



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

FFB 1:34 • 24 JULY 2018

Crib Point gas terminal: Does AGL have social licence?

Residents determined to save Westernport Bay from industrial degradation as AGL plans to import gas to Victoria



Westernport Bay is under threat from AGL's proposed Crib Point LNG import terminal at Crib Point, Victoria.
Photo: Candy van Rood

Julia Stöckigt, www.savewesternport.org

To be able to operate, corporations like AGL require what is known in the business as social licence.

This quality is not easily defined but without it, they would never be permitted to infiltrate communities to conduct their hazardous and typically irresponsible business.

The need to have this illusive social licence to operate makes it essential for big corporations like AGL to employ 'public liaison' specialists whose actual job is to soothe and smooth over all resistance and opposition to whatever operations head office requires, no matter how questionable.

Creating the illusion of consultation

Someone capable of performing this role must be a very special kind of person indeed, expert at creating the illusion that an authentic, two-way relationship based on mutual respect and consultation is developing, when in truth nothing like that actually exists. Their goal is to establish themselves as a credible and receptive person worthy of our trust. By adopting the most effective psychological techniques that

express empathy and echo our deeply held concerns, the public is drawn in by a hypnotic display of apparent credibility.

Strategies to manufacture consent

These strategies intended to deliberately manufacture consent are typically employed by corporations wishing to eliminate public action and involvement in their operations. They are based on the writings of US academic Dr Peter Sandman. The defining principle behind his work is creating the appearance of inclusion and transparency. The impression of concessions and compromise is given, when in truth nothing of the kind is offered.

It has been unsettling and disarming to realize that our grave concerns about safety and deep feelings of care for Westernport Bay have been expertly managed and manipulated in a way that favours the outcomes laid down by company executives.

If we thought AGL's community relations manager Jay Gleeson was good at his job, I can't begin to imagine how his replacement Kelly Parkinson will challenge us.

With his real life employment history including crisis management for Cadbury (over plantation child slavery revelations), and tobacco company Philip Morris, we can expect Mr Parkinson to be working his hardest to confound us all as well.

With their appalling track record, it is not surprising that AGL has recognised the need to obscure their past by working on the psychology of the public.

Who cares about collateral damage?

AGL will already have factored in the cost of government penalties and fines for infractions that will inevitably result from the routine practice of their operations. AGL are probably unconcerned about the collateral damage and degradation that will result, because they have no history in the area, and they plan no future here.

In line with their business model to date, they will continue the established practice of moving on to the next unsuspecting community trusting enough to allow these corporate criminals in to profit in their midst.

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• P 2: Adani's finance claims questioned

• P 4: Shenhua licence renewal condemned

• P 4: Inside the news

Adani's claims to have secured finance questioned

Margaret Gleeson, Green Left Weekly

Months after missing its March deadline for financial closure on its Carmichael mine and rail project, Adani has relaunched its PR offensive with claims its finances are almost stitched up.

In an interview on July 17, Karan Adani, son of the company's owner Gautam Adani, told Indian TV it was now finalising the rail project's financing.

Stage 1 of the revised project is estimated to cost \$5.3 billion, consisting of \$2.05 billion for the coal mine and associated airport, road access, water, sewage and power infrastructure, plus \$3.3 billion for the 388 kilometre railway line.

Karan Adani's understatement of the cost of the rail link by almost \$2.5 billion is par for the course in Adani propaganda. He also claimed that all approvals were in place and that work would commence immediately after the rail finance was approved.

However, this is not the case. There remain several obstacles before work at the mine can begin, including:

Obstacles for Carmichael Mine

1. Federal approval for Adani's proposed water scheme, involving pumping 12.5 billion litres of water a year from the Suttor River to the mine. The government has delayed its decision and asked Adani for more information.
2. A court challenge by a group of Wangan and Jagalingou people to a land-use agreement. If the challenge to invalidate the agreement is successful, Adani would then require the Queensland government to extinguish native title at the mine site.
3. A stop order application by a group of Juru people, amid a dispute about cultural heritage in the vicinity of the Abbot Point coal terminal and a section of the rail link.
4. Finance to build an airstrip near the mine site for fly-in fly-out workers. Townsville council reallocated funding for the project recently, having expressed concerns about Adani's ability to continue with the Carmichael project.
5. Finance to build the rail line. After the Queensland government vetoed a loan through the Northern Australia

Infrastructure Facility, environmentalists fear the government-backed Export Finance and Insurance Corporation may support the rail link.

6. The Queensland Labor government has imposed more than 240 conditions on the Carmichael coalmine project, 132 of which relate to water. On May 3, the coordinator-general fixed a new lapse date for the project's evaluation report to August 14 next year. A month ago, the government also insisted Adani find the source of local groundwater before it signs off on the water management plan for the mine.

Environment spokesman sceptical

Federal Labor environment spokesperson Mark Butler, who opposes the mine, was sceptical of claims Adani would soon have the finance required for the rail line.

"If I had a dollar for every front page where Adani said it had finance for this new coal mine I'd be a very rich man," he said. "Frankly, I'll believe it when I see it.

"My view about this project has been clear for some time. I don't think it stacks up. I don't think it is in the national interest."

The day after Karan Adani's interview a clarifying statement was issued by Adani Australia. It repeated his comments but said the company "continues to work to secure finance for the Carmichael project".

It remains unclear where the money to build the mine will come from, or the extent of any external commitment to Carmichael. Tim Buckley, from the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, said Gautam Adani had the financial wealth to self-fund Carmichael and "we can't assume this project is dead".

"Gautam Adani has never been wealthier than he is today. Never underestimate a billionaire," Buckley said.

Pressure for subsidy continues

Buckley said the statements by Karan Adani and by the company appeared to be "continued pressure on the federal government to provide yet another massive subsidy".

This "continued pressure" by Adani will be met by an emboldened movement against the project, particularly



Karan Adani

against any further public funding to Adani or to its agents for construction of the rail project.

On July 18, Australian Conservation Foundation Chief Executive Officer Kelly O'Shanassy said: "These comments confirm what we have known for some time; Adani is serious about building its dirty coalmine and it is time for our elected representatives to side with the wider community and stop it.

"Digging up and burning coal from the Adani mine will unleash huge amounts of climate pollution, which will accelerate damage to the Great Barrier Reef and turbo-charge dangerous extreme weather events like bushfires, heat-waves and floods.

"Adani's polluting coal mine will also trash critical habitat for precious native species like the Black-throated finch. And it will be allowed to guzzle our critical groundwater.

"This is not a project that represents the best interests of the community and the natural world we rely on. Now, more than ever, we need a commitment from all political parties that they will stop this polluting coal mine before it wrecks our safe climate and natural world.

"Community action has driven our elected representatives to stop these kinds of dangerous and environment-wrecking projects in the past. The Franklin River flows freely today as testament to this.

"The community campaign to stop Adani's polluting coal mine is the biggest environmental movement in Australia since the Franklin River dam protests. We will continue to organise against Adani's dirty coal mine until it is stopped, and the Galilee Basin is closed for coal mining."

• <https://www.greenleft.org.au>

What AEMO said: transformative and unprecedented rate of change

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) last week released the inaugural Integrated System Plan (ISP) – a comprehensive evaluation of the likely changes that will be occurring over the next 20 years across the National Electricity Market (NEM).

“AEMO’s analysis confirms that we are in the midst of transformative and unprecedented rate of change in this sector. We are witnessing disruption across almost every element of the value chain. Due to the vital importance of affordable, reliable and secure power as the engine of a strong economy, care must be taken now more than ever to manage this transformation in order to minimise costs and risks and

maximise value to consumers,” said AEMO Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Audrey Zibelman.

AEMO’s analysis displays the fundamental changes occurring in the energy sector:

- Grid demand is flattening due to the growth of rooftop photovoltaic (PV) and increasing use of local storage, as well as overall increases in energy efficiency. This is true even with the anticipated electrification of the transport sector over the period.
- Over the next 20 years, a percentage of the NEM’s existing coal resources will be approaching the end of their technical lives, and will likely be retired, which highlights the importance

of mitigating premature retirements as these resources currently provide essential low-cost energy and system support services required for the safe and secure operation of the power system.

- The investment profile and capabilities of various supply resources have changed and are projected to continue to change radically.
- In particular, costs of new renewable plant continue to fall, and advances and availability of storage technologies, particularly pumped hydro, flexible gas-powered generation and distributed energy resources (DER) are emerging as core components to a low cost and reliable energy future.



Crib Pt: AGL’s push for social licence

• Continued from p1

I hope that AGL is beginning to get the picture about what their project actually means to this community, and to all the people who care about the Bay. After all, it’s only fair that they know what they are up against.

This company is in the wrong place if they believe it’s business as usual, because Westernport residents are not paralysed by a sense of apathy, or overwhelmed by the seeming inevitability of corporate plans.

We are determined to protect the Bay from the degradation of industry, by making sure the Government does its job enforcing all that is required by the area’s Ramsar and biosphere classifications. They must initiate an Environmental Effects Study – an EES as a matter of urgency.

What I have said here about AGL is based only on the burgeoning list of infractions and breaches that government has found them responsible for, and for which they have been ordered to pay numerous penalties and reparations.

• *The information contained in this post is not based on personal opinion, but on established corporate practices, and infractions by AGL that are a matter of public record.*

This disclaimer forthwith indemnifies me from any and all corporate shenanigans and or subterfuge soever.



Santos told: get out of the Pilliga



Sydney Knitting Nannas Against Gas didn't let a cold winter's day in Martin Place stop them from telling Santos to leave the Pilliga alone. Photo: Colin Ryan

COAL SEAM GAS & PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE

Celeste flare, Western Darling Downs, Queensland

Wednesday, 15 August 2018

The Crossing Theatre, 117 Tibbereena St, Narrabri

Evening forum:
Is the Precautionary Principle being applied in health impact assessments?

Cost:
Full attendance (includes dinner) \$85.
Afternoon program only (without dinner) \$50.

CSG & Public Health Conference information line:
0416 077 753
csghealthforum@protonmail.com

A conference for all health professionals, including doctors, health service managers and health care workers in the Coal Seam Gas exploration areas of New South Wales.

Shenhua licence renewal condemned

Liverpool Plains farmers and Lock the Gate Alliance have condemned the move by the NSW Government to renew the Shenhua exploration licence on the Liverpool Plains, saying it was the third chance the government has had to end mining plans in our nation's food bowl and the third time they had failed to do so.

Breeza farmer John Hamparsum said, "This is a dark day for our farms on the Liverpool Plains and puts the future of our national food bowl at risk.

"We're disappointed but not surprised by this decision today.

"This Government has been backing this coal mine and ignoring the objections of the people who farm here and rely on this water resource for years.

"They don't get it: they say they're protecting the Liverpool Plains, but

this is the Liverpool Plains. They approved a dirty great mine in the middle of your food bowl."

Georgina Woods of Lock the Gate Alliance said, "This is the third chance the Government has missed to stop this mine. First, they gave the mine approval three years ago. Then, they missed a chance to use a special clause in the licence that gave them the means to cancel it because mining had not commenced 8 years after the original grant.

"Finally, they hatched a secret deal with Shenhua to renew the licence and give the company \$262 million, moving this huge coal mine one step closer to going ahead.

"This is a terrible blow, but the battle to protect the Liverpool Plains is far from over: we will not give up the fight until this state's productive farmland and groundwater are protected from coal mining."

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Adani's automated mine a job killer

The best way to protect coal jobs in existing mines is to stop the construction of new, highly automated coal mines in the Galilee Basin according to new research by The Australia Institute.

The Institute's report estimates that development of the Galilee Basin would reduce coal mining jobs by 9,000 in the Hunter Valley (NSW), 2,000 in the Bowen Basin (QLD) and 1,400 in the Surat Basin (QLD), compared to a scenario with no Galilee mines out to 2035.

"If Australia wants a just transition for our coal workers then the worst thing we can do is to open up new mines that proponents plan to automate 'from pit to port,'" said Rod Campbell, Director of Research at The Australia Institute.

"Put simply, new mines, in new coal basins, destroy jobs in existing coal regions.

"Building new coal mines in the Galilee Basin would reduce the overall coal workforce by between 2,680 and 5,800 mine workers in the coming decades.

"With flat world demand for coal, every new coal mine opened in new coal regions like the Galilee simply reduces production in existing coal

regions like the Hunter Valley, Bowen Basin and Surat Basin. This will lead to the closure of some mines and layoffs in others.

"Existing coal regions like the Hunter Valley and Bowen Basin can continue to employ significant numbers of coal miners for some years, even as the world moves away from coal. But if governments are determined to subsidise automated new mines into new coal regions they will hasten the demise of existing coal jobs.

"NSW and Queensland Governments need to plan how to transition their coal workers in the Hunter, Bowen and Surat Basins into other industries.

"This transition to new industries and new jobs will be harder for these regions and workers if the Galilee Basin is developed.

"The first priority for NSW and Queensland Governments in planning a just transition should be to ensure the Galilee Basin mines do not go ahead.

"NSW and Queensland Governments should be making it clear to Canberra that subsidising Galilee Basin development via NAIF, Efic or other export credit agencies, makes planning for a just transition much harder."

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Inside the news

The **Australian Energy Market Operator** (AEMO) released released its inaugural **Integrated System Plan** (ISP) – an evaluation of the likely changes that will be occurring over the next 20 years across the **National Electricity Market** (NEM).

Fossil politics (p10-12) was dominated by **reaction** to the report, with the Coalition cherry-picking it to support their push for coal-fired power.

The report did not recommend building new coal-fired power plants, but advised keeping our **struggling old clunkers belching CO2** for another 20 years or so.

Meanwhile politicians belched enough **hot air** over the issue to power a city for a month, or so it seemed.

The Guardian published an excellent long article showing how **Port Augusta** now leads the country in **life after coal**, with numerous renewable energy projects coming online to power even heavy industries like steel. Click the link on p6 for a good read.

Michael West, the business journo let go by the *Sydney Morning Herald* and now making a go of it at michaelwest.com.au wrote an excellent piece: **Nine Lies** (p7) about the gas market in Australia. Lie number eight, **'CSG is good for you'** is thoroughly debunked. Well worth a look at the whole story.

The *Courier-Mail* devoted an editorial to **"Adani, the resource and energy conglomerate the comfortable inner-city hand wringers love to hate"** (p5), continuing the Murdoch press campaign for a dinosaur coal-filled economy. Don't read it, your brain may be damaged.

The **PFAS contamination** scare continues to be **linked to fossil fuel industries**.

An expert advised that **PFAS** will be found at offshore and onshore **oil and gas facilities**; road tanker fuel loading facilities; chemical storage facilities; wastewater treatment plants; ports importing or exporting fuels; and rail facilities as well as airports and defence establishments (see p7). Meanwhile, the government does nothing.

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In the news this week:

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 30,000 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.themorningbulletin.com.au/news/anti-adani-protesters-make-bold-statement-at-rocky/3467594/#/0>

Anti-Adani protesters make bold statement at Rocky festival

Drew Jefferson, *Rockhampton Morning Bulletin*, 15/07/2018

Stop Adani and climate activists marched through the Adani Rockhampton River Festival on Saturday calling for Rockhampton Regional Council to follow Townsville's lead and withdraw their \$15.5 million pledge for the Adani coal mine's airport, and invest in renewable energy projects around their city instead.

Dozens of people peacefully marched through the event along the Quay Street Riverside precinct dressed in Stop Adani T-shirts. ... David McRae, media spokesperson for 350 Central Queensland, said the Mayor has a lack of foresight to allow Adani to sponsor the 'Music, Arts and Culture' riverside festival for short term gains. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/adani-ready-to-go-rail-line-is-last-piece-in-puzzle/news-story/6bfb63d5b4135758e88ddb77a735883b>

Adani ready to go – rail line is last piece in puzzle

John McCarthy, *Courier-Mail*, 17/07/2018

Adani has finally stitched up funding for its massive coalmine in central Queensland. ...

The revelations came from Karan Adani, the son of the company's owner Gautam Adani and chief executive of the ports business, who told Indian TV that it was now closing the financing of the rail project.

"We have all the Government approvals for everything," he said.

"We have closed the financing of the mine, the port is already operational and now we are just closing the financing of the rail. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/adani-coal-project-almost-locked-in/news-story/c53e86d4e3f8224c2f5b34e83ae38370?login=1>

Adani coal project 'almost locked in'

Olivia Caisley, *The Australian*, 18/07/2018

Karan Adani, the son of Adani boss and Indian billionaire Gautam, has ex-



Stop Adani and climate activists marched through the Adani Rockhampton River Festival last week, calling for Rockhampton Council to withdraw funding for Adani's airport. Photo: Stop Adani

pressed confidence the mining company will secure the final funding needed for its vast coal project in central Queensland.

In an interview with India's *The Economic Times* yesterday, Mr Adani said the company was close to securing the final \$1.35 billion needed to finance the rail line. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/jul/18/adani-says-it-still-needs-a-loan-for-rail-line-if-coalmine-is-to-go-ahead>

Adani says it still needs a loan for rail line if coalmine is to go ahead

Ben Smees, *The Guardian*, 18/07/2018

Adani says its Carmichael coalmine remains contingent on a loan to build a rail line to the Galilee Basin – comments that analysts believe will ramp up pressure on the Australian government to further subsidise the project.

Karan Adani, the son of company boss Gautam Adani, and the head of the conglomerate's ports business, told India's *Economic Times* the company had "completed financing on the mine" and that it had received all necessary approvals. ...

Adani Australia also clarified comments made by Karan Adani that: "We have all the government approvals for everything." The company said it was

continuing to work through "secondary approvals".

There remain several obstacles before work at the mine can begin. They include:

- Federal approval for Adani's proposed water scheme.
- A court challenge by a group of Wangan and Jagalingou people to a land-use agreement.
- A stop order application by a group of Juru people, amid a dispute about cultural heritage.
- Finance to build an airstrip near the mine site for fly-in fly-out workers.
- Finance to build the rail line.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/opinion/editorial-mine-power-delivers-a-boost-of-positivity/news-story/15ef679cdc6cc554aea4eb1e77862ad>

Editorial: Mine power delivers a boost of positivity

Editor, *Courier-Mail*, 19/07/2018

Adani, the resource and energy conglomerate the comfortable inner-city hand wringers love to hate, is very active in its home country of India at the moment. The firm this week announced a bid to raise about \$A1.4 billion from sales of equity in three of its companies. ...

Other signs of confidence in the future of the Adani mine and its development have been two recent appointments to the senior ranks of the company. Lucas Dow, a veteran mining executive who served time at BHP and its spin off South32, is now the chief executive of Adani in Australia while Queensland Paul Fennelly, one time director general of State Development in George St and former chief operating officer at the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association is now head of government and corporate affairs. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/business/adani-close-to-finalising-finance-for-236b-carmichael-rail-project/news-story/55bf4f8b7c39a69345e978b6c137b5d0>

Adani close to finalising finance for \$2.36b Carmichael rail project

Clare Armstrong & Tony Raggatt, Townsville Bulletin, 19/07/2018

Patience could be paying off for Adani as rising coal prices create a “window of opportunity” just as the mining giant has indicated it is close to securing finances.

Comments from the chief executive of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zones, Karan Adani, sparked a wave of excitement among backers of the Carmichael mega mine in the Galilee Basin. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jul/19/native-title-system-embeds-racism-australia-first-indigenous-silk-says>

Native title system ‘embeds racism’, Australia’s first Indigenous silk says

Ben Smees, The Guardian, 19/07/2018

Australia’s first Indigenous silk, Tony McAvoy, says the native title system “embeds racism” and puts traditional owners under “duress” to approve mining developments or risk losing their land without compensation.

McAvoy, speaking at a forum in Brisbane last week, said Indigenous people must “resist, in whatever fashion we can” to protect their land and culture.

If traditional owners cannot come to an agreement with a mining company about a proposal, it goes before the national native title tribunal. Traditional owners can demand compensation or royalties during negotiations, but these cannot be awarded by the tribunal. McAvoy said the tribunal, which must apply the native title act, only rarely rejects applications for mining leases.

“What this means is if we object to a mine under the native title process, it’s

very likely to go ahead and the normal benefits we might be able to negotiate, which include royalties, which include substantial compensation, well we can’t get those if we don’t agree.” ...

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/the-economy/digging-up-a-lot-more-coal-won-t-bring-more-jobs-20180715-p4zrlp.html>

Digging up a lot more coal won’t bring more jobs

Ross Gittins, 16/07/2018

As the economists at the Australia Institute remind us in a new paper, when you trace through the linkages you realise that development of the Galilee Basin could be expected to displace a lot of mining jobs – maybe even more than it created. ...

Wood Mackenzie estimates that, assuming the Paris agreement has little effect and world demand for traded thermal coal rises by 10 per cent out to 2035, the excess of supply over demand would cause coal prices to be \$3 a tonne lower than otherwise in 2026, rising to \$25 lower in 2030. ...

The lower world prices caused by the development of the Galilee Basin would discourage development of new mines – and thus the maintenance of production levels, as existing mines are worked out -- in other coal producing regions. ...

The Australia Institute economists’ study says ... the whole Galilee Basin would employ between 7,800 and 9,800 people to produce 150 million tonnes per year by 2035.

By contrast, their most optimistic estimate is relative reductions of 9100 jobs in the Hunter Valley, 2000 in the Bowen Basin and 1400 in the Surat Basin, a total of 12,500.

If we want Jobs and Growth in the future, mining ain’t the place to look.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-07-16/company-fined-for-dust-over-port-augusta/9997998>

EPA fines Flinders Power \$2,200 for ash plume that covered Port Augusta

Adelaide ABC, 16/07/2018

A company which let potentially toxic dust blanket Port Augusta early last year has been fined \$2,200 by South Australia’s Environment Protection Authority [EPA].

EPA says penalty reflects how unexpected it was and little that could be done.

The penalty has been described by the Spencer Gulf city’s mayor as adding “insult to injury” and “weak” by a member of the Port Augusta Dust-busters group.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/jul/20/life-after-coal-the-south-australian-city-leading-the-way>

Life after coal: the South Australian city leading the way

Adam Morton, The Guardian, 20/07/2018

The Port Augusta mayor, Sam Johnson, a 32-year-old former Liberal member, is continually surprised at how resistant some are to the idea that the energy environment has changed. “You might choose to ignore what’s happening here now because we’re out of sight, out of mind, but the reality is that what’s happening here is going to be happening on the eastern seaboard in the next 10 years,” he says. ...

Johnson says: “You can resist change as much as you like, but the reality is, if you’re in a community that has a coal-fired power station, its days are numbered. The market is dictating that change whether we like it or not.

“My advice is: learn from the Port Augusta experience. I wish the federal government would.”

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/mining-jobs-are-up-for-grabs-as-queensland-coal-fields-head-to-new-boom/news-story/fdb8c34b3027f4754a631d-48a5bb32c0>

Mining jobs are up for grabs as Queensland coal fields head to new boom

John McCarthy, Courier-Mail, 17/07/2018

About 1400 jobs are up for grabs in the Queensland mining sector as confidence returns and strong coal prices create boom-like conditions.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-07-19/nsw-government-renews-shenhua-watermark-lease-in-liverpool-plain/10014058>

NSW Government renews Shenhua Watermark coal mine lease in Liverpool Plains

Caitlin Furlong, ABC, 19/07/2018

The New South Wales Government has renewed part of the coal exploration licence for the controversial Shenhua Watermark project on the Liverpool Plains in the north-west of the state.

The announcement came with a promise not to release other parts of the Liverpool Plains for exploration. ...

Before mining can begin, the company must apply for a mining production

lease from the State Government and have a range of detailed management plans approved. The Federal Government must also approve biodiversity and water management plans before production begins. ...

<https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/5536511/nsw-govt-renews-shenhua-coal-mine-exploration-licence/?cs=159>

NSW govt renews Shenhua coal mine exploration licence

Jamieson Murphy, Northern Daily Leader, 19/07/2018

The NSW government has renewed the exploration licence for the Shenhua Watermark coal mine on the Liverpool Plains. ...

Resources Minister Don Harwin said the renewal allowed Shenhua to continue to undertake exploration, environmental management and rehabilitation, and community consultation.

However, it does not provide approval to commence mining. ...

GAS, GAS, GAS

<https://www.michaelwest.com.au/nine-lies-how-the-gas-cartel-clouted-australia-with-price-rises/>

Nine Lies: how the gas cartel clouted Australia with price rises

Michael West, 13/07/2018

Lie number one

"There is a gas market. The gas market determines gas prices."

There is not a gas market. There is a gas cartel. ...

Lie number two

"Australia has to import gas to solve the crisis in supply"

The four import terminals proposed by Exxon, AGL and other gas majors, was a ruse to add further cost, and make further profits at the expense of Australian industry and consumers.

We need a domestic gas reservation policy ...

Lie number three

There is a shortage of gas

In 2015, AGL let slip there was plenty of gas to supply the East Coast markets (having previously run the narrative of a "supply-cliff" which helped drive up prices). ...

Lie number four:

We have to develop onshore gas (Coal Seam Gas) to increase supply and bring down prices

And so the push to develop gas-fields in NSW and the Northern Territory and lift the onshore gas moratorium in Victoria despite trenchant community opposition and high risk to the environment.

As demonstrated by lie number three, there is no need to put farmland at risk given Australia has enormous reserves of gas. ...

Lie number five:

It's tough to find investors to finance new power generation projects.

This lie has enjoyed solid media coverage this week ... but the reality is that it is only hard to raise private sector financing for new coal and gas plants because new renewable energy is now significantly cheaper than new fossil fuels.

Lie number six

The economic benefits of gas projects are enormous.

The benefits are almost always exaggerated by the gas lobby and its "independent experts" ...

It is likely that Bunnings employs more people than the gas sector which is largely mechanised.

Lie number seven

If NSW and Victoria don't open up their farmlands for CSG mining, they will have to continue to import gas

NSW and Victoria have always piped in gas from other states. To frame this practise as "importing" carries the imputation these states are responsible for a capital drain offshore. ...

Lie number eight

CSG good for you

Despite overwhelming scientific evidence of poisoned water systems and damaged farmlands, despite fracking bans in multiple countries and provinces around the world and despite the logic that, while the rewards of onshore gas mining can be quantified but the risks as yet cannot, the gas lobby continues to downplay environmental risks and overplay the benefits.

Lie number nine

We pay our fair share of tax

The gas sector is notorious for tax avoidance. Even for its sheer size, its corporate income tax contribution to Australia is meagre. Shareholders are mostly overseas so investment returns mostly go offshore ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-07-17/pfas-contamination-at-all-airports-expert-tells-federal-inquiry/10000540>

PFAS: Expert submits warning via federal inquiry that contamination more widespread than reported

Elise Kinsella, ABC, 17/07/2018

A contamination expert is warning a federal parliamentary inquiry that the spread of potentially harmful chemicals once used in firefighting foam is likely to have affected many more parts of Australia than previously reported.

In his submission to the inquiry, Associate Professor Robert Niven, from the University of NSW in Canberra, said sites highly likely to be contaminated with PFAS chemicals included: Australian firefighter training sites; offshore and onshore oil and gas facilities; road tanker fuel loading facilities; chemical storage facilities; wastewater treatment plants; ports importing or exporting fuels; and rail facilities where fuel was stored. ...

He said residents living near such sites should demand investigations and questioned why a national investigation has not yet taken place yet. ...

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5532593/government-defends-itself-over-handling-of-pfas-contamination/>

Government defends itself over handling of PFAS contamination

Carrie Fellner, Newcastle Herald, 17/07/2018

The Turnbull government has defended its handling of the country's firefighting foam contamination scandal, after coming under attack from within its own party for its failure to compensate victims trapped on toxic and unsaleable properties. ...

The NSW submission had rebuked the Turnbull government for its failure to compensate people whose property values had plummeted or who were unable to sell due to banks refusing to lend in contaminated postcodes. NSW also called for authorities to focus on urging the public to minimize their exposure to the toxins, rather than the Commonwealth's current emphasis that there was no "consistent" evidence of health effects.

This position appears to be at odds with the US Environmental Protection Agency, which has concluded that the "weight of evidence" shows the chemicals are a human health hazard. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/gas-shortages-and-price-rises-australia-next-burning-issue/news-story/81adaa9489d344c6f61fd729e9fbf011>

Gas shortages and price rises Australia's next burning issue

John McCarthy, *Courier-Mail* 16/07/2018

Australia has been warned of spiralling gas prices enflaming politics as a possible shortage means the nation will be chained to events in Japan and China.

Wood Mackenzie director for Asia-Pacific gas and LNG Nicholas Browne said consumers may be forced into paying even higher prices in coming years as a shortage could mean LNG from coal seam gas producers in Queensland is forced back into the domestic market. ...

<https://www.ntnews.com.au/business/nt-government-releases-plan-to-implement-recommendations-of-independent-scientific-inquiry-into-hydraulic-fracturing-in-the-territory/news-story/e2fcb2e001baf929bd7618ca3e42179>

NT Government releases plan to implement recommendations of independent scientific inquiry into hydraulic fracturing in the Territory

Gary Shipway, *NT News*, 17/07/2018

The Northern Territory Government has released its plan to implement the recommendations of the independent scientific inquiry into unconventional hydraulic fracturing.

The plan details how each of the recommendations will be implemented and is grouped under the six themes of Strengthening Regulation, Ensuring Accountable Industry Practise, Safeguarding Water and the Environment, Respecting Community and Culture, Maximising Regional Benefits and Local opportunities, and Planning for Industry.

Chief Minister Michael Gunner said the plan will position the Territory to begin onshore gas exploration in earnest next Dry season. ...

However he said he would not be urging them to change their anti-fracking positions.

"Rather I would urge them not to bow to Federal Government pressure and instead make their own decisions about what is best for them," he said.

"There was some pressure put on the Northern Territory Government, but at the end of the day we stuck true to our word to Territorians and undertook our own independent studies. ...

Gas industry blueprint 'benchmark' for nation

GARY SHIPWAY

THE Territory Government has released its plan to implement the recommendations of the independent scientific inquiry into unconventional hydraulic fracturing.

The plan details how each of the recommendations will be implemented and is grouped under the six themes of Strengthening Regulation, Ensuring Accountable Industry Practise, Safeguarding Water and the Environment, Respecting Community and Culture,

Maximising Regional Benefits and Local Opportunities, and Planning for Industry.

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not to bow to Federal Government pressure and instead make their own decisions about what is best for them," he said.

"There was some pressure put on the Northern Territory Government, but at the end of the day we stuck true to our word to Territorians and undertook our own independent studies.

"The independent scientific report into hydraulic fracturing found that risks could be mitigated if all the recommendations of their report were implemented. This implement-

ation plan is a comprehensive response to these recommendations."

Mr Gunner said an onshore gas industry in the Territory would position it as a hub of rising gas prices on the eastern seaboard.

"It is not unrealistic to aim at the Territory becoming a manufacturing hub as businesses realise the low costs that will be available to set up here.

"If you want to have a vision

to develop this nation you have to look to the north and its closeness to our major trade region."

Mr Gunner said now that onshore gas industry ahead it was important to maximise jobs for locals.

"We will be making sure that any fracking that occurs ensures our unique natural environment is protected and creates local jobs," he said.

"We will be making sure an onshore oil and gas industry delivers for locals and delivers for local businesses."

Simmo's feeling fracking good about Territory's future



Owner of Humpty Doo's Anheim Earthmoving, Anthony Simpson, is stoked about the fracking announcement. PHOTO: KATE WOODS

GARY SHIPWAY
Senior Reporter

THREE months ago, Humpty Doo businessman Anthony Simpson was weighing up the future of his earthmoving business in light of the Gunner Government's moratorium on fracking.

He had cut his workforce in half to 15 staff as work for his business, Anheim Earthmoving, stalled because of the uncertainty around a Territory onshore gas industry.

Yesterday, Simmo was celebrating and planning to up his workforce to more than 35 as Chief Minister Michael Gunner stood side-by-side with him to release his blueprint to implement the recommendations of the fracking inquiry.

It was music to Simmo's ears. "I have 18 local bikes - 17 are from Humpty Doo and one from Palmerston - and this secures their future and that of their families," he said. "When things crank up this is going to be anywhere between 35 to 40 staff and every one of them will be a local."

"It was touch and go there for a while but now the Government has made its decision we can all get on with it and get this industry rolling for every one's sake."

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/oil-search-says-png-quake-wont-shake-production-target/news-story/f8bfbb216006cb7a1ced6d66aaad084>

Oil Search says PNG quake won't shake production target

Robb M Stewart, *Dow Jones, The Aus*, 17/07/2018

Oil Search has stuck with its 2018 production target after ramping operations back up in recent months following a massive earthquake and string of aftershocks in Papua New Guinea that forced it to halt operations. ...

Oil Search operates all of Papua New Guinea's producing oilfields, though these are dwarfed by output from Exxon Mobil Corp's \$US19 billion PNG LNG operation, in which Oil Search has a 29 per cent interest. Output at the plant near the capital Port Moresby, gas-processing facilities and Oil Search's sites in the Highlands were all shut after the quake. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/oil-search-to-expand-png-gas-plant-to-meet-spike-in-asia-demand/news-story/cb9da4a904e8235eeb04cd28c22c0d67>

Oil Search to expand PNG gas plant to meet spike in Asia demand

Perry Williams, *The Australian*, 18/07/2018

Oil Search chief Peter Botten says a surge in demand for liquefied natural gas from Asian buyers will push the market into balance early next decade, bolstering its plan to build three new export trains with its partners in Papua New Guinea. ...

Political and inter-tribal tensions have also re-emerged as part of the efforts to rebuild facilities after the earthquake and a long-running dispute with landowners, some of whom continue to wait for the payment of royalties from the foundation PNG LNG project. ...

<https://www.afr.com/opinion/columnists/now-the-states-must-act-on-gas-20180715-h12pa6>

Now the states must act on gas

Matthew Canavan, AFR, 15/07/2018

The annual Gas Supply Opportunities Outlook (or the “GSOO”) ... released in March last year changed gas markets almost overnight. That report warned that in 2018 southern Australia was headed for a dramatic gas shortage. ...

If we do not want to lose our natural advantage as a producer of affordable energy we must develop our natural energy resources. ...

The federal government has taken action to alleviate gas prices. It is now time for the States and Territories to follow our lead and remove their non-sensical and unscientific bans on gas development.

• *Matthew Canavan is minister for resources and northern Australia*

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/lift-gas-ban-or-prices-will-go-up-further-canavan-tells-states/news-story/2d3e9b5ac323cde012d6b3242a1f22e1>

Matt Canavan warns states to lift gas bans or risk industry turmoil

Perry Williams, The Australian, 17/07/2018

The Turnbull government has warned gas prices on the east coast have further to rise, which experts say will force under-siege industrial users to the brink of closure unless states agree to boost supplies by opening up more reserves.

Resources Minister Matt Canavan conceded gas prices would increase further if the nation’s east coast failed to develop additional energy reserves to offset declining volumes from areas including Victoria’s Bass Strait.

“To get lower gas prices we need more supply and to do that we need the states to lift their unscientific bans on gas production.” ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/rush-to-build-gas-import-terminals-could-lead-to-excess-capacity/news-story/c411639e062aba36f9af-b61e2b74045f>

Rush to build gas import terminals ‘could lead to excess capacity’

Paul Garvey, The Australian, 17/07/2018

Australia risks developing excess liquefied natural gas importing capacity as companies scramble to respond to the impact of developing excess LNG exporting capacity, leading consultancy Wood Mackenzie has warned. ...

Utility AGL Energy and big gas producer ExxonMobil have each flagged

potential import terminals in Victoria, iron ore billionaire Andrew Forrest is leading a plan for a terminal at Port Kembla in NSW, while Japanese conglomerate Mitsubishi is backing a plan to import LNG at Pelican Point in South Australia. ...

The current market dynamics, which have seen gas prices on the east coast rise sharply, were caused in part by the development of excess LNG export capacity in Queensland.

The rush saw three competing LNG export facilities built side-by-side at Gladstone with almost no collaboration between the parties.

Mr Browne said the number of import terminals planned around the country was well in excess of what was likely to be needed.

“We forecast only one LNG import terminal is needed given market fundamentals until the 2030s. As such, the project to get the green light first will hinder economic viability of subsequent projects,” Mr Browne said. ...

Mr Browne said AGL’s proposed Crib Point development was in the box seat to be the first into development, given AGL’s power generation business meant demand was already locked in. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/gas-price-spike-to-burn-east-coast-industrial-firms-wood-mackenzie/news-story/11b-4640452c0945a9e491222569686f0>

Gas price spike to burn east coast industrial firms: Wood Mackenzie

Perry Williams, The Australian, 16/07/2018

Heavy industry on Australia’s east coast may be forced to shut operations in the next few years with a forecast spike in the domestic gas price threatening to pile fresh costs on the nation’s largest energy users.

Consultancy Wood Mackenzie has warned Australia’s gas-intensive industries including petrochemical and fertiliser companies will struggle to compete with their international rivals on costs in the early to mid 2020s as gas prices increase further. ...

<http://mpnews.com.au/2018/07/17/gas-pipeline-reports-at-drop-in-talks/>

Gas pipeline ‘reports’ at drop-in talks

Keith Platt, Mornington Peninsula News, 17/07/2018

Technical reports supporting applications to build a gas pipeline from Crib Point to Pakenham will be available at “community sessions” at Balnarring, Hastings and Crib Point.

The proposed \$160-\$200 million 60 kilometre pipeline is required to carry gas from a floating storage regasification unit (FSRU) planned to be moored at Crib Point by power supplier AGL. ...

A protest on the foreshore at Hastings was attended by hundreds of people who marched with placards and listened to speakers warn about risks to public safety and the environment posed by the gas terminal. ...

<https://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/news/opinion/common-sense-is-needed-in-land-use-debate/news-story/3e36a4ceb958368363e4634d6b37d66d>

Common sense is needed in land-use debate

Lisa Corrigan, Weekly Times, 18/07/2018

AGL wants to build a high-pressure gas pipeline from Crib Point to Pakenham. The alignment put forward by pipeline builder APA has the potential to hurt private landowners, businesses and farmers, as the proposed pipeline would pass through almost 19km of agricultural land mostly on a diagonal alignment.

The City of Casey has moved to protect agricultural land by supporting an alternate pipeline alignment, which was developed by landowners.

At Corrigan’s fifth-generation family farm we applaud the council, as the proposed pipeline would run diagonally through our 80ha vegetable farm situated within a green wedge zone in Devon Meadows. ...

<https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/5532806/farmers-calling-for-state-govt-to-slay-coal-seam-gas-zombies/?cs=159>

Farmers call for expired CSG licences to be cancelled

Jamieson Murphy, Northern Daily Leader, 18/07/2018

Farmers from across the region are calling on the government to slay “zombie” coal seam gas exploration licences.

There are more than a dozen expired exploration licences, covering 56,000 square kilometres of the state, that are still technically active. ...

However, with some applications still undetermined after six years, farmers are saying it’s time for the government to remove the uncertainty lingering over their lands. ...

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment said it was reviewing 14 petroleum titles. ...

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/australian-lng-export-revenue-reaches-32b-in-june/3470513/>

Australian LNG export revenue reaches \$3.2b in June

Teagan Annett, Gladstone Observer, 19/07/2018

Despite fewer liquefied natural gas exports leaving Gladstone's port last month, Australia's revenue from the commodity is estimated to have reached \$3.2 billion.

According to EnergyQuest's June report, Australian LNG shipments increased to 5.5million tonnes last month, or 81 cargoes. ...

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.echo.net.au/2018/07/thus-spake-mungo-nigging-neg/>

Thus Spake Mungo: Nigging about the NEG

Mungo MacCallum, Echonet Daily, 16/07/2018

On the tin full of worms masquerading as the government's energy policy, along comes yet another authoritative report.

This one's from Rod Sims of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, and, like almost all its predecessors, has a simple solution to most of the problems: up to 25 per cent off wholesale power prices almost immediately.

There's just one catch: like almost all its predecessors, the ACCC report requires endorsement from a lot of very fractious people, and the relatively few who have read it (still fewer of whom understand it) have already started squabbling, while the rest have never stopped: they are not going to let the facts spoil a good story. ...

Perhaps aware that no sane entrepreneur would fund new coal-fired powered stations even if generously bribed, the Nationals and the Liberals in the misnamed Monash Forum renewed their demands that Malcolm Turnbull get out there and fund a couple himself. ...

And the only guarantee in the NEG is that it will solve very little. There may be a few less blackouts, some prices may eventually fall – marginally. But the climate wars, having been subsumed into the interminable culture wars which the right invented and now escalates at every opportunity, will continue unless Turnbull either develops the gumption to stand up to his Neanderthals or surrenders entirely to them. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/miners-push-for-unlimited-carbon-offsets-in-turnbulls-neg/news-story/hcb1e92b9a6b7f34781ea7f2a6fda5e>

Miners' push for unlimited carbon offsets in Turnbull's NEG

Ben Packham, The Australian, 17/07/2018

The mining industry wants changes to Malcolm Turnbull's proposed national energy guarantee to lock in its emissions reductions target, and allow the unlimited use of carbon offsets by generators to enable them to reach the target at the lowest possible cost.

In a submission to the Energy Security Board on its latest NEG design, the Minerals Council of Australia urged more ambitious state-based emissions targets be rolled into the national target, in a call that will be strongly resisted by some jurisdictions. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jul/15/matt-canavan-says-nationals-are-not-mandating-new-investment-in-coal>

Matt Canavan says Nationals are not 'mandating' new investment in coal

Katharine Murphy, The Guardian, 15/07/2018

The resources minister, Matt Canavan, says Nationals are not in the business of "mandating that coal should be definitely invested in", but are pushing to ensure it is not left out as part of the transition to the national energy guarantee. ...

Canavan said on Sunday the ACCC's recommendation was "a green light for investment in all types of power options, including coal". He said it was very clear that "coal and gas and all other types of fuel should be included here". ...

The minister did not explain how new investment in high efficiency coal plants, which produce electricity at comparatively high prices per megawatt hour, would reduce power prices for consumers. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/matt-canavan-says-national-party-is-not-wedded-to-coal/news-story/d734339d46129f8e8b1509a0eba44cf5>

Matt Canavan says National Party is not wedded to coal

Primrose Riordan, The Australian, 15/07/2018

Resources Minister Matthew Canavan has said the National Party is not "wedded" to the idea of building a new coal fired power plant and politicians needed to get away from their "ideological corner" to solve the problem of high power prices. ...

"Yes, sure, it will take time to build any large-scale power plant. I think that



Matt Canavan – not wedded to coal, they're just very good friends.

six years is at the outer end of what it would take ... So, that's why we should get on with the job of doing this as soon as we can."

Senator Canavan said relying on renewables was a gamble. ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-07-16/how-government-inaction-fuelled-the-renewables-boom/9996458>

How government inaction fuelled Australia's renewable energy boom

Ian Verrender, ABC, 16/07/2018

Another report, another plan and yet still, we are as far from political consensus over energy and the environment as ever. ...

Canberra appears to be increasingly moving into a parallel universe, fighting ideological battles over coal-fired power generation, while the nation simply moves on.

Like many other countries, Australian business and consumers have left their political leaders behind, opting for renewables backed up by gas, hydro and, to a smaller but growing extent, batteries. ...

Here in Australia, we are on track to wildly overrun our renewable energy targets as households rush to rooftop solar. You can thank Federal Government policy failures for that. ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-07-17/coal-must-stay-for-20-years-to-keep-prices-down-aemo-report/10000894>

Energy Market Operator warns coal must remain part of the mix for next 20 years

Stephanie Borys, ABC, 17/07/2018

The nation's energy operator has warned that coal must be part of Australia's energy mix for the next two decades, to ensure people's power bills

do not skyrocket further.

In its latest report, the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) says Australia's power network will not be reliable if coal-fired power stations close before the end of their technical life. ...

But AEMO does not recommend expanding coal-fired power generation beyond what already exists. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/energy-plan-keeps-the-coal-fires-burning-as-long-as-possible-20180716-p4zrtd.html>

Energy plan keeps the coal fires burning as long as possible

David Crowe, SMH, 16/07/2018

Australian households must prepare for a mammoth overhaul of the nation's electricity grid as investment surges into renewable energy, sparking a new call to keep coal-fired power stations running for decades to help with the transition.

The nation's energy market operator has warned that Australians are exposed "more than ever" to the risks and costs of the disruption as it sets out a series of major projects needed to improve the capacity and reliability of the electricity grid.

With almost 80 per cent of new energy projects using wind and solar generation, the peak regulator has outlined a sweeping investment plan including new transmission lines, battery storage and expanded hydro-electric projects to cope with the change. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jul/17/renewables-will-replace-ageing-coal-plants-at-lowest-cost-aemo-says>

Renewables will replace ageing coal plants at lowest cost, Aemo says

Katharine Murphy, The Guardian, 17/07/2018

Australia's energy market operator says the future of power generation in Australia will be renewables with storage, and gas, with those technologies able to replace the power currently supplied by coal generators at least cost. ...

While some in the government have sought to portray new coal generation as a low-cost option for consumers concerned about high power prices, Aemo's new forecast completely debunks that argument.

It says the lowest-cost replacement options for retiring coal plants "will be a portfolio of resources, including solar (28GW), wind (10.5 GW) and storage

(17 GW and 90 GWh), complemented by 500 MW of flexible gas plant and transmission investment". ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/market-will-decide-on-new-coal/news-story/a31fab8da-5ca0636efc8c2ea592e7c0>

AEMO report 'shows coal on the way out': Greens

Rachel Baxendale, The Australian, 17/07/2018

The Greens have accused the Turnbull government of spinning an independent energy market operator report out today to favour coal, arguing the key outcome of the report is in fact that coal will only represent six per cent of Australia's installed generating capacity by 2040. ...

Greens energy spokesman Adam Bandt said the AEMO report showed a "future with almost no coal-fired power" was coming. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/national/coal-needed-for-decades-to-keep-australian-power-prices-down-aemo-report/news-story/1e9dfefbde8701c1d1b-14f43e5a5d879>

Coal needed for decades to keep Australian power prices down: AEMO report

AAP, Claire Bickers, News Corp, 17/07/2018

Coal-fired power will be needed for decades to come to keep power prices down and the lights on as the Australian energy market transitions to renewables, the Australian Energy Market Operator says.

In a report to be released today, the

AEMO says extending the life of coal-fired power stations is the most viable way of keeping energy prices down as the transition takes place. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/king-coal-to-rule-for-20-more-years-says-independent-energy-market-operator/news-story/04c780de251789ed-2240e79f882fc3de>

King coal to rule for 20 more years, says independent energy market operator

Simon Benson, The Australian, 17/07/2018

The nation's independent energy market operator has called for Australia's fleet of coal-fired power plants to be operated for as long as possible to prevent a future price shock in the transition to renewables, claiming the ageing plants will still deliver the cheapest electricity for the next 20 years. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/cost-of-replacing-retiring-coal-plants-put-at-27bn/news-story/1e5af9f67ec51014cea6b1015db4bd92>

Cost of replacing retiring coal plants put at \$27bn

Perry Williams, The Australian, 17/07/2018

Australia will need to spend up to \$27 billion replacing retiring coal plants in the next two decades with the fossil fuel set to be ousted from the country's national electricity market and replaced by a mix of solar, wind, storage and gas along with new investment in transmission. ...

IT'S THE CHEAPEST POWER **The Oz rejoices** AEMO

King coal to rule for 20 more years

SIMON BENSON
NATIONAL AFFAIRS EDITOR

The nation's independent energy market operator has called for

Coalition winning the argument on electricity costs

NEWSPOLL
EXCLUSIVE TO THE AUSTRALIAN

WHO'LL KEEP POWER PRICES LOWER?

TOTAL

News this week ... from previous page

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/power-price-hikes-not-inevitable-regulator-insists-20180717-p4zs0w.html>

Power price hikes not inevitable, regulator insists

David Crowe, SMH, 18/07/2018

A mammoth investment in the electricity grid will “not necessarily” lead to price hikes over the years ahead, consumers are being told, amid a new political storm over the future of Australia’s coal-fired power stations. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jul/18/coalitions-national-energy-guarantee-described-as-having-no-benefit-to-emissions>

Coalition’s national energy guarantee described as having ‘no benefit’ to emissions

Katharine Murphy, The Guardian, 18/07/2018

Oliver Yates, the former head of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation, says state and territory governments should not sign on to the Turnbull government’s national energy guarantee until such time as it contains meaningful emissions reductions.

Yates, a respected industry player now active in the renewables sector, and a board member of the Smart Energy Council – a solar group critical of the Neg – told Guardian Australia the Turnbull government’s policy “doesn’t do anything other than create a stable emissions profile for existing coal-fired power stations.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/jul/17/iea-warns-of-worrying-trend-as-global-investment-in-renewables-falls>

IEA warns of ‘worrying trend’ as global investment in renewables falls

Adam Vaughan, The Guardian, 17/07/2018

The world’s energy watchdog has sounded the alarm over a “worrying” pause in the shift to clean energy after global investment in renewables fell 7% to \$318bn (£240bn) last year.

The International Energy Agency said the decline is set to continue into 2018, threatening energy security, climate change and air pollution goals.

Fossil fuels increased their share of energy supply investment for the first time since 2014, to \$790bn, and will play a significant role for years on current trends, the IEA said.

Investment in coal power dropped sharply but was offset by an uptick in oil and gas spending, the World Energy Investment report found. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/sir-leo-hielscher-says-queensland-should-open-coal-fired-power-stations/news-story/46af6bab7e365f4e59bc9f83dd86ee1a>

Sir Leo Hielscher says Queensland should open coal-fired power stations

Steven Wardill, Courier-Mail, 19/07/2018

The man credited with being one of the architects of the modern Queensland economy has insisted the state should be opening new coal-fired power stations. ...

Sir Leo Hielscher ... was the guest speaker at last night’s annual Sir Thomas McIlwraith lecture held by conservative think tank, the Australian Institute of Progress. ...

“What we need right now is a clean coal-fired power station to maximise our natural strength,” he said. ...

<https://go.pardot.com/web-mail/272522/210640677/46ef4237e83f6787a9dc61100dd91c518e0e0a16231df900167b9175b37a30a>

Georgina, we hardly know you

Simon Holmes A Court, Crikey, 17/07/2018

Georgina Downer’s campaign to win back the “ancestral seat” of Mayo is floundering. ...

Reinforcing a local narrative that she’s inaccessible and avoids any engagement that isn’t carefully scripted, Downer chose to skip a candidates

forum held by the local climate action group in Aldgate last night. ...

As a media savvy “Research Fellow” at the quite-a-bit-right-of-centre Institute of Public Affairs, Downer has railed against minimum wage and penalty rates and referred to efforts to secure a safe climate as “the global fatwa on carbon”.

Despite Georgina’s protestations, the IPA’s position on climate science is perfectly clear, having opposed Australia’s every attempt to chart a responsible course on this critical issue of inter-generational equity. The IPA spawned the cynically named Australian Environment Foundation, a climate denier “think tank” (2016 revenue: \$1,175) that hosted deposed prime minister Tony Abbott’s attack on science earlier this month.

Last year the think tank published a compendium of pseudo-scientific musings entitled Climate Change: The Facts 2017. Clever wags on twitter have suggested that the IPA has a colon problem — a more fitting title would have been “Climate: Change the Facts 2017”. ...

On 25 May Downer deleted her Twitter account, choosing to permanently remove years of her opinions from the public domain. Downer’s online public persona was gone in an instant, and with it, a major opportunity to interact with the public.

I left some messages on her Facebook wall, polite-ish, but frustration starting to show.

I soon discovered that Downer’s team had hidden my posts. (Zuckerbergian censorship is insidious — page administrators can hide your messages from the public, but you and your friends are none the wiser.)

Over the course of a week, more than 100 people followed suit in their own way.

At first the messages were simply hidden, but soon Downer’s team began deleting them — often within seconds of posting.

Anyone asking the simplest question mentioning climate science was quickly blocked from posting on her Facebook page. ...

• Simon Holmes à Court is a senior advisor at the Climate and Energy College at Melbourne University

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