



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 1:35 • 31 JULY 2018

Sea Shepherd flagship to confront Adani



Sea Shepherd's flagship the M/Y Steve Irwin is travelling up the east coast of Australia to Abbot Point with a dozen stops to acknowledge and engage the great work of the Australian communities standing strong for the Reef.

Sea Shepherd is part of the Stop Adani Alliance that represent almost 40 organisations and millions of Australians calling for an end to the Adani Carmichael coal mine, in defence of the Great Barrier Reef and liveable climate for our children.

After the Steve Irwin cruised into Byron Bay, Mayor Simon Richardson welcomed the crew: "Sea Shepherd is a much loved and respected organisation in Byron Shire because we share so many values, especially a deep love of our marine environment and an unwavering commitment to protect

it. We wish them all the best for their ongoing vital work."

Welcomed by Knitting Nannas

Knitting Nanna Rosie Lee said, "What an absolute privilege to meet the dedicated fearsome men and women who have taken on big gas and oil companies at James Price Point, the Great Australian Bite as well as the Southern Ocean. Professional sensible and dedicated to their core. Now they are taking on Adani. And tens of thousands of Australians are backing them all the way. We will not back down on land or sea until we #StopAdani."

Tamara Smith, Greens Member for Ballina says she was delighted to be welcoming Jeff Hansen and the crew of The Steve Irwin to the Byron region.

"Sea Shepherd have been strong sup-



porters of my campaign in this region to bring an end to the unscientific and cruel shark nets off Ballina and to protect our Cape Byron Marine Park. The Greens support Sea Shepherd in

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• P 2: Climate Council – end of the line for coal

• P 3: Oil and gas cause sickness in Texas

• P 5: How industry keeps public in the dark

Flagship Steve Irwin sails into Byron Bay from p1



the effort to Stop Adani and protect the Great Barrier Reef,” said Ms Smith.

Australian Actress Isabel Lucas, who was also there to welcome the crew of the M/Y Steve Irwin, said of the Great Barrier Reef: “It’s an Australian icon and the largest living structure on the planet – and it’s dying.

“Ever since my 10th birthday when I snorkelled for the first time on the Great Barrier Reef its beauty and diversity has moved me. I support Sea Shepherd’s Operation Reef Defence because we must stop further coal mines being built and warming our oceans and climate. We have to make a stand and stop Adani for our corals and sea life!”

Strong support base

Managing Director of Sea Shepherd Australia, Jeff Hansen stated: “Byron Bay is one of Sea Shepherd’s strongest ground support bases for the oceans, under the leadership of our brave and tireless eco warrior, Adam Shostak. So many of Sea Shepherd’s campaigns over the years in defence of the world’s oceans, humanities primary life support system, would simply not have happened without the support of the wonderful Byron Bay community.

“We’re immensely happy to have sailed the Steve Irwin to Byron Bay in support of the Stop Adani Alliance. I have a seasoned and committed crew standing by to bring the sea-borne element to this most essential campaign,” said Captain Mal Holland.

Steve Irwin schedule:

At anchor in Noosa 31 July • Yeppoon 4 August • Mackay 5 August • Abbot Point 8 August.



PHOTOS:

P1 top – Steve Irwin off Cape Byron.

Photo: Jax Oliver / Sea Shepherd

P1 below – Supporters greet the vessel.

Photo: Eve Sinton

P2 top – Steve Irwin approaches the bay.

Photo: Eve Sinton

P2 Below – Nanna Rosie welcomed the crew.

Photo: Rosie Lee

End of the line for coal

Australia’s coal power stations are not fit for a 21st century power system with almost 100 breakdowns at fossil fuel power stations in the seven-month period to the end of June 2018, according to a new Climate Council report ‘End of the Line: Coal in Australia’.

Climate Councillor and energy sector veteran with more than 40 years’ experience, Professor Andrew Stock said, “by 2030, 55% of coal power stations in Australia will be over 40 years old. These ageing coal stations are increasingly unreliable and expensive to operate, risking blackouts and higher consumer power costs.”

Key findings include:

- By 2030, 55% of coal power stations in Australia will be over 40 years old.
- Australia’s coal and gas power stations had almost 100 breakdowns recorded in the seven-month period to the end of June 2018.
- New coal power stations are the most expensive form of new power generation.
- The estimated cost of building a coal power station with carbon capture and storage in Australia is over six times the equivalent cost of Australia’s largest wind farm.
- Australia’s electricity sector is the nation’s largest source of greenhouse gas pollution, producing 33% of Australia’s greenhouse gas pollution levels in 2017.
- There is no such thing as clean coal. No matter how “efficient” a coal-fired power station, it is always polluting.
- Coal costs Australian taxpayers about \$2.6 billion in health costs every year.

Download the report here:



<http://www.climatecouncil.org.au/resources/coal-in-australia/>

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=wisdQAAQBAAQ

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

GASFIELD FREE
NSW NORTHERN RIVERS
Non-violent. Non-negotiable.
RICHARD DEEM

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

[https://itunes.apple.com/au/book/gasfield-free-nsw-northern-rivers](https://itunes.apple.com/au/book/gasfield-free-nsw-northern-rivers/id123456789)

Report: Oil and gas production making people sick in rural Texas

“The price of living near oil and gas shouldn’t be giving up your health.”

Australian report found similar concerns on the Darling Downs, Qld

Christopher Collins, Texas Observer

Sue and Jim Franklin’s double-wide mobile home at the foot of the Davis Mountains in far West Texas is usually sealed up tight with the air conditioner blasting.

One reason is because they live in Reeves County, a crown-shaped section of the scorching Chihuahuan Desert at the Texas-New Mexico line. But another reason, the Franklins say, is to defend against fracking wells that spew dangerous gases into the air, a pernicious and ever-present threat to their health.

Reeves County, population 14,732, sits atop the Permian Basin and has been the site of some of the most frenzied hydraulic fracturing in the state. Though the fracking boom started in 2011, it didn’t reach the Franklins’ 10-acre plot of land until early 2017. That year, four wells were drilled nearby, some within a half-mile of their home. In the spring, Sue’s nose started bleeding and she began having breathing problems.

“Some days it’s not that bad. But some days it’s really bad,” she told the Observer. Sue takes allergy medicine and uses nasal spray to help her breathe, as recommended by her doctor. Jim said he started experiencing “debilitating” headaches and respiratory problems around the same time from exposure to the emissions, which can include volatile chemicals like methane. “Now every morning we get up coughing and hacking... It makes us sick. We’ve both missed days of work because of being sick,” Jim said.

New report identifies health dangers

The Franklins are one of five case studies included in a new report by two environmental advocacy groups on the health dangers faced by people who live near active oil and gas operations. Earthworks and Clean Air Task Force

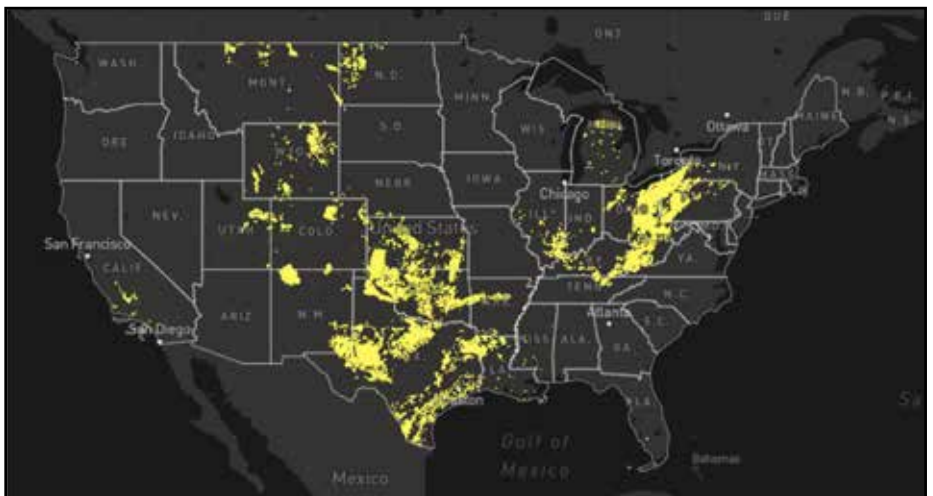


Left: a normal view of Reeves County oil and gas facilities. Right: infrared view of the same facility, showing normally invisible pollution.

Below: Storage tanks at a Primexx facility in West Texas in the Permian Basin. The vertical pipe on top of the rightmost tank vents methane and toxic volatile organic compounds.

Bottom: The threat map shows health impacts from oil and gas air pollution. The threat is calculated based on proximity of people, schools and hospitals, ozone smog levels and other air pollution.

Photos: Earthworks, Clean Air Task Force



conclude that concentrated energy development activity in rural America is inundating nearby communities with greenhouse gases and volatile chemicals, making people sick and spurring climate change. One other Texan (a military veteran in frack-happy Karnes

County) is featured in the report, along with people in rural areas of Utah, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Air pollution in Texas’ population centers is well-documented. But thanks to oil and gas development in broad

Sickness in Texas: Report adds to evidence linking poor health to oil and gas operations in US and Aus

• Continued from p3

swaths of sparsely populated areas across the state, the people who live in some small communities are also gasping for breath, said Alan Septoff, an Earthworks spokesperson. "There's a general impression that air pollution is a problem in urban areas, that there's dirty air in urban areas and clean air in rural areas," he said. "But the oil and gas industry turns rural areas into urban areas in terms of air pollution."

In virtually every corner of the state, 116 Texas counties are at elevated cancer risk due to oil and gas emissions, a "threat map" previously released by the environmental groups shows.

Byproducts of significant concern

Two byproducts of oil and gas production that are of significant concern are methane, a potent greenhouse gas that leaks from oilfield equipment, and benzene, which has carcinogenic properties, the report notes. In the United States, more than 9 million tons of methane and other dangerous chemicals are spewed into the air each year. The report's authors say that nationally the air pollutants are associated with 750,000 asthma attacks in children during the summer and 500,000 days of missed school. The pollutants are also linked to "increased risk of cancer and respiratory disorders" and the formation of ozone smog, which can result in a bevy of respiratory issues.

"Some days it's not that bad. But some days it's really bad."

For the most part, Texas environmental regulators don't monitor methane

emissions from the oil and gas industry. Over a 20-year period, methane is 84 to 87 times more powerful than carbon dioxide at driving global warming, according to NASA. The Environmental Protection Agency under the Obama administration enacted rules requiring oil and gas companies to check pipelines, oil wells and other equipment for methane leaks and to make repairs to prevent future leaks. But the Trump administration, under the guidance of now-resigned EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, rolled back those rules, which now are not enforced.

Regulators put industry first

"Texas regulators service the oil and gas industry first and the public second. Their approach to regulation reflects that," said Septoff, the Earthworks spokesperson. "Rural Texans should read this report because it could be them. The price of living near oil and gas shouldn't be giving up your health."

The other Texan featured in the report is a Karnes County resident identified only as George, who said that emissions from oil and gas facilities near his home gave him headaches and fatigue, problems he says only cropped up after the fracking boom came to Karnes County in 2011. "We just don't know what we're breathing, what it can cause, and how much of it is in the air we breathe," George said.

Australian report: Sickness on the Darling Downs

• See FFB 1.7, 15/01/2018, for news of Dr GERALYN McCarron's peer-reviewed scientific paper in the *International Journal of Environmental Studies*:

Air Pollution and human health hazards: a compilation of air toxins acknowledged by the gas industry in Queensland's Darling Downs

Geralyn McCarron

Pages 1-15 | Published online: 08 Jan 2018

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00207233.2017.1413221>



How industry and regulators keep public in the dark

US explosion holds lessons for Australia as liquid natural gas (LNG) plants set to proliferate

Tarika Powell, Sightline Institute

Four years ago, an explosion and massive gas leak at a liquid natural gas (LNG) facility in Plymouth, Washington, injured five workers and forced hundreds of people to evacuate their homes. To this day, the facts about what happened are almost completely unknown to the public.

Sightline's research into the Plymouth LNG explosion reveals that the LNG industry is creating a false safety record, and current regulations allow the industry to do so. Though the accident released a dangerous LNG vapor cloud into residential areas, it didn't meet the definition of "a threat to public safety," and federal rules did not classify it as an LNG spill.

Incomplete accounting of accidents slows safety improvements in the LNG industry and conceals critical information that could help keep first responders safe. It also makes it very difficult for local governments and the public to make informed decisions about where to permit proposed LNG facilities.

What happened at Plymouth LNG?

LNG is simply natural gas that has been refrigerated to -161°C . At this temperature, natural gas becomes liquid and condenses to 1/600th of the space it occupied as a gas. Cryogenic refrigeration allows plant operators to store large quantities of natural gas in tanks that could not otherwise hold such a large volume. If liquid natural gas is not kept extremely cold, it turns back to a gas. When a utility needs to use the LNG it has stored, workers simply pipe LNG out of the refrigerated storage tank and return its temperature to normal.

Shortly after 8:00 a.m. on March 31, 2014, gas processing equipment at Plymouth LNG exploded into a towering, mushroom-shaped cloud. The blast sent debris and shrapnel flying as far as 300 metres, damaging buildings and equipment and puncturing one of the large LNG storage tanks.

Shrapnel injured four of the fourteen employees on duty, and a fifth worker was hospitalized for burns.

In the hours that followed, 14.3 million cubic feet of gas spewed from a large gash in the storage tank and other damaged equipment on site.



An explosion at a liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant in eastern Washington forced hundreds to evacuate their homes, injured five workers, and caused \$69 million in damages. It was one in a string of accidents at The Williams Companies' natural gas facilities that in the last five years has killed five workers and injured at least 120 people. Photo: via Sightline Institute

Fumes from the facility sickened residents and emergency responders and endangered the public. The leak formed a dangerous cloud of gas vapour, which an east wind pushed toward the town of Plymouth. Vapor clouds become more dangerous as they drift away from the site of the leak and mix with oxygen: at a 5 to 15 percent concentration, a vapor cloud that meets a spark or flame can catch fire and burn all the way back to the source.

Emergency responders—there were more than 100 on the scene—had to wait for the wind to dissipate the natural gas before they could safely enter the facility and address the leak. The wait was drawn out by LNG's extremely low temperature: the leak kept forming ice blockages over the hole in the tank. External temperatures would then melt the ice, and the leak would continue. Hazardous materials experts were finally able to enter the facility eight hours after the explosion.

A failure to report

Federal law requires operators of LNG plants or gas pipelines to report to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) any incident that causes an emergency

shutdown, death, an overnight hospital stay, or property damage greater than \$50,000. Companies must report within 30 days. Williams provided its initial report in May 2014 and prepared the supplemental report in December 2015—twenty-one months after the incident.

Williams Pipeline Company summed up the complex accident in just one paragraph, revealing that it was caused by "incorrect operation" of equipment. LNG facilities shut down for maintenance a couple of days per year, and operators purge gases from the equipment that helps cool natural gas into a liquid state. Yet on the day preceding the accident, the operators did not properly purge the equipment, so when employees started up the system on March 31, a mixture of gas and air auto-ignited inside the system, causing a rapid increase in pressure. Over-pressurization exploded a unit of processing equipment along with some piping inside the plant.

Here's what the extraordinarily brief narrative does not say: According to a Benton County Fire Department captain, the shrapnel actually created two separate leaks in the LNG tank: one in the tank's outer wall and one in a small

Crib Point community protest LNG regasification plant



Campaigner Candy van Rood says there is growing awareness around Westernport that AGL are proposing to wreck natural environmental values for its proposed Crib Point LNG terminal. People are turning out to protest.

"Seagrasses, wetlands and mangroves are globally important ... they are much much more efficient carbon sink than rain forests, and the truth is that we cannot afford to compromise them at all," she said.

Photo: Don Juniper

Keeping the public in the dark on LNG plant safety

• Continued from p5

pipe that connects to the bottom of the storage tank. LNG leaked from the pipe for over 24 hours until crews stopped the leak by shutting off a valve the next afternoon. Yet Williams' report to federal officials only mentions the leak in the tank's wall.

Most injuries are never recorded

According to federal rules, a person has to either die or stay overnight in a hospital for an injury sustained in an LNG accident to be considered significant. Since the four employees who were struck by flying debris were treated and released the same day, PHMSA doesn't count their injuries. The only person whose injury counts as "significant" is the employee who was hospitalized for burns, so only one injury is listed in PHMSA's official records.

No harms to the public will go on record either. Even though a resident who lived a quarter-mile from the plant reported smelling gas and said it was "making people sick," and responding officers became nauseous at the scene, these harms will never become part of the official record because no members of the public were killed or hospitalised overnight.

The permissive accounting standards for LNG accidents give the industry license to distort its safety record by downplaying serious accidents like the one at Plymouth LNG. For example,

a full 18 months after the Plymouth explosion, the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Tacoma LNG facility claimed that only two LNG accidents in US history have resulted in adverse effects on the public: a 1944 disaster in Cleveland that killed 128 people and an industry-changing explosion at Cove Point, Maryland, in 1979.

Spill of LNG won't count as LNG spill

In addition to not being considered a threat to public safety, the Plymouth LNG spill is not even considered an LNG spill. The data retrieved from PHMSA's website states that even though 14,270 barrels (599,340 gallons) of LNG spilled, no LNG was lost. When Sightline contacted PHMSA about the apparent error in the report, an agency official responded that in fact no LNG was spilled at all. The official clarified that evaporated natural gas was spilled, not liquid natural gas.

Semantically, this is akin to saying that if you leave a glass of water outside and the water evaporates, then you have not lost any water, you've only lost water vapor.

• *Sightline Institute is an independent, nonprofit research and communications center—a think tank—founded by Alan Durning in 1993.*

This story has been abbreviated and can be read in full here:

<http://www.sightline.org/2016/02/08/how-industry-and-regulators-kept-public-in-the-dark-after-2014-lng-explosion-in-washington/>

Inside the news

The media was preoccupied with the weekend's **five by-elections**, so **FFB** only had to trawl through 11,000 words this week, compared to 30,000 for **FFB1.34**.

Adani had little new to report after previous claims to have **finance** sorted for the Carmichael Mine. No financier has been named, and this seems like yet **another bluff from Ahmedabad HQ**.

Indian public interest news site *The Wire* was relieved to have one of Adani's **legal actions** against them set aside (p7).

FFB was aghast that **Malcolm Turnbull's** solution for social problems in Tennant Creek was to give handouts to big business and **ramp up the gas industry** in the town. Does he really believe an invasion of hi-vis **FIFO workers** with their **alcohol and amphetamines** will help the little children? (p8)

Plans by four companies to **import gas** in the form of LNG, despite Australia being one of the world's biggest gas exporters, continued. **Mock-ups** emerged of two LNG import terminals (p9-10).

For those wanting a better understanding of the complex market machinations behind the import rush, the *Crude Oil Peak* article '**Australia is exporting itself gas poor, plans LNG terminals**' is a comprehensive analysis showing how current problems began under the Howard government (p9).

The Age (p9) revealed a sneaky attempt by **AGL** and **APA** to submit their plans for the **Crib Point LNG import terminal** and pipeline separately, hoping to escape having to produce an environmental effects statement.

The federal government has increased its **bribe** offered to communities willing to accept a nuclear waste dump from \$10 million to **\$31 million**. Resources minister **Matt Canavan** hopes either Kimba or Hawker, in South Australia's Eyre Peninsula, will take the bait and allow waste from **Lucas Heights reactor** to be stashed nearby (p10).

Don't miss Elizabeth Farrelly's stirring call for **farmers** to revolt on **CSG** in the **Pilliga** and the **Darling Downs**, accompanied by a powerful illustration (p11-12).

In the news this week:

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 11,000 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://thewire.in/media/gujarat-court-sets-aside-adanis-criminal-defamation-complaint-against-the-wire>

Gujarat Court Sets Aside Adani's Criminal Defamation Complaint Against The Wire

Wire staff, 28/07/2018

The Adani group has filed a total of six defamation cases against *The Wire*, three criminal and three civil. Friday's order pertains to the case stemming from the republication of an article which first appeared in the *Economic and Political Weekly*.

Ruling in favour of *The Wire's* contention that no case of criminal defamation was made out against the website and its journalists and writers as alleged by the Adani group in regard to an article on how the Modi government had tweaked the rules governing an SEZ where the company had invested and two other articles, a court in Bhuj ordered that the case and accompanying summons be set aside. ...

Last year, *The Wire* and its editors successfully contested Adani Power's attempt to have the article pulled from its website. In December 2017, the Ld. Principal Senior Civil Judge (Bhuj-Kacch) accepted all *The Wire's* contentions, only ordering removal of one line pertaining to a high court decision as well as one adverb. ...

Apart from this matter, the Adani group is pursuing two other criminal defamation cases against *The Wire*, as well as three civil defamation cases in which it is seeking damages of Rs 300 crore. ...

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/sanjeev-gupta-says-coal-no-longer-cheapest-energy/news-story/b590eabcdeb102afe3219c4080edc332?login=1>

Sanjeev Gupta says coal no longer cheapest energy

AAP, *The Australian*, 24/07/2018

The UK billionaire who bought South Australia's troubled Whyalla steelworks says Australians are yet to grasp that new coal-fired electricity is more expensive to produce than solar power.

Sanjeev Gupta is investing \$2 billion in clean energy and steel production



The Sea Shepherd crew aboard the flagship Steve Irwin off Cape Byron last week. The vessel is travelling north on Operation Reef Defence, to protect the Great Barrier Reef from Adani's coal mine. Photo: Tara Lambourne / Sea Shepherd

in South Australia and told *Guardian Australia* on Monday, "It's still everybody's perception that it is cheaper to make power from coal than it is from renewables, and it is no longer the case." "It was the case not long ago, but it's no longer the case, and we will prove it," he said.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/new-acland-mine-owners-hold-to-jobs-plan/news-story/e17e62700d92c9db4a87df99b57cd6b1>

New Acland mine owners hold to jobs plan

Mark Schliebs, *The Australian*, 27/07/2018

Mining and energy company New Hope Group is exploring options to prolong existing activities at its New Acland coal mine to keep hundreds of workers in their jobs while it eyes the end of its decade-long battle for its expansion.

The company remains hopeful that stage three of the mine — which would create a further 405 full-time equivalent positions — will go ahead despite the protracted legal battles and government negotiations of the past 11 years. ...

GAS, GAS, GAS

<https://smallcaps.com.au/glenaras-coal-seam-gas-pilot-program-galilee-energy/>

Glenaras coal seam gas pilot program performs strongly for Galilee Energy

Danica Cullinane, *Smallcaps*, 24/07/2018

Gas developer Galilee Energy has reported strong performance from a multi-lateral pilot program at its Glenaras coal seam gas (CSG) project in Queensland's Galilee Basin.

The pilot program, which involves the production testing of two lateral wells, Glenaras 10L and Glenaras 12L, plus a third monitoring well, Glenaras 11L, was brought on line for continuous production in mid-June. ...

<https://www.ntnews.com.au/business/mining-may-be-answer-to-some-of-troubled-tennant-creeks-problems/news-story/d2176632a1cb6db918a3f38816ca99e>

Mining may be answer to some of troubled Tennant Creek's problems

Matt Cunningham, *NT News*, 23/07/2018

Tennant Creek could be turned into a mining and manufacturing hub, capitalising on the onshore gas industry, as part of a regional deal being discussed between Federal, Territory and local governments and the town's cultural authority. ...

It's understood discussions between

[Malcom] Turnbull, Tennant Creek Mayor Steve Edgington and Chief Minister Michael Gunner included plans to attract businesses to the town to take advantage of the onshore gas industry.

Incentives including reduced payroll tax and rapid asset depreciation for large businesses were discussed as part of the plan.

While the Federal Government has previously ruled out creating a special NT tax zone, saying it would be unconstitutional, Social Services Minister Dan Tehan confirmed last night it was considering what financial incentives could be provided.

There was some criticism yesterday that the Government hadn't announced any urgent measures to protect vulnerable children, but Mr Tehan said the regional deal would include a social agreement, and said the Cashless Welfare Card would be considered if it was what the community wanted. ...

<https://www.ntnews.com.au/news/northern-territory/barkly-mayor-steve-edgington-says-elements-of-new-regional-deal-could-take-months-to-finalise/news-story/1931db1ad563540dbec15ed2eb5fb275>

Barkly Mayor Steve Edgington says elements of new 'regional deal' could take months to finalise

Hayley Sorensen, NT News, 25/07/2018

It could still be months until Tennant Creek's new "regional deal" is finalised.

No deadline has been imposed for the Cities Deal-type agreement announced by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull

on a visit to the troubled town this week.

Barkly Mayor Steve Edgington said he expected the deal would be signed off "as soon as possible", but he said some elements could take months to finalise, given their complexity. ...

Elements of the deal which have been discussed include plans to attract businesses to the town to take advantage of the onshore gas industry through initiatives including reduced payroll tax and rapid asset depreciation for large businesses. ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-07-26/seismic-testing-and-sea-life-impacts/10039070>

Do we need an inquiry into how seismic testing impacts sea life?

Ellen Coulter, ABC, 26/07/2018

John Hammond is a pioneer of Tasmania's scallop industry, with more than 50 years' experience.

He has had concerns about marine seismic testing by oil and gas companies for about 10 years — since helping a seismic survey team in Bass Strait.

Seismic testing involves firing soundwaves into the ocean floor to detect the presence of oil or gas reserves. ...

"We were going along doing chase boat work, which is pulling the fishing gear out of the road so the ship can go through, totally unaware of the horrendous damage this operation does to our sea life," Mr Hammond said. ...

Greens Senator Peter Whish-Wilson is pushing for a Senate inquiry into the impact of seismic testing on the marine environment and fisheries.

The Senator said there are concerns in the Tasmanian and Victorian fishing industries and both commercial and recreational fishers in New South Wales....

<https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/business/sa-business-journal/appea-says-oil-and-gas-production-in-the-great-australian-bight-would-provide-an-economic-boon-for-sa/news-story/f3cfb6471da84277fb591961068690e0>

APPEA says oil and gas production in the Great Australian Bight would provide an economic boon for SA

Giuseppe Tauriello, The Advertiser, 24/07/2018

Oil and gas production in the Great Australian Bight would provide an economic boon for South Australia, matching the 50-year stimulus delivered by the Bass Strait fields to south-eastern Australia, according to the state's chief industry representative.

Speaking at the South Australian Major Projects Conference in Adelaide today, Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA) director SA & NT Matthew Doman said drilling in the Bight was "the big opportunity" for the oil and gas sector in South Australia, suggesting its potential benefits remained largely unknown. ...

Norwegian oil company Equinor plans to commence drilling in the Bight at the end of next year, after energy giants BP and Chevron shelved their plans in 2016 and 2017.

Other companies including Karoon Oil, Bight Petroleum and Murphy Oil also hold exploration permits in the area. ...

Speaking to The Advertiser on the sidelines of yesterday's conference, Mr Doman said the industry was committed to winning over community support despite fierce opposition led by local councils and environmental groups including the Wilderness Society.

"There's a lot of people in those communities - in Port Lincoln, Ceduna and other areas - who are very supportive of our industry and see the opportunity for us to contribute alongside existing industries, to growing those regions," he said. ...

Mr Doman said the broader oil and gas industry needed to improve its response to "orchestrated, carefully planned and well funded" campaigns from international environmental

The NT News reported Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's promise to improve life in Tennant Creek included no urgent measures to protect vulnerable children - but concessions for big business to ramp up the gas industry in the region.

FFB wonders exactly how an invasion of men in hi-vis gear, driving hundreds of large trucks, is going to help social problems. The FIFO mining workforce inevitably brings with it amphetamines and alcohol, an increase in crime, domestic violence and prostitution. Property prices will be unaffordable for locals, followed by collapse when the workers move on. Just ask residents of Miles and Chinchilla in Queensland!



groups who opposed new developments.

“There has been a concerted campaign to scare and misinform the community over the impacts of our industry,” he said.

“Exaggerated claims of community opposition to our industry when there’s clear evidence of very close collaboration between us and farm owners, local businesses and the broader community.

“Most disturbingly, these campaigns do have an impact, and the grossly exaggerated claims of environmental contamination have been very hard for our industry to respond to - we need to do a better job of that.”

<https://www.miningmonthly.com/innovation/international-coal-news/1343255/leigh-creek-ctg-project-goes-forward-in-june-quarter>

Leigh Creek CTG project goes forward in June quarter

Mining Monthly, 26/07/2018

Leigh Creek Energy has significantly progressed in the June quarter its near-term goal of flowing first gas from its Leigh Creek coal-to-gas project in South Australia.

After receiving the environmental approval, it quickly secured Activity Notification approval to commence drilling and construction activities on site, which are now substantively complete, according to Leigh Creek Energy managing director Phil Staveley. ...

<http://crudeoilpeak.info/australia-is-exporting-itself-gas-poor-plans-lng-import-terminals>

Australia is exporting itself gas poor, plans LNG terminals

Crude Oil Peak, 25/07/2018

To be sure: consultants, financial planners, contractors and gas traders can’t wait to make money from an import terminal. It’s the consumers who will have to pay for the wrong decisions of previous Resource and Energy Ministers. ...

Australia’s energy white papers do not always summarize adequately and timely the research other departments have done on relevant topics. All 3 energy white papers under 3 different governments assumed that the domestic gas market would benefit from developing gas resources for the export market, like bread crumbs falling from the tables of a big feast which was promoted by governments. And we were told governments should stay

out of markets. Howard’s energy white paper thought no alternative transport fuels were needed to get away from Australia’s oil dependency. As a result, gas as such an alternative fuel is now being exported from Gladstone in quantities energy equivalent to Australia’s total liquid fuel consumption. The public will become aware of this when it is too late.

• *Detailed article with many charts, well worth clicking through to the original. (Ed.)*

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/gas/only-lng-imports-can-save-east-coast-gas-market-mark-samter-20180723-h13239>

Only LNG imports can save east coast gas market: Mark Samter

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 24/07/2018

Only LNG imports can save the Australian government from a nightmare scenario of having to choose between breaking gas export contracts with Asian buyers or subjecting the east coast to real supply shortages ...

Mark Samter, the top-rated former analyst at Credit Suisse who has now joined new independent house MST Marquee, said industrial buyers would be “extremely naive” not to support the LNG import terminals being proposed in the south-east to boost local supplies.

He said that the bid to prevent local gas prices moving to international levels was already lost when the Queensland LNG export terminals were sanctioned, and that now, importing LNG into the southern states is the only way to avoid a much worse fate. ...

Mr Samter pointed to the “massive uncertainty” about future coal seam gas production in Queensland, combined with the prospect for higher

LNG prices in Asia that would make it much more difficult for Queensland’s exporters to justify diverting gas from exports to the local market as has happened over the past 12 months. ...

<https://www.theage.com.au/politics/victoria/call-to-put-agl-gas-plant-proposal-under-environmental-microscope-20180726-p4ztt8.html>

Call to put AGL gas plant proposal under environmental microscope

Adam Carey, The Age, 26/07/2018

Applications to build a huge natural gas terminal in the environmentally sensitive waters of Western Port Bay and import gas to Victoria will be submitted to the Andrews government for approval within days. ...

Energy giant AGL proposes to build a 290-metres long, 49-metres wide storage ship at Point Crib, south-east of Melbourne, which would be connected to a 60-kilometre gas pipeline running through farmland to Pakenham.

AGL has commissioned APA, a separate company, to build and operate the pipeline.

But an environment group fears that AGL is seeking to avoid full scrutiny of its plan so it can get the project approved quicker. ...

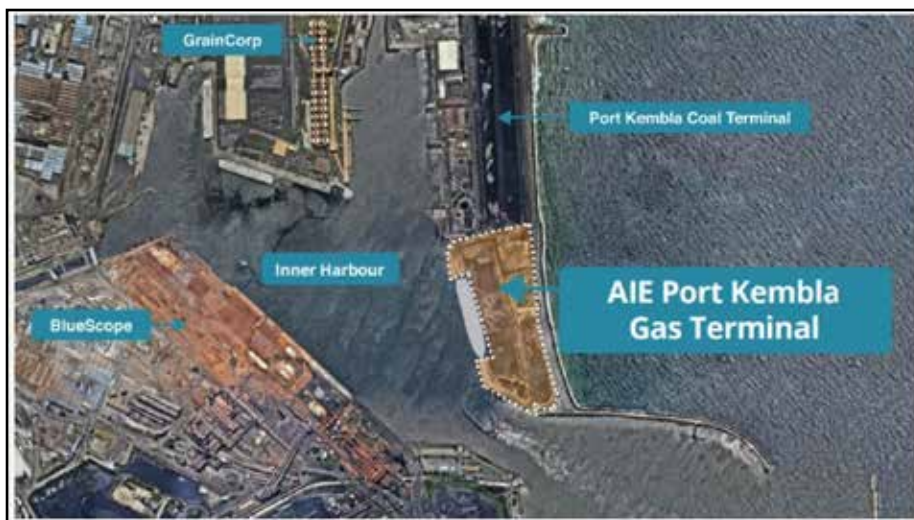
Lobby group Environment Victoria is pushing the government to evaluate the impact of the gas terminal and pipeline as one project.

Under a high-usage scenario modelled for AGL, the gas terminal will emit more than 190,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas a year, just under the 200,000-tonne threshold that would trigger an environment effects statement.

Mark Wakeham, Environment Victo-



A Shell mock-up of an LNG import terminal in Port Botany. Thomas Fasting



AIE's proposed Port Kembla Gas Terminal has been awarded Critical State Significant Infrastructure status by the NSW Government. Critics warn the rush to import gas – despite Australia being one of the world's biggest gas exporters – risks building overcapacity and raising local gas prices. Graphic: AIE

ria's chief executive, said it was almost certain the project would emit more than the 200,000-tonne threshold once carbon dioxide leakage from the pipeline was included.

"AGL is referring the pipeline and the gas terminal separately to try and avoid meeting the thresholds for undertaking a full environmental effects statement, which this damaging and polluting project clearly needs," Mr Wakeham said. ...

AGL's general manager, energy supply and origination, Phaedra Deckart, said AGL and APA would submit applications with detailed assessments of the indirect and cumulative effects of both projects. ...

Analyst Bruce Robertson, from the Institute for Energy, Economics and Financial Analysis, said AGL was one of four global energy giants seeking to cash in on Australia's extraordinarily high wholesale gas prices by building an import terminal here.

Separate gas hubs have also been proposed by Exxon in Victoria, Mitsubishi in South Australia and a consortium that includes Twiggy Forrest in Western Australia. ...

<https://www.echo.net.au/2018/07/willing-sacrifice-future-kids/>

What are you willing to sacrifice for the future of your kids?

Byron Echo, 27/07/2018

What is it that stretches underground from the tip of Cape York across Queensland and into NSW as far as Dubbo, past Coober Pedy in South Aus-

tralia and into the Northern Territory? What could possibly be so large that it lies under almost a quarter of the Australian continent?

It is the largest and deepest artesian basin in the world called the Great Artesian Basin (GAB). It is also Australia's most important water source – especially important when you consider that Australia is the driest continent in the world.

Sacrifice Zone, showing this Sunday in Mullumbimby, is a documentary that looks at the importance of the GAB and the impact of human activity, especially the mining of Coal Seam Gas (CSG) will have if CSG mining expands. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/professor-dragged-into-heading-expert-panel-on-toxic-firefighting-chemical-20180723-p4zt5t.html>

Professor 'dragged into' heading expert panel on toxic firefighting chemical

Carrie Fellner, SMH, 24/07/2018

The chair of the Turnbull government's expert health panel on toxic firefighting chemicals has told residents he was "dragged" into doing the job and someone "better qualified" should have steered its investigation.

The revelations come as a public hearing is held in Williamstown on Tuesday – one of the country's worst polluted areas – as part of a senate inquiry into the federal government's handling of the per- and poly-fluoroalkyl [PFAS] contamination. ...

The findings of the expert panel – that there is no evidence that PFAS causes "important" health effects – were released on the same day the Turnbull

government announced it would not buy out people whose property values have been decimated by contaminated run-off from military bases.

The residents – many of whom have been told not to use their bore water or eat homegrown produce – have launched multiple class actions against Defence.

The Coalition against PFAS argued the expert panel's report was "rushed and secretive", had "little to no scientific value" and contradicted health warnings from respected international agencies. ...

President of the Coalition against PFAS Lindsay Clout described it as "bizarre" that none of the panel members had been asked to testify at public hearings.

"If you are so confident in your medical research and your findings, wouldn't you be out there, day after day, pushing that message that there is nothing to really worry about?" he said. ...

The US EPA has found "the weight of evidence" supports the conclusion that the chemicals are a human health hazard and that exposure over certain levels "may result in adverse health effects", including cancer. ...

FOSSIL POLITICS

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-07-23/government-increases-incentive-for-sa-nuclear-waste-facility/10024884>

Multimillion-dollar incentive put on the table for town that takes on nuclear waste facility

ABC Radio Adelaide, 23/07/2018

As debate rages over where Australia's first permanent nuclear waste dump should be placed, the Federal Government has announced it will offer a \$31 million package to the community which takes it on.

Two sites near Kimba and one near Hawker have been shortlisted to permanently hold low-level nuclear waste and temporarily hold intermediate-level waste.

However some concerned community members have likened the funding increase to "dangling a carrot" in front of the communities. ...

The Government had previously promised \$10 million.

Senator Canavan said the increased incentive was not a bribe.

"I've said consistently through this process that a community that seeks to

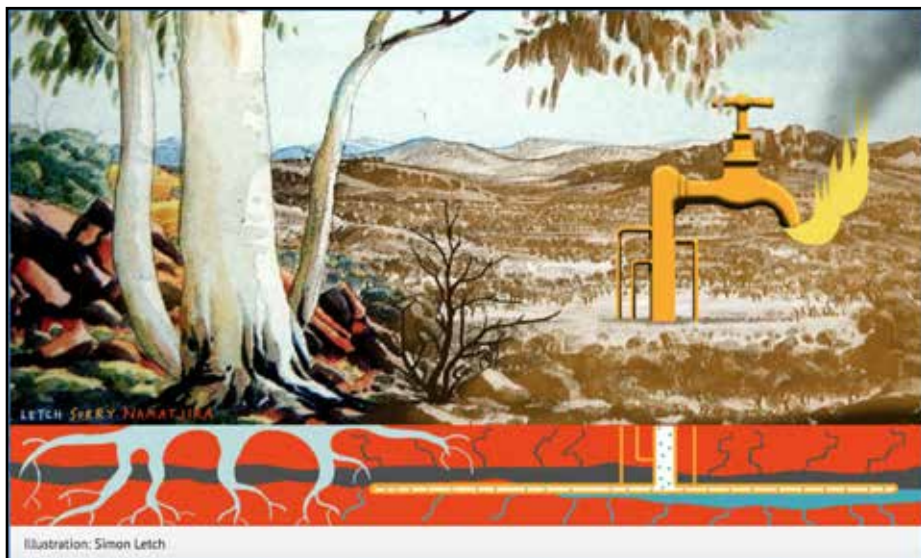
or wants to house a facility like this deserves to benefit from contributing to our national interest,” Senator Canavan told ABC Radio Adelaide. ...

Aboriginal elder Regina McKenzie is a custodian of the Barndioota site — west of Hawker — and is a traditional owner of the land.

She said the proposal lacked cultural respect and believed the Government was trying to bribe the communities.

“It’s not a good spot, it’s very seismically active,” she told ABC Radio Adelaide.

“The culture issues are bad as well, they wouldn’t put a waste dump on the Vatican... the respect for Aboriginal beliefs and customs should come into it. ...



Elizabeth Farrelly's stirring SMH article (below) was accompanied by a powerful illustration by Simon Letch, with inspiration from Albert Namatjira.

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/coalitions-kimba-nuclear-dump-exploits-local-area-and-puts-nation-at-risk.11717>

Coalition's Kimba nuclear dump exploits local area and puts nation at risk

Noel Wauchope, *Independent Australia*, 23/07/2018

How is a small rural town to cope with a proposition that may transform the community by providing an economic boon or be a long-term curse?

This is the dilemma facing the towns of Kimba and Hawker, both in the Eyre Peninsula, South Australia. ...

There's quite a hurry on, about this. Resources Minister Matt Canavan announced that, on 20 August, there will be a local ballot to gauge community support for a nuclear waste dump.

Following that, said Canavan: “The decision will be made in the second half of this year ... We do not want this overlapping with a Federal election.”

Much can be said about this plan, not least that it contravenes South Australian law. One might ask, too, why the inquiry stipulates South Australia when the waste to be stored would have to travel 1,700 km from the Lucas Heights nuclear reactor in Sydney? However, the most notable immediate ramifications concern its impact on Eyre Peninsula rural communities. ...

Community division is obvious when one reads the submissions that local and Eyre Peninsula residents have sent to a Senate Committee of Inquiry. ...

Whatever the outcome of the Federal Government's plan, it is clear the communities of Kimba and Hawker will never be quite the same again.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/sustainability/meeting-in-bowlo-that-should-light-a-fire-under-all-of-us-20180727-p4ztz1.html#comments>

Meeting in bowlo that should light a fire under all of us

Elizabeth Farrelly, *SMH*, 28/07/2018
Reprinted in full with permission

The Coonamble Declaration, passed unanimously in the town bowlo last December, isn't about Coonamble. It's a manifesto for our times. “Not on our watch,” it declares. “The GAB [Great Artesian Basin] is too important to be put at risk and the APA pipeline will be blocked at any cost.” Fighting words.

But still I reckon Aussie farmers are way too nice. I'd be pouring my milk by the gigitalite into the Warragamba by now. I'd be piling my meat higher than the Martin Place banks and letting it rot, blockading Macquarie Street with cattle-trucks. I'd be doing farm-protest the French way. Anything to make them listen.

This is not about drought. Yes, it's frighteningly dry. Coonamble has had 1mm of rain this month - 3 per cent of their average rainfall. But drought just intensifies the ongoing, human-driven nightmare of coal seam gas. Somehow, the farmers' own “conservative” side of politics has signed them up to a GSG invasion that can commandeer their land and destroy their water with negligible benefit to them but massive risk - health, legal, moral, property, financial and environmental. It's unclear, unhealthy and catastrophically unfair.

Grasping the depth of this political treachery, farmers gaze across their bare brown paddocks. They read the lying letters, hear their repre-

sentatives' weasel words and watch the huge, international gas-drillers flex their ugly muscles. Watch them snuggle up with government, rev their bully-machines and grin, triumphant. Then they quietly despair. “Where do we go,” they murmur, “when we can't live here?”

In 2015, sixth-generation Queensland farmer George Bender suicided after a decade-long fight with the CSG industry. There were no wells on his farm. The nearest is eight kilometres away. But more than 8,000 emails hounded Bender to cave in, sell out. He refused. No mines for him. But his water was poisoned anyway. His air smelt toxic. His pigs started dying. Finally, after an exhausting ten-year fight, he took his own life. “I'm sorry,” he told his daughter Helen as he died. “I shouldn't have. My brain snapped.” Yet still the nightmare continues. In March, when Helen sunk a new bore, the water lit instantly. Gas bubbles up through it, corrupting the bore. Methane is everywhere.

This is Erin Brokovich territory. Here in NSW people watch and learn, strategising resistance to both big mining and despair. Four hundred came to Coonamble bowlo that day; farmers, graziers, stock agents, teachers, indigenous people, grandmothers, consultants, labourers. Not bad, for a Wednesday lunchtime during harvest-season, and not an activist in sight.

As one, this conservative, national-voting community undertook “to vehemently oppose” Santos' 850-well Pilliga project and its enabling 450-kilometre APA pipeline, “using all possi-

News this week ... from previous page

ble options to protect the water.”

Our governments paint environmental protectors as extremists, but what’s truly extreme is CSG itself. Far from the low-carbon coal-alternative of popular mythology, CSG is principally methane, a gas estimated as 85 times more climate-destroying than carbon dioxide. True, burning methane is less carbon-intensive than coal, but its extraction still releases “fugitive emissions”. And that’s before we start transporting it vast distances or generating energy.

Cornell Professor Anthony Ingraffea calls CSG “an extreme form of energy development... in Pennsylvania, hundreds of families have lost access to their water” – and their regulations are tight compared with ours, which are limp with “shoulds” and “mays” (what Ingraffea calls “legal garbage”) instead of musts.

So the climate battle merges into the #War4Water. For us on the soft side of the dividing range, water comes from a tap. Milk comes from the fridge, meat from the supermarket. Long may it be so. But let’s not feel too safe. Every Australian farmer feeds six hundred people. If we want to go on eating well and reliably, we need to listen, because these guys are under serious threat.

Coonamble relies totally on bore water. This year, it’s had 96mm rain. You can’t exactly rely on it for home, much less stock. Their river, the Castlereagh, is bare sand except in flood-time, running entirely underground within the GAB. So, bore water is it.

Which is why the pipeline is so dangerous. Ducting gas from Narrabri to the 1,300km Moomba-Sydney pipeline will affect roughly 120 landholders, installing forever in their often unstable, shallow water-table vertisol soils a pipeline as little as 750mm below ground.

This is bad enough. Pipes, like wells, fail - polluting groundwater and destroying climate. Owners are already finding themselves uninsurable against such damage. “You can insure against death,” says one. “Heavens, you can insure teen-drivers. If they won’t insure us it means water-loss isn’t a risk, it’s a certainty.”

But that’s not all. Farmers sell stock with National Vendor Declarations, vouching for chemical exposure. Join the dots. The pipeline enables Santos’ 850 CSG wells in the Pilliga - and that’s only stage one. Although Santos hides its chemical mix as “commercial-in-confidence,” such drilling typically contaminates both groundwater

and artesian water with salts, heavy metals, boron and barium.

The Pilliga sits plumb within the narrow eastern recharge zone for the GAB. This is Jurassic water, Coonamble’s only water supply. It’s vast but, once polluted, it’s polluted forever. So if the pipeline proceeds, Coonamble farmers will be signing NVDs that make them liable for things they cannot control. This is deeply unjust.

The APA claims it has issued landholder agreements to 35 per cent along the pipeline route, but few are signed and the community is increasingly united. A survey covering Moree, Warrumbungle, Coonamble and Gilgandra shires (3.5 million hectares) returned over 97 per cent opposing CSG and associated industries. Warren Shire (another million hectares), same – a sense of popular refusal supported by the record 23,000 submissions against Santos’ Pilliga project. Plus, although Malcolm talks about a “gas agreement” there’s nothing to stop this gas going entirely offshore.

Anyway, across Australia, 84 per cent of us want renewables. If Martin Place meat mountains are what it takes to make our governments listen and save our food supply, I say bring it.

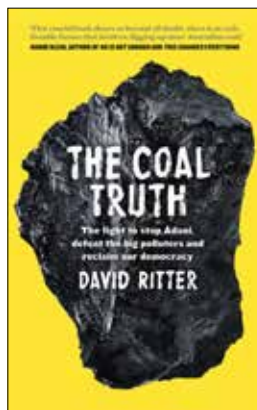
FFB

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.



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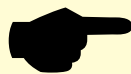
SACRIFICE ZONE

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

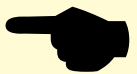


<https://vimeo.com/257444267>

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