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KNITTING NANNAS AGAINST GAS

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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Knitting Nannas and Annie Kia share Activist of the Year award



Professor Gillian Triggs (fifth from right) presented the Ngarra Institute's Activist of the Year award to the Knitting Nannas Against Gas and to Annie Kia (seventh from left) of Lock the Gate. Photo: Gwilym Summers

The Ngarra Institute's annual Activist of the Year award was shared by Annie Kia, who developed the hugely successful 'neighbour to neighbour' community engagement process for Lock the Gate movements across the country; and the Knitting Nannas Against Gas whose creative and persistent nonviolent strategies have been so important at blockades and protests.

The award was presented last Saturday at Ngarra's annual lecture, this year given by former Human Rights Commissioner, Gillian Triggs.

The sell-out event filled Mullumbimby's Civic Centre with an attentive audience and a busload of Knitting Nannas.

Founding Nannas Clare Twomey and Lindy Scott, with companions

who joined them on the Bridging the Divide tour of south-west Queensland in 2012, were on stage to accept the award and a \$500 cheque to advance the Nannalution.

Nanna Clare explained how the movement began as a 'guerilla surveillance group' who kept an eye on gasfield workers, while doing their knitting to defuse tension and create a peaceful vibe.

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Gillian Triggs: Australia needs charter

By Eve Sinton

Former Human Rights Commissioner, Gillian Triggs, has called for an Australian charter of human rights.

Speaking at the Ngara Institute's annual lecture in Mullumbimby last Saturday (June 30), Professor Triggs said Australia is the only democracy without a bill of rights, and over-reach of executive power by successive governments in the 21st century was deeply damaging to the public.

"We now need, as a matter of urgency, some form of legislated charter of rights to protect fundamental common law freedoms in Australia and ensure we meet our international human rights obligations that we as a nation have committed to by treaty over the last 70 years or so," she said.

"It could be quite simple. We could draft one tonight – the 'Mullumbimby Charter of Human Rights.'"

Prof. Triggs said the current legal system is failing all Australians, especially the most vulnerable.

Regression began in 2001

"I date the regression of respect for human rights in Australia [to] that dramatic year in 2001 – the children overboard, the Tampa and 9/11," she said.

"Australia has failed to protect many fundamental freedoms or to comply with its international human rights obligations and has passed laws explicitly to deny those obligations."

Examples include the government's attempt to silence whistle-blowers with the threat of two-year prison sentences, and reduced funding for community legal centres to restrict their advocacy.

The recent passage of foreign influence and espionage bills is extremely worrying.

"The Foreign Influence Bill could criminalise publication of information including opinions or reports of conversations to international organisations.

"That could include information and opinions about food security, energy security, climate security, economic conditions, migration and refugee policies because these may affect Aus-

tralia's 'political, military or economic relations with another country'."

She said our implied freedom of political communication may be breached because of broad definitions in offences that criminalise dealing with information that may harm national security.

New laws: Dissenters could be charged with espionage

Espionage offences appear broad enough to capture reputational damage and loss of confidence in an Australian government.

Public interest defence does not extend to journalist sources or civil society advocates. The evidential burden is on the defendant and there is a potential 10 year jail penalty.

Prof. Triggs said, "It is the most vulnerable in our society – the homeless, the mentally ill, those in administrative detention without trial, indigenous Australians and families – who shoulder the burden of Australia's declining respect for human rights."

She pointed out that human rights abuse inevitably leads to violence, contributing to the 65 million refugees seeking shelter world-wide.

Creating a culture of respect for rights

Prof. Triggs said a federally legislated Charter of Rights would better protect the rights of citizens, minorities and non-citizens, and ensure a culture of



Professor Gillian Triggs speaks at Mullumbimby, northern NSW.

respect for the rights that underpin our democracy – freedom of speech, the right to vote and equality.

"The tragic personal stories along with generalised breaches of the rights of Indigenous peoples, juvenile detainees, asylum seekers and the homeless, can be prevented if we enact a federal charter of rights.

"Above all, Australia could return to the rule of law and the principles of legality upon which our multicultural democracy is based," she said.

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Pratima Mumford of Ngara Institute (left); Gillian Triggs (second from left); Richard Hil of Ngara (4th from right) and on either side of him, Clare Twomey of the Knitting Nannas (left) and Annie Kia of Lock the Gate (right). Photo: Gwilym Summers



USA: Methane leaks from oil and gas 60% higher than EPA estimates

Sharon Kelly, DeSmog Blog

Each year, oil and gas industry operations in the U.S. are leaking roughly 60 percent more methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, into our atmosphere than previous estimates from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which relied heavily on self-reporting by the industry.

That's the conclusion of a study published today in the peer-reviewed journal *Science* and conducted with funding from the Department of Energy, NASA, and private foundations. The two dozen researchers involved found that the U.S. oil and gas supply chain releases between 11 and 15 million metric tons of methane per year.

"This study confirms the growing body of peer-reviewed science indicating oil and gas extraction's methane pollution makes it as harmful to climate as coal burning's carbon dioxide pollution," said Dr. Anthony Ingraffea, Cornell University professor emeritus of engineering and vice president of Earthwork's board of directors.

"This confirms there is no 'bridge fuel,'" Ingraffea said. "To stave off catastrophic climate change we need to immediately drop all fossil fuels in favor of conservation and renewables."

A leaky system

Methane is a powerful and fast-acting greenhouse gas. Each ton of methane causes over 80 times the amount of climate warming as an equal amount of carbon dioxide in the first two decades after it enters the atmosphere. It's also the primary ingredient in the natural gas that's used to heat homes and to generate electricity — and when it leaks from oil and gas wells, pipelines, and other equipment, it can cause the world's climate to grow hotter faster.

Even when methane is burned, it still has a globe-warming effect because it releases carbon dioxide emissions of its own. A "new, efficient" natural gas power plant generates about 40 to 50 percent as much carbon dioxide as a "typical new coal plant" when that gas is burned, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists — but the methane leaks in the supply chain come on top of that carbon pollution.



Optical gas imaging reveals emissions from gas industry equipment on March 10, 2018 in Reeves County, Texas. Photo: Earthworks via Youtube

The new paper in *Science* notes that because methane naturally breaks down in the atmosphere faster than carbon, cutting methane "emissions can effectively reduce the near-term rate of warming."

And that's vitally important because the costs of climate change are extraordinary even when measured just in financial terms. Within a decade, the tab will reach a billion dollars a day, Bloomberg reported last year — and that's in the U.S. alone.

The political climate

While the debate in Washington, D.C. under the Trump administration has focused on whether climate change is "real" (spoiler: the scientific consensus remains robust — our climate is changing, and yes, human activity is the main cause), international efforts to shift away from fossil fuels are edging forward but not yet fast enough to hit the Paris Agreement's goal. A draft report from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which was leaked earlier this month, concluded that "rapid and far-reaching" changes are needed and that so far, efforts to limit warming to below 1.5° Celsius over pre-industrial levels are faltering.

And that change is coming fast. "If emissions continue at their present

rate, human-induced warming will exceed 1.5°C by around 2040," or 22 years from now, the draft IPCC report reads. (Ingraffea warns that the impacts of methane leaks, which have received less focus in climate research, could speed that warming up, causing 2°C of climate change in as little as 10 to 15 years.)

In D.C., climate science deniers have obtained unprecedented political power under the Trump administration, and include the EPA's chief Scott Pruitt, who recently questioned whether a changing climate, which will bring rising sea levels, drought, hurricanes, wildfires, and other disasters, is "necessarily a bad thing."

Given that political climate, environmental groups called for action from state-level regulators in response to the *Science* study.

"If the Trump administration cared one iota about science-based reality, these results would cause EPA Administrator Pruitt and Interior Secretary Zinke to end their efforts to roll back oil and gas methane pollution safeguards," Earthworks policy director Lauren Pagel said. "Because they won't, state-based efforts to do so in Pennsylvania, New Mexico, and other states are all the more important."

Methane leaks in Australia

According to a *Lock the Gate* factsheet, during unconventional gas production, methane is released into the atmosphere as a result of leakage from well heads, pipelines and infrastructure, and through deliberate venting and flaring of gas.

This methane leakage and venting is often referred to as fugitive emissions. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas – 86 times more powerful than carbon dioxide when its atmospheric warming impacts are considered over a 20-year time period. Therefore, methane leakage rates from gasfields of greater than 3-4% of production mean that gas-fired power will be more polluting than coal-fired power.

A 2016 report by the Melbourne Energy Institute (MEI), reviewing the latest research on methane emissions from unconventional gasfields in the US found that:

1. New measurements have recorded methane emissions of up to 17% of production, with an average of 10% across 5 gas basins – far above the 3% needed to make gas climate neutral against coal.
2. New top down methods of measuring methane emissions (ie from satellites, aircraft) have revealed far greater emissions than have been recorded using 'bottom up' ground-based sampling methods.

Actual measurements of fugitive emissions from unconventional gas are virtually non-existent in Australia. There have been only a few, very limited 'bottom up' studies.

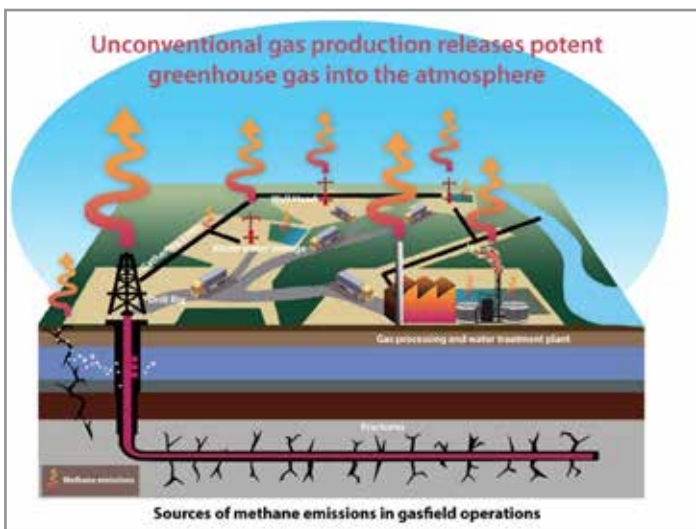
Furthermore, there were no baseline measurements prior to the start-up of largescale coal seam gas (CSG) production in Queensland.

Therefore, it is expected that there are large methane emissions that are going unreported from Australian gasfields.

In the absence of any rigorous measurements, the Melbourne Energy Institute applied US measurements to derive estimates of the likely true emissions from CSG gasfields in Australia.

It found that, for the current rates of CSG production (1,500 PJ/yr), it is likely that methane emissions from leaks and vents is up to 92 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent each year.

If new shale gasfields are allowed in the Northern Territory or WA, or if the Narrabri CSG project is approved in NSW, these emissions are likely to increase even further.



Oil & gas industry's methane leaks 60% over US EPA estimates

• Continued from p3

The new study mixed on-the-ground and airborne measurements, drawing on measurements at over 400 well pads in a half-dozen heavily drilled areas of the U.S., as well as other industry equipment like pipelines, valves, and tanks, and in addition to aerial surveys.

It was organized by the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), whose coziness with the oil and gas industry has drawn the ire of other environmental organizations. As *DeSmog* has previously reported, parts of "the EDF's methane emissions study [are] heavily industry funded. Those backing the University of Texas study [part of that research series] include Anadarko, BGG Group, Chevron, Encana, Pioneer Natural Resources, Shell, Southwestern Energy, Talisman Energy, and XTO Energy, an Exxon-Mobil subsidiary."

One of the contributors to the new report, Professor David Allen of the University of Texas at Austin, was accused in 2016 of committing scientific fraud in his research on methane leaks by disregarding warnings that his data was tainted by malfunctioning equipment. The EPA's Inspector General declined in 2016 to investigate those allegations and closed its case.

In a press release announcing the new study, EDF emphasized the cost of those leaks — which lost enough to "fuel 10 million homes" with a market value of over \$2 billion — and the financial incentives that industry has to prevent leaks.

"Scientists have uncovered a huge problem, but also an enormous

opportunity," said EDF Chief Scientist Steven Hamburg and study co-author. "Reducing methane emissions from the oil and gas sector is the fastest, most cost-effective way we have to slow the rate of warming today, even as the larger transition to lower-carbon energy continues."

But the oil and gas industry has for decades argued that those financial incentives would be enough to make operators police their own wells — but nonetheless, methane leaks have continued.

In 2016, the EPA announced a voluntary leak-reporting program called One Future — and out of 8,000 eligible oil and gas companies, only 10 signed on, Reuters reported last year.

Other environmental groups are urging a transition away from natural gas and other fossil fuels as a more reliable way to prevent climate change.

"By its own admission, EDF's report underestimates the full volume of methane leakage throughout the entire fracking process," Wenonah Hauter, Executive Director of Food & Water Watch said in a statement. "Furthermore, every dollar that goes into fracking means fewer dollars invested in wind, solar, and other clean energy systems."

"Instead of looking for ways to patch up inherently flawed energy approaches like gas fracking," she added, "we should be placing an immediate moratorium on all fossil fuel development and embracing an immediate shift to 100 percent clean, renewable energy now."

• www.desmogblog.com

Nannas Brynhildr and Purl — needling politicians for climate action



Nanna Brynhildr (left) in action at a Knitting Nannas' knit-in.

Nannas Brynhildr and Purl will make an appearance at the Narratives of Climate Change Symposium, being held July 5-6 at the University of Newcastle.

The Knitting Nannas are an international climate change and human rights 'Nannocracy'; made up of 30 'loops' (loose-knit groups of women who subscribe to the 'Nannafesto') who participate in Non-Violent Direct Actions at the coal-face of the fossil fuel invasion. Often the first defenders at the gate with farmers, the Nannas are fearless and tireless in their artistic activities that bring attention to fossil fuel industries and climate change impacts.

MaryBeth Gundrum, aka Nanna Brynhildr, aka Nanna Purl Stockingstitch, is a slam poet who tours the frontline of this invasion to draw attention to the criminality and unsustainability of the fossil fuel industry. She led 11 nannas on a 1,000 kilometre walk on Cape York to raise awareness of the families living in the sacrifice zone of the gas fields, travelled to action camps in Pilliga and Leard forests, and most recently attended a railroad lock on in the Galilee Basin. She campaigns at mining headquarters in Sydney and Brisbane, outside of parliaments, and travels to communities directly impacted by the divisive tactics of industry and governments.

Brynhildr activates deep matriarchal rage to motivate people to respond

to climate, social and political crises. Purl provides comfort and courage to affected families, front line defenders and FIFO workers, holding their grief and telling their stories.

The poetry first emerged on the day Chinchilla farmer George Bender committed suicide after 10 years of harassment by Origin Energy, under the gaze of successive complicit Queensland departments and governments. **Enough** explores their bullying and corruption; **Sick of It** is a battle call to loving arms to save our planet, **A Cautionary Tale** celebrates the people's win at Bentley; **Hope Land** is a lament for FIFO workers torn from their families and high rates of substance abuse, illness and suicide; **Out of Control** explores government attempts to silence dissent against environmental catastrophic decision making. **Revolving Doors** tracks the movement of bureaucrats and politicians between government and industry and corrupt environmental lawmaking.

In a 45 minute digital and performance presentation, Brynhildr and Purl will weave evidence with slam poetry to shine light on frontline battles against climate change, the voicelessness of people affected by mining and government attempts to silence dissent from those who speak out about the reality of climate change.

The climate change poem, **Isn't it Strange?** will launch at the conference.



Enough

You've taken too much – we've had enough.

We've had enough of you tearing our towns in two;
Enough of your boom and your bust,
Of the theft of our precious water,
While our farmlands are turning to dust.

Enough of our kids' noses bleeding,
Enough of their cries in the night,
Enough of our farmers dying,
When they can no longer fight the good fight.

Enough of broken election commitments,
And of your pedaling fear and despair;
You don't get to destroy our families,
To poison our water, our food and our air;

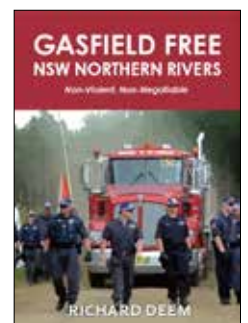
Enough of gagging free people,
Harassed and forced off their land,
Enough of your fuelish obsessions,
This is where we take a stand.

We're not open for your kind of business,
Watching profits and jobs go offshore;
You should have heeded the distant rumbling,
For now the rumbling's a deafening roar.

We are the people, and we say
ENOUGH

– MaryBeth Gundrum

A struggle against the imposition by force of a CSG industry.



E-BOOK \$3.99 from:

https://play.google.com/store/books/details/Richard_Deem_Gasfield_Free_NSW_Northern_Rivers?id=wjsdDQAQBAl

<https://www.amazon.com.au/dp/B01H4WU0L0>

<https://store.kobobooks.com/en-us/ebook/gasfield-free-nsw-northern-rivers>

<https://itunes.apple.com/au/book/gasfield-free-nsw-northern/>

Buru admits flowback is toxic and radioactive

Buru Energy has admitted that testing of flowback fluids from its 2015 fracking operations in the Kimberley showed elevated levels of the chemical contaminants Boron and Barium and the radionuclide Radium-228.

The admission is contained in Buru's submission to the WA Fracking Inquiry released today.

The elevated levels of Boron and Barium were found in both Buru's Asgard 1 and its Valhalla North 1 fracking waste water ponds. The levels exceeded the World Health Organisation limits for acceptable levels for stock water.

Representative samples of flowback fluid from Asgard 1 showed "relatively high concentrations" of the radioactive material Radium-228.

The submission also says that Buru plans to drill 80 fracking wells in its proposed Yulleroo gasfield over the 17 to 20 year expected life of the project and that it plans to use the controversial practice of reinjecting fracking wastewater and flowback fluid into the Kimberley's Laurel formation.

It says some of its wastewater could be used as drinking water for beef cattle if problematic elevated chemicals were diluted using additional groundwater.

Super well pads planned

Included in Buru's plans for its "Yulleroo Conceptual Gasfield", a gasfield it says will demonstrate the scale of its projects, is a plan to build super well pads with up to ten gas wells per pad that would spiral out for kilometers underground fracking different levels of the formation.

The submission says that it would build a 9ha processing facility in the middle of the gasfield and an addition-



A Buru Energy well in the Kimberley, WA. Photo; Buru Energy

al 9ha waste water holding facility.

A spokesperson for Lock the Gate in WA Jane Hammond said the submission provided frightening insights into the scale of development proposed for the Kimberley.

"Buru is downplaying the size and scale of its pilot gasfield, the proposed Yulleroo gasfield. But 80 fracking wells, 9ha of waste water holding ponds, 100ha of "super well pads", 16ML of water per well and up to 190 return truck movements of triple road trains per frack, will seem to many people as massive.

"It is alarming that Buru has so far only test fracked a handful of wells in the Kimberley yet by its own admission has found elevated chemicals and radionuclides in its flowback waste water," Ms Hammond said.

"Its submission to the fracking inquiry also notes that it had three chemical spills during its test fracking program.

While these were relatively minor they illustrate that spills can and do happen.

Wastewater to be reinjected

"Its plans for the reinjection of wastewater into the ground is also of concern. Flowback fluids and other waste water are problems the industry has difficulty dealing with so Buru plans to conveniently inject its waste back underground where it will be out of sight and out of mind.

"Fracking has not even started commercially and yet we are already seeing spills, elevated chemicals and radioactive material in waste water ponds and attempts to downplay the scale of the impacts.

"Fracking is not needed or wanted in WA. It is risky, dirty and wasteful. We hope that the WA Government will listen to the people."

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The Coal Truth: the fight to stop Adani, defeat the big polluters and reclaim our democracy (\$29.99)

A timely and colourful contribution to one of the most important struggles in our national history – over the future of the coal industry.

Contributors include Tara Moss and Berndt Sellheim, Adrian Burragubba, Lesley Hughes, John Quiggin, Hilary Bambrick, Ruchira Talukdar and Geoffrey Cousins. Lead author is David Ritter, CEO, Greenpeace Australia Pacific.

Chevron now WA's biggest source of carbon pollution



Photos: The flare from Chevron's Wheatstone LNG facility in Onslow can be seen from around 100km away

Conservation groups have responded to the announcement that the Chevron Wheatstone LNG project has reached a milestone, by releasing images of pollution and gas flaring at the facility, and calling for controls to be imposed on pollution from the facility.

The Wheatstone LNG project will be the state's largest source of carbon pollution when in full operation.

CCWA Director Piers Verstegen said Chevron was Western Australia's largest polluter, and had a responsibility to the local and global community to clean up its act.

10m tonnes of carbon annually

"When in full production, figures provided to the EPA by Chevron show the facility will release 10 million tonnes of carbon pollution every year for the life of the project. This will make Wheatstone the biggest emitter in WA.

"Currently there are no limits in place controlling pollution from the Wheatstone LNG facility.

"While gas companies claim their product is a clean fuel, we are now dealing with the reality that LNG production in WA is rapidly driving up Australia's carbon pollution.

"Today's announcement signals an increase in profits for overseas shareholders, while Chevron dumps more and more pollution here in WA.

"The lack of effective controls on Chevron's pollution means the company can pollute with impunity, which is changing the climate and costing jobs for Western Australians.

"We are calling on the State Govern-

ment to stop letting the state's largest polluter off the hook, and instead hold this company to account.

Chevron must be held to account

"Chevron must be required to reduce and offset its pollution through planting trees, environmental restoration, and investing in renewable energy.

"This would mean Chevron would send less of its huge profits offshore, and instead we would generate more jobs and investment for Western Australia.

"Chevron pays no tax or royalties to the State Government for the gas it exports.

"Requiring the company to clean up its pollution by making investments in tree planting and renewable energy here in WA would deliver a win-win for the economy and the environment.

"It's time the State Government got serious about controlling pollution from the gas industry."

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A short educational film on the shale gas rush in the Northern Territory

Featuring Eddie Mason and Heleana Gulwa from Protect Arnhem Land, Gadrion Hoosan, Nancy McDinny and Asman Rory from Borroloola in the South West Gulf of Carpentaria, Daniel and Shannon Tapp from Big River Station in the Roper and Marjorie Braedon from Wattarka Kings Canyon.

Produced for Lock the Gate Alliance, 2015.

<https://vimeo.com/122897319/description>

Inside the news

Dinosaurs in the **Coalition** have battled hard for their mining mates over the week. The **Nationals** want a **\$5 billion** government fund to build new coal fired power stations. Tony Abbott complains it is unacceptable to dump fossil fuels "**to make the world a bit colder**" for our grandchildren.

Labor spokesman Mark Butler says new coal-burners will paralyse Australia's transition to clean energy – and so the **climate war** goes on.

Meanwhile, Labor and the Coalition **colluded** to pass an espionage bill that will criminalise protest.

GetUp's legal advice says, under the new law, a person who intentionally blockaded the entry to a coalmine with the ultimate intention of ending the sale of coal by Australia to another country could be charged with **sabotage**.

The advice suggested the significant penalties of up to 20 years prison "is likely to have a chilling effect on protest activity" (see p15).

NSW's Liberal government has also put a **dampener on protesters** with new regulations allowing officials to ban activities on Crown Land.

Knitting Nanna Judi Summers said the group's strategy of holding weekly knit-ins outside the offices of local politicians might not be possible under the new regulations.

"We've been knitting outside of Thomas George and Kevin Hogan's [parliamentary] offices for the last sort of six years. Every Thursday without a miss, and if these laws had been introduced way back then, we would have been **moved on** right from the start." (See p16.)

Community opposition to AGL's Mornington Peninsula gas import terminal continues, with *The Australian* interviewing **farmers** to be affected by an associated pipeline. Subeditors trivialised the story with a headline referring to kale and a fringe battleground (see p12).

For a look at why Labor and the Coalition are **still in bed with the fossil fools**, Margaret Gleeson's *Green Left Weekly* story on p12 is instructive. It's worth clicking through to the full story.

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In the news this week:

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 22,000 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/adani-court-case-could-push-kyburras-finances-over-the-edge/news-story/737f9227196bdeec518a4378dd6350d7>

Adani court case could push Kyburra's finances over the edge

Clare Armstrong, *Townsville Bulletin*, 25/06/2018

Special administrators of an insolvent Townsville indigenous corporation have asked members to “urgently” decide if they want to sell a piece of land to cover debts or be forced into liquidation.

Members of the Kyburra Munda Yalga Aboriginal Corporation have been asked to decide if they want to sell a parcel of freehold land to pay debts or simply give up and bring in the liquidators.

The corporation, which represents the native title interests of Juru people, was placed into special administration by the Office for the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations in October 2017 after audits found evidence of mismanagement. ...

Last month, Kyburra lost a Federal Court case with another indigenous corporation, Juru Enterprise Limited, regarding various agreements with Adani.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/jun/28/adani-coal-port-under-threat-of-stop-order-amid-concern-for-sacred-sites>

Adani coal port under threat of stop order amid concern for sacred sites

Ben Smea, *The Guardian*, 28/06/2018

Indigenous traditional owners from north Queensland have threatened to try to pursue an order that could shut down Adani's Abbot Point coal terminal, amid concern that sacred sites in the area have not been properly protected.

Guardian Australia can reveal Adani has ignored repeated demands by Juru traditional owners to inspect “unauthorised” cultural assessments conducted by former directors of the embattled Kyburra Munda Yalga Aboriginal Corporation.

The Indian conglomerate believes it can still rely on those assessments, despite the federal court ruling that Kyburra was not the appropriate



Protesters from Galilee Blockade along with Frontline Action Against Coal (Brisbane) blockaded the massive Wagners' industrial site last week. They will continue to target Wagners until they promise not to build Adani's FIFO airport. The activists played cat and mouse with police, leaving the site when tipped off the cops were coming, and returning to the blockade when police had gone. Photo: FLAC

“nominated body” to represent the Juru people on a land-use agreement.

A stop order – which can apply to any activity if there is reasonable grounds to conclude it would harm cultural heritage – would be at the discretion of Queensland deputy premier Jackie Trad, who has responsibility for Indigenous partnerships.

Given the concerns of traditional owners relate in part to the Abbot Point state development area, the request for a stop order could put at risk the ongoing operations of Adani's only income-producing asset in Australia. The company's \$2bn investment in the port is believed to be a key reason why it has not yet walked away from plans for the Carmichael mine, in the face of an ongoing inability to gain finance. ...

<https://www.centralnews.com.au/@breaking-news/2018/06/29/135284/anti-adani-protest-outside-nsw-govt-office>

Anti-Adani NSW protest outside govt office

AAP Newswire, 29/06/2018

Protesters worried about potential taxpayer funding of Adani's mega-mine in central Queensland have picketed the Sydney offices of Australia's export credit agency.

About 40 Frontline Action on Coal activists on Friday demanded to meet

with the boss of the Export Finance and Investment Corporation.

They chanted “money for health and education, not for mining corporations” and unfurled a large banner reading “No Future In Coal #NoNewCoal” before being moved on by NSW Police after an hour. ...

COAL ROCKS ON

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-28/australian-coal-demand-surgingly-driven-by-asia/9914058>

Demand for Australian coal escalates, building on last year's turnaround

Cecilia Connell & Mike Pritchard, *ABC*, 28/06/2018

Demand from the Asian market is pushing prices for both thermal and coking coal up and, according to analysts, the trend is set to continue.

So much so, a study commissioned by the Minerals Council of Australia predicts a 400 million tonne increase in annual demand by 2030 — double Australia's total thermal coal export level in 2017. ...

The increase in demand has been attributed to infrastructure building programs throughout Asia ...

As well as the rising dollar figure, the stark demand for coal has been illustrated by the high number of ships waiting to load at Australian ports. ...



Activists stopped coal trains at Acland's loading facility near Toowoomba last Thursday. They called for the land court ruling, that the Acland Stage 3 Expansion is dangerous for aquifers and climate change, to be upheld. Emma and John were arrested when cut free after several hours blocking the line. Photo: FLAC

<https://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/story/5494316/two-activists-block-coal-train-near-acland/>

Activists or idiots block the coal train – you be the judge

Helen Walker, Qld Country Life, 28/06/2018

Two supporters of Front Line Action on Coal (FLAC) Brisbane are stopping a coal delivery on Thursday morning from the New Acland Coal mine, near Oakey to highlight the impact coal has on the climate and environment.

Organisers say this direct action was sparked by the Queensland Supreme Court overturning the Land Court judgment which had ordered the Queensland Government to reject the New Acland Coal Mine Expansion.

The concerned citizens participating in the action say they have put their livelihoods on the line to fight for a healthy future, in solidarity with the Oakey Alliance and Darling Downs residents who have been fighting this proposed expansion for years. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/pembroke-resources-chief-says-olive-downs-mine-will-be-last-of-its-type-for-a-generation/news-story/e0a911895d9377a5ebc0ff4e65ad375b>

Pembroke Resources chief says Olive Downs mine will be last of its type for a generation

John McCarthy, Courier-Mail, 28/06/2018

Pembroke Resources has labelled its \$1 billion Olive Downs coal mine in Queensland the last major project of its type for a generation.

The miner will start public consultation on the project soon and development will begin within the next year. It will employ up to 700 people during

the construction phase and a further 500 when it starts mining. ...

The project has few of the problems of thermal coal mines like Adani's Carmichael because there is no replacement for coking coal in steel production. Mr Tudor said it was 90 per cent coking coal, there was no need for extra rail or port capacity, it was an existing basin, there was no strategic cropping land and no contentious flora or fauna. ...

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5492508/hunter-coal-faces-korean-sulphur-limit/>

Hunter coal exports could be impacted by new Korean limits on sulphur content

Ian Kirkwood, Newcastle Herald, 28/06/2018

The Hunter coal industry is braced for change with South Korea – its third-biggest customer – setting new limits on sulphur content in coal from July 1.

Environmentalists including Australia's Lock the Gate Alliance have welcomed the Korean regulations, which are aimed at limiting sulphur dioxide emissions from power stations and so easing health concerns over polluted air. ...

About seven coal sources were under the limit, including two Korean-backed proposals, the Wallarah 2 mine near Wyong and Kepco's Bylong project, about 80 kilometres west of Denman.

Lock the Gate spokesperson Georgina Woods said, "It would be terrible if the responsible environmental health measures taken in other countries had the perverse effect of driving coal mining onto good farmland and into water catchments here because our

government has failed to heed public calls to protect these areas."

GAS, GAS, GAS

https://amp.smh.com.au/politics/federal/radioactive-water-reignites-concerns-over-fracking-for-gas-20180622-p4zn4r.html?_twitter_impression=true

Radioactive water reignites concerns over fracking for gas

By Nicole Hasham, SMH, 24/06/2018

High levels of a radioactive material and other contaminants have been found in water from a West Australian fracking site but operators say it could be diluted and fed to beef cattle.

The revelations illustrate the potential risks associated with the contentious gas extraction process known as fracking, or hydraulic fracturing, as the Turnbull government pressures states to ease restrictions on the industry and develop their gas reserves. ...

Labor environment spokesman Tony Burke said Buru's operations "are likely to raise significant and possibly prohibited concerns under the water trigger". He said the law should be used properly, including acting on input from scientific experts.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-24/pfas-in-live-stock-no-cause-for-alarm-victoria-chief-vet-says/9904320>

Toxic chemical PFAS found in livestock no cause for alarm, Victoria's chief vet says

Robert French, ABC, 24/06/2018

Victoria's chief veterinary officer Dr Charles Milne has downplayed concerns about the discovery of toxic chemicals in livestock near Esso's gas plant in Gippsland.

The Department of Agriculture confirmed 45 cattle and 45 sheep, from three properties in Longford, tested positive for elevated levels of polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). ...

Victoria's Environment Protection Authority has advised people not to eat PFAS-affected animals.

Ray Shingles farms at Longford, near the Esso plant, and said he has been put off eating his own cattle. ...

Mr Shingles is concerned he and other farmers may be falsely declaring their livestock are free from chemical contamination.

"We sign a vendor declaration and we have to answer 'yes' or 'no', it's quite clear," he said. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/jun/25/new-nt-gasfields-would-put-paris-commitment-in-doubt>

New NT gasfields would put Paris commitment in doubt

Lisa Cox, *The Guardian*, 25/06/2018

A gas boom in the Northern Territory would contribute as much as 6.6% to Australia's annual emissions, according to data in a report ...

The inquiry assessed a production scenario of 1,240 petajoules a year and found it would equate to 6.6% of Australia's emissions and 0.17% of global emissions, based on national emissions data for 2015.

The figure is equivalent to about 25% to 30% of what is emitted by Australia's entire transport sector. ...

Experts say these increased emissions would jeopardise the commitments Australia made to the landmark 2015 Paris climate change agreement.

"This notion that gas is a clean fuel and a transition fuel – that might have been true 15 years ago," said Will Steffen, an emeritus professor at the Australian National University's Fenner school and a councillor with the Climate Council.

"But we've burned so much fossil fuels in the last 10 or 15 years, there's no room for any bridging fuels, there's no room for any new long-term fossil fuel developments. ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2018-06-26/incitec-pivot-limited-saves-gibson-island-fertiliser-plant/9911186>

Australian fertiliser company salvages Queensland plant with Territory gas deal

Katrina Beavan, *ABC*, 26/06/2018

Australian fertiliser company, Incitec Pivot Limited (IPL), has signed a number of landmark deals in order to find an interim gas supply for its Brisbane-based fertiliser plant until the end of 2019.

The Brisbane plant at Gibson Island directly employs 450 people whose roles have been secured by the gas agreements. ...

Once the 620 kilometre Northern Gas Pipeline (NGP) is up and running at the end of the year IPL will buy Central Australian gas to supply the Gibson Island plant.

The 12-month deal means the gas, sourced by Central Petroleum, and some of its subsidiaries in Central Australia, will be piped more than 3,300km via pipelines belonging to

both Australian Pipeline Limited (APA) and Jemena. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/government-indecision-leaves-stranded-darwin-gas-fields-in-limbo/news-story/1a373bb49b4259332ae1bea9efa26e51>

Government indecision leaves stranded Darwin gasfields in limbo

Matt Chambers, *The Australian*, 27/06/2018

A Northern Territory-backed study has found stranded gasfields off Darwin could be competitively developed through a bigger, second train at ConocoPhillips' Darwin LNG project that could export an extra 4 million tonnes of LNG a year.

But there appear to be no solid plans to push what would be a multi-billion-dollar development of some of the tens of trillions of cubic feet of gas off the north coast, a move Chief Minister Michael Gunner last year said could create thousands of jobs. ...

In April last year, the Territory government put in \$250,000 of a \$650,000 study to look at new ways to develop big offshore resources such as Evans Shoal, Caldita-Barossa (since earmarked as backfill for Darwin), Poseidon, Cash Maple and Petrel-Tern.

But both industry and government have since stopped talking up the study. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/gas-to-the-fore-after-liddell-power-station-closure/news-story/de6d12bc94f6818d4f5a1cc86afce01>

Gas to the fore after Liddell power station closure

Andrew Clennell, *The Australian*, 27/06/2018

NSW is set to double its gas-fired power generation capacity and is on track to exceed the amount of dispatchable capacity needed to meet demand after the expected closure of the Liddell power station in 2022.

The number of gas-fired power stations due to come on line has led NSW Resources and Energy Minister Don Harwin to proclaim gas is the way to address energy woes that are concerning industry, arguing the gas projects will be secured by the certainty of the national energy guarantee.

Mr Harwin's comments indicate that the NSW government believes the state can get by in terms of energy supply without a new coal-fired power station. ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-27/natural-gas-pipeline-to-create-350-jobs-foreign-investment-worries/9873154>

Natural gas pipeline to create up to 350 jobs, but raises questions about foreign investment

Emily Smith, *ABC*, 27/06/2018

In the middle of remote Central Australia, work has quietly begun on a 450-kilometre natural gas pipeline owned in part by the Chinese company that launched a \$13 billion takeover of Australia's largest gas network operator earlier this month.

On June 6 the green light was given to AGI Tanami to begin constructing the Tanami gas pipeline, which will run off the Amadeus gas pipeline to Newmont Mining's Granite and Dead Bullock soak mines in the Tanami Desert.

The project — valued at between \$US225 to \$US275 million — will also build two natural gas power stations, giving the mine a second source of power. ...

But oil analyst and StockAnalysis author Peter Strachan believed the trend towards foreign ownership should concern Territorians. He believed this trend was particularly worrying given some of the Territory's critical infrastructure, such as the Darwin Port, had already been sold to foreign entities. ...

<https://www.ntnews.com.au/business/170m-gas-pipeline-to-create-400-jobs/news-story/b408e4683d719f73ad56544f887bb905>

\$170m gas pipeline to create 400 jobs

Ashley Manicaros, *NT News*, 30/05/2018

A \$170 million gas pipeline is to be built connecting Newmont's Tanami sites, creating 400 jobs and opening the door to all-year production for the gold miner.

The pipeline – to be called the Tanami Gas Pipeline – will connect to the existing Amadeus Gas Pipeline, about 180km northwest of Alice Springs, and link up with a supply of gas to Newmont's Tanami facilities.

Newmont has awarded Australian Gas Infrastructure Group the gas pipeline contract. AGIG will build, own and operate the new 440km piece of infrastructure. Up to 400 jobs will be created during the construction period. ...

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

<https://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/story/5486651/gas-case-lessons-for-veg-laws-fight/>

CSG's unlikely clearing impacts

Lucy Kinbacher, *Qld Country Life*, 30/06/2018

In three to four months an internationally recognised civil society human rights tribunal will hand down its decision on the controversies surrounding Australia's coal seam gas industry.

According to Chinchilla's Shay Dougall, who has spent the past six years advocating on behalf of impacted families, it's a decision all property owners should be listening to.

Ms Dougall was a guest speaker at the Property Rights Australia conference at Charleville on Saturday and spoke of the forthcoming decision from the Permanent People's Tribunal Session on Human Rights, Fracking and Climate Change. ...

According to Ms Dougall, the decision was highly relevant to vegetation management activists. Unequal clearing and thinning allowances between CSG companies and graziers was raised in their testimonies.

But more importantly, Ms Dougall said, a decision in their favour could set a precedent and provide a stronger argument for a number of human rights violations. ...



Great wall combats bore gas

<https://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/story/5491533/great-wall-combats-bore-gas/>

Lee McNicholl grappling with water pressure loss

Lucy Kinbacher, *Qld Country Life*, 29/06/2018

A Maranoa grazier has constructed his own 'great wall' in a bid to overcome ongoing issues of gas build-up in his once-reliable Great Artesian Basin bore.

Grazier and Basin Sustainability Alliance chairman, Lee McNicholl spent \$14,000 building a dam, contour bank and five metre wall on his Wallumbilla cattle property in a bid to keep water flowing around his property. ...

Mr McNicholl's bore was first drilled

in 1961 and in the 52 years succeeding that, had reduced 20m in head pressure or 0.4m/year.

But, from 2016-2018, the head pressure dropped by 1.1m/year. ...

Findings from hydro-geological assessments of the GAB found CSG water extraction was increasing.

Mr McNicholl said water discharge had exceeded recharge for many years and the aquifer had obviously reached a critical pressure, resulting in gas being liberated

"Doubling the take by the CSG/mining sector has only dramatically worsened this unsustainable situation," he said.

"The Great Artesian Basin is quickly becoming the great non-artesian basin," he said. ...

<https://www.hot91.com.au/news/local-news/83513-council-draws-line-in-the-sand-over-coal-and-coal-seam-gas>

Council draws line in the sand over coal and coal seam gas

Hot91.com, 26/06/2018

Noosa Council has sent a clear message to the State Government that any future applications or permits for coal and/or coal seam gas would not be supported.

Council last Thursday unanimously endorsed a policy position statement on coal mining, coal exploration and coal seam gas extraction that reads:

'Noosa Council does not support any further applications for permits for coal exploration, coal mining, coal seam gas exploration or coal seam gas production within the Shire based on Council's significant concerns regarding associated environmental and social impacts and the incompatibility of such activities with Noosa's natural assets and lifestyle.' ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/qld-business-monthly/miners-searching-for-rare-metals-are-hoping-to-hit-pay-dirt-in-outback-queensland/news-story/9416501e738ee6d40bc9acc0346ec542>

Miners searching for rare metals are hoping to hit pay dirt in outback Queensland

John McCarthy, *Courier-Mail*, June 27, 2018

Not much happens in Julia Creek. It's a speck on the map of about 500 people, east of Mount Isa, known for dinosaur fossils and that once a year swells for the Dirt n Dust Festival.

But people are getting excited about Julia Creek, or more precisely what's under the dirt and dust of Julia Creek.

It's called vanadium, a metal used mostly to strengthen steel but it also has a great capacity to store energy in rechargeable batteries. ...

Queensland Exploration Council chairman Brad John says there's huge potential for metals like vanadium in Queensland. He said the state lacks the cobalt and lithium deposits that have mining companies in a frenzy at the moment but it has a world class vanadium resource covering a vast area of north Queensland.

"It (Julia Creek) really has been known for its oil shale potential," John says. "Other companies have looked at it in the past but it hasn't really stacked up but with QEM the vanadium is becoming much more important so it's really vanadium with oil shale credits. ...

QEM is hardly alone. Other companies like Liontown and Intermin have discovered Julia Creek. Multicom also is planning to develop a shallow open cut mine to produce 50,000 tonnes a year of vanadium pentoxide over at least a 30-year mine life. ...

The Queensland Government says the new frontier known as the Diamantina Minerals Province in north-west Queensland has significant potential for rare earth elements and untapped deposits of gallium and indium, which are used in electronics. ...

But producing vanadium is just one challenge for Loyden (QEM). The big one will be oil shale, which has a chequered history in Queensland after the failure of the Gladstone project.

However, Loyden doesn't expect an environmental backlash because he believes he will be able to prove the "efficacy and efficiency" of the process.

IMPORT FARCE

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/forrestbacked-gas-terminal-offers-10-gas-deal/news-story/50d92e994712a3094f43e7928ad17832>

Forrest-backed gas terminal offers \$10 gas deal

Andrew White, *The Australian*, 25/06/2018

The Andrew-Forrest backed consortium planning to build an import facility bringing cheap international gas onshore at Port Kembla is pitching a fixed price of \$10 per gigajoule to business groups in a bid to secure contracts with customers in gas-starved NSW.

Confirming that it received priority development status from the NSW government yesterday, the Australian

Industrial Energy consortium also rejected claims that it would be the most expensive development of three proposed gas import terminals in southeast Australia. ...

Ai Group chief executive Innes Willox said the manufacturing industry peak body had been supportive of the project because it would add supply and security to the market. But Mr Willox said the fixed price remained a concern as it was still two or three times the price large contracted users were paying for gas five years ago. ...

The slated 2020 date for delivering gas would also make the Port Kembla operation the first of the three planned gas import terminals launched to take advantage of rising gas prices and tight supply conditions.

AGL Energy has committed \$100 million so far to the development of the Crib Point gas terminal while it awaits approvals. ExxonMobil is considering its own plant to meet the supply shortfall from expected production declines in the Bass Strait fields it operates alongside BHP. ...

Mr Forrest said that since 2000 only 20 projects had received the designation, making it a powerful demonstration of the need to solve the state's gas security challenges. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/kale-vs-gas-is-the-new-fringe-battleground/news-story/82f3ed95458b02089d0994f3d47bd396>

Kale vs gas is the new fringe battleground

Sue Neales, *The Australian*, 29/06/2018

In a scene straight from the screenplay of the iconic Australian film *The Castle*, Lisa and Darren Corrigan — like the film's Aussie battler hero Daryl Kerrigan — are fighting to save their farm.

The Corrigans are threatened not with plans to extend a neighbouring airport, but a proposal to build a gas pipeline under their prime vegetable farm on Melbourne's southeast rim, where they grow kale, celery, leeks, and cos lettuces for Australian supermarkets and export markets. ...

The Corrigans are concerned problems with the pipeline or gas leaks could contaminate their soil and compromise food safety while the loss of land and restricted machinery movements over the 30m-wide easement would make the property unviable. ...

The Corrigans say they have been made to feel guilty by the companies for opposing the pipeline's proposed

Kale vs gas: the new fringe battleground



Darren and Lisa Corrigan at Devon Meadows: 'This farm is our livelihood and our contribution to Victoria's food supply'

The Australian's report on farmers threatened by a gas pipeline on the Mornington Peninsula trivialised the issue by headlining it a 'fringe battleground'. Pro-gas advocates currently like to refer to their opposition as kale-eating greenies - missing the point that opposition often comes from farmers.

route diagonally under their irrigated farm, which would prevent agriculture two metres above the easement.

Mrs Corrigan claims there has been little community consultation, the project is rushed, and there appears to be no time, money or room for compromise about a pipeline that would harm their profitable business and its 100 to 150 employees.

"We are not against the pipeline, or against gas, but we don't want this pipe under our farm where it introduces a new level of risk on several levels — especially food safety — that wasn't there before but will be there forever if we allow it," Mrs Corrigan says. "The pressure has been intense. I haven't been able to sleep or eat for weeks. This farm is our livelihood and our contribution to Victoria's food supply."

The Corrigans are willing to have the pipeline run along their boundary fence and a main road where there is already an oil pipeline — "we think we are being fair and reasonable" — but believe it is time that fertile soil and productive farms on city fringes are protected from urban encroachment.

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.greenleft.org.au/content/why-are-labor-and-coalition-still-bed-fossil-fools>

Why are Labor and the Coalition still in bed with fossil fools?

Margaret Gleeson, *Green Left*, 29/06/2018

The simple answer is that the institution of the state exists to serve the interests of corporations.

In *Adani and the War Over Coal*, published this month, (see review on page 22) Quentin Beresford goes a long way to answering this question. He concludes: "Ideological fervour, propaganda, lies and corruption have been the quartet of forces orchestrated by the fossil fuel power network that created and sustained the proposal to build the Carmichael mine.

"Employment has been the figleaf of justification for the project ... Australian governments have willingly embraced a rogue corporation ... Some have argued that the struggle surrounding Adani is a potent example of Australia's broken system of government. But 'broken' for whom? The system works very effectively for the oligarchy it has come increasingly to serve."

Bipartisan support for the Adani Carmichael mega-mine project is the latest manifestation of the synergy that exists between big coal and the state. From the 1990s, the coalmining

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industry became big donors to political parties. ...

Alongside this financial link, a concerted propaganda campaign by Big Coal was waged, using the services of right-wing think tanks such as the Institute of Public Affairs, as well as the Murdoch media. Climate denial was a key aspect of this campaign, as was the denigration of the environment movement.

Lobbying by coal interests had the effect of translating the demands of the industry into government's resources and energy policy. ...

Nowhere is the corrupting influence of the mining lobby as apparent as in the case of the application for a stage 3 expansion of New Hope Coal's Acland coalmine in the Darling Downs, one of Australia's richest agricultural and pastoral regions. ...

Laws passed on June 26 could criminalise dissent. Greens MP Adam Bandt and independent MP Andrew Wilkie were the only members in the Lower House to vote against the bills. Wilkie previously worked as a defence analyst, argued that the definitions of national security and foreign interference are too broad.

He said: "Environmentalists protesting against the enormous Adani coal mine proposed for Australia's north could be prosecuted for the crime of sabotage under the legislation if that protest was defined as a threat to the nation's economic security."

The stakes in the coal wars have been raised.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-27/new-coal-doesnt-stack-up-just-look-at-queensland/9913882>

Does new coal stack up financially? Consider Queensland's renewables numbers

Matthew Stocks & Andrew Blakers, ABC, 27/06/2018

Last month, it emerged that One Nation had asked for a new coal-fired power plant in North Queensland in return for supporting the government's business tax reforms.

Is all this pro-coal jockeying actually necessary for our energy or economic future? Our analysis suggests that renewable energy is a much better choice, in terms of both costs and jobs.

Virtually all new generation being constructed in Australia is solar photovoltaics (PV) and wind energy. New-build coal power is estimated to cost \$70-90



Australian's newest coal fired power station at Kogan Creek, Qld, opened in 2007. Coalition politicians are pushing to build more coal fired plants despite cheaper renewables and the danger for climate change. Photo: CS Energy

per megawatt-hour, increasing to more than \$140 per MWh with carbon capture and storage.

Solar PV and wind are now cheaper than new-build coal power plants, even without carbon capture and storage. Unsubsidised contracts for wind projects in Australia have recently been signed for less than \$55 per MWh, and PV electricity is being produced from very large-scale plants at \$30-50 per MWh around the world.

Australia's newest coal-fired power plant was opened at Kogan Creek, Queensland in 2007. Many of the political voices calling for new coal have suggested that this investment should be made in Queensland. But what's the real picture of energy development in that state?

There has been no new coal for more than a decade, but developers are queuing up to build renewable energy projects. Powerlink, which owns and maintains Queensland's electricity network, reported in May that it has received 150 applications and enquiries to connect to the grid, totalling 30,000MW of prospective new generation — almost all of it for renewables.

[Bob] Katter, never one to hold back, asked "how could any government conceive of the stupidity like another baseload coal-fired power station in North Queensland?" ...

• *Matthew Stocks is a research fellow at ANU College of Engineering and Computer Science; Andrew Blakers is professor of Engineering at ANU.*

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/investment-in-queensland-mines-hot-to-trot/news-story/2766ff0fe1de3f0e6eddd98dc9cc027>

Investment in Queensland mines 'hot to trot'

Courier-Mail, 28/06/2018

Queensland is in the world's top five regions for the production of key commodities like zinc, bauxite and silver and is one of the largest seaborne exporters of coal in the world. Yet, challenges remain going forward.

QBM and BDO co-hosted an exclusive lunch and invited some of the state's top players to discuss current trends. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/coalition-elders-fire-up-for-coal-fired-power-seek-to-end-infighting/news-story/939186e79f2dcb63ebacc6ca9c3c1e5c>

Coalition elders fire up for coal-fired power, seek to end infighting

Joe Kelly, The Australian, 25/06/2018

Coalition elder statesmen are urging the government to facilitate the entry of new coal-fired power stations alongside the national energy guarantee to drive down electricity prices and secure reliability as they seek to avoid a new round of government infighting.

Howard government resources minister Ian Macfarlane yesterday urged the Coalition to consider covering the commercial and carbon risks for any private sector investment in a new clean-coal-fired power station and insisted the major energy users be compensated for their role in ensuring reliability of supply under the energy guarantee. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jun/26/energy-minister-would-welcome-new-coal-fired-power-plant>

Energy minister would welcome new coal-fired power plant

Katharine Murphy, *The Guardian*, 26/06/2018

Energy minister Josh Frydenberg has declared he would welcome the construction of a new coal-fired power plant in Australia ahead of meetings on Tuesday where internal critics of his electricity plan are expected to voice their objections.

Frydenberg used an interview with News Corp to send the positive signal about coal before Tuesday's internal deliberations, with some Nationals still on the war path about the government either subsidising new coal plants or bankrolling the refurbishment of existing assets. ...

Frydenberg said the national energy guarantee would prolong the operating life of the existing coal fleet – an eventuality which some of the state and territory governments, which will ultimately make or break the policy, profoundly object to.

“We have twenty coal-fired power stations in Australia today with an average life of 27 years,” the federal energy minister said. “While they may not live forever, they will certainly live longer than that 27 years and the Neg will provide that level of stability for the investors and the owners of those assets.” ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/frydenberg-eyeing-coal-circuitbreaker/news-story/2906e4314d9984b6b51b613fed795d2a>

Frydenberg eyeing coal circuit-breaker

Simon Benson & Joe Kelly, *The Australian*, 26/06/2018

Coalition MPs have been told a plan to bring on extra base-load power through either new coal or gas is being drafted by Energy Minister Josh Frydenberg as an “add-on” energy policy to the national energy guarantee, in a move that will lock in future supply and head off a potential internal government rebellion.

A senior government source last night confirmed that Mr Frydenberg had assured colleagues that he would address concerns about the NEG and the lack of support for coal.

The move comes as Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack, acting on the authority of the Nationals party-room, will lobby Malcolm Turnbull for additional measures to drive new investment in coal-fired power stations



Tony Abbott has held out the prospect of MPs crossing the floor to oppose the NEG unless it allows for the entry of new coal-fired power plants, and used a 2GB radio interview to accuse the Prime Minister of trying to stifle discussion of the topic in last week's joint partyroom meeting. Photo: 2GB

amid growing unrest over the government's signature energy policy. ...

The push came as former deputy prime minister John Anderson called for government intervention to help facilitate the construction of a new high-efficiency, low-emissions (HELE) coal-fired power station. Mr Anderson, who was Nationals leader under John Howard from 1999 to 2005, defended the NEG being promoted by Mr Frydenberg as the “best thing on offer at the moment” but said it was time to be “utterly honest with ourselves for once in this country”.

“We really are about to hand a massive victory to the people who want to transform our economy in ways that I think will be very damaging,” Mr Anderson said. ...

Resources Minister and Queensland Nationals senator Matt Canavan ... said it was “really important, of course, that we keep coal as an option”.

Senator Canavan added that he was “quite confident” that coal-fired power stations would continue to be an option into the future, arguing they would be accommodated by the NEG.

[Tony] Abbott has held out the prospect of MPs crossing the floor to oppose the NEG unless it allows for the entry of new coal-fired power plants and has used a 2GB radio interview to accuse the Prime Minister of trying to stifle discussion of the topic in last week's joint partyroom meeting. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jun/27/no-end-to-climate-wars-if-energy-pact-offers-concession-to-coal-labor-warns>

No end to climate wars if energy pact offers concession to coal, Labor warns

Katharine Murphy, 27/06/2018

Labor has warned the government that new subsidies for coal as part of any internal settlement on the national energy guarantee will scuttle the chances of securing peace after 10 years of warring over climate and energy policy.

The shadow climate change minister, Mark Butler, told Guardian Australia that the construction of any new coal-fired power stations “will paralyse Australia's transition to clean energy” and “run against all the advice of industry and business, including Snowy Hydro”. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/5bn-fund-at-top-of-nationals-demands-for-turnbull-on-energy/news-story/9748f24a8b6670a116dc6f52a32a4735>

\$5bn fund at top of Nationals' demands for Turnbull on energy

Joe Kelly & Simon Benson, *The Australian*, 28/06/2018

The Nationals have drawn up a set of demands for Malcolm Turnbull, headlined by the creation of a fund of up to \$5 billion that would deliver government money for new baseload generators, including coal-fired power. ...

Labor has indicated that it could vote against the national energy guarantee if Mr Turnbull agrees to a new mech-

anism that would subsidise coal-fired power generation to head off an insurgency from a core group of Coalition backbenchers.

Opposition energy spokesman Mark Butler said Labor was not “going to agree to a model that seeks to fly in the face of all of the expert advice”. He warned that building new coal-fired power stations would prevent Australia from meeting its target under the Paris Agreement of reducing emissions by 26 per cent on 2005 levels by 2030. Mr Butler also said Mr Turnbull was wrong for telling parliament that coal-fired power could be part of Australia’s energy system “forever” — a statement he described as an “extraordinary proposition given all of the advice globally”.

Tony Abbott and Barnaby Joyce have both threatened to cross the floor on the energy guarantee because of concerns it will not provide enough price relief for households or lead to more coal being brought into the mix. The former prime minister said yesterday he was unconvinced by business and industry leaders who this week urged Coalition backbenchers to support the policy or risk taking a wrecking ball to the economy. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/national/tony-abbotts-neg-warning-australia-sleepwalking-to-deindustrialisation-disaster/news-story/dbf9641bda14c66713b6c7b49bc0ddfa>

Tony Abbott’s NEG warning: Australia ‘sleepwalking’ to deindustrialisation disaster

Claire Bickers, News Corp, 29/06/2018

Tony Abbott has hit out at Coalition colleagues who “don’t rock the boat” as he warned the government was “sleepwalking toward de-industrialising” Australia.

The former Prime Minister also said Australians would not thank politicians for damaging the economy just to “make the world a bit colder for our grandchildren” ...

“We are damaging our economy in an attempt to save the planet in 100 years’ time.

“I don’t think our children will thank us if we damage their future in order to make the world a bit colder for our grandchildren.”

The former PM said his fear was “that we are sleepwalking toward de-industrialising our country — and that would be disastrous.”

“We have got to get new coal-fired

CRITICISING THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT BE A CRIME!

New laws from the Turnbull Government mean
15 YEARS JAIL
For “damaging” the Government’s
“international reputation”

GetUp!

power into the system if we are going to be a country that continues to make things,” he said. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jun/26/espionage-bill-could-make-some-protests-criminal-acts-getup-says>

Espionage bill could make some protests criminal acts, GetUp says

Paul Karp, The Guardian, 26/06/2018

The espionage bill could criminalise protests and communication of opinions harmful to the Australian government, representing a threat to the limited protections on freedom of speech, according to legal advice produced for the activist group GetUp. ...

Although the shadow attorney general, Mark Dreyfus, has rejected GetUp’s claims that peaceful protests could be criminalised, his view has been contradicted by both the founder of Australian Lawyers for Human Rights, Kate Eastman SC, and the advice for GetUp by Wentworth Selborne chambers.

The advice to GetUp said that sabotage offences could cover “a wide range of protest activity” because the “damage to public infrastructure” element includes merely limiting or preventing access to it.

“For example, a person who intentionally blockaded the entry to a coalmine

... with the ultimate intention of ending the sale of coal by Australia to another country ... could be charged with an offence of this kind,” it said.

The advice suggested the significant penalties of up to 20 years prison “is likely to have a chilling effect on protest activity” such as blockading a farm to stop the sale of live animals to another country.

The advice to GetUp suggests that espionage offences in the Coalition bill may breach the implied freedom of political communication because of broad definitions in offences that criminalise dealing with information that may harm national security.

It warned that the definition of harm to national security did not distinguish between harm to Australia and to its government, meaning “espionage offences [appear] broad enough to capture reputational damage and loss of confidence in an Australian government.”

The bill could criminalise publication of information, including opinions or reports of conversations, to international organisations “which may pose little or no threat to Australia’s national security or sovereignty,” it said.

That could include information and opinions about food security, energy

News this week ... from previous page

security, climate security, economic conditions, migration and refugee policies because these may affect Australia's "political, military or economic relations with another country". ...

Even dealing with the "substance, effect or description" of certain information is banned, a further bar to reporting. ...

While charities welcomed an exemption from the requirement to register in the foreign influence transparency scheme, many still expressed concerns about the espionage bill.

Amnesty International Australia's external affairs director, Claire O'Rourke, said that in its current form the bill "could wreak enormous damage to Australian civil society".

"By making it a crime to hold the Australian government to account on human rights, this bill will help shield government from accountability," she said.

"These draconian laws proposed will make Australia more like the authoritarian countries this bill is supposed to protect us from." ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-26/new-protest-regulations-labelled-attack-on-democracy/9905676>

New protest regulations labelled 'a fundamental attack on democracy' will start in NSW from July 1

Leah White & Bruce MacKenzie, ABC, 26/06/2018

New protest regulations which come into effect on July 1 have been called "a fundamental attack on democracy" by a university law lecturer.

Northern Rivers academic and activist, Aidan Ricketts, said new regulations under the Crown Management Act would give low-ranking bureaucrats broad powers to disperse or ban protests, meetings, rallies and gatherings on any state-owned land.

"It's bigger than the street march bans that the Bjelke-Petersen government had in the 1970s in Queensland," he said.

"It's creating this arbitrary power to disperse any crowds whatsoever — not just protesting but simply meeting and discussing issues even.

"It just says you're there at the sufferance of any low-ranking official who can disperse you and tell you to go." ...

The Knitting Nannas protest group

joined the chorus of concern.

Spokeswoman Judi Summers said she was shocked to learn about the new rules.

She said the group's strategy of holding weekly knit-ins outside the offices of local politicians might not be possible under the new regulations.

"Well it would have shut us down basically," Ms Summers said.

"We've been knitting outside of Thomas George and Kevin Hogan's [parliamentary] offices for the last sort of six years.

"Every Thursday without a miss, and if these laws had been introduced way back then, we would have been moved on right from the start."

Lawyer and NSW Greens candidate for Lismore, Sue Higginson, said over the years, she had represented hundreds of protestors in court, through her work with the Environmental Defenders Office.

"I see time and time again, the courts — generally speaking — have a real concern about having to penalise people who have found that they are in a position of having to break laws to stand up for an issue or to protect the environment or to protect a civil right," she said.

"So where we are criminalising really benign behaviour, and behaviour that people have a right to do, it becomes a real problem for the courts."

Ms Higginson said a good example was the role of town halls played during the coal seam gas protests on the Northern Rivers.

"If you look back to how the community in the Northern Rivers mobilised to protect the land and water here from coal seam gas, a lot of that organisation and the information and the those

meetings — they were held in those town halls."

Ms Higginson said under the new regulations, meetings could be banned or dispersed from town halls.

"People should definitely be alarmed and the biggest problem about this kind of thing is it's difficult to understand the application these laws will have until you're impacted," she said.

"They are not laws at the character of an ordinary democracy. They can only be described as draconian powers where you just stop ordinary people."

<https://www.northernstar.com.au/news/bentley-csg-crusaders-named-activists-of-the-year/3451811/>

Bentley CSG crusaders named Australian Activists of the Year

Northern Star, 26/06/2018

The campaign to halt CSG drilling at Bentley has earned a joint Australian Activist of the Year award for Northern Rivers activists.

Annie Kia of Lock the Gate and to the Knitting Nannas Against Gas will be presented with the joint award by the Ngarra Institute.

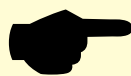
This was in recognition of their outstanding work in campaigning against the development of Coal Seam Gas sites in NSW and beyond, with their work during the Bentley Blockade recognised.

Nanna Judi Summers said the award was timely, coming as the government introduced new regulations restricting protest activity on Crown Land.

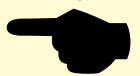
"Much of our work to stop Metgasco turning the Northern Rivers into a gasfield would not have been possible under these draconian regulations," she said. ...

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



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