



# Fossil Fool Bulletin

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

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FFB 1:49 • 6 NOVEMBER 2018

## Beware fossil-gas suppliers bearing hydrogen gifts

By Tim Forcey

*Recently there has been a flood of announcements about renewable hydrogen. Some seem fully legitimate and exciting. But in some others, are we seeing a red-herring not unlike clean-coal?*

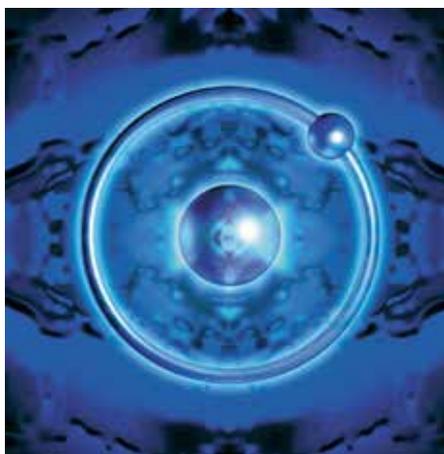
Will the public-relations power of renewable hydrogen be harnessed by fossil-fuel interests only to maintain business-as-usual?

In the Aeneid, Virgil had a warning for the Trojans. Something along the lines of “you better have a squiz at this big wooden horse and see what’s up”. So let’s take a quick break from ‘electrifying everything’ and look at what’s up with the green hydrogen being spruiked across Australia by fossil-gas suppliers.

In Western Australia, the fossil oil and gas company Woodside says, “Green hydrogen is the holy grail and if people want green hydrogen, we’re happy to deliver.” But then Woodside goes on to remind us “currently, the best way to export hydrogen is via LNG” (liquefied fossil gas).

ATCO, the Canadian owner of Western Australia’s fossil gas distribution networks will use renewable hydrogen in the quest of “Maximising existing network infrastructure”.

(Note: After years of experience, we now know that Australian utility companies seeking to “maximise energy network infrastructure” whether it’s needed or not, is code for maximising



***Will the public-relations power of renewable hydrogen be harnessed by fossil-fuel interests only to maintain business-as-usual?***

utility company returns while driving up consumer energy costs.)

In South Australia the owner of the fossil gas distribution networks, Hong Kong’s CK Infrastructure, aka Australian Gas Infrastructure Group (AGIG), aka Australian Gas Networks (AGN), will by the mid 2020’s use renewable hydrogen to “illustrate the complementary nature of gas and electricity in meeting the decarbonisation challenge”.

For Victoria, CK Infrastructure again, this time known locally as Multinet

Gas, with the help of its lobby group Energy Networks Australia (ENA) envisions a 2050 future where people install gas-engines outside their Victorian homes to burn hydrogen and spin reverse-cycle air conditioners. ENA imagines that in 2050 we will love the range of coloured hydrogen flames in our fireplaces.

In the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), ActewAGL (part-owned by Jemena which is owned by China State Grid and Singapore Power) is working to inject hydrogen into the gas distribution network.

In New South Wales, Jemena “will demonstrate how existing gas pipeline technology can store excess renewable energy”.

In Queensland the state government suggests that “existing gas pipeline infrastructure” provides a “competitive advantage in the future production and export of hydrogen”. However, to date, no Queensland gas pipeline owners have echoed the state government’s enthusiasm. Those gas companies are busy using their infrastructure to export a good chunk of Australia’s fossil gas to overseas clients.

Now I will admit to being a big fan of renewable hydrogen. At the University of Melbourne we kicked off the discussion of Australia’s potential as a “renewable energy chemical exporter” back in 2015. Any research, development, and demonstration that

• Continued p2

• P 2: Massive NT fracking emissions to cost billions

• P 4: Wales to leave its coal in the ground

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## Renewable hydrogen – a Trojan Horse?

• Continued from p1

works toward that end is worthwhile.

Recently both Beyond Zero Emissions in its report 'Electrifying Industry' and the CSIRO in the 'National Hydrogen Roadmap' described how renewable hydrogen will play a key role in steel-making and some other industrial applications.

### Similar to clean coal fantasy

But similar to how the Australian coal industry used the fantasy of clean-coal-carbon-capture-and-storage to delay climate action for over a decade, our concern is that the fossil gas industry is suddenly co-opting hydrogen as an artifice – aimed at convincing regulators, politicians and the public that that gas industry has a future in a decarbonised world.

Even the Chief Scientist is now on board with hydrogen, in a recent report describing export and domestic opportunities. Worryingly, not all of the Chief Scientist's hydrogen is that green, with opportunities also described for sourcing hydrogen from our "convertible fossil fuel reserves".

In step with the energy networks lobby group, the Chief Scientist's report describes how with "incremental enhancements" gas pipelines "can be used to store and transport hydrogen".

Unfortunately, this is quite optimistic because "incremental enhancement"

in fact means complete pipeline replacement! A report by Deloitte Access Economics more clearly warns that because of the corrosive phenomena known as hydrogen embrittlement of steel, "new pipelines would be required to transmit hydrogen over long distances".

The Chief Scientist's report also states that technically hydrogen "can heat our buildings". This is true, because hydrogen burns. But even in 2050, the economics of space or water heating with hydrogen will find it difficult to beat electrically-driven air-source heat pumps (aka reverse-cycle air conditioners).

Efficient and multi-purpose air cons already harvest renewable heat and warm millions of Australian homes for as little as one-third of the cost of burning fossil gas – a gas that is nevertheless relatively cheap compared with synthetic hydrogen.

Is it the threat of millions of Australians adopting all-electric homes that has the gas industry contemplating its swift decarbonised demise?

A hydrogen-fuelled frenzy may be just the clever stratagem needed to delay that future a while longer.

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

*This story first appeared in RenewEconomy.*

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## Massive NT fracking emissions will cost billions to offset

**Offsetting fracking emissions identified by the Northern Territory Fracking Inquiry would reach \$4.3 billion in costs per year if fracking in the NT is at full production by 2030, and \$53 billion over the decade from 2030-40, finds new research from the Australia Institute.**

The new analysis uses Australian government modelling of the international price of greenhouse gas emissions, consistent with Australia's Paris commitment to keeping global warming below 2 degrees.

"The Fracking Inquiry found emissions from NT fracking were unacceptable and the NT Government has accepted their recommendation to fully offset all fracking emissions," says Mark Ogge, of The Australia Institute.

"The massive cost of offsetting fracking emissions reflects the massive damage that emissions from fracking will do to the atmosphere.

"The NT Fracking Inquiry suggested that emissions could be offset by the early closure of coal power stations elsewhere in Australia, however, our research shows this would require closing virtually all of Victoria's coal power stations or equivalent.

"Cheap offsets are not an option. The price for offsetting greenhouse gas emissions is an international price. This is the real cost of abatement. Any genuine offset will be this price or more.

"If the NT pursues other offsetting options suggested by the inquiry, like the early retirement of coal power stations, it will be interesting to see how they negotiate the closure of Victoria's entire coal fleet to make room for NT fracking emissions, for instance.

"We should be keeping this resource firmly in the ground. But if fracking does go ahead in the NT it is critical to fully offset fracking emissions as recommended by the Fracking Inquiry and committed to by the Northern Territory Government.

"It is extraordinary that the Northern Territory government would decide to allow fracking of this scale when cutting emissions should be their number one priority to avert global catastrophe."

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Mid-Coast Knitting Nannas turned out to call for climate justice last week.



# NSW needs to prepare prepare for post-mining world

*A new report showing a terminal future for thermal coal demand globally demonstrates a critical need for the NSW government to introduce an economic transformation plan for the Hunter region, according to Lock the Gate.*

Published last week by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA), the report – New South Wales thermal coal exports face permanent decline: Grim outlook prompts the need for a planned transition – examines NSW coal export markets and forecasts of coal demand with global action to meet the Paris climate agreement goals.

Lock the Gate spokesperson Georgina Woods said: “With the world turning to renewables and abandoning coal, the Hunter can no longer rely on thermal coal to be the backbone of its economy.”

## Coal trade to drop 59% by 2040

The IEEFA report points to forecasts by the International Energy Agency (IEA) showing global thermal coal trade volumes dropping 28% by 2025 and 59% by 2040 under its Sustainable Development Scenario (SDS).

The SDS presents a picture of what global energy would look like if Paris Climate agreement goals are met and air pollution reduced whilst also

ensuring universal access to modern energy.

“The NSW Government says it is committed to the Paris agreement, but if that is genuinely the case, it must start preparing for a major contraction in the coal industry,” she said.

“Planning for a decline in coal is most desperately needed in the Hunter Valley, where up to a fifth of people currently rely on coal mining for their livelihoods.

“The NSW Government must develop a strong restructuring plan with financial support to diversify the Hunter’s economy and protect our existing agricultural industries,” she said.

## 70% want plan for post-coal future

Public support for change in the Upper Hunter is demonstrated by recent polling commissioned by Lock the Gate showing 70% of Singleton and Muswellbrook residents believe the region needs to prepare for a post-coal future and diversify its economy.

“Politicians promoting the expansion of coal mining are out of touch with people in the Hunter who understand how important it is to plan for the future,” Ms Woods said.

“The Hunter has been the engine room of NSW for decades. Now it’s time to give back and that starts with plan-

ning, and with sensible protections for agricultural land, so sustainable industries can grow.”

The report comes as the Independent Planning Commission prepares to make its final decision about a new coal mine in the Bylong Valley, opening it up to coal mining for the first time.

“If the NSW Government approves this mine, they’ll be eating away food and water security for the sake of an industry that must contract if we are to address climate change,” Ms Woods said.

“It makes no sense to jeopardise water security and cut open productive farmland at a time when thermal coal is in permanent decline.”

The report can be downloaded here:

<http://ieefa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/NSW-Coal-Exports-November-2018.pdf>



**3CR Community Radio  
Earth Matters**

‘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>

# Brisbane seminar to discuss human rights, fracking and climate change

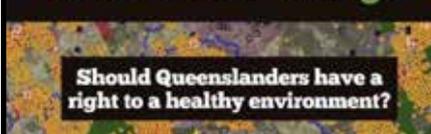
*The Queensland Government introduced a Human Rights Bill to Queensland Parliament last week. Will it protect a basic right to a healthy environment for all Queenslanders?*

Right now, people in our state do not have even the most basic legal right to breathe clean air, or access clean water.

In many parts of Queensland communities are facing the impacts of activities such as mining and gas extraction, including threats from fracking and climate change. These impacts are often damaging people’s health, livelihoods, precious groundwater basins, air quality and best agricultural land, but there are few meaningful legal remedies to protect health and the ecosystems and agricultural land.

In March this year, a Permanent Peoples’ Tribunal on Human Rights, Fracking and Climate Change heard

**Human Rights, FRACKING  
and Climate Change**



Tuesday, December 4, 6-8pm  
Griffith University, South Bank Campus  
Hosted by Human Rights Impact of Unconventional Gas

testimonies from Australia and around the world, arguing that fracking and other unconventional gas extraction violates basic human rights.

This important seminar will discuss why the new Human Rights Act needs to protect every Queenslanders’ right to a healthy environment, and the outcomes of the Permanent Peoples’ Tribunal relevant to the state.

## Panellists:

**Shay Dougall** – Initial findings of the International Permanent Peoples’ Tribunal on Human Rights, Fracking and Climate Change held in 2018 and a summary of the witnesses testimonies from Australia

**Dr Michelle Maloney** – AELA – Earth rights and the right to a healthy environment

**Revel Pointon** – EDO Qld – How a Human Rights Act for Qld could help to empower Queenslanders to protect their health and the health of their environment

**Aimee McVeigh** – HRact4qld – on where the act is, what we can do to make it happen, how we can ensure these issues are addressed in the Act.

## Free tickets at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/human-rights-fracking-climate-change-tickets-51735409001>

# In 'historic moment' for climate action, Wales pledges to leave its remaining coal in the ground

By Julia Conley, Common Dreams

*Climate action groups last week applauded the government of Wales for demonstrating that it is taking seriously the existential and planetary threat posed by fossil fuels by announcing that the country would end its extraction of coal.*

Wales' new proposed plan to reject all future coal mining applications is set to be finalized by the end of the year; a government spokesperson told the BBC last week, as part of the country's new energy strategy which will aim to ensure that 70% of Wales' energy is derived from renewable sources by 2030.

## Vital steps for climate safe future

"We applaud the Welsh government in taking these vital steps for a climate safe future. Their actions are in direct contrast to its English neighbour who this week has given the green light to start fracking and created an unfavourable environment for renewable energy," said Anna Vickerstaff, spokesperson for 350.org, referring to fracking operations which restarted in Blackpool, England recently – days before dozens of small earthquakes were recorded in the area.

The announcement came weeks after the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a harrowing report on the steps the world's government must take immediately in

***"More countries must rapidly follow the path of Wales in leaving fossil fuels in the ground and transitioning to renewables."***

order to avoid the catastrophic effects of the climate crisis which would come about by 2040 if the Earth warms more than 1.5°C.

"We have to be aware of our global responsibility and the impact all of the coal has had over the years and to make sure that we really do play our part in Wales now to be globally responsible and to reduce our carbon emissions," Haf Elgar, director of Friends of the Earth Cymru, told the BBC.

Payal Parekh, program director for 350.org, praised Wales for heeding the call of the IPCC and expressed urgent hope that other countries follow in its footsteps.

"The IPCC report released last week should act as a wake-up call for leaders worldwide. More countries must rapidly follow the path of Wales in leaving fossil fuels in the ground and transitioning to renewables," said Parekh in a statement.

The government's decision was significant for a country which once counted the coal industry as its single biggest employer, producing 57 million tons of coal in one year at the beginning of the

last century. Production has slowed significantly over the last 100 years, with the country extracting 2.5 million tons in 2014 – but green groups expressed optimism about the plan to eliminate the fossil fuel from Wales' economy.

"It is a historic moment. This is the end of coal in Wales after a long association and history," said Elgar.

## One of a small group of nations

The announcement makes Wales one of a small but growing group of nations which have pledged to take bold action and abandon long relied-upon energy sources for the sake of the planet and future generations.

Earlier this year, Costa Rica announced it would shift to 100% renewable energy by 2021, and fracking has been banned in Uruguay, Scotland, Germany, parts of Australia, and a number of US states.

The IPCC's report noted that putting a stop to fossil fuel emissions could feasibly be achieved, but that successfully limiting global warming to 1.5°C "would require rapid and far-reaching transitions in energy, land, urban, and infrastructure (including transport and buildings), and industrial systems" – the kind of change to which the Welsh government has now committed.

• *This story was first published in Common Dreams, [www.commondreams.org](http://www.commondreams.org)*

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## New NASA study confirms methane spike tied to rise of oil and gas

By Sharon Kelly

Over the past few years, natural gas has become the primary fuel that America uses to generate electricity, displacing the long-time king of fossil fuels, coal. In 2019, more than a third of America's electrical supply will come from natural gas, with coal falling to a second-ranked 28 percent, the Energy Information Administration predicts.

But new peer-reviewed research adds to the growing evidence that the shift from coal to gas isn't necessarily good news for the climate.

A team led by scientists at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory confirmed

that the oil and gas industry is responsible for the largest share of the world's rising methane emissions.

Methane is a major greenhouse gas, capable of trapping 86 times as much heat as the same amount of carbon dioxide in the first 20 years after it hits the Earth's atmosphere. So relatively tiny amounts of methane in the air can pack a massive climate-changing punch.

"The sharp increase in methane emissions correlates closely with the U.S. fracking boom," said Jim Warren, executive director of the climate watchdog group NC WARN. "Leaking and venting of unburned gas – which

is mostly methane – makes natural gas even worse for the climate than coal."

The new NASA study is not the first to call attention to the connection between oil and gas and methane leaks. A study in March last year found that natural gas power plants put out between 20 and 120 times more methane pollution than previously believed, due in part to accidental leaks and in part to deliberate "venting" by companies.

• *This story is abbreviated from one published in DeSmog Blog, [www.desmogblog.com](http://www.desmogblog.com)*

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## Frack quake company Cuadrilla part-owned by Sydney-based driller A J Lucas

*Cuadrilla, the company behind an earthquake-plagued fracking site at Preston New Road, Lancashire, England, is 47% owned by Australian company A J Lucas.*

At least 17 quakes have been registered since fracking began in late October, despite court battles and protests.

David Smythe, emeritus professor of geophysics at the University of Glasgow, warned that “there may be trouble ahead” if work continues.

He said: “Recent research by Stanford University shows that these tiny tremors can be indicators of bigger quakes to follow – like canaries in a coal mine. The problem for Cuadrilla is that if it carries on regardless, bigger earthquakes may well be triggered.

“Cuadrilla’s only safe option is to cease fracking.”

Stuart Haszeldine, professor of geology at the University of Edinburgh, said: “The practical significance is not whether these tremors are felt at the surface or not, but in the potential to damage the borehole, and the potential to create gas pathways from the shale towards larger faults, towards shallower aquifers, and to the surface.”

Cuadrilla has been forced to temporarily halt the fracking on some occasions when the tremors hit a ‘red light’ level

in the regulations. Standing workers down costs the company £94,000 a day.

*The Guardian* revealed earlier last month that energy minister, Claire Perry, had proposed raising the regulatory threshold for tremors caused by fracking, as the industry begins to mature.

But the government has subsequently denied it has any plans to relax the rules.

*A DeSmog UK* investigation has found Cuadrilla has breached environmental permits multiple times and failed to disclose full details of technical issues at its Lancashire site.

The company breached its environmental permits seven times in 10 months in 2017, analysis of Freedom of Information requests and publicly available Environment Agency Compliance Assessment Reports shows.

*DeSmog UK’s* investigation also uncovered a survey commissioned by the company that identified faults with a protective membrane, despite the company telling local residents it had never needed repairs.

The investigation also revealed that the Environment Agency encountered problems with air pollution monitoring at the site due to faulty equipment.

## Inside the news

**Adani** featured prominently in recent days, as they claimed to be about to lock in finance and start digging for coal. ‘**Adani close to pulling trigger,**’ headlined the *AFR*. For a moment I thought they were about to shoot the project like an old horse, but no! *AFR* was thinking of a race starter’s pistol.

While Adani is being investigated for several **rule-breaches** in Australia – polluting wetlands, unauthorised drilling and clearing – it was found to have **forcibly taken land** from Indian villagers with police assistance (p7).

On Queensland’s **Darling Downs**, hostility between land-owners and gas companies has grown to the point where a **law firm** has moved in, specifically to represent people affected by gasfields activities. The firm, **p&e Law**, has opened its doors in **Chinchilla**.

Farmer Brock Simpkins is one who wishes gasco’s like QGC had never been allowed on his land, which is badly affected by **subsidence** and **destruction** of grass cover (p9). The *Chinchilla News* headlined his story, ‘**QGC’s ongoing carnage**’, sure to anger the company and the pro-gas business.

**Leigh Creek Energy** and its chief, **Justyn Peters**, featured in an ABC 7.30 Report on November 1 (p10). Peters is proud of his past history with **Linc Energy** and takes offence at being linked to Linc’s disastrous pollution event near Chinchilla.

“**I don’t believe** there is environmental damage caused at Chinchilla,” he told the ABC. “I find it **offensive** that people sit there and make a connection between my role at Linc Energy and the role here.”

Five former Linc directors face **criminal charges** over the pollution event, but Peters is not among them. He has persuaded the SA government to let him **set fire to the ground** on Adnyamathanha country.

Meanwhile, in an unbelievably tone-deaf statement, **Rio Tinto** chief executive **Jean-Sebastien Jacques** has floated the idea of communities and governments helping to pay for mining projects (p12), while wondering why the industry is so **untrusted**.

# In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 32,400 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

## THE ADANI SAGA

[https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/23-year-old-adani-mine-protester-stops-coal-production-for-hours-after-hanging-from-tripod/news-story/7bfb6c8a591bae36cc9899e418fe1fbc?fbclid=IwAR0BG4thK-WWnkCad7MXph6bz7ORpg\\_zWbEsTvAB\\_dx-VuWsZ0612mFrT-M](https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/23-year-old-adani-mine-protester-stops-coal-production-for-hours-after-hanging-from-tripod/news-story/7bfb6c8a591bae36cc9899e418fe1fbc?fbclid=IwAR0BG4thK-WWnkCad7MXph6bz7ORpg_zWbEsTvAB_dx-VuWsZ0612mFrT-M)

### 23-year-old Adani mine protester 'stops coal production for hours' after hanging from tripod

Cas Garvey, *Townsville Bulletin*, 30/10/2018

Suspended from a tripod, a 23-year-old anti-Adani activist has blocked coal trains on Aurizon's railway from reaching the Abbot Point port for more than three hours.

Clancey Maher, from Front Line Action on Coal (FLAC), says she is calling on Aurizon and Pacific National to rule out any co-operation with Adani and the opening up of the Galilee Basin.

Her actions have been blasted by Federal MP George Christensen, calling her "a job-destroying activist".

"The fringe element, the green job-destroying activists, are at it again today near the Abbot Point coal terminal holding up business and putting lives at risk," Mr Christensen said. ...

Clancey said they would continue to target Aurizon as well as Pacific National while Adani's Carmichael mega mine is on the table. ...

<https://www.whitsundaytimes.com.au/news/anti-adani-protester-narrowly-escapes-injury/3565570/>

### Anti-Adani protester narrowly escapes injury

Kyle Evans, *Whitsunday Times*, 02/11/2018

An anti-Adani activist who suspended herself from a tripod to stop coal trains has narrowly escaped injury after a lucky catch from emergency services prevented her from falling 30 metres to the ground.

The 23-year-old woman suspended herself above a railway line just north of Merinda on Tuesday, before a gust of wind destabilised a leg of the structure causing it to lift and begin to topple over.

QFES personal immediately jumped on the leg of the tripod to ground it ...

Bowen Police Senior Sergeant Craig Shepherd said, "Not only would she have fallen eight metres from the top



*Anti-Adani protester, Clancey, Maher blocks coal trains on Aurizon's tracks.*

*Photo: Frontline Action on Coal*

of the tripod, she also would've fallen another 20 metres down the embankment, which most likely would've resulted in significant injuries or death. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/adani-scales-back-carmichael-start/news-story/8d3a412aa46180dfba325c34ae9d09e7>

### Adani downsizes coal ambitions

Matt Chambers, *The Australian*, 01/11/2018

Indian conglomerate Adani is set to embark on a smaller first stage of the controversial Carmichael coal mine in Queensland that should see financing secured soon and construction start on a now \$2 billion mine and rail project immediately after.

Adani's new Australian chief, Lucas Dow, said Carmichael would now be delivered in smaller, phased mine developments, rather than the previous plan to build Australia's biggest export coal mine capable of producing 27.5 million tonnes a year of coal.

It follows a decision last month to build a smaller, narrow gauge rail to link the Galilee Basin project to the existing Queensland coal rail network and will make financing easier. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/adani-springs-halloween-surprise/news-story/f2fa4b10b3edcaee844b8a7c75ed2197>

### Adani defies protesters' zombie apocalypse

Steven Wardill, *Courier-Mail*, 01/11/2018

Adani is expected to hit the green light on its controversial Carmichael coalmine within months, after the company radically redrafted its production timetable.

The Courier-Mail can reveal Adani will today announce a staged ramp-up to its planned 27 million tonne annual production target, rather than attempt to hit this rate from the outset.

The shift, in concert with a new plan to utilise Aurizon's existing narrow-gauge rail network, will cut Adani's upfront capital costs by up to 60 per cent, and simplify its search for finance.

Industry experts yesterday suggested the company may now need to raise just \$2 billion to proceed with the mine. ...

<https://www.echo.net.au/2018/11/adani-plans-start-digging-within-months/>

## Adani may start digging within months

*Echnonet Daily, 01/11/2018*

The government is being called on to stop the Adani coal mine going ahead amidst reports that they are just weeks away from reaching financial closure and could be just months away from starting to digging within months.

“It is beyond belief that we are fighting Adani’s monstrous coal mine when climate change, driven mainly by mining and burning coal, has had such a massive impact on our Great Barrier Reef,” said Australian Marine Conservation Society spokesperson Imogen Zethoven. “This comes less than a week after urgent warnings that there could be another severe coral bleaching event this coming summer. If Adani’s monstrous coal mine goes ahead it will accelerate dangerous climate change, put our Reef in even more danger and threaten 64,000 tourism jobs. ...

“According to media reports, Adani is keen to avoid being dragged into next year’s federal election.” ...

<https://www.afr.com/news/politics/adani-close-to-pulling-trigger-on-scaled-back-2-billion-carmichael-mine-20181031-h17cb0>

## Adani close to pulling trigger on scaled-back \$2 billion Carmichael mine

*Mark Ludlow, AFR, 31/10/2018*

Indian energy giant Adani is weeks away from pulling the trigger on its controversial Carmichael mine in Central Queensland after scaling back its size and scope to convince banks to finance the project. ...

Now, Adani plans to export an initial 10 to 15 million tonnes a year, with a capacity to expand up to 27 million ...

The scaled-back mine is now expected to create 1500 direct jobs for the construction of the mine and railway, as well as initiating production of the mine in the Galilee Basin, which is about 400 kilometres from the coast. This is a long way from the 10,000 jobs that had been touted for the project in previous incarnations. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/adani-says-regional-queensland-should-share-the-spoils/news-story/2e25c7b214b0bbd8318cd9be8f7bcd3>

## Adani says regional Queensland should share the spoils

*Tony Raggatt, Townsville Bulletin, 02/11/2018*

The company developing a scaled down Carmichael coal project is also widening the net to secure the skills

and services it needs to develop the mine and rail corridor.

Speaking outside a Gladstone Engineering Alliance breakfast event yesterday Adani Mining CEO Lucas Dow said Townsville and Rockhampton remained “central hubs” but that it would look to other regional centres such as Gladstone for engineering services. ...

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/adani-boss-says-gladstone-will-have-role-to-play/3565056/>

## Adani boss says Gladstone will have role to play

*Matt Harris, Gladstone Observer, 02/11/2018*

Gladstone will have an opportunity to tap into the construction phase of Adani’s proposed Carmichael coal mine as the mining giant confirmed it’s “not too far away” from commencing the project.

Sixty representatives from Gladstone industry had the chance to hear from Adani Mining chief executive Lucas Dow yesterday as he spoke at an Industry Update Breakfast hosted by Gladstone Engineering Alliance.

“Effectively we’re getting all our ducks in a row so the moment we announce finance we’ll be ready to mobilise,” Mr Dow said. ...

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/governance/land-acquired-forcefully-for-adani-s-godda-power-plant-62014>

## Land acquired forcefully for Adani’s Godda power plant

*Deepanwita Gita Niyogi, Down To Earth, 01/11/2018*

A recent visit to Jharkhand’s Godda district by a fact-finding team found irregularities like forceful land acquisition, intimidation and even police brutality on the part of Adani group’s functionaries for the company’s 1,600 MW power plant. ...

Residents in four villages of Mali, Motiya, Gangta-Gobindpur and Patwa are unwilling to part with their fertile agriculture lands. The company has already acquired around 202 ha in these villages, a large chunk of which is common lands. ...

“Most people are unwilling to part with lands even for compensation. Mali and Gangta-Gobindpur are tribal-dominated villages where people depend on agriculture,” says Vivek Kumar Gupta, a member of the fact-finding team. In an attempt to forcefully acquire land, the company has damaged standing crops, trees and

even burial grounds and ponds in 6 ha of land of Manager Hembram and five other families in Mali village with the help of police. ...

<https://www.afr.com/news/politics/adani-boss-lucas-dow-prepared-for-next-wave-of-activism-against-carmichael-mine-20181031-h17d10>

## Adani boss Lucas Dow prepared for next wave of activism against Carmichael mine

*Mark Ludlow, AFR, 01/11/2018*

Adani Mining chief executive Lucas Dow said the Indian energy company was prepared for the next wave of activists to target its revised \$2 billion Carmichael mine after it is given the green light, but warned any protests had to be within the law. ...

The Queensland mine has also been a focal point of key byelection battles both in Victoria and NSW despite being thousands of kilometres away.

“The environmental movement has used and abused this and played on xenophobia and played the lowest common denominator to get more funding for their causes. I’m sure they will continue those efforts,” Senator Canavan said. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/nov/03/adani-yet-to-sign-royalties-deal-despite-claiming-to-be-close-to-financing-mine>

## Adani yet to sign royalties deal despite claiming to be close to financing mine

*Ben Smee, The Guardian, 03/11/2018*

The Adani mining company has still not signed a royalties agreement with the Queensland government, despite its claims to be just weeks away from green-lighting the Carmichael mine. ...

Tim Buckley, the director of energy finance studies at the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, said Adani’s Australian mining, rail and port operations were “a rolling series of financial shell games”. He said Adani Mining’s most recent financial accounts show very few tangible assets and significant debt of about \$1.6bn to its Indian parent.

Buckley said that meant governments, suppliers and contractors risked non-payment if the project fell over. ...

“The government would be right to ask for some protection or security in a royalties deal. If the company goes bankrupt you don’t get repaid and Carmichael becomes a stranded asset. The risk here, global action on climate change, is a known and quantifiable risk.” ...

## COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/hope-fades-over-future-of-colton-coal-mine/3564256/>

### Hope fades over future of Colton coal mine

Blake Antrobus, *Gladstone Observer*, 01/11/

The future of the controversial Colton Coal Mine has been thrown into jeopardy after subsidiaries of mining company New Hope Group went into voluntary administration.

Said Jahani and Shaun McKinnon from Grant Thornton were appointed voluntary administrators of Northern Energy Corporation Limited and Colton Coal Pty Ltd earlier this month.

Both companies own the Maryborough project, which was granted critical mining leases by the State Government in May last year. ...

A number of Aldershot residents launched a lengthy campaign against New Hope to impose restrictions on the development between 2010 and 2016.

Aldershot And District Against Mining group member Sue Linforth called for New Hope to relinquish the mining licences in light of the news. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-01/coal-report-warns-of-grim-future-for-australian-thermal-coal/10452456>

### Demand for Australia's thermal coal exports to be dire in future, IEEFA report warns

Greg Miskelly, *ABC*, 01/11/2018

Economists are predicting Australia's thermal coal exports to plummet faster than expected due to falling demand across Asia that appears permanent and irreversible.

A study by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) found Australia's top four export markets – China, Japan, Taiwan and South Korea – were shifting rapidly to renewables.

The study found New South Wales, the source of nearly 70 per cent of thermal coal exports, should brace for disruption in energy markets. ...

Coal is expected to account for just 11 per cent of the world's energy mix by 2050, from a high of 40 per cent in 2010. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/bhp-has-no-plans-to-stop-mining-coal-ceo-andrew-mackenzie/news-story/2bce65a20ab6dd73df5b2b5df5554d74>

### BHP has no plans to stop mining coal: CEO Andrew Mackenzie

Matt Chambers, *The Australian*, 02/11/2018

BHP chief Andrew Mackenzie says coal-fired power is needed to pull developing nations out of poverty and that the big miner has no plans to stop mining the fossil fuel.

And because coal-fired power would remain a feature of the world's energy mix, and steelmaking emits as much greenhouse gases as coal power generation, carbon capture and storage would be needed to reduce emissions, he said. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/former-un-climate-chief-says-world-doesn-t-need-australia-s-toxic-coal-20181103-p50dt5.html>

### Former UN climate chief says world doesn't need Australia's 'toxic' coal

Nicole Hasham, *SMH*, 03/11/2018

Former United Nations climate chief Christiana Figueres has repudiated Australian mining giant BHP for its refusal to stop mining coal, suggesting the decision is uneconomic and poor nations do not need the "toxic" and "expensive" fossil fuel. ...

In response to the comments, Ms Figueres, the former executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, said poorer nations did not need Australia's coal.

"Developing nations will unlock the solutions to poverty with renewable energy. Not with toxic, expensive coal," she said. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/business/new-fitzroy-australia-resources-coal-mine-to-create-hundreds-of-north-queensland-jobs-for-20-years/news-story/1da0b1868ff0124edf3c34c1b0e10f31>

### New Fitzroy Australia Resources coal mine to create hundreds of North Queensland jobs for 20 years

Keagan Elder, *Townsville Bulletin*, 01/11/2018

A new coal mine offering 350 new ongoing jobs has been approved.

Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy Anthony Lynam today announce the mining lease for Fitzroy Australia Resources' Ironbark Number 1 mine.

The mine will be situated 35km north-east of Moranbah, about 600km south of Townsville.

The greenfields underground longwall

operation is expected to produce up to six million tonnes of mine coal per year. ...

<https://www.theage.com.au/business/the-economy/snowy-hydro-dumps-coal-for-wind-and-solar-to-pump-its-water-20181101-p50dh0.html>

### Snowy Hydro dumps coal for wind and solar to pump its water

Cole Latimer, *The Age*, 02/11/2018

Snowy Hydro will use wind and solar energy not coal to support its pumped hydro storage generators in a deal the company says will help cut households power bills from 2020. ...

Under the deal with investors including Macquarie Bank and BP, Snowy Hydro's pumped storage will now be powered by four solar farms and four wind farms in New South Wales and Victoria. ...

The deal is not part of the major Snowy 2.0 upgrade to the generator. ...

## GAS, GAS, GAS

[https://www.afr.com/business/energy/british-fracking-operations-of-aj-lucas-cuadrilla-get-off-to-shaky-start-20181027-h176gh?fbclid=IwAR3EnSX6K2C04Ps6km0fzaqR5-9dtx1txA9ZbS\\_GW0X5LAi0gZIV7HpBegDg](https://www.afr.com/business/energy/british-fracking-operations-of-aj-lucas-cuadrilla-get-off-to-shaky-start-20181027-h176gh?fbclid=IwAR3EnSX6K2C04Ps6km0fzaqR5-9dtx1txA9ZbS_GW0X5LAi0gZIV7HpBegDg)

### British fracking operations of AJ Lucas' Cuadrilla get off to shaky start

Hans Van Leeuwin, *AFR*, 29/10/2018

The fracking debut of British shale explorer Cuadrilla Resources, which is half-owned by listed Australian mining services company AJ Lucas, has got off to a somewhat shaky start – literally.

The company began hydraulic fracturing operations at its Preston New Road site in northern England on October 15, but in its first two weeks the company has issued three press notices of seismic events, the last of which prompted an 18-hour pause in operations. ...

The British Geological Survey has recorded 17 tremors in the Blackpool area around the site since fracking began, most of which were reportedly "trailing events" that happened after the fracking had stopped. ...

A more significant risk than the public concern or surface impact is the potential effect on the well itself. The company said on Friday the well's integrity remained intact. It did not comment on any financial impact from the pause.

Cuadrilla first tried to carry out fracking in 2011, but operations were halted by a 2.3 magnitude quake. ...

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/jobs-up-for-grabs-at-new-senex-natural-gas-project/3562166/>

## Jobs up for grabs at new gas projects

*Stephanie Bennett, Gladstone Observer, 30/10/2018*

Brisbane-based company Senex has given the financial go ahead for its next major projects, which are expected to create about 150 jobs.

The company told investors final investment decisions regarding two natural gas projects in the Surat Basin had been made, with capital expenditure forecast to be between \$220 million and \$250 million.

Construction on Project Atlas and Roma North of a combined 110 wells, two processing plants and pipelines will commence late in the first quarter of next year, with drilling expected to take place over 18 months. ...

<https://www.chinchillanews.com.au/news/senex-reaches-next-milestone-towards-domestic-gas-/3563843/>

## Senex reaches next milestone towards domestic gas delivery

*Chinchilla News, 03/11/2018*

Senex Energy has made Final Investment Decisions to develop two natural gas projects in the Surat Basin.

The developments, called Project Atlas (near Wandoan) and Roma North, involve the construction of a combined 110 wells initially, two gas processing plants and associated pipelines and facilities. ...

About 60 wells will be drilled in the initial development phase for Project Atlas, which is centred on Queensland's first tenement dedicated to domestic gas supply. ...

On behalf of Senex, energy infrastructure company Jemena will build, own and operate the Atlas processing plant and 60km pipeline that will transport natural gas to Wallumbilla, a major domestic supply hub.

Gas from Roma North, part of the larger Western Surat Gas Project, will be sold to GLNG under a 20-year sales agreement. ...

<https://www.chinchillanews.com.au/news/qgcs-ongoing-carnage/3566114/>

## QGC's ongoing carnage

*Sam Flanagan, Chinchilla News, 02/11/2018*

A Western Downs farming family is fed up with their treatment by QGC, so have decided to fight back.

Brock Simpkins manages his parent's



*Parts of Brock Simpkins' property near Lake Broadwater has been left with little grass cover and large holes from subsidence.. Photo: Sam Flanagan, Chinchilla News*

1763-acre property near Lake Broadwater, yet it is currently de-stocked due to holes from subsidence forming over the land.

QGC had paid for the agistment of the family's cattle at properties in Western Queensland but stopped paying on September 29 when their two-year deal came to an end. ...

"Since the pipes were laid the land has been rehabilitated four times, yet it's still not up to scratch," Mr Simpkins said.

"There's approximately 11 or 12km of pipeline across this property, so heaven knows how many holes there are." ...

QGC has utilised the Simpkins property for six years and has 11 wells installed on the land.

Though if Mr Simpkins could turn back time, his property would look different today.

"We should have never let them on," he said.

<https://www.chinchillanews.com.au/news/standing-up-for-landholders/3557860/>

## Standing up for landholders

*Amani Vassiliou, Chinchilla News, 28/10/2011*

A helping hand for local landholders affected by resource development has officially touched down in Chinchilla.

Prominent Sunshine Coast and Cairns regional law practice p&e Law has opened a new local office in town on Heeney Street.

The firm specialises in acting exclusively for landholders.

They provide legal advice for those affected by coal seam gas, mining and exploration activities alongside a range of other environmental issues pertinent to the region. ...

The firm is set to mainly service those in and around the gas fields from Injune, Roma, Wandoan, Chinchilla and all the way down to Dalby and Toowoomba.

Mr Patterson said the new Chinchilla branch would continue to distinguish the firm from others in the region.

"Something unique about our firm is that we only act for landholders, we don't do any work for gas companies," he said.

"Also, as we are so specialised, we don't do other areas of law." ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/queensland-opens-more-land-up-for-gas-exploration/news-story/6f90c8af55c59d5265532680928457d6>

## Queensland opens more land up for gas exploration

*Courier-Mail, 02/11/2018*

The Queensland government has opened up another 6600-plus square kilometres of unexplored land for gas exploration.

It has earmarked more than 900 km<sup>2</sup> of it to supply the Australian market only.

Natural Resources, Mines and Energy Minister Anthony Lynham said companies can bid for the right to explore for gas south-west of Chinchilla in the Bowen and Surat basins. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-31/emissions-off-set-billions-fracking-industry-northern-territory/10448258>

## NT's fracking emissions could cost more than \$4b a year to offset by 2030, report finds

*Dijana Damjanovic, ABC, 31/10/2018*

Offsetting emissions generated by fracking could cost up to \$4.3 billion per year when the shale gas industry is at full production in the Northern Territory in 2030, according to new research by the Australia Institute. ...

After years of what NT Labor described as "careless" environmental management under the previous CLP Government, on Tuesday the Territory Government announced a new environmental protection bill.

The new act mentions an emissions framework, but many of the provisions in the legislation appear to be voluntary. ...

When it was announced on Tuesday, the environmental protection bill was criticised by the Environmental Defender's Office as "weak" and kowtowing to industry. ...

The group representing the gas industry said the Australia Institute report findings were "overstated" and failed to recognise that if Northern Territory gas replaced coal into the future, this would lower Australia's emissions profile. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2018-11-02/nt-water-act-changes-include-pumped-up-fines/10441518>

## As fracking approaches, Northern Territory to pump up fines for breaching revised Water Act

*Matt Bran, ABC, 02/11/2018*

The Northern Territory Government is getting ready to change its Water Act in what has been described as its most significant amendments since 1992.

At the heart of the change is to make sure mining and petroleum companies are no longer exempt from water-use regulation. ...

The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association's (APPEA) Matt Doman said the gas industry was very comfortable with the Water Act changes proposed by the NT Government.

"We expect water-use to be monitored and regulated," he told ABC Rural. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/offshore-drilling-a-national-priority-matt-canavan/news-story/2dede9a95a8ab421ae83e5bc4a1972fa>

## Offshore drilling a national priority: Matt Canavan

*Greg Brown, The Australian, 31/10/2018*

Resources Minister Matt Canavan says it is a "national priority" to encourage offshore oil exploration – including in the Great Australian Bight – so Australia can be self-reliant on petrol supply and not have to rely on volatile global markets.

With the government facing pressure from the rising price of fuel, Senator Canavan said Australia should follow the path of the US and become self-sufficient in oil. ...

Senator Canavan said the government had encouraged development of the Beetaloo Basin in the Northern Territory and there were long-term opportunities in the Great Australian Bight off South Australia.

"You have a bunch of activists running around saying we shouldn't explore in the Great Australian Bight," he said.

"If we let these activists win, that would confine Australians to be dependent on overseas oil" ...

## LEIGH CK STINK

<https://smallcaps.com.au/leigh-creek-energy-syngas-demonstration-reserve-upgrade/>

## Leigh Creek Energy forges ahead in syngas demonstration, reserve upgrade imminent

*Danica Cullinane, Small Caps, 30/10/2018*

Leigh Creek Energy is gearing up for a catalyst event expected to add "significant commercial value" to its namesake in situ gasification (ISG) project in South Australia – targeting the upgrade of its current resource to reserve status before the end of this year. ...

Speaking with *Small Caps*, Leigh Creek Energy head of investor relations Tony Lawry said the company expects to have enough information to send to the certifier to upgrade this (at least partially) to 2P reserves "within weeks". It then aims to achieve this conversion by the end of 2018. ...

ISG has been a topic of controversy in recent times, particularly relating to safety concerns and damage to the environment.

In April this year, failed gas company Linc Energy was found guilty by a Queensland district court and fined \$4.5 million for causing serious environmental harm at its underground

coal gasification plant near Chincilla in the state's Western Downs region during 2007 and 2013. ...

An assessment report published by the South Australian government's energy and resources division has outlined the differences between the Leigh Creek project and Linc's Chincilla operations. ...

Lawry said another advantage of Leigh Creek's project is the fact that the person who designed all of its equipment is regarded as "one of the few, if not the only person in the world that's now managed two successful in situ gasification operations in two different locations and more importantly, two different geologies".

This is Leigh Creek Energy's General Manager, Technical, Justyn Haines, who was Carbon Energy's General Manager, Technical when it successfully produced syngas from its Bloodwood Creek demonstration facility in Queensland from 2011 to 2015.

Haines was Technical Manager through the operation and successful decommissioning of the CNX Panel 2 operations with a glowing report from the Queensland government regulator. ...



*Leigh Creek Energy's Justyn Peters, formerly of Linc Energy.*

*Photo: Tony Hill, ABC*

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-01/leigh-creek-ucg-project-lifeline-or-toxic-environmental-hazard/10455786>

## UCG: Is Leigh Creek's controversial energy trial a lifeline for a dying town or an environmental hazard?

*Angelique Donnellan, ABC, 01/11/2018*

The small South Australian community of Leigh Creek has been split by a controversial new energy project that could either save the town or prove to be an environmental hazard, depending on who you talk to.

Some fear an environmental disaster, pointing to problems that occurred with a similar gas project in Chincilla in Queensland between 2007 and 2013. ...

At its peak in the mid-1980s, Leigh Creek had a population of about 2,500.

Today, after the nearby coal mine and town's life blood closed three years ago, there are fewer than 200 people left.

Now a company called Leigh Creek Energy wants to extract gas from the old coal mine, using a technique called underground coal gasification (UCG).

With UCG, coal deep underground is ignited, releasing carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and hydrogen. ...

Leigh Creek Energy chairman Justyn Peters said the Chinchilla incident had unfairly tarnished the reputation of UCG.

"I can understand about people being afraid but I think that's largely because they've been misinformed," he told 7.30.

Mr Peters used to be the general manager of government and environmental affairs at Linc Energy.

He said Linc Energy was a "great company".

"I don't believe there is environmental damage caused at Chinchilla," he said. ...

"I find it offensive that people sit there and make a connection between my role at Linc Energy and the role here." ...

Carrie-ann Smith was one of a group of residents who asked hydro-geologists from RMIT in Melbourne to review the local project's environmental assessment report.

The hydro-geologists argued the environmental assessment report downplayed the risks. ...

"Leigh Creek Energy project's environmental impact report is highly optimistic.

"It uses the word 'likely' way too many times for us to feel reassured that this project has gone through the rigour to make us feel safe." ...

The Adnyamathanha people, who hold native title around Leigh Creek, recently failed in a court bid to stop the project.

Vince Coulthard from the Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association said the area had significant cultural heritage.

In the dreaming story, Yurlu started a fire which created the coal at Leigh Creek.

"There's an opportunity, a small window of opportunity, for our people to start putting healing back into the

Yurlu's storyline by rehabilitating the mine area and that's what my people want to do," he told 7.30. ...

## IMPORT INSANITY

<http://mpnews.com.au/2018/10/29/evidence-lacking-to-justify-gas-terminal/>

### Evidence lacking to justify gas terminal

*Cat Nadel, Mornington Peninsula News, 29/10/2018*

AGL will have to do more to convince the Western Port community if it wants us to believe that a 300 metre, toxic gas import terminal at Crib Point is either safe or necessary.

Claims that daily dumping of 450,000,000 litres of cold and chlorinated water will have no impact on the bay's marine environment are misleading, unproven and designed only to benefit AGL's business interests.

A recent Australian Marine Ecology report commissioned by Environment Victoria and the Victorian National Parks Association uncovered serious omissions and inaccuracies in AGL's "experts reports." ...

Due to the extra energy consumed in liquefying, shipping and re-gasifying gas that would come from AGL's project has already been shown to be 20 per cent more polluting in terms of greenhouse gases, than gas sourced in Victoria. ...

The Western Port community refuses to be deceived by a billion dollar company rorting the system and aiming to profit off our community, our environment and our climate. AGL's project is damaging, unnecessary and will be fiercely opposed.

• *Cat Nadel is a climate campaigner at Environment Victoria*

## FOSSIL POLITICS

[https://www.theland.com.au/story/5728808/farmers-fume-as-canberra-politicks-on-climate-energy-policies/?cs=4951&fbclid=IwAR0LHk8srtTnZXis8u\\_r4vD\\_r\\_xE-0LEB86yE5NEpEQ03cjVS-mNIQ1Mmc](https://www.theland.com.au/story/5728808/farmers-fume-as-canberra-politicks-on-climate-energy-policies/?cs=4951&fbclid=IwAR0LHk8srtTnZXis8u_r4vD_r_xE-0LEB86yE5NEpEQ03cjVS-mNIQ1Mmc)

### Hot farmer anger as climate, drought trends ignored by politicians

*Andrew Marshall, The Land, 30/10/2018*

Farmers are angry and perplexed by former Nationals federal leader Barnaby Joyce's obsession with promoting coal-fired power stations and a deep seated reluctance by some politicians to acknowledge Australia's carbon emissions must be curtailed.

As increasing climate variability threatens to cut our agricultural productivity 10 per cent in the next 20

years, farmers generally feel cheated and fed up with the political manoeuvring and denials of the need for practical policies on energy, climate change and drought says fast-growing national lobby group, Farmers for Climate Action (FCA). ...

<https://www.afr.com/news/labor-will-honour-contracts-for-fair-dinkum-power-reluctantly-20181024-h172g-g7fbclid=IwAR0sVi6uNEiZW3MYdbgiQtei7n7X4IzxcIajyd-aOFyYz9BMgQQUt4YU7xko>

### Labor will honour contracts for 'fair dinkum' power, reluctantly

*Phillip Coorey & John Kehoe, AFR, 29/10/2018*

Labor will not reverse any government contracts to underwrite a new coal-fired power plant should the Coalition rush to enter into one before the next election.

But it has warned the government against rushing to crunch any deal just so it can try to wedge the Opposition before the election, arguing that would be poor policy that would risk the national interest.

As part of a package of measures designed to lower power prices, the government will underwrite the construction or upgrade of coal or other "fair dinkum" power plants either by loans or agreeing to be a last resort purchaser of the electricity produced.

Energy Minister Angus Taylor said there would be a shortlist of projects ready early next year, creating the potential for an actual contract to be signed before the election, expected in May. ...

[https://reneweconomy.com.au/labor-backing-of-liberal-coal-plan-outrageous-bandt-18201/?fbclid=IwAR1MtcXhMjGh85-CMng1pTwpUjTqQN-0mkd68dUL2-2Y1ao4BVoc0ZC\\_m4A](https://reneweconomy.com.au/labor-backing-of-liberal-coal-plan-outrageous-bandt-18201/?fbclid=IwAR1MtcXhMjGh85-CMng1pTwpUjTqQN-0mkd68dUL2-2Y1ao4BVoc0ZC_m4A)

### Labor backing of Liberal coal plan outrageous: Bandt

*Adam Bandt (Press Release) RenewEconomy, 25/10/2018*

Greens climate change and energy spokesperson Adam Bandt MP today slammed revelations from Labor that they would allow the construction or refurbishment of coal-fired power stations if the contracts were signed under the Liberals before the election. Mr Bandt also attacked Labor's apparent confirmation that they would revive the zombie NEG to be their climate and energy policy for the electricity sector.

"Labor will have blood on their hands if they honour a contract to build a new coal-fired power station," said Mr Bandt. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-29/oil-price-rise-hits-households-but-lng-exports-offset-the-blow/10441050>

## Oil price rise hits economy but LNG, coal exports soften the blow: HSBC

Michael Janda, ABC, 29/10/2018

Surging oil prices over the past couple of years may have caused pain for motorists, but the effect on Australia's economy overall is not as negative as it used to be, according to analysis by HSBC.

The bank's chief economist Paul Bloxham has examined the pros and cons of rising oil prices, and found that the balance between the two is much closer than it was, even in the recent past.

Mr Bloxham said that is because Australia has become a net energy exporter, thanks to the large LNG export terminals that have sprung up across the nation's northern coastline. ...

However, HSBC said it is widely assumed that only 20 per cent of the coal and gas export earnings remain in Australia through tax revenue or domestic shareholder earnings, meaning that Australia still loses out slightly from rising global energy costs.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/state-greens-mp-michael-berkman-wants-to-ban-coal-mining-in-the-galilee-basin/news-story/e9a06cd741ab187c2a8d5828024d38c1>

## State Greens MP Michael Berkman wants to ban coal mining in the Galilee Basin

Steven Wardill, Courier-Mail, 31/10/2018

Coal mining would be banned in Queensland's Galilee Basin under legislation to be introduced today by State Greens MP Michael Berkman.

Mr Berkman last night insisted it was "time to hit the climate emergency button" after new warnings that catastrophic climate change was unavoidable unless coal-fired electricity was all but eradicated.

While the bill has no chance of success, Labor MPs covertly opposed to Adani's controversial Carmichael mega-mine could be forced to publicly back development in the Galilee Basin. ...

<https://thewest.com.au/business/mining/rio-tinto-chief-jean-sebastian-jacques-floats-community-government-stake-as-new-business-model-to-fund-mining-projects-ng-b881005838z>

## Rio Tinto chief Jean-Sebastian Jacques floats community, government stake as new business model to fund mining projects

Peter Williams, West Australian, 30/10/2018

Rio Tinto chief executive Jean-Sebastian Jacques has floated the idea of



**Rio Tinto chief, John-Sebastien Jacques wants communities and governments to fund mining.** Photo: Getty Images

communities and governments helping to pay for a mining project in exchange for a bigger slice of the income. ...

"If a community or government wants a bigger share of the pie, they may need to be willing to take on more of the risk, that's a really important part of our very capital-intensive industry," he says. ...

Mr Jacques says Rio Tinto would like to work with partners such as the World Bank and Harvard University on how best to share value from projects. He will also talk of a need to change the barbecue conversation about mining, saying, for example, its portrayal in the Avatar movie made him "sad – or depending on the day – mad". ...

<https://www.theage.com.au/business/companies/big-change-miners-face-investor-pressure-on-sustainability-20181030-p50cx4.html>

## 'Big change': Miners face investor pressure on sustainability

Nick Toscano, The Age, 30/10/2018

Mining companies unable to demonstrate a clear commitment to environmental and social responsibility will run the risk of losing access to financing, a mining industry conference in Melbourne has heard. ...

"When I look at sustainable development, I look at it as a bit of a journey," said Gary Goldberg, chief executive of gold miner Newmont.

"I look back 20 years ago and the word 'sustainability' really wasn't in the mining lexicon." ...

<https://www.theage.com.au/business/the-economy/climate-change-and-renewables-driving-new-mining-boom-mining-chief-says-20181029-p50cm5.html>

## Climate change and renewables driving new mining boom, mining chief says

Cole Latimer, The Age, 30/10/2018

The mining industry is addressing climate change head-on as it prepares for a new boom driven by renewable

energy demand, a global mining council chief says. ...

Speaking ahead of the International Mining and Resources Conference on Tuesday, International Council on Mining and Metals chief executive Tom Butler told Fairfax Media mining and a carbon price are both needed to achieve the IPCC's climate goals, supporting a renewable energy boom that will drive more mining.

"Our materials will be critical to enabling the decarbonisation of the planet," Mr Butler said.

"The mining sector has a critical role to play in the sustainability effort. We can choose whether to be a leader or follow in that." ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/government-must-act-now-to-prepare-for-coal-transition-report-20181029-p50cnb.html>

## Government 'must act now' to prepare for coal transition: report

Ian Kirkwood & Dana McCauley, SMH, 30/10/2018

Thousands of power workers and their communities face bleak and uncertain futures if Australia doesn't properly manage the closure of coal-fired power stations in the transition to renewable energy, according to a new report that calls on the federal government to intervene.

The University of NSW study says the likely closure of Australia's 23 coal-fired power stations by 2050 will be a disaster for workers unless the government creates an independent Energy Transition Authority to manage the closures and help them find new jobs. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/companies/one-of-the-least-trusted-on-the-planet-rio-chief-s-stark-warning-to-miners-20181029-p50cne.html>

## 'One of the least-trusted on the planet': Rio chief's stark warning to miners

Nick Toscano, SMH, 30/10/2018

Mining companies need to work harder to "change the barbecue conversation" and start restoring the level of public trust in the industry, says the head of Australian mining giant Rio Tinto.

"Mining is absolutely vital and this won't change anytime soon," Rio Tinto's chief executive, Jean-Sebastian Jacques, will tell an industry conference on Tuesday. "But, I hate to tell you, our industry is one of the least-trusted on the planet." ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/miners-must-regain-trust-rio-chief/news-story/fafeac7d10aca33b3bd-9b2e6c8f097fb2login=1>

## Rio Tinto's Jean-Sebastien Jacques: Miners must regain trust

*Matt Chambers, The Australia, 30/10/2018*

Rio Tinto chief Jean-Sebastien Jacques says mining is one of the least-trusted industries and miners need to collaborate to reinvent the sector at a time when technology is throwing up both challenges and opportunities and communities are demanding more. ...

[https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/marginal-federal-seats-in-the-firing-line-over-climate-change-inaction-20181030-p50cvx.html?fbclid=IwAR2CogAD9Lcb\\_3UX-9c7ybEayyT4a1k3LAdYv1m3m9Yn3ZQSYN\\_TQbFEh4](https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/marginal-federal-seats-in-the-firing-line-over-climate-change-inaction-20181030-p50cvx.html?fbclid=IwAR2CogAD9Lcb_3UX-9c7ybEayyT4a1k3LAdYv1m3m9Yn3ZQSYN_TQbFEh4)

## Marginal federal seats in the firing line over climate change inaction

*Nicole Hasham, SMH, 30/10/2018*

Climate change is firming as a deciding issue at the next federal election after conservationists launched a plan targeting three MPs in marginal seats and a leading ratings agency blamed energy policy uncertainty for hampering renewables investment.

The Australian Conservation Foundation, one of the nation's most prominent environment groups, will target the marginal Liberal seats of Bonner and Chisholm over the government's lack of progress on emissions reduction, and the Labor seat of Macnamara over that party's continued support for the coal industry. ...

[https://reneweconomy.com.au/is-this-the-coalition-swansong-just-one-more-coal-plant-for-the-road-46023/?utm\\_source=RE+Daily+News+letter&utm\\_campaign=833df43016-EMAIL\\_CAM-PAIGN\\_2018\\_10\\_30\\_12\\_22&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_46a1943223-833df43016-40461137](https://reneweconomy.com.au/is-this-the-coalition-swansong-just-one-more-coal-plant-for-the-road-46023/?utm_source=RE+Daily+News+letter&utm_campaign=833df43016-EMAIL_CAM-PAIGN_2018_10_30_12_22&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_46a1943223-833df43016-40461137)

## Is this the Coalition swansong? Just one more coal plant for the road

*Giles Parkinson, RenewEconomy, 30/10/2018*

It's ironic that just as Australia's Coalition government unveils the first steps in what is widely thought to be a plan to encourage new investment in coal-fired generation, the World Bank should quietly announce that it is quitting its last proposed new investment in coal. ...

Two weeks ago, World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said funding support for the plant in Kosovo, a country with the fifth-biggest lignite reserves in the world, would not go ahead because renewables are now clearly cheaper than coal.

The World Bank is required by its own rules to fund the lowest-cost option. "So without question, we are not going

to do that (investment in coal)," he said.

Australia's Coalition government likes to be in lock-step with the Trump administration in the US on just about everything. But even Trump's declared "love" for coal is not turning out quite as planned ...

In Australia, the economics for new coal investment don't work either. ...

The Coalition government, and the conservative commentators that pull its strings, struggle to get on board with the idea, as they do with the concept of carbon risk – not surprising given they refuse to accept the science of climate change. ...

So Morrison's government is stepping in, and finds itself in an almighty rush to deliver what it calls "fair dinkum" power.

It wants submissions to its discussion paper returned by the end of next week, it wants expressions of interest in new investment delivered over the Christmas holiday period, and a formal tender to be completed by March before it chooses the winner. ...

That's a mighty short time frame, particularly as any formal tender will require contracts in place with customers and a huge variety of options available for "dispatchable" or "firm" generation, which still has no firm description. It lends support to the idea that it may have already made up its mind. ...

Labor, while opposing the idea of contracting new investments in coal, has said it won't reverse the contract if it wins power – as all the polls currently suggest – in the federal election that must be held by mid-May. ...

[https://reneweconomy.com.au/nsw-launches-emerging-energy-program-to-replace-coal-generation-89992/?utm\\_source=RE+Daily+News+letter&utm\\_campaign=3cb39b64d8-EMAIL\\_CAM-PAIGN\\_2018\\_10\\_31\\_02\\_29&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_46a1943223-3cb39b64d8-40461137](https://reneweconomy.com.au/nsw-launches-emerging-energy-program-to-replace-coal-generation-89992/?utm_source=RE+Daily+News+letter&utm_campaign=3cb39b64d8-EMAIL_CAM-PAIGN_2018_10_31_02_29&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_46a1943223-3cb39b64d8-40461137)

## NSW launches emerging energy program to replace coal generation

*Giles Parkinson, RenewEconomy, 31/10/2018*

The New South Wales Coalition government on Wednesday launched one of the most significant energy transition projects in Australia, with an Emerging Energy Program that is designed to help replace most of the state's ageing coal plants with wind, solar and storage over the next 15 years. ...

The new initiative was launched by Harwin at an industry briefing – at-

tended by some 400 people – at NSW Parliament House on Wednesday, and included presentations from AEMO chief executive Audrey Zibelman and Australian Renewable Energy Agency CEO Darren Miller. ...

[https://reneweconomy.com.au/nsw-launches-20m-battery-round-to-shift-hospitals-and-schools-to-solar-and-storage-51952/?utm\\_source=RE+Daily+News+letter&utm\\_campaign=ee19f406a9-EMAIL\\_CAM-PAIGN\\_2018\\_11\\_02\\_15&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_46a1943223-ee19f406a9-40461137](https://reneweconomy.com.au/nsw-launches-20m-battery-round-to-shift-hospitals-and-schools-to-solar-and-storage-51952/?utm_source=RE+Daily+News+letter&utm_campaign=ee19f406a9-EMAIL_CAM-PAIGN_2018_11_02_15&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_46a1943223-ee19f406a9-40461137)

## NSW launches \$20m battery round, to shift hospitals and schools to solar and storage

*Sophie Vorrath, RenewEconomy, 02/11/2018*

Hot on the heels of launching his state's Emerging Energy Program, New South Wales energy minister Don Harwin has announced government plans to buy up to 900 smart battery systems with a total of 13MW of capacity to install alongside rooftop solar on the state's schools and hospitals.

The battery purchasing round was announced on Friday as part of a \$20 million program to maximise the use of solar power systems installed in key government buildings. Round one is targeting education and health, which account for 45 per cent of public sector electricity demand in peak periods. ...

"By pairing smart battery systems and rooftop solar, participating schools and hospitals can lower their electricity costs by up to \$40,000 a year and at the same time strengthen the security of the grid in peak events and during energy emergencies," [Harwin] said. ...

[https://reneweconomy.com.au/fossil-fuel-subsidies-increased-in-2017-says-iea-78934/?utm\\_source=RE+Daily+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=3cb39b64d8-EMAIL\\_CAM-PAIGN\\_2018\\_10\\_31\\_02\\_29&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_46a1943223-3cb39b64d8-40461137](https://reneweconomy.com.au/fossil-fuel-subsidies-increased-in-2017-says-iea-78934/?utm_source=RE+Daily+Newsletter&utm_campaign=3cb39b64d8-EMAIL_CAM-PAIGN_2018_10_31_02_29&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_46a1943223-3cb39b64d8-40461137)

## Fossil fuel subsidies increased in 2017, says IEA

*Joshua S Hill, RenewEconomy, 31/10/2018*

Despite seeing the value of global fossil fuel consumption subsidies almost halve between 2012 and 2016, new data published this week by the International Energy Agency shows government support for coal, gas and oil increased to more than \$300 billion in 2017, a 12 per cent jump. ...

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Cloudcatcher Media's feature-length film:  
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<https://vimeo.com/257444267>

## News this week ... from previous page

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/oil-gas-firms-face-6bn-hit-over-next-decade-as-canberra-toughens-up-petroleum-resource-rent-tax/news-story/728f39cf538e89b65296ac9488b1d56c>

### Oil, gas firms face \$6bn hit over next decade as Canberra toughens up Petroleum Resource Rent Tax

Michael Roddan, *The Australian*, 02/11/2018

Giant multinational and local gas companies will be paying an extra \$6 billion into government coffers over the next decade under government proposals to toughen up the contentious Petroleum Resource Rent Tax.

Treasurer Josh Frydenberg announced the changes on Friday in response to the Callaghan Review of the PRRT, which has been beset by falling revenues despite Australia's gas exports increasing significantly in recent years. ...

The government has also moved to neuter a political threat over retrospectivity, with the changes in the tax only to affect projects that are yet to be granted a license by the end of the financial year.

The government has also removed on-shore projects from the PRRT regime ...

The current PRRT, which was designed back in the late 1980s, is a 40 per cent tax on "super profits", but revenues have dwindled as crude and condensate production fell by half while LNG production has surged sevenfold.

Mandarins have been concerned that large new gas projects, such as those off the coast of Western Australia, may not pay tax for decades due to LNG projects having significant upfront costs which can take years to deduct against PRRT liabilities.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/oil-and-gas-giants-hit-with-6-billion-tax-hike-20181102-p50dn6.html>

### Oil and gas giants hit with \$6 billion tax hike

Eryk Bagshaw & Cole Latimer, *SMH*, 02/11/2018

Oil and gas giants will be hit with a \$6 billion tax hike over the next decade following years of concern that Australia has been haemorrhaging lucrative revenue to multinationals.

The decision was made after an 18-month wait for the Coalition's re-

sponse to a landmark review into the sector, which heard Australia would eclipse Qatar as the world's top gas exporter by 2020 but receive just \$800 million revenue compared to Qatar's \$26.6 billion. ...

Australia's concessions meant that some projects such as Chevron's Gorgon project in Western Australia would not pay PRRT until 2030 despite being profitable. ...

The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association said the PRRT had delivered \$35 billion in revenue and that changes to the treatment of exploration costs were troubling for current and future projects. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/greens-seek-to-shame-labor-by-vowing-to-restore-carbon-tax-20181102-p50dp5.html>

### Greens seek to shame Labor by vowing to restore carbon tax

David Crowe, *SMH*, 03/11/2018

A new clash over a carbon tax will shape the next election as the Greens launch a campaign to reinstate a price on carbon, challenging Labor to embrace the policy as the strongest way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Greens will vow to restore the carbon price put into place in 2011 and scrapped in 2014, telling voters the Parliament can reinstate the policy as if the scheme had never been repealed by the Coalition. ...

<https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/business/sa-business-journal/farmers-on-the-yorke-peninsula-are-trying-to-stop-mining-companies-accessing-their-land/news-story/7426ee39565e1317129ed8932db31297>

### Farmers on the Yorke Peninsula are trying to stop mining companies accessing their land

Erin Jones, *The Advertiser*, 02/11/2018

Jackie Harrop spent months away from her family undergoing treatment for bowel cancer – but nothing could prepare her for the fight to protect the family farm.

"Cancer was a walk in the park compared to this," Mrs Harrop told *The Advertiser*. ...

The Harrop family last month settled

an almost two-year court battle with a mining company, initiated after they refused access to their Yorke Peninsula property so it could be explored for copper. ...

Despite 22 court orders, the mining company failed to rehabilitate the land, drilled more holes than planned and refused, until the last moment, to pay compensation.

There were 89 holes drilled and about 80 tonnes of earth removed from 200ha of cropping land belonging to the Harrops and their neighbour. ...

About 90 per cent of the Yorke Peninsula is under exploration licenses. It means at any time a landholder may be approached by a mining company to gain access to their land. If they refuse, their risk being taken to court. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/ray-of-sunshine-let-me-skip-50-000-bill-20181101-p50dd9.html>

### Ray of sunshine let me skip \$50,000 bill

Elizabeth Farrelly, *SMH*, 03/11/2018

Although the term "solar system" usually refers to our heliocentric colloquium of planets, asteroids, comets and assorted gravity-tethered junk it could equally designate the arrangement of wires, batteries and photovoltaic panels that hover above my head as I write. I can't tell you how much I love it, my little solar system. ...

Out politicians blather on about how we have to dig, sell and burn our filthy coal to drag the world's poor out of misery. We're awfully bloody sorry about climate change, and the island nations we're drowning, but honestly it's the only way to end poverty. Blah blah. ...

Why can't the rich countries see that ending poverty by driving climate change is madness? That their greatest calling, for themselves, their grandkids and the so-called "third" world is to provide free, clean energy forever? ...

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