



Fossil Fool Bulletin

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

Published by Eve Sinton • fossil.fool.bulletin@gmail.com

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Gas import race creates social, environmental problems and could vaporise manufacturing

The race to import gas to Australia, despite the country being one of the world's biggest gas exporters, poses environmental and social problems. It could also cause an unexpected economic disaster.

Last week a Twiggy Forrest-led consortium, AIE, trumpeted a liquid natural gas (LNG) import terminal for Port Kembla. This came soon after AGL announced it would import LNG at Crib Point in Victoria.

Crib Point residents are fighting back, fearing the heavy industrial development will ruin their peaceful seaside lifestyle. It will expose them to safety hazards as the LNG is regasified and pipelined to Pakenham.

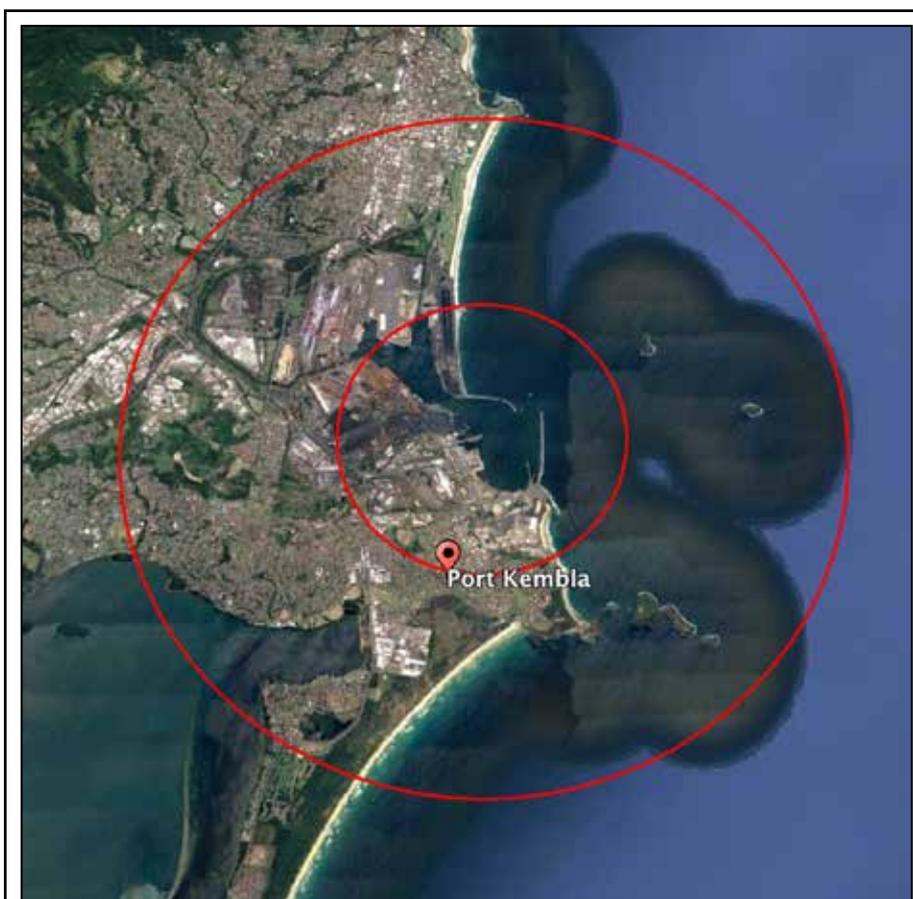
Gas leaks, noise and the possibility of a devastating explosion if anything goes wrong are amongst residents' concerns. The toxicity of vast amounts of seawater used to regasify the LNG, and its impact on the discharge zone, is another issue.

It remains to be seen how Port Kembla residents – already accustomed to heavy industries – will react.

Residential areas within blast zone

There are numerous residential areas within the impact area of any explosion at the Port Kembla terminal (see the map at right). While the LNG shipping industry has a good safety record, it is relatively new. In the event of an accident, there is the possibility death, injury and damage over a five kilometre radius.

The proliferation of such import terminals – another is proposed for Adelaide



*Port Kembla is marked with two kilometre and five kilometre zones around the harbour. If an accident occurred at the proposed LNG import and regasification terminal, there is the risk of a boiling liquid expanding vapour explosion (BLEVE). Death and injury are likely within two kilometres, while debris could be ejected for up to five kilometres. (See FFB1.25 for more information on BLEVE dangers.)
Picture: Google Earth*

– will drive energy company demands to expand gas mining around Australia. Unconventional gas creates enormous amounts of toxic waste, greenhouse gas emissions and has devastating impacts on surrounding communities.

Economic illusion

Ironically, the claimed economic benefit of a secure industrial gas supply at cheaper prices, may be an illusion.

• Continued p6

• P 2: Call to investigate govt-funded gas violence

• P 3: Fracking tribunal issues interim report

• P 5: Nanna Felicity's gas report

Call for investigation as Australian taxpayer funded gas project stirs up violence in PNG

A new report on the adverse social impacts of a Papua New Guinea Liquefied Natural Gas project will back Australia's assistant trade minister's call last month for an investigation into the decision to give AU\$500 million taxpayer money to the venture.

Jubilee Australia's new report 'On Shaky Ground: PNG LNG and the Consequences of Development Failure' is the first independent comprehensive report of the social impacts of the PNG-LNG pipeline since it started operating in 2014.

Summary of findings:

- Although some royalties have been paid to communities near the LNG plant, no royalties have yet been paid to Hela communities.
- The landowners of the resource in the areas of Hela Province are still living in conditions of abject poverty.
- Despite warnings about the dangers of starting production before the completion of landowner identification and vetting, the companies proceeded into production phase before this was complete.
- The majority of the promised infrastructure and services has not been delivered.
- For the past two years, there has been a series of incidents of violence, sabotage and kidnapping that are clearly connected with frustrations and discontent about the project. Since August 2016, the violence has escalated in the Hela communities.

Efic chipped in \$500m of our money

PNG LNG is an Exxon-led project which supplies about 8 million tonnes of LNG a year to Japan, South Korea and China. It is projected to run for 30 years. In 2009, Australia's Export Credit Agency, Efic lent AU\$500 million to the project joint venturers Exxon, Oil Search, Santos and the Government of PNG. Efic's decision was based on advice from DFAT provided to the then-Minister for Trade, Simon Crean. This is the largest loan ever made by Efic.

PNG activist Lucielle Paru said: "The Huli and all those who have been affected by the PNG-LNG project from Hela Province to Central Province have



not benefited. The decision by the leader of the People's National Congress Peter O'Neill to proceed with this project has destroyed PNG's economy. Peter O'Neill should apologise to the people of PNG. There is a growing call by the landowners in the Hela Province for Peter O'Neill to resign as a result of the mismanagement of the PNG LNG project and non-payment of our royalties.

Abject development failure

Report co-author and anthropologist Michael Main said: "During the seven months I spent living with Huli landowners I witnessed the abject development failure of the PNG LNG project. The landowners of the resource remained in conditions of dire poverty and promised development projects did not exist.

"During the construction phase of the project landowners had jobs, families had money, and conflict between clans was minimal. When construction ended and people lost their jobs, money stopped flowing, frustrations built up and violent conflict escalated to catastrophic levels. The devastating earthquake of 26 February has only compounded the frustrations of the Huli population and lack of development from the project has diminished their capacity to cope with natural disasters.

Report co-author and Executive Director of Jubilee Australia Dr Luke Fletcher said: "Although they have never been released, we know that Efic and DFAT prepared risk analyses of this project before it was approved. It was known that that the project was to happen in an area with a long history of social and often violent conflict, within a system of complex landowner relationships.

Efic and DFAT incompetence

"Efic and DFAT either rated the project as low or moderate risk, which was clearly incompetent. Or they rated the project as high risk, and recommended approval anyway, which is scandalous.

"Either way, Efic and DFAT must release all risk analyses at once, and the Assistant Trade Minister should make good on his commitment to a full inquiry into this matter as soon as possible, preferable in the Senate so that all Australians and people of PNG might be privy to it.

This new report follows the publication last month of an economic analysis of the pipeline, 'Double or Nothing: The Broken Economic Promises of PNG LNG' by Jubilee Australia. (See FFB 1.23, and other PNG news in FFB 1.15.)

The new Jubilee Australia report:

<http://www.jubileeaustralia.org/latest-news/second-report-exploring-the-png-lng-project>

Permanent Peoples Tribunal on fracking releases interim statement

By Ruth Hayhurst, drillordrop.com

A panel of judges at an internationally-recognised tribunal has concluded that governments and industry have failed in their obligations to protect the public from the impacts of fracking.

A preliminary statement issued by the Permanent People's Tribunal session on fracking said the process contributed to climate change and involved "massive violations" of human rights.

The interim opinion said the industry "has failed to fulfil its legal and moral obligations" and governments have, in general, "failed in their responsibility to regulate the industry" to protect people communities and nature.

The tribunal hearings, all held online last month, considered heard evidence from individuals, experts and non-governmental organisations about the impact of fracking on the environment, people's lives and on communities.

The interim opinion is not the court's final judgment but it may indicate how the judges are thinking. The final advisory opinion on is expected in the (northern hemisphere) autumn.

The statement, issued earlier this week, included the conclusion:

"The evidence we have considered is consistent internally, almost without exception. It is also consistent with the external evidence to which the Tribunal was referred, i.e. the results reached, discussed and analysed in hundreds of independent reports and refereed research publications.

"The evidence clearly demonstrates that the processes of fracking contribute substantially to anthropogenic harm, including climate change and global warming, and involve massive

violations of a range of substantive and procedural human rights and the rights of nature. Thus the industry has failed to fulfil its legal and moral obligations.

"The evidence also shows that governments have, in general, failed in their responsibility to regulate the industry so as to protect people, communities and nature.

In addition, they have failed to act promptly and effectively to the dangers of climate change that fracking represents."

Permanent People's Tribunals have no power to compel people to attend hearings, give evidence or to enforce a judgement. But the Bhopal tribunal led to the adoption of the Charter on Industrial Hazards and Human Rights.

Andy Gheorghiu, policy advisor for the campaign group, Food and Water Europe, which contributed to the hearings, said last week:

"The interim opinion of the Permanent People's Tribunal judges finally confirms within a court of international importance that fracking and the industry and governments behind this global frenzy is a threat for us all", says Andy Gheorghiu, policy advisor for Food & Water Europe.

"States and non-state actors are fully responsible and should be held fully liable for the – in view of the existing knowledge and evidence deliberate – conducted violations of human rights and the rights of nature related to environmental and climate harm caused by the so-called unconventional oil and gas extraction techniques."

The full interim judgement can be found here:

<https://investigatingbalcombeandcudrilla.files.wordpress.com/2018/06/preliminary-statement-of-permanent-peoples-tribunal-on-fracking.pdf>

Caution on fracking

By Eric Galatas, Public News Service

After looking back at the history of shale gas extraction in the United States, international development and trade experts say hydraulic fracturing should be approached with caution by countries considering ways to meet growing energy demands.

Mitch Jones, a senior policy advocate with the watchdog group Food and Water Watch, says a new report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development adds to a growing body of research pointing to hazards associated with fracking.

"Fracking in the US – whether it's in Pennsylvania, or in Wyoming and North Dakota or Colorado – serves as a cautionary tale for other countries that are considering fracking for shale gas on their own," he states.

In its recent Commodities at a Glance report, the United Nations' trade division points to ground-water contamination, increased seismic activity and methane waste as fracking's biggest drawbacks.

Analysts also say all countries should move as quickly as possible to stop burning fossil fuels, including shale gas.

The Trump administration has called for expanded fossil fuel production in an effort to achieve energy dominance.

The Petroleum Association of Wyoming has not yet responded to a request for comment on the report.

The UN agency also warns that investments in shale gas should not come at the expense of renewable energy and efficiency strategies, both considered critical to limit the impacts of climate change.

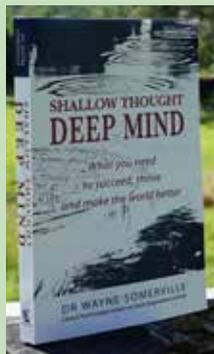
Jones points to a recent Rocky Mountain Institute study warning that nearly \$1 trillion in natural gas infrastructure could end up as stranded assets in investment portfolios.

The UN report notes that natural gas still has a role to play in the transition from the current fossil fuel economic model, as nations work to achieve goals set in Paris for a low-carbon economy with access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for all by 2030.

Dr Wayne Somerville is well known in the Northern Rivers, NSW, for his involvement with the Bentley Blockade.

His new book, *Shallow Thought, Deep Mind: What you need to succeed, thrive and make the world better*, is for everyone who takes on life's challenges and dreams of brighter tomorrows.

The book can be purchased from website www.drwaynesomerville.com for \$24.99 which includes postage anywhere in Australia and GST. The e-book version is available on Amazon. An audio book is coming.



EDOs to provide legal support on Ranger uranium mine closure



Ranger uranium mine. Photo: Energy Resources of Australia

The Environmental Defenders Offices in both NSW and the Northern Territory have been engaged by the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Environment Centre Northern Territory to provide legal expertise and advice on the closure planning process for Ranger Uranium Mine near Jabiru in the Northern Territory.

Energy Resources Australia released its mine closure plan for the mine on June 5. This crucial document will provide the roadmap for the rehabilitation of the site.

The mine's environmental obligations dictate that closure and rehabilitation must see the land returned to a quality that would allow the area to be incorporated into Kakadu National Park, which completely surrounds the mine site.

Will be watched by rest of the world

Principal Lawyer of the Environmental Defenders Office Northern Territory, Gillian Duggin, noted the importance of closure planning in this unique context, stating, "The rehabilitation of this site will be watched by the rest of the world.

"It's a unique site surrounded on all sides by the World Heritage listed Kakadu National Park. It's also of incredible cultural significance. So getting the rehabilitation right is critically import-

ant and will be a complex and time consuming exercise".

Both EDO NSW and EDO NT view the provision of legal expertise to ACF and ECNT, NGOs seeking to independently review the mine closure plan, as overwhelmingly in the public interest.

Chief Executive Officer at EDO NSW, David Morris, emphasised the importance of the closure process undertaken by ERA being subject to independent scrutiny, stating, "Independent review of the plan put forward by the company is obviously important; the plan must be rigorously reviewed and that will require obtaining independent expert scientific opinions.

"The EDO offices are pleased to be able to offer expert legal support to the two NGOs which are spearheading an independent review of the Ranger mine closure plan". (See more, p8.)

Interview: CSG on the Darling Downs

Karen Auty talks about the CSG water that goes into the Chinchilla drinking water supply, the health impacts on gasfield residents, the visits by politicians and government reps who then do nothing to help, the buyouts, the make good agreements, the industry and its private health service plus more.

Recommended listening!

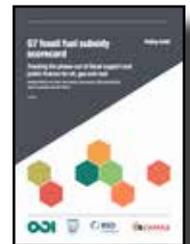
<https://soundcloud.com/nwpa/karen-auty-interview-150318-in-chinchilla>

G7 govts spend \$100 bn on fossil fuel subsidies

While progress is being made to transition away from fossil fuels, a recent analysis shows that G7 governments (France, Germany, Canada, UK, Italy, Japan and the USA) continue to provide at least \$100 billion in subsidies to the production and use of coal, oil and gas.

Despite their numerous commitments to the Paris Agreement, not only have G7 governments taken limited action to address fossil fuel subsidies but they have also failed to put in place any mechanisms to define and document the full extent of their support to oil, gas and coal, or to hold themselves accountable for achieving these pledges.

The G7 fossil fuel subsidy scorecard aims to address this accountability gap and track, for the first time, each G7 country's progress in phasing out fossil fuel subsidies across seven indicators.



The authors find that, with less than seven years to meet their 2025 phase-out deadline, G7 governments continue to provide substantial support the production and use of oil, gas and coal. On average per year in 2015 and 2016 the G7 governments gave at least \$81 billion in fiscal support and \$20 billion in public finance, for both production and consumption of oil, gas and coal at home and overseas.

The G7 fossil fuel subsidy scorecard is at:

<https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/12222.pdf>

SACRIFICE ZONE

Cloudcatcher Media's feature-length film: battle to save the Pilliga



<https://vimeo.com/257444267>



**NANNA FELICITY'S
GAS
REPORT**


Busy schedule for the Knitting Nannas

Another busy month for the Nannas. On the first Friday of the month, some of us travelled from Lismore to Robina, then on the train to Brisbane, picking up a few of the Queensland Nannas on the way. We took some of the Nannaphanalia with us: signs, banners, information packs, berets, etc.

Santos provides us with a lovely spot on Turbot Street, plenty of people walking by to talk to, taking the message of Santos' destruction of the Pilliga Forest and Great Artesian Basin with their proposed mines. We even had one of their security guards out to ask us for our identity details, but we didn't feel we wanted to be that friendly. We go again in a few weeks.

We have been distributing the *Fossil Fool Bulletin* wherever we can. This eBulletin expands on the very few news items touching corporate business that make it to the mainstream press, plus many that don't.

It changes the perspective of 'Linc Energy fined \$4.5 million' to 'Court awards Linc Energy huge fine which they are unlikely to pay', while the farmers whose lives and properties they destroyed are left with nothing, and no expected compensation.

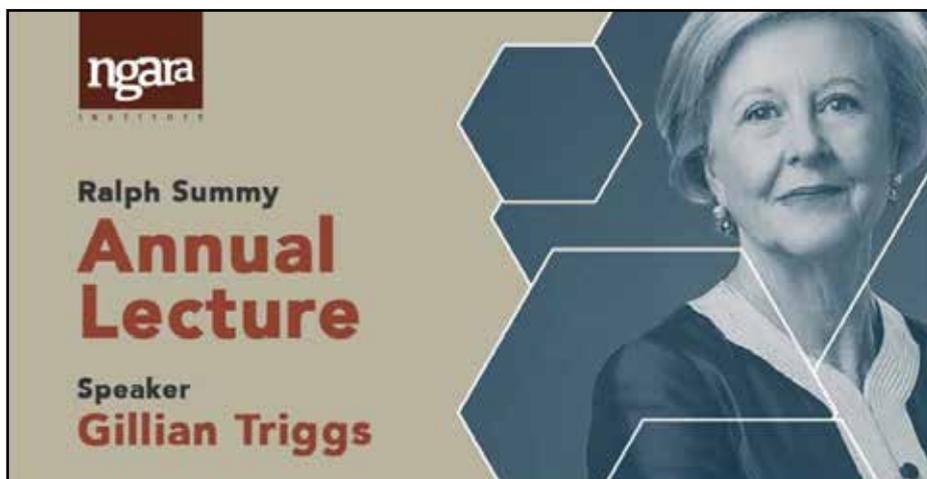
Just imagine being worried about striking a shovel on a stone while you are digging a hole, or ploughing a field, and the whole neighbourhood exploding because you have sparked off gas escaping from coal set alight underground. Not to mention the health effects of underground coal gasification!

And they are now heading off to Leigh Creek in South Australia. You can follow many news items like this yourself by going to <https://knitting-nannas.org/bulletins.php> and putting yourself on the subscription list. Nanna Eve does a much better job of covering the news than me, and the Bulletin comes out weekly.

The Bentley Effect

Through the month, The Bentley Effect movie was released on DVD at Keerong where the fight against gas on the Northern Rivers first took shape.

It was a gathering of old friends, and



a book – *Shallow Thought, Deep Mind* – was launched. Written by clinical psychologist Dr Wayne Somerville, who is a noted practitioner in his field, amongst such subjects as PTSD, it explores the psychological effects of people living in a gasfield, and the much higher rate of suicide.

Learning indigenous cultural burning

An important event for me this month was no KNAG, but Rural Fire Service. At the community engagement forum, one of the main programs was indigenous cultural burning. As a Knitting Nanna (and an invading white person), I try to learn more about our indigenous hosts, and was thrilled to have this important topic supported by the RFS, and by the many people in the service who are of the First People.

I am very happy to be advancing my knowledge of the firestick burning that saw this big land producing fruit and vegetables, medicine and food on the hoof (or paw) on a finely managed program thousands of years before the white man turned up and ruined it.

Now we are taking lessons on how to heal the land. Managing the land the indigenous way will remove the huge risk of wildfire and loss of houses etc we have created. We need to learn from our predecessors! I hope our local brigades will become involved with this system of caring for country.

Later in the month I arranged for the makes of the film *Sacrifice Zone* to show the film in Drake. It is nice to know that 99% of Drake is so totally unconcerned about where their food

and water will come from when the Great Artesian Basin is poisoned by the by-products of 850 gas wells in the Pilliga, that they didn't bother to check out the excellent effort to inform them of what is at stake.

I have several spare copies of the DVD to share with anyone who develops a belated interest in the future for their grandchildren, and it can also be obtained on the internet. Eve Jeffery and David Lowe feel it is such an important message they are asking no remuneration, and encourage it to be freely shared.

Nannas to be honoured by Ngara Institute

On June 30 the Knitting Nannas Against Gas have been invited to attend the NGARA Institute's activist of the year award, where the founding Nannas will share the award with activist and community worker Annie Kia. Annie, as a member of Lock the Gate, has put in a huge effort to inform people all over the country of the dangers of the gas industry.

KNAG remains busy, helping out at the Lismore Environment Centre, doing other community services and fulfilling the KNAG schedule.

More Brisbane visits, AgQuip in Gunnedah in August, KNAG conference in Newcastle in September, and whatever pops up in between.

We recently participated in a fund-raiser night at Federal to support the Environmental Defenders Office.

– Felicity Cahill

• Reprinted from Drake Village Voice

Gas import race could end in disaster



LNG ships like this one will sail into Eastern Australian terminals and discharge gas at -161°C – usually to another vessel, a floating storage and regasification unit (FRSU). Seawater is used to warm and regasify the liquid. Photo: APLNG

The Fracking Compendium says LNG explodes when spilled into water and, if spilled on the ground, can turn into rapidly expanding, odorless clouds that can flash-freeze human flesh and asphyxiate by displacing oxygen.

If ignited at the source, LNG vapors can become flaming “pool fires” that burn hotter than other fuels and cannot be extinguished.

• Continued from p1

A commentator for Macrobusiness says the exact opposite may apply, driving Australia towards banana republic status.

This project will permanently raise NSW gas prices by a good 20-30%

“This project will permanently raise NSW gas prices by a good 20-30%,” says Macrobusiness.

“Why? The following:

- imported LNG will become the marginal price setter of gas on the east coast given it will be much more expensive than the locally produced stuff;
- thus Asian seaborne market will be the marginal price setter of east coast gas which includes the cost of liquification, shipping and regasification;
- in effect, this will embed the Japanese price for gas in Australia. This is far worse even than the current target price of the government’s under-used domestic reservation mechanism which aims for the export net-back price (that excludes the cost of liquification, shipping and regasification, roughly \$2-4Gj);
- today Twiggy would deliver gas at \$13Gj plus whatever he charges for the privilege versus a local spot prices at roughly \$8.50Gj or \$8-10Gj on contract.”

Part of Andrew Forrest’s AIE consortium is Japanese gas trader, JERA.

Macrobusiness says, “Note that JERA is

the largest single buyer of Australian export gas. How nice of it to sell “the cheapest [Australian] gas” back to us with a giant mark-up. Honestly, JERA’s Japanese and Korean executives must laugh their heads off at Australia’s suicidal gas mismanagement. It may even be able buy the gas off Curtis Island then ship it south to Port Kembla while charging Asian prices for it.

Domestic gas ‘reserve’ destroyed

“Forrest will also dedicate every resource at his disposal to destroying the putative domestic reservation mechanism because if it stays in place then he can’t make any money, something the manufacturers signing up appear to have overlooked.

“By endorsing this project, the NSW Government is choosing to hike gas prices to the Japanese JKM benchmark permanently. It will get a security of supply trade-off in return.

That doesn’t make it any less suicidal.

In another post, Macrobusiness says: “That, in turn, raises the spectre of one last disaster from this proposal; the prospect of a doom loop for the eastern economy. As we hollow out gas-dependent manufacturing, the economy will weaken, driving down the Australian dollar. In turn that will lift the price of imported gas, and therefore energy more widely ... So on and so forth into the pit of the Banana Republic.

“Can we, as a nation, really be this calamitously stupid?” (More news p9-10.)

<https://www.macrobusiness.com.au/2018/06/nsw-government-endorses-twiggys-insane-gas-plan/>

Inside the news

The waste processing company mentioned in last weeks *Fossil Fool Bulletin* (FFB1.27) – **NuGrow** – has been accepting PFAS-contaminated water as well as **CSG** waste.

These toxic-laden source materials end up in NuGrow’s **compost** and soil conditioning products, which means they are likely to end up in the **food chain** (p9).

It appears Queensland’s ‘**beneficial use approvals**’ are being used to **disperse** industrial-scale **pollution** into the environment.

Community opposition to the loony **underground coal gasification** (UCG) at Leigh Creek, SA, erupted with protests last week.

Conservation SA and the **Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association** have asked to government to reject **Leigh Creek Energy’s** controversial trial project (p10).

The Australian wheeled out one of its **pro-nuclear** commentators to assure us all the old problems with nukes have been fixed. **Uranium miner** Tony Grey would like to see small modular **nuclear reactors** flowering all over Australia (p13).

The newspaper also ran a sponsored story (read advertorial) from Deakin University saying regulation needs to catch up with the need to **expand CSG** production.

The writer, Prof. Sandra Hepburn, makes some good points but appears to be unaware that **CSG’s methane emissions** made its carbon footprint every bit as **dirty** as that of coal (p11).

There was celebration outside Mudgee Court after the ‘**Wollar Three**’ – Bev Smiles, Stephanie Luke and Bruce Hughes – had **charges** laid during a protest against Wilpinjong Mine’s expansion **dismissed**.

The three were the first to be charged under **NSW’s draconian new anti-protest laws**, sometimes known as **Santos’ Law** because it is alleged Santos lawyers drafted it.

However, **EDO solicitor** Sue Higginson said the laws are still a **threat** to community protest around mines in the state (p11).

In the news this week:

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 23,500 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

[http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-06/adani-mine-qlld-government-considering-funding-\\$100m-road/9837042](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-06/adani-mine-qlld-government-considering-funding-$100m-road/9837042)

Queensland Government considering funding \$100m road for Adani mine, documents show

Josh Robertson, ABC, 06/06/2018

The Palaszczuk Government is still considering covering the estimated \$100 million upfront cost of road access for Adani's Queensland mine, despite promising no taxpayer funds would go to the project.

The ABC can reveal the State Government is negotiating a state takeover of about 90 kilometres of local dirt roads that must be upgraded if Adani is to gain year-round access to the proposed Carmichael mine site in central Queensland.

Documents obtained under a Right to Information (RTI) application show the Queensland Government's powerful Cabinet Budget Review Committee made a decision about providing state funding of the upgrade before July last year.

But the documents also showed that almost a year later, the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Office of the Coordinator-General were still negotiating terms of the upgrade with Adani and Isaac Regional Council.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/jun/06/queensland-ministers-will-be-targeted-if-state-funds-roads-for-adani-warn-activists>

Queensland ministers will be targeted if state funds roads for Adani, warn activists

Ben Smees, The Guardian, 06/06/2018

Activists say they will relaunch a disruption campaign targeting Queensland government ministers and MPs after reports the government has considered financing road upgrades required for access to Adani's Carmichael coalmine. ...

In the months since the election, with Adani apparently unable to secure finance to proceed with the megamine and progress stalling, opponents have been less visible.

Galilee Blockade spokesman Ben Penning told Guardian Australia the government could expect citizen activists



"Queensland Labor are planning to spend taxpayer money on Adani infrastructure through the back door. We'd better start disrupting their events and press conferences again!" says Galilee Blockade.

to redouble their attempts to disrupt Labor politicians.

The Galilee Blockade group said it would also target any road-building operations that would help Adani. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/queensland/labor-denies-breaking-adani-promise/news-story/986c49f238e55d7808fc80bc27c7e4cf>

Labor denies breaking Adani promise

Sonia Kohlbacher, AAP, Townsville Bulletin, 06/06/2018

The Queensland Government has denied it will be breaking a promise to voters if it uses taxpayer funds to upgrade a road to the Adani coal mine.

Labor went to the last election vowing no public money would be spent on the controversial mine or associated infrastructure. But the State Government is now considering using public funds to upgrade a road leading to the Carmichael site. ...

The Mackay Conservation Group said the Premier must rule out providing any funds for the road.

"The Queensland Coordinator General recommended Adani be responsible

for road upgrades and Adani said it would pay for the upgrade," the group's spokeswoman Maggie McKewen said in a statement.

"Why then would the premier spend public funds on this project?"

https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/resolution-nearing-in-dispute-between-brisbanes-towcom-au-and-subcontractors/news-story/315322e5e67ef-ab4a91e4e589d2d7565?from=htc_rss

Queensland Business

Anthony Marx, Courier-Mail, 06/06/2018

Even as a cloud of uncertainty continues to hang over Adani's proposed Carmichael mega-mine, the Indian colossus has brought in some heavy hitters in a sign of how badly they want it to happen.

Industry veteran Lucas Dow is now heading up Adani's Australian mining operations following his stint as chief executive of the BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance. Joining him to run government and corporate affairs is Paul Fennelly, a former co-ordinator general and DG of State Development.

Fennelly is also comfortable in the resources space, having previous-

ly served as head of the Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association.

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/federal-court-ruling-causes-legal-headache-for-adani/news-story/dbc5da4c4b6868e40fe455caf273bf66>

Federal court ruling causes legal headache for Adani

Clare Armstrong, *Townsville Bulletin*, 09/06/2018

The Federal court has ruled in favour of a Bowen-based aboriginal corporation that claimed it missed out on more than \$1 million for Adani's Abbot Point coal terminal development when they were replaced under a land use agreement.

Jury Enterprise Limited (JEL) took Adani and the Townsville-based Kyburra Munda Yalga Aboriginal Corporation to the Federal Court claiming Kyburra did not have approval to replace them under an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) amendment.

Both indigenous corporations represent various interests of the Juru people, who are the recognised native title holders of about 8500ha of land in the Cape Upstart National Park. ...

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5441621/renewables-will-gut-coal-power-australias-energy-system/?cs=305>

Renewable energy can power Australia's energy system reliably without coal and nuclear, analyst says

Damon Cronshaw, *Newcastle Herald*, 04/06/2018

A Newcastle company's massive plan for large-scale renewable energy projects in NSW reflects the "huge global investor appetite" in the sector, an analyst says.

"Australia stands to be a massive exporter of renewable energy," Institute for Energy Economics & Financial Analysis director Tim Buckley said.

"The Australian wind and solar resource is second to none." ...

Mr Buckley dismissed the commonly-held belief that Australia's energy system needed coal or nuclear power to be reliable.

"Technology has moved on. Coal is not flexible. Renewables absolutely gut the viability of coal-fired power.

"Nuclear is too slow to build and way too costly." ...

<http://www.ntnews.com.au/business/ranger-mine-closure-and-rehabilitation-to-cost-1-billion/news-story/f86aa022ca5c700c73264c7fe8d3abdd>

Ranger mine closure and rehabilitation to cost \$1 billion

Ashley Manicaros, *NT News*, 06/06/2018

The \$1 billion plan for the closure and rehabilitation of Australia's oldest operating uranium mine has been released by Energy Resources of Australia.

But the future of Jabiru, just 8km from Ranger mine and part of a larger lease arrangement, is still unknown.

ERA chief executive Paul Arnold said the plan was specifically for the Ranger Project Area. ...

"We are preparing a stand-alone plan for rehabilitation of Jabiru. We have a number of legal obligations for the rehabilitation of Jabiru (to the extent rehabilitation is required) including the decommissioning and/or removal of assets. ...

Mr Arnold said the plan built on more than 20 years of scientific work undertaken on progressive rehabilitation at Ranger, with more than \$452 million spent on water and rehabilitation activities since 2012. ...

The Northern Land Council and Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation welcomed the plan, saying it was decades overdue.

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<https://knitting-nannas.org/bulletins.php>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-07/silicosis-death-signals-warning-on-dangerous-dust-levels/9841584>

Coal miner's death after silicosis diagnosis a warning on dangerous dust levels

Michael Atkin, *ABC*, 07/06/2018

Queensland miner Tyrone Buckton never spent a day underground but last week died after being diagnosed with silicosis.

The lung disease is caused by high levels of exposure to silica dust, which the union says could pose a greater workplace hazard than coal dust. ...

Now the mining union, the CFMEU, is warning silica dust could pose a greater workplace hazard than coal dust because it is 20 times more toxic.

<https://www.mudgeeguardian.com.au/story/5453540/sucking-it-dry-report-warns-of-minings-water-impacts/?cs=1485>

Nearly one-third of the Hunter's groundwater resources could be affected by mining

Joanne McCarthy, *Mudgee Guardian*, 07/06/2018

Nearly one third of the Hunter could be affected by mining-related groundwater drawdown if new and controversial coal mines are approved, a Federal Government assessment of the region's water resources has revealed.

About one quarter of the region could already be affected by groundwater drawdown caused by mining, with major impacts already identified in the Goulburn River catchment where three major mines – Wilpinjong, Ulan and Moolarben – already operate and a fourth, the proposed Kepco Bylong mine, is being assessed. ...

The Goulburn River catchment in the Hunter Valley is under threat from coal mining.

Photo: NSW National Parks



<https://reneweconomy.com.au/nsw-grid-struggles-as-coal-goes-missing-after-bad-trips-86981/>

NSW grid struggles as coal goes missing after bad trips

Giles Parkinson, RenewEconomy, 08/06/2018

The bad week for coal power in the eastern states continued on Friday, with the multiple trips of coal generators earlier in the week extending to an absence of more than 4,700MW of coal units in NSW grid, sending wholesale prices soaring. ...

Bayswater coal generator had three units out, the Liddell coal generator had one unit out and another struggling to reach full capacity, the Mt Piper coal generator had one of its two units out, and the Vales Point coal generator also had one of its two units out. ...

GAS, GAS, GAS

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/cancer-toxins-destined-for-compost/news-story/4457d9f52287f23b1b7a7ce9a0b4c303>

Cancer toxins destined for compost

Michael McKenna, Rory Callinan, The Australian, 04/06/2018

Almost a million litres of water contaminated with toxic firefighting chemicals was taken from the RAAF's Amberley air base last year for use in compost to be sold to the public.

One of Queensland's largest waste disposal companies, NuGrow [which also processes CSG waste], has been hit with a state environmental protection order over its alleged unauthorised handling of the contaminated material at its Swanbank facility, west of Brisbane.

The 880,000 litres of water, containing per-fluorinated chemicals that have been linked to cancer, immune suppression and reduced fertility, was trucked in for use as "feedstock" in the manufacture of soil conditioning and compost products. ...

<https://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/story/5447349/port-kembla-chosen-for-gas-import-terminal/?cs=4698>

Gas import terminal at Port Kembla a first for NSW

Mike Foley, Queensland Country Life, 04/06/2018

The Australian-led international energy consortium Australian Industrial Energy (AIE) has chosen Port Kembla as its preferred location for the state's first Liquefied Natural Gas import terminal.



Port Kembla has been selected for another LNG import terminal as energy companies race to exploit a domestic gas shortage caused by excessive exports from Curtis Island, Gladstone. Photo: Port Authority NSW

Construction of the terminal is likely to require a capital investment of between \$200 and \$300 million, generate around 150 jobs during the construction phase and 40-50 ongoing roles. ...

From 2020, AIE plans to ship up to 1.8 million tonnes of LNG into Port Kembla. ... AIE is a consortium comprised of Japanese global powerhouse LNG buyer JERA, Andrew Forrest's Squadron Energy and Japanese industrial plant builder Marubeni Corporation. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/forrestbacked-aie-consortium-picks-port-kembla-for-lng-terminal/news-story/e021cf99e0a82289f15678e77d3a2454>

Forrest-backed AIE consortium picks Port Kembla for LNG terminal

Matt Chambers, The Australian, 04/06/2018

The Andrew Forrest-backed Australian Industrial Energy consortium, formed with Japanese interests, has selected Port Kembla as the site for a \$200 million to \$300m LNG import terminal — one of three being studied for the nation's gas-short east coast.

AIE said it had signed non-binding agreements with NSW Ports and gas buyers that would allow it to go ahead with engineering studies on a floating regasification plant, which it expects to cost \$200m to \$300m.

The project had also been looking at sites at Newcastle and Port Botany. ...

It follows on the heels of an LNG import terminal being studied at Victoria's Crib Point by AGL Energy.

A third project being studied to import LNG into South Australia is being led by Pacific National boss Dean Dalla Valle (separate from his Pacific National role). ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/the-economy/forrest-to-build-nsw-s-first-lng-import-terminal-at-port-kembla-20180604-p4zja7.html>

Forrest to build NSW's first LNG import terminal at Port Kembla

Cole Latimer, SMH, 04/06/2018

Fortescue Metals chairman Andrew "Twiggy" Forrest's Australian Industrial Energy will build a floating LNG import terminal in Port Kembla to bring more gas to NSW and Victoria as soon as 2020. ...

The terminal will have storage tanks capable of holding around four petajoules of gas, equivalent to between 10 and 12 days of NSW's total demand.

For the second stage of the development, AIE is investigating the construction of a new gas-fired power plant. It is understood this could include either expanding on existing small-scale power plants nearby to provide more energy to industrial users, or building a new 750-megawatt power plant. ...

The facility will see LNG carriers visiting Port Kembla around every two to three weeks.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-04/nsws-first-lng-terminal-to-drive-down-power-prices/9832486>

NSW's first LNG import terminal planned for Port Kembla, expected to drive down gas prices

Gavin Coote & Chloe Hart, ABC, 05/06/2018

Plans for the first liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal in New South Wales are being hailed as a "game changer" that will address the state's energy supply issues. ...

The consortium is also investigating whether to build a gas-fired power station, just over a month after AGL announced plans for a similar facility at the site of its coal-fired Liddell power station.

The project will now proceed to the detailed engineering phase, and will require planning approval from the NSW Government. ...

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 with your comments & tips

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/300m-plan-for-gas-terminal/news-story/54ad4deed7b70d1ecbfde5884d55d0a9>

\$300m plan for gas terminal

Matt Chambers, The Australian, 05/05/2018

Andrew Forrest's \$300 million Port Kembla gas terminal plan has overtaken AGL Energy's Victorian project in the race to build an east coast LNG import plant and will secure gas from as far away as the US using the buying firepower of its big Japanese partners, its proponents say. ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/construction/port-kembla-chosen-as-site-for-andrew-forrests-nsw-lng-import-plant-20180601-h10v4g>

Port Kembla chosen as site for Andrew Forrest's NSW LNG import plant

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 04/06/2018

Port Kembla was selected ahead of Newcastle as the location, with AIE citing strong support from local industry, business and community leaders. With a capacity of more than 100 petajoules a year, the terminal could also trigger the development of a new gas-fired power station. BlueScope, which has a steelworks at the port, is thought to be one of the potential customers, while gas retailers are also in the mix. ...

<https://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/5456060/port-kembla-workers-seek-australian-jobs-guarantee-over-new-gas-terminal/>

Port Kembla workers seek 'Australian jobs guarantee' over new gas terminal

Glen Humphries, Illawarra Mercury, 08/06/2018

Unions representing Port Kembla workers want an "Australian jobs guarantee" when it comes to the gas terminal planned for the suburb. ...

Mick Cross from the Port Kembla Port Unions committee said they wanted to see those jobs go to local workers. ...

He also expressed concern that it appeared the bulk of the LNG would be sourced internationally and then shipped to Australia. ...

<https://www.macrobusiness.com.au/2018/06/twiggy-forrests-east-coast-gas-play-will-dramatically-raise-prices/>

Twiggy Forrest's east coast gas play will dramatically raise prices

Macrobusiness.com, 04/06/2018

Andrew Forrest's new east coast gas play is just another disastrous chapter in Australia's gas monstrosity. ...

The paradox here, of course, is that a domestic supply shortage created by the construction of three export gas



Halliburton contractors fracking Strike's Jaws-1 CSG well using an extreme new technique. Photo: Strike Energy

projects at Gladstone could be solved by buying LNG sourced anywhere but Queensland and shipped to proposed import terminals in NSW, Victoria and South Australia. ...

Why is this a disaster? The following:

- imported LNG will become the marginal price setter of gas on the east coast given it will be much more expensive than the locally produced stuff;
- thus the global market will be the marginal price setter of east coast gas which includes the cost of liquifaction, shipping and regasification;
- in effect, this will embed the Japanese price for gas in Australia. This is far worse even than the current target price of the government's under-used domestic reservation mechanism which aims for the export net-back price (that excludes the cost of liquifaction, shipping and regasification, roughly \$2-4Gj);
- today Twiggy would deliver gas at \$13Gj plus whatever he charges for the privilege versus a local spot prices at roughly \$8.50Gj or \$8-10Gj on contract;

As well, as you can see from the Forrest commentary, his new business will undermine and destroy domestic gas reservation. ... Forrest is offering extreme levels of commodity economics balderdash. ... This is not a market solution, it is Twiggy Forrest joining hands with east coast energy cartel and delivering it a phenomenal windfall. ...

That, in turn, raises the spectre of one last disaster from this proposal; the prospect of a doom loop for the eastern economy. As we hollow out gas-dependent manufacturing, the economy will weaken, driving down

the Australian dollar. In turn that will lift the price of imported gas, and therefore energy more widely, ... So on and so forth into the pit of the Banana Republic. Can we, as a nation, really be this calamitously stupid?

<https://smallcaps.com.au/strike-energy-halliburton-jaws-coal-seam-gas-project-online/>

Strike Energy paves the way to bring Jaws coal seam gas project online

Danica Cullinane, SmallCaps, 04/06/2018

Unconventional gas explorer Strike Energy has completed a multi-stage fracture stimulation program at its Jaws-1 coal seam gas project in South Australia, paving the way for the project to come online next month.

The fracking program comprised seven stages, including five of the first indirect vertical fractures to ever be executed in Australia.

This innovative indirect vertical fracture (IVFC) technique utilises gravity-assisted drainage of the reservoir and is fast becoming a popular method in the US shale gas industry. ...

<https://www.transcontinental.com.au/story/5453727/protesters-say-no-to-leigh-creek-energy-project/?cs=1916>

Copley community fights against UCG

Marco Balsamo, The Transcontinental, 07/08/2018

"Sacred land. No UCG. Gas off now."

That was the message from Copley community members during a public protest against underground coal gasification (UCG) in Leigh Creek on Friday, June 1. ...

Conservation SA Chief Executive Craig Wilkins said the community's concerns came as no surprise.

“There is a lot of community anger about this. It’s been rapidly building and is now starting to spill out onto the streets,” Mr Wilkins said.

“The Marshall government needs to listen to traditional owners, environmental experts and the community and reject the proposed trial.”

Conservation SA’s strong opposition for the project was equally matched by that of the Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association (ATLA).

“We say no to the gasification project for our grandchildren and their grandchildren and many generations to come because this project could poison our people forever,” ATLA said in a statement. ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/a-new-winter-of-gas-market-discontent-looms-20180605-h10zxx>

A new winter of gas market discontent looms

Matthew Stevens, AFR, 05/06/2018

The ability of Queensland’s liquid natural gas producers to reap the winds of rising regional gas prices will probably be contained by their commitment to the federal government to sustain domestic markets through the winter-time demand surge.

Flat coal seam gas production, surging LNG prices and an exceptionally cold start to winter in the southern states will bring the first real test of the agreement forged between government and Gladstone’s three LNG projects in October, according to Australia’s leading independent energy market analyst, EnergyQuest. ...

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/worries-curtis-island-lng-sites-wont-fulfil-winter/3434983/>

Worries Curtis Island LNG sites won’t fulfil winter demand

Tegan Annett, Gladstone Observer, 07/06/2018

EnergyQuest chief executive Graeme Bethune has warned QCLNG, GLNG and APLNG will struggle to fulfil their export and domestic market contracts unless they have a significant lift to production.

Mr Bethune said as winter sets in across southeast Australia, causing a sharp increase in gas demand, the domestic market could tighten.

His warning, published in EnergyQuest’s latest quarterly report on the LNG market, is based on a decline in coal seam gas production. ...



Most gas produced in Queensland is exported from Curtis Island. Pic: Google Earth

The three Curtis Island plants, which continue to operate below capacity, were forced to supply more gas to the domestic market last year amid concerns of a gas shortfall this year.

They also face scrutiny by the Federal Government’s Australian Domestic Gas Supply Mechanism, which can trigger export restrictions or bans if Australians need more gas. ...

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/glngs-200th-shipment-arrives-at-korea/3437038/>

GLNG’s 200th shipment arrives at Korea

Tegan Annett, Gladstone Observer, 09/06/2018

This week Santos GLNG’s 200th shipment of LNG arrived at Korea, marking a major milestone for the \$25 billion project.

The vessel, YK Sovereign, docked at the Incheon terminal on Monday. ...

The Curtis Island project shipped its first cargo of LNG in October 2015.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/higher-education/regulation-needs-to-catch-up-with-csg/news-story/b10bdf-1808c817fc40680f3b161baa7>

Regulation needs to catch up with CSG

Sponsored content, The Australian, 08/06/2018

Very few people would have envisaged, 20 years ago, that an unwelcome — and dangerous — by-product of coalmining, coal-seam gas, would be captured and turned, after \$70 billion worth of investment, into an export commodity that has been converted to liquefied natural gas and sold globally.

Unfortunately, Australia’s regulatory frameworks have been slow to respond to the massive build-up of this industry, Professor Samantha Hep-

burn, of Deakin Law School, says.

“This is demonstrated by that fact that Australia’s national environmental protection legislation, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, predates the CSG industry,” says Hepburn.

It is time to update the national environment act: “Any legislation of its kind, that predates the coal seam gas industry that it has to deal with — and predates the decarbonisation imperative — is not really fit for purpose.”

• In partnership with Deakin University Business and Law.

FOSSIL POLITICS

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-05/court-dismisses-anti-protest-charges-against-activists/9837808>

Court throws out anti-protest charges against ‘Wollar three’ coal mining activists

Claudia Jambor, ABC, 05/06/2018

Three people have escaped jail time after a judge dismissed two charges laid under the State Government’s protest laws over a coal mine demonstration in the mid-western region of New South Wales.

Stephanie Luke, Bruce James Hughes and Beverley Smiles, dubbed ‘the Wollar three’, were the first to be tried under the controversial 2016 laws.

The trio earlier pleaded not guilty to three charges relating to a protest outside the Wilpinjong coal mine in April 2017.

Magistrate David Day dismissed two charges of hindering the working of and rendering useless equipment belonging to, or associated with, a mine, in Mudgee Local Court on Tuesday.

Mr Day said in his 13-page judgement there was insufficient evidence to find the trio guilty of those offences, which carry a maximum of seven years in jail.

Environmental Defenders Office lawyer Sue Higginson, representing the three, said while the case marked a win for protestors around the state, the question still remained as to whether the laws harmed activism. ...

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5448412/not-guilty-mine-protesters-cheered-after-landmark-court-case/>

Three coal protesters say “justice prevailed” after magistrate dismisses anti-protest charges

Joanne McCarthy, *Newcastle Herald*, 05/06/2018

A NSW magistrate has dismissed anti-protest charges against three Upper Hunter coal activists in a decision that brought cheers from a packed court gallery ...

The three had faced maximum seven year jail sentences if found guilty of the two serious charges controversially passed by the NSW Government in 2016. The laws were passed after the then NSW Premier Mike Baird told a NSW Minerals Council event his government would “throw the book at” mine protesters who “chose to break the law”. ...

Outside the court solicitor Sue Higginson applauded the decision but said the issue of the anti-protest laws restricting the right to protest remained “live”, despite the landmark nature of the case.

Because the charges were dismissed on the technical issues of whether the road was rendered “useless” and the failure to prove equipment was owned

by the mine, the protest rights issue remained untested, she said. ...

<https://www.mudgeeguardian.com.au/story/5448855/wollar-three-exonerated/?cs=1863>

‘Wollar Three’ exonerated

Mudgee Guardian, 05/06/2018

Anti-protest laws levelled against Bev Smiles, Bruce Hughes and Stephanie Luke for blocking the entrance to Wilpinjong mine, were dismissed in Mudgee Local Court today.

The trio each received 12-month good behaviour bonds – with no criminal conviction recorded – for the traffic charge of obstructing drivers’ path.

But it was the charges of ‘Destroy/damage equipment/road etc belonging to etc mine’ and ‘Hinder working of mining equipment’ that were significant as they were the first people charged with the laws introduced in NSW months prior to their arrest. ...

Smiles, Hughes and Luke had earlier entered pleas of guilty to the traffic charge and due to their respective ages and lack of criminal history no convictions were recorded.

Their representative Phillip Boulten SC told the court, “if an infringement was issued on the spot, we wouldn’t be here”.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jun/06/steve-ciobo-overturned-mining-loan-ban-without-consulting-department>

Steve Ciobo overturned mining loan ban without consulting department

Gareth Hutchins, *The Guardian*, 06/06/2018

The minister for trade, Steve Ciobo, overturned a ban on government-backed loans to domestic

miners last year without consulting his department.

The controversial decision meant the federal government could start funding coalmining projects at a time when Australia’s major banks are increasingly distancing themselves from investing in coal.

Freedom-of-information documents obtained by Guardian Australia show Ciobo overturned the ban on government-backed loans to onshore miners even though his department had not requested it. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/special-water-rules-for-mining-should-go-productivity-commission-says-20180605-p4zjuu.html?csp=e481e9b6b0702363df82e-0f41a563b83>

Special water rules for mining should go, Productivity Commission says

Nicole Hasham, *SMH*, 05/06/2018

Special water rights for the mining industry such as those granted to the Adani mega-mine should be scrapped as part of urgent reform to the way water is managed in Australia, the Productivity Commission says.

The commission’s report into national water reform warned that doing nothing or waiting until the next drought “could create a major legacy of future problems”. ...

Environmental Defenders Office Queensland chief executive Jo Bragg said community was not given an opportunity to object to the granting of Adani’s water licence.

She said the commission’s findings added to pressure on federal Labor to revoke Adani’s environmental approvals if it won power. ...

The Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists told the Productivity Commission review that mining exemptions made it difficult to measure the cumulative impacts of water extraction, “placing entire groundwater and interconnected surface water systems at risk”. ...

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/jun/04/carbon-bubble-could-spark-global-financial-crisis-study-warns?CMP=soc_567

‘Carbon bubble’ could spark global financial crisis, study warns

Fiona Harvey, *The Guardian*, 05/06/2018

Plunging prices for renewable energy and rapidly increasing investment in low-carbon technologies could leave fossil fuel companies with trillions in stranded assets and spark a global financial crisis, a new study has found.

The Wollar Three: Bev Smiles, Bruce Hughes and Stephanie Luke with supporters.

Photo: Facebook



News this week ... from previous page

A sudden drop in demand for fossil fuels before 2035 is likely, according to the study, given the current global investments and economic advantages in a low-carbon transition. ...

However, Mercure also warned that the transition was happening too slowly to stave off the worst effects of climate change. Although the trajectory towards a low-carbon economy would continue, to keep within 2C above pre-industrial levels – the limit set under the Paris agreement – would require much stronger government action and new policies.

That could also help investors by pointing the way to deflation of the carbon bubble before they make new investments in fossil fuel assets. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/jun/07/move-to-renewables-a-good-thing-says-nationals-agriculture-minister>

Move to renewables a 'good thing', Nationals' David Littleproud says

Katharine Murphy, The Guardian, 08/06/2018

The agriculture minister, David Littleproud, says the climate is changing and the transition in the energy market – with renewables displacing traditional power generation sources – is “exciting, not only for the environment but for the hip pocket”.

In an interview with Guardian Australia, the Queensland National said the climate had been changing “since we first tilled the soil in Australia” and he does not care whether the change is due to human activity or not. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/jun/08/domestic-tourism-to-great-barrier-reef-falls-in-wake-of-coral-bleaching>

Domestic tourism to Great Barrier Reef falls in wake of coral bleaching

Ben Smees, The Guardian, 08/06/2018

The lure of the Great Barrier Reef to Australian tourists has “fallen dramatically” since the onset of successive coral bleaching events in 2016, according to a new report that reveals fewer domestic visitors are heading to north Queensland to visit the natural wonder.

The report, by the Centre for Tourism and Regional Opportunities at Central Queensland University, says towns should now develop “new tourism experiences” to compensate for lost visitors and the likelihood of further damage to the climate-threatened reef.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/time-to-wise-up-nuclear-power-is-flowering-all-over/news-story/e11b9a9c5a1bfd3c4bc0c808d61ac83>

Time to wise up — nuclear power is flowering all over

Tony Grey, The Australian, 08/06/2018

The issue of nuclear power is hardly discussed here, even though we have the world’s largest uranium reserves and major reports recommend serious consideration of adopting this form of energy. The Australian parliament went so far as to pass legislation in 2000 prohibiting it, as if no improvements could ever occur. It’s like closing down a patent office because someone decided all possible inventions had been made.

The arguments against nuclear power haven’t changed over 40 years. ...

Australia is well endowed with stable geological formations that would be eminently suitable [for nuclear waste].

Safety is a major issue and should be. However, despite Chernobyl and Fukushima, nuclear’s safety record compares well against industries such as coal and gas.

The repeal of prohibition against this emissions-free and important energy source would allow a free public discussion. It’s time for Australia to remove the blindfold and see what’s happening around the world.

• *Tony Grey founded Pancontinental Mining and helped discover the Jabiluka uranium deposits.*

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/tasmania-could-become-battery-of-the-nation-report-suggests/news-story/e0909e33e4fb65da725665ab-b45c21>

Tasmania could become 'battery of the nation', report suggests

Matthew Denholm, The Australian, 07/06/2018

Tasmania could become “the battery of the nation”, providing 20 per cent of dispatchable electricity needs at 20

per cent less than the cost of relying on gas to replace declining coal generation, a report suggests.

Commissioned by the Australian Renewable Energy Authority, the study released today finds a massive expansion of Tasmanian generation — via upgraded hydroelectric schemes, new pumped hydro and new wind — could play a key role in national energy security.

Combined with up to five cable interconnectors to export power to the mainland, it finds Tasmania could “meet 20 per cent of the total need for dispatchable capacity through to 2040”. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jun/08/coal-comfort-queensland-budget-to-benefit-from-surgingly-mining-royalties>

Coal comfort: Queensland budget to benefit from surging mining royalties

Ben Smees, The Guardian, 08/06/2018

Surging coal prices will help to underwrite the upcoming Queensland budget. The state is expected to announce it has earned about \$1bn more than initially forecast from royalties.

The windfall will ... bring into focus the extent to which the state remains reliant on royalties from mining ... while the government also pushes forward with a transition to renewable energy sources.

The Griffith University economist Liam Wagner said coal contributed about 90% of the state’s total resource royalties. ...

Wagner and Tim Buckley, an energy market analyst at the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, both point to a recent study by the International Energy Agency that predicted “the end of the boom years for coal” ...

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