



Fossil Fool Bulletin

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

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

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W&J Traditional Owners take Adani land use appeal to full bench of Federal Court

Wangan and Jagalingou Traditional Owners opposing Adani's Carmichael Mine have served notice of a Federal Court full bench appeal.

The Traditional Owners strongly reject last month's decision of a single Judge of the Federal Court and will seek to have the decision reversed and the Adani Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) thrown out.

Adrian Burragubba, a Traditional Owner of W&J country, and W&J Council spokesperson says: "We will not abide a ruling that says it's legal to have our ancient laws and culture, and our enduring rights in our lands and waters, merely voted away by a group of people who do not have the traditional authority to surrender our native title".

Qld govt won't extinguish title until Adani has the money

In a new development, the Queensland Government has confirmed that it will only act to take W&J native title for the Adani project when it has the financial capacity to complete it. This follows a resolution of the Queensland ALP state conference in early September 2018.

Adrian Burragubba said, "We are not conceding our rights under our laws and customs to this court decision. We are resolute in putting a stop to the pretence that the 'Adani ILUA' amounts to the consent of the Traditional Owners of Wangan and Jagalingou country to the extinguishment of our native title.

"While we have this court case running in the higher courts, whether it takes many months or years, Adani has not

achieved 'conclusive registration' of its ILUA. The Government should refuse to act on it, and banks should refuse to finance the project.

"Adani engineered this pretence, the Government chose not to side with us, and their lawyers and the Native Title services bureaucrats provided the paperwork for an act of betrayal. Nothing changes those facts for us. They refused to accept our original decisions and interfered in our business", he said.

Ms Linda Bobongie, Chairperson of the W&J Council says: "The State ALP has gone some way in passing a resolution calling for financial close before they take our native title for Adani, but the Queensland Government must unequivocally rule out extinguishing our native title - now or ever."

"Extinguishing our native title is a deeply troubling issue for us. The Government knows it does not have to extinguish our rights in the land for Adani, even if the Adani ILUA remains on the Tribunal register.

"The ILUA itself makes that clear. The Queensland Government has 'unfettered discretion' and is not obliged to extinguish native title. Its signing of the ILUA 'does not constitute approval or endorsement of the project'.

Adani signed a sham agreement

"The problem with the ILUA is Adani and the State government failed to obtain our genuine consent and signed a sham agreement.

"We suffer under bad laws and pro-

cesses. It is imperative that the Native Title Act be reformed in line with Australia's obligations under the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the right to free, prior and informed consent.

"It's time for Governments to stand up for our rights", she concluded.



Adani slashes rail cost with shorter, narrow gauge line



Adani has cut about \$1 billion off the cost of its proposed coal train line, making it easier to finance. It is trying to sell off a share in its Abbot Point export terminal to raise finance.

• See media coverage, pages 8-9.

• P 2: C&C say Adani water bores are illegal

• P 4-5: Communities act against fossil foolery

• P 6: Call for AGL to submit EES for Crib Pt

Coast and Country says Adani has illegally constructed water bores at Carmichael site

Coast and Country has released evidence showing Adani has been illegally constructing water bores at their Carmichael coal mine site in Queensland's Galilee Basin.

Spokesperson for Coast and Country, Derec Davies said, "Coast and Country identified that in March this year Adani started clearing and constructing illegal water bores at the Carmichael Coal Mine site. Our evidence shows that without doubt, Adani have broken the law by beginning work in breach of their Environmental Authority and before they have necessary approvals. The responsible Department says it is now investigating."

"Adani have ploughed ahead with the mine project and put at risk Queensland's water supply. High quality aerial imagery shows equipment, drill holes, driller sumps and the cleared countryside which highlights the impact of the illegal activity."

"The fact is that Adani broke the law by drilling the six water bores. To make matters worse, in April 2018 Adani provided false and misleading information to the Queensland Government and lied by failing to report this environmental disturbance."

Traditional owners call for action

Adrian Burragubba, a traditional owner of W&J country and spokesperson for the W&J Traditional Owners Council said: "The Queensland Government has licensed this unscrupulous corporation and now they must take responsibility for any destruction that is occurring on our country. They must investigate and prosecute Adani for any unlawful activity."

"We are very concerned about the impacts on our cultural heritage and ancient story places from Adani's land clearing and other industrial disturbance. It is a grave matter for us that their works could do permanent damage to our sacred Doongmabulla springs."

"We have been concerned about activity by Adani contractors on our country over some months now. We will be making our own investigations into what Adani have been doing there and will hold both the company and the Government to account."



An aerial shot of a water bore, allegedly constructed illegally, for de-watering of coal seams prior to mining by Adani. Photo: Coast and Country.

"Adani have been camped on our country hoping to one day build their mine. Starting work illegally only adds insult to the injury that they are there without our consent. We will continue to pursue them through the courts, and with our demands on the Government."

"We have seen the report from the lawyers at the Environmental Defenders Office, and it appears that coal seam dewatering bores and other extensive groundwork is being done in breach of Adani's environmental license, and that Adani may have lied to the Queensland Government about it."

"We have known all along that Adani can't be trusted with our country, to respect our rights, or be custodians of the environment. The Government can restore some faith by interrogating Adani's conduct and taking whatever action needed to safeguard our country and culture", he concluded.

Adani does not have all approvals

Coast and Country said, "Contrary to popular belief, Adani do not have all their environmental approvals. They are yet to convince either the Commonwealth or the Queensland Government that drilling into Queensland's groundwater will not put Queensland's water at risk and that the one-million-year-old Doongmabulla Springs will not dry up and go extinct."

"In February 2016 Adani were granted an Environmental Authority. That approval explicitly states what Adani can and cannot do. The Environmental Au-

thority seeks to protect the one million year old springs by requiring Adani obtain approval for a Groundwater Dependant Ecosystem Management Plan. This plan has been deemed inadequate and has not yet been approved, which means Adani are not allowed to start dewatering coal seams via these bores. By interfering with the aquifer, which is under pressure, Adani have potentially depressurised it."

Severe impacts on water supplies

"We are especially concerned about potentially severe impacts this illegal activity will have on Queensland groundwater and water supplies, and the oasis at the Great Artesian Basin's Doongmabulla Springs."

"Adani must work to environmental standards and within the law. What they have done is illegal and puts Queensland's precious environment at risk. Adani should be prosecuted," said Mr Davies.

Coast and Country is represented by lawyers from the Environmental Defenders Office Queensland, an independent non-profit community legal centre specialising in public interest environmental law.

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Leigh Creek legal challenge in court this week

Traditional Owners are demanding the South Australian Premier put an end to underground coal gasification (UCG), which threatens to put sacred sites of the Flinders Rangers at risk of toxic contamination

The Traditional Owners have the support of scientists and 13 community groups, including Doctors for the Environment Australia and Lock the Gate Alliance, who have signed on to a letter from the Traditional Owners to the Premier.

The Anggumathahna Camp Law Mob Elders, Aroona Aboriginal Council, and the Adnyamathanha Yura Language and Heritage Association have written to the Premier, following the state government's approval of UCG at Leigh Creek.

In Queensland a court found UCG, which involves setting fire to coal underground to extract gas, had

caused serious environmental harm in the Western Downs farming area and heard evidence of contamination of land and serious impacts on human health.

Support for the local community campaign comes as a legal challenge is due to be heard against the Leigh Creek underground coal gasification project in South Australia's Supreme Court early next week.

"Defending the rights of our people"

Traditional Owner, Dr Jillian Marsh, said: "Together we are defending the rights of our people to access our birthplaces and burial grounds and to eat from the land without concern for contamination. We are sick of being ignored by the Premier and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, whose government has approved UCG on our land, despite our clear opposition."

Professor John Willoughby of Doctors for the Environment Australia said: "The idea of setting fire under the ground on which we walk is appalling – all for the purpose of extracting more coal. Workers and people living in surrounding areas will face increased health risks from any gas and toxins released."

"In approving this the SA Government has also ignored that it will add another coal-mine's worth of global warming."

Lock the Gate Alliance spokesperson, Carmel Flint said: "We've seen the impacts of this dangerous, toxic industry in the Western Downs farming region of Queensland, where contamination was found on surrounding properties and workers investigating the mine site had to be hospitalised. We must not allow this toxic legacy to be left in South Australia as well."

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NT fracking research to be done by organisation with fundamental conflict of interest, says Australia Institute

Research by The Australia Institute examines the fundamental conflict of interest that underlies the Gas Industry Social and Environmental Alliance (GISERA), making it an inappropriate organisation to undertake research to evaluate the social and environmental impacts of unconventional gas development.

Key points include:

- GISERA is an alliance between the five largest unconventional gas companies operating in Australia (Australia Pacific LNG, Origin Energy, QGC, AGL and Santos) and the CSIRO. All of these companies have a clear vested interest in the outcomes of GISERA research.
- Over half of GISERA's funding comes from the gas industry.
- Gas industry executives sit on all GISERA's research management committees.
- GISERA's conflict of interest policy does not address the organisation's underlying conflict of interest inherent in its membership, funding and structure.
- GISERA consistently fails to identify gas industry involvement in GISERA funding and research, instead referring

only to the CSIRO which is one of five partners in the alliance.

It would be a simple matter for the government to levy the gas industry for the cost of this kind of research and distribute it to universities and other research organisations that are not dependent on gas industry funding or allow gas industry executives to oversee the research.

"The Northern Territory Government should not be handing taxpayers' money to the gas industry to do research."

These are huge multinational companies that can afford to pay for their own research," says Mark Ogge, Principal Adviser at The Australia Institute.

"It would be a simple matter for a levy to be placed on the industry and the money distributed to any number of highly qualified independent researchers at Australian universities who are not funded directly by the gas industry."

A repeat of 'tobacco science'

"The community wouldn't accept governments relying on the tobacco industry funded research into the health impacts of smoking, or asbestos industry funded research into the impacts of asbestos."

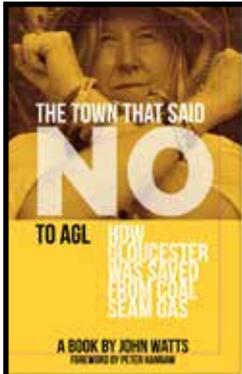
So why does the Government rely on research into fracking funded by the fracking industry?

Billions of dollars at stake

"There is a fundamental conflict of interest at the heart of GISERA. It is an alliance between the five largest unconventional gas companies in Australia and the CSIRO."

"These companies have the potential to earn billions of dollars if their projects being allowed to proceed."

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People in action: Widespread protests against fossil foolery



LEFT: Bill Ryan, a 92-year-old war veteran, and 72-year-old Knitting Nanna, Susie Gold, chained themselves to the railway in an attempt to stop coal trains from reaching Newcastle's Kooragang Coal Port.

The SMH reported, "They were the first of dozens to be arrested and charged with numerous offences, including hinder working of mining equipment, cause obstruction to railway locomotive or rolling stock, enter inclosed lands interfere conduct of business, and armed with intent to commit indictable offence.

"They were joined by more than 50 activists throughout the day, at various locations near or at Kooragang Coal Port, as part of a multi-pronged operation to halt coal movements in Newcastle."

BELOW: More anti-coal activities around Newcastle over the weekend of September 15-16.

Photos: Frontline ction on Coal and Knitting Nannas Against Gas



People in action: Widespread protests against fossil foolery



ABOVE: Knitting Nannas pose during their fourth annual conference at Glenrock, near Newcastle.

LEFT: Shenannagans, Thelma and Louise style!

BOTTOM LEFT: Action outside Parliament House in Canberra last week.

BELOW: Nurses in action at Newcastle.

BOTTOM: People protest AGL's proposed gas import terminal at Crib Point, Victoria.



Call for AGL to submit full EES on Crib Point gas import terminal



An LNG tanker nudging up to a floating storage and regasification unit. Residents of Crib Point and the peaceful Westernport area don't want to see this in their bay and adjacent Ramsar-listed wetland.

Environment and Westernport-based community groups say AGL's proposed massive gas import plant at Crib Point near Hastings requires a full Environmental Effects Statement (EES).

They have called on the Andrews Government to guarantee it will not fast-track this enormous and polluting development.

"AGL has just submitted their referral documentation to the relevant minister for their proposed gas import terminal. We urgently need Planning Minister Richard Wynne to require a full Environmental Effects Statement to ensure Westernport is not sacrificed for AGL's gain" said Mark Wakeham, CEO of Environment Victoria.

Emissions not accounted for

"This project could double the amount of gas burnt in Victoria and greatly increase Victoria's climate pollution. The emissions associated with producing Liquid Natural Gas for import have not been accounted for in AGL's referral."

"Victorians won't be hoodwinked. Gas expansion is not necessary to secure Victoria's energy supply and this project will lock in high gas prices. A recent Macquarie Bank Report found the import terminal development could even increase prices paid by families and businesses. AGL and other large energy corporations will be the only winners if this damaging project goes ahead.

"Let's be clear. Domestic gas prices are rising because big energy companies like AGL have sold off our domestic gas supplies overseas for a higher profit.

Contempt for community concerns

Save Westernport spokesperson Louise Page said, "AGL is showing utter contempt for community concerns.

"This development will be 300 metres long and have untold impact on local marine life in our bay. Westernport Bay is home to over one third of Victoria's endangered species.

"AGL wants this project waved through without proper approvals despite it threatening the feeding and breeding grounds of local species.

"Locals are concerned about the day to day operational impacts on communities as well as marine and bird life such as continual noise and intrusive artificial light.

"The project delivers no benefit to the community, and AGL has clearly underestimated the social impact if it thinks it will get away with avoiding an Environmental Effects Statement."

**No AGL Gas
Save Westernport
is calling on people to
gather outside AGL's AGM
on September 26,
9.45-11 am at the
Melbourne Recital Centre**

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Govt lags behind on climate change

The annual Climate of the Nation report has tracked Australian attitudes on climate change for over a decade.

This is the first Climate of the Nation report produced by The Australia Institute, after being produced for a decade by the Climate Institute.

The Australia Institute is delighted to be continuing this important work.

The 2018 Climate of the Nation report was launched today in Parliament House by former Liberal party leader and Professor at ANU Crawford School of Public Policy, John Hewson.

Key findings include:

- 73% of Australians are concerned about climate change, up from 66% in 2017
- 70% of Australians agree that the Government needs to implement a plan to ensure the orderly closure of old coal plants and their replacement with clean energy,
- 67% want to end coal-fired power within the next 20 years, up from 61% in 2017
- 15% of Nationals voters do not think climate change is occurring (down from 29% in 2017), and 45% of One Nation voters agree the seriousness of climate change is exaggerated, down from 56% in 2017
- Majority of Australians (52%) blame the privatisation of electricity generation and supply for increasing electricity prices

The decade of policy uncertainty on climate change and energy seems set to continue, but the results from Climate of the Nation make it clear the public is way ahead of the government.

Concern about the impacts of climate change is growing, Australians overwhelmingly support clean, renewable energy and the orderly phasing out of coal-fired power, and they continue to want to see Australia play a leading role in tackling climate change. Most crucially, Australians do not think the Government is doing enough to address climate change.

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David Rowe reproduced with permission: <https://www.facebook.com/david.rowe.5070>



Miners taking unlicensed water

The NSW Natural Resources Access Regulator has commenced an investigation into the capture of surface water by mining companies, as farmers in north-west NSW claim that Maules Creek coal mine has captured millions of litres of water without obtaining water licences.

Lock the Gate Alliance presented analysis of the massive capture of rainwater by the coal mining industry at a special hearing of the Senate Inquiry into Water Use by the Extractive Industries, held last week.

Analysis presented showed that coal mines like Maules Creek coal have not obtained licences for the huge amount of water they capture as surface runoff and seem to be relying on a legally dubious exemption to avoid licensing requirements that apply to other landholders.

Lock the Gate Alliance spokesperson Carmel Flint said, "There is a legal cloud hanging over the water take of the Maules Creek coal mine and other NSW coal mines.

"We have recently referred this matter to the Natural Resources Access Regulator, which has agreed to investigate, because we believe that there are no valid legal grounds for the mining industry using billions of litres of water a year which it has no licence to take.

"As the drought bites hard it is scandalous for the mining industry to

take water it is not licenced to use and we're calling on the Minister for Regional Water, Niall Blair, to intervene urgently and get the mining industry under control," she said.

Graziers gobsmacked

Lower Maules Creek grazier Sally Hunter said, "We are struggling with a devastating drought and are gobsmacked to learn that the Maules Creek coal mine is capturing vast quantities of water without holding the relevant water licences.

"It seems that mining companies are intercepting large volumes of surface water entirely outside the water planning system that the rest of us have to abide by. It's an outrageous double-standard.

"The farming community has been forced to accept reductions in water allocations over the last decade so we are floored to learn that big mining has come in and dodged the rules.

"For the mines to be capturing this water means that there is less water running into our creeks and rivers and recharging our groundwater. The scale of the take and the changes to the landscape caused by mining are having a flow on effect," she said.

Mines intercept large volumes of rainfall during operations, most of which is caught in dams and used to run mining operations.

Inside the news

It was all action in the **Newcastle** region over the weekend, with numerous protests **halting coal trains** and equipment at Australia's largest coal port. There were several arrests (p14) and over 500 activists were said to be in the area.

Leigh Creek Energy will be back in court this Tuesday when the traditional owners' **injunction** to stop underground coal gasification is heard. If the injunction is defeated, the company says it will **seek costs** of up to \$50,000 per day, and damages (p13).

The enormous **hazard** presented by **gas pipelines** shook America last week, when **100 buildings caught fire**, one man died and 12 people were injured by faulty gas lines (p12). "It looked like **Armageddon**, it really did," said an emergency responder.

AGL and APA have submitted their applications for a **gas import terminal and pipeline** at Crib Point (p12). Residents intend to make their opinion known with a protest outside AGL's AGM next week in Melbourne.

Adani's new, **downsized plan** for a coal railway has activists worried it might be able to finance the venture (p8). But the company is in trouble over allegations of **illegal drilling**, and is the subject of an appeal over **land use rights** by the W&J traditional owners.

Meanwhile, **Clive Palmer** says he will back up his plans to mine Queensland's Galilee Basin with a new **\$1.54 billion coal-fired power station** (p11).

As the coal lobby capitalises on policy chaos, Trevor St Baker's **Delta Electricity** says it will put up its hand for **Federal Government funds** and extend Vales Point power station to operate until 2049, a \$750 million project (p10).

More than 40 Hunter groups and individuals have objected to the **Bayswater power station upgrade without air pollution reduction** technology. Bayswater emits 63,470 tonnes of **sulphur dioxide** into the Hunter atmosphere, more than any other power plant in Australia or the United States where stricter air pollution curbs apply (p11).

In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 17,600 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links to view original articles.](#) (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-09-12/adani-ground-water-bores-investigated-by-queensland-department/10231752>

Adani groundwater bores investigated amid claims they were sunk without approval

Mark Willacy, ABC, 12/09/2018

The Queensland environment department has launched an investigation into a series of groundwater bores drilled by Indian miner Adani, which conservationists say were sunk without approval.

The environmental group Coast and Country has obtained high resolution satellite and drone imagery which it says shows the “illegal” works at the site of Adani’s controversial Carmichael coal mine project in north Queensland.

“Adani have sunk six dewatering bores,” said the group’s Derec Davies.

“They’ve needed approval, a groundwater approval, for these bores. They don’t have that.

“They’ve drilled into Great Artesian Basin aquifers, they’ve put at risk our groundwater particularly at a time when half the country’s in drought.” ...

The company has told the ABC that it is abiding by the conditions of the Carmichael project’s approvals.

“Drilling has been undertaken at the Carmichael mine site to take geological samples and monitor underground water levels,” said an Adani spokeswoman.

“This is project stage one activity as permitted under Environmental Authority for the mine, which was issued in April 2016.”

An Adani spokeswoman also said the company had “not been notified of an investigation.” ...

<https://www.echo.net.au/2018/09/adani-caught-drilling-mine-site-without-permission/>

Adani caught out drilling at mine site without permission

Echonet Daily, 12/09/2018

Indian-owned mining corporation Adani, which just this week was fined by the Queensland Government over

its massive spillage of coal laden water into the Great Barrier Marine Park, has been caught flouting environmental laws again.

This time the company has been found to be drilling bores into the Great Artesian Basin at the site of what would be the largest coal mine in the world, without permission and in the middle of a drought.

GetUp Environment Campaigner Sam Register said Adani had been ‘caught red-handed lying to the Queensland Government about its environmental vandalism and must stop drilling immediately’ ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/sep/12/state-and-federal-investigation-launched-in-to-adanis-carmichael-water-drilling>

State and federal investigation launched into Adani’s Carmichael water drilling

Lisa Cox, The Guardian, 12/09/2018

The Australian government will investigate allegations Adani has drilled illegal groundwater bores at its Carmichael mine site. ...

The Queensland government said it was investigating the works to determine the location and purpose of the bores. On Wednesday afternoon, the federal environment minister, Melissa Price, confirmed Canberra would also investigate the matter, following calls from conservation groups and Labor.

“I can confirm the Department of Environment and Energy is working with the Queensland Environment Department to investigate allegations that Adani sunk groundwater dewatering bores before relevant plans were approved,” she said. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/adani-hits-back-over-false-environmental-claims/news-story/059f7d05ea8f0b45b242235eb3666049>

Adani hits back over ‘false’ environmental claims

Leighton Smith, Mackay Daily Mercury, 12/09/2018

Environmentalists have accused Adani of conducting unapproved illegal works on their proposed mine site, but the mining company has hit back in an attempt to set the record straight. ...

Adani’s media spokesperson vehemently denied the ABC and environmentalist’s claims that they were in breach, providing the “correct facts” regarding the situation.

“Adani Mining is not de-watering for mining operations,” the Adani spokesperson said.

“Drilling has been undertaken at the Carmichael mine site to take geological samples and monitor underground water levels and we have sent the regulator reports on these bores which are publicly available online. ...



<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/national/adani-to-speed-up-delivery-and-reduce-cost-of-rail-line-into-galilee-basin-with-new-design/news-story/3f1c87a8e333fb85137222c6e996d4e6>

Adani to speed up delivery and reduce cost of rail line into Galilee Basin with new design

Clare Armstrong, Townsville Bulletin, 13/09/2018

Adani has developed a new railway design for their Carmichael mine to reduce capital costs and speed up delivery of the project.

The company had previously planned to build a 388km standard gauge railway between the Galilee Basin and Abbot Point Port but will instead leverage existing rail infrastructure and build a narrow gauge line that will be about 200km.

The existing rail infrastructure into the Galilee Basin is owned by Aurizon.

Adani's original rail project was expected to cost about \$2.3 billion to build, however, it is understood the new design, which is half the length of the previous plan, would dramatically decrease that cost. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/adani-coalmine-close-to-securing-deal/news-story/e033add22ead91e82c7c593b0523a20c>

Adani coalmine 'close' to securing deal

Michael McKenna & Jared Owens, *The Australian*, 14/09/2018

Adani is touting the imminent construction of its Carmichael mega-mine, opening Queensland's untapped Galilee coal basin and re-emerging as a political lightning rod ahead of the federal election.

Local Adani boss Lucas Dow yesterday said the Indian conglomerate was close to "ripping into" the \$16.5 billion project – Australia's largest proposed coalmine – after halving its \$2.2bn planned rail link to port. ...

Federal Resources Minister Matt Canavan said the railway could "kickstart" up to six mines proposed in the Galilee Basin, in central Queensland, potentially employing 15,000 coalminers. ...

Mr Dow said Adani was finalising funding for the cheaper rail line, which

was the "key piece in the puzzle" and critical to existing finance agreements for the rest of the project.

The rail line will connect with central Queensland's existing Aurizon freight network, and could be used by the other mines proposed for the resource-rich basin with a total coal-hauling capacity of 40 million tonnes each year. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/adani-to-fast-track-queensland-mine-project/news-story/b9204ad682f7fe5256cbcf8d26d0e4a6>

Adani to fast-track Queensland mine project

Renee Viellaris, *Courier-Mail*, 14/09/2018

Adani is tipped to start construction on its job-creating megamine before Christmas by unveiling plans to accelerate the project, which could finally spark pay rises for Queenslanders.

The Indian energy giant is preparing to sell down its interest in Abbot Point Port to finance a shorter railway between the Galilee Basin and Abbot Point by linking it with an existing Aurizon network.

About 3000 jobs will be needed to build an airport, worker site and the mine itself. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/lnp-welcome-adani-progress-but-greens-say-its-a-short-cut-prompted-by-lack-of-finance/news-story/012c71cd-3e677c148284dfee2ad39273>

LNP welcome Adani progress but Greens say it's a "short cut" prompted by lack of finance

Clare Armstrong, *Townsville Bulletin*, 14/09/2018

Adani has abandoned its plan to build an entire new rail line into the Galilee Basin and will instead dramatically reduce costs by using part of the existing Queensland network. ...

But Greens Senator Larissa Waters said the redesign was a "cheaper shortcut" because Adani couldn't get private financing for the original plan.

"Now that they are under investigation by both the Queensland and federal Environment Departments I doubt they will get finance for this shorter rail line either," she said. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/adanis-shorter-railway-design-inadvertently-avoids-juru-dispute/news-story/ac08fb0498fc22aefdfc-4d0889ce5461>

Adani's shorter railway design inadvertently avoids Juru dispute

Clare Armstrong, *Townsville Bulletin*, 15/09/2018

Adani's bid to build a more cost-effective railway into the Galilee Basin has potentially helped the company avoid an indigenous cultural heritage dispute. ...

The new line design still travels through two traditional owner areas – Jangga people and Wangan and Jagalingou people, but it no longer crosses Birri or Juru land.

In June, members of Juru Enterprise Limited — an indigenous corporation that represents the interests of the Juru people – alleged Adani's proposed rail line crossed through cultural heritage sites. ...

It is understood Adani has not yet submitted a formal application for access to connect to the Aurizon line. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/welcome-news-on-mine-line/news-story/016b31ac3cb13fcb151ea47ee4bd5239>

Welcome news on mine line

Jenna Cairney, *Townsville Bulletin*, 14/09/2018

After months of radio silence, there was the first piece of significant news regarding mining giant Adani's plans for the Galilee Basin.

And it will be welcome news indeed for most North Queenslanders desperate to see this project take shape.

Cost reduction means work could begin before Christmas

Adani to fast-track megamine

A new rail network design
to reduce costs and accelerate project development

Previous rail network design

EXCLUSIVE RENEÉ VIELLARIS

LATEST LINE: A diagram of the proposed revised rail line from the Carmichael coal mine; (insets) project protesters and Adani Mining CEO Lucas Dow.

market for construction and mining workers tighten.

Adani Mining chief executive officer Lucas Dow said yesterday it would dramatically shorten its proposed railway, meaning it would not need to

interested in buying a stake in the port. It could be done within months.

Mr Dow said the state would benefit from the project, but the big winners would be Townsville, Rockhampton, Bowen and Mackay.

"There are six proposed mines at the moment in the Galilee Basin, delivering more than 15,000 jobs," Senator Canavan said.

"This particular rail line would kickstart those opportunities. It would

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-09-15/adani-site-to-remain-under-native-title-until-finance-confirmed/10249692>

Adani mine site to remain under native title until finance confirmed, Minister says

Josh Robertson, ABC, 15/09/2018

Traditional owners of Adani's proposed mine site will keep their native title rights unless the Indian corporation can prove it has finance in place for the multi-billion-dollar project, the Queensland Government says.

It follows pressure within the Labor Party for the State Government to hold off sealing Adani's takeover of the Carmichael mine site, which would permanently wipe out a native title claim by the Wangan and Jagalingou (W&J) people.

Adani, which this week unveiled a cut-price rail plan in a bid to attract investors, had previously urged the Government to go ahead with converting the site to freehold because it had an Indigenous land use agreement (ILUA) with the W&J.

But Mines Minister Anthony Lynham gave the first public confirmation the Government was following the position resolved at this month's state Labor conference, which recognised the ILUA was "contested amongst traditional owners". ...

In a statement, the Minister repeated the wording of the Labor conference resolution.

"The Government has maintained that Adani needs to prove they can reach financial close [certainty] before we finalise processes for this project," he said. ...

Tim Buckley, an analyst from the pro-renewables Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, said Adani was closer to its goal after announcing a rail plan that was \$1 billion cheaper.

"But Adani has worn the financial risk for eight years on a project that might never get to fruition, and it's still nowhere near financial close today," he said.

COAL ROCKS ON

Maules Creek coal mine under scrutiny by farmers over vast surface water harvest

Joanna Woodburn, ABC, 10/09/2018

A New South Wales coal mine is being accused of inappropriately taking more surface water than it is entitled to.

A review of Whitehaven Coal's Maules Creek Mine near Narrabri by the campaign group Lock the Gate showed it captured 1,800 million litres (ML) of surface water in 2016, despite being licenced to take 30 million litres.

Surface water is water that is collected from rainfall and run off.

An examination of surface water licences in New South Wales has been unable to find any other surface water licences held by the mine to justify the additional water. ...

<https://www.singletonargus.com.au/story/5633550/wallaby-scrub-road-gazetted-closed-and-sold-update/?cs=1534>

Minister Paul Toole has today gazetted and closed Wallaby Scrub Road

Louise Nicholls, Singleton Argus, 07/09/2018

It has been a very busy day for the government agencies working on the closure of Wallaby Scrub Road.

The Singleton Argus was notified directly by Warkworth mine's owner Yancoal that the Minister for Lands, Paul Toole, had gazetted and therefore closed the road today.

At the same time it appears Singleton Council, the owner of the road, has finalised its sale to Yancoal, who need the road closed to enable them to continue the expansion of their Warkworth open cut coal mine.

Organisers of a rally that was to be held at the intersection of Wallaby Scrub and Putty roads on Saturday, must now gain permission from the new owners Yancoal for it to proceed.

At Bulga Community Hall's Friday raffie night police were in attendance and questioned people about the rally telling them that protesters would not be tolerated. ...

Friends of Wallaby Scrub Road, spokesman Chris Searle said the group were outraged that the Minister for Lands and Forestry, Paul Toole, has today closed Wallaby Scrub Road against clear legal advice from a senior counsel, NSW Environmental Defenders Office and a former NSW Assistant

Crown Solicitor that the gazetted closure of the road would be contrary to law and invalid.

Clearly the Minister does not believe in providing procedural fairness or complying with the rule of law or the laws of the Parliament of NSW, he said.

<https://www.lakesmail.com.au/story/5632203/powering-on-delta-electricitys-plan-for-a-70-year-old-vales-point-power-station/?cs=750>

The power station offloaded by the NSW Government for \$1 million suddenly has a future

Joanne McCarthy, Lakes Mail, 07/09/2018

Delta Electricity would put up its hand for any Federal Government funds on offer as it considers the feasibility of a \$750 million extension of Vales Point power station to operate until 2049, managing director Greg Everett said after the proposal was floated on Friday.

The Lake Macquarie coal-fired station offloaded by the NSW Government for \$1 million in 2015 made a \$113 million net profit in the past year on the back of high electricity prices.

But owner Trevor St Baker's comments that Vales Point could be refurbished to run until 2049, rather than close as currently expected in 2029, have highlighted instability in the energy industry after the Federal Government's failed National Energy Guarantee and in the absence of a national energy policy.

Mr Baker's comments came only days after new Energy Minister Angus Taylor warned the Federal Government may force AGL to sell rather than close Muswellbrook's Liddell coal-fired power station in 2022. ...

Australian National University centre for climate economics and policy director Professor Frank Jotzo said it was impossible to predict the timing of exit of any particular power station but "the economics of coal-fired power stations will deteriorate and they will continue to deteriorate simply because renewables are now the cheaper option".

"It's inevitable and inescapable that the transition to renewables is underway," Professor Jotzo said.

It would be "very difficult to conceive there's a case for a refurbishment of Vales Point to take the plant all the way to the 2040s and there's significant carbon risk into the future" of emissions targets making coal-fired power unviable, he said. ...

CONTACT FFB: Email
fossil.fool.bulletin@gmail.com
 with your comments & tips

https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/state/qld/2018/09/10/palmer-promises-new-coal-power-station/?utm_source=Adestra&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Morning%20News%2020180911

Palmer promises new coal-fired power station

AAP, New Daily, 11/09/2018

Clive Palmer says he will back up his plans to mine Queensland's Galilee Basin with a new \$1.54 billion coal-fired power station.

The former MP on Monday announced plans to build a 700 megawatt power station to support his mining interests in the coal-rich region, under a mining lease held by his company Waratah Coal. ...

Waratah Coal, a subsidiary of Mr Palmer's company Mineralogy, is seeking to amend a draft environmental authority to include the power station.

Mr Palmer says construction will get under way in June 2020 and be ready to provide power to his projects from December 2023.

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5634882/rush-for-bayswater-power-leaves-hunter-breathless/?cs=7573>

AGL's Bayswater power station upgrade plans is missing vital air pollution technology, say critics

Joanne McCarthy, Newcastle Herald, 10/09/2018

The NSW Government should reject a planned upgrade of Bayswater power station until owner AGL installs air pollution reduction technology that is standard in America, Europe, China and India, says a leading air pollution monitoring group. ...

"Bayswater power station emits more sulphur dioxide pollution than any single coal-fired power station in the United States and twice as much as the largest single emitter of sulphur dioxide pollution from a coal-fired power station," Environmental Justice Australia solicitor Bronya Lipski said in a submission to the NSW Government which has fast tracked the project as "critical infrastructure".

The downtime required to install new turbines and increase the Muswellbrook station's capacity by 100 megawatts through efficiency improvements was the ideal time to install best available technology to reduce sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, the EJA said.

It estimates the technology could reduce the power station's fine particle pollution emissions by up to 90 per cent. ...

More than 40 Hunter groups and individuals have objected to the Bayswater upgrade without the air pollution reduction technology.

In 2015-16 Bayswater emitted 63,470 tonnes of sulphur dioxide into the Hunter atmosphere, more than any other power plant in Australia or the United States where stricter air pollution curbs apply. ...

Studies by the NSW Environment Protection Authority have shown air pollution from Hunter and Central Coast power stations travels hundreds of kilometres to Sydney.

Last week more than 30 Hunter doctors invited NSW Health Minister Brad Hazzard and NSW Environment Minister Gabrielle Upton to stay overnight in the Upper Hunter and experience first-hand the combined air pollution from open cut coal mines and Bayswater and Liddell power stations. ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-09-15/mining-industry-confronted-over-cancer-risk-from-diesel-fumes/10209762>

Cancer risk from diesel fumes in underground mines prompts fears of industrial health disaster

Claire Moodie, ABC, 15/09/2018

Chris Davis arrives at his presentation to the mining industry armed with a box of sugar cubes, but there's nothing sweet about his message.

The former mining engineer is speaking out about what he believes is one of the biggest occupational health threats since asbestos — the diesel machinery exhaust fumes churned out by heavy machinery in many of Australia's underground mines.

"There are millions of nano diesel particles in the size of a sugar cube, coming from the exhaust of every diesel engine," he said.

"And every breath you take underground, you are inhaling nano diesel particulates on a massive scale." ...

"There is an ethical imperative to do what is right for society and we shouldn't endanger society just to make a quid," Mr Davis said.

Mr Davis has been presenting the latest research to mining executives and occupational health staff in Western Australia and Queensland, placing a sugar lump on each delegate's chair as a prop to try to quantify the invisible threat. ...

GAS, GAS, GAS

<https://thewest.com.au/business/oil-gas/nt-gas-could-change-aust-like-us-shale-ng-s-1889763>

NT gas 'could change Aust like US shale'

Greg Roberts, West Australian, 06/09/2018

The Northern Territory's massive gas reserves have been compared to the US shale gas resources that transformed America from an energy importer to exporter.

The NT holds enough natural gas to supply Australia for 200 years-plus, Resources and Northern Australia Minister Matt Canavan says.

Such abundant gas should enable Australia to reduce its current high energy prices, which were the fault of southern states preventing development, Senator Canavan told an NT Resources Week conference in Darwin on Wednesday. ...

Senator Canavan criticised the NT government's plan to introduce a new "hybrid" royalty scheme that the industry says will increase what they pay and discourage investment.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-09-12/australia-institute-gas-industry-input-fracking-gisera-csiro/10236724>

Australia Institute labels gas industry input in NT fracking impact research 'totally inappropriate'

Jane Bardon, ABC, 12/09/2018

The nation's five largest fracking companies are set to help measure the environmental impacts of fracking in the Northern Territory, presenting a "totally inappropriate" conflict of interest in the eyes of one thinktank.

Last week, the Northern Territory Government awarded a \$450,000 grant to the Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance (GISERA) to deliver "independent and transparent advice on gas development in the Territory".

GISERA is a collaboration between the CSIRO, which is Australia's national scientific research agency, federal and state governments and industry.

But as these industry participants are gas giants – Australia Pacific LNG, Origin Energy, QGC, AGL and Santos – questions have been raised about just how independent its advice will be.

The Australia Institute's principle advisor Mark Ogge said its policy regarding conflict of interest was inadequate. ...

Damian Barrett, director of CSIRO's onshore gas research and GISERA,

“flatly rejected” the questioning of GISERA’s independence, and cited established processes to ensure research was impartial. ...

The Territory Government also said it refuted the Australia Institute’s claims.

It said its fracking inquiry recommended that the gas industry should contribute to the research needed before fracking can start.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/east-coast-gas-prices-tipped-to-surge-warns-wood-mackenzie/news-story/992b8632aa8efc354f38b18d5b665fcd>

East coast gas prices tipped to surge warns Wood Mackenzie

Perry Williams, The Australian, 12/09/2018

Gas prices on Australia’s east coast are set to surge by up to 70 per cent over the next decade with the southern states forced to rely on LNG imports to get through peak demand in winter, consultancy Wood Mackenzie has warned. ...

Extra gas will need to be diverted from Queensland LNG producers into the southern markets by 2025 or earlier to meet winter demand with exporters to come under pressure to cut purchases of third-party gas to ensure enough is available for local users as conventional fields in Victoria, NSW and South Australia decline.

“The Queensland LNG export projects have shattered the east coast’s ‘cheap gas forever’ mentality,” Wood Mackenzie’s director, gas and LNG research Nicholas Browne said in a report. “We believe Australia’s domestic gas price is now inextricably linked to the global LNG price.” ...

https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/opinion/john-durie/sims-sidesteps-chinese-control-of-pipeline-assets/news-story/f2736d914932c2b2e8be72189c120c6e?log_in=1

Rod Sims sidesteps Chinese control of pipeline assets

John Durie, The Australian, 13/09/2018

After ACCC boss Rod Sims yesterday laid down the red carpet for CK Infrastructure’s APA takeover, the reality is two Chinese companies now control nearly all the east coast energy delivery infrastructure.

The two companies are: CKI, controlled by the Li family through its 28 per cent stake in CK Hutchison, which controls 77 per cent of CKI, and a combination of State Grid, which is 100 per cent owned by the Chinese government, and Singapore Power.

Sims waved through this deal based on the principle it was a bare transfer of monopoly power (APA) and as such the transaction doesn’t change the market power over consumers. ...

<https://www.theage.com.au/business/the-economy/canavan-warns-industry-gas-export-trigger-on-the-table-20180912-p503bm.html>

Canavan warns industry gas export trigger on the table

Cole Latimer, The Age, 12/09/2018

Federal Resources Minister Matt Canavan has warned energy industry heads the government will not hesitate to slash gas export levels if there is a domestic shortage.

The export trigger, the Australian Domestic Gas Security Mechanism (ADGSM), was a tool developed by the Turnbull government to ensure gas was diverted from booming export markets to domestic markets in the case of shortages.

Last year, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission had forecast a major domestic gas supply shortage of more than 100 petajoules by 2019 (one petajoule can supply a city the size of Wollongong in NSW for a year). This was driven in part by high LNG export levels.

It was averted by gas companies promising to divert increased supplies to domestic customers, pushing out a potential shortfall until 2030, although Victoria still faces a shortage in 2021 due to heavy winter demand. ...

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/curtis-island-lng-chiefs-agree-to-work-with-fed-go/3519598/>

Curtis Island LNG chiefs agree to work with Fed Government

Tegan Annett, Gladstone Observer, 13/09/2018

The heads of companies exporting liquefied natural gas from Curtis Island yesterday agreed to work with the Federal Government to help fend off gas price hikes or shortages.

Chief executives of Santos, Origin Energy and Shell were among those involved in a gas industry round-table discussion in Canberra with Resources Minister Matt Canavan about the potential for gas export restrictions and forecast price increases and shortages within the next year.

After the meeting Mr Canavan told media he looked forward to an agreement being signed for a deal that would extend a supply guarantee for the domestic market. ...

https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/world/2018/09/14/boston-towns-fire-dozens-gas-explosions/?utm_source=Adestra&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=PM%20Update%2020180914

‘It looked like Armageddon’: Towns on fire, dozens of gas explosions, mass evacuations

John Elder, New Daily, 14/09/2018

One man is dead and up to 12 injured after dozens of gas explosions believed to have been triggered by a natural gas pipeline in three towns north of Boston in the US have forced the evacuation of hundreds of residents.

Up to 100 buildings caught on fire after the explosions late afternoon Thursday (local time) in Lawrence, Andover and North Andover, about 40km north of the Massachusetts capital.

Entire neighbourhoods ran in panic from their homes, highway exits were blocked to keep traffic away from affected areas, and police ordered mass evacuations with up to 100 structure fires said to be burning – including dozens of houses that fire services were struggling to save. ...

The Massachusetts fire marshal’s office were investigating a report that the blasts had resulted from over-pressurisation of the gas line which was about to undergo an upgrade.

“This has been an overwhelming event,” Andover Fire Chief Michael Mansfield said.

“It looked like Armageddon, it really did.” ...

IMPORT INSANITY

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/agl-brings-forward-victorian-lng-terminal-plan/news-story/547ca1cb411fb1901c4797d2b8e0554f>

AGL brings forward Victorian LNG terminal plan

Matt Chambers, The Australian, 14/09/2018

AGL Energy has brought forward plans for a \$250 million Victorian LNG terminal as it braces for an expected 2021 domestic gas supply crunch, declaring the shortage and associated price hikes could be worse if bad weather restricts growing wind and solar power supply.

In documents submitted to the Victorian government this week, AGL said it wanted the Crib Point import terminal, 65km southeast of Melbourne on the Mornington Peninsula, operating in the first half of 2020.

This brings forward a “during 2020-21” target issued in June, showing the desire to import gas has not slowed in

the wake of last month's sudden exit of chief executive Andy Vesey.

AGL also disputed recent Australian Energy Market Operator forecasts that the east coast gas market would be oversupplied throughout next decade. ...

AGL is one of four proponents of LNG import terminals targeting east coast gas markets, where prices have risen and supply is tight. The tight markets are due to Queensland LNG export plants, state government onshore development restrictions, declining Bass Strait production and the growing cost of developing new Australian gas supply.

The new timetable brings it in line with that of the Andrew Forrest-backed Australian Industrial Energy slated for Port Kembla. ...

LEIGH CK STINK

<https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/business/sa-business-journal/leigh-creek-gas-mining-program-in-the-balance-as-adnyamathanha-traditional-lands-association-launches-injunction-battle/news-story/87cc6143d1761b7212ed73db85902506>

Leigh Creek gas mining program in the balance as Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association launches injunction battle

Michelle Etheridge, Advertiser, 10/09/2018

The future of a contentious gas extraction project in Leigh Creek hangs in the balance, as an Aboriginal association fights for an injunction to stop it going ahead.

The Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association has objected to the approval Leigh Creek Energy received for its underground coal gasification trial.

At a Supreme Court hearing, Judge Graham Dart ordered the parties to return next Tuesday to discuss the case for an injunction, after further documentation was filed.

Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association chief executive Vince Coulthard told The Advertiser his group wanted to protect the area, which has been mined since the 1930s, from further harm. ...

Mr Coulthard said Yurlu, the kingfisher man, created coal through fire on his journey to Wilpena Pound, and the area around Leigh Creek held strong cultural significance to Adnyamathanha people. ...

Mr Coulthard said his association was concerned about environmental impacts, and problems with consultation in the lead-up to the project.

His association and the NSW Environmental Defenders Office have launched court action against Leigh Creek Energy and Mining Minister Dan van Holst Pellekaan.

Brendon Roberts, for Leigh Creek Energy, told the court the company planned to begin gasification works next week.

He said Leigh Creek Energy would incur losses of \$50,000 per day if work did not begin by Wednesday, September 19, and costs would "increase exponentially from there". ...

A company statement after the hearing said it was confident it would defeat the injunction application, and would seek costs and damages. ...

<https://www.transcontinental.com.au/story/5641322/traditional-owners-stand-against-coal-project/>

Flinders Ranges traditional owners oppose UCG

Marco Balsamo, Transcontinental, 12/09/2018

Flinders Ranges traditional owners hope to stop the progress of the underground coal gasification (UCG) project in Leigh Creek at an upcoming Supreme Court hearing on Tuesday, September 18.

The New South Wales Environmental Defenders Office made an application on behalf of the Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association (ATLA), seeking an injunction from the South Australian Supreme Court. ...

Scientists and 13 community groups, including Doctors for the Environment Australia (DEA) and Lock the Gate Alliance, have joined forces with traditional owners in an attempt to halt the project. ...

Professor John Willoughby of the DEA said the idea of setting fire under the ground on which we walk is appalling.

"Workers and people living in surrounding areas will face increased health risks from any gas and toxins released," he said.

"In approving this, the SA government has also ignored that it will add another coal-mine's worth of global warming." ...

NUKE MADNESS

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/abbotts-election-advice-to-morrison-its-time-to-hit-the-nuclear-switch/news-story/11b479d55f4d52ce7e84a2a3f19390b2>

Abbott's election advice to Morrison: it's time to hit the nuclear switch

Joe Kelly, The Australian, 15/09/2018

Tony Abbott has called on the Morrison government to sharpen the political contest with Labor ahead of the election by moving to lift the prohibition on nuclear power, as Bill Shorten leaves the door open to reviving the now "dead" national energy guarantee.

The former chair of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation and current chair of NBN Co, Ziggy Switkowski, told *The Weekend Australian* yesterday it was sensible to clear the regulatory pathway for the next generation of small nuclear reactors.

A revived debate over nuclear power was also backed by North Queensland MP Warren Entsch, a supporter of the NEG, who said all elements of energy policy should be on the table.

Speaking on 2GB radio in Sydney yesterday, Mr Abbott said there was "absolutely no reason why, when it's economic, we shouldn't have nuclear power generation in Australia". ...

Dr Switkowski said the future for nuclear power was "likely to be defined by the arrival of small modular reactors (SMRs) of a 100MW scale" that could provide power for up to 100,000 people. ...

"The opportunities for ... large reactors have now largely disappeared ... It is, however, very sensible to clear away the regulatory obstacles to developing business plans and evaluating technologies in order to have an option in the 2020s to adopt these SMRs." ...

FOSSIL POLITICS

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-09-11/trump-like-quality-australias-discourse-emissions-reductions/10220946>

There's a certain Trump-like quality to Australia's discourse on emissions reductions

Stephen Long, ABC, 11/09/2018

It seems to be high on the list of the Morrison Government's talking points: the claim that we're "on track" to meet our commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions under the Paris climate accord. ...

The thing is, these reassurances are at completely at odds with the Government's own official advice.

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

Australia's commitment to the global community is to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030.

Just before Christmas last year, the Australian Government published a report which suggests that – without significant policy change – Australia will miss that commitment by a long way. ...

Although the Australian Government has not followed US President Donald Trump's lead and withdrawn the nation from the Paris accord, there is a certain Trump-like quality to its discourse on emissions reductions.

It's not so much a case of alternative facts, as a case of ignore the facts, or pretend they don't exist. ...

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5639875/newcastle-hosts-anti-coal-training-camp/?cs=7573>

Five Hundred anti-coal protesters arrive in Newcastle for five day training camp

Matthew Kelly, Newcastle Herald, 11/09/2018

Up to 500 anti-coal activists from across Australia will descend on Newcastle for a five-day training camp starting on Wednesday.

Organisers refused to reveal the camp's location except to say it would be held on the property of a Newcastle Climate Justice Uprising supporter.

"It will provide the opportunity for people from different parts of Australia who want to see a transition from fossil fuel to renewable energy to connect," a spokeswoman said.

"The camp will provide training in direct action techniques." ...

A Port Waratah Coal Services statement published in Wednesday's Newcastle Herald said the company respected the right of Australian's to express their political views, however, it urged protesters not to enter or interfere with private property.

"Port Waratah's equipment and machinery, most of which are automated or controlled remotely, can be dangerous for those who are untrained and unaware," the statement said. ...

Newcastle Police also sought to reach out to the the camp's organisers via social media.

"Newcastle City Police District has become aware of your intended protest in September 2018," a Facebook message said. ...

As in past years, we would like to discuss arrangements to ensure that your protest is both peaceful and lawful..."

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/hunter-coal-train-driver-yells-abuse-at-protester-who-boarded-his-train-20180914-p503nx.html>

Hunter coal train driver yells abuse at protester who boarded his train

Matthew Kelly, SMH, 14/09/2018

It was hardly a meeting of minds when anti-coal protester Micah Weekes was confronted by the driver of the locomotive that he boarded in Newcastle early on Thursday.

"Get down off my f---ing loco," screamed the furious train driver as Mr Weekes relayed his anti-coal message to the world from on top of the idling engine. ...

The driver then turned his rage at another protester who had earlier stood

in front of his moving train.

"I should have run [him] over. Where's his brains?"

Mr Weekes told his audience, "people obviously just don't understand, they feel like they have to protect their jobs", adding that he wants the government to help workers transition into jobs in sustainable energy industries.

A former coal miner, Mr Weekes, boarded the train at 6am at the Sandgate bridge in Newcastle and, as a result, stopped trains heading towards the world's largest coal export port. ...

Police officers from Newcastle City, with assistance from Police Rescue, arrested the 38-year-old a short time later.

He was taken to Waratah police station where he was charged with enter inclosed lands without lawful excuse, cause/attempt to cause train in motion to be stopped, and cause obstruction to railway locomotive or rolling stock. ...

https://reneweconomy.com.au/canavan-ridicules-climate-health-report-days-after-climate-health-expert-wins-liberal-safe-seat-73431/?utm_source=RE+Daily+Newsletter&utm_campaign=eb04feba0b-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_09_12_12_39&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_46a1943223-eb04feba0b-40461137

Canavan ridicules climate health report, days after climate health expert wins Liberal safe seat

Sophie Vorrath, RenewEconomy, 12/09/2018

Federal resources minister Matt Canavan has ridiculed a Queensland Labor government report on the health impacts of climate change – and how best to minimise them – in the latest sign the Morrison government has no intention whatever of taking global warming seriously.

The 63-page report, released by Queensland (Labor) health minister Steven Miles on Tuesday, was put together by Griffith University's National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) and the Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA).

It pinpointed a broad range of industry concerns about a range of climate impacts on health and wellbeing, including farmers' mental distress from increasingly frequent extreme weather events, and heat stress on vulnerable communities. ...

But Canavan, who appears to have a new role in the Coalition Cabinet as minister for Not Taking Climate Science Seriously, dismissed the work as seemingly drug influenced, and based on "imaginary" threats.



Former coal miner Micah Weeks halted a coal train in Newcastle with a call to end the coal industry. Photo: Frontline Action on Coal

News this week ... from previous page

"This report reads like it was written during poetry slam night at the happy herb cafe," the senator said. ...

Canavan, meanwhile, in his comments about "slam poetry" and the "happy herb cafe," dismisses the genuine and well researched concerns of a community he is supposed to represent.

Concerns including rising poverty and inequality, socioeconomic disadvantage, breakdown of community and family networks, access to sustainable, climate-resilient transport (especially in regional areas), affordable housing and energy options.

In fact, Canavan and his band of merry deniers in the LNP, right up to the PM, are willingly ignoring the increasingly numerous reports, and other blindingly clear signs and messages, that most Australians care a great deal about acting on climate change. ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-09-14/mining-rehabilitation-laws-qld-blocks-rti-requests/10230432>

Mining rehabilitation fund details to remain secret after Qld Government to ban RTI requests

Laura Gartry, ABC, 14/09/2018

A new mining and gas rehabilitation fund to contain hundreds of millions of

dollars in contributions from resource companies will be shrouded in secrecy, with the Queensland Government granting a blanket exclusion from right to information requests after industry concerns.

The information watchdog and Transparency International have raised the alarm about changing the Right to Information (RTI) Act to protect industry, when it was the public that paid the price when companies did not fulfil their rehabilitation obligations.

The new scheme will force about 150 resource companies to contribute into a pool of money to be used for rehabilitation for abandoned sites, and some will have to give a surety.

Mine closure plans and costs will be made public, but details about how much a company has to pay into the fund and how risky the project is, will be kept secret. ...

Transparency International chief executive Serena Lilleywhite said it appeared to be a "blatant example" of Government being influenced by industry into a decision that was not necessarily in the public interest.

"It does seem at odds with the Government's own review and it does seem that this is yet another example

of undue influence by industry groups to try and encourage or influence the Government to make policy decisions," Ms Lilleywhite said.

"It really does fly in the face of pro-integrity best practice within Government."

The Queensland Resources Council (QRC) said it had not lobbied Government for the amendment but "sought assurances" financial information would be protected. ...

Greens MP Michael Berkman described the exclusion as "bizarre" as it is already "exceptionally difficult" to access information under right to information.

"The Government is going against the advice of their own experts ... so it is a very real departure from standard practice," Mr Berkman said.

Mr Berkman said people living near a mine deserve to know the risk category of a project. ...

Mr Berkman is tabling an amendment to remove to exemption from the bill. ...

The Queensland Law Society has also raised concerns about the "exceptionally broad" discretionary powers afforded to the scheme manager. ...

FFB



Knitting Nannas plot action at Newcastle conference

The Knitting Nannas held their fourth annual conference in Newcastle in the first week of September.

After an inspiring weekend, some stayed on to participate in a series of actions against coal, with at least one arrested (see p3).

Photo: Paul Robert Burton

FFB

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