



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

FFB 3:33 • 25 AUGUST 2020

Adani splapped with eviction notice

The Wangan and Jagalingou (W&J), the traditional owners of the land in the Galilee Basin, have issued an eviction notice to Adani for its intention to commit serious breaches to land, life and community health.

A group of Traditional Owners set up camp beside an access road to the mine on August 24 and are turning away mine-related traffic.

Local residents and farmers are being allowed to pass the camp as usual.

Police are at the location, with more being sent, but as FFB went to publication there had been no attempt to remove the blockaders.

Notice served in Brisbane

The eviction notice was served in person by Adrian Burragubba at the company's Brisbane office on the August 20. Other notices of eviction have been served in person by Traditional Owners at the at the Adani mine site and at the multinational corporation's headquarters in Townsville.

Adani's actions are considered unlawful under Wangan and Jagalingou tribal law. Wangan and Jagalingou representatives will commence legal proceedings against the attack on Country by the mining company.

"Our land has been sold off to be ruined"

Burragubba said, "Our objections to this mine are well known and have been ignored. Our basic rights have been torn away and trampled on. Sovereignty remains.

"Our land has been sold off to be ruined."

A W&J Traditional Owners' representative stops a truck from accessing Adani's mine site. Photo: Contributed



• Continued p2

• P2: Pro-Adani man fined for injuring woman

• P3: NSW Nats support One Nation's nuke move

P4: Qld gives \$5m handout to gasco's

Adani eviction move

• Continued from p1

According to the W&J, the state and federal governments, and Adani in partnership have:

- Approved the mine in opposition to traditional owners;
- Established a sham Indigenous Land Use Agreement;
- Extinguished lands rights and native title of traditional owners;
- Barred traditional owners from entering their lands;
- Bankrupted cultural leaders;
- Began the destruction of our land, water and cultural sites.

Cultural leader Burragubba said, “The time for talk is over, and Adani has got to go. This is our home, and we will defend our Country.

“Adani has ignored our concerns. They created sham agreements. They used their power with the government to try and criminalise our actions and bankrupted us. They have attacked us in public.

“They are squatters on our land. So, they’ve got to go. And we will stand up to them until they have,” he said.

Activist groups such as Galilee Blockade are encouraging supporters to take selfies and post them to social media counts with messages of support to the W&J blockaders.



Galilee Blockade advises:

- Make a “#StandingOurGround with Wangan and Jagalingou” sign;
- Take a photo of yourself standing strong;
- Post it on your social media accounts with #StandingOurGround.



Notice of Eviction

Date: 20 August 2020.

We, the Wangan and Jagalingou people, serve you, Adani, notice of eviction from Wangan and Jagalingou land.

We demand that you, immediately, cease and desist all mining and extractive activities on our Country.

Your actions desecrate our Country. Your actions threaten our heritage, and harm our health and wellbeing.

You have ignored our concerns. You have co-opted the State and Federal Government. You have created sham agreements.

And now, you must go. This is your first and final notice of eviction.

All Adani Australia Pty Ltd and subsidiaries and contracted entities are instructed to leave Wangan and Jagalingou country.

Pro-Adani assailant on horseback fined for injuring woman at Clermont Stop Adani event



A first aid worker tends to the injured woman in Clermont. Photo: Contributed

Over a year ago, a woman was struck down by a pro-Adani man on his horse, riding dangerously around hundreds of people who were peacefully enjoying their time at the Karmoo Dreaming event during the Stop Adani convoy.

Last week that man was fined \$2,000 for his actions with no conviction recorded, despite the fact the woman had to be hospitalised.

“This is an absolute disgrace!” said Frontline Action on Coal.

“Peaceful protesters and concerned citizens take part in non-violent direct action ensuring that their safety and those around them are in place. Some of these peaceful people have been fined \$8,000+ with convictions recorded in the past – yet this dangerous and reckless act has been considered a lesser crime.”



Santos provided data for 'independent' AEMO modelling: prices minimised, jobs maximised

Economic modelling suggesting Santos' Narrabri Gas Project would reduce gas prices is based on cost estimates from Santos itself, not independent analysis from the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) as claimed by Santos.

If the independent production cost estimates commissioned and published by AEMO in February this year are used, rather than the figure supplied by Santos, Narrabri gas is far more expensive than gas it would displace from the Cooper Basin – currently supplying well over 50% of NSW demand.

As a result, it is likely to lock in higher gas prices for NSW customers.

The Australia Institute on August 24 published its review of the last-minute modelling, which was published just prior to the closing of public submissions.

Key findings:

- Santos cost assumptions of \$6.40 per gigajoule (GJ) are far lower than those published by AEMO of \$7.28-9.36/GJ.
- Under AEMO's estimates the Narrabri project could increase NSW gas prices. This is because it is far more expensive than gas from the Cooper Basin it would displace that currently supplies over 50% of NSW demand.
- Under AEMO's estimates the project would only be viable with government subsidies.
- Santos' own accounts value the project at zero, while the company's latest submission to the NSW Independent Planning Commission values the project at \$2 billion.
- Santos' claims of increased project-related employment are based on an economic model that assumes unemployment remains at Covid-19 crisis levels throughout the 25-year life of the project.

"Santos' whole argument that the Narrabri Gas Project would reduce gas prices rests on the surprisingly low AEMO production cost estimate of \$6.40 GJ used in their last-minute economic modelling," said Mark Ogge, Principal Adviser at the Australia Institute.

"So, it was no surprise to find that the estimate had been supplied to AEMO

by Santos themselves. In fact, AEMO published a detailed, rigorous independent estimate of gas production cost that gives a far higher estimate of the cost of Narrabri gas than the figure supplied by Santos.

"If AEMO's independent published cost estimate is used, then the results are turned on their head.

"Narrabri gas is far more expensive than the Cooper Basin gas that it would displace.

NSW prices likely to increase

"This means that instead of reducing gas prices for NSW, it is very likely to increase them. Industrial customers should be very concerned about this project.

"The Narrabri Gas Project will have precisely zero effect on preventing potential gas shortfalls unless LNG exports are capped at near current levels. This is because the interconnected east coast gas market is connected to massive export terminals in Queensland and any additional gas can be exported.

"Santos' own accounts value the project at zero, while the company's latest submission to the NSW Independent Planning Commission values the project at \$2 billion. Both can't be correct. If the value of zero in Santos's annual report is correct, then the project will not have a net benefit and should not be approved.

"While Santos' new modelling ignores the impact of the pandemic on gas prices, its newly inflated jobs claims are based on an assumption that Covid-related unemployment levels go on to 2046.

Narrabri economics don't stack up

"It is clear that the economics of the Narrabri Gas Project do not stack up – Santos' own accounts say as much.

"The benefits of the Project have been overstated and the costs understated in every economic analysis Santos has submitted.

"It is time for the Independent Planning Commission to reject this project that has risks for water resources, the climate, the taxpayer and Santos shareholders."

Nuke South Wales?

The ban on uranium mining in NSW looks about to be overturned, as an enthusiastic John Barilaro (Nations) organised Coalition support for Mark Latham's One Nation bill to permit the activity.

The proposed removal of a long-standing and popular ban on uranium mining in New South Wales is empty gesture politics that flies in the face of community interest and market reality, the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) said.

The global uranium price remains depressed following the Fukushima nuclear disaster and is not likely to recover.

"The nuclear power age is winding up, so it makes no sense for NSW to jump aboard a sinking ship," said ACF nuclear campaigner Dave Sweeney.

"The ban is popular and has served NSW well, providing policy certainty and avoiding the radioactive waste and legacy mine issues affecting other places, including Kakadu, where a massive \$1 billion clean-up is underway at the former Ranger mine.

Empty gesture politics

"This is empty gesture politics that could lead to lower tier and inexperienced mining companies cutting corners and increasing environmental and community risk.

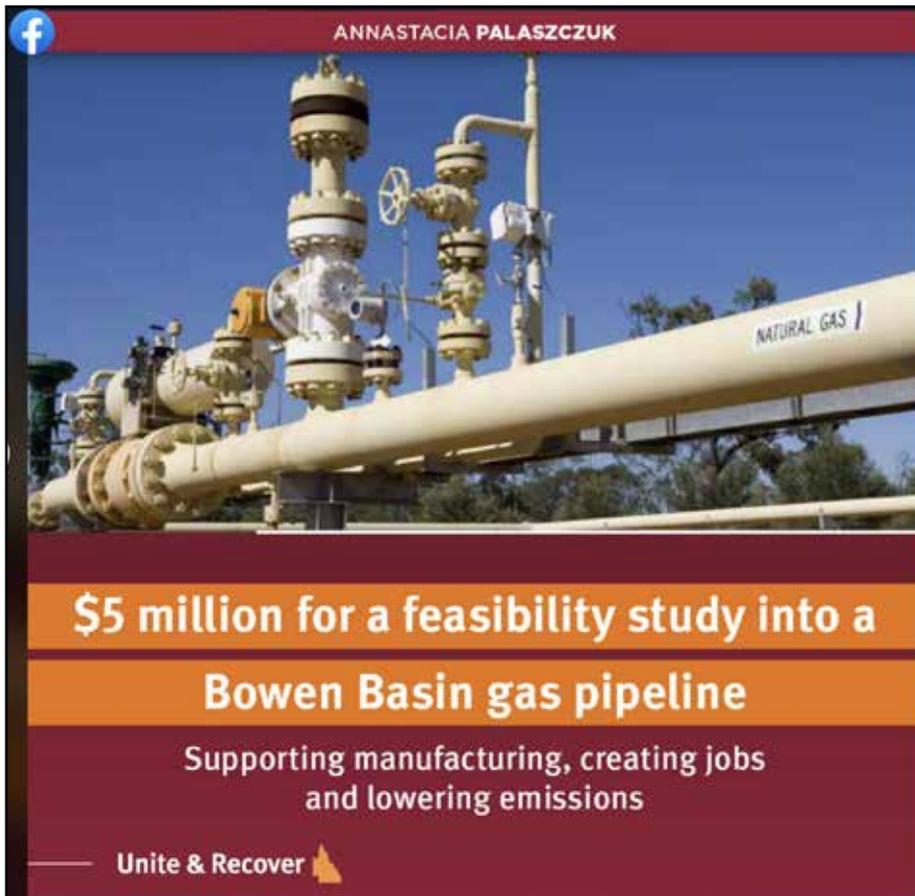
"This poorly conceived plan puts political posturing above community benefit and could lead to increased pollution and risk for NSW communities and environment for scant gain" Sweeney said.

"NSW's energy future is renewable, not radioactive – this tired political fix is no substitute for a credible and effective energy policy.

"Deputy Premier Barilaro might see this as in the Nationals' interest, but it is certainly not in the national interest."

The ACF says global market is over supplied as existing producers exit or defer projects and higher-grade uranium ore deposits remain in the ground across Australia and around the world.

\$5m handout for Qld gasco's



Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk last week announced \$5 million in taxpayer funds "to support a feasibility study into a gas pipeline from the Bowen Basin".

The move was celebrated on her Facebook page.

"Ironically, the Premier has made this announcement on the same day Origin Energy and Santos – both major players in Queensland's polluting coal seam gas industry – have posted huge losses in their 2019/2020 Financial Year statements," said Lock the Gate Alliance Queensland spokesperson Vicki Perrin.

Origin's statutory profit fell by 93% down to \$83 million from \$1.2 billion due to lower oil price and falling demand, while Santos have posted a loss of \$402 million AUD, also due to lower oil prices and lessening of demand.

"Let's be clear – gas prices were tanking even before the Covid-19 economic downturn hit," said Perrin.

"Not only will Premier Palaszczuk's announcement today cause unnecessary uncertainty and angst for landholders who may fall in the path of the planned pipeline, but it doesn't even make economic sense.

"It's time Queensland got off the gas and truly embraced its wealth of renewable energy resources.

"We have already sacrificed more than enough of beautiful Queensland for the greedy gas companies to then ship the gas offshore - since 2015, the Palaszczuk Government has released more than 70,000 km² of land for gas exploration - that's more land than the size of Tasmania. This handout will do little for our state and everything for the gas hungry export facilities.

"Queensland taxpayers should absolutely not have to stump up \$5 million for a feasibility study for an uneconomical boom-bust and polluting industry that has been shown to have a net negative impact on jobs."

Renewables a third of Qld's power by 2025?

Renewable energy projects are on track to provide a third of Queensland's electricity by 2025, new research shows.

If all proposed renewable projects in Queensland go ahead, they could add more electricity to the grid than all the power generated by coal and gas in the state combined.

The renewables boom could open up thousands of new jobs for engineers, truck drivers, electricians and mechanics, the research by Tristan Edis of Green Energy Markets shows.

Much of the growth expected in the next five years will be driven by two very large projects – the Macintyre wind farm near Warwick and the Western Downs solar farm near Chinchilla – and by more households and businesses adding solar systems to their rooftops.

Gladstone renewables hub

The research, commissioned by the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF), identifies the industrial hub of Gladstone as a key growth region for renewable energy.

Advances in renewable energy technologies, clear government policy and fast rising fossil fuel costs have seen a huge expansion in clean energy in Queensland in the past five years.

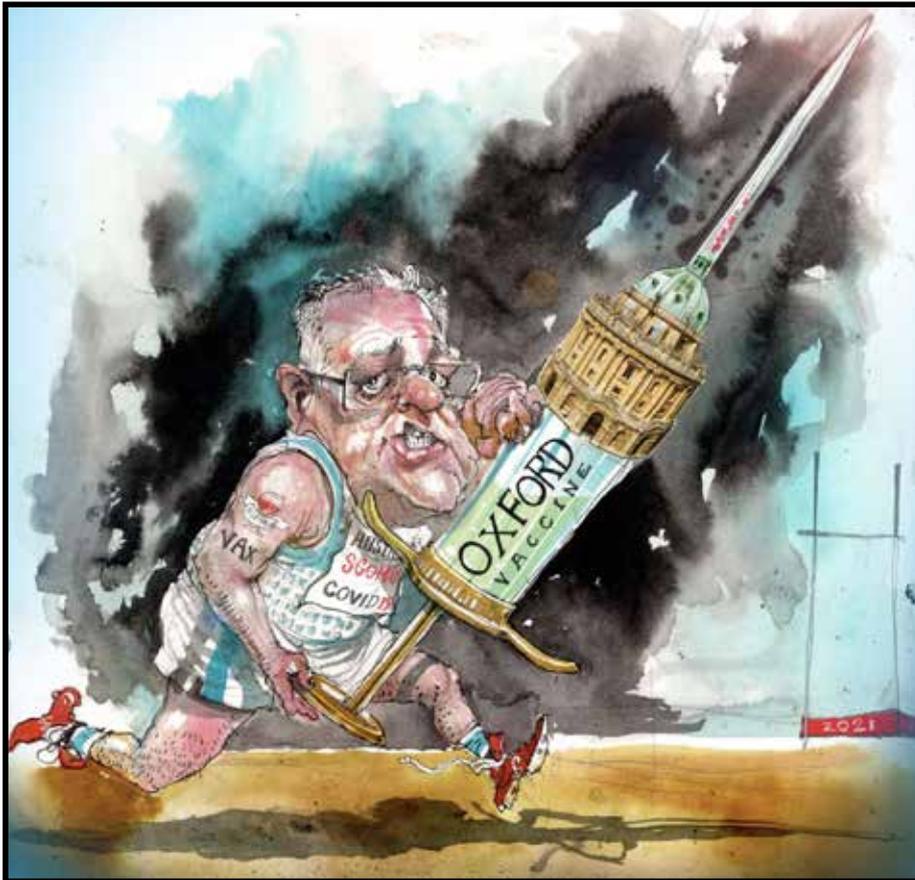
There has been a five-fold increase in Queensland's consumption of renewable energy in 20 years. Between 2000 and 2010, renewables made up less than 4% of Queenslanders' power consumption. Now, in 2020, renewables account for more than 20% of power consumption.

"This research identifies great potential for further growth and jobs in renewable energy in Queensland," said ACF's Queensland campaigner Jason Lyddieth.

"The research identifies Gladstone as a key renewables growth region, opening up significant opportunities to transition to renewable energy for domestic electricity and the area's heavy industries, including aluminium smelting."

ADANI  WATCH

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



Inside the news

The world's largest floating object – **Shell's Prelude** gas processing vessel off the Kimberley coast, Western Australia – is in danger of becoming the world's biggest white elephant (p8). At an estimated build cost of up to \$17 billion, a very expensive white elephant indeed!

Prelude has produced only one cargo of **LNG** (liquid natural gas) since its arrival in 2017. Dangerous **electrical faults** and a couple of **gas leaks** are amongst the reasons why Prelude is a dud, and is likely to remain one.

The *Daily Telegraph* printed another **Santos** propaganda piece (p9) with a handful of gas fans saying their lives won't be worth living if the **Narrabri** gasfield isn't greenlighted. The **Knitting Nannas** are in the *Tele's* sights, although the journalist has been given an incorrect name by his Santos source and hasn't even googled to check his facts.

The **National Mining Party** has unsurprisingly come out in favour of **uranium** mining in NSW. The Nat's **John Barilaro** has pressured Coalition Liberal partners into supporting a **One Nation** bill to remove a uranium mining ban in the state. The bill is the brainchild of former Labor man turned One Nation MP, **Mark Latham**.

There are uranium deposits around Broken Hill and Dubbo, but the **nuke nerds** are unlikely to see mining start in a hurry, as the price of uranium is too low to be worth digging. It's never looked popular since Japan shut down most of its nuke plants after **Fukushima** blew up. Still, it's a retrograde step and a worry that the Nasty Party and the Libs are willing to play with One Notion.

FFB wishes the **W&J** people well in their bid to evict Adani from tribal lands. If you have a dollar to spare:

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

Wangan Jagalingou Traditional Owners
Aboriginal Corporation

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



PHICS GREEN PIGEON GRAPHICS GREEN

PROUD SUPPORTER OF
THE FOSSIL FOOL BULLETIN

f GreenPigeonGraphics gpg@bordnet.com.au

Print ✓ Mailchimp ✓ Social ✓ Web ✓



Fossil Fool Bulletin

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

f Fossil Fool Bulletin

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

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

**Focus
Publications**

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

Donations to publisher Focus Publications are invited.

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

(Note: donations are not tax deductible.)

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

In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 23,260 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.miragenews.com/traditional-owners-w-j-issue-notice-to-adani/>

Traditional Owners W&J issue eviction notice to Adani

Mirage News, 20/08/2020

Traditional Owners W&J issue eviction notice to Adani

The Wangan and Jagalingou, the traditional owners of the land in the Galilee Basin, have issued an eviction notice to Adani for its intention to commit serious breaches to land, life and community health.

The eviction notice will be served in person by Adrian Burragubba at the company's Brisbane office on the 20 August 2020. Other notices of eviction will be served in person by Traditional Owner's at the at the Adani mine site and at the multinational corporation's headquarters in Townsville.

Adani's actions are considered unlawful under Wangan and Jagalingou tribal law.



Wangan & Jagalingou traditional owners at a roadblock near Adani's mine.
Photo: Contributed

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/aug/24/adanis-carmichael-coalmine-in-queensland-blocked-by-traditional-owners>

Adani's Carmichael coalmine in Queensland blocked by traditional owners

Ben Smee, Guardian, 24/08/2020

Wangan and Jagalingou traditional owners who oppose Adani's Carmichael coalmine say they have "re-established tribal control" of their lands in central Queensland, and have blocked workers from reaching the mine construction site.

Last year, the Queensland government extinguished native title over 1,385 hectares of W&J country, granting the controversial miner freehold title.

On Monday, a minority group of W&J people opposed to the mine development blocked the dirt access road to the remote mine site, which is about 400km from the Queensland coast.

Police were at the site on Monday, but had not yet attempted to move the group of protesters. Video supplied by the group showed trucks turning around at the roadblock.

It is understood police resources were being sent from Bowen and Mackay on Monday afternoon.

Adani has previously made legal moves to prevent Burragubba, who has been the face of the W&J opposition to the Carmichael project, from returning to a ceremonial camp site. The elder said Adani's project interfered with traditional law and

customs. An Adani spokeswoman said in a statement that people at the camp site "do not represent the W&J native title claimants".

<https://countercurrents.org/2020/08/the-adani-groups-penchant-for-controversial-projects-seem-unstoppable/>

The Adani Group's penchant for controversial projects seems unstoppable

Soumik Dutta, Countercurrents.org, 19/08/2020

Reports on the Adani group's projects worldwide show massive illegalities, ecological and environmental destruction, human rights violation, tax evasion, money laundering and corruption. An ongoing coal based thermal power project in India which will supply its entire power to Bangladesh and import coal from Adani's Carmichael mines in Australia, points to crony capitalism, exploitation, corruption and violation of laws.

The entire power produced at the Godda thermal power plant is to be exported to Bangladesh.

So why does Godda need a highly polluting and environmentally damaging thermal power plant? What does the state of Jharkhand or its indigenous people whose fertile multi-crop land has been illegally and forcibly acquired, gain out of this deal?

Also, how does Bangladesh gain by importing this highly expensive power from Adani's Godda plant?

How is the project a "public purpose ven-

ture with zero displacement" of indigenous people?

And, why is Australia going all out to promote Adani's mega coal mine and the Abbot Point port at the Galilee valley risking the Great Barrier Reef?

Adani's proposed 1.6GW power station in Godda requires importing an estimated 5 to 6 million tonnes of coal from Adani's Carmichael mine in Australia each year. This arrangement is despite of India's own policy of phasing out imported coal.

In Australia, Adani's Carmichael Mine project has been mired in controversies, with disputes over its claimed economic benefits, financial viability and environmental damage it will cause to the Great Barrier Reef and the ground water dependent ecosystem of the Galilee basin.

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/aug/18/bhp-commits-to-selling-its-thermal-coal-mines-within-two-years>

BHP commits to selling its thermal coalmines within two years

Ben Butler, Guardian, 18/08/2020

BHP has announced it plans to sell off its thermal coalmines within two years as part of moves by the global mining giant to ready itself for a low-carbon future.

The move stops short of a complete exit from coalmining because BHP will retain its stake in a venture that produces the higher coking coal used to make steel. BPH said coking, or metallurgical, coal will be

in higher demand in coming years as steel-makers clean up their processes.

Announcing a full-year profit of US\$7.95bn on Tuesday, BHP chief executive Mike Henry also left the door open to supporting a resolution from activist shareholders that would require BHP to stop mining that would destroy Aboriginal cultural heritage sites in Australia until laws are changed to strengthen their protection.

Environment groups say the high cost of remediation associated with Mt Arthur may make it difficult to sell to a third party.

The Lock the Gate group expressed concern that BHP might hand Mt Arthur to a smaller company that lacked resources to clean up the mine site.

<https://www.nvi.com.au/story/6888696/environment-watchdog-investigating-reports-of-major-mine-blast/>

NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) investigating reports of major explosion near three mines between Gunnedah and Boggabri

Billy Jupp, Namoi Valley Independent, 20/08/2020

A Whitehaven Coal spokesperson has confirmed the blast came from its Maules Creek Coal Mine.

"We can confirm a blast occurred today [Thursday] at our Maules Creek mine and we have received a number of complaints," the spokesperson said.

"We are co-operating with the EPA, and a range of other stakeholders, on this matter.

The NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) is investigating claims of a major explosion at a site near Whitehaven Coal's Maules Creek and Tarrowonga coal mines, and Idemitsu's Boggabri Coal Mine.

Some witnesses heard the blast up to 14km away.

<https://www.thechronicle.com.au/news/high-court-decides-on-aclands-90k-request-from-coa/4082634/>

High Court decides on Acland's \$90k request of Coal Alliance

Matthew Newton, Chronicle, 20/08/2020

New Acland Coal's attempt to secure a \$90,000 bond from the Oakey Coal Action Alliance over their High Court clash has been refused.

High Court Justice Virginia Bell rejected New Acland Coal's recent application to have OCAA stump up \$90,000 security, payable in the event the environmental group lost their High Court appeal.

Justice Bell also awarded costs to OCAA.

Environmental Defenders Office principal solicitor Sean Ryan said the EDO's client was pleased with the outcome and "looking forward to continuing the legal fight to protect prime agricultural land from Stage 3 of the New Acland mine".

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/agl-forges-ahead-of-morrison-government-on-liddell-coal-plant-shutdown-20200820-p55nlp.html>

AGL forges ahead of Morrison government on Liddell coal plant shutdown

Mike Foley & Nick Toscano, SMH, 21/08/2020

Australia's largest energy generator, AGL, has announced the first concrete steps in shutting down its Liddell coal-fired power station in the NSW Hunter Valley, pre-empting the findings of a government taskforce examining options including extending the plant's operating life.

Planning documents lodged last week with the NSW government reveal AGL is planning to "decouple" Liddell from another coal station at Bayswater. It will remove transmission lines between the two so Bayswater can function as a standalone plant.

AGL chief operating officer Markus Broghof said the company was engaged in the early planning stages to "ensure the efficient operation of the Bayswater power station after the scheduled closure of Liddell".

AGL lodged plans last week to build 500 megawatts of batteries storage at Liddell and it has plans double that volume across the country.

<https://www.frasercoastchronicle.com.au/news/unacceptable-level-of-risk-in-open-cut-gas-management/4082781/?c-spt=1597964447149baa99f2936a75717e3a4f0e18e54df>

Unacceptable 'level of risk' in open cut gas management

Melanie Whiting, Fraser Coast Chronicle, 21/08/2020

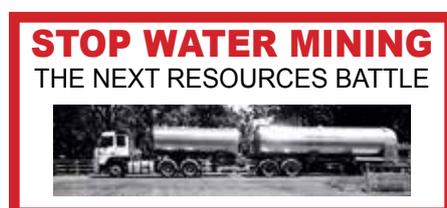
Several open cut coal mines in Queensland are falling short of gas management standards, resulting in an unacceptable level of risk for workers.

So far this year, the Mines Inspectorate has handed out six directives and five standard condition practices involving flammable and toxic gases in open cut coal mines.

A safety alert issued by the inspectorate said these involved cases where onsite systems, knowledge or practices had not met a standard required to ensure an acceptable level of risk.

"Flammable and toxic gases have been emitted from a range of situations, including spontaneous combustion events, blast holes, post blast areas, blast fumes and old underground workings," the alert stated.

"Coal mine workers at open cut sites are often not aware that flammable and toxic gases may be present, and pose a significant risk during normal mining activities at open cut operations."



<https://theconversation.com/japan-is-closing-its-old-dirty-power-plants-and-thats-bad-news-for-australias-coal-exports-144452>

Japan is closing its old, dirty power plants – and that's bad news for Australia's coal exports

Lewelyn Hughes, The Conversation, 24/08/2020

Last month, the Japanese government announced a plan to retire its fleet of old, inefficient coal-fired generation by 2030. And what happens to coal power in Japan matters a lot to Australia.

Australia shipped more than \$9 billion worth of thermal coal to Japan in 2019 – about 12% of our total thermal coal exports.

In the short term, several new coal plants are being built in Japan to replace scrapped capacity. But there are signs investors are not flocking to invest in expensive new Japanese coal technology.

And in the long run, the investment environment for new coal technology is worsening. If Japan's commitment to coal weakens, that will mean less demand for Australia's exports.

Almost all Japan's nuclear power stations remain shuttered ten years after the Fukushima disaster. The Japanese government has positioned coal as a long-term hedge against the possibility the nuclear power restarts will not proceed as hoped.

Last month, the government signalled it will decommission about 100 inefficient coal-fired power units. It aims to reduce coal's share of the power mix to 26% by 2030 – down from 32% in the 2018 financial year.

The Japanese government is supporting investment in newer plants, including some that use a high-pressure "gasifier" to turn coal into gas. But these types of plants are expensive to build. With a typical coal plant expected to operate for about 40 years, companies are wary of making huge outlays with relatively limited time to recoup the investment.

In total, 30% of planned investment in coal power has been scrapped since 2016.

Renewables are also becoming increasingly important. Japan has big plans for offshore wind power, and renewable electricity is falling in price.

Changes in Japan's power market show the need for Australia to begin transiting to an economy less reliant on carbon-intensive exports.

<https://www.newcastleherald.com.au/story/6891007/decision-to-refuse-by-long-valley-coal-mine-to-be-reviewed-this-week/>

Independent Planning Commission's refusal of KEPCO's Bylong Valley coal mine to be examined in judicial review

Max McKinney, Newcastle Herald, 24/08/2020

A judicial review of the Independent Planning Commission's decision to knock back

KEPCO's proposed Bylong Valley coal mine began in the Land and Environment Court on Monday.

The Environmental Defenders Office, representing the Bylong Valley Protection Alliance, will attempt to defend the IPC's refusal of the mine, which was knocked back in September due to concerns about its impact on productive agricultural land, groundwater and its contribution to climate change.

KEPCO, which spent a decade trying to get the greenfield mine approved before its refusal appealed the IPC decision late last year.

"This is an important case. It is the first time the IPC has refused a new coal mine because it was not in the public interest, finding the mine would contribute to climate change," EDO special counsel Rana Koroglu said.

"The Bylong community is stepping up and defending the IPC's decision to protect the area's prime agricultural land from groundwater depletion and stop the mine fuelling devastating climate change.

"We will argue on their behalf that the IPC properly considered the impacts on groundwater and correctly applied the legislation regarding preferred land uses and the assessment of greenhouse gas emissions."

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-08-24/hazelwood-coal-mine-fire-affected-unborn-babies-health/12574310>

Hazelwood coal mine fire affected fetuses exposed to smoke in utero, study finds

Kellie Lazzaro, ABC, 24/08/2020

Unborn babies exposed to toxic smoke from the Hazelwood coal mine fire in 2014 were more likely to develop respiratory infections and wheezes as toddlers compared with babies who inhaled the smoke themselves, a study has found.

Key points:

- The research has found unborn babies were more likely to develop health problems from exposure to the Hazelwood coal mine fire smoke;
- The parents of 300 babies kept monthly diaries of their children's symptoms for 1,000 days after the fire;
- The study says protecting pregnant women is central to public health responses to severe smoke events.

Acrid smoke from the coal mine hovered over the regional community of Morwell and the broader Latrobe Valley for six weeks in February and March 2014.

A mine fire inquiry later found the pollution likely led to deaths in the region.

- *The study was published on August 24 in the Medical Journal of Australia.*



More than five times bigger than the world's largest aircraft carrier, Prelude is the largest floating object ever built. Photo: Shell

OIL & GAS LEAKS

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-08-21/worlds-largest-floating-lng-factory-remains-in-shutdown/12565490>

World's largest floating LNG factory remains in shutdown – at just three years old

Ben Collins, ABC, 21/08/2020

Shell's massive floating LNG factory off the Kimberley coast has been in shutdown since February and industry analysts are divided on whether the \$12-17 billion facility has a future.

Prelude FLNG is the largest floating object ever built and billed as the solution to getting gas out of Australia's most remote undersea gas fields.

With five times the steel of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and half a kilometre long, it certainly is big.

But as it sits idle 400 kilometres north of Broome, it risks becoming the world's biggest white elephant.

Shell have never revealed the cost of construction, but even at the estimated figures of \$12-17 billion, and with no land-based approvals needed, floating LNG seemed to solve the problems that plagued building new onshore facilities.

But even with a vessel that dwarfs the massive LNG ships it is supposed to offload to, cramming an LNG facility, staff accommodation, and all the other services onto Prelude, has been troubled.

Prelude was moored over the Browse Basin in November 2017 and production began in December 2018.

It was expected to export 3.6 million tonnes of LNG each year.

But full capacity has never been reached and only one cargo has ever left Prelude, shipped in June 2019.

Shell said in a statement that the facility was shut down in February this year due to "an electrical trip".

The February shutdown followed three incidences that the offshore energy regulator NOPSEMA described as "dangerous occurrences" — two of which involved "loss of hydrocarbon containment".

Resources industry analyst Tim Treadgold said, "I don't think this is a teething problem, I think this is a fundamental underlying problem with the technology. It wouldn't surprise me at all if at some stage Prelude is towed back to where it was built in Korea."

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/agl-setback-on-lng-plant/news-story/cf0770bfe8262320d1ea923bca1c9de12btr=736a1fee-a1294cf27974e97bb3a81307>

AGL setback on LNG plant

Perry Williams, Aus, 18/08/2020

AGL Energy has suffered a setback over its plans to develop Australia's first LNG import plant in Victoria after the local council rejected the project, saying it posed an unacceptable environmental risk and was out of step with the transition to renewable energy.

"It is a weak analysis and gives us no confidence that the environmental impacts of this project can be acceptably managed," Mornington Peninsula Mayor Sam Hearn said.

<https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/6886015/call-to-end-the-uncertainty-for-farmers/>

Farmer responds to Hunter Gas Pipeline developer Garbis Simonian

Annette Wallis, Northern Daily Leader, 20/08/2020

The Hunter Gas Pipeline project has hung around the necks of landholders from QLD to Newcastle, for more than a decade, like a bad smell.

In the beginning, community organisations were sold a rosy picture, while ironically, at the same time, landholders were on the receiving end of consultations that ended aggressively in the proponent's bid for

access. The last 10 years has seen communities have their eyes opened to the destructive and polluting impacts that coal seam gas projects and pipelines inflict on rural communities and regions. I

n the last 10 years, landholders have been left in limbo not hearing hide nor hair of Hunter Gas. So much so, new owners had no idea their property was even part of the pipeline path.

Clearly, dirty, old, and polluting fossil fuels like gas have had their day. I implore Mr Simonian to realise this and scrap his pipedream proposal, thereby ending the uncertainty that has afflicted farmers for more than a decade.

• *Annette Wallis is a farmer from Quirindi.*

<https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/6886058/landholders-up-in-the-air-over-plans-for-hunter-gas-pipeline/>

'I won't be negotiating with Hunter Gas': landholder sets boundaries for project

Peter Wills, Northern Daily Leader, 21/08/2020

As a host landholder of the proposed Queensland Hunter Gas pipeline, approved over a decade ago now over my family's farm; as the next generation on the land find this pipeline route totally objectionable in its disregard for our future on our own farms, with the risks associated just too great to accept.

I have now attended two hostile meetings with Hunter Gas with other local landholders and the response from this company, in regards to our concerns over our land leave me with no satisfaction of their risk aversion or management ability.

In the Quirindi area we are highly concerned about this pipeline sitting in our high water table that supply's not only farmers in the area, but the town - our primary source of water.

In these hostile talks they couldn't answer a basic question, can we drive a 35 ton cotton picker over the buried pipeline? It took weeks for this question to be answered, only to hear - we will just bury it deeper than the suggested 75cm depth of cover.

I won't be negotiating with Hunter Gas and would suggest if you don't want them to Survey for easements on your land, don't allow them on your land. Only landholder acceptance will enable the progress of the project to the next stages of approval. As a unified group Landholders can fight and reject this white elephant project.

• *Peter Wills is a local landholder*

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/macquariebacked-gas-pipeline-expected-to-ease-supply-shortfall-due-to-hit-in-2024/news-story/88173bb8399287dca6336b39cec694d6>

Macquarie-backed gas pipeline expected to ease supply shortfall due to hit in 2024

Perry Williams, Aus, 19/08/2020

A new \$1bn-plus gas pipeline backed by Macquarie aims to deliver Northern Territory gas to east coast manufacturers, easing an expected supply shortfall in 2024.

The 950km pipeline - funded by Macquarie, Hong Kong's CK Group and Central Petroleum - will move gas from the NT's Amadeus Basin near Alice Springs to Santos' Moomba plant in South Australia. The project aims to start transporting gas by early 2024.

The development may also appeal to the Morrison government after the National Covid Co-ordination Commission recommended possible intervention to underwrite parts of the gas industry including stakes in pipelines in a bid to boost manufacturing. The \$3bn Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility which provides low-cost loans could also emerge as a backer of the proposed facility.

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/narrabri-gas-field-if-this-does-not-happen-our-kids-have-no-future/news-story/d5f95ecdd0e418a358e4b7d6c5593985>

Narrabri gas field: 'If this does not happen, our kids have no future'

Matthew Benns, Daily Telegraph, 20/08/2020

For the past 10 years Narrabri farmer Peter Gett has harvested wheat right up against the fence of the coal seam gas wells on his properties.

At least when there was enough water to grow a crop — during the drought he used the income from the gas wells to help him through the bad times.

The extra time is required to process the sheer weight of submissions, the vast majority of which are from green groups and activists from outside the area.

These include the Knitting Nannies Against Gas from Lismore and Bayside Seniors from Victoria.

"The \$30,000 a year lease helped me pay my bills through the drought," Gett said.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/santos-planning-carbon-sink-at-moomba-to-reduce-emissions/news-story/63f1d1b2752b7ba8fdca02907f15b2e3>

Santos planning 'carbon sink' at Moomba to reduce emissions

Perry Williams, Aus, 23/08/2020

Santos is devising a giant "carbon sink" scheme where it can offer energy operators the ability to strip out and bury carbon from their gas supplies at its Moomba hub in South Australia as the industry seeks to accelerate efforts to lower pollution from their fossil fuel operations.

With an investment decision on its Moomba carbon capture and storage project due by the end of 2020, Santos is working on a plan to decarbonise third-party gas which flows through the plant for producers and pipeline operators seeking to cut their carbon exposure.

The Santos' carbon capture and storage venture with BP would initially reinject 1.7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide annually when separating gas from Cooper Basin fields at Moomba but can be massively expanded with the potential to store up to 20 million tonnes a year for up to 50 years. That could attract both gas supplies and also big industrial manufacturers that want to reduce and bury their carbon emissions underground.

Santos estimates the cost of abatement is \$26 a tonne but even at those relatively low levels Citi said the project is an \$82m drag on a net present value, based on a \$15 a tonne price it would receive through the Clean Energy Regulator's Australian Carbon Credit Units scheme.

One lever Santos hopes to pull is to be able to earn revenue on the European carbon market where prices are three times higher than Australia.

<https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/santos-narrabri-gas-price-claims-under-fire-20200822-p550ht>

Santos' Narrabri gas price claims under fire

Elouise Fowler, AFR, 24/08/2020

The NSW Independent Planning Commission is facing calls to hire independent groundwater and gas market experts to help commissioners unpick Santos' fresh justifications for its planned \$3.6 billion Narrabri coal seam gas project.

Santos' new economic modelling claims the gas field could cut gas prices in Sydney by 4-12% from 2025 onward over the 25 years of the Narrabri project.

The new modelling also assumes the field is economically viable at a lower production cost of \$6.40/GJ and employment from the project is 78% higher than earlier estimates.

Opponents have attacked the new data, telling the IPC that claims the project will cut gas prices in Sydney and boost employment do not stack up and need to be independently verified.

They also maintain Santos' existing groundwater modelling remains inadequate, saying it does not map the full risks to water bores and the Great Artesian Basin posed by coal seam gas drilling.

Australia Institute's energy and climate adviser Mark Ogge says Santos' new claim the project is economically viable at \$6.40/GJ and would reduce gas prices must be independently verified by the IPC, as the "cost estimates have been made by Santos itself, not independent analysis from the Australian Energy Market Operator as claimed by Santos".

fossilfool.com.au

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

A Santos spokesperson dismissed calls for independent verification of the data, saying the “submission was made in good faith.”

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-08-25/theia-energy-fracking-oil-and-gas-decision-native-title-holders/12590256>

Theia Energy fracking, ports, and oil pipeline project for west Kimberley to be voted on by Indigenous group

Ben Collins, ABC, 25/08/2020

Indigenous native title holders will vote in the coming days on giving approval to an oil and gas fracking project, connected by pipelines to new and existing ports, which may become Australia’s biggest.

Key points:

- The vote will decide whether to authorise gas and oil fracking in the Great Sandy Desert, south-east of Broome;
- Documents say it could become Australia’s biggest oil-producing project, generating billions in tax revenue;
- Native title holders say they have conducted extensive due diligence and consultation ahead of their decision.

Theia Energy declined to comment beyond saying, “this is really a matter for the Karajarri”.

The oil find is described as “unconventional”, meaning it is locked in dense rock that will need hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, to allow the oil to flow to the surface.

Theia Energy, a small Perth-based company, was created in 2018 when FINDER Exploration split into FINDER Energy for its offshore projects and Theia Energy for its onshore Great Sandy Desert project.

A project factsheet produced by Theia Energy and dated 2018 suggested that of the tens of billions of barrels of oil estimated to be locked in the shale rock, six billion barrels were recoverable.

This could be worth \$250 billion in tax revenue and \$55 billion in royalties to gov-

ernment and would require a \$77 billion capital investment, the document said.

The project aims to ramp oil production up to 100,000 barrels a day, which, if achieved, would easily make it the country’s biggest oil-producing project.

NUKE MADNESS

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/uranium-mining-nsw-government-to-support-one-nation-in-nuclear-push/news-story/be4f9a1d1e84630a35c0e92c22e64c1>

Uranium mining: NSW government to support One Nation in nuclear push

Anna Caldwell, Daily Telegraph, 20/08/2020

The Berejiklian government is set to support key elements of a One Nation bill, driven by Mark Latham, to lift the NSW ban on uranium mining.

The move is yet to receive final cabinet sign-off but is the result of a deal struck directly between Deputy Premier John Barilaro and Premier Gladys Berejiklian.

It is on the Monday cabinet meeting agenda — a victory for Barilaro, who has long pushed nuclear energy in conflict with moderate Liberals.

The government will not support the second aspect of the One Nation bill, to allow nuclear energy generation.

Nuclear energy generation is banned at a federal level and as such, state legislation would only signal intent.

Senior ministers in favour of nuclear said there was also an agreement that NSW would move on the issue of nuclear generation if Canberra did.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-08-24/uranium-mining-restrictions-nsw-legislation-change/12587028>

NSW Government poised to overturn ban on uranium mining and support One Nation bill

Ashleigh Raper, ABC, 24/08/2020

The New South Wales Cabinet is expected to shift its position on uranium mining

today, moving to support a One Nation bill to scrap the statewide ban.

The Deputy Premier and Nationals leader John Barilaro earlier this year publicly stated Nationals MPs would vote for Mark Latham’s Upper House bill to overturn the restriction on uranium mining and nuclear power generation.

That announcement came before Barilaro had discussed the decision with Cabinet.

COVID-19 delayed that discussion to today’s Cabinet meeting, but the outcome seems already determined in favour of Barilaro.

Cabinet is expected to decide to support part of the bill.

MPs will vote to allow the ban on uranium mining be overturned but not the restriction on nuclear energy generation.

Nuclear energy is also subject to a federal ban.

It is a move that would appease Barilaro and the National Party agenda.

But this decision is not expected to have an immediate impact on uranium mining.

There are known uranium deposits near Dubbo and then further west near Broken Hill, but sources have told the ABC the prospect of mining uranium in NSW is “beyond remote given the economics”.

Regardless, it marks a shift in Government policy and sets a precedent that it is willing to back legislation put forward by One Nation.

MINING MAYHEM

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/companies/rio-tinto-slashes-bonuses-over-46-000-year-old-cave-blast-disaster-20200824-p550m9.html>

Rio Tinto slashes bonuses over 46,000-year-old cave blast disaster

Nick Toscano, SMH, 24/08/2020

Rio Tinto chief executive Jean-Sebastien Jacques and two senior executives have been stripped of some of their bonuses after an internal investigation found they must bear some responsibility for the destruction of 46,000-year-old Aboriginal rock shelters in Western Australia.

The mining giant on Monday released the findings of a board-led review into the decision to blast the ancient Juukan Gorge contrary to the wishes of the area’s traditional owners. The internal review, led by non-executive director Michael L’Estrange, pointed to systemic failures in heritage management practices at the mine site next to the gorge that was being expanded.

The company’s remuneration committee found Jacques as chief executive, head of corporate relations Simone Niven who oversees community engagement and iron ore division boss Chris Salisbury must bear some responsibility for “acts of omission, rather than commission, in failing to implement a fit-for-purpose management system at the mine”.



A conceptual diagram of the Theia gasfields. Graphic: Theia Energy

“They bear partial responsibility for the failings,” the report said.

The three executives will not receive short-term incentive payments at the end of 2020. Jacques will be stripped of payments worth nearly \$3 million, while Niven and Salisbury will lose and about \$1 million each.

Jacques will also lose another \$1.8 million worth of long-term incentives.

In 2019, Jacques received £5.79 million (\$10.5 million).

CLIMATE CRISIS

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/aug/20/gas-industry-waging-war-against-climate-action>

Revealed: how the gas industry is waging war against climate action

Emily Holden, Guardian, 20/08/2020

In a nationwide blitz, gas companies and their allies fight climate efforts that they consider an existential threat to their business

When progressive Seattle decided last year to wipe out its climate pollution within the decade, the city council vote in favor was unsurprisingly unanimous, and the easiest first step on that path was clear.

About one-third of the city’s climate footprint comes from buildings, in large part from burning “natural” gas for heating and cooking. Gas is a fossil fuel that releases carbon dioxide and far more potent methane into the atmosphere and heats the planet. It is plentiful and cheap, and it’s also a huge and increasing part of America’s climate challenge.

So, a city councilman drafted legislation to stop the problem from growing by banning gas hookups in new buildings. Suddenly, the first step didn’t look so easy.

“From there, we just ran into a wall of opposition,” said Alec Connon, a campaigner with the climate group 350 Seattle.

Local plumbers and pipe fitters warned of job losses. Realtors complained their clients would still want gas fireplaces. Building owners feared utility bills could soar.

The effort died. The ban wasn’t politically tenable, it seemed.

The measure’s defeat and the “wall of opposition” that advocates experienced were part of a sophisticated pushback plan from Seattle’s gas supplier, Puget Sound Energy.

Seattle’s story isn’t unique. In fact, it’s representative of a nationwide blitz by gas companies and their allies to beat back climate action they consider an existential threat to their business, according to emails, meeting agendas and public records.

The documents show the multibillion-dollar gas industry has built crucial local coalitions and hired high-powered operatives to torpedo cities’ anti-gas policies – some-

times assisted by money those same cities have paid into gas trade associations.

The American Gas Association (AGA), which represents mainly investor-owned gas providers, now convenes monthly calls “that bring together appliance, home-builder, fuel, and other associations to compare notes and support efforts to push back on decarbonization and electrification issues”.

As the public learns more about the harms of natural gas, the industry is playing both defense and offense.

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/its-not-you-its-us-alp-warrior-joel-fitzgibbon-warns-of-labor-split/news-story/ef869650ffe0711ee2c0adfec897c541>

It’s not you, it’s us: ALP warrior Joel Fitzgibbon warns of Labor split

Greg Brown & Geoff Chalmers, Aus, 20/08/2020

Joel Fitzgibbon has warned Labor could split into two separate parties if it fails to bring together its working-class and socially progressive supporter bases, as Anthony Albanese faces ongoing destabilisation triggered by concerns he will not bring the party to the political centre.

“I am very fearful about how the Labor Party will manage ... (to) juggle these two electoral bases and I do fear that, it won’t be in my time, but the party might end up splitting,” Fitzgibbon, the national Right faction convenor of the Labor Party, said.

Senior Labor figures are bracing for a philosophical battle that will set the scene for the party’s direction ahead of the next election and beyond.

Anthony Albanese has publicly rebuked Fitzgibbon twice in the past month after the resources spokesman backed taxpayer support for gas pipelines and attacked the Labor Environment Action Network.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/aug/22/labor-would-have-to-be-politically-insane-to-follow-fitzgibbons-fossil-fuel-frolicking>

Labor would have to be politically insane to follow Fitzgibbon’s fossil fuel folly

Katharine Murphy, Guardian, 22/08/2020

Labor man, Joel Fitzgibbon, is intent on having a fight with his colleagues about whether the party’s policy offering is too progressive, with climate change policy the designated case in point.

Fitzgibbon wants to be seen as a front-running force in the Labor right, a person of influence, and the man who restored a wayward political party to sense, and the centre. But this week he escalated, suggesting Labor could split if intolerably progressive tendencies persisted. Granted there were several qualifications on this putative split: it wouldn’t happen any time soon and it might not happen at all. But “split” is not a word you invoke lightly, or accidentally.

There a few things to say about the

Fitzgibbon offensive. The first is he has a valid point: Labor will not win the next election if working people keep voting for One Nation or Clive Palmer or the Coalition because they think Labor no longer represents their interests. The second is Fitzgibbon has tried to argue this case internally during the last two parliamentary terms, and feels people haven’t listened, so he thinks the only way to influence the play is to make a nuisance of himself – at least that’s what he’s telling colleagues. The third thing to say is it is healthy for political movements to ventilate their differences in public rather than stick to stultifying scripts. But motive obviously matters. More on this later.

While Fitzgibbon absolutely has a point about the necessity of meaningful rapprochement with workers, it would be seriously stupid for Labor to back off on climate action, given what the science says. Given this political party has spent a decade lining up on the right side of history (unlike the other major political party in Australia), it would also be politically insane.

It is not helpful to Fitzgibbon’s coal workers in the Hunter to pretend that a transition isn’t happening and doesn’t need to happen, and it is not helpful to Australia’s interests to leave our prosperity tied so substantially to fossil fuels when Australia has an opportunity to become a renewable energy powerhouse. If you care about blue-collar workers, you need to care about making this transition. Making this transition is about showing up for workers.

<https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/all-eyes-on-nt-election-as-test-of-gas-and-border-policies-20200819-p55n2m>

NT election looms as test of gas and border policies

Phillip Coorey, AFR, 19/08/2020

Labor’s Michael Gunner is the favourite to hold power at this Saturday’s Northern Territory election, the first full test of any government in Australia since the coronavirus pandemic struck.

The gas industry will be looking on anxiously because minor parties and independents vying for the balance of power in the one-chamber Parliament oppose coal seam gas development.

Other state leaders and the federal government will be looking for clues about whether the local popularity of the NT’s border closures will be offset by the economic blow, especially on the NT’s tourism industry.

Should either the Greens, the Territory Alliance or one or more of the independents win the balance of power and be part of a minority government, it would cast doubt over plans to develop the Beetaloo Basin unconventional gas reserves.

This week, national Greens leader Adam Bandt called on those opposed to fracking in the NT to vote for his party.

“With the Labor government and their Lib-

eral opponents supporting plans to frack the territory, and Territory Alliance facing criticism over candidate links to far-right organisations, the NT Greens are the clear choice for progressive action," he said.

• **Note: Labor won the NT election.**

<https://www.echo.net.au/2020/08/young-people-launch-fight-against-gas-cash-grab/>

Young people launch fight against gas cash grab

Echonet Daily, 21/08/2020

Young people in Perth rallied [Friday, August 21] outside a closed business breakfast led by gas industry figure and National COVID-19 Coordination Committee chair Nev Power, calling on the federal government to fund their future, rather than backing gas.

The rally is also a launch event for the Fund Our Future Not Gas National Day of Action on 25 September.

Strikers argue that using taxpayers' money to prop up the gas industry is a misuse of public funds, which could be better spent investing in alternatives like renewable energy that will create sustainable jobs for young people and help to fight the climate crisis.

The the Fund Our Future Not Gas National Day of Action will see the School Strike 4 Climate network and First Nations communities join forces with thousands of Australians to take on the gas lobby, demanding that the government rule out spending public money to expand the gas industry.

Organisers say the National Day of Action will be in line with current COVID-19 restrictions and will take place with the health and safety of the community's most vulnerable in mind.

The day of action is calling for no public funds for gas and other damaging fossil fuel projects. Instead, they are calling for recovery funds to be spent on:

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/tax-relief-call-for-oil-gas-explorers/news-story/a3c0762ad4f763b1e0f00b227a00b38a>

Tax relief call for oil, gas explorers

Perry Williams, Aus, 23/08/2020

Australia's oil and gas industry has made a pitch to the federal government for an

exploration tax break used by miners to be extended to energy players as it seeks to rekindle investment in the sector following the COVID-19-induced oil crash.

The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association, which represents the nation's energy producers, laid out a blueprint to Prime Minister Scott Morrison in July to kickstart an economic recovery by boosting exploration investment and cutting regulatory hurdles.

One of its "quick start" initiatives involves expanding a mining exploration tax credit, called the Junior Minerals Exploration Incentive, to the petroleum industry to spur greater investment.

The Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources is currently reviewing the exploration incentive to assess its success in attracting investment.

The policy aims to boost investment in greenfields exploration by allowing explorers to convert some of their tax losses into credits which are then passed on to investors of new shares as a franking credit or refundable tax offset.

The government has received a final report from the National COVID-19 Co-ordination Commission manufacturing task-force chaired by former Dow boss Andrew Liveris.

A draft proposal suggested a "gas-led" recovery involving guaranteeing gas volumes, opening new fields and building pipelines to halve the price of the fossil fuel to a \$4 a gigajoule target.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/australia-s-chief-scientist-is-wrong-on-gas-say-leading-experts-20200824-p55oty.html>

Australia's Chief Scientist is wrong on gas, say leading experts

Nick O'Malley, SMH, 25/08/2020

A group of leading Australian scientists has taken the unusual step of writing to the Chief Scientist, Dr Alan Finkel, saying his support for gas as an energy source "is not consistent with a safe climate".

"We are making a definite and profound statement that the advice the Chief Scientist is giving is in opposition to the evidence the Australian scientific community has gathered about the climatic system and the way it is changing," Professor Will Steffen, the founding director of the Australia

lian National University's Climate Change Institute, said of the decision to write the letter.

The letter's signatories include many world-leading Australian experts and lead authors with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. They include professors John Church, Matthew England and Steven Sherwood from the University of NSW's Climate Change Research Centre, Professor Mark Howden of the Australian National University and Professor Graeme Pearman of the University of Melbourne.

Professor Steffen said the scientists' decision to take the unusual step of speaking out about the Chief Scientist was prompted in part by elements of Dr Finkel's address to the National Press Club in February, as well as other public comments he has made about gas.

A spokeswoman for the Office of the Chief Scientist said Dr Finkel was considering his response and would comment in due course.



SACRIFICE ZONE
 Cloudbatcher Media's feature-length film:
 battle to save the Pilliga
<https://vimeo.com/257444267>


DESMOG
 CLEARING THE PR POLLUTION THAT
 CLOUDS CLIMATE SCIENCE
<https://www.desmoglob.com/>


RENEW ECONOMY
 Renew Economy provides clean energy
 news and analysis in a daily
 newsletter available at
<https://reneweconomy.com.au/>

fossilfool.com.au

Focus Publications

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

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