open up the Galilee Basin.

That would include the 200-kilometre rail line from its Carmichael coal mine to the Aurizon rail line which heads to Abbot Point coal port.

Adani said it was continuing to finalise the royalty agreement, but the financial details would remain commercial-in-confidence.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/townsville/specialist-police-tasked-to-remove-antiadani-protesters-from-tree/news-story/dbff96b1cfa54d932f933044aa4af7f>

### Specialist police tasked to remove anti-Adani protesters from tree

Jacob Miley, Townsville Bulletin, 30/09/2019

Cairns-based specialist police were forced to travel to Adani's remote Carmichael mine site to remove two protesters from a tree and their services came with a hefty bill to taxpayers, Burdekin MP Dale Last says.

On Wednesday, two men suspended themselves from a tree tied off to two drill rigs shutting work at the controversial Carmichael mine site.

Last has claimed [it] cost about \$10,000 to remove the activists, who were from Victoria.

The incident was one of three at the site last week that disrupted work.

<https://www.dailymercury.com.au/news/living-in-fear-plan-to-let-qld-have-its-say-on-rad/3842027/>

### 'Living in fear': Qld to have its say on radical activists

Melanie Whiting, Daily Mercury, 30/09/2019

Burdekin MP Dale Last has ramped up calls for harsher penalties in a crackdown on the radical activists he



**Frontline Action on Coal was at Adani's worker's camp again, Friday October 4, disrupting construction on the Carmichael mine for the third time in less than a week. Police arrived early to break up the blockade.**

*"Last time, Adani complained about our lack of originality in actions and banners. But our message to them is clear – unlike those who are still digging up fossil fuels and destroying our planet for profit, we've got plenty of new ideas and energy - expect to see more resistance," the protesters said. Photo: FLAC*

claims are causing Queenslanders to be "living in fear".

The shadow Northern Queensland Minister has launched a petition to add pressure for his proposed amendments to the Criminal Code to be approved by parliament and wants residents to voice their opinion.

Last said his private member's bill would hold those engaging in illegal protest activities against businesses and projects "accountable for the actions".

"We also need to crackdown on the people hidden away interstate that co-ordinate these illegal activities because, as it stands, there is no punishment for them trying to hold our region hostage."

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/oct/03/adani-coalmine-axis-capital-withdraws-bid-to-insure-carmichael-rail-line>

### **Adani coalmine: Axis Capital withdraws bid to insure Carmichael rail line**

*Ben Smee, Guardian, 03/10/2019*

Another major insurer, Axis Capital, has shunned the Adani Carmichael coal project and withdrawn a bid to underwrite the construction of the mine's rail line.

The withdrawal follows announcements from 15 of the world's leading insurers which say they either won't support the Carmichael mine, or won't insure thermal coal projects.

Market Forces campaigner Pablo Brait said, "Adani continues to be abandoned by its corporate partners that don't want to be associated with a destructive new coal project.

"Axis' move, following engineering firm Aurecon's severing of ties to Adani, shows the Carmichael coal project is toxic, not just for our climate but for a company's brand too."

## **COAL ROCKS ON**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/sep/30/human-rights-mining-german-villagers-take-on-coal-giant-rwe>

### **'Human rights before mining rights': German villagers take on coal firm**

*Philip Oltermann, Guardian, 30/09/2019*

A group of villagers living on the edge of one of Germany's biggest surface coalmines have vowed not sell their properties to the energy company RWE, and to mount a legal challenge against any attempt to oust them from their homes.

The protest alliance is the first coordinated effort in more than 10 years against the expansion of the Garzweiler mine in North Rhine-Westphalia, which threatens the existence of 12 villages that are home to 7,600 residents. Demolition of the first four villages is scheduled to begin in 2023.

Acting under the name Menschenrecht vor Bergrecht – Human Rights Before

Mining Rights – the alliance of villagers announced at a press conference in Düsseldorf they would refuse an expropriation agreement with RWE under which the energy company would pay to resettle them.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/taskforce-assesses-risks-of-agls-liddell-plans/news-story/daa6a3fbb002b336eca7446c1d1c1950>

### **Taskforce assesses risks of AGL's Liddell plans**

*Perry Williams, Aus, 01/10/2019*

Major east coast power users and the nation's top regulators have been called to high-level meetings over the future of AGL Energy's Liddell coal station as a joint federal and NSW government probe assesses risks to the electricity grid from its planned exit.

Federal Energy Minister Angus Taylor and the Berejiklian government announced in August the creation of a commonwealth-led taskforce to consider extending the life of Liddell or replacing the baseload station which supplies more than 10% of the state's power needs.

Alinta Energy and power baron Trevor St Baker both remain interested buyers, although AGL is not open to a sale and holds other generation plans for the site.

AGL's replacement plans for Liddell include a 100 megawatt upgrade to the Bayswater coal plant, a 250MW pumped hydro facility at Bells Mountain and a 250MW gas power station at Newcastle along with renewables and battery options.

<https://www.macarthuradvertiser.com.au/story/6413871/wollondilly-council-concerned-mine-expansion-will-impact-water-catchment/>

### **Wollondilly Council concerned mine expansion will impact water catchment**

*Kayla Osborne, MacArthur Advertiser, 30/09/2019*

Wollondilly Council has opposed a planned extension of South 32's Dendrobium coal mine due to concerns about how it will affect the region's water supply.

The council hopes Water NSW, state water minister Melinda Pavey and the NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) will provide more information about how the project may affect Macarthur's water catchment area.

South32s Dendrobium mine could be draining three million litres of water (more than an Olympic pool) each day

from reservoirs and groundwater into the mine workings.

The report also found it was likely this was caused by fracturing or cracking of the bedrock due to mining subsidence at Dendrobium.

Mayor Matthew Deeth said, “People have cohabited with mining in the shire for a long time but without water we can’t live so we need to prioritise and protect our supply.”

<https://www.mudgeeguardian.com.au/story/6413644/kepco-reviewing-options-following-bylong-ipc-rejection/>

### Kepeco ‘reviewing options’ following Bylong IPC rejection

*Mudgee Guardian, 30/09/2019*

Kepeco has reiterated their disappointment at the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) decision on the Bylong Coal Project along with their «commitment» to the proposed mine.

“We wish to put on record our commitment to the Project and our local area,” a spokesperson said.

“Kepeco is currently closely reviewing the IPC’s report to determine what options are available following the IPC’s decision. Kepeco will continue to keep the community informed.

<https://www.mudgeeguardian.com.au/story/6418949/bylong-bounce-back-on-the-cards-while-spotlight-on/>

### Bylong bounce back on the cards, while spotlight on

*Mudgee Guardian, 03/10/2019*

The proposed Bylong Coal Project – and its rejection by the Independent Planning Commission – put the valley in the spotlight, and before it fades locals would like to use it to rebuild the small community.

That could potentially mean the return of the famed Bylong Mouse Races,

which were held for the last time in 2013 after a quarter-century.

Bylong Valley farmer Phillip Kennedy said, “the IPC decision a fortnight ago was a win for agriculture in Australia.”

He added that the attention on the valley needs to be used.

“We’ve had huge exposure, now we need to run with it and keep the momentum going,” he said.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/anglo-american-halts-plan-for-driverless-trucks-at-dawson-mine/news-story/091d208805b53f4ba3fc1ef9fb5c9a2f>

### Anglo American halts plan for driverless trucks at Dawson mine

*Nick Evans, Aus, 02/10/2019*

Anglo American has pressed pause on plans to roll out autonomous trucks at its Queensland coal mines, telling the workforce at its Dawson mine on Tuesday the case for the vehicles does not yet stack up.

The company confirmed on Tuesday Anglo had opted for the overhaul instead, saying the results of the feasibility study showed the returns from a deployment did not match up against other options for its capital spending budget.

<https://www.newcastleherald.com.au/story/6414536/hunter-coal-mines-are-competing-in-an-oversupplied-global-market-government-report/>

### Region’s mines face global ‘headwinds’ over the next two years, says Office of the Chief Economist forecast

*Joanne McCarthy, Newcastle Herald, 02/10/2019*

Hunter coal mines are competing in an “oversupplied” global market that will see Australia’s thermal coal export earnings slump from \$26 billion in 2018-19 to a projected \$18 billion by 2020-21, says a two-year forecast by

the Federal Government’s Office of the Chief Economist.

The big drop is a result of a sharp decline in coal prices due to oversupply – from \$US105 per tonne in 2018 to an expected \$US72 per tonne by 2021 – and a decline in contracts as importers take advantage of cheaper spot prices, the forecast said.

And a leading Australian analyst warned the Hunter will feel the consequences of those “headwinds” in the form of job losses.

“The Hunter Valley will ultimately be hit by reduced employment. You don’t have a 30% fall in prices without a concerted effort by the companies to share that pain with the workforce,” said Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis analyst Tim Buckley.

The warnings came only weeks after the NSW Minerals Council said “strong demand” for NSW coal was driving up jobs in the Hunter.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/battle-lines-drawn-over-coalmine-dubbed-tasmanias-adani/news-story/0ac5b29c97c8f2a3080f492e403b5c6>

### Battle lines drawn over coalmine dubbed ‘Tasmania’s Adani’

*Matthew Denholm, Aus, 02/10/2019*

Conservationists have warned of “broad and deep” community opposition to plans for a major coal mine dubbed “Tasmania’s Adani”.

The Tasmanian government on Wednesday confirmed it had granted Perth-based exploration company Midland Energy \$50,000 to further its exploration for coal in the state’s rural Midlands.

Midland Energy says it wants to become “Australia’s newest coal miner, exporting to Asia and India”.

The Wilderness Society, veteran campaigners for Tasmania’s old growth forests, on Wednesday said, “Actively facilitating a coal mine is ecocidal, immoral and just plain wrong ... Midland Energy ... should understand that it will experience broad and deep community opposition.

“As an island community, we know our future lies in agriculture, tourism, culture and nature protection; not coal mines.”

Midland Energy co-founder Daniel Macri said there were “always people for and against” mining proposals.



## OIL & GAS LEAKS NUKE MADNESS

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/trouble-brewing-over-west-australian-emission-targets/news-story/08332f6a41abfd52402fc0583214c793>

### Trouble brewing over West Australian emission targets

Paul Garvey, Aus, 04/10/2019

The emission offset targets proposed by Western Australia's environmental watchdog are again shaping as a headache for the state government after a public consultation reinforced deep divisions between industry and environmental groups.

The state's Environmental Protection Authority will release its new draft guidelines later in October, despite some of the country's biggest companies urging the independent body to hold off until next year.

The EPA's consultation process was inundated with almost 7,000 responses, the bulk of which were pro-forma submissions from environmental groups urging the group to reinstate the proposed tougher emissions measures that were briefly flagged by the watchdog earlier this year.

BHP, Rio Tinto, Fortescue and Roy Hill as well as oil and gas producers Woodside, Royal Dutch Shell and Chevron were among big corporations to file submissions, arguing that the EPA should wait for the West Australian government to finalise its policy and stressing any approach should not exceed existing international commitments.

## HYDROGEN HYPE

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/19m-for-study-into-cq-renewable-hydrogen-project/3842131/?cspt=1569794879|0e8186c911e68d492d-efbd769e63b229>

### \$1.9m for study into CQ renewable hydrogen project

Gladstone Observer, 30/09/2019

The Federal Government has announced a commitment of \$1.9 million towards a feasibility study into a renewable hydrogen plant near Moura.

Funded by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency, Queensland Nitrates will examine the feasibility of commercial renewable hydrogen.

The proposed project has the capacity to produce 20,000 tonnes a year of ammonia from 3600 tonnes of renewable hydrogen.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/national/nuclear-waste-dump-ballot-to-proceed-in-south-australia/news-story/5eb5583667b98cd790a757ad3f3aba4b>

### Nuclear waste dump ballot to proceed in South Australia

Tim Dornin, AAP/Advertiser, 28/09/2019

A ballot among the Kimba community, on South Australia's Eyre Peninsula, will begin next week as the local council seeks to gauge support for the construction of a nuclear waste dump.

It plans to post out ballot papers on Thursday, asking locals if they back locating the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility at one of two nominated sites in the region.

The vote comes after the Federal Court on Friday rejected another bid by the Barngarla people to stop it going ahead, pending more court action next year.

The Barngarla, who possess rights over much of the region around Kimba, have argued the poll is unlawful because it excludes native title holders.

That view was rejected by the Federal Court judge in July, a decision now subject to appeal.

On Friday, another judge rejected a bid for an immediate injunction blocking the vote ahead of the appeal being heard.

Last week, Justice Craig Colvin rejected the Barngarla's argument that its chances of winning on appeal were strong and said the basis for an immediate injunction had not been made out.

<https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/nsw-deputy-premier-calls-for-nuclear-vote-within-three-years-20190929-p52vz2>

### NSW Deputy Premier calls for nuclear vote within three years

Aaron Patrick, AFR, 30/09/2019

NSW Deputy Premier John Barilaro suggested holding a non-binding vote at the next federal election to approve the introduction of nuclear power, a step that could help overcome entrenched opposition from the left to the low-emissions technology.

The leader of the state National Party is one of the leading political advocates for nuclear power, which is currently being investigated by parliamentary inquiries at the federal level and in NSW and Victoria.

"We could quite simply have a plebiscite at the 2022 election," he told a

conference run by the Australian Nuclear Association in Sydney. "We need to normalise the conversation.

At the University of Technology Sydney last week, several hundred engineers, regulators and policy experts gathered at the conference to discuss international developments and the Australian outlook.

Kejun Jiang, a Chinese government official and joint-lead author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, told the conference that under plans to limit global warming to two degrees China planned to open no new coal mines and would expand nuclear power to 400 gigawatts of capacity.

Under a plan advocated by members of the Australia Nuclear Association, the federal government would build at least 20 nuclear power plants from 2030 to 2050.

<https://www.australianmining.com.au/news/queensland-misses-out-on-10bn-uranium-opportunity-qrc/>

### Queensland misses out on \$10bn uranium opportunity: QRC

Vanessa Zhou, Australian Mining, 01/10/2019

Queensland has missed out on a multi-billion-dollar addition to its resources and energy industry due to bans on uranium mining, according to the Queensland Resources Council chief executive Ian Macfarlane.

The most recent valuation estimated Queensland's uranium deposits to be worth about \$10 billion, the QRC stated.

Macfarlane cited the BP Energy Outlook 2019 and the International Energy Agency reports, which show that nuclear energy use will grow between 2.3 per cent to seven per cent each year through to 2040.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/to-reduce-co2-we-must-go-nuclear-trevor-st-baker/news-story/129bc1c07015e104a1d022bca0d4170>

### 'To reduce CO2 we must go nuclear': Trevor St Baker

Steven Wardill, Courier-Mail, 02/10/2019

Speaking on Wednesday night at an Australian Institute of Progress dinner in Brisbane, Trevor St Baker warned an unrestrained rush to adopt renewables would imperil the power network.

"We have to convince Australian governments that the current policies of just loading up with wind and solar and allowing other technologies to wither is not sustainable," he said.

"If Australians want to seriously reduce CO2 emissions then nuclear power generation needs to be part of the mix, and my SMR Nuclear Technology is breaking new ground in getting the nuclear ban in Australia removed with parliamentary inquiries at both federal and NSW state levels at the moment."

## CLIMATE CRISIS

<https://www.watoday.com.au/national/queensland/queensland-s-climate-response-stalled-by-labor-s-federal-poll-loss-20191001-p52wil.html>

### Queensland's climate response 'stalled by Labor's federal poll loss'

Tony Moore, *Bris Times*, 02/10/2019

One of Australia's most distinguished scientists says the Queensland government has not released its discussion paper on how to meet its carbon emissions targets because Labor lost the federal election in May.

Griffith University Emeritus Professor Ian Lowe – a member of the state government's senior climate change policy committee, the Queensland Climate Advisory Council – said he read a draft of the government's discussion paper on climate change earlier in the year.

"I assumed it would have come out by now," said Professor Lowe, a patron of Sustainable Population Australia and a winner of the Queensland Premier's Millennium Award for Excellence in Science.

"The only thing I can guess is that they probably assumed they would be working with a national Labor Party after the May federal election.

"They probably thought they could work with them to deliver a coherent approach to climate change.

"Instead, we have a (federal) government that is still in denial, which makes it more difficult to see what Queensland should be doing."

"All I hope is that the Labor Party might learn from the national election, where the main problem was not their support or lack of support for a new coal mine, it was the appearance that they did not have an overall strategy.

"It was that they were neither supporting the coal mine nor opposing it with a clear strategy for a transition to a clean-energy future.

"The result was, they alienated the people who think we should still have new coal mines, without attracting the support of the people who recognise that we need a transition to a clean-energy economy."

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/companies/climate-change-group-tells-big-emitters-they-must-do-more-20191002-p52wxp.html>

### Climate change group tells big emitters they must do more

John Collett, *SMH*, 02/10/2019

A climate action group backed by some of the biggest super funds and fund managers in the world has said big carbon-emitting companies and the industry associations representing them must have policies that better support the Paris climate agreement.

Climate Action 100+ said it was "breaking new ground" on what it expects of companies, including the lobbying activities of those who represent them.

"While 70% of focus companies [the 161 targeted by Climate Action 100+] have set long-term emissions targets, only 9 per cent have set targets that are in line with the Paris Agreement," he said.

Climate Action 100+ was formed in 2017 and is backed by 373 large investors, including AustralianSuper, First State Super, BT, HESTA, UniSuper, and QSuper.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/oct/02/australiansuper-tells-minerals-council-its-climate-policy-is-not-strong-enough>

### AustralianSuper tells Minerals Council its climate policy is 'not strong enough'

Ben Butler, *Guardian*, 02/10/2019

Australia's biggest superannuation fund, the \$170bn AustralianSuper, has warned the Minerals Council its position on the climate crisis was not good enough and the peak mining body needed to do more.

Over the coming year, tackling industry associations whose climate agendas did not match the stated goals of member companies would be a priority for Climate Action 100+, a global group of investment funds including AustralianSuper that control more than \$35tn in assets.

The Minerals Council's position on the climate has already caused significant pain for the peak body, with its chief executive, Brendan Pearson, leaving the organisation in November 2017 after clashes with BHP and Rio Tinto, who were unhappy with its advocacy for coal.

Despite changes at the council, activists and investors have continued to pressure the big miners over their continued membership. Minerals Council's chief executive, Tania Constable, said it

"welcomes AustralianSuper's endorsement of our public policy position on climate change and agrees with them that there is more that the industry can do, and is doing, to improve environmental outcomes".

## FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/right-to-farm-bill-is-a-threat-to-democracy-that-affects-us-all-20190929-p52vww.html>

### Right to Farm Bill is a threat to democracy that affects us all

Chris Gambian, *SMH*, 29/09/2019

The "Right to Farm Bill" ... is a name that Orwell himself would have been proud of. More accurately it is a "Ban Farmers from Protesting Bill" or a "Chuck Dissenters in the Slammer Bill".

If this bill becomes law in its current form, it would almost quadruple the penalty for "aggravated unlawful entry on inclosed lands" from \$5500 to \$22,000 and add a three-year prison term for people who merely "hinder" a business while trespassing.

The knitting nannas could go to jail for making their point peacefully and democratically.

Iconic environmental struggles such as the Bentley blockade that stopped coal seam gas mining on the north coast in 2017 and countless others would probably have failed if anti-protest laws like those being proposed had been in force.

The irony is that farmers may suffer more than most from this bill. After all, farmers have been prominent in the hottest environmental battles of the past decade.

They have been on the front line to save the Pilliga forest and the Northern Rivers region from coal seam gas and they have led campaigns to protect farmland and water supplies ... from coal mining.

• *Chris Gambian is the chief executive of the NSW Nature Conservation Council.*

<https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/6413763/concern-laws-could-be-used-for-covert-crack-down-on-peaceful-protests/>

### Concern Right to Farm laws could be used for crack down on peaceful protests

Jamieson Murphy, *Northern Daily Leader*, 01/10/2019

Activist groups are concerned the new laws that aim to stop farm invaders will be used to crack down on other peaceful protests, such as union strikes

and anti-mining rallies, because of the bill's broad wording.

However, Agriculture Minister Adam Marshall said the Right to Farm bill's definitions were "very explicit", and would not interfere with lawful peaceful protests.

Nature NSW spokesperson Jack Gough said, "The advice we have is that something as simple as a sit in at a government building with a cafe, could hinder customers to that business, and protesters could therefore be charged with the tougher penalties."

Gough said it was only three years ago the government increased the fine for the same offence from \$550 to \$5500, with the direct aim of stopping coal seam gas protests near Narrabri.

"The new penalties are wildly disproportionate - a \$22,000 fine and up to three years in jail," he said.

Marshall said the term hinder was defined in the bill as things such as herding stock, releasing animals and cutting fences.

"If the Knitting Nannas are sitting there knitting quietly, they will not trigger any of the new offences."

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/mine-decision-risks-schools-and-hospitals/news-story/c5c7205bc2e55c3c1ebabfe5bb4ac42e>

### **Mine decision 'risks schools and hospitals'**

*Geoff Chambers, Aus, 29/09/2019*

NSW Deputy Premier John Barilaro has called for an overhaul of the state's Independent Planning Commission, saying revenue from royalties and regional jobs could be at risk after the body rejected the South Korean-backed Bylong Valley coalmine.

The NSW Minerals Council said the commission's decision earlier this month to refuse development consent for the KEPCO Bylong coalmine north-west of Sydney, thereby jeopardising up to 1100 jobs and more than \$1bn in investment into NSW, could impact on mining royalties used to pay for hospitals, roads and schools.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/oct/01/labor-learned-all-the-wrong-lessons-from-election-defeat-richard-di-natale-says>

### **Labor learned 'all the wrong lessons' from election defeat, Richard Di Natale says**

*Sarah Martin, Guardian, 01/10/2019*

Greens leader Richard Di Natale says Labor has learned "all the wrong les-

sons" from its election defeat, warning that a retreat from action on climate change will see it lose the next election.

Ahead of a new parliamentary inquiry into future employment for regional areas that begins hearings on Tuesday, Di Natale said neither major party had been prepared to have an "honest conversation" with workers in the coal industry who would be affected by the transition away from fossil fuels.

"People were given a choice between a party of climate change deniers ... and another party that had different positions on issues like coalmining depending on what audience they were talking to," Di Natale said.

"I don't accept for a moment that the election result was a vindication of the government's pro-coal position [and] if Labor MPs think that their weak position on climate change cost them the election result, well, they better be prepared to lose the next election, and the next one after that.

<https://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2019-10-01/nationals-want-overhaul-of-independent-planning-commission>

### **Nationals want planning overhaul before NSW Government is forced to 'tax the hell out of people'**

*Amelia Bernasconi & Mike Pritchard, ABC, 01/10/2019*

The National Party wants an urgent overhaul of the New South Wales Independent Planning Commission (IPC), as Deputy Premier John Barilaro forges ahead with his goal of making the state Australia's top mining investment destination.

The independent commission was brought in last year in the wake of corruption under the former Labor government

The party says without changes, the Government will be forced to "tax the hell out of people", with foreign investors having no certainty in the planning process on major developments.

South Korean company Kepco spent \$700 million buying and developing land for its proposed Bylong Valley coal mine in the state's central west, only for it to be refused by the IPC.

Michael Johnsen, the Nationals Member for the Upper Hunter, said an independent body had a place in the decision-making process but that a significant review was needed.

But Martin Rush, the Mayor of Muswellbrook Shire, which is the larg-

est producer of coal in the state, was quick to remind the Government that it established the IPC.

"They set the system up and said, "This will be great, it'll take the political decision making out of the process and make it a fair process, it'll take the politics out," Cr Rush, a former ALP candidate, said.

"Then when they get a decision they don't like, they attack it.

"I think the IPC, broadly speaking, could be better resourced, but it is certainly doing the job that they need to do."

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/oct/02/nsw-considers-laws-to-stop-courts-and-planners-blocking-coalmines-on-climate-grounds>

### **NSW considers laws to stop courts and planners blocking coalmines on climate grounds**

*Lisa Cox, Guardian, 02/10/2019*

The New South Wales government is considering legislation that could limit the ability for planning authorities to rule out coalmines projects based on the climate change impact of emissions from the coal once it is burned.

It comes after a campaign from the NSW Minerals Council over decisions that have referenced the impact of "scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions" as a reason for either rejecting a mining project entirely or for imposing conditions on it.

For a coalmine, scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions are from the burning of the coal after it is sold into the market, including overseas.

The planning minister, Rob Stokes, said it was "not appropriate for state governments to impose conditions about emissions policies in other countries".

Recent planning decisions:

- NSW land and environment court's rejection of the Rocky Hill coalmine
- NSW Independent Planning Commission (IPC) approved the expanded United Wambo coal project near Singleton but as a condition said the coal could only be exported to countries that have ratified the Paris agreement.
- IPC rejected the development of a greenfield coalmine in NSW's Bylong Valley, citing the impact the mine would have on groundwater, agricultural land and on climate change.

The NSW Minerals Council has since launched attack ads that target the planning system for "failing the people of NSW".

Lock the Gate said the impact of downstream greenhouse gas emissions “is arguably the most complicated, severe and lasting environmental impact of NSW’ export coalmines”.

“It’s disappointing and frankly dangerous for the planning minister to narrowly consult only with the mining industry on a matter of profound importance like this.

“The mining industry has flexed its political muscle but the government really needs to address the bigger issue and the public sentiment on this.”

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/matt-canavan-says-banks-should-stand-up-to-bullies-and-activists-who-pressure-them-to-not-fund-mining-projects/news-story/f4a679d6c67e7de1ed9de7c820fd1171>

**Matt Canavan says banks should stand up to ‘bullies and activists’ who pressure them to not fund mining projects**

*Olivia Caisley, Aus, 01/10/2019*

Resources Minister Matt Canavan has called on the big banks to “do their job” and stand up against “bullies and activists” who pressure them to not fund mining projects.

Senator Canavan lashed engineering and mining contractor Aurecon in August for being “weak as piss” after it severed ties with the Adani coal mining site after being targeted by anti-coal activists.

“I am concerned our financial institutions are being unnecessarily pressured and bullied for non-commercial reasons to not lend to certain projects.

“They just don’t seem to have the intestinal fortitude to stand up to these bullies,” he said. “We need more businesses to stand up against this bullying and activism.”

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/peter-dutton-opens-door-to-cancelling-welfare-of-climate-protesters/news-story/>

**Peter Dutton opens door to cancelling welfare of climate protesters**

*Joe Kelly & Olivia Caisley, Aus, 03/10/2019*

The scrapping of welfare payments for activists who break the law has won the backing of LNP MPs who have supported Peter Dutton for urging the community to push back against disruptive protesters.

Llew O’Brien, the member for Wide Bay and a former police officer: “I fully support the taxpayer not facilitating their ideological rubbish. These people, if they are on Newstart, should be looking for a job.”

Scott Buchholz, the member for Wright and Assistant Minister for Road Safety said that state governments needed to apply the “full force of the law” to activists in situations where protests had disrupted communities and occurred without proper approvals being given.

Speaking on 2GB radio Dutton took aim at magistrates who impose “slap on the wrist” penalties for protesters, declaring the sunshine state should introduce mandatory sentences for those who regularly disrupt the community.

When asked whether three of the protesters who attached themselves to the Brisbane street who received government benefits should have their welfare payments removed, Dutton agreed.

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/national/2019/10/03/peter-dutton-demands-tougher-penalties-for-climate-change-protesters/>

**Peter Dutton demands tougher penalties for climate change protesters**

*Samantha Maiden, New Daily, 03/10/2019*

Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton has called for climate change protesters to be “named and shamed”, jailed and have their welfare payments stopped.

Dutton urged people to surveil the protesters and distribute their images.

“People should take these names and the photos of these people and distribute them as far and wide as they can, so that we shame these people,” Dutton said.

“If there needs to be mandatory sentences ... the state government can pass laws that do reflect community standards and, at the moment, they don’t,” Dutton said.

“If the courts are not going to impose a penalty again it comes back to the (judicial) appointments by the Queensland government. There are some good magistrates and judges.

“But you know raiding farms, climbing on to the roof of my electoral office and then get told by the magistrate he would be proud of her if it his daughter had done it

“We should push back on it because these people are a scourge.”

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/suspend-activists-welfare-say-mps/news-story/8eca8412aa30d6f85f05e099852d84a>

**Suspend activists’ welfare, say MPs**

*Joe Kelly & Olivia Caisley, Aus, 04/10/2019*

Employment Minister Michaelia Cash has threatened to suspend the welfare payments of activists who spend their time protesting instead of looking for jobs.

“Taxpayers should not be expected to subsidise the protests of others. Protesting is not, and never will be, an exemption from a welfare recipient’s mutual obligation to look for a job,” Senator Cash said.

“Those who refuse to look for a job because they are too busy protesting may find they have their payments suspended.”



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