



Fossil Fool Bulletin

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

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Waste report: coal seam gas industry poses enormous challenges for Queensland

A report prepared for the federal Department of Environment and Energy says the coal seam gas (CSG) industry in Queensland has made the state "a unique hazardous waste jurisdiction".

The report, 'Hazardous Waste in Australia', says the CSG industry provides enormous waste management challenges not present in other states and territories.

CSG produces close to 20% of Qld waste

"CSG wastes make up around 11% of apparent Qld waste generation in 2014-15, but if apparent waste generation is adjusted for obvious reporting errors ... this CSG figure is closer to 20%.

"These figures include only what has been subject to hazardous waste tracking. Vast volumes of salty extraction waters, which either do not arise into offsite management infrastructure or are not regulated as hazardous waste, are not tracked but have been estimated to be around 25 million tonnes per annum (in 2009) in the Surat Basin alone.

"One of the smaller CSG projects in the Bowen Basin is expected to produce up to 0.6 ML of brine a day, and some 60 000 tonnes of salts and heavy metals over the life of the project," the report says.

The CSG extraction process produces a range of hazardous wastes including alkalis, non-toxic salts, other residues and mercury.

Apart from mercury wastes, they comprise solids and liquids from 'drilling



A hazardous waste report says very large quantities of CSG extraction waters are likely to be barely visible in (hazardous) waste tracking data. The water is often sprayed on roads as a 'dust suppressant' – even on sealed roads. The unmarked truck above, minus registration plates, was seen spraying near the Santos Fairview gasfield in April. Photo: North West Protection Advocacy

Another report, from the USA (see p8), found that wastewater spread on roads by the oil and gas industry poses a threat to the environment and to human health. Contaminants such as salt, radium and heavy metals are likely to drain into local waterways and end up in drinking water.

muds' and CSG extraction waters, or a combination of both.

Drilling muds are subject to the Qld Department of Environment and Heritage Protection's Beneficial Use Approvals (BUA) scheme which allows uses such as composting and manufacturing a 'general purpose soil'

The water that is pumped out as part

of the CSG mining process is salty and may contain a range of petroleum and mineral based chemical compounds, such as heavy metals and hydrocarbons.

Like drilling muds, CSG waters are subject to the BUA. This beneficial use approval allows uses such as aquacul-

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• P 3: Community actions against coal and gas

• P 4: Inside the news: Loony projects

Hazardous waste worries

• Continued from p1

ture and domestic use at one end of the spectrum and dust suppression and construction at the other end, says the report.

Salts do not biodegrade

“A common thread though is salt – both as part of the drilling mud composition and inherent in large extracted water volumes.

“Salts, like heavy metals, do not biodegrade and are difficult to remove other than through expensive desalination processes.

“On a treatment-difficulty and sheer scale basis, CSG waste is a current and future management challenge.”

The report questions how much ‘benefit’ is provided to either compost end products or the composting process itself, by adding the CSG waste material.

“Drilling muds pose a low risk (to the composting process, human health or the environment), unless salinity or hydrocarbons exceed the recommended criteria.

“This is different from the waste providing additional benefit to the composting process or the end product.

The report says that most of the CSG waste going into composting facilities is in liquid form, so has to be dewatered before being blended into compost product (most likely) or added to the composting process (less likely).

“Bentonite is only in the order of 6%



NuGrow’s Kogan waste recycling facility near Dalby accepts drill mud and fluid waste produced during CSG exploration and production, as well as effluent and food waste from workers’ camps. These are recycled into land additives or compost. Photo: NuGrow

However, a hazardous waste report queries how salt-based hazards are managed in Queensland, and says there is potential to detrimentally impact land and groundwater in the vicinity of waste management facilities.

by weight of the muds received, so the scale of the benefit would seem marginal, compared to the management requirements that come with the remaining salty liquids and their potential to detrimentally impact land and groundwater in the vicinity of the waste management facility.

“The majority of receiving facilities for CSG waste listed in waste transport certificate data appear to be composting operations. If this is the case, how does composting manage salt-based hazard?”

“One thing is certain – management fate data on CSG wastes collected through the Qld waste tracking system raises a number of questions.

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SBS ‘Power Divide’ show accused of pro-Santos bias

People concerned about the Santos gasfield proposed for Narrabri eagerly tuned into a special SBS Insight report last week titled ‘Power Divide’.

The show was pleasing for Santos and its acolytes, as shown by a smug post on social media.

Those opposed to the gasfield were disappointed, saying the audience and guest panel were stacked with pro-gassers.

Opposing speakers, such as indigenous man Steven Booby and farmer Row Macrae, were quickly shut down by presenter Jennie Brockie.

It was not disclosed that pro-gas guest

Louise Tout’s husband runs a gas industry-related business, nor that she runs the strident ‘Yes2Gas’ Facebook page supporting the industry.

Neither was it made clear that the University of Queensland’s Centre for Coal Seam Gas, represented by Prof Andrew Garnett, is heavily aligned with industry interests. The advisory board includes representatives from Santos, Origin, Arrow and APPEA.

Speakers amongst the audience included Santos vice president David Banks and an Australian Pipeline Association (APA) executive.

There was no attempt to analyse the issues around CSG. Community divi-

sions were highlighted, with gasfield opponents portrayed as ignorant and running an anti-development agenda.



Community action in defence of the environment



MPNEWS.COM.AU
Signing up to sink floating gas plant

Signing up to sink floating gas plant:

A petition opposing power company AGL's proposal for a floating gas plant at Crib Point, to process liquid natural gas, was presented to Hastings MP Neale Burgess. The *Mornington Peninsula News* reported Mr Burgess undertook to present the petition to Victoria's state parliament. "I made a commitment to this community while in government that there would be no industrial development south of Hastings," he said.

The No AGL Gas Terminal for Crib Point group says the process of converting LNG from liquid to gas would require 450 million litres of seawater a day, "sterilised" with chlorine, and returned to the bay six degrees Celsius colder than surrounding water.

The group says little is known about the potential effects of this process on Western Port's fragile marine life.

It has also raised fears of fire or explosion and for the potential for tankers under "flags of convenience" transporting the LNG to be poorly maintained and crewed with cheap, foreign labour.

Picture: *Mornington Peninsula News, Facebook*

Knitting Nannas at their weekly knit-ins:

RIGHT: Lismore Knitting Nannas were outside MP Kevin Hogan's office on the same day invasive Yellow Crazy Ants were identified in the Lismore CBD. "How many Yellow Crazy Ants would it take to steer him in the renewables direction?" they asked.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Grafton Knitting Nannas kept up the pressure for a change of energy direction outside Hogan's Grafton office.

BELOW: Meanwhile, MidCoast Knitting Nannas protested against the proposed Rocky Hill coal mine near Gloucester.



Frontline Action Against Coal in Townsville:

Two women were arrested in Townsville after putting up a large red banner with the slogan "no new coal" in front of the Adani building on Tomlins St, Townsville, at about 8.30am on Sunday.

The *Townsville Bulletin* reported that police were called to the scene shortly after the banner was revealed and ordered the women to take it down. The banner was confiscated and the women arrested. Frontline Action on Coal are planning a large national "day of action" against new coal projects on June 30.

(See page 5 for another brilliant anti-Adani action!)

Photo: *Frontline Action Against Coal*



Is Santos 'manufacturing consent' with surveys on Narrabri gasfields?

Santos is desperate to get a social licence for its Narrabri gasfield.

So desperate, it is paying survey participants in NSW from Narrabri, to as far afield as Lismore, \$100 for attending hour-long sessions to answer questions about their perception of the company and the project.

There are at least three 'front' organisations spruiking for Santos on social media and sending letters to the editors of local newspapers.

The Energy Resource Information Centre (ERIC) generates numerous letters authored by director Steve Wright.

Steve Wright is a former Newscorp journalist. ERIC's website states: [ERIC] promotes the natural gas industry ... With support from industry participants, the Energy Resource Information Centre builds on the deep

expertise of the US-based Energy in Depth campaign, the Shale Resource Centre Canada, and Shale Gas Europe. Resourcing for the Centre is provided by FTI Consulting, a global business advisory company."

These letters are used by the purportedly "local" Santos supporters group (Yes2Gas) as a point of referral.

Industry group Norwood Resource members also comment on Yes2Gas face book and write regular letters.

At least two more former Newscorp journalists are on FTI Consulting's Advisory Team – Paul Downie and Samantha Magnussen – along with Kevin Ma.

Kevin Ma is FTI Consulting's Director of Communication in Beijing.

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Port Augusta mayor backs Liddell closure

Port Augusta Mayor Sam Johnson is visiting Canberra to call on politicians to stop undermining certainty with coal closures.

Following Port Augusta's own experience of coal closure and its rapid transition to a renewable energy hub, Mayor Sam Johnson welcomes AGL's decision to reject Alinta's offer to buy Liddell power station.

In 2015 Alinta Energy closed Port Augusta's largest employer, Northern Power Station, with less than one year notice and with no plan or investment in a replacement.

Now a leading renewables hub

After a period of hardship, Port Augusta has since become Australia's leading renewable energy hub, attracting several major power projects, including: Bungala, Australia's largest solar plant; Aurora, Australia's first solar thermal power plant; 212MW Lincoln Gap wind farm; Sundrop Farms, a world-leading agricultural project with solar thermal supplying electricity, heat and power to desalinate sea water.

Mayor Johnson believes sufficient notice, planning and certainty is essential to coal closures.

"The communities at the coal face get nothing from the political culture wars about coal closure," says Port Augusta Mayor Sam Johnson.

Transition plan, no redundancies

"The Liddell closure plan is one that the people of Port Augusta could only dream of. AGL has provided a transition plan and a guarantee of no redundancies to its employees.

"Advocating for the prolonged future of coal means continued pressure on government funded assistance.

"Recall early 2015, Alinta gave the people of Port Augusta a promise they would be there until at least 2025.

Three months later they announced they would close Northern Power Station in nine months time. Why would we want to risk this again?

"We are incredulous that Alinta could have been put in charge of the Liddell closure given their failure to properly remediate the Northern Power Station site which has become a major health risk to Port Augusta's residents.

"We must learn from the experiences in Port Augusta and hope that our national politicians ensure the same mistakes are not repeated."

Inside the news

Two loony projects of concern have relished their progress this week: **Strike Energy's Jaws-1** gas well in South Australia and **Leigh Creek Energy's** underground coal gasification (UCG) project in the same state.

Strike gleefully reported a convoy of **Halliburton** machinery rolling in to the Jaws-1 site. *The West Australian* carried a 'sponsored' story, no doubt sponsored by Strike to puff up its investor profile. (See p8.)

Jaws-1 uses new technology that **fracks in triple-stacked** horizontal drill lines that, the sane observer would note, will produce far more intense underground disturbance than current fracking techniques. If successful this **extreme fracking** technology may be rolled out in gasfields everywhere.

Leigh Creek Energy has begun work on its UCG project at a worn-out coal mine. Incredibly, the **SA government** has ticked off two of three approvals needed, despite the project using the same technology and even some of the **same consultants** behind the **Linc Energy** debacle in Queensland. (See p9.)

Linc went rogue and left taxpayers with an **\$80 million clean-up bill**, Queensland **banned UCG**. Owners of hundreds of square kilometres of adjacent prime agricultural land which may never recover have been **left without compensation** or any assurance their land will be cleaned up.

At Leigh Creek, **traditional owners** and **nearby residents** have opposed UCG but been ignored by their government. **FFB** can't see anything good coming out of this project.

The **Mayor of Katherine** has extracted an **apology** from health minister **Greg Hunt** after he repeatedly shouted the **F-word** at her when she asked for more help over contamination of the town's water supply. Don't hold out hope for his support if approached by communities with coal or gas health issues.

Finally, we are amused by an **anti-Adani beach party** held close to **Malcolm Turnbull's harbourside mansion**, at Lady Martins Beach. Malcolm didn't turn up. (See p5.)

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In the news this week:

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 20,000 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/wentworth-courier/geoff-cousins-and-stop-adani-protest-outside-malcolm-turnbulls-point-piper-mansion/news-story/8a6c69f0e98a24fc480789d6ce83e8b5>

Geoff Cousins and Stop Adani protest outside Malcolm Turnbull's Point Piper mansion

Emily Macdonald, *Wentworth Courier*, 30/05/2018

When you're living on Australia's richest street, neighbourhood disputes aren't so much about overhanging tree branches as they are about \$16 billion coal mines.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull woke on Sunday morning to the sight of 200 anti-Adani protesters merrily frolicking on Lady Martins Beach at the front of his Point Piper home.

They were organised by fellow Wolseley Rd resident and passionate environmentalist Geoff Cousins who Turnbull once labelled a "rich bully" when the two went head to head over a Tasmanian pulp mill.

Mr Cousins heads the Stop Adani movement which believes the government is attempting to funnel public money via a "back door" — the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC) — to prop up Adani.

Mr Cousins said he was disappointed Mr Turnbull didn't emerge on Sunday. ...

A request for comment to Mr Turnbull's Wentworth electorate office was redirected to Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Steven Ciobo.

A spokeswoman for Mr Ciobo said there were no proposals for Adani to receive funding on EFIC's National Interest Account. ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-05-28/adani-to-pay-for-isaac-council-staff-working-on-carmichael-mine/9801988>

Adani to pay for Isaac council staff working on Carmichael mine activities

Josh Robertson & Emilia Terzon, *ABC*, 28/05/2018

Adani will bankroll the jobs of local government staff tasked with assessing activities around its Queensland mine proposal — a deal anti-corruption campaigners say raises "serious



Anti-Adani protesters had a beach party at Lady Martin's Beach, close to PM Malcolm Turnbull's home, to deliver a message: no taxpayer-funded loans for Adani. The PM did not emerge, but may have looked out the window.

questions" about independent oversight.

The Indian mining giant has struck an unusual deal to pay up to \$1.15 million in wages, housing and vehicle costs for four Isaac Regional Council employees to deal with the "extraordinary workload" created by the Carmichael coal project.

Anti-corruption think tank Transparency International Australia called the scenario unprecedented, saying it would raise questions about the independence of council decisions and perceptions of conflict of interest.

But the council said the staff were under its direction and not controlled by Adani.

It said it was protecting ratepayers from bearing costs for a transnational corporation.

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5434668/seek-out-ccc-over-adani-deal-palaszczuk/?cs=7>

Seek out CCC over Adani deal: Palaszczuk

Sonia Kohlbacher, *Newcastle Herald*, 29/05/2018

A Queensland council that will take money from Adani for employing staff to oversee its Carmichael coal mine has been urged to seek approval from the state's corruption watchdog.

The mining firm has insisted an

agreement to repay costs incurred by the Isaac Regional Council to hire four extra staff to handle administrative and operational work stemming from the mine's development is lawful.

But Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk on Tuesday cautioned the council over potential conflicts of interest and urged it to get approval from the Corruption and Crime Commission.

<https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/queensland/queensland-s-mine-approval-requires-adani-to-finance-regional-council-20180530-p4zii0.html>

Queensland's mine approval requires Adani to finance regional council

Tony Moore, *Brisbane Times*, 30/05/2018

The then-Queensland government's own 2014 Carmichael Mine environmental impact statement (EIS) orders mining company Adani to provide financial compensation to Isaac Regional Council for the impact of the proposed coal mine. ...

Adani also reached agreements in July 2017 with both Townsville and Rockhampton City Councils to each contribute \$15.5 million for a joint-venture agreement to build an airstrip close to the mine.

That agreement guarantees each city will be able to advertise and provide 1100 "fly in, fly out" mine jobs from their city, providing 2200 of the 3300 jobs in the construction phase of the Carmichael Mine.

The money from the councils does not begin until the company provides detailed advice from the mine that it has financial backing, which it does not have at present. ...

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/may/28/bhp-and-queensland-reach-in-principle-agreement-over-288m-coal-royalties>

BHP and Queensland reach 'in principle' agreement over \$288m coal royalties

Ben Smee, The Guardian, 28/05/2018

Mining giant BHP and the Queensland government have reached an "in principle" agreement to settle a long-running \$288m coal royalty dispute, the state's supreme court has heard this morning.

The case, which experts said would likely have broad implications about the way mining royalties could be calculated and levied, centres on a 2015 decision by the Queensland Office of State Revenue to hit BHP Billiton with a bill for what it claimed were unpaid royalties and interest.

The bill relates to coal sold by the BHP-Mitsubishi alliance to BHP's own Singapore-based marketing operation between 2005 and 2012. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/new-hope-mined-area-outside-its-acland-parameters/news-story/671b0ef74517583b5f05ab01e1a5ff7b>

New Hope 'mined area outside its Acland parameters'

Jared Owens, The Australian, 31/05/2018

One of Australia's most contentious coalmines is under investigation amid allegations it noisily expanded its existing mining operation without seeking permission from Queensland regulators.

The Palaszczuk government's investigation into New Hope Group's New Acland coalmine — which employs 700 people near Toowoomba, 130km west of Brisbane — comes amid a protracted legal battle over the proposed stage-three extension of the mine. ...

The company allegedly expanded "mining activities into ... proposed pits which are within the mining lease area granted for the mine but outside of the mine pit footprint for which NAC sought and obtained approval", according to a legal brief prepared by the Environmental Defenders Office for the Oakey Coal Action Alliance. "NAC has continued to mine outside the areas approved ... causing envi-



Acland coal mine on the Darling Downs is alleged to have expanded without approval. Photo: Lock the Gate

ronmental harm and/or nuisance to nearby residents. This raises serious concerns as to the financial assurance held for the site." ...

https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/may/31/mining-company-i-of-expanding-acland-coalmine-without-permission?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

Mining company accused of expanding Acland coalmine without permission

AAP, The Guardian, 31/05/2018

Queensland's environment department is investigating claims that the mining company New Hope expanded existing operations at its New Acland coalmine without permission.

The state environment department confirmed on Thursday it was investigating New Hope's controversial mine, west of Brisbane, but the company insisted the complaints were part of a campaign against it. ...

A protracted legal battle is still raging over the proposed stage three extension of the mine.

<https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/news/media-releases/2018/epamedia180529>

EPA fines AGL after slurry overflow

EPA NSW, 29/05/2018

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has fined AGL Macquarie Pty Limited \$15,000 after slurry overflowed from ash dam infrastructure at the Liddell Power Station in March this year.

The EPA's Director Hunter Karen Marler said that a number of issues, including a pump failure while transferring fly ash from the power station

to the ash dam, allegedly caused the ash slurry to overflow and drain to an area of sensitive vegetation on site.

"The overflow consisted of a mixture of water and fly-ash as a slurry, which overflowed across an internal road and down an embankment into a vegetated area that contains Central Hunter Box - Ironbark Woodland, classed as an Endangered Ecological Community in NSW.

"AGL Macquarie has a responsibility to ensure that activities occurring onsite are undertaken in a competent manner and that equipment is properly operated and maintained to prevent incidents such as this," Mrs Marler said. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/newcastle-s-t4-coal-port-expansion-scrapped-as-demand-fails-to-rise-20180531-p4zinx.html>

Newcastle's T4 coal port expansion scrapped as demand fails to rise

Peter Hannam, SMH, 31/05/2018

The \$5 billion-plus Terminal 4 coal export expansion planned for Newcastle has been scrapped after demand for the fossil fuel failed to increase as expected.

Port Waratah Coal Services said on Thursday that it would allow a lease for the terminal - known as T4 - to lapse, signalling that the project would not go ahead. ...

James Whelan, a researcher with Environmental Justice Australia, said the community had mounted "a sustained and determined community campaign" over six years to block T4's approval and construction.

“Not a single community group in Newcastle welcomed the proposal to construct a fourth coal terminal, and [Port Waratah Coal Services] had no social licence for its construction or operation,” Dr Whelan said.

“But even without T4, we remain the world’s largest coal terminal and experience an unfair burden - air and water pollution, uncovered coal trains and stockpiles, a devastated natural environment and an economy that relies too heavily on the declining coal industry,” he said. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/mars-bars-fossil-fuels-and-goes-100pc-renewables-20180530-p4zibw.html>

Mars bars fossil fuels and goes 100pc renewables

Peter Hannam, SMH, 31/05/2018

Confectionery maker Mars, one of Australia’s biggest manufacturers, will shift entirely to renewable energy in just over a year as part of a company goal to reach carbon neutrality from its global operations by 2040.

The maker of the Mars and Snickers chocolate bars and food brands such as Uncle Ben’s rice has signed a 20-year power purchase deal that will support development of the Kiamal Solar Farm near Ouyen in northern Victoria, due for completion in mid-2019. It will also support a second renewable energy project planned by the developer, Total Eren, in NSW. ...

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5440891/ridge-lands-coal-resources-loosens-grip-on-5m-hunter-community-fund/?cs=305>

Ridgeland Coal Resources loosens grip on \$5m Upper Hunter community fund

Michael Parris, Newcastle Herald, 01/06/2018

Ridgeland Coal Resources has abandoned its control over a \$5 million community fund, allowing the money to flow to projects in the Upper Hunter.

The Hong Kong-based company’s decision last week to relinquish its veto rights over the fund committee’s decisions came seven months after it settled a Supreme Court action brought by Muswellbrook Shire Council to secure the funds.

Ridgeland had for almost five years failed to establish the fund, one of the conditions of its 2013 consent for a coalmine exploration licence on more than 7600 hectares of land at Wybong, west of Muswellbrook. ...

Energy Minister Don Harwin also confirmed that, under the wording

of the 2013 agreement, Ridgeland was required to establish the fund but “there is no requirement under the licence for the funds to be allocated” to the community.

But on Thursday the council said the company had abandoned its control over the fund. It said the council, Ridgeland representatives and the fund’s community members had met on Monday to allocate the remaining money to 27 projects in the shire, including \$700,000 for a learn-to-swim pool in Muswellbrook and \$470,000 for Denman childcare centre. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/standoff-threatens-to-derail-coking-coal-riches/news-story/75ea693d9d50d40667263170e338ee37>

Stand-off threatens to derail coking coal riches

Matt Chambers, The Australian, 02/06/2018

The price of coking coal, the nation’s second-biggest export, has risen to a six-week high as a stand-off between Queensland’s monopoly rail owner Aurizon, the big miners and regulators looms large in the minds of traders amid an improved outlook for Asian steel demand. ...

Aurizon, which owns the monopoly rail but also hauls coal to port for miners in competition with Pacific National, has put itself at odds with its coalmining customers as it fights an unfavourable rail network earnings draft ruling from the Queensland Competition Authority. ...

GAS, GAS, GAS

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/exxon-shell-need-east-coast-gas-terminals-says-analyst/news-story/0f69f707b8b9a1a932b26d49ef549834>

Exxon, Shell need east coast gas terminals, says analyst

Paul Garvey, The Australian, 28/05/2018

Oil and gas giants Royal Dutch Shell and ExxonMobil have been urged to consider the development of liquefied natural gas import terminals on Australia’s east coast as the race to build the first of the facilities intensifies.

Saul Kavonic, the principal Australasia analyst for international consultancy Wood Mackenzie, said the duo could have the most to gain from developing the new facilities in NSW and Victoria.

Utility AGL Energy is currently studying plans for the development of an LNG import terminal at Crib Point in Victoria, with the company arguing that the terminal would bring greater certainty of gas supply and address the

current challenges it faces in sourcing affordable gas.

Billionaire Andrew Forrest has also established a joint venture with Japanese heavyweights Marubeni, Tokyo Electric and Chubu Electric to establish an LNG import terminal in NSW.

A third such import terminal has also been proposed for development in South Australia. ...

But Mr Kavonic warned there was also a risk of excess LNG import capacity being built on the east coast, which would echo the overdevelopment of LNG capacity in Queensland that contributed to the recent tumult in east coast gas prices. ...

<https://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/story/5437148/our-new-regional-slum-towns/?cs=4785>

Western Downs towns hangover recovery, but ag faring well

Martin Bunyard, Queensland Country Life, 29/05/2018

New research by University of Queensland Centre for Coal Seam Gas has shown a trend of increasing unemployment in Queensland’s Western Downs towns affected by the gas boom, but surrounding agricultural businesses are faring well.

The towns of Chinchilla, Miles and Roma have increasing unemployment levels potentially as the gas industry slows in those regions, but surprisingly the ‘out of work’ people are coming from those moving to the towns to take advantage of cheap housing and rentals.

New figures show 688 people have moved to Chinchilla who are participating in the federal government’s relocation plan with the numbers of people in the program moving to the region increasing each quarter during last year.

Researchers believe ex-gas workers are more likely to leave a town in search of work and the current increase in unemployment is anecdotally coming from low income families moving to towns with cheap housing, such as Chinchilla’s over supplied housing market. Chinchilla housing values have dropped to \$210,000 from a high of \$420,000 in 2013, while average weekly rents have dropped to \$187 from \$400 per week in 2014.

The latest data shows twice as many drug offences were recorded in the Chinchilla district in 2017 than the Queensland average. ...

<https://thewest.com.au/business/public-companies/halliburton-rolls-in-stimulation-crew-at-strikes-trail-blazing-well-ng-b88849814z>

Halliburton rolls in stimulation crew at Strike's trail blazing well

Matt Birney, West Australian, 29/05/2018 (Sponsored)

Strike Energy is entering the home straight with its potentially ground breaking "Jaws-1" gas well in South Australia.

The company has mobilised a convoy of Halliburton trucks to begin the highly anticipated hydraulic stimulation program at the innovative project.

In a recent market update, Strike reported that the Halliburton stimulation crew was on its way to Jaws-1 in the Southern Cooper Basin Project, about 100km south of the Moomba gas processing plant. ...

Strike said Halliburton was bringing its own innovation to Jaws-1, including the use of their "Pinnacle" microseismic and tiltmeter equipment. This equipment will allow detailed measurement of fractures generated in the coal seam in real time.

The stimulation program will be followed immediately by flowback operations and the running of the final completion and connection of surface equipment, with wells possibly online in early to mid-July. ...

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5436759/lake-macquarie-mayor-weighs-in-on-gas-exploration-off-hunter-coast/?cs=305>

Community should have had more chance for a say on seismic testing, Lake Macquarie mayor Kay Fraser

Nick Bielby, Newcastle Herald, 30/05/2018

Lake Macquarie's mayor has joined the growing chorus of concerned voices reacting to gas exploration off the east coast.

Though Lake Macquarie council doesn't have an official stance on Asset Energy's seismic testing and possible gas drilling operation about 30km south east of Newcastle, Kay Fraser said the community should have had more of a chance to have a say before the project started.

Cr Fraser also said the possible impact that shooting acoustic pulses into the ocean floor could have on the marine environment should have been given more consideration. ...



Remotely piloted drone. Pic: Shell

<https://www.energyvoice.com/oilandgas/australia/172849/watch-remotely-piloted-drone-used-to-monitor-thousands-of-wells-in-vast-surat-basin/>

Shell using drones to monitor thousands of wells in vast Surat Basin

Allister Thomas, Energy Voice, 29/05/2018

Energy giant Shell has released a video of special remotely piloted drones which are used to inspect thousands of wells and pipelines in Australia.

QGC is owned by Shell and is one of the leading operators in eastern Australia.

The drones can fly up to 900 metres in the air, travelling across thousands of kilometres.

QGC uses them to inspect wells and pipelines across great distances in the Surat Basin, one of its largest natural gas producers. ...

<http://www.ehn.org/fracking-wastewater-spread-on-roads-2573426742.html>

Radium has been widely spread on Pennsylvania roadways without regulation: Study

Kristina Marusic, Environmental Health News, 30/05/2018

200 times more of the carcinogen [radium] has been released into the environment through legal road bringing than has as a result of oil and gas industry spills.

Wastewater from the oil and gas industry that's being spread on roadways to control dust and ice in at least 13 states, including Pennsylvania, poses a threat to the environment and to human health, according to a study released this week.

The wastewater, commonly referred to as "brine," contains high levels of salt along with lead, radium, organic contaminants and other heavy metals in concentrations above safe levels for drinking water. Researchers have found that nearly all of the metals from brine leach out from roadways when it rains, and they speculate that the pollutants could wind up in nearby bodies of water and find their way into local drinking water sources. ...

In their report, published in the journal *Environmental Science & Technology*, the researchers noted that in Pennsylvania from 2008 to 2014, spreading oil and gas wastewater on roads released more than four times more radium to the environment (320 millicuries) than was released from oil and gas wastewater treatment facilities, and 200 times more radium than spills. Some lead and radium was also found to settle into roadways.

Radium is radioactive and has been linked to bone marrow and lung cancer, while the health impacts of lead exposure range from lowered IQ levels and behavioral issues in children to kidney, brain and central nervous system damage in adults. The researchers also found that the levels of salt in the brine pose a threat to aquatic life, and that some of the organic contaminants showed potential toxicity outcomes in human cells that have been linked to liver cancer in animal experiments. ...

Previous research suggests that the use of brine may not actually be effective at controlling dust.

Burgos and Warner were only able to track down one published study

investigating the effectiveness of the practice, which found no statistical difference in the amount of dust being blown off roads that had been treated with brine and roads that hadn't been treated at all. The authors of that study, which was conducted in North Dakota, speculated that brine doesn't contain high enough concentrations of calcium and magnesium, which help bind dust together into clay and retain moisture.

<https://smallcaps.com.au/leigh-creek-energy-next-step-gas-production-south-australia/>

Leigh Creek Energy takes next step towards gas production in South Australia

Gerge Tchevertakove, Small Caps, 29/05/2018

Junior gas explorer Leigh Creek Energy is one step closer to demonstrating gas flow at its Leigh Creek energy project (LCEP) in South Australia after receiving the second of three required activity notifications, as stipulated by regulators.

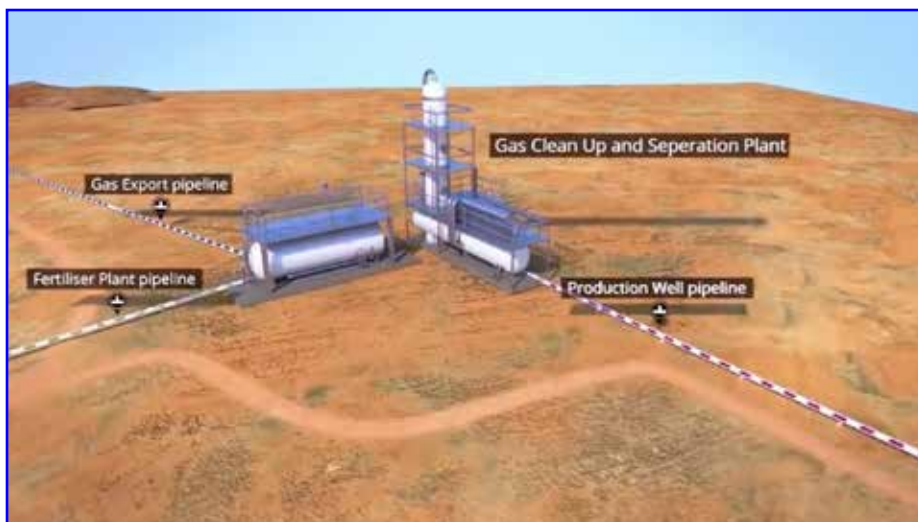
The LCEP is expected to produce high-value products such as electricity, methane, synthetic natural gas and ammonium nitrate products including fertiliser and industrial explosives from the remnant coal resources at Leigh Creek, utilising In Situ Gasification (ISG) technologies.

"Site construction mobilisation activities commenced immediately after approval of the first activity notification and are on schedule," said Phil Staveley, managing director of Leigh Creek Energy.

Mr Staveley added that Leigh Creek and its drilling contractor will now drill three ISG process wells, and "progress towards planned gas operations in Q3 2018," thereby unlocking a significant energy resource in South Australia. ...

Once the third activity notification is received, Leigh Creek says the "PCD can be operated", which effectively represents the company's first gas flow at the Leigh Creek project. ...

With the second approval in-hand Leigh Creek says it will drill three process wells to service the underground ISG chamber which it expects to take 4-5 weeks in concurrence to its other development work on site at the LCEP.



Leigh Creek Energy's visualisation of its underground coal gasification project – similar technology to that used by Linc Energy which caused Queensland's biggest environmental pollution event. Apparently, the South Australian government is undeterred and has given approvals, enabling work to begin.

<https://www.transcontinental.com.au/story/5442922/progress-for-leigh-creek-energy-project/>

Progress for Leigh Creek Energy Project

Marco Balsamo, The Transcontinental, 01/06/2018

Leigh Creek Energy (LCK) is one step closer to demonstrating gas flow in Leigh Creek after receiving the second of three activity notification approvals for its Pre-Commercial Demonstration (PCD). ...

State Member for Stuart Dan van Holst Pellekaan said if the project proves to be successful then many people would benefit, and if not, it wouldn't go ahead.

"A small trial conducted under extremely strict conditions, would allow the company to show regulators and the public how it can operate safely with regard to people, the environment and Aboriginal heritage," he said.

"I know there are concerns about the project, some of which I share, but let's see how a trial progresses and then make a full assessment."

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/santos-400m-bowen-basin-coal-seam-gas-project-approved-to-create-300-jobs/news-story/c4060d30f1056c3b5e1fb0effb750559>

Santos \$400m Bowen Basin coal seam gas project approved, to create 300 jobs

John McCarthy, Courier-Mail, 31/05/2018

Santos has given the go-ahead for a \$400 million coal seam gas project in the Bowen Basin that will generate about 300 jobs. ...

Santos said the \$400 million Arcadia investment was in addition to the \$900 million it was investing in upstream

developments in the Maranoa, Western Downs, Central Highlands and Banana regions of Queensland this year.

Managing director Kevin Gallagher said the Arcadia gas project would create up to 300 construction jobs and local business opportunities in the Central Highlands region.

It will supply gas to the Gladstone GLGNG project.

"This is great news for both the domestic gas market and our LNG exports," Mr Gallagher said

<https://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/story/5440338/new-injune-coal-seam-gas-project/?cs=4785>

New Santos coal seam gas project near Injune

Martin Bunyard, Queensland Country Life, 31/05/2018

Santos has announced a new Arcadia Valley coal seam gas project near Injune in south west Queensland.

The project will involve drilling 137 new wells and constructing a 140 kilometre gas and water gathering network, two 4G communication towers, a new compression station, a four megalitre per day water treatment plant, a 5 megawatt gas-fired power station, plus associated roads and infrastructure.

The Arcadia gas project is expected to start production by late next year. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/queensland-picks-up-more-than-5-billion-in-mining-and-gas/news-story/84373fe99dce68da3f7011adbb8c9e0a>

Queensland picks up more than \$5 billion in mining and gas investment in six months

John McCarthy, Courier-Mail, 01/06/2018

Queensland has sparked more than \$5 billion in deals in the past six months as the mining and gas sector enters a revival that's generating hundreds of jobs. And there's more to come. ...

Mines Minister Anthony Lynham said the construction jobs were particularly welcome, as will be the royalties which will flow to future Queensland budgets to help fund doctors and nurses in hospitals and teachers in schools.

"This is also good news for landholders, who have, to date, benefited from more than \$387 million paid in compensation (from coal seam gas).

"However, the Palaszczuk Government continues to focus on increasing domestic gas supply, to drive down prices for our industrial consumers who use gas as both an energy source and feedstock."

<https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/5440824/santos-water-use-being-investigated/?cs=159>

EPA investigates Santos water uses at Leewood irrigation

Jamieson Murphy, Northern Daily Leader, 01/05/2018

THE state's environmental watchdog has been investigating Santos' irrigation activities at its coal seam gas wastewater facility in the Pilliga for almost half a year.

The NSW EPA launched its investigation at the end of last year, when the

Department of Industry, Land and Water raised concerns over Santos' water use approval for irrigation activity.

"The EPA has examined the site and has found no environmental damage occurred or is likely to occur as a result of the irrigation," an EPA spokesperson said.

"It is expected that the investigation will be finalised soon. Santos has stopped irrigation while the investigation is underway."

A Santos spokesperson said the company had "all necessary approvals in place to irrigate at Leewood", however it was working with the government to "clarify some administrative issues". ...

Labor MLC Daniel Mookhey, raised the investigation in parliament with Regional Water Minister Niall Blair, who took the question on notice.

"People in northwest NSW have every right to ask for the proactive release of this information," Mr Mookhey said.

"It shouldn't take a question in parliament or questions by the media to find out that the EPA has launched an investigation.

"With Liberal ministers openly campaigning from the floor of parliament for CSG mining in the Pilliga, the perception that they're withholding information about an EPA investigation is deeply worrying." ...

<https://www.chinchillanews.com.au/news/emerging-exporters-program-to-take-our-products-to-3430750/>

Emerging Exporters program to take our products to the world

Brooke Duncan, Chinchilla News, 01/06/2018

Nine businesses from the Toowoomba

and Western Downs regions are set to learn the ins and out of exporting internationally as the first cohort in the Emerging Exporters Program.

The program, funded by QGC and delivered by Food Leaders Australia, will take businesses on a three-year journey with the goal of being export-ready by the end of the program.

The full list of successful businesses are: Running Gully Meats, Jim's Jerky, Mohawk International Pty Ltd (Teraform), Maranoa Beef Pty Ltd, Carter Rural Industries, Condabilla Fish Farm, Elliott Agribusiness, Procrew, and DF & KJ Knudsen.

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/shutting-a-coalfired-power-station-give-us-five-years-notice/news-story/4c885b8e84850e65a1b40f65e5b944dc>

Shutting a coal-fired power station? Give us five years notice

Samantha Hutchinson, The Australian, 02/06/2018

Coal-fired power producers in Victoria contemplating shutting down will now be forced to give at least five years notice before winding up.

Victorian Treasurer and Resource Minister Tim Pallas says the Andrews government has given certainty to mining and energy workers in the Latrobe Valley by forcing energy giants AGL and Energy Australia to give at least five years notice before shutting down.

The announcement came as the Andrews government announced a plan to extend mine licences at the Loy Yang and Yallourn mines and adjoining power stations, to allow for 17 years of rehabilitation. ...

The two companies agreed to a series of additional conditions, including continuing to invest in mine rehabilitation and their power stations to ensure safe and reliable power, while also working towards the Latrobe Valley Worker Transfer Scheme, which supports workers to find new jobs.

The Andrews government this year appointed Emeritus Professor Rae Mackay as the first Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner, and provided \$5 million in the latest budget to support his work advising the government on how best to rehabilitate mining sites in the valley.



Aerial view of the Santos Leewood irrigation project.

News this week ... from previous page

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/annastacia-palaszczuk-pledges-coal-supply-to-wary-japan/news-story/0c94dfc20b4630d54eced-0ab40343823>

Annastacia Palaszczuk pledges coal supply to wary Japan

Jared Owens, *The Australian*, 31/05/2018

Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk has personally guaranteed “continuity of supply” to coal-hungry Japanese steel mills as her state’s competition tsar handed fresh ammunition to mining companies in their feud with freight monopolist Aurizon.

The mining industry has been incensed by Aurizon’s decision to change its maintenance practices, with the effect of cutting coal exports by at least 20 million tonnes, following the Queensland Competition Authority’s draft decision in December to tighten the company’s belt. ...

<http://www.ntnews.com.au/news/northern-territory/katherine-mayor-fay-miller-details-explosive-rant-from-health-minister-greg-hunt/news-story/1af516cb495047e-ba7db422ba8dc597a>

Katherine Mayor Fay Miller details explosive rant from Health Minister Greg Hunt

Staff writers & Rob Harris, *NT News*, 31/05/2018

The Katherine Mayor, Fay Miller said that in a private meeting last December, Mr Hunt told her she had to “f---ing get over” herself, and he’d been warned she was “feisty”. She said he leaned towards her, “pointed aggressively” in her face, said she needed to make NT senator Nigel Scullion her “f---ing best friend”, and then continued to swear.

Ms Miller was leading a delegation to Canberra, to discuss a health package for Katherine following PFAS chemical contamination from nearby RAAF Base Tindal, when she met Mr Hunt on December 6 last year.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-05-31/greg-hunt-says-sorry-to-katherine-mayor/9818938>

Health Minister Greg Hunt accused of misogyny after swearing at Katherine Mayor Fay Miller

Louise Yaxley & Lucy Sweeney, *ABC*, 31/05/2018

The Mayor of Katherine has accused Health Minister Greg Hunt of misogyny, after he apologised for swearing at her during a meeting six months ago.

Mr Hunt apologised this morning for

using “strong language” during a meeting last year with Fay Miller, admitting it should not have taken him so long to say sorry.

Ms Miller said Mr Hunt swore and pointed his finger in her face when she was meeting with him to lobby for better resources to deal with contamination from fire-fighting foam in her region. ...

Asked how she found Mr Hunt’s attitude during the meeting, Ms Miller replied: “That was misogynist.”

Ms Miller said she wrote to Mr Hunt twice asking him to explain his behaviour but only received an apology from him yesterday.

“I wrote to him in December and I actually got a letter in February that accused me of poor behaviour,” she said.

Ms Miller said she wrote back again on May 14, this time addressing the Prime Minister as well as Mr Hunt, and asking for an explanation and apology. ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-05-31/proposal-to-expand-christmas-island-phosphate-mine-knocked-back/9820382>

Christmas Island facing economic collapse as mine expansion rejected to save red crabs

Kathryn Diss, *ABC*, 31/05/2018

The community of Christmas Island could face an economic collapse after a proposal to expand the island’s phosphate mine was knocked back over fears of the impact to the island’s wildlife, including its world-famous red crabs.

Phosphate Resources Limited has been mining on the Indian Ocean Territory for more than 100 years, but claims it needs to clear more crown land to access new deposits in order for the operations to remain viable. ...

When lobbying for the mine’s expansion last July, Christmas Island Shire President Gordon Thomson said the Federal Government needed to urgently approve the land clearing or risk the mine’s closure and the loss of 250 jobs. ...

But the Federal Government has rejected the proposal, concluding the expansion of mining operations would have a “significant and unacceptable” impact on the island’s “unique and irreplaceable” environment.

The island is home to many rare plants and animals including millions of red crabs which migrate to the sea each year to spawn.

The annual crab migration has been featured in countless nature documentaries, and been highlighted by Sir David Attenborough as one of nature’s most astonishing sights. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/part-time-bureaucrat-on-205-000-resolved-one-wind-farm-gripe-a-week-20180531-p4zil2.html>

Part-time bureaucrat on \$205,000 resolved one wind farm gripe a week

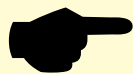
Nicole Hasham, *SMH*, 31/05/2018

A part-time bureaucrat appointed by former Prime Minister Tony Abbott to appease wind farm critics earned \$205,000 a year to resolve one complaint a week – most relating to wind farms that have not yet been built. ...

The taxpayer-funded commissioner was established by Mr Abbott in October 2015 to monitor the wind industry and respond to community complaints about turbine noise and health effects. Mr Abbott called wind farms “visually awful” and noisy, and former treasurer Joe Hockey decried them as “utterly offensive”.

FFB

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