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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 1:47 • 23 OCTOBER 2018

Senate rejects ban on Leigh Ck Energy project

A team of senators from the Morrison Government, the Labor party, and Nick Xenophon's Centre Alliance has rejected a motion calling for a ban on dangerous underground coal gasification.

It followed a protest at Leigh Creek Energy's AGM last week.

"It is a disgrace that the Morrison Government, the Labor party and Nick Xenophon's Centre Alliance teamed up today to vote down a motion that called on a ban to underground coal gasification. They were faced with the facts of the disastrous effects UCG has on communities and still backed poison over people," Greens environment spokesperson Senator Sarah Hanson-Young said.

"Passionate activists and community advocates are working hard to put an end to this poisonous practice in Leigh Creek. The Greens will continue to fight in the Parliament for a nation-wide ban, in the hope that the environmental disaster seen in Queensland is never repeated.

"Poisoning the water table and contaminating soil and air for the sake of profits that will mostly go offshore does not fly with the South Australian community. It is widely known that this toxic practice is not only harmful to the environment, but it makes workers sick and has been linked to some cancers.

"Queensland has acknowledged what a gross error it made when it allowed underground coal gasification to go ahead, and it was revealed yesterday that taxpayers are forced to pay the clean-up bill. It is devastating that the project ever got the go-ahead in South Australia.

"The Greens will continue to fight



Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association and supporters protest outside Leigh Creek Energy's AGM in Adelaide last week. Photo: ATLA Facebook

against this toxic project, and stand up for the community in Leigh Creek, and the traditional owners who want this project stopped."

Prospect of harm dismissed

The Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association (ATLA) recently tried to halt the Leigh Creek project in the Supreme Court, but was unsuccessful.

"ATLA remains totally opposed to the coal gasification at Leigh Creek. It is cultural destruction and it will be an environmental disaster as it has been across the nation and the world," the Traditional Owners said.

Writer S Sorrenson commented, in the *Byron Echo*, "A few days ago I read the Supreme Court's decision."

Justice Sam Doyle said:

The evidence before me suggests that the Adnyamathanha people will suffer a significant degree of distress and harm, much of which will be irreparable, if the work on the demonstration plant proceeds.

However, it is important to appreciate that the apparent inevitability of harm to the culture of the Adnyamathanha people, and the possibility of harm to the environment more generally, are not a sufficient basis for an injunction to restrain the works going ahead.

"That's when I had to lie down," Sorrenson said. "Read that last paragraph again. Hell, what would be a sufficient basis for an injunction?"

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• P 2: Coal – Hunter people want protection

• P 3: Santos fined \$1500

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Hunter Valley residents want protection from mining

New polling released last Friday reveals a majority of residents in Muswellbrook and Singleton believe strategic farmland mapped as critical for horse-breeding or wine-growing in the Hunter Valley should be off-limits to coal mining, just as the Independent Planning Commission is considering a new coal mine that would open-cut strategic farmland in the secluded Bylong Valley.

Lock the Gate commissioned polling of 253 residents in Singleton and Muswellbrook and more than 60% of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with the statement: "Farmland mapped as critical for horse-breeding or wine-growing in the Hunter Valley should be off-limits to coal mining."

Lock the Gate spokesperson, Georgina Woods, said the polling results highlight the groundswell of support for

balance land use in the Upper Hunter and new measures to protect productive agricultural land from being cut open for coal mining.

"The proposed coal mine in the Bylong Valley will result in the direct disturbance of 400 hectares of biophysical strategic agricultural land and 587 hectares of land mapped as part of the critical industry cluster for the equine industry.

"The Independent Planning Commission's decision about the Bylong mine must prioritise protecting our productive farmland and water sources. People in the Upper Hunter are looking for balance and the Commission can deliver it.

"The Bylong project crosses a line that must not be crossed. We have never come across a new mine proposal with impacts on agriculture and groundwa-

ter as profound as this project would have."

Last week the NSW Department of Planning and Environment recommended that the destructive Bylong project proceed, despite the Planning Commission's concern about the impact of the mine on water, farmland and heritage.

A public meeting will be held about the project in Mudgee on 7 November.

"A majority of people in Singleton and Muswellbrook understand that there are some places that should be off-limits to mining. Bylong is certainly one of them and we hope the Independent Planning Commission safeguards the strategic farmland of the Bylong Valley and refuses approval for this mine," said Ms Woods.

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Shenhua: Minister refuses to release documents

Lock the Gate Alliance is calling on the NSW Minister for Resources to release the details of agreements signed with mining company Shenhua Australia after information obtained under freedom of information laws raised further questions.

The Minister denied in parliament yesterday that he had misled parliament over the issue, but has refused to release the deeds.

The documents obtained by the Lock the Gate Alliance:

- State that the deeds of agreement that were signed by the NSW Government and Shenhua included a requirement for the government to renew the exploration licence (EL) 7223;
- Reveal the NSW Government back-flipped on a proposal to require Shenhua to contribute money to a Community Benefits Fund after opposition from the mining giant.
- A Briefing for Approval signed by Minister for Resources Don Harwin in July stated that the reason the decision to renew Shenhua's exploration licence had an urgent deadline was "To meet the requirement under the deeds of settlement for the government to renew EL 7223 as soon as reasonably practicable."

This contradicts what the Minister told Parliament in September last year, and reiterated yesterday, denying there was an agreement with the State Government of NSW to agree to an extension of just under half the exploration licence area.

Community benefit fund dropped

The documents also reveal an abandoned plan to require the company to establish a community benefit fund. An email from the Acting Secretary of Resources and Geosciences Australia to the Minister's staff indicated a requirement for such a fund to be included with the renewal decision, but it was not adopted.

Lock the Gate spokesperson, Georgina Woods said, "There are serious unanswered questions about this dubious decision hanging around the Minister like a bad smell.

"The only way to clear the air is for the Minister to release the secret Shenhua deeds and tell the people of NSW why the Government gave a mining company a quarter of a billion dollars and got nothing in return.

"These new documents indicate that someone in the Government thought the Shenhua deeds bound the Minister to renew the company's coal explora-

tion licence. If these secret deeds are innocuous, let him release them so the people of NSW can judge for ourselves.

"The community also deserves an explanation as to why Shenhua was allowed to bully its way out of contributing to a community benefit fund.

"Shenhua was granted \$262 million dollars as a gift by the NSW Government in return for relinquishing 50% of their licence, despite a standard statutory requirement to relinquish that amount without recompense.

"It is beggars belief that Shenhua refused to contribute just \$2 million to a community benefit fund after they had just been granted an extraordinary \$262 million in taxpayer funds."

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'Knitting Nanas against gas, coal and greed', and other podcasts about coal, oil and gas can be found at:

<https://www.3cr.org.au/earthmatters>

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



Inside the news

Stop Adani forces were prominent in the lead-up to the **Wentworth** by-election. They were joined by former Liberal leader John Hewson, in calling on voters to deliver a message for **action on climate change** to the COALition government.

The stunning success of independent, **Kerryn Phelps** – whose priorities include real climate change action – certainly delivers that message. But whether **coal-powered clunkers** like Scott Morrison and his climate denialist energy and environment ministers will hear the message is unclear.

The New Daily reported (p10): An exit poll commissioned by progressive think tank The Australia Institute found that, among ex-Liberal voters who voted for Dr Phelps, Mr Turnbull's toppling was the biggest influence on how they voted (44 per cent), followed by **climate change** (28 per cent).

The people of **Crib Point** had an important victory when Victoria's planning minister announced a proposed **AGL** gas import terminal and associated **APA** pipeline would undergo a full environmental assessment. This could delay the **insane project** by 12 months. The community has run an energetic and effective campaign, but has a hard slog ahead if the project is to be stopped (page 8).

Chevron's Gorgon oil and gas plant is the nation's biggest source of **carbon pollution**, apart from coal-fired power stations. It was given the go-ahead from the WA government, in part because it would offset its emissions with a **carbon capture and storage (CCS)** scheme. However, Chevron can't get the **unproven technology** to work and has, meanwhile, belched **7.8 million** tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere (p6). The government has given Chevron an extension of time to get CCS working, before alternate strategies are imposed.

It is worrying that multiple carbon-emitting fossil fuel projects in the pipeline, such as **brown coal-to-hydrogen** in the Latrobe Valley, are being encouraged with the assumption that CCS will take care of emissions. So far CCS has only proven to be a dud.

Santos fined \$1500 for illegal CSG water use

An Environment Protection Authority investigation has found that Santos did not hold a Water Use Approval issued by the Department of Industry – Water to irrigate with treated water from its Narrabri coal seam gas operation.

The Department of Industry - Water raised the matter with the EPA after Santos commenced irrigating a Lucerne crop on their own land with treated water.

The EPA undertook an investigation of the matter, including consulting with the Department of Industry - Water, and found that a Water Use Approval to use treated water for irrigation, on Santos owned land, was required.

The EPA's investigation found that no environmental harm occurred,

or is likely to occur, in relation to the matter.

Activist Jo Evans said the fine was “a small, but significant victory”.

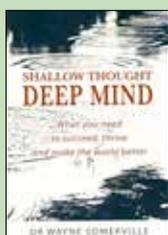
Ms Evans said, “I still assert the crop failed and I question the statement that no environmental harm has occurred. No real testing has been done to prove this.”

Santos stopped irrigation activities at Leewood while the matter was resolved but will not be permitted to recommence irrigation until they have obtained the approval.

A Water Use Approval is required under the Water Management Act. Santos was fined \$1,500 which is the prescribed fine under the Water Management Act for the alleged administrative failure.

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<https://www.drwaynesomerville.com>
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Friends of Felton

How a small farming community stood up to Big Coal and won

The story of the successful community campaign to stop Ambre Energy's coal-to-liquids operation at Felton, on Queensland's Darling Downs.



On sale via the facebook page:

Rob McCreath author (S21 + P&P).

<https://www.facebook.com/mccreathrob/>

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In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 26,000 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.afr.com/business/aurizon-fears-being-public-enemy-no-1-if-coal-hauled-for-adani-tim-poole-20181018-h16tc7>

Aurizon fears being 'public enemy No.1' if coal hauled for Adani: Tim Poole

AFR, 18/10/2018

Aurizon is worried about becoming "public enemy No.1" if it starts hauling coal for Adani's Carmichael coal mine, chairman Tim Poole told investors at the rail group's annual general meeting in Brisbane.

Mr Poole said Aurizon's board and management team were "absolutely concerned" about more disruptions to its business as well as the risks to its people and equipment from protests by activists opposed to the Adani coal mine.

But he said the company was required to consider all applications to use its Queensland rail tracks because the company was legally obliged to operate under an open access system. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/inquirer/threatened-reef-the-main-barrier-to-adanis-carmichael-project/news-story/fb7b0f18efb7958508e0da47f72d91c8>

Threatened reef the main barrier to Adani's Carmichael project

Perry Williams, *The Australian*, 18/10/2018

In Queensland's remote Galilee Basin, a decades-long dream to unearth enormous thermal coal deposits hangs in the balance.

Prospector Lang Hancock, father to billionaire Gina Rinehart, first staked a claim in the vast coal region 40 years ago, highlighting its huge potential.

Decades on, India's Adani plans to go one step further and turn the Galilee into one of the world's major coal production hubs. ...

Environmentalists and green groups worry Carmichael would push up carbon pollution, threaten the health of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park through which coal ships would carry the fossil fuel to India, and affect water use, land clearing and habitat loss. ...



Aurizon is now in the sights of anti-Adani activists. Graphic: Galilee Blockade, Facebook

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/books/my-country-dorothea-mackellar-s-family-property-hemmed-by-mine-20181008-p508g0.html>

My country! Dorothea Mackellar's family property hemmed by mine

Linda Morris, *SMH*, 14/10/2018

At Kurrumbede, the former holding of Dorothea Mackellar's family, near Gun-nedah, it is easy to imagine the poet keening for the Australian landscape in her famous ode to country. ...

Many decades on, the march of big mining has come within a few hundred metres of the property's outbuildings. The homestead itself, spared from demolition, is to be impacted by controlled blast mining, noise and dust with the planned extension of an approved (but yet to be constructed) open-cut operation on the rich Liver-pool Plains. ...

Whitehaven says its commitment to a heritage plan and a programme of monitoring and maintenance would improve the condition of the home-stead relative to its current condition

under its ownership. The ultimate fate of Kurrumbede, whether it is to be eventually restored and returned to public ownership, however, is not stated. ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-15/glencore-coal-mine-cutting-430-jobs-bowen-basin/10378454>

Glencore to 'reconfigure' its Hail Creek coal mine, 430 Bowen Basin jobs to go

Donna Field, *ABC*, 15/10/2018

More than 400 workers at Glencore's Hail Creek coal mine in the Bowen Basin south-west of Mackay will lose their jobs under a restructure. ...

In a statement, the company said under its "reconfiguration" of the mine, the two-dragline operation would become a truck-and-shovel mine with a seven-day-on, seven-day-off roster. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/oct/15/hawthorn-resources-fined-for-breaching-mining-conditions-following-dust-complaints>

Hawthorn Resources fined for breaching mining conditions following dust complaints

Calla Wahlquist, The Guardian, 15/10/2018

A mining company that operates next to an Indigenous-owned station targeted by racist, pro-mining signs has been fined \$40,000 for breaching mining conditions.

Melbourne-based Hawthorn Resources was ordered to pay the fine last month after being cautioned by the Western Australian government to control dust levels at the Anglo Saxon/Trouser Legs goldmine, about 145km north-east of Kalgoorlie. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-16/thiess-wins-contract-to-expand-services-at-hunter-valley-mine/10381730>

Thiess signs \$1.2 billion contract to expand Hunter Valley mine, creating hundreds of jobs

Cecilia Connell, ABC, 16/10/2018

Global mining services provider Thiess has signed a \$1.2 billion deal at BHP's Mt Arthur Coal operation near Muswellbrook. ...

Under the new agreement, Thiess will perform mine design, planning and scheduling services, drill and blast operations, overburden removal and coal mining.

BHP was granted approval from the former NSW Planning Assessment Commission in 2014 to extend the life of the Mt Arthur mine until 2026, allowing the extraction of an additional 128 million tonnes of coal from the site. ...

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5704368/wombattered-watchdogs-in-crosshairs-after-kepco-oil-allegations/?cs=12&fbclid=IwAR3ZNwtcqFa9yWh2WCW8dmV9GoNj8AXdOjgpluTbfgRnRXPfelpz96sjQCc>

Ten wombats at a controversial Bylong mine site were 'culled', but questions remain about how and why

Joanne McCarthy, Newcastle Herald, 17/10/2018

NSW Government agencies are under fire over the response to allegations Korean Government-backed mining company KEPCO poured old engine and sump oil down wombat holes at the controversial proposed Bylong coal mine site to rid an area of problem wombats.

A KEPCO spokesperson on Tuesday strongly denied the allegations as "completely false and vexatious",

but confirmed the company obtained a National Parks and Wildlife Service permit to "cull" 10 wombats. The wombats were infected with the parasitic skin infection mange, KEPCO said. ...

"I can take them out there and show them where it is," said a former employee who alleged workers were directed to spread used oil along a water pipe to deter wombats. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-19/the-australian-company-pushing-to-open-pngs-first-coal-mine/1038560>

The Australian company pushing to open Papua New Guinea's first coal-fired power plant

Yara Murray-Atfield, ABC, 19/10/2018

An Australian company is pushing ahead with plans to open a coal-fired power plant and coal mine in Papua New Guinea ...

Australian-based and PNG-focused Mayur Resources is proposing the establishment of an "Enviro Energy Park" in the industrial hub of Lae in PNG's Morobe province. ...

Plans [include] a new 60 megawatt power station, with the ability to burn coal as well as use renewable biomass, solar energy, and by-product heat. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/inquirer/coal-future-burns-bright-through-its-support-of-australian-prosperity/news-story/8dca80a542ce0d4f17dcd94a4c51885>

Coal's future burns bright through its support of Australian prosperity

Perry Williams, The Australian, 19/10/2018

When the NSW government offloaded its last remaining coal-fired power plant in 2015 for the price of a Sydney suburban home, it appeared the fossil fuel's glory days were numbered. Vales Point, built in 1978 on the shores of Lake Macquarie, was considered near worthless and part of an ageing coal fleet headed for an early grave.

Yet three years after buying the power station for just \$1 million, co-owner Trevor St Baker has reaped bumper profits and is now scanning the Australian market for more coal investments. "The death of coal has been completely exaggerated," St Baker told The Australian yesterday from Canberra. "We are now looking decades ahead for coal in this country. The future remains very bright." ...

https://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/story/5708213/did-nsw-do-a-special-deal-for-shenhua/?cs=4698&fbclid=IwAR2YnFsn1_k3sj-gy5qA7-jzRZ-Bo2LmzWgK-t694j-TWIN_zN1n12bjQJtg

Did NSW do a special deal for Shenhua?

Mike Foley, Qld Country Life, 18/10/2018

Documents released under freedom of information laws reveal confusion and backtracking in the NSW Government's dealings with Chinese coal miner Shenhua.

Shenhua is developing the controversial Watermark coal project among some of NSW's best farmland at Breeza, on the Liverpool Plains.

Landholder alliance, Lock the Gate, said documents released to the group by government sparked concerns that an agreement to renew Shenhua's exploration licence was struck one year before the planning department had completed its assessment of the application. ...

GAS, GAS, GAS

<https://www.katherinetimes.com.au/story/5694409/native-title-holders-to-challenge-energy-giant-origin-over-fracking/?cs=1459>

Native title holders to challenge energy giant Origin over fracking

Roxanne Fitzgerald, Katherine Times, 10/10/2018

A group of native title holders will challenge energy giant Origin next week over claims the company procured agreements from NT landholders for fracking exploration.

Some of the areas held by Origin are just south of the Katherine township and could impact the region's underground water aquifers.

"A significant majority of native title holders across the Origin fracking permit areas have raised concerns with the company about being excluded from consultation meetings entirely," Lauren Mellor from Protect Country Alliance said. ...

"A group of four native title holders from communities covered by the Origin gas permits (including Minyerri/Hodgeson Downs, Ngukurr and Elliott) will be attending the Origin Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Sydney on October 17," Ms Mellor said.

"They will speak in support of a resolution put by the Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility. ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-16/indigenous-traditional-owners-origin-energy-fracking-consent/10379162>

Traditional owners to tell Origin Energy it has not gained consent for fracking on their land

Jane Bardon, ABC, 16/10/2018

A group of Indigenous traditional owners from remote parts of the Northern Territory will travel to Origin Energy's annual general meeting in Sydney on Wednesday to tell shareholders they have not given permission for the company to frack their land for gas.

Origin Energy gained official approvals for gas exploration, including test fracking, in the gas-rich Beetaloo Basin, both from traditional owners through the Northern Land Council, and the Northern Territory Government.

But some of the traditional owners plan to tell the shareholder meeting they oppose fracking, and did not give their "free, prior and informed consent". ...

Earlier this year the Northern Territory Government's Pepper fracking inquiry found "Aboriginal people from regional communities who made submissions to the panel almost universally expressed deep concern about, and strong opposition to the development of any onshore shale gas industry on their country".

It added: "The panel received an abundance of evidence that the broader Aboriginal community was not being appropriately informed about fracking or the potential for an onshore shale gas industry more broadly."

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-17/origin-energy-fracking-traditional-owners-indigenous-aboriginal/10387736>

NT traditional owners' concerns about fracking dominate Origin Energy AGM

Jane Bardon, ABC, 17/10/2018

Origin Energy has promised Territory-based Indigenous residents and traditional owners that it will better communicate with them, and will gain their consent before beginning planned gas fracking projects. ...

"We don't want fracking on our land, we don't want fracking through the water system," Alawa traditional owner Stephanie Roberts told the meeting.

"It will poison the land, it will impact the local bush food. The fracking will make your kids sick. We are thinking about the future generation of our young children."



Traditional Owners from the NT outside Origin's AGM. Photo: Don't Frack the Territory

Origin Energy's independent non-executive chairman, Gordon Cairns, responded by saying the company will do everything to mitigate any environmental risks.

"If I thought that fracking would endanger the livelihood of your kids then we shouldn't be doing it," he said. ...

The traditional owners' attendance at the meeting was organised by the Sydney-based Australian Centre for Corporate Responsibility.

Speaking to the ABC after the meeting, its executive director, Brynn O'Brien, said she felt it had been worthwhile.

"I think the presence of traditional owners at the meeting was very significant, that their concerns were heard by the chair, the board and the company representatives there," she said.

"Where this will get difficult is that despite the commitments made, the company is still saying that simple legal compliance, meeting the requirements of the legislative regime and going through the Northern Land Council is enough. ...

<https://www.ntnews.com.au/news/native-title-holders-claim-they-were-not-properly-consulted-for-nt-fracking-permits/news-story/1d57e7f52604e6521a1098bc4fac-bea8>

Native title holders claim they were not properly consulted for NT fracking permits

Chelsea Heaney, NT News, 16/10/2018

Traditional owners from remote Territory communities covered within

Origin Energy's fracking permit have said the organisation has failed to adequately consult landholders and excluded others from consultations entirely.

It follows the recent release of a report by the Jumbunna Institute of Indigenous Education and Research within the University of Technology Sydney that found most exploration permits issued in the Northern Territory for fracking were issued in the absence of free and prior informed consent. ...

Executive director Brynn O'Brien said the Jumbunna report demonstrated exactly why this resolution was necessary.

"Investors in companies planning to frack the NT cannot ignore the obvious deficiencies with the way consent is obtained on the ground, or the immense power imbalances between corporations and Aboriginal traditional owners," he said.

"The potential for irreparable harm to communities' culture, livelihoods, and land and water systems should weigh heavy on the shoulders of investors."

<https://thewest.com.au/business/energy/chevron-gets-lifeline-on-delayed-gorgon-carbon-capture-ng-b88992451z>

Chevron gets lifeline on delayed Gorgon carbon capture

Daniel Mercer & Peter Milne, West Australian, 17/10/2018

The McGowan Government has given oil and gas giant Chevron some breathing space for its increasingly desperate

efforts to get the troubled Gorgon carbon capture and storage project working.

Environment Minister Stephen Dawson told WestBusiness he would give Chevron the “benefit of the doubt” that it could overcome technical issues that have delayed the plant’s start-up by almost two years.

Chevron had planned to inject between 5.5 million and 7.8 million tonnes of CO2 in that period. ...

The comments are likely to come as a relief for Chevron given Gorgon was the biggest source of carbon pollution in Australia, apart from coal-fired power stations, in the 12 months to June 2017, according to the Clean Energy Regulator.

Under the terms of its agreement with the Government, Chevron is supposed to sequester 80 per cent of carbon dioxide emissions from Gorgon’s offshore fields on a five-year rolling average “from the commencement of operations”. ...

Conservation Council director Piers Verstagen said he welcomed the minister’s commitment to hold Chevron to account but he believed Chevron would continue to delay the inevitable for as long as possible.

“We do not believe that the geosequestration will provide a long-term solution,” Mr Verstagen said.

“It is being used by Chevron as a means to avoid their responsibility,” he said.

“The longer the company is allowed to delay action waiting for an unproven technology to work, the more it is costing jobs in clean industries such as tree planting and renewable energy, which Chevron could invest in to control pollution right now.”

<https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/5708212/santos-fined-after-epa-investigation-into-treated-water-use/?cs=12&fbclid=IwAR2FhaFefgApoNWMoAHDvIL3GUQ0g2pSW52kHq5uClPRb7vDwn0vECfVnJA>

Santos Narrabri: EPA investigation reveals coal seam gasfield did not have treated water approval

Madeline Link, Northern Daily Leader, 17/10/2018

An investigation into Santos’ Narrabri coal seam gas operation has found the company irrigated with treated water without approval.

The issue was raised by the Department of Industry with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) after Santos started irrigating a lucerne crop

on its property with treated water. ...

It is banned from irrigation until the approvals are granted and Santos has been fined \$1500 for the alleged administrative failure. ...

<https://www.smb.com.au/environment/conservation/embarrassing-santos-fined-for-using-csg-water-without-a-permit-20181017-p50a7v.html>

‘Embarrassing’: Santos fined for using CSG water without a permit

Peter Hannam, SMH, 17/10/2018

Santos has been fined by the NSW environmental watchdog for using water from its controversial \$3 billion coal seam gas project for irrigation without approval. ...

The penalty followed a “thorough and detailed investigation” that found the irrigation from the Leewood site caused no environmental harm or was unlikely to, the EPA said in a statement. ...

<https://www.echo.net.au/2018/10/coal-seam-gas-needs-tighter-controls-nsw/>

Coal seam gas needs tighter controls in NSW

Echonet Daily, 18/10/2018

The Greens have condemned the paltry fine given to gas company Santos for not having appropriate approval for using treated coal seam gas water and called for an increase in penalties for breaches of licences or misconduct.

NSW Greens MLC and Resources spokesperson Jeremy Buckingham said, “In practice, a \$1,500 fine is a slap-on-the-wrist for a big gas company like Santos who see the weak penalties for breaches as merely another cost of doing business.” ...

“AGL’s attempts to irrigator saline treated coal seam gas water at Gloucester ended in failure. The Santos attempts, even if legalised, will also end in failure.

“In the United States, they call irrigating land with coal seam gas water ‘land farming’. They basically contaminate the land and let salt tolerant weeds grow. ...

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-18/gas-reservation-may-be-needed-to-lower-prices-save-manufacturers/10392064?fbclid=IwAR1u39fvDj_fIQbckSK_itKxpSXdKqrXrZSkdzhHdRGjOF0r_zkjmZxpw

Gas reservation may be needed to lower prices, save manufacturers: ACCC chair

Elysse Morgan ABC, 19/10/2018

In an extraordinary move, the competition regulator has backflipped and joined the chorus for a gas reservation

policy on the east coast to keep a lid on prices and save key manufacturers from closure.

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) chair Rod Sims is an advocate for free markets and originally thought a policy to reserve some gas production for domestic use was unnecessary interference. ...

“I think what we hadn’t seen, what I hadn’t seen, is the fact that we’ve got three large LNG producers when we really only had gas for two-and-a-half” ...

LINC STINK

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/taxpayers-and-not-failed-queensland-companies-responsible-for-future-clean-up-costs/news-story/96fb48e6c42ac37aa8756d483754561b>

Taxpayers and not failed Queensland companies responsible for future clean up costs

Emmaline Stigwood, Courier-Mail, 15/10/2018

Taxpayers and not failed Queensland companies are responsible for future clean up costs of environmental disasters, a recent court case has ruled.

Taking the case all the way to the High Court, the Queensland Government has lost its case against Linc Energy around who is responsible for future remediation of land allegedly contaminated in western Darling Downs. ...

It means that in Queensland insolvent companies are able to divest themselves of the future cost of environmental clean-up and rehabilitation if they disclaim the lands and licences requiring remediation.

It could also see the Queensland government look at drafting new laws to deal with the situation so taxpayers are protected in future. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/queensland-to-take-up-ownership-of-contaminated-linc-energy-site/news-story/01e8ca461b20a8b7ac825a0615e1ee7a>

Queensland to take up ownership of contaminated Linc Energy site

Charlie Peel, The Australian, 17/10/2018

The contaminated former gas mine operated by Linc Energy on Queensland’s Darling Downs is set to be given to the Queensland Government.

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines will be tasked with rehabilitating the farming land, near Chinchilla, west of Brisbane, which was used as Linc’s underground coal gasification facility.

Once valued at \$1 billion, Linc Energy, which specialised in coal-based

synthetic fuel production, went into liquidation in 2016. ...

At a directions hearing in Brisbane's District Courton Wednesday, the government filed an application seeking to have the disclaimed land vested to it. ...

LEIGH CK STINK

<https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/business/sa-business-journal/leigh-creek-energy-drops-bid-for-legal-costs-from-adnyamathanha-traditional-lands-association-following-its-failed-supreme-court-battle/news-story/683d75564ab8dc6e9ea7217bdc1fbd5f>

Leigh Creek Energy drops bid for legal costs from Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association following its failed Supreme Court battle

Michelle Etheridge, *The Advertiser*, 18/10/2018

Leigh Creek Energy has decided against pursuing legal costs from the Aboriginal group that launched a failed battle to stop a mining project in the state's Far North.

The company has previously said it would pursue damages against the Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association, which last month lost a Supreme Court bid to block a contentious underground coal gasification project approved for Leigh Creek.

Leigh Creek Energy has updated its shareholders that the legal proceedings have finished and both parties will cover their own costs. ...

Underground coal gasification involves igniting coal reserves, which produces synthetic gas that travels to the surface via wells.

The practice has been banned in Queensland, following a Linc Energy project which resulted in that company being successfully prosecuted for causing environmental damage. ...

IMPORT INSANITY

<https://www.ogi.com/articles/2018/10/victoria-slows-agl-energy-s-lng-plans.html>

Victoria slows AGL Energy's LNG plans

Rick Wilkinson, *Oil & Gas Journal*, 10/12/2018

Sydney-based AGL Energy's plans to establish an LNG import terminal at Crib Point in Victoria by 2021 will be delayed following the Victorian government's call for the company to submit a full environmental assessment of the project.

The review process typically takes up to 12 months. That means AGL's planned schedule for a final investment decision for the \$250-million (Aus.) development by midyear 2019 is unlikely to be met. ...

Exact details of the review have not yet been released, but they are expected to include the impact of the floating storage and regasification unit on the internationally recognized wetlands region around the proposed jetty and pipeline route. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/agl-energy-s-plan-to-import-gas-at-crib-point-faces-delay/news-story/110f34f2e3d69d539f43bd42aec359e9>

AGL Energy's plan to import gas at Crib Point faces delay

Perry Williams, *The Australian*, 14/10/2018

AGL Energy says its Victorian LNG import plant may be hit by delays after a decision by the Victorian government to conduct a full environmental assessment for the Crib Point project, which the power giant has revealed may operate beyond its expected 20-year time frame. ...

AGL's interim chief executive Brett Redman told *The Australian* ... "The project life is anticipated to be approximately 20 years. However, it may be extended pending security and stability of gas supply."

While AGL has yet to strike a final investment decision on the project, Mr Redman said the pending supply shortage showed the need for more gas in the east coast markets.

"We know that the state needs that gas in the fairly near future so we're committed to trying to push this project forward," he said.

Its annual meeting last month attracted dozens of protesters outside the Melbourne venue and a barrage of questions from shareholders about the impact of its Crib Point scheme on an environmentally sensitive area. ...

<http://mpnews.com.au/2018/10/15/gas-plan-to-undergo-environmental-tests/>

Gas plan to undergo environmental 'tests'

Keith Platt, *Mornington Peninsula News*, 15/10/2018

Planning Minister Richard Wynne says power company AGL's plan to import liquefied natural gas through Crib Point will be subject to "the strongest environmental assessment process in the state".

The Save Westernport group opposing AGL's floating gas terminal saw Mr Wynne's announcement last week as "a huge win".

"It's the deferral to EES [environmental effects statement] we've been waiting for. The study will start in

January and take nine to 12 months to complete," the group's website proclaimed. ...

The group says the floating gas terminal is potentially dangerous and too close to residential areas and will harm the marine environment. ...

Dale Stohr, of Save Westernport, said EES "must ensure that this huge gas project at Crib Point on Western Port will be closely examined and all environmental and safety impacts are identified".

"Western Port is a unique environment as a Ramsar wetland of international importance located in the UNESCO-designated Mornington Peninsula.

"Save Westernport opposes the AGL gas import project and will continue our campaign to protect the Western Port environment for the benefit and enjoyment of all residents and visitors."

<https://www.gastoday.com.au/2018/10/15/agl-gas-projects-threatened-by-bureaucracy/>

AGL gas projects threatened by bureaucracy

Gas Today, 15/10/2018

AGL's Interim CEO Brett Redman says the collapse of the National Energy Guarantee (NEG) has affected the company's development of new gas fired power stations in NSW, while its Crib Point LNG terminal in Victoria could be delayed by a state government-led environmental assessment of the project and its associated pipeline. ...

NUKE MADNESS

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/one-thing-the-ipc-got-right-time-to-go-nuclear/news-story/b851e-2329be59bf4d4d3a64f7833406>

One thing the IPCC got right: time to go nuclear

Tony Grey, *The Australian*, 15/10/2018

Last week's special report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is a spicy broth of green politics and tamed science that might give some people dyspepsia. However, within it is a refreshing view on nuclear power's role in helping to mitigate global warming. It's refreshing because the green lobby has been such a closed-minded opponent. ...

In the section on nuclear it states: "Nuclear power increases its share in most 1.5 degree pathways by 2050." This is based on an estimated 2.5 times expansion in nuclear generation. ...

The endorsement by the IPCC of the role that nuclear power can play in meeting its ambitious targets should focus attention of our politicians on when and how it can be harnessed here. At the very least, the legislation passed 18 years ago prohibiting nuclear power in Australia should be repealed.

• *Tony Grey founded Pancontinental Mining and played a role in the exploration and discovery of the Jabiluka uranium deposits.*

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/jaw-dropping-new-zealand-offers-lessons-in-tackling-climate-change-20181012-p509di.html>

'Jaw dropping': New Zealand offers lessons in tackling climate change

Peter Hannam, SMH, 14/10/2018

Scott Simpson, New Zealand's National Party environment spokesman, stunned a trans-Tasman investment meeting last week by stating that climate action was "too important to be playing politics with".

Or rather, it was the Australian delegates who were shocked, so used are they to the toxic debates in Canberra.

"It made my jaw drop, that's for sure," said Emma Herd, chief executive of the Investor Group on Climate Change.

Also well-received was Mr Simpson's comment that it was vital "for all of us and our grandchildren that we have a [climate action] framework that is enduring ...

That Mr Simpson hails from the centre-right opposition party roughly equivalent to our Liberal-National coalition only underscored the contrast between the nations. ...

<https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/5698579/barnaby-dismisses-climate-panel-findings-backs-coal-power/>

Barnaby backs coal unless Australians want nuclear power supply

Chris Bath, Northern Daily Leader, 14/10/2018

Barnaby Joyce has called the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) recommendation to phase out coal by 2050 as "wrong and ridiculous", while once again suggesting Australians need to look at nuclear power. ...

The former Nationals leader did say that zero emissions are possible, although Australians "have to grasp the nettle and look at nuclear technology."

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/joyce-in-push-for-coal-over-snowy-20/news-story/f0737bceab2b-600fc2480473a5f3dd88>

Joyce in push for coal over Snowy 2.0

Ean Higgins, The Australian, 14/10/2018

Barnaby Joyce has reopened the Coalition's energy wars on the new battlefield of the proposed \$4.5 billion Snowy 2.0 pumped hydro project that he says should be shelved or scrapped in favour of new coal-fired power stations.

The former deputy prime minister's intervention, which is understood to be privately supported by Tony Abbott, comes just two months before the government will face a final decision on whether to proceed with the scheme. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/barnaby-joyces-coal-plan-powers-up-detractors/news-story/3c350b2a34ee571832c1070234346780>

Barnaby Joyce's coal plan powers up detractors

Ean Higgins, The Australian, 15/10/2018

Barnaby Joyce's call for the federal government to favour new coal-fired power stations over the proposed \$4.5 billion Snowy 2.0 pumped hydro project yesterday reignited the coal-versus-renewable debate, with a second Coalition backbencher expressing doubts about the scheme's viability but an eminent environmental economist saying to dump it would be irresponsible. ...

Emeritus professor Tor Hundloe from the University of Queensland said calls for new coal-fired power stations defied reality on economic grounds, if no other. "A new coal-fired power station is more costly per kilowatt than either solar or wind, and certainly more costly than hydro," Professor Hundloe said.

"Where Barnaby gets it wrong," he said, was in misunderstanding the function of pumped hydro. ...

<https://www.echo.net.au/2018/10/thus-spake-mungo-sco-mos-medium-massage/>

Thus Spake Mungo: ScoMo's medium is his message

Mungo MacCallum, Echonet Daily, 15/10/2018

We are now more than six weeks into the ScoMo regime, but most of us – and that includes some of our most recent Prime Minister's close colleagues as well as a tentative opposition – are still trying to figure out just who the man really is trying to be. ...

But last week, when I heard Morrison answer questions about the IPCC report warning of imminent disaster if

climate change was not addressed, the reality dawned: our leader is channeling Joh Bjelke-Petersen.

I could almost hear the corrupt old peanut farmer mouthing his mantra 'Don't you worry about that' as Morrison deftly avoided the subject with a homily on the need for lower electricity prices. And the chooks having been fed, he moved on something more important ...

Don't worry, be happy. Forget about those distinguished international scientists – UnAustralian almost all of them, by definition. We are an independent, sovereign nation: we will decide how much carbon we emit, and the circumstances in which we emit it. Stop the world, we want to get off. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/oct/16/craig-kelly-says-coalition-must-kill-off-renewable-energy-subsidies>

Craig Kelly says Coalition must kill off renewable energy subsidies

Katharine Murphy, The Guardian, 16/10/2018

The chairman of the Coalition's backbench energy committee, the outspoken conservative Craig Kelly, says the government needs to axe current subsidies for households and businesses to install renewable energy technology like solar panels. ...

This week, members of the pro-coal Monash Forum are scheduled to dine at parliament house with Trevor St Baker, part-owner of the Vales Point coal generator and founder of the business electricity retailer ERM Power. St Baker has previously signalled interest in pursuing a replacement for the Hazelwood power station if the federal government settles on a favourable energy policy. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/oct/16/our-leaders-are-destroying-our-future-wentworth-must-be-a-referendum-on-climate-change>

Our leaders are destroying our future. Wentworth must be a referendum on climate change

Richard Flanagan & Geoff Cousins, The Guardian, 16/10/2018

A politician can destroy our future, a politician can ignore the best evidence and be responsible for decisions that lead to deaths of many and the suffering of all, and still be free until the end of their days to milk the legal corruption that is Australian public life, picking up highly paid sinecures as ambassadors, board directors, and lobbyists for the corporations they were once meant to regulate in our interest. ...

News this week ... from previous page

This Saturday the voters of Wentworth have the opportunity to turn their byelection into a referendum on climate change.

The Liberal candidate Dave Sharma echoes the same smug complacency of the Liberal government he expects to join next Monday.

"I do think we are doing enough," Sharma has said, "and I do think we have had a good record on climate change. ...

In evading their responsibilities on climate change, our politicians have been irresponsible to the point of what would be, in any other sphere of life, criminality. ...

• **Richard Flanagan is the Man Booker prize winning Australian author**

• **Businessman Geoff Cousins is a former Howard government adviser**

https://reneweconomy.com.au/coalition-backing-big-coal-over-climate-says-sachs-unbelievably-irresponsible-43094/?utm_source=RE+Daily+News-letter&utm_campaign=6ff40ed5d7-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_10_15_10_49&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_46a1943223-6ff40ed5d7-40461137

Coalition backing "big coal" over climate, says Sachs: "Unbelievably irresponsible"

Sophie Vorrath, RenewEconomy, 16/10/2018

US economics professor Jeffrey Sachs has slammed the Australian federal government as "unbelievably irresponsible" for its inaction on climate change, and suggested that policy progress in the Coalition – alongside the current US Trump administration – has been held hostage by major fossil fuel interests.

Speaking on ABC TV's Q&A program on Monday night, Sachs – who is a former director of the director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University – described global warming as "a disaster", and said the failure to act on this represented a breakdown in the democratic process. ...

"What is the matter with these people?"

"(Either) they really don't know (about the science of climate change) ... or they are so corrupt and taking oil money that they pretend that they don't know. ...

"Let's face it ... (Trump's) absolutely the weirdest president we've ever had," Sachs said, in comments on his own country's political identity crisis.

"But he's also representing more than that. He's representing the corruption of the American political system. This is big oil, big gas, big coal putting a lot of money into the Republican Party so that they all sound like idiots.

"And this is corruption, and we have to fight it. Because why is this happening? It's a few companies who think they run the world. But we're the ones in the midst of hurricanes, we're the ones that are seeing the floods, the droughts... Is this in the interest of Australia? ... Of course not." ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/no-more-hiding-morrison-government-set-emissions-data-deadlines-20181017-p50a80.html>

'No more hiding': Morrison government set emissions data deadlines

Peter Hannam, SMH, 17/10/2018

The federal government will be less able to delay the release of embarrassing national carbon pollution figures after the Senate approved rolling deadlines for the quarterly data.

The Greens secured Labor and cross-bench support of a so-called order of continuing effect that requires the government to table the Greenhouse Gas Inventory figures within five months of the end of each quarter, or provide an explanation for any delay. ...

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/national/2018/10/20/wentworth-by-election-analysis/>

Wentworthless: Liberals get a ballot-box bludgeoning that may well prove fatal

Paula Matthewson, New Daily, 21/10/2018

It's hard to go past the old baseball bat analogy to describe what happened in the formerly safe Liberal seat of Wentworth on Saturday.

Voters took their bats to the Liberal candidate, Dave Sharma, and by extension the Morrison government, to express their fury over the dysfunction and policies of the Coalition government.

On Saturday night the swing against the Liberals looked to be around 22 per cent – by far the biggest swing ever against a government in a byelection. That's in a seat which has existed since Federation and never been held by any other party than the Liberal Party or its predecessors. ...

So overwhelming was the wave of retribution from voters that the ABC's election analyst, Antony Green, called the result only 80 minutes after the polls were closed. ...

An exit poll commissioned by progressive think tank The Australia Institute found that, among ex-Liberal voters who voted for Dr Phelps, Mr Turnbull's toppling was the biggest influence on how they voted (44 per cent), followed by climate change (28 per cent). ...

Dr Phelps has already declared she won't do a deal with the government to guarantee confidence and supply, but that she is disposed to governments running full term and will judge each piece of legislation on its merit. She did, however, make it clear that her highest priorities would be convincing the government to take genuine climate action and remove the children from offshore detention. ...

FFB

Fiona Wilson fundraiser

Gas industry whistleblower Fiona Wilson is still battling her incarceration and forced medication by Queensland's Fixated 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>

Fossil Fool Bulletin is emailed to subscribers every Tuesday.



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



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