



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 1:36 • 7 AUGUST 2018

CSG & Public Health Conference to hear from experts, while NSW Health rejects Qld advice

Anna Christie

Santos' Narrabri Gas Project has received more submissions than any other development in the history of NSW, with over 97% objecting to the coal seam gas development.

Fifty percent of those interviewed in a 2017 survey of well-being conducted for GISERA, the Gas Industry Social Environmental Research Alliance, were either 'Very Concerned' or 'Concerned' about potential Health Impacts of the Coal Seam Gas (CSG)¹.

These are very high levels of disapproval in the community, yet the potential public health impacts of the Narrabri Gas Project are not receiving Government scrutiny reflective of the community's level of concern.

Health impact in the spotlight

The upcoming **Coal Seam Gas & Public Health Conference** in Narrabri has put Health Impact Assessment in the spotlight, and the role of the NSW Department of Health along with it.

The refusal of NSW Health to consider evidence from Queensland's CSG fields is the cause of serious anxiety and stress to the community who are not prepared to discard such evidence as peer-reviewed epidemiological and medical journal articles, the National Pollution Inventory, and a growing body of reports from high profile CSG-industry-related whistleblowers.

¹ "Community wellbeing and local attitudes to coal seam gas development Social Baseline Assessment: Narrabri project -Phase 3 Survey report" Andrea Walton and Rod McCrea October 2017 for GISERA

They include Origin Energy lawyer Sally McDow, Origin Energy compliance executive Fiona Wilson, and Simone Marsh, a former energy analyst at the Coordinator-General's office, which administers the CSG industry in Queensland.

All of this, and more, evidence is mounting that the CSG industry indeed poses some serious and potentially costly risks to community well-being, including mental and physical health.

The **Coal Seam Gas & Public Health Conference**, which will be held at The Crossing Theatre, Narrabri on Wednesday, 15th August 2018, is supported by Doctors for the Environment Australia, Country Women's Association Namoi Group, Wando Conservation and Cultural Centre and People for the Plains. It is aimed to provide the latest evidence from the Queensland experience

and overseas, for health professionals, health managers, Council executives, and also community health advocates.

Conference organisers, North West Protection Advocacy, say the number one question they have received from people is "why doesn't the NSW Government want to learn from the observed Queensland experience?"

Why doesn't the NSW Government want to learn from the observed Queensland experience?

This is a question that conference organisers posed to Dr Craig Dalton, who represents NSW Health's Hunter New England Population Health Department, based in Newcastle.

• Continued p2

COAL SEAM GAS & PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE

Celeste flare, Western Darling Downs, Queensland

Wednesday, 15 August 2018
The Crossing Theatre, 117 Tibbereena St, Narrabri

Logos: Doctors for the Environment Australia, NSW Health, NWPA

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

Speakers: Dr Helen Redmond, Dr Gerylann McCarran, Shay Dougall, Dr Methuen Morgan, Prof Melissa Haswell

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.

• P 4: Chevron's pollution blow-out

• P 5: Loophole gives Santos free gas

• P 6: Georgie's junket in Japan

Coal Seam Gas & Public Health Conference to hear from experts while NSW Health unconcerned

• Continued from p1

In response to this, the approach of the NSW Government is so neat, so simple – yet so alarming to most people. The Government has a problem with the credibility of Queensland's incomplete epidemiology, and has instead chosen a different path for assessing the potential human exposure to harm – a model.

Completely excluding the available evidence of increased incidence of a range of illness which has coincided with the spread of the CSG industry in Queensland, and the data published in the National Pollutant Inventory which discloses the massive quantities of chemicals pumped into the atmosphere by the industry, a human exposure model is being developed which will be solely relied upon by the NSW Government to assess the risk of Santos' gasfields developments.

NSW Health rejects authoritative sources

They won't accept data from Queensland. *"It won't be the same in NSW."*

How about considering the industry's disclosures to the National Pollutant Inventory. *"Not specific enough, it doesn't report on individual facilities or gas wells."*

Peer reviewed medical journal articles that suggest the Queensland gasfields are a Red Flag urging further epidemiological research? *"To give consideration to these authors would be to endorse them as experts."*

What about the reports of leaking wells. *"That was Origin Energy, not Santos."*

NSW Health seemingly has a reason to avoid considering any aspect of evidence that suggests the Darling Downs CSG industry is a Red Flag for NSW. Instead they do, however, have complete trust and reliance on Santos' disclosures about the "inputs" that will be used in applying the human exposure model.

The Government's approach to risk assessment and the perception of scientific bias that arise from this can only diminish the public's already very low trust in the Narrabri Gas Project. Impugning the expertise of doctors and experts who are contributing to the growing body of epidemiology does smack of bias, especially when you consider the reputations and long list of publications by the speakers

From: Craig Dalton <Craig.Dalton@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 29 May 2017 11:14 AM
To: Steve O'Donoghue
Cc: Peter Falkiner
Subject: FW: Narrabri Gas Project (SSD 6456)

Dear Stephen,

Please find below the Health response to SSD 6456, Narrabri Gas Project.

I refer to the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed development of a gas production field by Santos NSW (Eastern) Pty Ltd at Leewood, 20km southwest of Narrabri, New South Wales (NSW). The proposed development seeks to develop and operate a gas field requiring the installation of 850 wells, gas and water gathering systems and supporting infrastructure in the Pilliga area.

Hunter New England Population Health reviewed the Director General's Requirements' supporting documentation in September 2016 and recommended that the proponents should assess risks associated with human exposure to noise, air pollution and contamination of ground and surface water. The following is an assessment of the subsequent EIS in regard to these issues. Based on the nature and scale of the operation and distance from townships we expect there will be minimal impact on human health, however, we request further clarification on air quality assessments as described below.

"Minimal impact on human health" – NSW Health's brief response to Santos' 7,000 page Environmental Impact Statement which has drawn 23,000 submissions – of which 97% were objections.

the Coal Seam Gas and Public Health Conference.

Recently, Dr Dalton has visited the Narrabri Gas Project Community Consultative Committee, giving a relaxed talk about air pollution from the proposed gasfields which focused on vehicle diesel emissions related to CSG projects, and – curiously – coal dust. Community members noted that discussion of emissions from the drilling activities, compressor stations and other CSG operations was avoided.

No baseline air quality measurement

The NSW Environment Protection Authority, which was also represented at the CCC, confirmed that there is no air quality baseline measurement currently going on. The nearest is operated by Santos itself, located at the Dewhurst 27 gas well and located under a clump of wattle, so of no real value in measuring particulate pollution. The only public air monitoring station is at Narrabri Airport, at least 30 km away from Dewhurst, and not in the way of either the SE or NW prevailing winds.

Roughly half-way between the gasfields and the Narrabri Airport is Whitehaven's Narrabri Underground mine, which no doubt has its own limited monitoring of its own emissions.

So the Narrabri Airport air monitoring apparatus is of no value at all in informing a baseline of air pollution in Narrabri town, Coonabarabran, nor the Pilliga Forest.

Yet, despite this, NSW Health is curiously unconcerned.

Why? It's a question perplexing many people who regard the Department of Health as the prime agency concerned with public health. NSW Health does not, as it seems, regard itself in the same way, as its minuscule submission to the Narrabri Gas Project clearly shows. The 1.5 page email is the Department of Health's "assessment of the EIS" and this puny offering is all that they are willing to offer until the NSW EPA commences monitoring of the gas wells.

"Based on the nature and scale of the operation and distance from townships we expect there will be minimal impact on human health," says the author of the submission.

The nature? An industry which spreads dangerous substances into the ground risking the safety of aquifers, and which has a highly secretive culture concerning what substances it uses in its drilling cocktail, and how it disposes of toxic waste?

The scale of the operation? – 850 wells now, but the Narrabri Gas Project is only Stage 1. The future NSW gasfield expansion includes coal seam gas, with later stages being shale gas and tight sands which will necessitate fracking.

Approval creep feared

Breaking up a mega-industrial expansion like the proposed NSW gasfields into relatively small chunks like the Narrabri Gas Project is not unusual to those familiar with State Significant Developments in New South Wales

• Continued p3

Coal Seam Gas & Public Health Conference presentations

How does unconventional gas erode the determinants of health?

Dr Helen Redmond, Rehabilitation Physician, Westmead Hospital

Are emissions from the unconventional gas industry associated with hospitalisations in the Darling Downs, Qld?

Dr GERALYN McCARRON, Queensland General Practitioner

Sources of gaseous emissions in the gasfields

Mrs Shay Dougall, Work, Health, Safety and Environment Specialist and former Chinchilla gasfields resident

Mental health concerns for CSG host communities

Dr Methuen Morgan, Psychologist, University of New England, former feedlot owner Darling Downs

Applying Health Impact Assessment in Coal Seam Gas Developments

Professor Melissa Haswell, Faculty of Health, Queensland University of Technology

• Continued from p2

where the practice of “approval creep” is common.

This is the practice of applying for only a small part of the project to start with so that the environmental impacts are relatively small and localised. Once approved, modification is relatively easy and can be achieved with minimal community consultation, minimal public exhibition and with a great degree of control by the Department of Planning over whether the modification is treated as substantial or merely a “minor” one.

The people of Narrabri and the Northern Liverpool Plains are familiar with approval creep, and they don't trust modelling submitted with major resource projects.

Communities nearby to the Pilliga, such as Bogabri and Maules Creek, are now grappling with modelling from Whitehaven Coal's Maules Creek mine, where the modelled noise impacts, but now also the predictions of water loss, are shown to be wildly in error. In the meantime even while their original modelling is challenged, the company continues to seek modifications to weaken its obligations.

With trust in the gas and mining industry very low, and a high level of mistrust of modelled impact assessment, it is no wonder that the public is calling for an evidence-based approach to the potential health impacts – not only of the Narrabri Gas Project, but the entire gasfields regions currently affected by gas exploration licences.

They don't believe the NSW Government's scientific method adequately safeguards the community.

You can hear the evidence

You can hear the evidence of research and experiences in Queensland gasfield communities that the NSW Government refuses to consider, by hearing from the speaker panel at the Coal Seam Gas & Public Health Conference.

To Register, visit the Conference Website at:

<https://nwprotectionadvocacy.com/homepage/coal-seam-gas-public-health-forum/>

or call the Conference Information Line 0416 077 753.

The Conference is being recorded. If you would like to express an interest in viewing it online, please let the organisers know.

More information:

Whistleblower Sally McDow:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/jan/27/origin-energy-ignores-coal-seam-gas-well-leaks-whistleblower-says>

Whistleblower Fiona Wilson:

<http://www.blotreport.com/australian-politics/are-the-thought-police-coming/>

Whistleblower Simone Marsh:

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2016/oct/06/whistleblower-refers-email-to-watchdog-alleging-unlawful-approval-of-gas-plants>

National Pollutant Inventory:

<http://www.npi.gov.au/resource/review-national-pollutant-inventory-discussion-paper>

Noise impacts:

<https://www.maulescreek.org/news/>

Seeking modification to reduce obligations:

<https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/5005076/noise-over-maules-creek-mine-modification/>

Speaker profiles:

<https://nwprotectionadvocacy.com/homepage/coal-seam-gas-public-health-forum/speaker-profiles/>



• The author, Anna Christie, is an environmental educator and researcher, and a founding member of the Leard Forest Research Node, the citizen science group based in Maules Creek. Since its inception in 2015, the Leard Forest Research Node has conducted noise, dust and water pollution research with and on behalf of Narrabri Shire communities.

Anna organises field study tours and community events for a wide range of participants who wish to learn more about the Leard and Pilliga Forests, and the local geography of the North West NSW. In doing so, she engages with experts, Government, industry and most importantly with utmost respect to the Traditional Owners, the Gomeri people.

Anna is also an Environmental Representative of the Community Consultative Committees of the Maules Creek and Bogabri Coal Mines.

With a legal background, and many years of environmental communications in the public and community sectors, Anna is committed to building the capacity of individuals in CSG and coal-affected to protect their own interests and those of their communities.



Interview: CSG on the Darling Downs

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

Recommended listening!

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

SACRIFICE ZONE



<https://vimeo.com/257444267>



Chevron's gas pollution blow-out: Record emissions



Chevron's Wheatstone LNG facility near Onslow, Western Australia. Photo: CCWA

The Conservation Council of WA has warned that very large increases in carbon pollution from LNG gas processing in WA were driving Australia's emissions to record levels, and risking Australia's international obligations under the Paris Agreement.

New figures released yesterday by independent research company NDEVER Environmental show that Australia's carbon emissions have never been higher, and that pollution from natural gas production and processing are also hitting record levels. According to NDEVR, "LNG expansion increased 41.4% in 2017".

No pollution limits on LNG

Conservation Council of WA Director Piers Versteegen said huge increases in LNG production capacity in WA with no pollution limits are now risking Australia's international obligations under the Paris Agreement.

"Western Australian LNG production for export is leading the charge on emissions, with Chevron's giant Gorgon and Wheatstone LNG developments coming on line in the last 12 months. These two facilities will produce close to 20 million tonnes of carbon pollution every year between them, making Chevron WA's biggest polluter and the biggest driver of pollution growth nationally.

"Since the removal of a carbon tax by the Abbott Government, electricity emissions have been increasing. However gas processing at Chevron's two giant LNG facilities in WA is responsible for an even greater pollution increase."

The pollution blow-out is being made worse by Chevron's failure to comply with conditions requiring carbon geosequestration at the Gorgon LNG

plant on Barrow Island. Compliance documents reveal that the technology to inject carbon pollution underground has not been successfully deployed, and there is doubt that it will ever be effective. Separate conditions requiring the the Wheatstone LNG facility to reduce and offset pollution were removed under the Barnett Government.

Australia's biggest source of pollution

"WA will become the world's largest exporter of LNG and Australia's biggest source of pollution growth this year", Mr Versteegen said.

"Chevron's giant gas facilities have no current limits on the pollution they can release, so it is no surprise the company is taking advantage of this situation."

WA Environment Minister Stephen Dawson has triggered a review by the WA Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) into the conditions regulating pollution from the two Chevron projects.

"Requiring Chevron to reduce and offset its pollution by investing in environmental restoration, tree planting, and renewable energy would deliver more jobs and other benefits to Western Australians," Mr Versteegen said.

"Currently Chevron is sending huge profits offshore along with the Western Australian gas it exports. The company has paid no tax on its profits, and pays no royalties to the State Government.

"We need less gas pollution and more clean solutions from Chevron. It's time the company was held to account for its pollution, which is risking Australia's international commitments to climate action," concluded Mr Versteegen.

Push for new gasfields won't cut gas prices

The ACCC Gas Inquiry Interim report, released last week, reveals there will be ongoing high gas prices for Australians into the future due to the gas export terminals linking our gas to international pricing.

Lock the Gate Alliance says the report clearly demonstrates the vast majority of gas produced in Australia currently is being shipped overseas.

Lock the Gate's Naomi Hogan, said, "The ACCC push for new gasfields in NSW and Victoria flies in the face of the evidence presented in its own report.

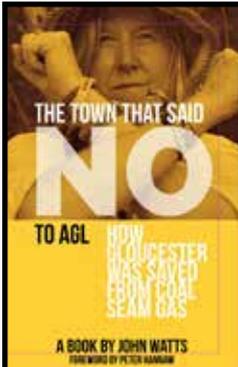
"The report reveals that gas exporting companies are sucking up a lion's share of Australian gas and continuing to charge Australian gas users through the nose.

"The outlook for gas continues to be high cost and high risk.

"Instead of trying to force farmers and regional communities into polluting gasfields, the Government should be helping businesses innovate to get off expensive gas in order to save money and create new jobs.

"Onshore unconventional fracking produces expensive, difficult to extract gas. It will cost the consumer more and put Australian waterways at risk.

"Lower cost renewable energy and solar heat is now emerging as a serious option for manufacturers and households who can take steps to get off expensive and polluting gas."



ORDER YOUR COPY NOW!

\$25 if collected from Gloucester Health Foods. Add \$9 for postage Australia-wide. gloucesterbookorders@gmail.com

THE TOWN THAT SAID NO TO AGL
\$25 plus \$9 postage in Australia.
gloucesterbookorders@gmail.com

Mine rehab PFAS worries

With the decommissioned Hazelwood mine pit set to become a lake, environmentalists are concerned the rehabilitation process is not being managed appropriately, following an emergency discharge licence application.

Multinational energy utility ENGIE applied for an emergency discharge licence to take pressure off the Hazelwood Pondage dam wall, aiming to avoid damage to the 50-year-old structure.

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) gave ENGIE permission to double the amount of water being discharged out of the pondage, from 150 to 300ML a day for up to 60 days.

Environment Victoria Campaigns Manager Dr Nicholas Aberle told *La Trobe Valley Express* he is concerned PFAS levels in the pondage could have serious public health impacts for local communities.

“PFAS could be the next asbestos. We won’t find out the effects of these chemicals until further down the road, and until then, we should apply precautionary principles to manage exposure,” Aberle said.

“How confident are we that these levels are genuinely safe? What are the long-term effects of low-grade exposure to this chemical? We may not know for the next 20 years.”

The EPA advised that PFAS levels were below the 95% level required for ecosystem protection standards, arguing that additional flow would result in increased salt concentration, but with no ecological impacts.

Aberle said that although the EPA and ENGIE are required to ensure discharges do not have negative effects on public health or the environment, he believes it is necessary for the authority to produce proof.

Aberle said it was concerning that ENGIE had allowed the dam wall to get to a state of emergency and he is unconvinced the utility could manage the full-pit lake in the Hazelwood mine void.

“ENGIE has a big challenge in the rehabilitation of the mine pit and people need confidence. If ENGIE cannot look after a wall in a dam, how will they look after an entire pit of water?” he said.

FFB

Loophole gives Santos free gas



Gas power module at Santos' Wilga Park. Photo: Gas Today

Santos is exploiting a loophole to obtain gas from the Pilliga forest, near Narrabri, and burn it in its nearby gas-fired power station without having to pay royalties to the NSW Government, according to Lock the Gate Alliance.

Santos does not currently hold a CSG production permit and has instead been using gas drilled in exploration and assessment areas to produce gas and pipe it to the nearby Wilga Park power station which it owns.

Using gas obtained by exploration is allowable under a “beneficial use” loophole in NSW regulation, which means that little or no royalties are payable.

Santos obtained approval last week to expand the number of exploratory gas wells that feed the power station, thus increasing its access to royalty free gas.

Production by stealth

Georgina Woods from Lock the Gate Alliance said, “The NSW Government is basically giving Santos free gas worth millions of dollars as it pursues gas production by stealth in the Pilliga forest.

“Under standard NSW planning law, any production of gas should be subject to extensive environmental assessments and royalties should be paid on that gas.

“Santos is circumventing royalty payments and full environmental assessment by using a regulatory loophole and lax laws that allow it to produce gas for its power station without hold-

ing a gas production permit” she said.

Greens energy spokesman, Jeremy Buckingham, said it was an “outrageous fiction” that the gas was being sourced from genuine gas exploration.

“Santos have been operating these wells for up to eight years,” Mr Buckingham said, adding the royalty exemption could balloon in size.

“They have submitted a detailed application for a commercial 850-well gasfield, and they have dodged the key question about how much more gas will be sent to the power station than would otherwise have been flared.”

Santos claimed its expansion in CSG wells would be environmentally beneficial, because it would mean methane gas would be burnt in its power station rather than being flared at the gas wells.

Govt rubber-stamped expansion

“It’s disappointing to see the government rubber-stamping this expansion without querying Santos’ claim that it will be environmentally beneficial,” Ms Woods said.

“There are fundamental questions that need to be asked. How much gas is Santos intending to produce this way? Would it all have been flared, or does having this loophole actually encourage the company to bring up more gas than they might otherwise?”

“One thing is clear: NSW taxpayers are being ripped off, missing out on royalties while Santos drill for more CSG.”

FFB

Georgie in Japan: Delivers letters begging for HELE coal power station



Nationals MP George Christensen posted this photo of his Japan jaunt on his website, captioned 'Dear Japan, build us a power station'.

Coalition coal nutters have doubled-down on their quest to build a new coal-fired power station in Australia, despite the outdated technology's vast expense and planet-roasting carbon emissions.

Last week, maverick Nationals MP George Christensen was tasked by resources minister Matt Canavan to hand-deliver letters to major Japanese energy companies, seeking their investment in new HELE (High Efficiency Low Energy) coal-fired power stations in Australia.

The escapade was described by *Renew Economy's* Giles Parkinson as an "extraordinary step".

Christensen released a press statement, entitled, 'Dear Japan, build us a power station'.

Minerals Council financed Japan junket

He said, "I am one of a small group of MPs travelling at the invitation of the Minerals Council of Australia, who are covering all expenses. Leading the trip is former deputy prime minister and current chairman of Whitehaven Coal Mark Vaile."

He said the government will also consider the ACCC's recommendation to provide finance to assist project developers with such options.

The letters were delivered to the heads of Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) Chairman and JOGMEC Executive Vice President, and also to the Director Coal Division of Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

"I will be asking these companies to take a look at north Queensland and consider investing in a HELE power station – I will ask them to consider sites such as Collinsville near Bowen, the Mackay region, Burdekin and Townsville for the placement of a HELE coal-fired power station," Christensen said.

He visited the Isogo coal-fired power station in Yokohama, operated by J-Power. He worshipped the "state-of-the-art ultra-supercritical" plant and posted the picture above on his web page.

However, according to *Renew Economy*, HELE plants only reduce carbon emissions by about 10% compared to older technology.

Queensland Resources Council chief executive and former Howard government dinosaur Ian Macfarlane welcomed Christensen's trip. He spruiked Queensland as the ideal place to build a new coal-fired power station.

Inside the news

Adani lodged a slimmed-down plan for the expansion of its **Abbot Point** coal export terminal, which will soon see **Sea Shepherd's** flagship **Steve Irwin** sailing by.

Meanwhile traditional owners, the **Wangan & Jagalingou** people, have asked the **United Nations to censure Australia** for weak Native Title laws that could see the group lose its land to Adani despite never having ceded their rights (p7).

The people of **Sydney** are mostly blithely unaware that the NSW government has given the go-ahead for **more coal mining** beneath the city's **water catchment**. The approval was given without even waiting for an independent panel investigating the **Dendrobium Mine** to file its report. Dendrobium's **profits** have been put before **water security** for a city of millions (p7).

Leigh Creek Energy has announced plans for a small **gas-fired power station** as part of its underground coal gasification project (UCG). Residents remain divided over the process, which was **banned in Queensland** after **Linc Energy's** project near Chinchilla led to widespread contamination. Maybe that's why the company now refers to it as **In Situ Gasification (ISG)** hoping to avoid association with the **Darling Downs disaster** (p9).

Josh Frydenberg has warned colleagues flirting with coal fired power plants as a solution to Australia's electricity problems that "we have to factor in a **carbon-constrained future**". The *AFR's* report on his dinner speech was illustrated with a not-to-be-missed David Rowe **cartoon** (p12).

Giles Parkinson's article, '**Barnaby Joyce, NEG, coal and general nutcase stuff**' is a good read. He explains how a final decision on the National Energy Guarantee (NEG) has been thrown into the air, amid a **renewed push for coal generation** by the National Party.

Resources Minister Matt Canavan has sent Member for Dawson George Christensen to Japan, to try to drum up financing for a new coal powered facility in Australia (p13).

In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 25,500 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/aug/01/adani-lodges-slimmed-down-plan-to-expand-abbot-point-coal-terminal>

Adani lodges slimmed-down plan to expand Abbot Point coal terminal

Ben Smee, *The Guardian*, 01/07/2018

Adani has applied to increase the export capacity at its Abbot Point coal terminal, allowing it to expand the port relatively quickly without the “significant capital expense” of its long-term expansion plans.

Plans lodged with the state development department show Adani wants to build a conveyor and transfer tower at Abbot Point “terminal one” to expand throughput by 10m tonnes a year. ...

Plans for a second terminal, which would require dredging and other works to increase capacity to 90m tonnes a year, would be downsized and deferred but not scrapped. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/adani-applies-to-increase-capacity-of-existing-abbot-point-coal-terminal-but-retain-total-export-amount/news-story/7e26b1b01ee68fc22b3aa8cd29f0e4d4>

Adani applies to increase capacity of existing Abbot Point coal terminal but retain total export amount

Clare Armstrong, *Townsville Bulletin*, 04/08/2018

Documents submitted by Adani Abbot Point Terminal to the Queensland Government show the company wants to build a new conveyor and transfer tower, which would allow for an additional 10 million tonnes of coal to be transferred per year through the existing terminal, known as “T1”.

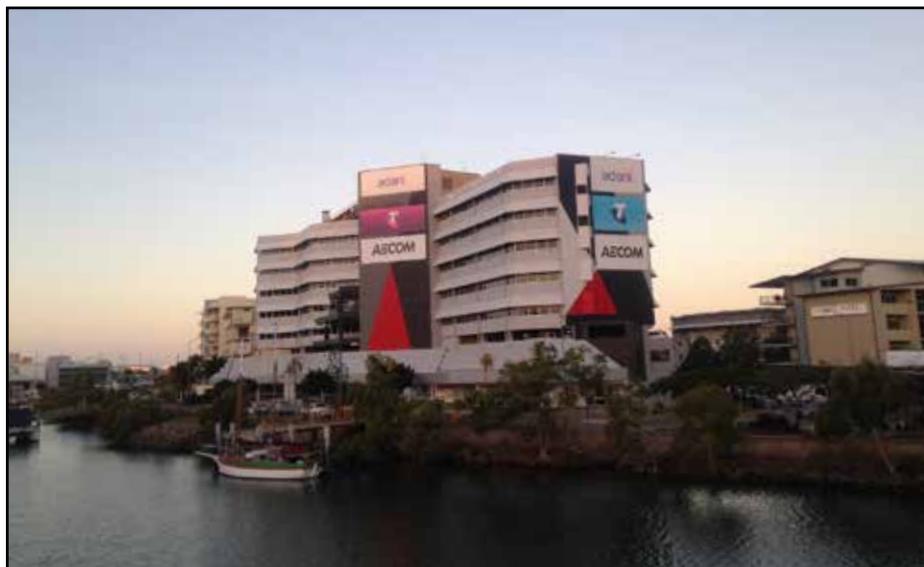
In the application, Adani also proposed to enhance the management of coal dust through the addition of stockpile dust suppression infrastructure. ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-08-03/anti-adani-campaign-by-indigenous-group-goes-to-the-un/10065240>

Indigenous group takes anti-Adani fight to the United Nations claiming human rights violation

Josh Robertson, *ABC*, 03/08/2018

Traditional owners fighting Adani’s proposed Carmichael mine in Queensland have urged the United Nations to urgently intervene by formally



Adani’s Townsville HQ in north Queensland. Photo: Yasuko Kuroshima

censuring Australia at a meeting in Geneva this month.

United States-based lawyers acting for the Wangan and Jagalingou (W&J) Family Council have called on a UN Committee to publicly condemn Australian authorities for “violating” an international pact against racial discrimination by wiping out their native title rights.

In a scathing complaint against the Queensland and federal governments and the National Native Title Tribunal, the mine opponents accuse Australia of “serious violations” of a UN convention and Adani of using the “coercive power” of native title laws stacked against Indigenous groups. ...

The appeal to the UN said the Queensland Government has argued in the federal court that even if an Indigenous land use deal with Adani is ruled invalid, “it still has power to accept the purported surrender of our native title and issue freehold tenure to Adani at any time”. ...

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/reckless-approval-given-for-more-coal-mining-in-sydney-s-catchment-20180723-p4zt1n.html>

‘Reckless’: Approval given for more coal mining in Sydney’s catchment

Peter Hannam, *SMH*, 29/07/2018

The Berejiklian government has approved expanded coal mining in Great-

er Sydney’s water catchment, ignoring concerns of a state agency, and without waiting for an independent panel to release its first report.

The Dendrobium underground mine, operating close to the Avon and Cord-eaux reservoirs, has quietly been given the nod by the Planning Department to proceed with extraction at its Longwall 14 section. It also separately secured a key stage of approval – the subsidence management plan – for the Longwall 16 area. ...

The approvals were also granted before the Independent Expert Panel on Mining in Sydney’s Drinking Water Catchment has released its first report, which will detail impacts at Dendrobium and also the Metropolitan coal mine. ...

According to WaterNSW’s own submission to Planning, “significant damage and impacts are occurring to the Sydney drinking water catchment due to Dendrobium Mine operations, and that mining of Longwall 16 as proposed will result in further increased impacts to swamps, watercourses and storage”.

“This is likely to eventually result, or may already have resulted, in unacceptable impacts to the Greater Sydney region’s drinking water supply and to the ecological integrity of the Special Areas,” it said. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jul/31/mining-expansion-under-sydney-water-catchment-approved-without-full-data>

Mining expansion under Sydney water catchment approved without full data

Anne Davies, *The Guardian*, 31/07/2018

The New South Wales government ignored warnings from its own independent panel that there was insufficient data to approve the expansion of the Dendrobium coalmine near Wollongong,

The government is under fire for approving extra longwalls at the mine without waiting for the panel to complete a much broader study of the impact of mining under Sydney's water catchment. ...

<https://www.muswellbrookchronicle.com.au/story/5551224/licence-breaches-will-not-be-tolerated-photos/>

NSW EPA investigating Mount Pleasant blast

Rod Thompson, *Muswellbrook Chronicle*, 27/07/2018

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has confirmed it is investigating a blast that occurred at Mount Pleasant last week during strong winds.

Numerous residents contacted the *Muswellbrook Chronicle* about the incident, complaining about the potential impacts on their health. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/business/hundreds-of-mining-coal-jobs-secured-for-region/news-story/50b6006ccc56a44af4819d43b9bedfc>

Hundreds of mining coal jobs secured for region

Chris Lees, *Townsville Bulletin*, 26/07/2018

More than 230 coal mining jobs have been secured for the next eight years after a decision from a major employer. And it's all thanks to new mining technology.

Peabody Energy, which owns the North Goonyella coal mine near Moranbah, says it will invest millions of dollars to extend the mine. ...

GAS, GAS, GAS

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/jul/29/santos-response-on-endangered-species-not-good-enough-conservationists-say>

Santos response on endangered species not good enough, conservationists say

Lisa Cox, *The Guardian*, 29/07/2018

Conservationists have said the oil company Santos has not addressed questions about how its proposed 850-



The Pilliga mouse was amongst wildlife under-estimated in a Santos survey.

well Narrabri coal seam gas project in New South Wales would affect threatened species.

Two new reports, including one by a former ecologist for the NSW environment and heritage office, say the company had not adequately responded to submissions which raise concerns about animal and plant surveys Santos conducted for its environmental impact statement. ...

David Paull, a consultant ecologist who was employed by the NSW government, wrote a response disputing Santos's findings that endangered box gum woodlands were not present at the project site and that yellow box was either absent or "occurs at such low abundance to be meaningless in terms of plant composition".

Paull said the company had also failed to conduct surveys for stygofauna, which are species that help purify groundwater, despite a recommendation from the independent expert scientific committee that it do so.

In a separate report, an ecologist, David Milledge, said concerns he raised about animal surveys at the project site in a submission with the North West Alliance "have not been satisfactorily addressed".

Species surveyed for include the Pilliga mouse, koalas, the south-eastern long-eared bat and the eastern pygmy possum.

A 10-day survey by Landmark Ecological Services – led by Milledge in 2011 – found more than twice the animals in the project area than Santos had recorded from 2010 to 2014. ...

<https://www.greenleft.org.au/content/reports-say-santos-ignores-csg-impact-pilliga-wildlife>

Reports say Santos ignores CSG impact on Pilliga wildlife

Kerry Smith, *Green Left Weekly*, 03/08/2018

Two new reports by ecologists say Santos's Response to Submissions (RTS) failed to address how endangered species will be impacted by its controversial Narrabri Coal Seam Gas (CSG) project in the Pilliga Forest. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/sustainability/rubber-stamp-santos-avoids-millions-of-dollars-of-csg-royalties-20180731-p4zumw.html>

'Rubber stamp': Santos avoids millions of dollars of CSG royalties

Peter Hannam, *SMH*, 31/07/2018

The Berejiklian government has granted Santos an extension of royalty-free gas for a power station fed by its controversial Pilliga coal seam gasfield, a move that went against their own department's advice and could cost the state's coffers millions of dollars.

The company's Wilga Park power station has recently been granted a further 1000 days free of royalties for gas supplied from its Tintfield and Dewhurst wells near Narrabri. ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-07-29/property-sale-prices-drop-billion-northern-territory-lng-boom/10048784>

NT property sale prices drop \$1.2 billion after end of LNG boom

Jacquelin Breen, *ABC*, 29/07/2018

Real estate sales in the Northern Territory have dropped about \$1.2 billion in the three years since the height of the

gas boom, an industry body says.

The June quarterly report from the Real Estate Institute of the Northern Territory put the total value of house and unit sales in the NT last financial year at \$1 billion. President Quentin Killian said it represented a 53 per cent drop since 2014-15, when sales totalled \$2.24 billion. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/origin-energy-eyes-500m-from-aplng-gas-export/news-story/8878a90d8f7f15cdc4c9e46bf06ea598>

Origin Energy eyes \$500m from APLNG gas export

Matt Chambers, The Australian, 30/07/2018

Origin Energy is set to receive more than \$500 million cash from the Australia Pacific LNG export project in Queensland this financial year if oil prices remain stable, as recent onshore gas productivity moves boost profits from the project. ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/gas/all-go-at-wheatstone-lng-as-chevron-eyes-east-coast-20180727-h138ns>

All go at Wheatstone LNG as Chevron eyes east coast

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 29/07/2018

Chevron has reported stellar performance from the second LNG train at its \$US34 billion (\$46 billion) Wheatstone LNG venture in Western Australia, with the larger Gorgon project also performing solidly after its patchy start-up. ...

Chevron is known to be bidding to supply gas into at least one of the proposed LNG import projects in the south-eastern states, and Mr Johnson spelt out that the US major “would love to sell them LNG”.

The two monster LNG projects have made Chevron Australia’s largest producer of LNG, with capacity of 24.5 million tonnes a year. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/high-hopes-for-galilee-as-gas-begins-to-flow/news-story/78e3b6454374ad8732ac9dbcd0fe7aee>

High hopes for Galilee as gas begins to flow

Matt Chambers, The Australian, 31/07/2018

Queensland’s Galilee Basin, best known for Adani’s plans to build a giant coal mine, is showing potential to be a new east coast gas province in what would be a welcome development amid further forecasts of domestic supply shortages. ...

This follows a recent exploration



Inpex's Ichthys LNG production unit off Darwin. Photo: Inpex

burst from companies such as Galilee Energy, Comet Ridge and Reg Nelson’s soon-to-list Vintage Energy.

It is early days, but talks have started with pipeline operators such as APA and Jemena to build connectors to the east coast grid if evaluation and exploration are successful. ...

<https://www.ntnews.com.au/business/well-heads-opened-for-first-gas-on-inpex-ichthys-lng-project/news-story/92baa04f86ca4580ca77198f63ee0701>

Well heads opened for first gas on Inpex's Ichthys LNG project

Ashley Manicaros, NT News, 30/07/2018

The Inpex-operated Ichthys LNG project has commenced production of gas from its wells, marking the start of 40 years of operations for the \$50 billion LNG development.

The produced gas will be gathered within the central processing facility, Ichthys Explorer, located about 220km from the Western Australian coastline, where it will be separated into gases and liquids.

The condensate component will be shipped directly from the CPF.

The remainder will eventually be shipped for processing at Inpex’s LNG facility but this first round of gas will not make it to the Darwin facility. ...

<https://www.transcontinental.com.au/story/5555281/gas-power-station-plans/>

Gas power station proposal in Leigh Creek

Marco Balsamo, Transcontinental, 30/07/2018

Leigh Creek Energy (LCK) has announced plans for a small gas-fired power station as part of the Leigh Creek Energy Project (LCEP).

If approved, the small scale power option would be developed ahead of the proposed commercial in-situ gasification (ISG) facility at the decommissioned Leigh Creek Coalfield.

The small project was labelled a “commercial stepping stone” towards the large scale ISG project in LCK’s Quarterly Report. ...

State Member for Stuart Dan van Holst Pellekaan said LCK has presented a range of potential projects, but has only sought permission for its Pre-Commercial Demonstration (PCD) Aboveground Plant. ...

LCK also announced the construction of the PCD Aboveground Plant is effectively complete, while the well drilling phase is in the final stages. ...

Residents remain divided over the ISG process, which was banned in Queensland after Linc Energy’s project near Chinchilla led to widespread contamination. ...

<https://oilvoice.com/Press/20038/Leigh-Creek-Energy-Poised-to-Deliver-Two-ISG-Energy-Grid-Milestones-From-Former-SA-Coal-Field>

Leigh Creek Energy poised to deliver two ISG energy grid milestones from former SA coal field

OilVoice, 31/07/2018

South Australia is on the verge of achieving two key milestones in which the old Leigh Creek coalfield will be used to deliver a fresh source of gas and energy products into the national power grid.

Addressing the second day today of the two day Paydirt 2018 South Australian Resources and Energy Investment Conference in Adelaide, Leigh Creek Energy Managing Director, Mr Phil

Staveley, said the Company is on track to commence this quarter, a pre-commercial demonstration of its in situ gasification (ISG) demonstration plant under construction currently on the former coal mine site. ...

The demonstration plant includes the construction of an above ground plant and the establishment of a below ground single ISG gasifier chamber. The demonstration plant will be commissioned and operated for a short period (approximately 2-3 months) to produce syngas, so that the technical and environmental performance of the process can be analysed. ...

The Demonstration Project is regulated as an exploration activity under the Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Act 2000 and as an exploration activity the syngas produced is unable to be sold for commercial use, and will therefore be treated on site in a thermal oxidiser as part of the process.

<https://www.ntnews.com.au/business/methane-level-monitoring-starts-in-beetaloo-basin-ahead-of-development-of-onshore-gas-industry/news-story/6cbab0f8d-9166b33e88a04ddd18c322f>

Methane level monitoring starts in Beetaloo Basin ahead of development of onshore gas industry

Ashley Manicaros, NT News, 31/07/2018

Baseline monitoring of methane levels in the Beetaloo Basin has started.

The monitoring is one of the 135 recommendations from the Pepper inquiry in regards to the development of an onshore gas industry in the Territory.

It is seen as critical in determining the impact of onshore gas and the subsequent processes including hydraulic fracturing has on the environment.

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) is conducting the monitoring. ...

CSIRO research director onshore gas, GISERA director, Dr Damian Barrett, who also heads the gas industry social and environmental research alliance, said the monitoring will measure the amount of “naturally occurring methane” already present in the area and identify sources where elevated methane levels are found. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/richard-cottee-a-towering-figure-in-the-queensland-natural-gas-industry-has-abruptly-quit-his-latest-gig-and-its-not-clear-why/news-story/92213b459b180a3f0246fe89f3e7680d>

A towering figure in the Queensland natural gas industry has quit his latest gig

Anthony Marx, Courier-Mail, 02/08/2018

A towering figure in the Queensland natural gas industry has abruptly quit his latest gig and it's not entirely clear why.

Richard Cottee bailed out of Central Petroleum this week after six years of serving as MD of the loss-making outfit. ...

Cottee has been an active player in the resources games for nearly 40 years and made a fortune in 2008 when he sold Queensland Gas Company to the BG Group for \$5.7 billion. ...

Martin Kriewaldt, who stepped up as chairman of Central in May, hailed Cottee yesterday as “an absolute genius of the industry after once being derided as a crackpot” ...

NUKE MADNESS

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-07-29/radioactive-nuclear-rods-bound-for-france/10049040>

Radioactive nuclear rods leave Sydney bound for France

Jennine Khalik & Jean Kennedy, ABC, 31/07/2018

Radioactive nuclear fuel that was used for research and medicine has begun its voyage from Sydney to France as of Saturday night, with the help of 200 NSW police officers.

The highly radioactive content will be recycled in France through extracting uranium and plutonium, and the leftover waste will be returned to Australia.

The fuel, used by the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANTSO) for a decade's worth of research and 5.5 million doses of nuclear medicine for Australian patients, was moved from a nuclear reactor in Lucas Heights, Sydney's south, to Port Kembla for shipping to a French nuclear plant in La Hague, ANTSO said. ...

However, the Australian Conservation Foundation's Dave Sweeney said the material being shipped to France was “boomerang waste”, as the intermediate-level waste would be returned.

“There is no Federal Government process to identify the best place and method to manage this waste — some of which requires isolation for periods

of up to 10,000 years,” Mr Sweeney said, adding that the Government was trying to buy time instead of solving “complex management issues”. ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-08-01/woomera-nuclear-waste-barrels-not-contaminated-study-finds/9994028>

Woomera's 10,000 nuclear waste barrels have 'low levels' of radiation, says CSIRO

Patrick Martin & Paul Culliver, ABC, 01/08/2018

Ten thousand barrels of radioactive waste stored at Woomera in South Australia's far north have no significant levels of radiation, according to the latest assessment from Australia's leading scientific research agency.

The finding from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) comes more than two years after a report raised concerns about the possible leaking of nuclear waste at the site.

In April, 2016, the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) inspected the Woomera site and reported a number of concerns surrounding many of the barrels, which hold material from tests at Melbourne's Fisherman's Bend dating back to the 1950s. ...

CSIRO was ordered to check the barrels and clean up the facility in 2016 after the inspection from ARPANSA at a cost of almost \$30 million. ...

But campaigner Mara Bonacci, of the Conservation Council of South Australia, said the issues with the barrels highlighted the dangers of nuclear waste storage.

“It's a shame that after only 30 years, the 10,000 barrels have been stored there are already compromised and potentially dangerous,” Ms Bonacci said. ...

Ms Bonacci said the movement of the waste to a proposed waste management storage facility at either Kimba or Hawker in South Australia was a risk.

“They want to move intermediate level waste — which is higher level waste to what is at Woomera — they want to move that from Lucas Heights ... to a remote area for interim storage and then move it again.

“Communities are concerned that waste will be forgotten about, that it may be compromised.

“It's expensive, it's double-handling and it doesn't make sense.

“If the Woomera waste hasn't been

**SUBSCRIBE FREE
FOSSIL FOOL
BULLETIN**

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

handled that well and it is deteriorating then it doesn't instil confidence in the proposal to move it to a remote community." ...

<https://www.crikey.com.au/2018/07/31/nuclear-industry-mines-shutter-costs/?ins=VC8wa1hQK3jdTd0NmdHT-2NzdW91Zz09>

Nuclear industry optimistic as mines shutter and costs blow out

Bernard Keane & Glenn Dyer, Crikey, 31/07/2018

Things aren't looking too radiant for the uranium industry and its assorted spruikers — including the George Monbiot types on the left who think nukes are the only solution to climate change. The new Flamanville nuclear reactor that has been under construction for years at the very northwestern tip of France is facing new delays and higher costs.

We've been reporting on delays and cost blowouts at Flamanville for nearly nine years so the news of more isn't especially surprising. ...

The Flamanville plant in France is one of three being built in Europe using the new European Pressurized Reactor (EPR) technology. The other two projects are the Olkiluoto project in Finland (which is more than a decade late), and the controversial Hinkley Point project in Somerset (which, based on December 2017 figures, will cost £20.3 billion (AU\$36 billion) and start in 2025). ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-08-03/communities-question-minister-over-nuclear-facility-proposal/10062420>

Proposed nuclear waste facility has South Australian towns divided as locals prepare for ballot

Samantha Jonscher & Gary-Jon Lysaght, ABC, 03/08/2018

Two small towns in regional South Australia have been divided for more than two years over support for a radioactive waste management facility.

The Federal Government has short-listed three sites which could become the location for a facility that would permanently hold low-level nuclear waste and temporarily store intermediate-level waste.

Two of these sites are at Kimba, on the Eyre Peninsula, while a third is near Hawker, in the northern Flinders Ranges.

In recent visits to the two towns, Resources Minister Matt Canavan held open forums for the first time, where locals could directly ask him questions.

For Kimba, concerns surround the impact a nuclear waste facility would have on international perceptions and potential damage to Kimba's clean, green agricultural reputation.

At Hawker, a former railway town in the Flinders Ranges, opponents questioned what the facility could mean for the region's tourism.

Anti-nuclear campaigner Greg Bannon said it was the worst place for a waste facility.

"It's in a flood plain and it's an area of active seismic activity," Mr Bannon said. ...

CLIMATE CRISIS

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/unique-and-alarming-engineers-to-be-tested-as-rain-events-intensify-20180730-p4zuhg.html>

'Unique and alarming': Engineers to be tested as rain events intensify

Peter Hannam, SMH, 31/07/2018

Australia's rainfall events are already becoming more intense with climate change, raising the risks of flash flooding and potentially exceeding the nation's engineering codes, a new study finds.

While it's long been understood the atmosphere holds about 6.5 per cent more moisture per degree of warming, climate models have largely not captured the impact on individual storms, said Seth Westra, an associate professor at the University of Adelaide's engineering school. ...

These rainfall bursts "create your flash flooding events and really challenge the resilience of your infrastructure", said Dr Lane, who is also an associate professor at Melbourne University. "The most intense rainfall events are going to increase at a rate much faster than you expect."

While discussion about extreme rain may seem at odds with the current drought across much of eastern Australia, "the reality is that can happen one after the other" in this country, as history has shown, Professor Westra said.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jul/31/climate-change-denial-oil-companies-fossil-fuels>

Climate change denial won't even benefit oil companies soon

Phil McDuff, The Guardian, 31/07/2018

The year 2018 is on track to be the fourth warmest on record, beaten only by 2016, 2015 and 2017. In other

words, we have had the warmest four-year run since we started measuring. According to data from the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), June 2018 is the 402nd consecutive month with temperatures above the 20th-century average. The UK's Environmental Audit Committee has warned that we could see summer temperatures reaching 38C by the 2040s, leading to a potential 7,000 heat-related deaths a year.

One hot summer does not a changing climate make, but the trend in the global data is now irrefutable. ...

The mechanisms behind this are not difficult to understand. ... Carbon that took millions of years to trap has been released into the atmosphere at a rate that is, in geological terms, almost instantaneous.

We have known about the probable impact that this sudden release of carbon into the atmosphere would have on the Earth's climate since the middle of the last century. However, we have been unable and unwilling to do anything about it. To pull that carbon out of the ground we created giant corporations whose sole role was to find it, mine it and sell it. Our demand led to vast profits for these companies, and unfathomable riches for the people running them. This meant that when the research showed that our insatiable carbon demand needed to be curbed for the good of the planet, there was a very powerful interest group in place with a vested interest in keeping it going. ...

We know now that the fossil fuel extraction industry has known about climate change since at least 1977, when James L Black, a scientist at Exxon, gave a presentation to the company's board detailing his research into global warming. A year later, in 1978, Black would write a memo saying: "Present thinking holds that man has a time window of five to 10 years before the need for hard decisions regarding changes in energy strategies might become critical."

But by the time this 10-year window closed in 1988, the energy companies had been pouring money not into reducing carbon but into denying the reality of climate change. Through well-orchestrated media campaigns and lobbying efforts, a standard narrative of denial had been firmly entrenched as common knowledge. Climate change isn't happening, they said, and even if it is happening it's nothing to do with us, and even if it is some-

thing to do with us it would be too expensive to change it. The fossil fuel lobby managed to convince lawmakers and huge swaths of the broader public that this was a battle between “business” on the one hand, and a coalition of corrupt scientists and hippies on the other. ...

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jul/30/malcolm-turnbull-present-when-443-million-dollars-offered-to-small-group-without-tender-inquiry-hears>

PM personally approved \$443m fund for tiny Barrier Reef foundation

Lisa Cox, The Guardian, 31/07/2018

Malcolm Turnbull was at the meeting where \$443.8m in funding was offered to a small not-for-profit foundation without a competitive tender process or any application for the money, an inquiry has heard.

Anna Marsden, the managing director of the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, told a Senate inquiry on Monday the organisation was offered the funding at a meeting in Sydney in April between Turnbull, environment and energy minister Josh Frydenberg, the foundation's chair John Schubert and environment and energy department secretary John Pratt. ...

The inquiry heard the foundation's chairman's panel, a corporate membership group made up of chief executives and directors of companies including Commonwealth Bank, BHP, Qantas, Shell and Peabody Energy, has 55 members, each of whom pay \$20,000 a year for membership. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/fossil-fuel-backers-deeply-aligned-with-reef-rescue-efforts-20180730-p4zuf5.html>

Fossil fuel backers 'deeply aligned' with reef rescue efforts

Nicole Hasham, SMH, 30/07/2018

The head of a Great Barrier Reef charity awarded a controversial federal government grant was unaware a corporate partner had funded climate denial groups and says companies involved in the charity are deeply committed to rescuing the natural wonder.

Appearing at the first hearing of a Senate inquiry into the grant in Brisbane on Monday, Great Barrier Reef Foundation managing director Anna Marsden also insisted the charity would “do what the reef needs us to do”, but said this excluded calling for accelerated action on climate change. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/coalition-minister-backbenchers-fired-up-over-anti-coal-aemo/news-story/c54a5f2c5c8a7955c5abce5c7f0df68c>

Coalition minister, backbenchers fired up over 'anti-coal' AEMO

Greg Brown, The Australian, 31/07/2018

Malcolm Turnbull's key energy bureaucrats are losing the support of government MPs, with a minister and five Coalition backbenchers criticising the Australian Energy Market Operator for having an “ideological worldview” that favours renewables.

Government backbenchers Tony Pasin, John Williams, Ken O'Dowd, Craig Kelly and George Christensen criticised a report released this month by the AEMO into the electricity sector, saying it did not focus on lowering prices.

They also expressed concerns about the AEMO's direction under the leadership of chief executive Audrey Zibelman. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/george-christensen-on-japan-mission-for-coal-power-tech/news-story/d9a9b0d90324ffc1408df887fb9ab982>

George Christensen on Japan mission for coal power tech

Renee Viellaris, Courier-Mail, 31/07/2018

Federal Resources Minister Matt Canavan has sent renegade Queensland MP George Christensen to formally ask the Japanese Government to build a new coal-fired power station in Australia, signalling the Nationals have doubled down on their demands for coal power generation. ...

Senator Canavan, who wrote the correspondence to Japanese companies and Government officials before the Super Saturday by-election drubbing in Longman, has asked Mr Christensen to hand-deliver the letters.

Mr Christensen's trip is being entirely paid for by Minerals Council of Australia. ...

<http://www.theguardian.com/au/story/5557074/nationals-turning-japanese-on-coal-power/>

Nationals turning Japanese on coal power

Matt Coughlan, The Guardian, 31/07/2018

Maverick Nationals MP George Christensen has been sent on a mining industry-funded mission to Japan to ask its government to build new coal-fired power stations in Australia.

The Coal21 Fund, set up in 2006 with support from coal producers to examine low-emission technologies, is picking up the tab for Mr Christensen's trip. ...

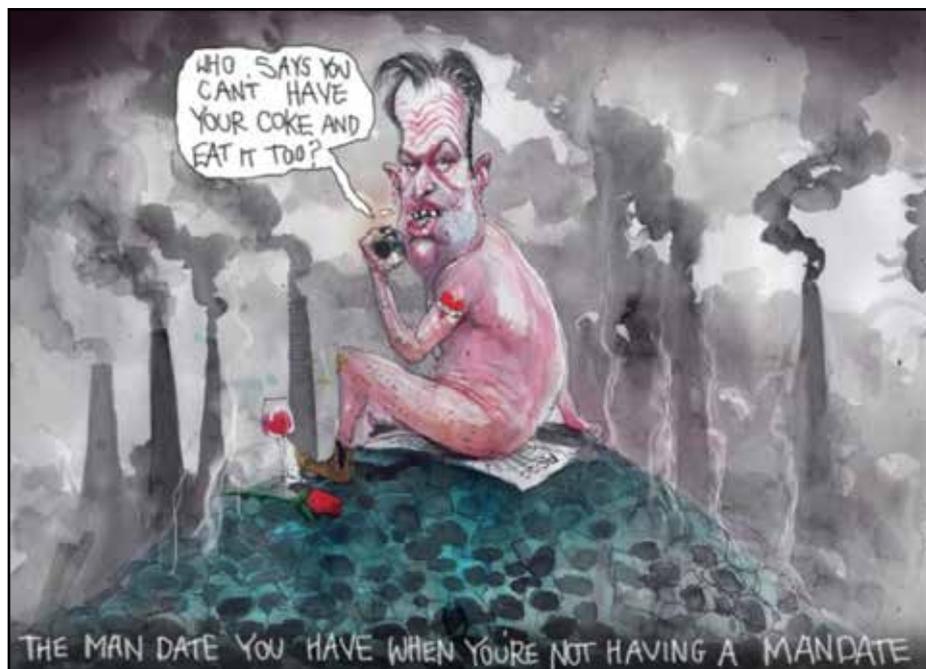
<https://www.afr.com/news/josh-frydenberg-warns-coal-loving-colleagues-its-over-20180731-h13ehr>

Josh Frydenberg warns pro-coal colleagues: We're carbon constrained

Ben Potter, AFR, 01/08/2018

Energy [minister] Josh Frydenberg has warned colleagues flirting with coal fired power plants as a solution to Australia's electricity problems that “we have to factor in a “carbon-constrained future”.

David Rowe's cartoon accompanied the AFR article 'Josh Frydenberg warns pro-coal colleagues: We're carbon constrained' (above right).



News this week ... from previous page

Mr Frydenberg told an Australian Clean Energy Summit dinner that extreme views on both the left and right had frustrated attempts to forge a durable solution to energy and climate policy. ...

But he reserved his sharpest criticism for colleagues still advocating for the construction of new coal-fired power stations ...

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/how-gina-rinehart-bought-the-ipa.11749>

How Gina Rinehart bought the IPA

Ross Jones, *Independent Australia*, 02/08/2018

A feud within the Rinehart family has inadvertently exposed financial shenanigans by Australia's foremost purveyors of climate change deception – the IPA. ...

Bianca wanted to know why Gina had seen fit to donate money to causes like, for example, the Institute of Public Affairs. ...

Without Gina's backing, the IPA would be deeply in the red. It is crystal clear the organisation's claims of being thrust to the forefront of Australian public life on the back of thousands of small members and contributors is a total fabrication. The truth is, Rinehart, through Hancock Prospecting, is the major shareholder of the IPA. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/gas-shortage-soon-as-victorian-output-falls/news-story/470c6c8e23fd860c1b47442215f82c04>

Gas shortage looms as Victorian output falls

Perry Williams, *The Australian*, 30/07/2018

Fresh gas shortages on Australia's east coast could emerge from mid-2019 ... a private firm fronted by former BHP executives has warned.

Venice Energy, the Mitsubishi-backed venture that aims to import liquefied natural gas into South Australia, says Victoria's gas shortages will start appearing from the middle of next year. ...

Venice, which aims to start LNG imports by 2020, also floated the prospect of "gas swaps" with AGL Energy's proposed gas project at Crib Point in Victoria marking the first sign of possible collaboration between two of the four proposed import plants which could start operations in the next few years. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/bhp-approved-mca-chief-tania-constable-backs-energy-guarantee/news-story/7cf523a7fe1cf586eba19c719c84d2dd>

BHP-approved MCA chief Tania Constable backs energy guarantee

Matt Chambers, *The Australian*, 03/08/2018

New Minerals Council of Australia chief executive Tania Constable, who has taken the job in the wake of a BHP-led sacking of predecessor Brendan Pearson over coal advocacy, has called for federal and state governments to pass the national energy guarantee to provide certainty in energy policy. ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/mining/new-mca-boss-vows-technology-neutral-energy-policy-20180723-h131pd>

New Minerals Council boss vows technology-neutral energy policy

Peter Ker, *AFR*, 03/08/2018

New Minerals Council chief Tania Constable has vowed to take a "technology-neutral" approach to climate and energy policy, signalling the pro-coal agenda run by her predecessor Brendan Pearson is dead.

In her first interview since assuming one of the most powerful roles in Australian industry, Ms Constable highlighted cuts to corporate tax rates and project approval processes among her top priorities, and did not rule out a television advertising campaign before the federal election to get the MCA's views across. ...

An economist and lawyer by trade with an MBA, Ms Constable is the first female chief executive in MCA history.

She spent many years in the federal public service including four years as head of resources within the Department of Industry.

That Canberra experience has been complemented by time running the Co2CRC member organisation, which is developing carbon sequestration projects in Victoria ...

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/barnaby-joyce-neg-coal-and-general-nutcase-stuff.11750>

Barnaby Joyce, NEG, coal and general nutcase stuff

Giles Parkinson, *Independent Australia*, 03/08/2018

The timetable for a final decision on the controversial National Energy Guarantee (NEG) has been thrown into the air, amid a renewed push for coal generation by the National Party ...

Victoria, Queensland and the ACT have indicated they will not sign up to the NEG without knowing that the Coalition party room is locked in behind it and will not then renegotiate on any emissions guarantee.

Their fears are being compounded by the actions of the Nationals and the Liberal Party, with Resources Minister Matt Canavan taking the extraordinary step of "dispatching" Member for Dawson George Christensen to Japan ... to try to drum up financing for a new facility in Australia.

That is a red line for the Labor States – and for most observers – simply because it's a nonsense to suggest that a new coal-fired generator could do anything to address high electricity prices. All the modelling suggests that it would do the opposite ...

Member for New England and former Nationals Leader Barnaby Joyce is also back on the warpath, suggesting that if the emissions reduction burden falls on the agriculture sector – as it must do with such a weak target in electricity and if Australia is to meet its Paris targets – then that is nutcase stuff". ...

Caught in the middle is the clean energy industry, with divisions running deep over whether it is best to sign up to a platform, ... or to have no platform at all.

FFB

Fossil Fool Bulletin is emailed to subscribers every Tuesday.



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



SIGN UP for your FREE subscription
Past issues available to download

**SAVING THE LAND, AIR AND WATER
FOR THE KIDDIES**

www.knitting-nannas.com

