



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 1:46 • 16 OCTOBER 2018

NSW Govt pushes ahead with Bylong mine

As experts warn about warming beyond 1.5 degrees, the NSW Government is pushing forward with the Bylong coal mine

Community groups have slammed the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DoPE) for recommending a new thermal coal mine should proceed on the very same day that the IPCC warned the world needed to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees.

The department has recommended that the destructive, foreign-owned Bylong coal mine near Mudgee can proceed, despite a new assessment identifying state significant heritage values on the site where mining is proposed.

An independent expert report on the heritage values released last week by the department concluded that:

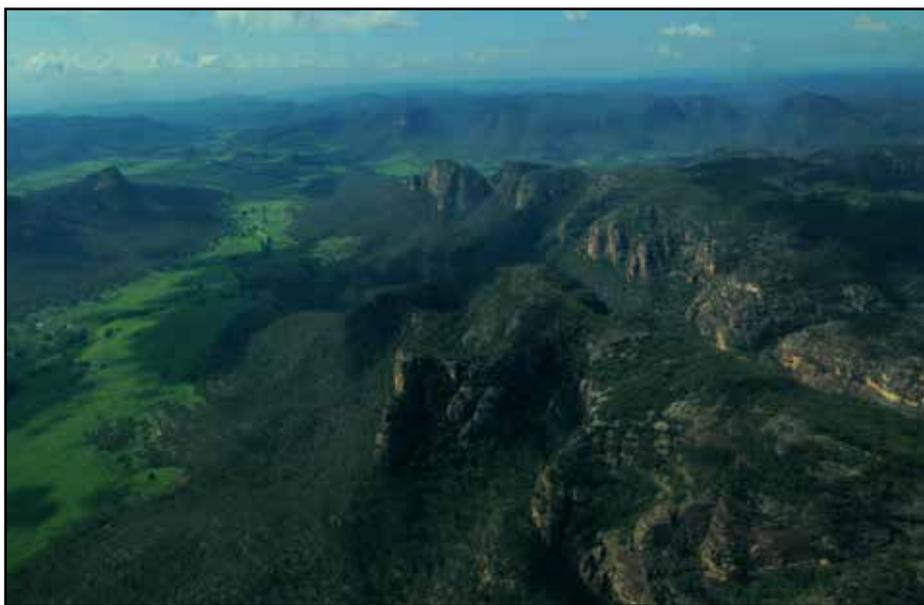
Heritage values get little consideration

- *The Bylong Valley generally had state significant heritage values as a scenic landscape on the western side of the World-heritage listed Blue Mountains;*
- *The Tarwyn Park property in particular had state significant heritage values as the site of the first and longest running application of Natural Sequence Farming in Australia.*

Despite this report, the DoPE suggested only minor amendments to the mine plan rather than rejecting the mine outright.

The proposal will now go to the Independent Planning Commission for a final determination.

“The recommendation to proceed with the Bylong mine shows the NSW Government is completely missing in action on climate change just as



*To be trashed for coal: The Bylong Valley has state significant heritage values.
Photo: Dean Sewell*

the IPCC warns warming beyond 1.5 degrees risks catastrophic heat and disruption” said Lock the Gate spokesperson Carmel Flint.

“Not only will this mine put the climate at risk, but new research shows it will take South Korean mining giant KEPCO one step closer to destroying a magnificent valley with state significant heritage values.

Should have been rejected outright

“The Department of Planning and Environment has cherry-picked the expert heritage information and moved only to amend the mine plan slightly, when it’s clear the mine should have been rejected outright.

“Equally worrying is that there is no new information on Aboriginal cultural heritage impacts provided by the

department, even though the Independent Planning Commission previously stated that further investigation was needed.

“This mine will only proceed with the backing of the NSW Government, who at every step have allowed it to progress through the planning process despite the obvious and unacceptable risks it poses to farmland, water and heritage.

“We’re calling on the NSW Premier to come and meet local landholders and visit the site as a matter of urgency and then to take firm action to end this dangerous mining proposal” she said.

The Bylong Valley is one of many valleys with consistent geology that together form the western side of the World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains.

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• P 2: Greens want Leigh Ck gas stopped

• P 3: Gasfield risks to local economies

• P 4: Vic Govt orders EES for Crib Pt terminal

Greens want Leigh Creek coal gasification project stopped

The Australian Greens are calling on urgent Federal Government intervention into the Leigh Creek Energy (LCK) underground coal gasification project, after last week's announcement the company has produced its first syngas.

"The Federal Environment Minister must intervene and put a stop to this project before any irreversible damage is caused. It is a disgrace it was ever given the go-ahead by the South Australian Liberal Government," Greens environment spokesperson Senator Sarah Hanson-Young said.

"The Greens will move in the Parliament to stop the Leigh Creek project and ban this absurd and harmful practice.

LCK managing director Phil Staveley said, "We are very pleased to be able to report that we have produced first syngas flows at the Leigh Creek. This significant milestone unlocks a large energy resource and enables the com-

pany to quickly move toward having this resource upgraded to reserve status by the end of 4Q 2018. We look forward to updating the market as we move closer to certification."

The project aims to produce syngas at over one million cubic feet per day, and scale up to three million cubic feet when fully commercial.

Hanson-Young said, "This toxic practice poisons the water table and contaminates soil and air. It does immeasurable damage to the environment, and the climate. It has been linked to an increase in cancers, including lung and breast cancers. UCG is banned in Queensland and across the world, for good reason, because of the demon-



Leigh Creek project site.
Photo: Leigh Creek Energy

strated harm it causes to people and the environment.

"The Greens stand in solidarity with Traditional Owners and community members who have been fighting this going ahead. South Australian lives must be protected, like Queenslanders finally are. We must stop the government putting us at risk for the sake of a company making a profit for shareholders offshore."

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Narrabri wants renewable energy, not CSG

The North West Alliance and Lock the Gate have released the results of door-to-door surveys in Narrabri, showing an overwhelming majority of people in favour of renewable energy compared to less than a third that want CSG.

The door-knocking took place from July to September, knocking on 2,300 doors and collecting survey responses from 840 people.

The results of the survey show overwhelming positivity in Narrabri towards renewable energy and considerable concern about coal seam gas:

Asked if they support renewable energy as a way to provide long-term jobs for Narrabri 97% of people answered "yes!"

Asked if they were in favour of the proposed 850 well coal seam gasfield in the Pilliga, only 28% of people said they were in favour

More than half, 52%, of people surveyed were opposed to the gasfield and 20% were unsure

Fifty-five per cent of the people surveyed said they were very or somewhat concerned about the gasfield and only 24% said they were not concerned

Sally Hunter, Narrabri farmer and member of People for the Plains said, "It was so worthwhile to speak to the people of Narrabri about their attitudes to renewable energy and coal seam gas and discover the town is far more excited by renewables than CSG.

"We're excited too: we want the jobs and prosperity that renewable energy can bring Narrabri without the pollution and water depletion that CSG will bring."

Jane Judd, Lock the Gate North West regional coordinator said, "A report commissioned by Lock the Gate earlier this year revealed that the huge renewable energy potential of Narrabri Shire can create more numerous and more lasting jobs than CSG offers, without sucking up huge volumes of water and risking serious environmental harm.

"Though this is just a snapshot, we think our survey results indicate that Narrabri people want jobs, but not at the expense of the water that is the lifeblood of our region. Luckily for all of us, we don't have to choose between one or the other: we can stop the Narrabri gasfield and embrace the jobs that renewable energy can bring."

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Call to cancel Adani water licence

Adani's failure to pay \$18.5 million owed for water licence should trigger the Queensland Government to cancel the licence, says Lock the Gate.

In response to a question on notice in parliament Natural Resource Minister Anthony Lynham confirmed Adani did not pay for its license to take 12.5 billion litres of water from the Sutor River by the 1 July 2018 due date, and has been granted a 12-month extension.

"Despite drought conditions the Queensland Government are continuing to give preferential treatment to Adani, essentially giving them an option on the water even though they haven't paid for the licence" said Mackay Conservation Group Spokesperson, Maggie McKeown.

"The Queensland Government have always said they would hold Adani to the highest standards and strictest conditions, yet they seem unable to hold Adani to account when it comes to paying its way" said Lock the Gate spokesperson Ellie Smith.

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Gasfields a risk to local economy

Australia Institute report shows 1.8 agriculture jobs lost for every gasfield job

A report prepared for Lock the Gate Alliance by Dr Cameron Murray, of The Australia Institute, highlights the negative impacts of coal seam gas (CSG) mining on regional businesses and communities.

The report focuses on the Bundaberg Regional Council and Fraser Coast Regional Council areas in the Maryborough Basin.

Blue Energy has three petroleum exploration permits in the region, which they believe contain coal seam, and deeper shale gas, reserves

“While gas companies often promise that the development of gas fields creates substantial regional economic benefits, the reality of gas development in Queensland has been that the promised benefits are just that, promises,” says the report.

Points from the report:

'Gas and the Wide Bay Burnett Economy'

The boost in investment from large scale gas field development makes it more difficult for established businesses in other industries by raising local prices.

The industry outbids other businesses for local workers, temporarily increasing local wages. It also outbids locals for housing, increasing the costs of living for the local workforce.

“For Bundaberg and Fraser Coast, with an economy reliant on services, tourism, agricultural, and manufacturing, this wage competition is likely to be extremely disruptive to established businesses,” the report says.

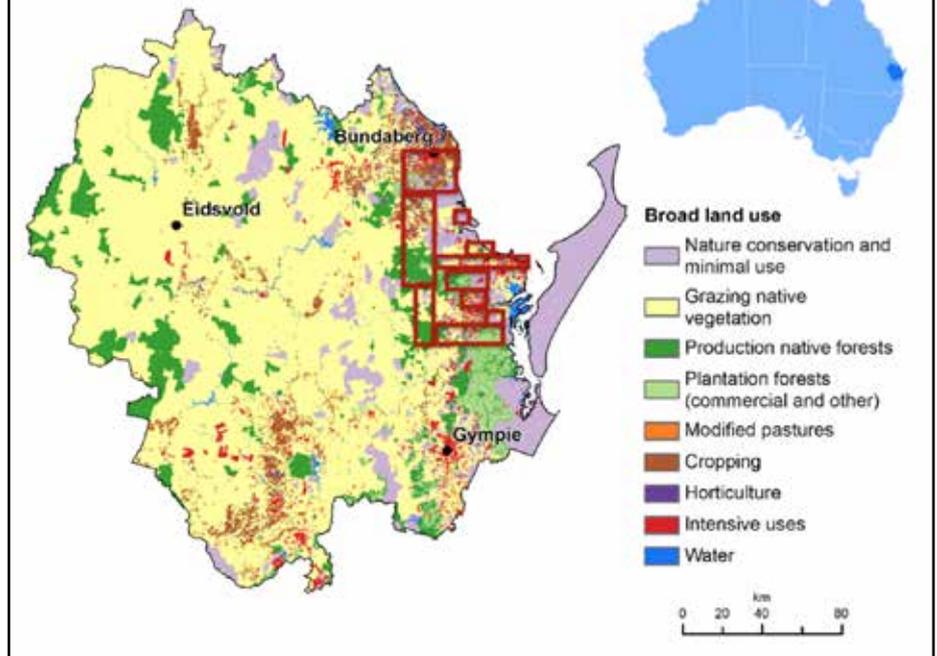
Analysis of previously established CSG fields in Queensland showed that for every job in the gas industry, 1.8 jobs in agriculture were lost because of this competition for local workers, and other land-use conflicts with agriculture.

In terms of housing, the price of rents and housing can also quickly inflate, making life difficult for long-term local renters or potentially new long-term residents.

One effect of the house price boom is outward migration of long-term residents. Renting households who see any wage increase soaked up by higher rents often take the opportunity to leave, while some local home-own-

Location of agricultural production and indicative location of gasfields

Graphic: The Australia Institute



ers take the chance to make money on their home, and leave the area to perhaps retire elsewhere.

This outward migration can lead to an increase in measured average incomes in the region, because low-income households are the most likely to leave.

While boom-time employment in construction of gas fields and associated pipelines and infrastructure are significant, the long-term employment benefits are not.

A 2015 study showed that Bunnings retail hardware stores employ more people across the country than the entire oil and gas industry. The industry should thus not be considered one that generates long-term regional activity, but one that generates a short-term boom and bust cycle, while incurring costs on other parts of the regional economy.

Conflict with agriculture

Conflict with agricultural land uses is a key issue for gas development, particularly shale gas that will require extensive water use for fracking to break the geological structures holding gas. There are significant coastal groundwater tables and surface water rivers used for intensive agriculture in the areas covered by gas exploration permits.

- Every gas job costs 1.8 agriculture jobs
- Gasfield agricultural revenues fall by 7%
- 2016 gasfield royalties only 6% of forecast \$561 million
- Bunnings employs more people than the entire oil and gas industry
- Only 6-7% of gasfields residents like the industry

Any degradation of regional water supplies from shale gas extraction will have significant environment costs, and also economic costs in terms of its effect on the intensive agricultural activities in the region.

The best research on the direct effect of gas fields on agricultural output in Queensland's Surat Basin shows that agricultural revenues fall by 7% on average (in a study area of 11,500 Ha with 155 CSG wells).

The major adjustments that happen when a region experiences a gas boom and bust cycle can also be socially disruptive, particularly with the inflow of temporary workers and departure of long-term residents, alongside the economic tensions of small businesses trying to operate in a rapidly changing economic environment.

Gasfield promises, promises

• Continued from p3

A survey funded by gas companies in 2014 showed that communities in the Darling Downs had predominantly negative views about the effect of the gas boom on their region.

Only around 6% thought the community was “Changing to something different, but better”, while the majority of respondents said they were “Resisting”, “Not coping”, or “Only just coping”. Most respondents said their attitude to coal seam gas was to “Tolerate” or “Accept” it, or with only 7% saying they “Embrace” it.

Other surveys have shown that there is a general view that the boom and bust cycle has a negative impact on social cohesion and “neighbourliness”, due to absentee investors of property, vacant and dilapidated housing during the bust, and rapid change in the population.

One promise of gas development in Queensland has been that the gains will be shared widely with the community through royalties to the state government, which may return to the gas regions through, for example, upgrades to local infrastructure.

Royalties: Empty promises

However, these royalties, too, have turned out to be mostly empty promises.

The expected and budgeted royalties from petroleum in Queensland have been repeatedly unmet, often to an astonishing degree. For example, in 2016 royalties were only 6% of the forecast \$561 million.

The exaggerated claims about future royalty incomes from gas are indicative of the degree to which other economic benefits of the industry are overplayed by its advocates, and serve as a warning about taking forecast economic benefits from industry sources at face value.

The report concludes that, while gas development can bring short term economic gains to certain parts of the local community, these gains come with both short and long-term social and economic costs to other parts of the community.

• The report can be viewed at www.tai.org.au/content/gas-and-wide-bay-burnett-economy.

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Vic planning minister orders Environment Effects Statement for AGL's gas terminal

Environment Victoria and the Victorian National Parks Association have welcomed a decision by Planning Minister Richard Wynne to require a full Environment Effects Statement (EES) for AGL's controversial proposed gas import terminal at Westernport.

Concerns over the proposal have been raised time and again by the local community, scientists, and environmentalists.

The decision on the EES comes as Reachtel polling released by Environment Victoria shows there is little community support for the project.

“Together with the community, we are pleased that there will now be a proper assessment of the impacts of AGL's damaging and polluting project,” said Environment Victoria campaigns manager, Dr Nicholas Aberle.

“It is critical now that all work on site and along the route of the pipeline ceases immediately. We share the alarm of local residents that significant on-site works appear to be underway.

“Our research shows that only two percent of residents in the state seat of Bass support importing gas from interstate or overseas. A domestic gas reservation policy and greater use of renewable energy and energy efficiency are seen as much better solutions.

Over 80% of locals worried

“There is deep community concern about the impact of the project on the local area. Over 80% of locals say they are worried about the gas terminal's impact on threatened species and migratory birds, and 72% of voters are concerned about the impact on Victoria's greenhouse pollution.

“While we're pleased there will be a thorough environmental assessment, like many residents we believe the project is unnecessary and polluting and should not go ahead.

“It is ridiculous to think that as AGL is pushing this import project, Australia is about to become the world's largest exporter of LNG. We shouldn't even entertain the idea of a new industry importing gas.

“Ahead of the Federal election, sanity must prevail. Australia must limit gas exports to provide enough for local

consumers, as well as support households and business to use less gas and shift to renewable energy.

Victorian National Parks Association nature campaigner Shannon Hurley said, “The Planning Minister's decision for an EES is crucial to protect Westernport's significant internationally listed Ramsar wetland, fisheries and valuable habitats, some of which are only found in Westernport Bay – and they are too important to get this one wrong.”

Minister for planning Richard Wynne said, “We owe it to the community and the environment to get this right and ensure this proposal is rigorously analysed by the most thorough environmental and cultural assessment tool available in the State.

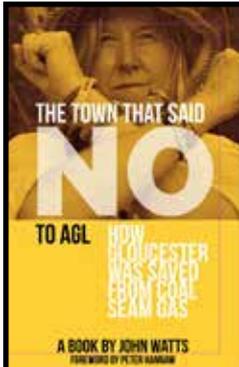
“While this project has great potential, it's critical we assess its impacts thoroughly, to protect the community and the environment.”

The project would see construction of a high-pressure gas pipeline to connect a liquid natural gas import facility constructed at Crib Point to the Victorian transmission system, near Pakenham.

The EES will investigate the potential environmental, community and cultural impacts of the project including impacts on native vegetation, wildlife, marine life and Aboriginal heritage.

While the EES will deliver an assessment of the project's environmental effects, the final proposal will still need to comply with a range of regulatory approvals, including legislative requirements under the Environment Protection Act, Pipeline Act and Aboriginal Heritage Act.

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Women protest against fracking in London

By Judi Summers

Gwilym and I were in London on holidays with family when we found #WOMEN'S VOTE AGAINST FRACKING was happening in Parliament Square, London, on September 12.

We had actually planned to go up to Lancashire, to the blockade at Preston New Road on the following day, so it was serendipity that we did not have to go on that long drive, instead hopping on a train and getting off at Westminster.

I contacted organiser Tina Louise Rothery, and was at parliament square to meet her and the 100+ women dressed as suffragettes when they arrived on two buses.

Approximately 150 people had already gathered in Parliament Square, all excitedly awaiting the suffragettes. The women were predominantly from Lancashire (Nanashire) where fracking is imminent.

The message: let communities decide

They brought the message to Westminster: let communities decide on fracking, without the top-down power doctrine of central government.

They carried poster boards:

'To our elected Representatives – The Women of Lancashire, on behalf of our children, families, communities and future generations, whose lives will be blighted by fracking, are politely asking you to put an end to this madness.'

They had an eight-metre banner – *UNITED AGAINST FRACKING* – which included a number of anti-fracking groups such as Frack Free Lancashire, Friends of the Earth, Frack Free Wales and Campaign Against Climate Change.

They chanted 'We Said NO'.

I found myself overwhelmed with emotion; the passion and commitment of these women is so inspiring.

There were also 'suffragettes' wearing sashes – *'Keep Pankhurst in Parliament'* – they had a signed petition to stop a proposal by an MP to have the Emmeline Pankhurst statue removed from parliament. (This proposal was subsequently withdrawn.)

With cross-party support, and from NGOs Friends of the Earth, 350.org and Greenpeace, several other MPs, politicians and campaigners gave speeches.



They included Green Party leader, Baroness Jenny Jones, Caroline Lucas MP and former leader, Natalie Bennett.

They stand in solidarity with residents who are being undemocratically forced to host fracking sites in their communities.

Following the speakers, the large group marched along the footpath past Westminster to the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the body that has proposed planning rule changes over permitted development in fracking applications.

This policy is currently out for consultation.

The chant: 'We said NO'

The women had planned to present their message on a giant postcard to the Department, but the building had been locked down prior to the gathering arriving.

Not to be deterred we all stood chanting 'We said NO' for some 15 minutes.

This simple message was so powerful.

The suffragettes then continued back to parliament to the statue of Emmeline Pankhurst where they paid their respects to their guiding suffragette.

2018 is the 100th anniversary of women's victory in gaining a parliamentary vote after the suffragettes' campaign.

The Parliament Square event highlighted how there are still many democracy issues with dirty energy companies taking priority over communities.



TOP: - The eight-metre 'United Against Fracking' banner.

MIDDLE: Suffragettes gathering in front of the statue of Millicent Garrett Fawcett

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Millicent_Fawcett

BOTTOM: 85-year-old Annie Power, who was dragged away from the Preston New Road blockade and arrested.

Photos: Gwilym Summers

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

The report LNP politicians don't want to read

The Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C was approved by the IPCC last week in Incheon, Republic of Korea.

It will be a key scientific input into the Katowice Climate Change Conference in Poland in December, when governments review the Paris Agreement to tackle climate change.

“With more than 6,000 scientific references cited and the dedicated contribution of thousands of expert and government reviewers worldwide, this important report testifies to the breadth and policy relevance of the IPCC,” said Hoesung Lee, chair of the IPCC.

Ninety-one authors and review editors from 40 countries prepared the IPCC report in response to an invitation from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) when it adopted the Paris Agreement in 2015.

The report finds that limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require “rapid and far-reaching” transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities.

Global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) would need to fall by about 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching ‘net zero’ around 2050. This means that any remaining emissions would need to be balanced by removing CO₂ from the air.



Read it yourself:

<http://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/>

Suggested reading

Further insights on climate change:



<https://www.commondreams.org/views/2018/10/12/stop-misdiagnosing-climate-change>



<https://www.commondreams.org/views/2018/10/12/we-need-cities-resistance-climate-adaptation-no-longer-option?>

Inside the news

The Murdoch press reacted predictably to the IPCC report last week. **Judith Sloan** raged in *The Australian*: “A group of like-minded, **henny-penny scientists** telling us the world is about to be transformed in a bad way unless we act.” She said the report “**ain’t science**” (p12).

The **Prime Minister** agreed, saying he had no intention of spending money on global climate conferences and “**all that sort of nonsense.**” Deputy PM, **Michael McCormack**, said Australia should “**absolutely**” continue to use and **exploit its coal reserves**, despite the IPCC’s dire warnings the world has just 12 years to avoid climate change catastrophe.

FFB is sure they won’t spend time actually reading the report, but **you** can, along with relevant commentary (links at left).

An article on **climate genocide** by David Wallace-Wells (p11) is also well worth a click on the link to read. It makes a compelling case for emergency action on climate change.

The head of Queensland’s biggest gas exporter, Warwick King of **Australia Pacific LNG**, says the state’s coal seam gas fields are not as good as was expected. The \$70 billion of LNG projects, including six giant gas freezers at Gladstone (p9) may be unable to fulfil export contracts. In other words, **Queensland’s gas-fields are a dud.**

Leigh Creek Energy succeeded in **setting fire to the ground** beneath its South Australian feet, using the same **Linc Energy** technology that caused Queensland’s biggest pollution disaster (p9). During a three-month test run they are **flaring off** a million cubic feet of syngas per day, adding to the planet’s greenhouse gas load (p2).

The **Queensland Resources Council** has been feeding anti-activist reports to its favourite newspapers. The *Courier-Mail* was prompted to fume that 230 activist jobs were advertised this year by the “**anti-development crowd** [who] only want to **shout slogans** and **alarm people** about outcomes that usually are non-existent” (p13).

In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 29,800 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/2018/oct/08/adani-given-extra-year-to-pay-for-water-licence-due-to-project-delays>

Adani given extra year to pay for water licence due to 'project delays'

Ben Smee, *The Guardian*, 08/10/2018

The Queensland government has quietly granted the Adani mining company a year-long extension to pay \$18.5m for a water extraction licence, citing Carmichael coalmine "project timetable delays".

The extension was branded "another special deal" by environmental groups, who said the government had consistently defended granting water access to Adani in the middle of a drought by stating the company would be made to abide by strict conditions. ...

The Australian Financial Review reported last month that engineering firm AECOM was owed \$16.9m by Adani and had submitted a claim for arbitration to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission.

Tim Buckley, the director of energy finance studies at the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, said Adani's Australian operation was structured so it was "actually insolvent", with debts owed to the Indian parent.

Buckley said that structure created an "all-or-nothing scenario" that meant Adani was likely to defer making payments or committing large amounts of money, such as for the water licence, as long as possible while still trying to obtain finance and progress the Carmichael project. "If they exit, they won't be holding all of the financial burden," Buckley said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-11/adani-granted-20-per-cent-boost-to-abbot-point-coal-exports/10361454>

Adani granted 20 per cent boost to annual coal exports through Abbot Point terminal

Sofie Wainwright, *ABC*, 11/10/2018

Adani has been given the green light to increase its north Queensland coal exports by 20 per cent, meaning about 60 million tonnes of the resource could be transferred through its Abbot Point terminal each year. ...



Adani's Abbot Point coal terminal.

The approval from the Queensland coordinator-general came a month after the State Government announced it would take the mining giant to court for the alleged illegal release of coal-laden water near the Great Barrier Reef.

The State Government launched a separate investigation into a series of groundwater bores drilled by Adani, which conservationists said were sunk without approval. ...

It is understood Adani was already allowed to export a total of 90 million tonnes per year between its existing port terminal, T1, and a yet-to-be-built T0 terminal, and that the Government has shifted the 10 million tonnes from T0 to T1. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/adani-to-increase-coal-capacity-at-abbot-point-but-no-change-to-overall-export/news-story/26b92661488b0d4c4e0437353a36c7e0>

Adani to increase coal capacity at Abbot Point but no change to overall export

Clare Armstrong, *Townsville Bulletin*, 11/10/2018

Adani has been granted approval to increase the export capacity of its coal terminal at Abbot Point, which will delay the need to construct a second terminal.

Queensland's co-ordinator general has approved an application by Adani Abbot Point Terminal (AAPT) to build a

new conveyor and transfer tower at its existing "T1" terminal, which would allow for an additional 10 million tonnes of coal to be transferred per year.

This would bring the total capacity of T1 to 60 million tonnes annually, but there is no change to overall approved capacity through the Abbot Point Precinct. ...

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/pay-in-30-days-or-face-a-fight-mp-warns-miners/3541455/>

'Pay in 30 days or face a fight' MP warns miners

Rainee Shepperson, *Gladstone Observer*, 05/10/2018

Pay in 30 days or risk government intervention. This is the message Federal Member for Dawson George Christensen is sending to multinational mining companies.

The MP says several multinational mining companies are dragging the chain, not paying local contractors for up to 90 days and in some cases 120 days and beyond.

The Make it 30 Days campaign was launched by Mr Christensen yesterday and will be the first step in tackling the issue. ...

[A] business owner recognised that not all mining companies were to

blame, with Glencore, New Hope Group and Whitehaven Coal maintaining payments within 30 days.

He claimed BHP and Rio Tinto were the two main culprits. ...

<https://www.mudgeeguardian.com.au/story/5690495/departments-of-planning-recommends-bylong-coal-project-go-ahead/>

Department of Planning recommends Bylong Coal project go ahead

Benjamin Palmer, Mudgee Guardian, 08/10/2018

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment has completed its comprehensive assessment of the Bylong Coal Project referring to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) for approval, subject to stringent conditions, according to a release from the Department of Planning and Environment.

This comes after concerns from some members of the community resulting in protests as well as a scathing PAC assessment in July 2017. ...

All the information relied on in the Department's assessment and its final report are available on the NSW Major Projects website at:

http://www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=6367

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5689422/new-hunter-coal-mine-greenlighted-as-report-issues-dire-climate-change-warnings/?cs=12>

Controversial Bylong mine "approvable" despite landmark report urging severe coal cuts over next decade

Joanne McCarthy, Newcastle Herald, 09/10/2018

The NSW Department of Planning has greenlighted a new Hunter coal mine as a landmark report warns of dangerous global climate change impacts if coal consumption is not significantly reduced over the next decade. ...

But the NSW Minerals Council said it expected demand for Hunter coal to grow by more than 400 million tonnes by 2030 and the outlook is "very positive", while Upper Hunter MP Michael Johnsen said "It's possible" the IPCC report is wrong. ...

Former Greens leader Bob Brown said the IPCC report showed the Hunter should join climate change protesters against the coal industry.

"You either back the protesters or you back the coal industry. It's outrageous that someone like Bill Ryan (a 96-year-old Kokoda veteran charged after protests in September) is facing jail rather than a coal company executive," Mr Brown said. ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-09/bylong-valley-coal-mine-gets-approval-from-nsw-government/10355668>

Bylong Valley mine gets NSW Government approval as UN warns against coal energy

Cecilia Connell & Kathleen Ferguson, ABC, 09/10/2018

Plans for a long-debated coal mine in the NSW Bylong Valley have again been referred to an independent panel, this time for the final go-ahead.

The open-cut underground mine proposed by South Korean company Kepco Bylong Australia would be built near Bylong, 55 kilometres north-east of Mudgee. ...

The matter has been referred to the Independent Planning Commission which will hold a public hearing next month before making its final determination. ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-09/future-of-australian-coal-industry/10354962>

Analysts see a future for Australian coal miners despite warning from UN's climate change panel

Stephanie Chalmers, ABC, 09/10/2018

Analysts see a future for Australian coal miners, despite declining investment in new coal-fired power plants and a global climate change body's report on the dire consequences of global warming. ...

While there is a squeeze on new investment, some analysts expect existing Australian miners to benefit in the near-term. ...

In the current environment, UBS expects Australian exporters to benefit from a growing preference for higher quality coal. ...

Tim Buckley from the IEEFA added: "There is a future for the next decade or two, but it is worth bearing in mind that volumes peaked three or four years ago." ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/black-lung-victims-call-on-mining-companies-to-set-up-levy/news-story/4ef3cfa6cfcf149aad1c7db19248f2d>

Black lung victims call on mining companies to set up levy

Zizi Averill, Courier-Mail, 10/10/2018

Former miners diagnosed with black lung are calling on Queensland-based mining companies to compensate workers through a million dollar levy.

The Mine Dust Victims Group has demanded coal companies pay a levy of one cent per tonne per week.

The levy would pay for the medical bills of patients diagnosed with mine dust diseases. ...

The levy is supported by the CFMEU.

https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/cover-up-claims-after-queensland-mine-crippled-by-fires/3548363/?utm_campaign=%5B%27Mailchimp+Saturday+News%27%5D&utm_medium=%5B%27e-mail%27%5D&utm_source=%5B%27Gladstone+Observer%27%5D

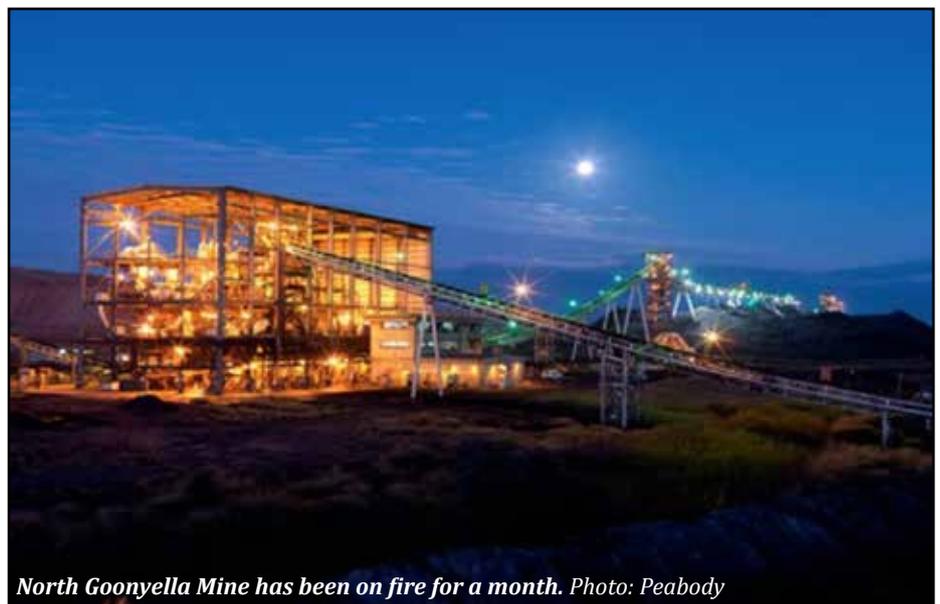
'Cover-up' claims after mine crippled by fires

Des Houghton, Gladstone Observer, 13/10/2018

... A fire in a longwall cave [Peabody Energy's North Goonyella mine] 500m underground may have been burning for a month now, says John Ninness, a mining safety consultant. ...

He says the industry has been told very little about the lead-up to the fires, and he wonders whether they could have been prevented.

But Ninness reserves his sharpest crit-



North Goonyella Mine has been on fire for a month. Photo: Peabody

icism for the Queensland Government, which he accuses of a “cover-up”. ...

Minister for Mines Anthony Lynham hints that the mine may not reopen. ...

GAS, GAS, GAS

<https://thewest.com.au/business/oil-gas/china-option-gas-hub-push-for-port-hedland-ng-b88972998z>

'China option' gas hub push for Port Hedland

Nick Butterly & Peter Milne, West Australian, 09/10/2018

Former premier Colin Barnett has issued a call for a new gas hub to be built at Port Hedland for the growing Chinese market and warned that low local content could damage support for the LNG industry.

In a speech yesterday, Mr Barnett argued for a “China option”, saying gas from the Browse Basin off the North West could be piped to Port Hedland, saying other onshore sites faced increasing environmental and heritage issues. ...

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/shell-plans-to-drill-250-wells-as-part-of-queensla/3545517/>

Shell to tap more Queensland gas

Stephanie Bennett, Gladstone Observer, 10/10/2018

Global giant Shell will today unveil its next major regional Queensland natural gas development, with the project estimated to be worth about \$500 million and create hundreds of local jobs.

Shell plans to drill 250 gas wells during 2019 and 2020 at its new Project Goog-a-binge, as part of the company's QGC ventures in the Western Downs region of Queensland. ...

<https://www.chinchillanews.com.au/news/last-chance-to-fight/3546109/>

Last chance to fight

Brooke Duncan, Chinchilla News, 10/10/2018

A small but determined group of residents are making a last-ditch effort to stop toxic CSG waste being stored [at We Kando's facility] near water sources just outside Chinchilla.

The group of residents, known as the Cameby Concerned Citizens Group (CCCG), have been fighting against the approvals for years, and now they're down to their last chance – federal action by Member for Maranoa and Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, David Littleproud.

CCCG, working with Lock the Gate (a national environmental protection alliance) received a report just this July, which was commissioned by the Environmental Defenders Office and completed by University of NSW Professor Stuart Khan.

Prof Khan concluded the project was high risk for water contamination – especially over the life of the facility – which would necessarily stretch into the decades.

That report, alongside one collated by Doctors for the Environment, provided what CCCG member Glen Beasley described as an objective, scientific basis to have the facility evaluated and, ideally, moved away from agriculture and water resources. ...

Mr Beasley said ... if Mr Littleproud did not act it rendered him “little better than an environmental vandal”. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/dataroom/mpc-kinetic-fired-by-hopes-that-gas-boom-is-all-it-seams/news-story/72e7074533b5776293ef5f3cfd344a67>

MPC Kinetic fired by hopes that gas boom is all it seams

Scott Murdoch & Bridget Carter, The Australian, 09/10/2018

Public market hopeful MPC Kinetic is hoping potential investors will view the pipeline and gas well servicing company as a proxy for exposure to the quickly growing Queensland coal-seam gas market.

It is estimated that up to 1000 new wells will be drilled each year in the state through to 2034 as the industry grows rapidly. ...

GasFields Commission Queensland estimates there have been 11,000 GSG wells and 3450 conventional wells drilled in Queensland. ...

<https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/5694109/flare-up-community-concerns-over-3-billion-coal-seam-gas-project/?cs=12>

Santos' Narrabri coal seam gas project concerns shared in Lock the Gate survey

Madeline Link, Northern Daily Leader, 11/10/2018

Coal seam gas has split Narrabri residents into two distinct factions, with more than half opposed to Santos' \$3 billion project.

Attitudes revealed in a North West Alliance and Lock the Gate survey show the majority of respondents are concerned about the 850 well gasfield proposed for the Pilliga ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/queensland-coal-seam-gas-exporters-may-struggle-to-meet-contracts/news-story/c9b6e1e3192abd7bcbf28672f0d7d98>

Queensland coal seam gas exporters may struggle to meet contracts

Matt Chambers, The Australian, 12/10/2018

The head of Queensland's biggest gas exporter says the state's coal seam gas fields are not as good as was expected when \$70 billion of LNG projects were approved, fuelling concerns there will not be enough gas to supply long-term contracts that underpinned the building of six giant gas freezers at Gladstone.

Warwick King, chief executive of the Australia Pacific LNG project run by Origin Energy and ConocoPhillips, said getting Queensland's vast CSG resources out of the ground had proved harder than expected. ...

The comments are the first confirmation from the Queensland export sector of what many analysts and industry sources have been saying – that there is a risk that all the CSG reserves that long-term gas contracts were based on may not be able to be extracted economically.

Unlike the big LNG export plants in Western Australia, which were approved on proven (1P) reserves that have a 90 per cent confidence level they can be viably developed, Gladstone's plants have been built on proven and probable (2P) reserves, which have a 50 per cent level of confidence. ...

Australian Industrial Energy chief James Baulderstone ... said there was a big issue with Queensland's CSG reserves.

Mr Baulderstone, who was a Santos executive when the \$18bn GLNG project was approved and developed, said the plants needed 45,000 petajoules of gas to meet contracts and that the current 37,000PJ of 2P Queensland reserves could not be relied on. ...

LEIGH CK STINK

<https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/business/sa-business-journal/leigh-creek-energys-controversial-underground-gas-project-has-started-production-in-far-north-sa/news-story/520e3dda1cfff6625cf5e064f3aa467f7>

Leigh Creek Energy's controversial underground gas project has started production in Far North SA

Cameron England, The Advertiser, 11/10/2018

Leigh Creek Energy has started gas production at its pilot plant in the state's Far North and will run it for two to three months to collect data. ...

The company said the gas produced

in the process would be “thermally destroyed” also known as “burned”. ...

<https://www.transcontinental.com.au/story/5698318/leigh-creek-energy-produces-first-gas/>

Leigh Creek Energy produces first gas

Marco Balsamo, Transcontinental, 12/10/2018

After ticking off three activity notification approvals and beating an injunction application, Leigh Creek Energy (LCK) produced first synthesis gas (syngas) at the former Leigh Creek coalfield on Thursday, October 11. ...

LCK Executive Chairman Justyn Peters said it’s a milestone moment for the company.

While there has been a mixed reception for the commercial UCG project, LCK believes producing first gas is the first step towards earning the community’s trust.

IMPORT INSANITY

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/agl-faces-cribb-point-delay/news-story/79134da69f34599e6cd74d202b40d127>

AGL faces Crib Point delay

Perry Williams, The Australian, 09/10/2018

AGL Energy faces a potential delay to its LNG import plant after a decision by the Victorian government to conduct a full environmental assessment for the planned Crib Point import terminal on the state’s Mornington Peninsula.

The energy giant along with pipeline operator APA Group submitted joint planning documents to the government last month after Environment Victoria and the local community called for the full impact of the combined projects to be considered. ...

NUKE MADNESS

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/outdated-uranium-regulations-costing-billions/news-story/a10b3ffb-d0778ee93099037e4713aae>

Outdated uranium regulations ‘costing billions’

Joe Kelly, The Australian, 07/10/2018

A new analysis says Australia’s uranium mining industry is handicapped by outdated 1970s-style regulations, depriving the economy of billions of dollars and tens of thousands of new jobs.

A report commissioned by the Minerals Council of Australia calls for the “discrimination against uranium” to be removed from the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, which is being reviewed next year. ...

The government has treated uranium mining as carrying a special risk warranting a higher level of regulation since the Ranger inquiry in the mid-1970s, a position that informed the EPBC Act.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/scott-morrison-open-to-nuclear-power-if-price-is-right/news-story/b55c3e9dcbdd624f8462df6b8ca45437>

Scott Morrison open to nuclear power if price is right

Greg Brown, The Australian, 08/10/2018

Scott Morrison has thrown the door open to allowing nuclear power generation in Australia if evidence was provided that it would lower power prices.

The Prime Minister said he would do “whatever it takes” to make electricity cheaper and would have no problem overturning a ban on nuclear power generation if he was convinced it would lower household bills.

But he warned the investment case to build a nuclear reactor – which would take about a decade – did not “stack up”. ...

Bill Shorten slammed Mr Morrison’s openness to nuclear power and linked the Prime Minister’s statement to the horror nuclear explosion at Chernobyl in the former Soviet Union in 1988.

“At the same time as the site of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster transforms into a massive solar farm, Morrison thinks it’s time to take Australia nuclear,” the Opposition Leader tweeted. ...

Prominent businessman and NBN chairman Ziggy Switkowski said nuclear power should be part of Australia’s energy mix. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/the-economy/solar-farm-built-in-the-shadow-of-chernobyl-nuclear-meltdown-20181009-p508jg.html>

Solar farm built in the shadow of Chernobyl nuclear meltdown

Cole Latimer, SMH, 09/10/2018

The site of the world’s worst nuclear disaster, Chernobyl, is going solar in a bid to help free Ukraine from a dependence on Russian gas.

Solar Chernobyl, a consortium comprising Ukrainian energy company Rodina and German engineering firm Enerparc, has opened a solar farm located right next to the Chernobyl nuclear power plant’s fourth reactor, which experienced a catastrophic meltdown in 1986.

The €1 million (\$1.6 million) plant

consists of more than 3700 solar panels and is capable of producing one megawatt of power, enough to power 2000 homes, although there are plans to increase this to 100 megawatts in the future.

The panels were built on concrete slabs, instead of being affixed to the ground, as digging into the area’s soil is prohibited due to contamination issues. ...

PFAS POISON

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/toxic-chemical-williamtown-tests-health-defence-20181012-p509e8.html>

‘Surely a test is a test’: Shock over blood results for toxic chemical

Carrie Fellner, SMH, 13/10/2018

The reliability of a national blood sampling program for toxic firefighting chemicals is under question, after a private test showed more than double the level of a contaminant in a man’s blood compared to a government sample taken on the same day.

The fresh concerns over testing methods for per- and poly-fluoroalkyl chemicals [PFAS] come after Fairfax Media independently sampled a drain near a military base last year and discovered the chemicals at levels 34 times higher than those reported by authorities. ...

The federal government is facing multiple class action lawsuits over its refusal to compensate people stranded on unsaleable properties as a result of Defence’s use of firefighting foams containing the potentially carcinogenic chemicals. ...

Another Williamtown resident was shocked to discover a similar discrepancy when he had a private test. ...

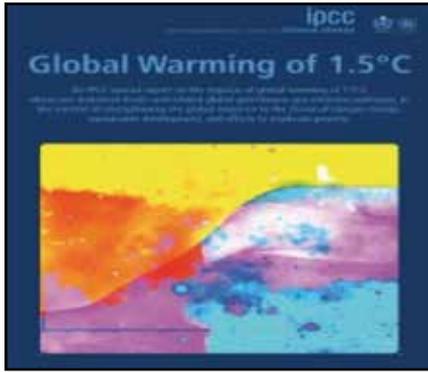
President of the Coalition against PFAS, Lindsay Clout, slammed the developments, which come after the Department of Health initially opposed blood testing and then backflipped following community pressure. ...

“It reflects a wide culture of indifference and dismissiveness from the Chief Medical Officer and authorities as to PFAS contamination and its known health risks.”

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

CLIMATE CRISIS



<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/major-climate-report-expected-to-call-for-coal-shut-down-by-2050-20181007-p508a2.html>

Major climate report expected to call for coal shut-down by 2050

Nicole Hasham, SMH, 08/10/2018

A major climate report will say coal-generated electricity must be phased out globally by 2050 if the world is to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of global warming, including the total destruction of the Great Barrier Reef.

The report prepared by the United Nations body for climate change, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, distils more than 6000 scientific references – including those from Australian researchers – and will outline the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. ...

A source close to the talks said Australian officials sought to remove references to phasing out coal from the final version of the document when government negotiators joined scientists and diplomats from around the world in South Korea last week. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/next-decade-critical-perils-mount-at-1-5-degrees-of-warming-says-ipcc-20181008-p508ci.html>

'Next decade critical': Perils mount at 1.5 degrees of warming, says IPCC

Peter Hannam & Nicole Hasham, SMH, 08/10/2018

The amount of coal and other fossil fuels the world can burn without unleashing dangerous climate change that will undermine the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people and all but wipe out the Great Barrier Reef is "very small", according to a major climate report.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's special report on a 1.5-degree hotter planet, released on Monday, said limiting warming to

that amount remains possible, but only with "rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society". ...

According to Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, another of the report's authors and director of the University of Queensland's Global Change Institute, the remaining carbon budget means just 5-10 per cent of fossil fuel reserves can be burnt. "The rest will have to stay in the ground," he said. ...

The electricity sector, the largest source of emissions in Australia and globally, would have to be all but decarbonised by 2050 to cap warming at 1.5 degrees. That means coal-fired power phased out entirely and the share of gas cut to about a third, with renewable sources providing 70-85 per cent by mid-century, the report said. ...

https://reneweconomy.com.au/8-things-you-need-to-know-about-the-ipcc-1-5c-report-75011/?utm_source=RE+Daily+Newsletter&utm_campaign=d5a3caacaf-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_10_07_11_45&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_46a1943223-d5a3caacaf-40461137

8 things you need to know about the IPCC 1.5°C report

Kelly Levin, RenewEconomy, 08/10/2018

While all countries committed under the Paris Agreement to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C-2°C (2.7-3.6° F), major questions remained: How can the world achieve this temperature goal? And what happens if it doesn't?

The world's leading climate scientists, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), answered these questions and more ... Here are eight findings ...

<http://nymag.com/intelligencer/amp/2018/10/un-says-climate-genocide-coming-but-its-worse-than-that.html?fbclid=IwAR2wDHvH6WZqu5m4CHJcytQUKMF-f9Dy-WcOkNtMWhbk67mVEbUR-YUmPB8>

UN says climate genocide is coming. It's actually worse than that.

David Wallace-Wells, Intelligencer, 10/10/2018

... The alarming new report you may have read about this week from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – which examines just how much better 1.5 degrees of warming would be than 2 says hundreds of millions of lives are at stake ... should the world warm more than 1.5 degrees Celsius ...

Avoiding that scale of suffering, the report says, requires such a thorough transformation of the world's economy, agriculture, and culture that "there is no documented historical precedent." ...

If you are alarmed by those sentences, you should be – they are horrifying. But it is, actually, worse than that – considerably worse. That is because the new report's worst-case scenario is, actually, a best case. In fact, it is a beyond-best-case scenario. What has been called a genocidal level of warming is already our inevitable future. The question is how much worse than that it will get. ...

As a planet, we are coursing along a trajectory that brings us north of four degrees by the end of the century. The IPCC is right that two degrees marks a world of climate catastrophe. Four degrees is twice as bad as that. ...

FOSSIL POLITICS

https://reneweconomy.com.au/morrison-vows-no-money-for-climate-conferences-and-all-that-nonsense-38468/?utm_source=RE+Daily+Newsletter&utm_campaign=d5a3caacaf-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_10_07_11_45&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_46a1943223-d5a3caacaf-40461137

Morrison vows no money for climate conferences and "all that nonsense"

Giles Parkinson, RenewEconomy, 08/10/2018

Australia's prime minister Scott Morrison has responded to the latest UN Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change report by declaring that he had no intention of spending money on global climate conferences and "all that sort of nonsense." ...

"We're not held to any of (those recommendations) at all, and nor are we bound to go and tip money into that big climate fund," Morrison told 2GB.

The participation of Australia and other wealthy countries in the Green Climate Fund is seen as critical to keep the Paris climate accord together, as it was a fundamental part of negotiations in the lead up to Paris in 2015. ...



<https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/national/2018/10/08/political-climate-hot-scott-morrison/>

Political climate uncomfortably hot for Scott Morrison

Paul Bongiorno, New Daily, 08/10/2018

The Prime Minister Scott Morrison found himself in a very awkward spot on the day the world's most authorita-

tive climate science body released its latest report.

He was in the radio studio of one of the nation's most strident global warming sceptics, Alan Jones. ...

Mr Morrison told Jones he wouldn't be pulling out of Paris because it amounts to nothing anyway.

The Prime Minister received strong support from the Deputy Prime Minister, Nationals' leader Michael McCormack. He dismissed the consensus of the Climate Panel's 90 scientists and thousands of pieces of research, that coal should be virtually eliminated from electricity within 22 years. At risk is the world's largest coral reef, the Great Barrier Reef.

Mr McCormack gave no weight to these warnings, saying why should he take notice "of some reports?"

It was all designed to play into the Nationals' coal constituency and the Liberals' hardline conservatives like Tony Abbott and Craig Kelly. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/mining-sector-morrison-government-on-the-defensive-over-ipcc-report-20181008-p508ee.html>

Mining sector, Morrison government on the defensive over IPCC report

Peter Hannam & Cole Latimer, SMH, 08/10/2018

Australia's mining industry and the Morrison government have rejected an international climate report that demands nations phase out all coal-fired power by mid-century and leave most fossil fuel reserves untapped to avoid dangerous global warming. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/the-political-will-to-prevent-climate-change-is-lacking-even-as-the-cost-climbs-20181008-p508g2.html>

The political will to prevent climate change is lacking, even as the cost climbs

David Crowe, SMH, 08/10/2018

Australians are being presented with another startling contrast between colossal risk and paltry action over climate change. ...

The damage over the years to 2100 would reach \$US54 trillion in today's dollars if warming was kept to 1.5 degrees. The cost would climb to \$US69 trillion if warming reached 2 degrees.

The obvious message from the report is to stop the 2 degree scenario. ... The report says the investment would need to be \$US2.4 trillion a year by 2034 across the global economy. ...

https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/oct/09/australian-government-backs-coal-defiance-ipcc-climate-warning?CMP=share_btn_fb

Australian government backs coal in defiance of IPCC climate warning

Paul Karp, The Guardian, 09/10/2018

The Australian government has rejected the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report's call to phase out coal power by 2050, claiming renewable energy cannot replace baseload coal power.

The deputy prime minister, Michael McCormack, said Australia should "absolutely" continue to use and exploit its coal reserves, despite the IPCC's dire warnings the world has just 12 years to avoid climate change catastrophe. ...

The Labor leader, Bill Shorten, also did not commit to the total phase-out of coal, but called for more renewable energy. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/palaszczuk-backs-coal-despite-ipcc-warning-over-climate/news-story/033622c07a5f7eb47f9f6192d02cd792>

Palaszczuk backs coal despite IPCC warning over climate

Jared Owens, The Australian, 09/10/2018

Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk has dismissed climate scientists' calls for the worldwide elimination of coal-fired power within 32 years, reaffirming support for Adani's proposed 60-year coalmine if it stacks up financially. ...

Ms Palaszczuk, when asked about the IPCC warning yesterday, defended her government's willingness to export coal around the world. ...

She suggested that responsibility for reducing greenhouse emissions lay with the federal government. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/climate/ipcc-push-to-dump-coal-fired-power-not-for-us-says-morrison/news-story/b1d161a9b9b6195c88dcf7a60e36e00d>

IPCC push to dump coal-fired power not for us, says Morrison

Graham Lloyd, The Australian, 08/10/2018

Scott Morrison has rejected a rapid global phase-out of coal-fired power and declared his government will not be bound by a landmark climate study, amid concern its blueprint for curbing temperature rises would see the "lights go out on the east coast of Australia". ...

"If we take coal out of our energy system, the lights will go out on the

east coast of Australia — it's as simple as that," Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/columnists/judith-sloan/if-climate-disaster-is-nigh-at-least-well-be-spared-ipcc-reports/news-story/4e0e240820468ead27974e02822c7c65>

If climate disaster is nigh, at least we'll be spared IPCC reports

Judith Sloan, The Australian, 08/10/2018

Here we go again – a group of like-minded, henny-penny scientists telling us the world is about to be transformed in a bad way unless we act. Yes, we've heard it many times before. ...

Mind you, the content of the IPCC report released yesterday ain't science. It doesn't set out refutable hypotheses and test them. In fact, we don't even have reliable data on global temperatures. Using climate models to support predictions of future disasters is actually not that far from making astrological prophecies. ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-09/environment-minister-says-calls-to-end-coal-drawing-long-bow/10354604>

Climate change: Environment Minister rejects top scientists' advice on phasing out coal, after UN's warning

Matthew Doran, ABC, 09/10/2018

Federal Environment Minister Melissa Price has argued some of the world's leading climate scientists are "drawing a long bow" in calling for an end to coal power in a bid to limit global warming. ...

Speaking on the ABC's AM program in her first broadcast interview since taking up the role, Ms Price argued that: "Coal does form a very important part of the Australian energy mix".

"We make no apology for the fact that our focus at the moment is getting electricity prices down," she said.

"Every year, there's new technology with respect to coal and what its contribution is to emissions.

"To say that it's got to be phased out by 2050 is drawing a very long bow."

The Minister, who used to work in the mining sector, suggested the 91 scientists behind the IPCC report had got it wrong. ...

<https://www.crikey.com.au/2018/10/09/australian-politics-isnt-fit-for-purpose-in-a-burning-world/?ins=Y3jheXNqSuo4b0RueDFaa1EzbDRMZ09>

Australian politics isn't fit for purpose in a burning world

Bernard Keane, Crikey, 09/10/2018

In an ever-hotter world, where the world's scientists have demonstrated the urgent need to curb carbon emissions yet again if we're to prevent the colossal economic, natural and human costs associated with climate change, Australia's political system has comprehensively failed. ...

Consider the grip that fossil fuel interests have within politics, using the standard indicators: donations, lobbyists and jobs for ex-politicians. From 2010-17, according to Australian Electoral Commission data, coal mining companies and fossil fuel-based energy companies donated \$5.9 million in declared contributions to the major political parties – \$3.8 million to the Coalition and \$2.1 million to Labor. ...

And while major polluters have their own in-house lobbyists, they also employ some of the biggest lobbying firms in the country. Liberal powerbroker Micheal Photios' Premier-State+PremierNational, Liberal lobbying group Barton Deakin, Newgate Communications and GovStrat, which includes former Queensland premier Rob Borbidge, all represent coal miners. Former senior Labor staffer Cameron Milner lobbied for Adani. ...

And ex-politicians are common among the ranks of polluters. Former deputy PM Mark Vaile chairs Whitehaven. Ian Macfarlane heads the Queensland Resources Council ... Former Queensland Labor treasurer Keith De Lacy has chaired coal mining companies and campaigned against renewables. Former senior Labor figure Martin Ferguson now works for mining industry peak bodies. His replacement as resources minister, Gary Gray, had previously worked for Woodside, which employs former DFAT staff and has employed former foreign affairs minister Alexander Downer. ...

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/activists-of-fer-big-bucks-in-recruitment-drive/3544470/>

The unlikely 'profession' offering big bucks

Matthew Killoran, Gladstone Observer, 09/10/2018

Green activism has become big business, with new analysis revealing not-for-profit environmental groups have advertised professional activist jobs worth \$9 million this year.

The bulk of the 230 jobs advertised since January were in Sydney and Melbourne, with just three in north Queensland, where mines some of the groups seek to disrupt are located.

The jobs, for groups including Greenpeace, Australian Conservation Foundation, Climate Council, GetUp! and Australian Youth Climate Coalition, have an average salary of almost \$80,000, well above the median wage. ...

Queensland Resources Council boss Ian Macfarlane said there needed to be greater scrutiny of who was bankrolling the anti-mining campaigns and the tax-deductible status of the organisations. ...

Resources Minister Matt Canavan said it showed the environmental movement had become "big business".

"All of these jobs are run out of boutique coffee shops in Sydney and Melbourne, not the factories, farms and mines in regional areas," he said.

Australian Conservation Foundation's chief executive Kelly O'Shanassy said places like the Great Barrier Reef had been preserved because environmental groups campaigned for their protection. ...

"Australia is a democracy with a strong and vibrant civil society, of which environment groups are an essential part."

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/opinion/green-army-mobilises-against-all-reason-to-target-adani-coal-mine/news-story/ad0ce421b699e3499bdaafce91e447e6>

Green army mobilises creates an alarming minefield

Editorial, Courier-Mail, 09/10/2018

The green activist industry is insidious and pernicious, meaning it entices interest and support that is insipidly harmful. These well-funded, always active campaigners have one aim – and that's to stop any development that doesn't fit with their narrow, small-minded and backwards view of the world. ...

An analysis compiled by the Queensland Resources Council – which represents those with the most to lose in this activism – has turned up about 230 jobs advertised this year ...

Unfortunately, recent history tells us the anti-development crowd only want to shout slogans and alarm people about outcomes that usually are non-existent.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/australia-s-top-scientist-calls-for-hydrogen-revolution-to-replace-fossil-fuels-20181009-p508mj.html>

Australia's top scientist calls for hydrogen revolution to replace fossil fuels

Nicole Hasham, SMH, 10/10/2018

The federal government's top scientist Alan Finkel says Australia could slash global carbon emissions and create a multi-billion dollar export industry by developing hydrogen as an everyday energy source to replace fossil fuels used in vehicles, homes and industry. ...

Clean hydrogen is produced from water using renewable energy, or coal or methane using technology that captures and stores carbon. ...

The Minerals Council of Australia also supports development of the industry.

While questions remain over the viability of carbon-capture, Dr Finkel was "relatively optimistic that it could be done at massive scale and safely and at a good price point".

Cost-effective carbon capture and storage might avoid the need to completely phase out coal, he said.

Over the next 30 years, creating a hydrogen export industry to match the existing LNG industry would require several hundred gigawatts of extra dedicated electricity, meaning new solar and wind projects would be needed, Dr Finkel said. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/resources-minister-matt-canavan-tells-big-business-to-leave-climate-policy-to-canberra/news-story/11089643427a8b4324632bc1d59c7807>

Resources Minister Matt Canavan tells big business to leave climate policy to Canberra

Matt Chambers, The Australian, 11/10/2018

Federal Resources Minister Matt Canavan has warned big business not to form its own policy on greenhouse gas emissions in the wake of the dumping of the National Energy Guarantee, telling it to leave policy to the democratic process.

Responding to an unsourced Fairfax Media report that the nation's biggest energy companies had begun talks on a self-regulated package to reduce greenhouse gases through the Business Council of Australia, Senator Canavan advised the big corporates to have "a bit of humility." ...

News this week ... from previous page

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/no-emissions-targets-angus-taylor-warns-states/news-story/382bb01c3e52b1b33e121029c328605a>

Outlook conference: no emissions targets, Angus Taylor warns states

Michael Roddan, *The Australian*, 11/10/2018

Energy Minister Angus Taylor has warned state governments against derailing an attempt to legislate more reliability into the national energy grid by demanding emissions targets at an upcoming COAG meeting.

Mr Taylor, who has been asked by Scott Morrison to focus only on lower energy prices after emissions targets for the energy sector were dumped, this week declared he would be asking COAG ministers at an October 26 meeting to agree to a "reliability obligation" by the end of the year. ...

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/bill-shorten-softens-stance-on-coal-exports-power-/3547368/>

Shorten admits coal hard reality

Matthew Killoran, *Gladstone Observer*, 12/10/2018

Opposition Leader Bill Shorten has backed coal exports and power stations, softening Labor's stance, while urging people to stop "dumbing down" the energy debate to black and white.

In some of his strongest language in the debate so far, Mr Shorten said that when in government he wanted to see more rooftop solar and batteries in people's homes, but backed continuing the use and export of coal. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/energy-chief-says-electricity-would-continue-uninterrupted-if-coal-phased-out-within-30-years-20181011-p50937.html>

Energy chief says electricity would continue uninterrupted if coal phased out within 30 years

Nicole Hasham & Eryk Bagshaw, *SMH*, 11/10/2018

One of the nation's top energy officials says electricity supplies in Australia would continue uninterrupted if the coal industry shut down within 30

years, contradicting the Morrison government's warning of devastating blackouts if it adopts the dramatic plan.

Australian Energy Market Operator chief executive Audrey Zibelman also said renewable energy, storage and gas will be the cheapest ways to replace electricity capacity lost when ageing coal plants close. ...

Ms Zibelman, whose organisation operates the nation's largest gas and electricity markets, said if Australia was to make an orderly transition to low-emissions electricity generation "then certainly we would keep the lights on". ...



ABC NET AU
These 12 Australian coal power stations would need to close to hit the IPCC target: report

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-13/coal-power-stations-needed-to-close-to-meet-ipcc-target-report/10368194>

Climate target set by IPCC requires 12 Australian coal-fired power stations to close: Parliamentary Library report

Michael Slezak, *ABC*, 13/10/2018

Australia would need to shut 12 of its coal power stations by 2030 in order to do what the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says is necessary to avoid catastrophic effects of climate change.

The implication comes from simple arithmetic, produced by the Parliamentary Library, and would require nine power stations closing before the end of their scheduled life. ...

Currently, there are 21 coal-fired power stations in Australia. ...

By 2030:

1. Liddell, NSW will be closed
2. Vales Point, NSW will be closed
3. Kwinana, WA will be closed
4. Yallourn, Vic will be within five years of closure
5. Gladstone, Qld will be within five years of closure
6. Eraring, NSW will be within five years of closure
7. Bayswater, NSW will be within five years of closure
8. Tarong, NSW will be within five years of closure
9. Some parts of Muja, WA will be near end-of-life

Then, from the remaining stations, the report suggests closing:

10. Loy Yang A, Vic because it uses high-emitting brown coal
11. Loy Yang B, Vic also because of its use of brown coal
12. Callide B, Qld because it would be next closest to retirement

FFB

Fiona Wilson fundraiser

Gas industry whistleblower Fiona Wilson is still battling her incarceration and forced medication by Queensland's Fixed Persons Unit.

Fiona's story was told in FFB 1.2 and FFB 1.13. An update will be published soon.

She needs to fund about \$30,000 in legal fees and medical costs.

If you can help, click the link below:

<https://www.gofundme.com/barrister-needed-for-fiona-wilson>



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