



# 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 3:1 • 26 NOVEMBER 2019

## Dig and ditch: Idemitsu wants to avoid \$379m clean-up bill

*A multinational mining company is trying to use a loophole in Queensland's recently introduced rehabilitation laws to leave three massive, unfilled mine pit voids on the Nogoa River floodplain and foist a \$379m clean-up bill onto taxpayers.*

Idemitsu, which owns the Ensham thermal coal mine near Emerald in Central Queensland, is attempting to renege on its original commitment to fully re-fill and rehabilitate 11 mining pit voids, including three voids on the Nogoa River floodplain.

The company's plans have been revealed in Idemitsu's revised Residual Voids Plan which was submitted as part of the application to the Department of Environment and Science (DES) to amend its environmental authority (EA), to remove current requirements to re-fill all voids, thus saving Idemitsu \$379m in rehabilitation costs.

### Rehab weaknesses exposed

If the company is allowed to backflip on its mine rehabilitation promises, it will expose severe weaknesses in the Queensland government's mine rehabilitation reforms which were supposed to stop unfilled pit voids from being left on floodplains due to the risks they pose to water, farming communities and the environment.

Local grazier Mick Shaw, whose property Yongala contains the mine, said Idemitsu was now "squealing poor".



*Idemitsu's Ensham coal mine near Emerald, Qld, wants to leave taxpayers with a \$379m clean-up bill. Local grazier Mick Shaw (inset) says the mine is "squealing poor". Photos: Lock the Gate*

"They're saying it costs too much money to clean up, but if that's the case they should never have been allowed to mine here in the first place," he said.

"Idemitsu has been having discussions with the Department of Environment and Science, but at no stage have we been involved in those discussions over how the rehabilitation is going to be conducted when they finish mining here.

"Our concern is that if un-filled pit voids are left you will get ponds of water that will become hypersaline and a risk of polluting adjoining land and downstream areas. On top of that, who will be responsible for the ongoing

care and maintenance of the moon-scaped area?"

Greens Member for Maiwar, Michael Berkman, has urged the State Government to refuse the EA amendment application. He said giving it the green light could set an alarming precedent for other mining companies to dodge their rehabilitation requirements.

"That's a massive worry, I think, for the rest of the state that any number of other companies might just follow their lead, jump through this massive loophole the State Government has left for them and again, leave Queenslanders to pick up the tab."

• Continued p2

• P2: Gina Minehart explains business model

• P3: Fossil fuels to burn climate goals

• P5: PM's office coal connections revealed

## Taxpayers to be left with mine clean-up bill

• Continued from p1

Berkman also claims DES is now assessing the amendment to the environmental authority without proper public consultation.

It's not the first time the Ensham mine has been involved in controversy – in 2008 it was inundated with floodwaters from the nearby Nogoa River, which filled two of its six coal pits with more than 100,000 ML of water. The floods shut down the industry for months and the mining company was forced to pump the coal-laden water into the nearby Nogoa River in the Fitzroy catchment.

Following this disaster, in 2013, a final voids study for the mine specified that all final voids would be filled in order to avoid leaving long-term hazards on the floodplain.

### Flood events prompted new laws

In 2018, the Queensland government developed its new mine rehabilitation policy and passed new laws specifying that mines would be banned from leaving behind final voids on floodplains. This was in response to the 2008 and 2011 flood events which saw a number of coal mines inundated.

LTGA spokesperson Rick Humphries said the cost and risk of Idemitsu getting away without having to clean up its own mess should be considered as an affront to taxpayers.

“The Palaszczuk Government must stand firm in the face of this challenge to their new mine rehabilitation policy. We've already seen the policy ignored once with the decision to allow the Olive Downs mine to leave open pit voids on a floodplain.

“Do the new mining rehabilitation policies have bite or are they simply a toothless tiger, ready to cave in to pressure from the mining industry?

“If the government holds firm, the rehabilitation undertaken at Ensham by the company will also provide significant job opportunities for regional Queenslanders desperate to find work,” Humphries said.

Previous analysis suggests that better mine rehabilitation in Queensland could create more than 4,000 jobs in Central and North Queensland.

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## Gina Minehart says: What's mine is mine, and what's yours is also mine



**For some light relief from Australia's climate-driven bushfire emergency, watch Magda Szubanski's character Gina Minehart tell you how her mining empire works, on YouTube at:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gROSA4P2apc&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3xCW6xbi0NBbK1mflSMJTLilyT-GW3kj5DZMjSs4IeA8r0HbQ0-8GE8xH8>

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## Gas to suck 550 bores dry in Qld

**ABC Capricornia reports (November 20) that a state government report has found 100 water bores in the southern Bowen and Surat Basins will be affected by petroleum and gas mining within three years.**

The latest *Underground Water Impact Report* for the area has found more than 550 bores will be affected in the long-term by coal seam gas mining.

It advises that 80% of bores around the projected 21,000 gas wells will be affected.

It recommends extra obligations be implemented for companies mining near bores that will be affected before 2022.

The industry's footprint in Queensland has grown by 17% since 2016 and currently uses 60,000 megalitres of water.

The management strategies outlined in the report will take effect from December 16.

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## Sweden rejects major gas terminal

**The Swedish government has rejected the EU-backed Gothenburg gas terminal its final permit on climate grounds.**

This development is the latest in a series of faltering gas projects and follows years of local opposition.

The terminal LNG Göteborg in Gothenburg was the largest of several new terminals planned along the coast of Sweden by the company Swedegas. There is increasing opposition to more gas imports into Sweden

The EU has been pushing for a massive expansion of gas infrastructure but strong opposition and companies' failures to meet environmental and safety regulations have delayed and stopped some flagship projects.

Earlier this year, the MidCat pipeline was stopped. The Trans-Adriatic pipeline has come under public investigation in Italy over alleged fraud and forgery in obtaining its permits.

Energy company Cuadrilla has confirmed that there will not be any more fracking in the UK this year, following safety concerns over earthquakes and sustained opposition by climate groups, frontline communities and local councils.

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# Fossil fuels set to burn climate goals

*The recently released Production Gap Report assesses the discrepancy between government plans for fossil fuel production and global production levels consistent with 1.5°C and 2°C pathways. This production gap tells us the magnitude of the challenge.*

The report reviews, across 10 fossil fuel-producing countries, the policies and actions that expand fossil fuel production and, in turn, widen the gap.

It also provides policy options that can help countries better align production with climate goals.

This is especially relevant over the next year, as countries prepare new or updated nationally determined contributions (NDCs), which set out their new emission reduction plans and climate pledges under the Paris Agreement.

**The report's main findings:**

Governments are planning to produce about 50% more fossil fuels by 2030

than would be consistent with a 2°C pathway and 120% more than would be consistent with a 1.5°C pathway.

To estimate the production gap, the report uses publicly available data to estimate the difference between what countries are planning and what would be consistent with 1.5°C and 2°C pathways, based on scenarios from the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C.

This analysis shows that:

- In aggregate, countries' planned fossil fuel production by 2030 will lead to the emission of 39 billion tonnes (gigatonnes) of carbon dioxide (GtCO<sub>2</sub>). That is 13 GtCO<sub>2</sub>, or 53%, more than would be consistent with a 2°C pathway, and 21 GtCO<sub>2</sub> (120%) more than would be consistent with a 1.5°C pathway. This gap widens significantly by 2040.
- This production gap is largest for coal. By 2030, countries plan to produce 150% (5.2 billion tonnes) more

coal than would be consistent with a 2°C pathway, and

280% (6.4 billion tonnes) more than would be consistent with a 1.5°C pathway.

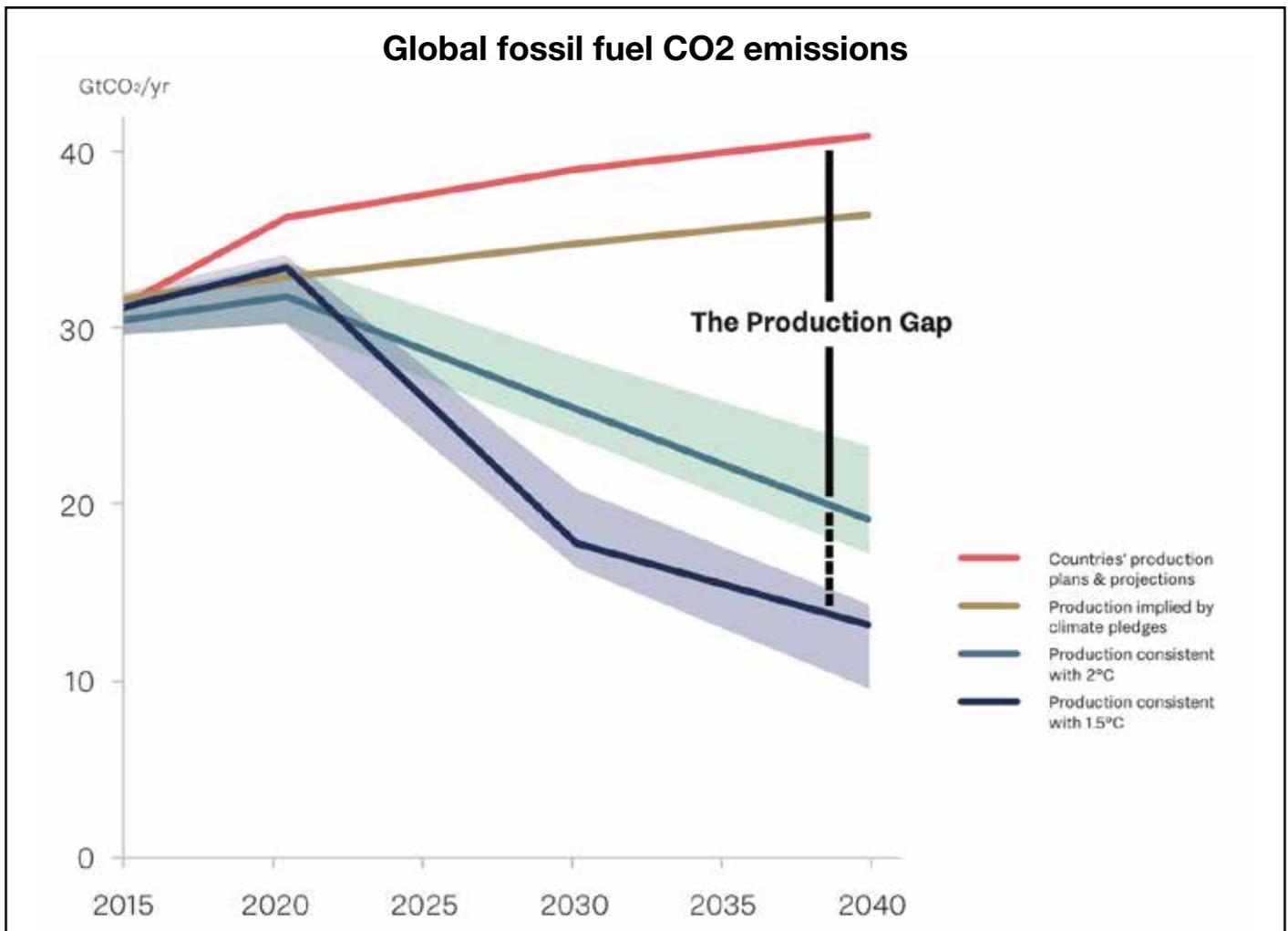
- Oil and gas are also on track to exceed carbon budgets, as countries continue to invest in fossil fuel infrastructure that "locks in" oil and gas use. The effects of this lock-in widen the production gap over time, until countries are producing 43% (36 million barrels per day) more oil and 47% (1,800 billion cubic meters) more gas by 2040 than would be consistent with a 2°C pathway.

**Fossil fuel must production be curbed**

This global production gap is even larger than the already-significant global emissions gap, due to minimal policy attention on curbing fossil fuel production.

Collectively, countries' planned fossil fuel production not only exceeds 1.5°C

• Continued p4



# Fossil fuels set to burn climate goals

• Continued from p3

and 2°C pathways, it also surpasses production levels consistent with the implementation of the national climate policies and ambitions in countries' NDCs. As a consequence, the production gap is wider than the emissions gap.

Indeed, though many governments plan to decrease their emissions, they are signalling the opposite when it comes to fossil fuel production, with plans and projections for expansion. This hinders the collective ability of countries to meet global climate goals, and it further widens not just the production gap, but the emissions gap as well.

The continued expansion of fossil fuel production – and the widening of the global production gap – is under-pinned by a combination of ambitious national plans, government subsidies to producers, and other forms of public finance.

Governments support production in numerous ways. They not only play central roles in the permitting of exploration and production; they also support the fossil fuel industry through direct investments, research and development funding, tax expenditures, and assumed liability and risk.

Fossil fuel subsidies span all stages of the fossil fuel production process, from research, development, and exploration, to operations, transport, processing, marketing, decommissioning, and site remediation.

## Australia amongst top producers

This report reviews specific production plans, outlooks, and support mechanisms in 10 key countries: seven top fossil fuel producers (China, the United States, Russia, India, Australia, Indonesia, and Canada) and three significant producers with strongly stated climate ambitions (Germany, Norway, and the United Kingdom). It finds that:

- The production of coal, oil, and gas in nearly every national plan or outlook exceeds the 2030 levels projected in the International Energy Agency's New Policies Scenario, a scenario roughly consistent with global implementation of the NDCs.
- Many countries appear to be banking on export markets to justify major increases in production (e.g., the United

States, Russia, and Canada) while others are seeking to limit or largely end imports through scaled-up production (e.g., India and China). The net result could be significant over-investment, increasing the risk of stranded assets, workers, and communities, as well as locking in a higher emissions trajectory.

Several governments have already adopted policies to restrict fossil fuel production, providing momentum and important lessons for broader adoption.

## How to close the gap

To help close the production gap, countries would benefit from new models of addressing fossil fuel supply. Though most countries focus exclusively on the “demand side” – with policies that aim to boost renewable energy, energy efficiency, and other low-carbon technologies – some governments have also begun to enact “supply-side” measures that aim to limit fossil fuel production. A range of policy options can help governments align their fossil fuel development plans and policies with climate goals, including: economic instruments (such as subsidy reform); regulatory approaches (such as banning new extraction permits); government provision of goods and services (such as just transition plans); and measures to enhance information and transparency (such as national reporting of fossil fuel production and targets).

## New Zealand sets example

The governments of Belize, Costa Rica, France, Denmark, and New Zealand have all enacted partial or total bans or moratoria on oil and gas exploration and extraction, while Germany and Spain are phasing out coal extraction.

Local governments, companies, investors, trade unions, and civil society organizations can also accelerate a

transition away from fossil fuels, by mobilizing constituencies and shifting investment to lower-carbon options. For example, individuals and institutions have already pledged to divest over US \$11 trillion from fossil fuel holdings.

## International effort essential

International cooperation plays a central role in winding down fossil fuel production.

The UN climate process and other international institutions and initiatives can help catalyse supply-side ambition and action. Measures to move away from fossil fuel production are more effective when countries adopt them together, and international cooperation can send a clear signal to policymakers, investors, consumers, and civil society that the world is shifting towards a low-carbon future.

The Paris Agreement provides key opportunities for countries to report their fossil fuel production and their plans and strategies to align future production with climate goals, including through the global stocktake, NDCs, long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies, and financing. Countries that have already begun to wind down fossil fuel production can help other countries learn from their experiences.

International financing institutions can accelerate the transition by shifting financial support away from fossil fuel production and towards low-carbon solutions. And, drawing inspiration from models such as the Powering Past Coal Alliance, coalitions of leading actors can work together to raise ambition through joint targets and actions that align future fossil fuel production with global climate goals.

• Download the report here:

<http://productiongap.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Production-Gap-Report-2019.pdf>



## Michael West reveals coal connections within the Office of the Prime Minister

*Independent journalist Michael West says the LNP's third term has seen PM Scott Morrison "stack his office with lifelong pro-coal lobbyists who now, after so many years of banging on the door, are able to formulate policy directly."*

Michaelwest.com.au lists:

- **Brendan Pearson**, Senior Advisor for International Trade and Investment, ex-CEO of the Mineral Council of Australia (MCA), and former Vice President of Government Relations for Peabody Coal.
- **John Kunkel**, Prime Minister's Chief of Staff, former Deputy CEO of MCA
- **Yaron Finkelstein**, Prime Minister's Principal Private Secretary, former CEO of Crosby Textor
- **Andrew Hirst**, Liberal Party campaign director, Crosby Textor alumni
- **Isaac Levido**, Deputy Liberal Party campaign director, Crosby Textor alumni
- **James McGrath**, LNP Senator for Queensland, Crosby Textor alumni
- **Stephanie Wawn**, Senior Advisor to Morrison, former manager for CapitalHill Advisory
- **Matthew Fynes-Clinton**, Speech-Writer, former deputy chief of staff and editor of *The Courier Mail*
- **Andrew Carswell**, Press Secretary, formerly chief of staff at *The Daily Telegraph*
- **Thomas Adolph**, Advisor, formerly with *The Australian*

For more information regarding the #RevolvingDoors between the mining industry and government see the report below, which includes a video co-produced with Greenpeace Australia:

<https://www.michaelwest.com.au/people/revolving-doors/brendan-pearson/>

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## Hydrogen haste: Research reveals govt using highly inflated figures



A coal-to-hydrogen plant.  
Photo: CSIRO

*New research from The Australia Institute's Climate & Energy Program has identified serious concerns with hydrogen demand projections, regularly cited by state and federal governments, energy experts and industry figures, which overstate potential export demand by a factor of up to 11.*

Due to this supposedly high demand, COAG Ministers last week pledged \$370 million to support the development of fossil fuel hydrogen projects, which rely heavily on controversial and as yet unsuccessful carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies.

### Hydrojan: Is hydrogen the next "clean coal"?

According to the report, 'Hydrojan', CCS continues to be a costly and concerning failure in Australia and across the world, falling far behind nearly every target set for it.

Australia's flagship CCS project at Gorgon LNG was obliged to sequester carbon from 2016, only started ramping up in August 2019, to levels that remain uncertain, and yet has faced no penalties. It enjoys Commonwealth government subsidy and complete indemnity from carbon leakage liabilities. Gorgon's CCS failures have been responsible for half the increase in Australia's annual CO2 emissions.

"Exporting hydrogen to the world is a big opportunity for Australia in the future but it needs to be done right, not rushed, and our efforts must be

based on facts, not fiction" says Richie Merzian, Climate & Energy Program Director at The Australia Institute.

"Prematurely establishing a hydrogen export industry based on highly inflated demand figures may lock out the cleanest form of hydrogen, using renewable energy and electrolysis, because the technology isn't cost competitive at this stage.

"If hydrogen development is rushed in Australia it could see fossil fuels locked in as a global energy source for decades to come. The emissions will make it impossible to comply with Australia's obligations under the Paris Agreement.

"A decade ago the fossil fuel industry promoted clean coal using CCS and now it is promoting hydrogen using the same unsuccessful technology. CCS projects have repeatedly failed to live up to promises, both domestically and globally, and missed their targets by a very large margin time and time again.

"The only way to make hydrogen truly sustainable is to produce it using water and powered by renewable energy sources. Australia has time to establish and lead a global renewable hydrogen industry and should focus research and development efforts in that area exclusively."

• *The full report, written by Moeno Kaitsu, Tom Swann and Audrey Quicke, is available here:*

<https://www.tai.org.au/sites/default/files/P725%20Japan%20Aus%20hydrogen%20report%20%5BFINAL%5D.pdf>

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## Inside the news

Reacting to the government's indifference over people's suffering in the current fire crisis, Richard Flanagan wrote in *The Guardian*: "As Australia burns, what we are witnessing nationally is no more or less than the **criminalisation of democracy in defence of the coal and gas industries.**"

Flanagan conjured a vision with his words, "Of all the horrors that might befall the burnt out, the flooded, the cyclone ravaged and the drought stricken Australian this summer, perhaps none could be viewed with more dread than turning from their devastated home to see advancing on them a bubble of media in which enwombed is our prime minister, **Scott Morrison, arriving, as ever, too late with a cuddle.**" (p14)

The outrage was echoed by former head of BP Australia and climate councillor Greg Bourne, who wrote: "A dangerous game of brinkmanship is on display across the country, as **major corporations collaborate with governments to open up more and more basins for exploitation** at a time when they know full well the consequences."

A meeting of the COAG energy council in Perth avoided any such drama, but showed up the **federal government's intransigence** as many states announced their own emissions reduction efforts. They have given up on any hope of leadership from federal energy and emissions minister, Angus Taylor (p13).

NSW is pioneering a **renewable energy zone** around Dubbo to enable renewables generators to hook into the grid. Victoria and South Australia will both pursue ambitious renewables targets. Queensland, however, wants the **feds to prop up the three Curtis Island gas export terminals** with funding for another pipeline and electrification of the gas liquefaction trains (p13).

*Renew Economy* and the *Sydney Morning Herald* both produced good analysis of the COAG events.

There was support for development of a **hydrogen** export industry, which may be good if it is based on renewable generation, but very bad if fuelled by coal (p10).



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# In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 25,000 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

## THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/nov/20/adani-says-carmichael-mine-ready-to-ship-coal-in-2021-despite-needing-extra-funding>

### Adani says Carmichael mine ready to ship coal in 2021 despite needing extra funding

Ben Smee, 20/11/2019

The Adani Group company financing the Carmichael mine in north Queensland has told shareholders to expect a first coal shipment in August 2021, but the project's rail plans will still require unspecified additional investment from "the family".

In a conference call to discuss its financial-year earnings, executives from Adani Enterprises Limited – the ultimate parent company of the Carmichael mine – indicated the company may use "additional lines to fundraise".

The chief financial officer of AEL, Robbie Singh, said expected capital expenditure of US\$1.7bn would be required to build the project, including US\$1.1bn for the rail line and US\$600m for the mine.

The director of energy finance studies at the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, Tim Buckley, said the project appeared to be "treading water while still waiting for money from India".

<https://www.dailymercury.com.au/news/adani-royalties-petition-urges-mp-to-not-waste-pub/3886954/>

### Adani deal: Petition urges MP to 'not waste public money'

Melanie Whiting, Mackay Daily Mercury, 25/11/2019

A petition with more than 1300 signatures, calling on the State Government to refuse using public money to fund Adani's contentious Carmichael mine, was handed to Mackay MP Julieanne Gilbert's office on November 25.

The agreed deadline to finalise a deal between Adani and Queensland Treasury on coal royalties to Queensland taxpayers is November 30.

The deal has been described by some commentators as a "closely guarded secret", as the details have been commercial-in-confidence

Energy analysts have speculated it



Banner drops across four cities celebrated the launch of Galilee Rising in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Coffs Harbour (pictured) on November 22. Photo: Galilee Rising

would allow the Indian mining giant to defer royalty payments for seven years, equivalent to \$900 million.

Mackay Conservation Group spokesman Michael Kane said the petition would deliver the message to Mrs Gilbert that "Australia's mineral resources belong to all of us and royalties are the price that every mining company has to pay".

## COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-11-20/coal-exporter-ncig-reaches-record-figures-amid-criticism/11696402>

### Coal exporter NCIG, heading for record figures, works to keep Novocastrians onside amid criticism

Liz Farquhar, ABC, 20/11/2019

As protests in Australia over coal and climate change grow louder and more aggressive, a coal loading company in Newcastle is working on re-engaging with its community.

Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group (NCIG) has just confirmed it is expecting a record year of coal tonnage through its terminal at the Port of Newcastle as new and established New South Wales mines ramp up production.

Earlier this year NCIG restarted its community engagement group, aiming to improve dialogue with local residents. It comes amid growing protests

across Australia over the impact of coal on climate change.

The Grattan Institute said it was becoming increasingly difficult for the coal industry to keep public opinion onside as concerns over climate change increase.

The institute's energy director Tony Wood said coal will continue to be a major source of income for the Hunter Valley and Newcastle for some decades, but planning for a different future should start now.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-11-20/hazelwood-mine-fire-jury-returns-verdict/11696010>

### Hazelwood Power Corporation found guilty of putting workers and community at risk during 2014 mine fire

Nicole Asher, Jarrod Whittaker & Karen Percy, ABC, 20/11/2019

The operator of a Victorian power station has been found guilty of putting staff and the public in danger after a coalmine fire raged for 45 days in and blanketed the community in thick smoke and coal dust.

A Supreme Court jury found the Hazelwood Power Corporation did not adequately assess the risk of fire, did not have an adequate reticulated water system, failed to slash vegetation around the mine and did not take action early enough to wet down areas around the mine.

Jurors also found there were not enough workers at the site with the expertise to fight the fire on the day, and the company failed to adequately assess the risk of a fire entering the mine.

The company was charged with 12 offences and found guilty of 10.

The watering system in the northern walls of the mine, known as batters, had fallen into disrepair after the mine was privatised in 1996.

As a result, it could not be used to reduce the risk of fire by wetting the coal or be used later to fight the fire.

Penalties will be determined at a later date.

The court heard there was a total fire ban on the day the fire started but only two extra emergency services staff were rostered on to deal with the increased risk of fire.

In July, another jury found a group of four companies guilty of a total of 12 charges.

Hazelwood Pacific, Australian Power Partners, Hazelwood Churchill and National Power Australia Investments – part of Hazelwood Power Corporation – were convicted of offences related to creating unsafe pollution around the town of Morwell.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/20/china-appetite-for-coal-power-stations-returns-despite-climate-pledge-capacity>

### **China's appetite for coal power returns despite climate pledge**

*Jillian Ambrose, Guardian, 21/11/2019*

China's growing appetite for new coal-fired power stations has outstripped plant closures in the rest of the world since the start of last year, data shows.

Elsewhere countries reduced their capacity by 8GW in the 18 months to June because old plants were retired faster than new ones were built. But over the same period China increased its capacity by 42.9GW despite a global mover towards cleaner energy sources and a pledge to limit the use of coal.

Christine Shearer, an analyst at the NGO Global Energy Monitor, said: "China's proposed coal expansion is so far out of alignment with the Paris agreement that it would put the necessary reductions in coal power out of reach, even if every other country were to completely eliminate its coal fleet."

<https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/6499545/investigation-into-pipeline-taking-groundwater-from-farm-to-coal-mine/>

### **NRAR investigation in to Whitehaven pipeline taking groundwater from farm to Maules Creek coal mine**

*Jamieson Murphy, Northern Daily Leader, 22/11/2019*

The state's water watchdog is investigating if Whitehaven Coal is illegally building a pipeline to transfer groundwater from a farm to its Maules Creek mine. The mining company recently purchased the nearby property of Brighton and is using its bores to access the groundwater it bought earlier this year, when it was accused of outbidding local farmers.

Along with the construction of the pipeline, there are questions regarding whether the mine has approval to access and use groundwater, if it can transfer the water from the farm in Zone 4 to the mine in Zone 5 and if it needs to carry out further environmental studies before doing so.

Whitehaven has already begun moving the groundwater via a large water carting operation, with up to two megalitres a day delivered from the farm to the mine.

<https://www.themercury.com.au/news/regional/mining-company-dodging-379m-cleanup-bill-group-claims/news-story/e3a795a806237f13b0c1e41f3cfc0480>

### **Mining company dodging \$379m clean-up bill, group claims**

*Melanie Whiting, Mackay Daily Mercury, 23/11/2019*

A multinational mining company has denied it is trying to use a loophole in Queensland's new rehabilitation laws to leave three massive mine pit voids and let taxpayers pick up the \$379 million clean-up bill.

Lock the Gate Alliance claims the owner of the Ensham thermal coal mine near Emerald, Idemitsu, is attempting to backflip on its original commitment to re-fill and rehabilitate 11 mining pit voids, including three on the Nogo River floodplain.

<https://www.manningrivertimes.com.au/story/6504503/gloucester-group-receives-environmental-award/>

### **Groundswell Gloucester received 2019 NSW Environment Award**

*Manning River Times, 23/11/2019*

Members of Groundswell Gloucester have been acknowledged for their commitment to conservation.

Groundswell was presented the Nature Conservation Council Member Group

Award at a ceremony in the NSW Teachers' Federation Conference Centre, Sydney on Saturday, November 2.

The award is for a group that has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to and success in conservation and was given to Groundswell for its active role in fighting against the proposed Rocky Hill Coal Mine project.

## **OIL & GAS LEAKS**

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/woodside-to-ramp-up-production-over-next-decade/news-story/6ecc31177f2462084ceed5c02000d5e>

### **Woodside to ramp up production over next decade**

*Perry Williams, Aus, 20/11/2019*

Woodside Petroleum is considering reversing a plan to sell off a stake in its \$16bn Scarborough project as it battles to seal gas deals doubling production over the next decade.

The Perth-based producer has previously said it planned to offload a third of its 75 per cent stake in the remote Scarborough gas field, which will be processed at an expanded Pluto LNG plant near Karratha.

Scarborough forms part of an ambitious Burrup Hub concept that Woodside hopes will deliver 6% growth in annual production until 2028 as part of a plan to nearly double production over the next decade.

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/thenewcastle/news/critical-state-significant-project-newcastle-power-station-eis-goes-on-public-exhibition/news-story/18a7876453970f5c817a3f8fa074d9c5>

### **Critical state significant project: Newcastle Power Station EIS goes on public exhibition**

*Amy Ziniak, Newcastle News, 20/11/2019*

The proposed \$400 million Newcastle gas-fired Power Station, declared as critical state significant infrastructure, is a step closer with its environmental impact statement (EIS) today being placed on public exhibition.

The AGL project proposes to construct and operate a 250 megawatt dual fuel fast-start peaking power plant off Old Punt Rd in Tomago to deliver rapid power to homes and businesses across NSW during periods of high demand.

The project includes:

- Power station: a dual fuel power station capable of operating on natural gas and/or liquid fuel (diesel)
- Gas pipelines: to store gas and to connect to existing gas supply sources

• Electricity transmission lines: to transfer the electricity produced to the national electricity network

The Newcastle Power Station is part of AGL's plan to replace power generation when Liddell Coal Fired Power Station is retired.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/could-be-one-of-australia-s-biggest-strategic-blunders-push-for-inquiry-into-east-timor-gas-project-20191121-p53cot.html>

### 'Could be one of Australia's biggest strategic blunders': Push for inquiry into East Timor gas project

Anthony Galloway, SMH, 22/11/2019

The Morrison government is being urged by a key crossbench senator to support a parliamentary inquiry into East Timor's controversial Greater Sunrise oil and gas project, in a bid to stop China funding the project and gaining access to a port 500km off Darwin.

Centre Alliance senator Rex Patrick will put forward a motion in Parliament on Monday to establish an inquiry into the \$50 billion offshore development.

The Timorese government is intent on building the pipeline from the oil and gas fields in the Timor Sea to its south coast, rather than refining the gas in an existing facility in Darwin at a lower cost.

Senator Patrick said he did not know the solution to how Australia could help make the project a reality, but it needed to investigate ways to partner with East Timor to keep the Chinese out.

<https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/6501804/csg-inquiry-postponed-after-public-servants-refuses-to-appear/>

### CSG inquiry postponed, after NSW government and public servants refuses to appear

Jamieson Murphy, Northern Daily Leader, 22/11/2019

A Parliamentary inquiry in to the rules and regulations around coal seam gas had to be postponed when, in an unprecedented move, government departments refused to allow public servants to appear before the committee.

Spearheaded by independent politician Justin Field, the committee is investigating if the state government has implemented the recommendations made by NSW Chief Scientist five years ago, to ensure the CSG industry operates safely.



Queensland wants the federal government to help pay for a pipeline and electrification of the three LNG export plants on Curtis Island (above). Pic: Apple Maps

Witnesses from a government agency have never [before] refused a request to appear before a parliamentary inquiry.

The witnesses, mostly from the various agencies under the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), were re-invited and warned further powers such as summons could be used.

Most have agreed to appear and the hearing has been rescheduled for December 3.

Field said the government's written submission claimed it had responded to 14 out of 16 recommendations, however many other submissions suggested otherwise.

"It is essential that key officials front the inquiry so the committee can interrogate the government's claims on behalf of all those in the community who are concerned."

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/qlds-bid-for-funds-for-curtis-island-lng-infrastructure/3886448/>

### Qld's bid for funds for Curtis Island LNG infrastructure

Tegan Annett, Gladstone Observer, 25/11/2019

Queensland has renewed its campaign for federal funds for new gas pipelines and infrastructure at Curtis Island to shore up more gas for the east coast market. Queensland Energy Minister

Dr Anthony Lynham raised the issue with Federal Energy Minister Angus Taylor after Friday's Energy COAG in Perth.

Lynham has called for Canberra's support for feasibility and other work into electrifying LNG facilities at Curtis Island, so the gas now used to power processing could be redirected into the market.

He is calling for support for a new multimillion-dollar transmission line to connect Curtis Island to the National Electricity Market.

Lynham said a new gas pipeline could open up gas in the Galilee and Bowen Basins.

Gero Farruggio of Rystad Energy, an independent energy consulting firm, said in September that the electrification of Australia's LNG sector could save 410 cubic feet of gas annually, almost equivalent to the entire east coast gas demand.

<https://www.news.com.au/finance/business/mining/tax-and-royalty-systems-for-australia-gas-and-oil-industries-need-reform-experts-argue/news-story/a900c328f1a01bf4e3aee8b867138262>

### Tax and royalty systems for Australia's gas and oil industries need reform, experts argue

Charis Chang, NewsCorp, 22/11/2019

Australians are being short-changed when it comes to royalties and tax for

its oil and gas, with one expert saying “we’re giving away our natural resources”.

The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) has recommended the royalty and tax system covering oil and gas in Australia be overhauled, pointing out that Telstra paid 20 times as much corporate tax as all of the country’s oil and gas companies.

According to data from the Australian Taxation Office, Telstra paid \$1.6 billion in tax in 2016/17. Its revenue of \$26.9 billion was similar to that produced by the oil and gas industry but they paid just \$81 million in tax.

<https://www.yanheapnews.com.au/search-for-gingin-gas-due-to-start-next-year/>

### Search for Gingin gas due to start next year

Anita McInnes, *Yanheap News*, 24/11/2019

Energy Resources has started community consultation with Gingin landowners prior to it starting a seismic survey to help it identify sites near the Red Gully gas plant that may be worth developing.

The company is planning a seismic program in the Perth Basin in 2020.

On Wednesday anti-fracking campaigners at the Mineral Resources annual general meeting called on the company’s board and shareholders to rule out fracking around Gingin, Dandaragan, Jurien, Mingenew, Irwin, Carnamah and Coorow.

Lock the Gate coordinator Simone van Hattem said many communities had declared themselves gasfield free since the McGowan Government overturned the fracking moratorium so fracking companies did not have a social licence to operate in the region.

## LEIGH CK STINK

<https://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/national/leigh-creek-energy-negotiating-with-chinese-investors-as-northern-flinders-mining-protest-continues/news-story/63da45f8c121457895bb02e92aafc3e9>

### Leigh Creek Energy negotiating with Chinese investors as Northern Flinders mining protest continues

Michelle Etheridge, *Advertiser*, 21/11/2019

Leigh Creek Energy says it is negotiating with several Chinese companies about partnering on its in-situ gasification project, as the protest against the mining bid continues.

The company’s AGM today attracted a group of about 100 protesters, including people who had travelled from



**About 100 people protested outside Leigh Creek Energy’s AGM in Adelaide on November 21. The company is using underground coal gasification (UCG) technology which was banned in Queensland after causing that state’s worst ever environmental disaster. Photo: contributed**

the northern Flinders Ranges to voice their concerns about plans to revive the resources in the defunct Leigh Creek Coalfields.

Copley man Anthony ‘John John’ Brady said the coal field was just 300m from his front yard. “When I grew up as a kid there were waters and springs and an abundance of bush tucker,” Mr Brady said.

“Now there’s nothing because of the coal mining.

“Have a think about it, Leigh Creek Energy. Would you do it to your children? Walk away while you can.”

Conservation Council of SA chief executive Craig Wilkins said mining projects using the same technology had been shut down elsewhere and were “totally destructive”.

Executive chairman Justyn Peters said it would take his company about 18-24 months to navigate the approvals process, meaning it would be 3-4 years before it could begin producing gas at Leigh Creek.

“We (also) have to have a major partner with a bank balance to ensure we can do the project,” he said.

## HYDROGEN HYPE

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/nov/22/potential-for-hydrogen-exports-exaggerated-by-factor-of-up-to-11-report-finds>

### Australian hydrogen export projections found to be exaggerated by factor of up to 11

Lisa Cox, *Guardian*, 22/11/2019

As state and federal energy ministers gather for the first time in a year, a

report has found that Australia has overhyped the potential demand for hydrogen exports by a factor of up to 11.

The Australia Institute think tank published the paper as ministers prepared to discuss a national hydrogen strategy in Perth.

The study said ACIL Allen’s hydrogen import projections were 11 times higher than Japan’s official target and estimates for South Korea were also high compared with the government’s plans.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/finkels-national-hydrogen-strategy-gets-green-light-but-could-be-lifeline-for-coal-69939/>

### Finkel’s national hydrogen strategy gets green light, but could be lifeline for coal

Michael Mazengarb, *Renew Economy*, 22/11/2019

State and federal energy ministers on Friday have adopted the National Hydrogen Strategy, prepared by chief scientist Alan Finkel, but serious questions remain over whether it will position Australia as a “green hydrogen” leader, as hoped by some, or if it will instead be used as another prop for the coal industry and carbon capture technology.

Efforts by ACT energy minister Shane Rattenbury to secure a commitment from COAG energy council to produce hydrogen using only renewable energy sources, were blocked by [energy minister Angus] Taylor.

Following the meeting, federal resources minister Matt Canavan said the government would be encouraging all forms of hydrogen creation, including production using brown coal.

However, ministers agreed to a recommendation of Finkel's hydrogen strategy to introduce a 'guarantee of origin' scheme that will at least provide transparency around the effective emissions intensity of hydrogen produced in Australia.

The idea of emissions intensity certification was welcomed by environmental and energy law expert, Dr James Prest from the Australian National University, as a way to distinguish renewable hydrogen from hydrogen produced using fossil fuels.

Think tank The Australia Institute has pointed to the poor track record of carbon capture and storage projects to deliver on the promises of the technology, in a new report timed to coincide with the COAG energy council meeting.

<https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/nsw-goes-its-own-way-on-energy-security-20191122-p53d2x>

### NSW goes its own way on energy security

Mark Ludlow & Brad Thompson, AFR, 22/11/2019

The NSW government has broken away from other states and will set its own Energy Security Target to ensure there is enough reliable generation to avoid blackouts over summer.

After a briefing from Chief Scientist Alan Finkel, [energy minister Angus] Taylor used the meeting to announce \$370 million of re-directed funds for an Advancing Hydrogen Fund.

The \$370 million will come from existing funds from the Clean Energy Finance Corporation and the Australian Renewable Energy Agency to back new hydrogen projects.

## CLIMATE CRISIS

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/qld-power-station-emissions-to-be-cut-in-australian-first-project/news-story/fbf54ca928f4667befd41b520db0435d>

### QLD power station emissions to be cut in Australian-first project

Michael Wray, Courier-Mail, 19/11/2019

Carbon emissions from a Queensland coal-fired power station will be stored underground and recycled in beer and soft drinks in less than three years as part of an Australian-first project.

The Coal21 low emissions fund will today increase funding by several million dollars for a carbon capture plant at the Millmerran Power Station on the Darling Downs.

Coal21 boss Mark McCallum said the \$150 million project would create Aus-

tralia's first commercial-scale carbon capture and storage (CCS) hub.

"There's a good market up in Queensland for carbon usage ... you can use it in soft drink, beers, foods, abattoirs, industrial processes so all sorts of things are using CO2 and increasingly so," he said.

"We also want to use the CO2 to unlock the storage potential up in Queensland which is also massive."

McCallum said the demonstration project would cut about 5% of carbon emissions from the plant, however it would create infrastructure that could be expanded to potentially reduce the plant's emissions by half.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-11-20/planned-fossil-fuel-output-wont-meet-paris-climate-goals/11722912>

### Global fossil fuel output set to swamp Paris climate goals, UN report warns

ABC, 20/11/2019

Oil, gas and coal output already planned or in the pipeline will overwhelm efforts to cap global warming at levels consistent with a liveable planet, the UN and leading research groups warned Wednesday.

The world is on track to produce 50% more fossil fuel than could be burned without increasing the temperature of the Earth's surface by more than 2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels, they said in a major report.

<https://www.afr.com/policy/energy-and-climate/world-on-track-to-mine-far-more-fossil-fuel-than-paris-pledges-permit-20191119-p53c31>

### World on track to mine far more fossil fuel than Paris pledges permit

Eloise Fowler, AFR, 21/11/2019

Major fossil fuel producing countries including Australia are on track to mine and drill far more coal, oil and gas than can be burned if governments across the world plan to keep their pledge to limit climate change, according to a new United Nations report.

Australia, the United States, China and India are among 10 fossil fuel producing countries at the forefront of the "production gap", a new indicator created by the report's authors that tallies national plans for coal, oil and gas production.

<https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/environment/climate-change/a-passive-profession-finally-stirs-on-climate-change-20191123-p53dcn.html>

### A 'passive' profession finally stirs on climate change

Peter Hannam, SMH, 23/11/2019

Averil Astall, a recent civil engineer graduate, is impatient to shake up the profession she has only just entered, particularly when it comes to tackling what she sees as a climate emergency.

Astall is one of more than 1500 Australian engineers and some 130 firms to have signed up in just eight weeks to a 12-point declaration by the engineering industry to tackle global warming and biodiversity loss.

Engineering academies are among those signing on, including the University of NSW's School of Engineering – the largest in Australia – as well as similar schools in Deakin, Edith Cowan and Griffith universities. Some 15 more universities are likely to sign up to the declaration by year's end.

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/national/2019/11/26/no-slowdown-greenhouse-gases-at-record-high-un/>

### 'No slowdown': Greenhouse gases at record high: United Nations

Cait Kelly, New Daily, 26/11/2019

Greenhouse gases driving climate change hit a record high last year and are showing no signs of slowing down, according to the United Nations' World Meteorological Organisation.

Following a decade-long trend, the levels of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide have reached another record high and are now almost 150 per cent above pre-industrial levels, according to the annual Greenhouse Gas Bulletin report.

Globally averaged concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO2) reached 407.8 parts per million in 2018, up from 405.5 parts per million (ppm) in 2017.

WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said, "It is worth recalling that the last time the Earth experienced a comparable concentration of CO2 was three to five million years ago. Back then, the temperature was two to three degrees Celsius warmer, sea level was 10 to 20 metres higher than now."

The long-term trend means future generations will suffer from severe droughts, rising temperatures, extreme weather and rises in sea level, the report said.

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## FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-11-19/sa-big-battery-set-to-get-even-bigger/11716784>

### South Australia's giant Tesla battery output and storage set to increase by 50%

Nicholas Harmsen, ABC, 19/11/2019

South Australia's big Tesla battery's output and storage will increase by 50%, with help from the State and Federal Government.

Once labelled the "Hollywood solution" by Prime Minister Scott Morrison, who also likened it to the world's biggest banana or the world's biggest prawn, the expansion will be financed through the Federal Government's Clean Energy Finance Corporation.

French renewable energy company Neoen said it would take the battery's output from 100 to 150 megawatts, with the South Australian Government committing \$15 million and the Australian Renewable Energy Agency contributing \$8 million.

In a statement confirming the Federal Government's investment in the battery expansion, Energy Minister Angus Taylor said it would improve response times on the worst days when demand was at its highest and the wind was not blowing and the sun was not shining.

SA Energy Minister Dan van Holst Pellekaan said it would result in a more secure and affordable power supply for the state.

"We know that the 100-megawatt capacity of the existing Hornsdale battery has saved South Australian electricity consumers \$40 million per year since its inception," he said.

"This 50% increase in capacity to the battery, plus the additional services that we will receive, will add an additional \$47 million per year of savings to South Australia electricity consumers.

<https://www.singletonargus.com.au/story/6504830/labor-leader-calls-for-action-on-air-pollution/?cs=1534>

### NSW Labor Leader Jodi McKay demands the Berejiklian-Barilaro Government take action to address increasingly dangerous air quality in the Upper Hunter region.

Singleton Argus, 21/11/2019

NSW Labor Leader Jodi McKay today demanded the Berejiklian-Barilaro Government take action to address increasingly dangerous air quality in the Upper Hunter region.

McKay used Question Time in State Parliament to ask the Premier to come up with a plan to deal with the cumulative effects of air pollution in the Upper Hunter.

The number of negative air quality readings so far this year has more than doubled, compared to those in 2018.

Currently there have been 655 alerts so far this year.

Local doctors and medical professionals have repeatedly raised their concerns with the government about the increase in air quality alerts but to date their pleas for action have fallen on deaf ears.

Local National MP Michael Johnsen has been completely absent on the issue and despite his community's growing concerns he has done nothing to address it.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/nov/22/queensland-says-it-wont-back-coalitions-emissions-reduction-scheme-without-gas-funds>

### Queensland says it won't back Coalition's emissions reduction scheme without gas funds

Amy Remeikis, Guardian, 22/11/2019

Queensland has demanded federal funds for gas infrastructure in return for its co-operation with the Morrison government's rebooted emissions reduction scheme.

The state's energy minister, Anthony Lynham, will head to Western Australia for the energy Coag meeting later on Friday, pressing for Canberra's

financial support to expand its gas industry into the Galilee and Bowen basins.

Queensland also wants Angus Taylor to open the commonwealth coffers to partially electrify existing LNG facilities at Gladstone's Curtis Island, enabling the gas which currently powers it to be redirected to the east coast energy market.

If the requests are granted, Queensland would look at supporting Taylor's call to back the \$2.55bn rebadged emissions reduction fund and roll out new generation and transmission projects as part of a series of individual deals with the states.

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/this-is-how-you-do-climate-nsw-unveils-plans-for-a-renewable-energy-short-cut-20191122-p53d25.html>

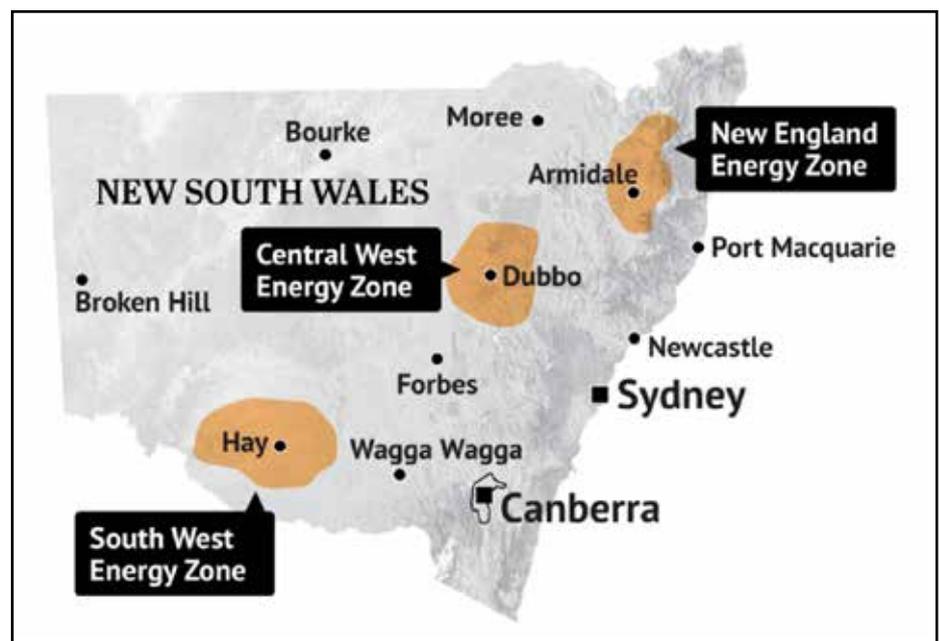
### This is how you do climate: NSW unveils plans for a renewable energy short-cut

Peter Hannam, SMH, 22/11/2019

NSW will rewrite electricity market rules to create a giant renewable energy zone, pour money into hydrogen, and spur consumers to offset carbon emissions in a landmark policy aimed at shifting the national debate over climate change.

Energy and Environment Minister Matt Kean said his plans offered a path "to end the climate wars and achieve net-zero [carbon] emissions by 2050" and stoke economic growth.

Kean said NSW would remove a region in the central west, centred on Dubbo, from the rules governing how



Three renewable energy zones have been proposed by the NSW government. Map: Sydney Morning Herald

investment is approved in the main grid, known as the National Electricity Market (NEM).

The move will create a 3000-megawatt renewable energy zone, the “first co-ordinated” area of its kind in Australia, Kean said.

Under the plan, a special corporation would auction off access rights to the grid, giving certainty to developers that they will be able to deliver their output to the market.

The NSW plan’s other components include having the state’s chief scientist and engineer assess challenges and opportunities to meet the zero-emissions goal.

With funds of “more than \$100 million” over the next decade, NSW will identify and support the emergence of new technologies. These include so-called “green hydrogen”, which would use renewable energy to create a zero-emissions fuel for use at home and abroad.

NSW will set a goal of requiring 10% of the state’s gas to come from green hydrogen by 2030, Kean said.

Consumers, meanwhile, will be encouraged rather than forced to seek less carbon-intensive options, whether when buying electricity or purchasing a new car through a “mandatory information standard” for those goods.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/nsw-announces-3000mw-renewable-energy-zone-and-energy-security-target-22341/>

### **NSW announces 3,000MW renewable energy zone, and energy security target**

*Giles Parkinson, Renew Economy, 22/11/2019*

New South Wales has announced plans to create its first “renewable energy zone”, seeking to attract 3,000MW of investment in the state’s central west as it accelerates its efforts to attract cheap wind and solar to replace its ageing coal-fired power stations.

The initiative was one of a number of initiatives unveiled in a new electricity strategy by NSW, which is the most heavily coal-dependent state in the country, sourcing 80 per cent of its local generation coming from its black coal generators, four of which will retire over the next 15 years.

The first of three renewable energy zones (REZ) – the first in Australia – will be located in a region bordered by Tamworth to the east, Nyngan to the west and Orange to the south.

NSW says this first REZ will provide

a model for at least two others it is planning for the state one in the south west and the other in New England, no doubt to the delight of former Nationals leader Barnaby Joyce and his successor Michael McCormack, whose electorates they will cover.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/states-go-it-alone-on-energy-after-coalition-buries-talk-of-emissions-53515/>

### **States go it alone on energy after Coalition buries talk of emissions**

*Giles Parkinson, Renew Economy, 25/11/2019*

State governments have decided – once again – to go it alone on energy after coming to the conclusion that the federal government has no intention of putting in place a co-ordinated national plan on energy and emissions, and will instead continue its ad hoc and chaotic decision making.

In the first meeting in a year of state and federal governments under the auspices of the COAG energy council, they have appeared to have given up, instead pursuing their own state interests.

Energy minister Angus Taylor – who was blindsided and humiliated by a full scale revolt at last year’s meeting – has quietened the insurgency through a series of bilateral deals, offering funding support for new generation and transmission project in return for their acquiescence.

The condition is, there is to be no mention or discussion of the second part of his twin portfolio, that of emissions reductions and of actually co-ordinating the two subjects in Taylor’s portfolio.

Most states already have their own mid-term renewable and long term emissions targets in the absence of serious federal policy.

Alan Finkel’s national hydrogen strategy was endorsed, and funding allocated (or co-opted) from the remaining ARENA budget and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation.

There is still concern about whether this will end up being a “brown hydrogen” scheme that underpins the fossil fuel industry and carbon capture, or a “green hydrogen” plan that encourages vast arrays of wind and solar.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/nov/21/scott-morrison-says-no-evidence-links-australias-carbon-emissions-to-bushfires>

### **Scott Morrison says no evidence links Australia’s carbon emissions to bushfires**

*Paul Karp, Guardian, 21/11/2019*

Scott Morrison has argued there is no direct link between Australia’s greenhouse gas emissions and the severity of fires ravaging the continent.

He even suggested Australia could increase its emissions without making the current fire season worse.

Morrison said on Thursday there was no “credible scientific evidence” that cutting Australia’s emissions could reduce the severity of bushfires.

On Thursday Morrison defended the government’s handling of the bushfire season, telling ABC’s AM it had put additional resources into emergency services and praising the “outstanding” response and coordination of state governments.

Morrison said he “took issue” with the suggestion by Greg Mullins, the former chief of NSW Fire and Rescue, and 23 other fire chiefs that the government was not adequately prepared.

Morrison then said “the suggestion that any way shape or form that Australia, accountable for 1.3% of the world’s emissions, that the individual actions of Australia are impacting directly on specific fire events, whether it’s here or anywhere else in the world, that doesn’t bear up to credible scientific evidence either”.

“But I think to suggest that at just 1.3% of emissions, that Australia doing something more or less would change the fire outcome this season – I don’t think that stands up to any credible scientific evidence at all.”

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/scott-morrison-incorrect-on-link-between-emissions-and-bushfires-20191121-p53crh.html>

### **Scott Morrison contradicted on link between emissions and bushfires**

*Mike Foley, SMH, 21/11/2019*

Experts have contradicted Scott Morrison’s claim that Australia’s level of greenhouse gas emissions could not have increased the current level of risk from bushfires.

“To suggest that with just 1.3% of global emissions that Australia doing something differently, more or less, would have changed the fire outcome this season, I don’t think that stands up

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to any credible scientific evidence at all," Morrison said.

Climate Council head of research Dr Martin Rice said there was a direct link between climate change and heightened bushfire risk.

Global carbon project executive director and CSIRO research scientist Pep Canadell said Mr Morrison was "incorrect" to argue there was no link between Australia's emissions and climate change.

"It's the tragedy of the commons. Below the biggest emitters in China and the US you have dozens and dozens of countries contributing between 1.5 and 0.8 million tonnes, which adds up to the climate problem," Dr Canadell said.

"Because all the individual contributions are small no one feels responsible.

"Another way to put it is on my next tax bill, because my contribution to the country's revenue is so small, that it doesn't matter if I don't pay."

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/nov/25/scott-morrison-and-the-big-lie-about-climate-change-does-he-think-were-that-stupid>

**Scott Morrison and the big lie about climate change: does he think we're that stupid?**

*Richard Flanagan, Guardian, 25/11/2019*

Of all the horrors that might befall the burnt out, the flooded, the cyclone ravaged and the drought stricken Australian this summer, perhaps none could be viewed with more dread than turning from their devastated home to see advancing on them a bubble of media in which enwombed is our prime minister, Scott Morrison, arriving, as ever, too late with a cuddle. ...

In Tasmania, the Liberal government intends to legislate sentences of up to 21 years – more than many get for murder – for environmental protest, legislation typical of the new climate of authoritarianism that has flourished under Morrison. As Australia burns,

what we are witnessing nationally is no more or less than the criminalisation of democracy in defence of the coal and gas industries.

In this regard, the climate crisis is a war between the voice of coal and the voice of the people. And that war is in Australia being won hands down by the fossil fuel industry. ...

Actively working through legislation, subsidy, and criminalisation of opposition to enable Australia to become one of the world's seven major producers of fossil fuels makes Australia's actions directly and heavily responsible for the growing climate catastrophe we are now witnessing in Australia.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/nov/25/the-coalition-is-too-invested-in-the-fossil-fuel-industry-and-not-enough-in-future-generations>

**We push fossil fuels with the zeal of a drug lord – we do not care about the misery we are creating**

*Greg Bourne, Guardian, 25/11/2019*

The Coalition is too closely linked to the fossil fuel industry to be able to contemplate a future without coal, oil or gas. As climate change-induced crises continue through Australia, they must distance themselves from the industry associations and their lobbyists, and face up to a future which is different from the past, one that can be both exciting and beneficial to all Australians.

A dangerous game of brinksmanship is on display across the country, as major corporations collaborate with governments to open up more and more basins for exploitation at a time when they know full well the consequences.

• *Greg Bourne is a climate councillor and former head of BP Australasia*




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'Knitting Nanas against gas, coal and greed', and other podcasts about coal, oil and gas can be found at:

<https://www.3cr.org.au/earthmatters>

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How a small farming community stood up to Big Coal and won

The story of the successful community campaign to stop Ambre Energy's coal-to-liquids operation at Felton, on Queensland's Darling Downs.



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