



# 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 1:43 • 25 SEPTEMBER 2018

## Adani breaks laws, given billions of litres of water

By Margaret Gleeson

• Article first published in *Green Left Weekly*, 21/09/2018.

*The federal Coalition government is so keen to assist Adani with its mega coalmine project, it is breaking its own laws to do it.*

On September 18, the government decided Adani did not need to undergo a key assessment to extract billions of litres of water from the Suttor River in central Queensland for its Carmichael coalmine in Queensland's Galilee Basin.

Adani's North Galilee Water Scheme proposes to expand an existing 2.2 billion-litre dam to 10 billion litres and build associated infrastructure including 110 kilometres of pipeline to transport water from the Suttor River and Burdekin Basin. The aim is to supply at least 12.5 gigalitres of fresh water to the Carmichael coalmine and other mines in central Queensland.

As Queensland suffers through a severe drought, environment minister Melissa Price decided not to apply a "water trigger" assessment to Adani's proposal to extract river water for up to 60 years, expand a dam and build a pipeline to transport the water to its mine.

Under federal environment law, if coalmines are likely to have a significant impact on water resources they must undergo a full environmental assessment that would be scrutinised by an independent scientific committee.

Adani's lawyers argued that the "water trigger" only applied if the water was used in the extraction of the coal and that the water being taken from the river will only be used to wash coal and manage dust.



Anti-Adani protesters with a community 'Stop Work' order in Brisbane, September 13. Photo: Alex Bainbridge

Lock the Gate's Carmel Flint condemned the Coalition government for "another special deal for Adani that puts our water resources at risk".

She said that the decision had been "rushed through" to assist Adani. "In the past, water pipelines a tiny fraction the size of the Adani pipeline have been forced to conduct full environmental impact assessments. So, letting Adani off without doing the research needed is an absolute disgrace."

The Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) has released a document, obtained under freedom of information laws, suggesting that the Environment Department had approved the North Galilee Water Scheme by June 13, even though the public comment period ran until 12 days later.

### Illegal clearing

Adani has also been sprung conducting illegal clearing and drilling work before a Matters of National Environmental Significance Management Plan had been approved by the government.

Aerial shots by environmental group Coast and Country appear to show that Adani has already cleared vegetation and drilled six groundwater dewatering bores on the site of its proposed Carmichael coal mine despite lacking government approval.

The Environmental Defenders Office Queensland (EDO Qld), acting on behalf of ACF, has written to Price asking for an urgent independent investigation into any alleged breaches of national environment law by Adani.

Adani claimed on September 18 to

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• P 3: Colossal fossil failures

• P 4: Santos fire and salt risks

## Adani breaks laws, given billions of litres of water

• Continued from p1

have made an “administrative error” by not submitting the clearing and drilling paperwork on time.

EDO Qld lawyer Jo Bragg accused Adani of acting in a misleading way. “This is not an administrative error; this is in fact a very serious error,” she said. “[Adani was] saying there is no disturbance when they are now saying it was six hectares.”

Adani has now cleared a total of 127 hectares on the mine site.

The appointment of Lucas Dow, Adani’s Australian CEO, in April, seems to have triggered this frenzy of activity. Dow was previously a senior executive of BHP Billiton and a former vice president of the Queensland Resources Council.

Adani’s application to expand the dam by 450% and build a pipeline to its Carmichael coal mine was made in April.

ACF’s Kelly O’Shanassy called on the federal government to launch an immediate and independent investigation into the illegal work undertaken by Adani on September 12.

“The public has a right to know what harm may have already occurred to the environment and what enforcement action the government will take”, she said.

“Australia does not need another dirty coal mine that will pollute our climate and guzzle our clean water. The power

to revoke Adani’s federal environmental approval is available to the minister and should be exercised without delay.”

### Rail link shrunk

Adani announced on September 13 it had amended its rail link project. Its original proposal was for a 388-kilometre standard gauge track, expected to cost \$2.3 billion. It now proposes to make use of the existing Aurizon rail infrastructure that runs to Abbot Point.

A new narrow-gauge rail line of about 200 kilometres would be constructed to connect the existing network to the Carmichael mine site, reducing the length of the track Adani would have to build by 188 kilometres and significantly reducing the cost.

ACF’s Christian Slattery said it is a signal that Adani “is more serious than ever about building its climate-damaging coal mine”.

Then, on September 19, Adani announced it could finance the mine without government help.

It omitted to mention the significant contribution it will receive from the public purse — a five-year royalty “holiday” and discounted coal for another four. The cost to Queenslanders will be almost \$1.2 billion in lost revenue.

• *Media coverage p6*

<https://www.greenleft.org.au/content/adani-breaks-laws-given-billions-litres-water>



## Leigh Creek injunction fails: Work starts on UCG

South Australia’s Supreme Court has rejected an Aboriginal group’s bid to stop underground gas extraction at Leigh Creek in the state’s far north.

The Adnyamathanha people applied for an injunction earlier this month, in an attempt to halt Leigh Creek Energy Limited’s plans to trial underground coal gasification in the area’s former coalfields (see p12).

Leigh Creek Energy has already started work, using the same process banned in Queensland after the Linc Energy pollution disaster.

Tradition owners have described the decision as a “kick in the guts”.

## Gladstone: New \$1bn gas project faces opposition

A \$1 billion gasification project using low-grade coal in Gladstone has been fast-tracked by Queensland’s Coordinator General.

Australia Future Energy has revealed its plans for an above-ground coal gasification plant in the Gladstone State Development Area.

The plant will convert low-quality, high-ash coal into domestic gas and ammonia.

FFB understands Gladstone environmentalists are preparing to oppose the plant (see page 10).



# NT frackers get free pass to pollute water

***Mining and fracking companies could be given an exemption allowing them to pollute water across entire exploration permit areas in the Northern Territory if draft changes to the NT Water Act are not rewritten to remove significant loopholes.***

Lock the Gate’s submission to the Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 says that the exemption drafted under Section 7(2) puts Northern Territory water at risk and is completely unacceptable.

“This proposed exemption to allow miners and fracking companies to pollute NT water across their operations is a breach of trust by the Gunner Government,” said Naomi Hogan, National Coordinator with the Lock the Gate.

“There is no logical reason why Water Act should include this broad water pollution permission that could result in companies avoiding penalties for spills of chemicals, or mine and fracking waste water contaminating our waterways. It’s unacceptable.

“As drafted, fracking companies may not be breaking the law if they pollute creeks, dams and groundwater across their vast fracking licences which cover cattle stations, iconic tourism spots and community living areas.

“Fracking companies use poisonous chemicals in order to extract shale oil and gas. Territory communities will be put at risk if this industry gets a free pass on basic laws to prevent water pollution.

“This is the first new law being introduced since the Fracking Inquiry report and already the promises of strict environmental controls on the industry are being compromised.

“The NT Fracking Inquiry found that Territorians are overwhelmingly opposed to fracking. This drafted exemption to allow fracking companies to pollute water is a slap in the face to community members that have serious concerns about protecting water from this industry.

“We are calling on the Economic Committee reviewing this Bill to remove this exemption and ensure there is no broad right for miners and fracking companies to pollute Territory water,” she said.



## 50 experts call for WA fracking ban

*Over 50 scientists and experts, including former Australian of the Year Professor Fiona Stanley AC, Carmen Lawrence, former Premier of WA, Professor Peter Newman AO, WA's 2018 Scientist of the Year, and Ian Dunlop, former Chairman of the Australian Coal Association and Shell executive, are urging the Western Australian Government to permanently ban fracking in the state.*

The call comes in an open letter ahead of the release of the final report by the Western Australia Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracture Stimulation.

The group also includes Australia's leading climate scientists Professor Graeme Pearman, Professor Andy Pitman, Professor John Church, Professor Will Steffen, Professor Katrin Missner and Professor Steven Sherwood.

The group has offered to brief the Western Australian Government's Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing which consists of five scientists, none of whom are climate scientists.

"This enormously authoritative group has come together to call for a perma-

nent ban on unconventional oil and gas in WA," said The Australia Institute's Mark Ogge.

"Western Australia is already facing severe drying in its most productive and populated areas due to global warming, increasing fire seasons and heatwaves, says Professor Graeme Pearman, leading climate scientist and former head of the CSIRO Atmospheric Research team.

"Within our children's lifetime, we are facing potential temperature rises of up to 6.5 degrees, with largely irreversible impacts on water supply, coastal flooding, crop and grazing production, human health and biodiversity."

"Exploiting Western Australia's unconventional gas resources would pose a threat to the world achieving the Paris Agreement goals, and make it impossible for Australia to meet its emission reduction target" says Dr. Bill Hare, founder and CEO of Climate Analytics.

"The science also shows that none of this fracking – neither in the Canning Basin or anywhere else – is needed."

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## Colossal fossil failures

*The Australia Institute reports that so far in 2018 there have been 100 major breakdowns at gas and coal plants in the National Energy Market – including every coal-fired power station bar one (Mt Piper).*

While old subcritical coal plants performed poorly, the newer supercritical plants (so-called "HELE" plants) were even more unreliable.

There were also breakdowns at some of the newest gas plants (Tallawarra, Swanbank and Braemar). Victoria's brown coal plants were the least reliable overall.

As of the day of the 100th fossil fuel breakdown (September 2), just under half (49) of breakdowns had been at black coal plants; 34 were at brown coal plants.

Together, coal plants have been responsible for 83 of the 100 breakdowns. Gas plants were responsible for the remaining 17 breakdowns.

There is a misconception that coal and gas are necessary to provide the National Electricity Market (NEM) with reliability. Although we are only two-thirds of the way through 2018, gas and coal power plants in the NEM have already broken down 100 times – one breakdown every two and a half days.

### HELE have more breakdowns

Despite proposals from some politicians to build new supercritical black coal plants, supercritical black coal plants have broken down more often – per GW of capacity – than the older subcritical black coal plants.

Brown coal is the outright worst performer, with 7.3 breakdowns per GW of capacity.

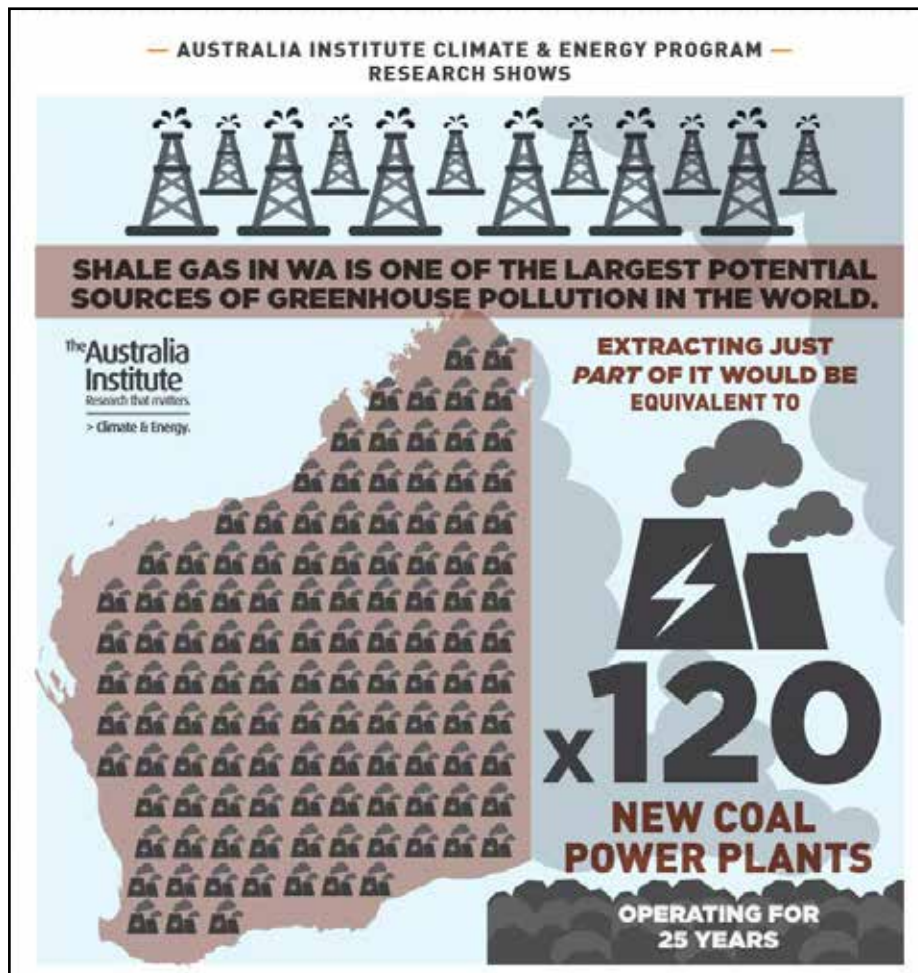
The Australian Energy Market Operator's recent Electricity Statement of Opportunities reflects this new norm, forecasting increased risk to the market based on the reduction in coal and gas generation reliability in recent years.

Gone are the days where we rely on gas and coal for reliability.

• **Download the report here:**

<http://www.tai.org.au/sites/default/files/P602%20Colossal%20fossil%20failures%20FINAL.pdf>

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# Santos Narrabri CSG project: Fire risk and salt waste problem

*The Rural Fire Service and the Environmental Protection Agency have raised serious concerns about Santos' controversial coal seam gasfield at Narrabri, validating community fears that the gasfield will bring two of the worst scourges of the bush - salt and fire.*

Eleven agencies have provided feedback so far on Santos' 'Response to Submissions' criticising the company for its continued failure to address holes and problems with the original Environmental Impact Statement.

Notably, the RFS has warned of the risk that a gasfield in the bushfire prone Pilliga forest could create. The coal seam itself may ignite, the agency warns, and gas extraction and infrastructure can also 'increase the risk of a forest fire spreading and increase the level of danger to firefighters'.

The EPA highlighted Santos' failure to provide any information about what will happen to hundreds of thousands of tonnes of salt waste that is likely to contain heavy metals and other contaminants.

## Serious risks exposed

Narrabri farmer Sally Hunter said, "The responses from these agencies expose serious fire and pollution risks of the proposed Narrabri gasfield and vindicate the fears the community has been raising.

"During peak production Santos will produce up 80 kilograms a minute of toxic salts and they have never been able to explain what they will do with all that stuff.

"We are quite relieved to learn that the EPA is demanding Santos provide answers about the fate of hundreds of

thousands of tonnes of contaminated salt waste, before a decision is made about the gasfield."

Willala farmer Alistair Donaldson, who has fought bushfires in the Pilliga said, "We've been saying from the start that the flammable Pilliga is the wrong place for a gasfield and the thought of fighting fires in the forest alongside gas wells, pipelines and flares is a big worry.

"The more industrial activities we have out there in the forest, the more chance of ignition of bushfires and it is a potential death-trap. Santos' gasfield will put rural volunteer firefighters and gas workers at risk and the company hasn't even had the decency to answer the questions raised by the RFS."

## Salt and fire, scourges of the bush

Lock the Gate Alliance spokesperson Georgina Woods said, "Narrabri Council has pointed out that it's not just Santos who have been found wanting - the NSW Government has failed to deliver a major recommendation from the NSW Chief Scientists review.

"The NSW Government hasn't delivered the three-tiered insurance regime Professor O'Kane said was necessary to manage the risks and impacts of coal seam gas. Without that, how can the Government even compleplate letting this gasfield proceed?

"Salt and fire are scourges of the bush. As far as we're concerned, CSG is not needed or wanted in North West New South Wales, and is certainly far too risky to undertake, uninsured, in the flammable Pilliga forest and across a recharge aquifer of the Great Artesian Basin," she said.

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# Rinehart company loses \$3bn court case

*Last Friday, Lakes Oil - which is part owned by Gina Rinehart - lost a \$3b court battle to sue the Victorian Government for 'lost future earnings' for its ban on unconventional gas.*

Lakes Oil initiated legal action in 2016 after the Andrews Government announced a permanent ban on unconventional gas in Victoria following a parliamentary inquiry and long-running community campaign.

Friends of the Earth organiser, Zianna Fuad said, "We refuse to be intimidated by multi-million dollar companies who have repeatedly broken the trust of the community, and now want taxpayers to pay the price for their failed business decisions. Gina Reinhart is out of touch with community and her intimidation tactics are not welcome here in Victoria."

## Lakes Oil lost social licence

"Victorian communities fought tirelessly for more than five years to secure Australia's first permanent ban on fracking. It is completely absurd that Lake's Oil, who invested in this risky industry, has disregarded the democratic decision taken by the Victorian government to protect land, water and climate from invasive drilling. Lakes Oil has been fully aware of community opposition for at least half a decade, yet continued to invest in the development of onshore gas despite losing its social licence to operate in Gippsland."

Community members, who have been watching this court case closely for the last two years, came out with relief, holding their banners and Lock the Gate signs.

"We're glad to see that the Resources Minister and Treasurer Tim Pallas has remained strong on the offshore gas ban in the face of sustained pressure from Lakes Oil and the Federal Government. Any gas development, onshore or offshore, jeopardises our chances of tackling climate change, so we'd love to see other states follow Victoria's lead," said Zianna Fuad.

"Overall it sends a strong signal to other states who are currently fighting the fracking industry."

• See media coverage p10

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## Dramatic increase in extreme heat forecast for Rockhampton

*The number of days over 35 degrees has nearly doubled in Rockhampton over recent years, and is forecast to triple again in the absence of strong policy response to climate change, according to new research from The Australia Institute.*

The Australia Institute's Heat Watch initiative shows Rockhampton is expected to endure 29 days over 35 degrees per year by 2030, and as many as 70 days per year by 2070. Almost 50 percent of summer days are projected to reach over 35 degrees by 2070.

"The increase in these extreme heat due to climate change will have a devastating impact on the region," says Mark Ogge, Principal Advisor at The Australia Institute and author of the report.

"There will be an increase in heat related deaths, agricultural productivity will be hit hard and people's quality of life will plummet.

"Even more alarming is the combination of increased extreme heat with high humidity levels, which reduces the ability of the human body to cool itself. This represents a serious threat to the health and wellbeing of the Rockhampton community.

"If emissions are drastically reduced,



the increase in extreme heat days can be for the most part avoided.

"Given the vulnerability of Rockhampton and the rest of the Queensland to climate change, strong emissions reduction policies are in the state's interests."

"Some of the biggest issues we are facing in central Qld are the increased rate of evaporation of water storages and the impact of hot conditions on cattle where vegetation has been over cleared in past years," says local beef farmer Mick Alexander.

"Climate change is causing extremely hot summers and even unseasonably hot winters are forcing us to rethink paddock layout, tree retention and even man-made shade structures to reduce heat impact on livestock."

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## Inside the news

Things are **moving fast** for Adani – they got billions of litres of water with little environmental consideration. They slashed the cost of their rail line and say it will proceed without external funding. They were **caught out** doing work they shouldn't have done, and are being **chased for payment** by contractors. The **government** will have to do its own **monitoring** around Adani's port, after losing a bid to make Adani do it (pages 6-7).

New energy minister, **Angus Taylor**, is showing himself to be **ill-informed** and is making statements found to be anything from **misleading** to **plain wrong** (p13-14) as he seeks to abandon emissions targets and get power prices down.

The hard core of the **COALition** continues its fixation on building **HELE power stations**. They have been warned by Energy Security Board chairwoman Kerry Schott that the case for building HELE plants doesn't stack up (p14).

Pressure to **expand gas exploration** will increase as a result of **Trump's tariff war with China**. China will slap tariffs on US LNG imports, which will favour producers in Australia (p10). There are predictions of up to 80% of Australia's gas being **exported** – at the very same time as gas dealers want to built four **import terminals**.

**AGL's** proposed import terminal for **Crib Point** continues to meet community resistance (p11). AGL reps engaging in '**community consultation**' have been met with chants and informed questions. About 70 people at the session grilled them for more than two hours.

Most people present saw AGL's project as an **opportunistic** move by them to further increase their already **massive profits** at the expense of the community and Western Port's fragile environment.

Michaelwest.com says Japanese energy giant **Marubeni's** surprise decision to **get out of coal** shows industry leaders increasingly envisage coal plants and coal mines as "stranded assets". It demonstrates how the opinions of Australia's hard-right coal proponents have rapidly become "**stranded opinions**" (p8).

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# In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 28,200 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/environment/commentis-free/2018/sep/16/adanis-rail-line-cut-shows-project-is-on-life-support-but-still-a-threat-to-climate>

### Adani's rail line cut shows project is on life support but still a threat to climate

John Quiggin, *The Guardian*, 16/09/2018

The catastrophic prospect of 300m tonnes of carbon a year appears to have been averted, but even 25m poses a danger to the climate

The recent announcement by Adani that it will halve the costs of its rail line to the proposed Carmichael coalmine by building a shorter, narrow-gauge line raises an obvious question: if such a massive cost-saving is feasible, why didn't Adani go that way in the first place?

The short answer is this is the latest in a string of changes that have massively downsized both the Carmichael project and the bigger plans to develop the Galilee Basin. The longer answer is that, despite optimistic talk about a long-term future for coal, the writing is on the wall. The only way to make money out of coal is to do so quickly, before the present gradual decline turns into a collapse. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/opinion/opinion-bill-shorten-digs-heels-in-to-block-adani-coal-mine/news-story/f8fc449c56db65ee9a8ee56ea7ef9de9>

### Opinion: Bill Shorten digs heels in to block Adani coal mine

Renee Viellaris, *Courier-Mail*, 17/09/2018

Bill Shorten has sent a new, dire message to Adani. The Opposition Leader was on ABC's Insiders program yesterday and his language needs political interpretation. ...

What does all that mean? In a nutshell, Adani has to start construction by the next election because if Shorten wins, the mine will be toast. That's what he meant by saying there are things that happen before an election.

It's political suicide for a government to undo thousands of jobs once they are operational. ...



*Anti-Adani grandparents demand a Stop Work Order in Brisbane last Friday, while the prosecution and investigations on Adani proceed. Photo: Galilee Blockade*

<https://www.afr.com/business/infrastructure/rail/aecom-seeks-to-recover-17m-from-adani-from-work-on-abandoned-rail-project-20180914-h15e8y>

### Aecom chases Adani for disputed \$17m

Jenny Wiggins, *AFR*, 17/09/2018

Engineering and design group Aecom is trying to recover almost \$17 million it alleges it is owed by Adani after it stopped work on the miner's proposed rail link to the Carmichael coal mine. ...

The *Australian Financial Review* understands that while Aecom has received some payments from Adani, it is still owed \$16.9 million and has submitted a claim with the Queensland Building and Construction Commission which arbitrates disputes.

Jangga Operations, a cultural heritage body that specialises in surveying Native Title areas, is also understood to be owed money by Adani. ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-09-18/adani-plan-for-12.5b-litres-of-water-to-avoid-impact-assessment/10262764>

### Adani plans to draw 12.5b litres of water and there will be no environmental impact statement

Michael Slezak, *ABC*, 18/09/2018

Adani's plan to take 12.5 billion litres of water from a river in drought-stricken Queensland is a step closer to hap-

pening, according to environmental groups, after the Federal Government decided the project did not need a full environmental impact assessment. ...

Adani argued that "water trigger" only applied if the water was used in the extraction of the coal, and that the water they would take from this river would not be used that way, but instead for practices like washing coal and dust management.

Environmental lawyers have previously said that argument does not hold water. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/absolute-disgrace-adani-pipeline-plan-won-t-activate-water-trigger-20180918-p504hh.html>

### 'Absolute disgrace': Adani pipeline plan won't activate water trigger

Peter Hannam, *SMH*, 18/09/2018

Adani's proposed giant coal mine has cleared another hurdle with the federal government waiving the requirement for a full environmental assessment for a pipeline that will extract billions of litres of water from a river in drought-ravaged central Queensland. ...

Aside from the pipeline, the scheme also involves "upgrading" a dam to

increase capacity fourfold to 10 billion litres. Adani has said its project would also serve other mines such as the China Stone coal venture. ...

Separately, the Australian Conservation Foundation released a document obtained under freedom of information laws that suggests the Environment Department had approved the North Galilee Water Scheme by June 13 this year even though the public comment period ran until 12 days later.

Christian Slattery, an ACF campaigner, said the government appeared “to have made up its mind not to apply the water trigger to Adani’s water-guzzling project, even while the period for public consultation was still running”. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/adani-says-carmichael-mega-mine-will-go-ahead-without-public-money/news-story/88dad64ff56bae2d7b6c9ca03f0b52a7>

### **Adani says Carmichael mega mine will go ahead without public money**

*Renee Vielleri & Matthew Killoran, Courier-Mail, 19/09/2018*

Opposition leader Bill Shorten says he is not “laying bets” about Adani starting work, despite the mining giant announcing today it will go ahead without any government funding.

He would not rule out a Labor government reviewing any of the environmental approvals already granted to the Carmichael mega mine in central Queensland.

Adani will today for the first time explicitly declare its Carmichael mega coalmine will go ahead without any government funding, as the miner moves to reshape its public image.

And in a sign the multibillion-dollar job-boosting mine is inching closer, it can be revealed Adani met another milestone yesterday by submitting its new rail operating plan to Aurizon. ...

<https://www.perthnow.com.au/business/mining/adani-admits-to-admin-error-on-mine-work-ng-s-1892558>

### **Adani admits to admin error on mine work**

*Stuart Layt & Sonia Kohlbacher, AAP, Perth Now, 18/09/2018*

Adani has admitted to an “administrative error” after it failed to declare track clearing and exploratory drilling it conducted in June to environmental regulators.

The Indian mining giant on Tuesday admitted it had failed to declare some activity at its Carmichael mine site in the Galilee Basin, which occurred in

the last three weeks of the 2017/18 financial year.

It comes after environmental activists earlier this month published drone and satellite pictures that showed track clearing and bore drilling at the site, which they claimed was in breach of the company’s environmental conditions. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/adani-corrects-administrative-error-in-environmental-report/news-story/90c427e044c0dec3b53b90eb6dad0b6b>

### **Adani corrects administrative error in environmental report**

*Clare Armstrong, Townsville Bulletin, 09/2018*

Adani has reported an administrative error to environmental regulatory authorities after failing to include track clearing and exploration activity conducted last financial year.

The company today notified the Queensland Department of Environment and Science about an administrative paperwork error in its 2017/18 annual return for the Carmichael mine.

Adani informed the Department there were areas on the Mining Lease that were disturbed during the final three and a half weeks of the annual return period that should have been included.

In a statement released on Tuesday, Adani Australia reiterated their claim all activities were permitted under current approvals. ...

<https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/queensland/adani-admits-it-failed-to-report-land-clearing-to-queensland-government-20180918-p504k5.html>

### **Adani admits it failed to report land clearing to Queensland government**

*Tony Moore, Brisbane Times, 18/09/2018*

Mining company Adani has admitted to clearing six hectares of bushland to build tracks and drill pads near boreholes on its giant Carmichael mine, without declaring this in its regular reporting to the Queensland government.

Now conservationists accuse the company of breaching the Oaths Act because lodging the reports include signing a statutory declaration.

Overall, Adani cleared about six hectares of land to access six groundwater test bores and five groundwater bore holes.

The total land cleared was about the size of 10 residential lots in Brisbane. ...

Environmental Defenders Organisation lawyer Jo Bragg said Adani should

have known of the error because lodging the reports are lodged with the Department of Environment and Science, requires Adani to sign a statutory legal declaration that the documents are correct.

“This is not an administrative error; this is in fact a very serious error,” she said. ...

Adani has now cleared a total of 127 hectares of land on its Carmichael Mine site.

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/adani-rail-line-getting-closer-with-plans-logged-to-use-aurizon-line/news-story/bf0a73a62f072d5ac72c7e570b571e59>

### **Adani rail line getting closer, with plans lodged to use Aurizon line**

*Chris Lees, Townsville Bulletin, 19/09/2018*

A formal application to connect Adani’s Carmichael coal project to the existing Aurizon network has been submitted.

In a statement, Adani said a Conceptual Operating Plan had been given to Aurizon to start the connection of Adani’s new narrow gauge rail line. ...

The plan triggers a regulatory process that, subject to satisfying a range of conditions, would allow connection of the Adani rail line to the existing network. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/adani-successfully-appeals-environmental-evaluation/news-story/7dce012812770ec9d8f5549c68797188>

### **Adani successfully appeals environmental evaluation**

*Clare Armstrong, Townsville Bulletin, 21/09/2018*

Adani has successfully appealed an order to conduct an environmental evaluation of the wetlands next to its Abbot Point coal terminal operations.

Adani-owned Abbot Point Bulkcoal was ordered by the State Government in October to conduct the review of the Caley Valley Wetlands following accusations the company was responsible for contaminating the area during Cyclone Debbie in March 2017.

The company would have had to review its water management strategy and the amount of containments discharged during high intensity rainfall events.

But on Friday the Environment and Planning Court set aside the environmental evaluation notice issued by the Department of Environment and Science for the wetlands. ...

<https://www.news.com.au/national/breaking-news/wetlands-near-adani-port-to-be-monitored/news-story/9b7f9c4f46d-941400fe7ac6b69273fb8>

## Wetlands near Adani port to be monitored

AAP, News.com, 21/09/2018

The Queensland government will begin environmental monitoring of nationally important wetlands near Adani's Abbot Point coal port.

The decision on Friday, follows the state Department of Environment and Science's withdrawal of a notice requiring the coal miner to conduct an environmental evaluation of the Caley Valley Wetlands.

The department will now begin its own monitoring program ahead of the upcoming wet season.

"Should monitoring show that work is required to make the Abbot Point coal terminal more environmentally robust, (we) will take steps to engage with the facility's operators to do this," the department said in a statement.

## COAL ROCKS ON



ABC, NETAU  
"This is definitely unnatural": Sydney coal mine ordered to repair creek with 'disappearing' water

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-09-17/sydney-coal-mine-ordered-to-repair-cracked-creek/10253148>

## Tahmoor Mine ordered to repair Redbank Creek damage in NSW

Jonathan Hair, ABC, 17/09/2018

The NSW Government has ordered GFG Alliance's Tahmoor Mine to repair the damage and cracks to a creek in south-west Sydney, where water no longer trickles in some sections.

Redbank Creek, which "runs" near Picton, is the subject of significant environmental concern.

The creek's bedrock is in disarray in some places and the damage is caused by mining "subsidence" — the result of underground longwall mining. ...

One of Australia's leading water scientists, Dr Ian Wright, said the fact there was no water in the creek was "definitely unnatural".

"We're sitting, standing, and walking around on highly fractured sandstone, this should be solid bedrock," he said.

"When there has been heavy rain and we've seen flow down the creek, we have literally seen water flowing down the creek and then disappearing down into some of these cracks." ...

"The scale of the pollution that we've seen, as far as we know in science publications, this is the worst scale that we've ever found in the literature," he said.

The water in sections of the creek downstream from the subsidence were high in salt and toxic metals after it had slipped underground and mixed with underground aquifers. ...

<https://www.michaelwest.com.au/marubeni-shock-exit-from-coal/>

## Marubeni's shock exit from coal

Michael West, 16/09/2018

Japanese energy juggernaut, Marubeni Corp, is getting out of coal and dramatically accelerating its shift into renewable energy.

It is a move, assuming the story in the Nikkei is true, which will send shockwaves around the energy world and is further confirmation that renewable energy is not only far cleaner than thermal coal but also that it is more economic. ...

Marubeni's surprise decision shows industry leaders increasingly envisage coal plants and coal mines as "stranded assets" and it demonstrates how the opinions of Australia's hard-right coal proponents have rapidly become "stranded opinions".

The proposal to use taxpayers' money to build coal-fired power plants in Australia will have now become even more fanciful as a result of the Marubeni decision. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/new-hope-plan-to-boost-coal-output-by-50-per-cent/news-story/36d55a04b3be02512de23980c5bc3054>

## New Hope plan to boost coal output by 50 per cent

Matt Chambers, The Australian, 19/09/2018

New Hope managing director Shane Stephan says the miner could boost coal output by more than 50 per cent in coming years through new Queensland production and the \$860 million purchase of Wesfarmers' stake in the Bengalla coal mine in NSW.

And he tips surging coal prices trading near 10-year highs to remain strong this financial year.

Brisbane-based New Hope, controlled by the wealthy Milner family, logged

a 6.3 per cent rise in net profit to \$149.5m in the 12 months to the end of July, from \$140.6m the year before. ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-09-21/miners-in-class-actions-against-workpac-programmed-hays-one-key/10290834>

## Miners to launch new class actions against labour hire firms WorkPac, Programmed, HAYS and One Key

Lorna Knowles, ABC Investigations, 21/09/2018

The mining industry is facing four new class actions alleging that more than 25,000 workers were not paid their proper entitlement, worth up to \$325 million.

- Workers will allege the companies were involved in systemic failures to pay accrued leave and other entitlements

- The workers were hired to provide labour for companies including BHP, Glencore, Anglo and Yancoal

- The new actions are an extension of two class actions already filed in the Federal Court

The new class actions are being brought against the labour hire firms WorkPac, Programmed, HAYS and One Key, which provide services to big mining companies in NSW and Queensland. ...

## GAS, GAS, GAS

<https://m.chinchillanews.com.au/news/air-quality-study-in-the-surat-basin-stirs-debate/3519064/>

## Air quality study in the Surat Basin stirs debate

Amani Vassiliou, Chinchilla News, 12/09/2018

Researchers have given air quality in the Surat Basin a tick of approval but not all landholders are convinced.

In a national first, the CSIRO has completed a comprehensive ambient air quality study in a CSG area - the Western Downs.

But not everyone interprets the results the same way.

CSIRO senior research scientist Dr Sarah Lawson said the study ... found ambient air quality in the Surat Basin was within acceptable levels for pollutants potentially emitted by CSG activities "for the majority of the time". ...

Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association chief executive Dr Malcolm Roberts was quick to welcome the results, saying the report "clearly dispels the claims that the gas



industry is releasing toxic materials into the air”.

But for Chinchilla local and landholder advocate Shay Dougall, the study raised more questions than it answered. ...

“Our major concern, which we voiced to CSIRO when the study began, revolves around ambient air monitoring simply not being exposure monitoring.

“I don’t want them to be testing the entire bucket of air, I want them to be testing what the people living next to the high point vents are breathing,” she said. ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-09-17/charles-darwin-university-requested-language-inpex-study/10251184>

### **Charles Darwin University allegedly requested changes to description of Inpex in study**

*Tom Maddocks, ABC, 17/09/2018*

Charles Darwin University has been accused of asking academics to change the wording of a study it deemed too critical of a giant gas company which had recently helped it fund a multi-million-dollar training centre.

Demographer Dr Andrew Taylor co-authored ‘Welcome to the Boomtown! Darwin and the Boomtown Syndrome’, which was published by CDU in 2013.

It used case studies of small towns overseas that have experienced a boom and bust from massive construction projects to examine the potential social and economic impacts of the INPEX-Icthus mega project, at the time valued at \$33 billion, on Darwin. ...

Before the study was published, Dr Taylor said CDU asked him if he could “change the language in the publication”. ...

It is understood some university staff threatened to resign over the intervention. ...

In a statement, a spokesperson for CDU said like all research papers, Dr Taylor’s study had been critiqued “to ensure accuracy and clarity”. ...

A spokesperson for INPEX did not answer questions put to it relating to Dr Taylor’s paper.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-09-19/inpex-nt-department-environment-approve-scientists-public-media/10268362>

### **NT Department of Environment admits gas giant Inpex must ‘approve’ interviews with its scientists**

*Stephanie Zillman, ABC, 19/09/2018*

The Northern Territory’s Department of Environment seeks “approval” from gas giant Inpex before it publicly releases any of its independent reports, documents, or allows their scientists to be interviewed by the media, the ABC has learned.

- The NT Government seeks ‘approval’ from INPEX before making public announcements

- The gas giant currently pays for all marine science research done by the Northern Territory Department of Environment

- The arrangement has drawn scepticism from an independent scientist and a conservation group

The arrangement came to light when the ABC approached the department for information and interviews with its scientists in relation to research conducted on dugong populations in the Gulf of Carpentaria. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/sustainability/not-the-details-requested-epa-rfs-others-rebuke-santos-over-csg-20180916-p50435.html>

### **‘Not the details requested’: EPA, RFS, others rebuke Santos over CSG**

*Peter Hannam, SMH, 17/09/2018*

NSW government agencies have reiterated demands for more information from Santos about its plan to develop a \$3 billion coal seam gas project in northern NSW, saying the company had failed to respond to their concerns. ...

Unresolved issues include how Santos will dispose of salt generated from the 850 planned wells. Over 25 years, the gasfield is expected to produce more than 430,000 tonnes of the material. ...

“The EPA expects that many, if not all, landfill facilities in the local government area will not have the capacity to receive the quantity of salt (and other waste) generated by the project,” the agency said.

The watchdog’s other concerns include whether the proposed water monitoring capacity was sufficient to detect changes in water quality, and inadequate assessment of fugitive emissions of the potent greenhouse gas methane. ...

A Santos spokeswoman said the company would only take the salt “to a facility licensed for this purpose”.

“Santos has already advised the EPA that it will do further work on its Water Monitoring Plan prior to project determination,” she said, noting it was also working with the EPA to address fugitive emissions worries. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/sep/19/barely-a-scallop-fears-oil-and-gas-exploration-will-destroy-fishery>

### **‘Barely a scallop’: fears oil and gas exploration will destroy fisheries**

*Graham Readfern, The Guardian, 19/09/2018*

There are calls for a moratorium on seismic surveys by the oil and gas industry from members of the fishing industry after new Australian research shows it has serious impacts on invertebrates such as lobster, scallop, abalone and crab. ...

The three companies that want to survey the Otway basin area, south of Victoria and west of King Island, are Schlumberger Australia, 3D Oil and SpectrumGeo. A fourth, CGG, is looking to the east in the Gippsland basin. All four have indicated potential start dates in October and November. ...

Johnathan Davey, the chief executive of Seafood Industry Victoria, ... says the Gippsland basin survey was in a region previously known as the “number one fishing ground for scallops in Australia” but “since 2010, when the first seismic survey was taken, there has barely been a scallop industry in that area.” ...

Matthew Doman, external affairs director at the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association, says seismic surveys are “low risk, well understood technology”. He says the Gippsland and Otway basins have seen more than 170 seismic surveys since the 1960s with “no negative impact on a commercial fishery, nor an impact on the viability of marine species or marine ecosystems.” ...

<https://www.chinchillanews.com.au/news/exploration-in-surat-basin/3523667/>

### **Gas exploration authority granted in Surat Basin**

*Jorja McDonnell, Chinchilla News, 18/09/2018*

Brisbane-based gas company Armour Energy has been granted an Authority to Prospect in the Surat Basin.

It will explore 318sqkm of land north of Surat and close to the Kincora Plant, which has been deemed “highly prospective”.

The Queensland Resources Council welcomed the State Government’s

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**with your comments & tips**

granting of the authority and QRC chief executive Ian Macfarlane said the decision showed Queensland was a nation-leader in easing the gas squeeze along the east coast. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/ministers-grant-gas-giants-south-east-remora-extension/news-story/bbd314e26e053e8f7d924ab7f1348f32>

### Ministers grant gas giants South East Remora extension

*Matt Chambers, The Australian, 19/09/2018*

Exxon Mobil and BHP are set to be granted a delay on developing the South East Remora gas field in Bass Strait after federal and state resources ministers elected not to employ “use-it-or-lose-it” powers on the resources giants, despite launching a review of existing east coast retention leases.

Exxon and BHP, whose 50-50 Gippsland Basin joint venture in Bass Strait is the east coast’s biggest conventional gas producer, say the 2010 South East Remora discovery can’t be developed yet because it has too much carbon dioxide to run through the current gas plant set up at Longford. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/australian-lng-to-benefit-from-us-china-tariffs-war/news-story/26e9422844338b3b8a3c353fea9bbae7>

### Australian LNG to benefit from US-China tariffs war

*Perry Williams & Matt Chambers, The Australian, 19/09/2018*

Australian LNG producers are set to cash in on China’s plans to slap tariffs on US gas exports, with suppliers able to offer more competitive pricing and lower sovereign risk, according to Credit Suisse.

China plans to levy a 10 per cent duty on LNG from September 24 as a reaction to the US yesterday imposing tariffs on \$US200 billion of Chinese imports.

The move will likely dent US Gulf Coast exports and boost the prospects for low-cost suppliers like Australia ... along with Papua New Guinea and Qatar. ...

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/the-switch-is-on-consumers-are-turning-away-from-gas-98169/>

### The switch is on: Consumers are turning away from gas

*Tim Forcey, RenewEconomy, 17/09/2018*

It’s now well known that eastern-Australian electricity demand peaked in 2008 and declined sharply thereafter, catching many industry analysts unaware.

Now the same thing is happening with gas. ...

With little prospect of cheap gas coming back, gas consumers are now forced to look at their energy use and supply options. And here’s the good news: they have options.

Home-owners are learning they can heat their homes with reverse-cycle air conditioners (aka heat pumps) for one-third the cost of turning on the old ducted gas heating. The gas-burning hot water heater can also be replaced with a heat pump ...

Some long-time gas consumers have disconnected their home from the gas grid altogether ... By tapping in to zero-emission technologies such as rooftop solar PV and heat pumps, a truly sustainable home can only be “all-electric”. ...

Industry must now also accelerate their dash from gas by employing energy efficiency and economic fuel-switching measures ...

As the global move to decarbonise and “electrify everything” proceeds, the disappearing act for fossil gas demand in eastern Australia has only just begun.

• *Tim Forcey is an independent energy advisor and curator at the Facebook group 'Australian Gas Market Insights'.*

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/1-billion-gladstone-project-to-create-hundreds-of-jobs/news-story/8447f1dc77971c3b6f4080af038b002c>

### \$1 billion Gladstone project to create hundreds of jobs

*Tegan Annett, Courier-Mail, 21/09/2018*

A \$1 billion project expected to create hundreds of jobs for more than three decades has been placed in the fast lane by Queensland’s Coordinator General.

Australia Future Energy has revealed its plans to transform Gladstone’s State Development Area with the construction of an above-ground coal gasification plant.

Chief executive officer Kerry Parker told *The Observer* the plant would use Australia-first technology to convert low-quality, high-ash coal into domestic gas and ammonia.

The Queensland Government announced its support for the project, with the state’s independent Coordinator General declaring it a “coordinated project”. ...

The company is in the process of applying for a Northern Australian In-

frastructure Facility loan to help fund part of the project. ...

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/behind-the-business-technology-in-1b-project/3526930/>

### Behind the business, technology for Gladstone’s \$1b project

*Tegan Annett, Gladstone Observer, 21/04/2018*

One of the nation’s newer energy industry players has revealed its plans to produce secure, long-term supply of ammonia and gas.

Australia Future Energy’s above-ground coal gasification plant will use technology that has been commercially proven over a number of years at six plants in Asia and the United states.

The plant, proposed to be built in Gladstone’s State Development Area, would use cheap, low-quality coal to create gas and ammonia for domestic use. ...

[https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/sep/21/gina-rinehart-backed-lakes-oil-loses-bid-to-have-victorian-fracking-ban-overturned?CMP=share\\_btn\\_fb](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/sep/21/gina-rinehart-backed-lakes-oil-loses-bid-to-have-victorian-fracking-ban-overturned?CMP=share_btn_fb)

### Gina Rinehart-backed Lakes Oil loses bid to have Victorian fracking ban overturned

*Melissa Davey, The Guardian, 21/09/2018*

A company part-owned by Australian mining magnate Gina Rinehart has failed to have the Victorian government’s fracking ban overturned or to be awarded \$2.7bn in damages. ...

But on Friday afternoon in Victoria’s supreme court Justice Cameron Macaulay rejected Lakes Oil’s claims. He found the legislation banned all petroleum exploration work, including preparatory work. ...

<https://www.theage.com.au/politics/victoria/rinehart-s-2-7-billion-court-case-against-victoria-rejected-20180921-p505b2.html>

### Rinehart’s \$2.7 billion court case against Victoria rejected

*Noel Towell & Benjamin Preiss, The Age, 21/09/2018*

A company part-owned by mining magnate Gina Rinehart has lost its \$2.7 billion court case against the Victorian government over the state’s ban on gas exploration.

The Supreme Court in Melbourne on Friday rejected claims by oil and gas company Lakes Oil that the government’s state-wide moratorium on “onshore petroleum” exploration was unlawful. ...

Lakes Oil chairman Chris Tonkin said he would seek advice from the company’s lawyers about the judgment. ...

Resources Minister Tim Pallas praised the court's decision on Friday.

"We welcome the court's decision to uphold our ban on fracking in Victoria - protecting our state's clean and green credentials," Mr Pallas said.

<https://www.ntnews.com.au/news/northern-territory/santos-signs-gas-pipeline-transport-deal-with-jemena/news-story/b58aebc6af7db5346bb51b1c6d9ef779>

## Santos signs gas pipeline transport deal with Jemena

*Ashley Manicaros, NT News, 22/09/2018*

Santos has become the latest company to sign a gas transport agreement to use the Northern Gas Pipeline.

Santos will ship around eight terajoules of gas per day across the \$800 million Tennant Creek to Mt Isa in Queensland pipeline.

The gas will be used to provide energy for local mining and mineral processing operations in the Mt Isa region. Jemena, which owns the NGP, said the new agreement means around 80 per cent of the pipeline's total available capacity in year one of operation has now been contracted. ...

## IMPORT INSANITY

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/environmental-fears-may-sink-key-lower-energy-prices-project/news-story/553d50b320360f38a7e1d9a1d6a5b393>

## Environmental fears may sink key lower energy prices project

*Samantha Hutchinson, Australian, 17/09/2018*

State government attempts to bring energy prices down in Victoria with the help of an AGL gas import facility near Phillip Island are facing a huge challenge from a residents group which says the floating terminal will threaten Ramsar-recognised wetlands. ...

The Save Western Port group met AGL representatives on Saturday and heard details of the plan, including a floating 300m vessel to convert liquefied gas into natural gas at Crib Point, on Western Port. ...

"To turn the LNG into useable form, a 300m-long gas factory ship will suck in more than 450 million litres of seawater a day and return it both chlorinated and colder. Nobody knows what effect this will have on the bay and its wildlife," Save Western Port member Louise Page said. "If the approvals process excludes an extensive, independent environmental assessment, it will be plain that the Andrews government is hedging its bets when it comes to Victoria's energy future."

Planning Minister Richard Wynne says the assessment process has just started, with AGL lodging its environmental effects statement on September 10. ...

The project is the key plank of a slew of gas market reforms unveiled last year to bring down energy prices in Victoria.

On Friday, Environment Victoria chief executive Mark Wakeham said the government needed to speed up the environmental assessment of AGL's plan before any preliminary works were allowed to occur. "We urgently need a full environmental effects statement to ensure Western Port is not sacrificed for AGL's gain," Mr Wakeham said.

<http://mpnews.com.au/2018/09/17/agls-environment-pitch-to-state/>

## AGL's environment pitch to state

*Keith Platt, Mornington Peninsula News, 17/09/2018*

State planning minister Richard Wynne is expected to decide before the end of the month on the need for power company AGL to undertake full environmental studies into the effects of a floating gas terminal at Crib Point.

AGL and APA Transmission – which, if approved, will build a gas pipeline from Crib Point to Pakenham – submitted details of their proposals to Mr Wynne last Tuesday (11 September).

Later that night Mornington Peninsula Shire called for "a state government-run transparent consultation process [into the importation of gas] that includes examining environmental effects and problems associated with the proposed 60 kilometre pipeline through agricultural land".

The motion by Cr David Gill adopted unanimously by council, said the shire "shares community concerns" about the AGL's gas import plan.

State Liberal MP for Hastings Neale Burgess and his federal Liberal colleague Flinders MP Greg Hunt have both said they oppose the gas terminal at Crib Point. ...

On 8 August Ports Minister Luke Donnellan told state parliament he supports "the proposal to bring gas in through the port of Hastings" and gave assurances "the proposal will go through a full environment effects statement process". ...

Cr Gill said he hoped the state government will not allow the applications by AGL and APA "to proceed without a thorough investigation of all ramifications involved in granting a permit".

"There are safety and pollution risks involved in the regasification process of imported liquefied gas on moored boats and also the discharge of chlorine into the United Nations environmentally-listed Western Port that haven't been properly addressed," Cr Gill told *The News* last week.

"The close population of Crib Point are alarmed that the risk of explosion assessment is not available or independently verified. The 60 kilometre pipeline will run through thousands of hectares of prime agricultural and green wedge rural land putting the viability of farmers and essential food bowl products in jeopardy." ...

<http://mpnews.com.au/2018/09/18/drop-in-invite-sparks-rousing-response/>

## Drop-in invite sparks rousing response

*Mornington Peninsula News, 18/09/2018*

Representatives of power company AGL on Saturday were met with chants and informed questions about their employer's plans to moor a floating gas conversion plant at Crib Point. ...

Save Westernport member Rod Knowles said "emotions were running high" at the AGL-arranged information session held at the RW Stone Pavilion, Somers. ...

He said the estimated 70 people at the session "grilled" AGL representatives for more than two hours.

"Most people present saw AGL's project as an opportunistic move by them to further increase their already massive profits at the expense of the community and Western Port's fragile environment," Mr Knowles said. ...

Candy Spender van Rood said members of Save Westernport would show their opposition to the planned FSRU at AGL's annual general meeting at the Recital Centre in Melbourne between 9.45am and 11am on 26 September. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/venice-energy-accelerates-east-coast-gas-import-plan/news-story/d42b2597a6437e2fefb56327167d7d57>

## Venice Energy accelerates east coast gas import plan

*Perry Williams, The Australian, 18/09/2018*

Mitsubishi-backed Venice Energy may start importing LNG into Australia's eastern states at the same time as two competing projects as the venture prepares to apply for approvals from the South Australian government ahead of an expected domestic gas squeeze. ...

Venice now plans to submit a development application for its floating stor-

age and regasification unit to the state government in the next two months, allowing it to target first gas supplies by mid-2020. ...

A fourth scheme is being considered by energy giant ExxonMobil in Victoria, with imports slated for 2022 to replace the state's rapidly declining Bass Strait gas fields. ...

Venice said its plan to focus on the gas import plant as a separate process from its linked gas-fired power station would allow it to capitalise on east coast markets that had been hit by state exploration restrictions, Queensland LNG exports and the cost of finding new supplies.

The Venice group expects an eight-month turnaround for a government decision on its Pelican Point storage proposal compared with up to 14 months for the 500 megawatt power station. ...

## LEIGH CK STINK



<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-09-18/aboriginal-bid-to-stop-controversial-gas-project-fails/10268134>

### Aboriginal bid to stop controversial Leigh Creek coal gas project fails

Isabel Dayman, ABC, 19/09/2018

South Australia's Supreme Court has rejected an Aboriginal group's bid to stop underground gas extraction at Leigh Creek in the state's far north.

The Adnyamathanha people applied for an injunction earlier this month, in an attempt to halt Leigh Creek Energy Limited's plans to trial underground coal gasification in the area's former coalfields. ...

But lawyers for Leigh Creek Energy on Tuesday told the Supreme Court the Aboriginal group's application for an injunction had come after a significant "delay" and could have been lodged months ago. ...

The site for the energy project holds important significance to Yulu, the Kingfisher Man, one of the major creation ancestors of the Adnyamathanha people. ...

Taking into account the "balance of convenience" and the financial "prejudice" against the company – should its plans be delayed – Justice Sam Doyle denied the ATLA's injunction application.

Outside court, Leigh Creek Energy's executive chairman Justyn Peters said he was disappointed the matter had ended up in court, but was pleased with the outcome. ...

"This is only a demonstration plant that's going to go for two or three months and it has been highly regulated by the government.

"It'll be over by Christmas - but equally - ATLA is an important stakeholder in the area and we want to keep working on that with them." ...

Traditional owner Dwayne Coulthard said the decision to deny the injunction was a "kick in the guts" for the Adnyamathanha people.

"Our vision was that we would have an opportunity for this special place to heal.

"The court's decision today makes it unlikely that that will happen - but you know what, we're not going away. ...

<https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/business/sa-business-journal/leigh-creek-underground-coal-gasification-project-full-steam-ahead-following-aboriginal-groups-failed-injunction-bid/news-story/264d8e44174f94ee4f646c9d59ede9d>

### Leigh Creek underground coal gasification project full steam ahead following Aboriginal group's failed injunction bid

Michelle Etheridge, Advertiser, 18/09/2018

An Aboriginal association has lost its Supreme Court bid to stop a controversial gas mining trial at Leigh Creek.

Justice Sam Doyle on Tuesday dismissed the Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association's application for an injunction to prevent Leigh Creek Energy's underground coal gasification project from starting this week. ...

The practice has been banned in Queensland, but the Department for Energy and Mining's Energy Resources Division has deemed the geology at Leigh Creek suitable for the process. ...

About 25 people rallied outside court before the hearing.

Conservation Council SA chief executive Craig Wilkins said although Leigh Creek Energy had been given approval for the works, "we're here today to give a very clear message that this proposal does not have social licence".

"There's a great deal of concern around the risk to the environment, groundwater and people's health," Mr Wilkins said. ...

<https://www.transcontinental.com.au/story/5654981/no-injunction-for-coal-project/>

### No injunction for Leigh Creek Energy Project

Marco Balsamo, Transcontinental, 19/09/2018

The South Australian Supreme Court has dismissed the injunction application to delay the operational start-up of Leigh Creek Energy's Pre-Commercial Demonstration (PCD).

The application had been made by the New South Wales Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) on behalf of the Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association (ATLA). ...

## NUKE MADNESS

<https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/nitv-news/article/2018/09/18/south-australia-could-be-final-destination-british-nuclear-waste>

### South Australia could be the 'final destination' for British nuclear waste

Greg Dunlop & Brooke Fryer, NITV News, 18/09/2018

Traditional Owners have criticised the revelation that a shipment of 'intermediate-level' radioactive waste will be sent from Britain to Australia and could be dumped in South Australia.

The material will be sent in the next three to four years and temporarily stored at Sydney's Lucas Heights nuclear reactor until Australia builds its first radioactive waste dump.

Three sites in South Australia have been short-listed for the facility: two near Kimba, a small town on the Eyre Peninsula; and one at a cattle station in the Flinders Rangers near the town of Hawker.

Adnyamathanha Traditional Owner Regina McKenzie described the proposal for the nuclear waste dump as "cultural genocide".

"It's not our waste and I don't think the Aboriginal people should be logged with this waste at all," she told NITV News.

"It's ripping our families apart." ...

Last year, Ms McKenzie compared building a nuclear storage facility on Aboriginal land to putting a waste dump at the Vatican. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/foreign-affairs/fears-for-indigenous-lands-as-foreign-nuclear-waste-headed-our-way/news-story/21a1027baf-da79992897b676db2e71ed>

## Fears for indigenous lands as foreign nuclear waste headed our way

Jacquelin Magnay, *Australian*, 17/09/2018

Australia is to receive a shipment of intermediate-level radioactive waste from Britain in the next three or four years despite concerns in Scotland that the nuclear material may end up dumped on traditional Aboriginal lands. ...

But the waste will not be material from Australian spent fuel rods from the decommissioned High-Flux Australian Reactor at Lucas Heights (which was originally generated from British-sourced uranium) and reprocessed at Dounreay, Scotland, in 1996.

Instead it is considered too expensive to move that low-level waste from Dounreay, and so the nuclear waste to be transported to Australia will be “substitution waste” from Sellafield in England, but of a higher radioactive level. ...

Glasgow environmental activist Gary Cushway, who helped stop a nuclear storage plant near Cooper Pedy, said there was increased awareness in Scotland that Australia didn’t have adequate storage for intermediate-level waste. He said there were fears that the new nuclear waste management facility, said to be for low-level waste, would be recategorised retrospectively to handle the intermediate-level waste. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/climate/nuclear-energy-the-answer-to-combat-climate-change/news-story/1bd7c1b371502b37cf2be9b-451f9ab97>

## Nuclear energy the answer to combat climate change

Graham Lloyd, *The Australian*, 20/09/2018

Nuclear energy was vital to meeting the global challenge of climate change but projections were for a dramatic shortfall in capacity by 2050, a major new report from the International Atomic Energy Agency said. ...

Called Climate Change and Nuclear Power 2018, the report said climate change was one of the most important issues facing the world today.

Nuclear energy could make an important contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions while delivering energy in the increasingly large quantities needed for global economic development. ...

The IAEA said the contribution of nuclear energy to greenhouse gas mit-

igation over the next decades would depend on many factors including the performance of the nuclear industry, economic competitiveness and safety.

Nuclear energy also faced debate around radiation exposure, radioactive waste, and off-site effects of nuclear accidents. ...

## FOSSIL POLITICS

[https://reneweconomy.com.au/taylor-launches-extraordinary-and-ill-informed-attack-against-wind-and-solar-81907/?utm\\_source=RE+Daily+News-letter&utm\\_campaign=6be647739a-EMAIL\\_CAM-PAIGN\\_2018\\_09\\_17\\_01\\_25&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_46a1943223-6be647739a-40461137](https://reneweconomy.com.au/taylor-launches-extraordinary-and-ill-informed-attack-against-wind-and-solar-81907/?utm_source=RE+Daily+News-letter&utm_campaign=6be647739a-EMAIL_CAM-PAIGN_2018_09_17_01_25&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_46a1943223-6be647739a-40461137)

## Taylor launches extraordinary and ill-informed attack against wind and solar

Giles Parkinson, *RenewEconomy*, 17/09/2018

New energy minister Angus Taylor has launched a new and extraordinary attack against wind and solar, saying they cause “de-industrialisation” and claiming that Labor’s 45 per cent emissions reduction target would send a “wrecking ball” through the Australian economy.

The comments came in an interview on Sky News on Sunday night ...

These are scare tactics reminiscent of the Abbott and Joyce attacks against the then carbon price – remember the ‘Whyalla will be a ghost town’ campaign, and the ‘\$100 lamb roasts’? ...

The notion of “de-industrialisation” will be news to the likes of UK billionaire Sanjeev Gupta, and the new SA Liberal government. Gupta has rescued, and is planning to expand, the steelworks at Whyalla based around a huge investment in solar and storage – a plan he intends to repeat with his steel operations in Victoria and NSW. ...

Taylor’s antipathy to “intermittent” generation is well known and long-standing, and in the interview with Kenny he didn’t stop there, trotting out a series of claims that are in direct contradiction to the findings of institutions such as the Energy Security Board, the ACCC, the Australian Energy Market Commission and The Australian Energy Market Operator. ...

It was interesting to note that Taylor said it may be months before an outline of the government plans to underwrite “new 24-hour baseload” would be unveiled. ... It won’t be in place before the next poll.

Taylor also threatens to stop any company from closing coal-fired generators by forcing divestment. But he admits he doesn’t actually have the power to do that. ...

The rest of it – talk of the lights going out, de-industrialisation and the like is just one-eyed rhetorical nonsense, and demonstrably wrong even if you rely only on the word of AEMO and the ACCC. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/climate/angus-taylormade-package-prolongs-coals-power/news-story/a886a5169745356076ef61c524328a12>

## Angus Taylor-made package prolongs coal’s power

Samantha Hutchinson, *Australian*, 20/09/2018

Newly appointed federal Energy Minister Angus Taylor will consider a plan to upgrade the efficiency of Australian coal-fired power stations to improve performance, cut emissions and prolong their operating lives, among a suite of options to shore up the national power supply. ...

Sources in the federal government told *The Australian* the plan had been under the consideration of former energy and environment minister Josh Frydenberg and was now among a suite of options Mr Taylor will consider as he formulates a national energy approach.

Sources in the department indicated a range of funding options were floated for consideration under the former minister, including a dedicated efficiency-upgrade fund, as well as attractively priced loans and matching funding for companies. Plans drafted before Mr Taylor came to parliament are understood to have focused on coal-fired power stations with a life expectancy of more than 20 years. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/latest-news/climate-experts-call-for-wa-fracking-ban/news-story/52c844abf8637a433c649847db4970c>

## Climate experts call for WA fracking ban

Rebecca Gredley, *AAP, Australian*, 18/09/2018

The former head of the CSIRO’s atmospheric research team and a former premier are among a group of more than 50 experts urging the West Australian government to permanently ban fracking in the state.

Graeme Pearman and Carmen Lawrence will visit WA’s state parliament in Perth on Tuesday morning to call for the ban on fracking, with an open letter that also includes support from 2003 Australian of the Year Fiona Stanley and Climate Council chief Tim Flannery. ...

## News this week ... from previous page

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/money/finance-news/2018/09/18/energy-ministers-claim-carbon-emissions-false/>

### Claim we're on track to meet emissions targets is false

James Fernyhough, *New Daily*, 19/09/2018

Australia's new energy minister Angus Taylor made a claim about carbon emissions this week that looked on the surface to be fantastic news, but on closer inspection is false.

Here is what he wrote in the *Australian Financial Review* on Tuesday:

"[E]missions reductions are the least of our problems, with every prospect we will reach the 26 per cent reduction below 2005 levels ahead of schedule and without interventions."

But *The New Daily* looked into Mr Taylor's claim, and the evidence suggests it is in one sense downright false, and in another seriously misleading. ...

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/73-of-australians-wrong-according-to-climate-denying-coalition.11904>

### 73% of Australians wrong, according to climate-denying COALition

Simon Black, *Independent Australia*, 18/09/2018

It's not often you see a politician spit in the face of their electorate as thoroughly as Member for Hughes Craig Kelly and Senator Eric Abetz did last week, when they dismissed climate change rallies outside Parliament House.

But how badly these two politicians have this issue wrong demonstrates just how far the coal lobby has managed to burrow into Canberra's corridors of power. So far, in fact, that these two honourable men would urge Prime Minister Scott Morrison and the rest of the Coalition to ignore the majority of Australians, and their calls to transition away from coal and take action on climate change. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/sep/20/pro-coal-coalition-mps-schedule-dinner-to-discuss-australias-energy-future>

### Pro-coal Coalition MPs schedule private dinner to discuss 'Australia's energy future'

Katharine Murphy, *The Guardian*, 20/09/2018

The pro-coal Monash Forum is attempting to convene a private dinner when federal parliament resumes in mid-October with Trevor St Baker, part-owner of the Vales Point coal generator and founder of the business electricity retailer ERM Power.

With the energy minister, Angus Taylor, working up options for cabinet to lower power prices and boost generation capacity by expanding existing plants, upgrading ageing legacy generators and pursuing new investments, the Coalition's pro-coal ginger group has scheduled dinner with St Baker in Parliament House on 16 October.

According to an invitation circulated among members of the Monash Forum, seen by *Guardian Australia*, Coalition MPs will meet for dinner and discussion on "Australia's energy future". ...

Planning for the soiree comes as industry associations and energy associations met in Canberra on Thursday with the shadow climate change minister, Mark Butler, and the Labor leader, Bill Shorten, and urged them to persist with the national energy guarantee. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/resources-minister-spruiks-made-in-australia-logo-to-promote-our-coal/news-story/e392e86214d77f50b966fb7e866bdcf9>

### Resources Minister spruiks Made in Australia logo to promote our coal

Federal Political Editor, *Courier-Mail*, 21/09/2018

A coal brand – inspired by the green logo used on Australian food – is being considered by the Morrison Government to entice more overseas investment.

And states that deliberately go slow when approving new mining sites face being named and shamed by the Government, which fears Australia's reputation is being damaged by ideological politics.

Resources Minister Matt Canavan will today release the Resources 2030 Taskforce report, which will underpin the first national statement on the sector for about 20 years. ...

The taskforce, chaired by former

Queensland mines minister Andrew Cripps, included former Rudd government foreign minister Stephen Smith, urged the Government and industry to find new basins (like Mount Isa) and reduce regulatory burden under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act, which will be reviewed in 2019.

It also urged states be scored on their regulations that encouraged or discouraged mining investment, and that the industry and government be alive to serious public relations challenges. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/beware-ideology-fuelled-push-for-coal-energy-tsar-kerry-schott-warns/news-story/c38c75d6263a13c3671ef244814bbf29>

### Beware ideology-fuelled push for coal, energy tsar Kerry Schott warns

Perry Williams, *The Australian*, 21/09/2018

The architect of the dumped national energy guarantee says the industry should be wary of ideological arguments in favour of new coal-fired power stations and warns the construction of the plants remains uneconomic in Australia.

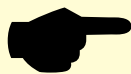
Energy Security Board chairwoman Kerry Schott told a business conference yesterday the case for building high-efficiency, low-emissions plants in Australia did not stack up. ...

Dr Schott said while technology continued to improve, building new coal plants was difficult to justify.

"They have been built particularly in Asia, but they are not efficient in terms of economics in Australia. They're very costly to build. This is very ideological and it's important for everyone to check the facts of what everyone is saying." ...

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