



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 1:50 • 13 NOVEMBER 2018

Departmental advice ignored when Adani water scheme ticked off

The Federal Department of Environment and Energy ignored advice from Agriculture and Water Resources officials when it approved Adani's bid to use billions of litres of Suttor River water without an environmental impact statement (EIS).

Freedom of Information documents, obtained by Lock the Gate Alliance, show that the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources said Adani's North Galilee Water Scheme (NGWS) could have a significant impact on water resources.

A submission from the department states unequivocally that 'The department considers the proposed action could have a significant impact(s) on a water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal development, protected under the EPBC Act'.

Significant impact ignored

Despite that advice, the Department of Environment and Energy went ahead and ruled the NGWS was not likely to have a significant impact on water resources and an environmental impact assessment was not required.

A second FOI document shows Geoscience Australia found that Adani failed to consider Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems in their referral on the NGWS, despite a large number of GDEs being mapped in the project disturbance area.

Ellie Smith, spokesperson for Lock the Gate, said: "These documents



Lock the Gate is calling for the environment minister to reverse a decision granting Adani 12.5 billion litres of Suttor River water, after an FOI request revealed the proposal 'could have significant impact' on water resources.

reveal Adani has been given a free run to dodge crucial water assessments against the advice of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

"This raises massive questions over the decision by the Department of Environment last month to allow Adani to take 12.5 billion litres of river water to run their mine, without any environmental impact assessment.

"What is the point of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources making a submission if it can just be completely ignored?

"We're calling for the Minister for Environment to step in now, in light

of these documents, and reverse the decision on the North Galilee Water Scheme and instead require a full environmental impact assessment in light of this new information.

"We also want to see an urgent inquiry into how and why it is that advice from these two crucial agencies was effectively ignored," she said.

Department tried to hide documents

Lock the Gate was initially refused access to these documents under FOI by the DoEE, but submitted an internal review of that decision, which led to

• Continued p2

• P 3: LNG & transport lead emissions growth

• P 4: Narrabri marches against Santos & CSG

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Adani: Environment dept ignored water advice



The Suttor River is hundreds of kilometres inland from Mackay, Queensland.

• Continued from p1

the documents being released.

Principal Solicitor of the Environmental Defenders Office Qld, Sean Ryan said “These new documents raise serious questions as to why the water impacts of this project are not being thoroughly assessed under federal laws.

“The water trigger contained in the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act was specifically designed to deal with actions involving large coal mining projects with a significant impact on a water resource.

“It’s there to protect Australia’s precious water resources, and make sure that coal projects that impact them are thoroughly assessed at a federal level.

“It is concerning that, in these circumstances, the Department of Environment and Energy has decided that the project, and its water impacts, do not require thorough assessment through an Environmental Impact Statement,” he said.

Adani successfully argued its water project was a standalone one, and not part of a coal-seam-gas or large-coal-mining development.

According to the ABC, it is an argument the company stands by.

Adani responds

“The definition of ‘large coal mining development’ relates to impacts on water-resources activities that form part of the process to extract coal,” an Adani spokesperson said in a statement.

“This assessment already occurred in 2015 through the Environmental Impact Statement process [for the Carmichael mine].

“The pipeline is considered associated infrastructure, which is not part of the coal-extraction process and therefore does not require assessment under the water trigger.”

Warwick Giblin of consultancy OzEnvironmental, told the ABC that argument made no sense.

“Unequivocally, there is no mine unless it has access to water and I think it’s rather cute [to] suggest that somehow this project – which is only triggered because of this mine proposal – is a separate project,” he said.

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Rising heat extreme threat to Gold Coast

Dramatic increases in extreme heat days, combined with high humidity and the urban heat island effect present an increasing threat to the health and wellbeing of Gold Coast residents.

The Australia Institute’s new HeatWatch initiative, which uses CSIRO-BoM modelling, shows that the number of extreme heat days (over 35°C) experienced on the Gold Coast could increase up to thirty times current levels.

Up to almost half summer nights could remain above 25 degrees by 2090.

Dangerous levels of heat stress

“Increasing temperatures combined with high humidity are likely to push many days each year to dangerous levels of heat stress,” says Mark Ogge, Principal Adviser at The Australia Institute.

“This will have serious implications for the tourism industry that is such an important part of the Gold Coast economy.

“Humidity of 80% is common on the Gold Coast. When that is combined with 35-degree temperatures, it is considered extremely dangerous to people’s health and can be lethal.

In the past, there have been very few days over 35 degrees, but if we don’t reduce emissions, that will change.

“The Gold Coast’s built environment increases extreme temperature risks, creating an urban heat island effect. This traps and increases temperatures even more, particularly at night.

Hot buildings without air-con a trap

“Most buildings in the region are dependent on air-conditioning. We know power plants fail in heatwaves, increasing the risk of blackouts. If this happens, people will be trapped in very hot buildings without air-conditioning.

“Fortunately, this is not inevitable. CSIRO projections show that if we take action and reduce emissions we can prevent virtually all of these rises.”

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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>

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/>

LNG and transport lead growth in Australian emissions: Audit

The Australia Institute's Climate & Energy Program has released the latest National Energy Emissions Audit for the electricity sector (The Audit) covering September 2018.

The Audit shows that Australia's emissions continue to increase, being driven by growing LNG exports, greater diesel use in transport and increases in agriculture and waste emissions

Key findings:

- LNG exports have become one of the largest drivers of Australia's emissions. The biggest single source of emissions from LNG is at the Gorgon project in Western Australia, equivalent to half of Australia's national increase in emissions last year.
- The next two years will see continuing rapid growth in both wind and

solar equal to more than double the current output from Liddell power station.

- Wholesale electricity prices appear to have peaked in most states as a surge of new renewables come on-line.

"This audit makes clear exactly which sectors of the Australian economy are the lifters and which are the leaners when it comes to climate pollution and emissions," says Richie Merzian, Director of the Australia Institute's Climate and Energy Program.

"Emissions in electricity are dropping, but in nearly every other sector emissions are on the rise.

LNG highly emissions intensive

"Increased LNG exports have been one of the largest drivers of Australia's

increased emissions over the past two years. It's a growing and highly emissions intensive industry that uses unreliable emissions reduction technology like carbon capture and storage.

"There has also been a relatively large increase in diesel used for rail transport. It is important to remember that much of Australia's rail activity is devoted to transporting huge volumes of coal from mine to port.

"Thanks to strong growth in renewables, wholesale electricity prices have peaked and are expected to maintain their downward trajectory into the future. If the Government is serious about lowering emissions and power prices then it needs to recognise and support the role of renewables and storage in our energy market."

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Fixing the holes: LTG calls for mine rehab

A new report estimates more than 1,200 new jobs could be generated in NSW if the state government was to implement mandatory progressive rehabilitation targets.

The 'Mind the Gap: how fixing mine rehabilitation shortfalls could fuel jobs growth in the Hunter Valley' report, from Lock the Gate, exposes the major rehabilitation deficit plaguing NSW, which has left gaping holes in prime agricultural land in the Hunter Valley.

The report reveals the state's nine largest coal mines, all of which are located in the Hunter Valley, have collectively rehabilitated a meagre 30% of the land which they have disturbed, with only 9,302 hectares of a 30,192 hectare footprint under active rehabilitation.

Worst offenders: Ravensworth & Bengalla

The worst offenders include the Ravensworth mine complex and the Bengalla Mine which have rehabilitated just 16.5% and 20.4% of the affected land respectively.

Gavin Mudd, Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Engineering at RMIT University, said the report "paints a disconcerting picture of rehabilitation in NSW coal mines which has been markedly inadequate to date."

"We know that inadequate rehabilitation has far-reaching consequences, for example, the disturbed area of mines are a major source of particulate air pollution, which is particularly disconcerting for those communities close to densely populated areas".

Lock the Gate estimates that if the NSW Government was to implement a 60% mandatory target for rehabilitation, a total of 1,223 jobs would be required over three years to rehabilitate 8,812 hectares of land.

Rick Humphries, Rehabilitation Coordinator of Lock the Gate Alliance, said:

"The rehabilitation shortfall in NSW means that communities are likely to end up living with the devastating consequences of, and even footing the bill for, unrehabilitated sites.

"NSW is missing out on a massive opportunity as a result – our estimates indicate there are thousands of jobs available if companies are forced to meet rehabilitation targets.

"We're calling for the NSW Government to introduce mandatory targets to create jobs, spur new investment and reduce air pollution. targets."

Lock the Gate is calling on the NSW Government to:

- Introduce mandatory rehabilitation

targets specific to each mine operation but aiming to maximise progressive rehabilitation, in line with industry best practice;

- Prohibit final voids and waste dumps and mandating return of approximate original contours;
- Fix the weaknesses in the security deposits system, ensuring there is sufficient money held for contingencies.

The full report is here:

https://d3n8a8pro7vymx.cloudfront.net/lockthegate/pages/5783/attachments/original/1541320114/3419_BOU-DI_ADANI_HOLES-9_lr.pdf?1541320114



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Narrabri marches against CSG, as Santos faces questions over water impact modelling

A large crowd has marched through the streets of Narrabri to protest Santos' coal seam gasfield, as the company faces tough questions from the state agency responsible for water resources over its groundwater impact modelling.

Residents of Narrabri were joined by people from around the North West and beyond to highlight the results of recent door-knocking in Narrabri town that demonstrated overwhelming support (97%) for renewable energy in the region and majority opposition (55%) to Santos' proposed CSG gasfield.

The event comes after the agency responsible for managing water in NSW criticised Santos' groundwater assessment for the Narrabri Gas Project, and asked for extensive further work to be done to understand the impact of the project on groundwater.

Commenting on Santos' response to submissions about the gasfield, the Department of Industry – Water has said Santos' modelling "cannot be relied upon for detailed impact prediction" because it "has not demonstrated an adequate understanding of baseline information and has not proposed a suitable approach to monitoring, modelling and management should the project be approved."

Great Artesian Basin Protection Group Vice President, Coonamble farmer Anne Kennedy, said the Department's response was a confirmation of the community's fears that Santos had been trying to cut corners in its assessment.

"For us in Coonamble, it's all about the water. That's why we're fighting this coal seam gas project tooth and nail: we can't afford to compromise our precious groundwater. I'm delighted that the Government agencies are starting to ask Santos the hard questions," she said.

"We're marching with our friends in Narrabri to show Santos and the NSW Government that all of us in the North West are in this together, for our water, our communities and our kids' futures."

Boggabri farmer Sally Hunter said the doorknocking results showed Santos and the Government had misread



sentiment in Narrabri, "We kept hearing that people want CSG, but what they want is jobs. The door-knocking results show people in Narrabri are far more eager for renewable energy than Santos' risky gasfield. We can have energy, jobs and prosperity without CSG."

Lock the Gate North West Coordinator Meg Leathart said Santos' proposed project presented an unacceptable risk of long-term damage to the environment and the social fabric of the Narrabri region.

"Santos has been caught out trying to cut corners in the assessment of the impact coal seam gas will have on vitally important water resources," she said.

"CSG is not needed or wanted in North West New South Wales, and is certainly far too risky in the precious Pilliga forest."



TOP: A banner made the Narrabri crowd's feelings clear.

ABOVE: Knitting Nannas and friends gave support.

Photos: Great Artesian Basin Protection Group, Facebook

The protest march was supported by participants of the 'Spring into Pilliga' event - a three day gathering in the forest that is expected to draw dozens of people from around the state in support of the local campaign against CSG.

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SACRIFICE ZONE

Cloudcatcher Media's feature-length film:
battle to save the Pilliga

<https://vimeo.com/257444267>

KNITTING NANNAS BECOME A REGULAR FEATURE IN BRISBANE



The Santos Brisbane HQ receives a visit from the Knitting Nannas each month, so the issue of coal seam gas and other fossil fuels is kept in the public eye. Brisbane Nannas are joined by some of the usual suspects from the Northern Rivers.

They chat, knit, plot and entertain with songs and ukeleles.



Nanna Dot makes a point in Brisbane.

SOCIAL MEDIA TAKES THE MICKEY OUT OF SCOMO'S BUS

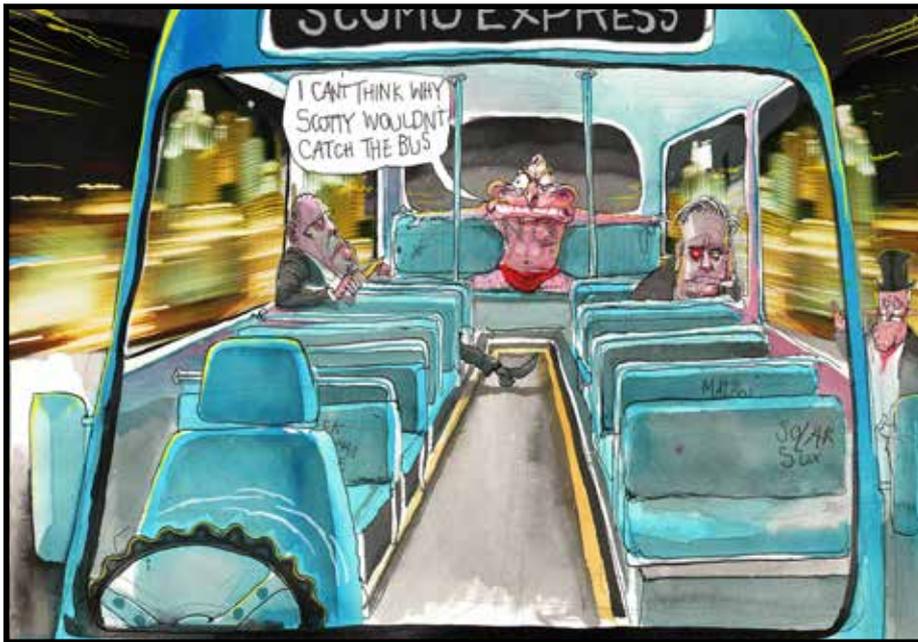


Social media site 'Lee Lin Chin for Wentworth - #PrimeChinister' has been collecting up a swarm of memes about the Scom bus that drove around north Queensland last week, while the Prime Minister flew between stops in a VIP jet.

The memes covered many aspects of Scott Morrison's prime ministership, and Fossil Fool Bulletin especially appreciated those related to the coal industry.



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



Inside the news

Adani has scaled down the number of **jobs** to be created if the mine ever gets underway. The figure is now 1,500 – a far cry from the original **10,000** touted, although even Adani’s own economist had to admit the larger figure was a huge exaggeration.

Meanwhile, representatives of the **Wangan and Jagalingou (W&J)** traditional owners flew to **Korea** to continue lobbying lenders not to fund the **Carmichael Mine**, with three Korean banks already announcing they won’t bankroll Adani (p7).

BHP’s public image took another hit when an **iron ore train went rogue** in the Pilbara (p9). The train, comprising four loco’s and 268 fully laden wagons, travelled 92km at speeds of up to 160 kp/h – without the driver. It was derailed by remote control at a set of points. This joins BHP’s **Samarco dam disaster** in Brazil and the **Ok Tedi** pollution scandal in Papua New Guinea amongst the company’s worst stuff-ups.

Whistleblower, **Simone Marsh**, investigates the **crony capitalism** behind the **Gladstone LNG debacle**; the history of how politicians kowtowed to the Duke of York-led British BG Group by pulling strings, shifting guidelines and ignoring public opinion to unlock prime farmland for **fracking**, on MichaelWest.com (p11). Her article, titled ‘The Second British Invasion: how royal cronies and the gas debacle took Australia for billions’, is a **must-read**.

MichaelWest.com also notes (p15), “The **cartel** which controls Australia’s vast **gas reserves** has been beating a path to the doors of the Big Four accounting firms lately; for the government has sallied forth with its feted **tax ‘crackdown’** – in truth, less of a crackdown than the tweaking of a couple of loopholes in the **failed tax** they call the **PRRT**.” The PRRT remains a profit-based tax and the tax giants are past-masters at eliminating profits, mostly by making big loans to themselves and funelling profits overseas.

While the gasco’s complain, energy minister **Angus Taylor** continues his attempts to cut **power prices** (p13-15).

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Human Rights, FRACKING and Climate Change

Should Queenslanders have a right to a healthy environment?

Tuesday, December 4, 6-8pm

Griffith University, South Bank Campus

Hosted by Human Rights Impact of Unconventional Gas

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>

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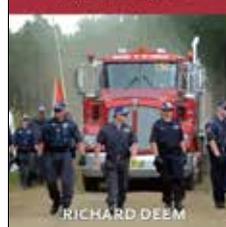
A struggle against the imposition by force of a CSG industry.

E-BOOK \$3.99 from:

https://play.google.com/store/books/details/Richard_Deem_Gasfield_Free_NSW_Northern_Rivers?id=wisdQAAQB&aj

<https://www.amazon.com.au/dp/B01H4WU0L0>

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<https://itunes.apple.com/au/book/gasfield-free-nsw-northern/>

In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 34,500 words of news for your convenience.
Click on the [links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-05/korean-banks-rule-out-backing-adani-mine/10463838>

Korean banks tell traditional owners they won't back Adani's Queensland mega-mine

Josh Robertson, ABC, 05/11/2018

Major Korean lenders have ruled out any role in funding Adani's contentious Australian coal project, just months after the miner was reportedly in talks to win backing from lenders in Seoul.

Traditional owners fighting the mine have secured pledges from a trio of lenders including the Export-Import Bank of Korea, a critical conduit for Korean lenders, which said it believed there was no longer any interest in the mega-mine.

Anti-Adani representatives of the Wangan and Jagalingou (W&J) traditional owners will today fly to Korea to continue lobbying lenders, including Mirae Asset Daewoo, which refinanced Adani's Queensland coal port in July. ...

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/the-adani-coal-mine-is-the-work-choices-of-this-generation.12066>

The Adani coal mine is the work choices of this generation

Simon Black, Independent Australia, 05/11/2018

Despite being a mine, not a policy, the seething rage we are seeing from the Australian population at the continued insistence at driving the Adani coal mine down our throats reminds me increasingly of the mood of late 2005.

The Adani project is becoming a single thing that unifies people and embodies unfairness and contempt from politicians who insist they know better than their constituents and pander to big business at their expense, time and time again. ...

This project is not only toxic, but it is also becoming a focal point for governments' refusal to take action on climate change and ignoring the Australian people to pander to big coal companies. ...



<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-07/adani-water-project-bypasses-full-assessment-against-advice/10457670>

Adani water project bypasses full environmental impact assessment against advice

Penny Timms & Michael Slezak, ABC, 07/11/2018

The Federal Environment Department ruled against the advice of the Government's own water experts when deciding Adani's North Galilee Water Scheme, in Central Queensland, did not require a full environmental assessment.

Documents obtained under Freedom of Information (FOI) and provided to the ABC by activist group Lock the Gate Alliance showed the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources wrote to the Environment Department suggesting the project could activate what is known as the "water trigger". ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/adani-job-guarantees-lost-in-townsville/news-story/a8a1c1e8f8ec5f07f7d7892632fda0a6>

Adani job guarantees lost in Townsville

Sam Bidey, Townsville Bulletin, 08/11/2018

Townsville will remain a hub for Adani's Carmichael Project workforce but past job guarantees have been lost.

Last week Adani Mining CEO Lucas Dow announced plans for an airstrip at the mine had been shelved meaning no cash investment would be required from the Townsville and Rockhampton councils. ...

"In the initial ramp up and construction phase there will be more than 1500 direct jobs on the mine and rail project and thousands of indirect jobs especially in places like Rockhampton, Townsville, Mackay and the Isaac region," Mr Dow said. ...



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<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/adani-reveals-new-workforce-numbers-for-building-c/3570268/>

Revealed: Adani construction workforce numbers scaled down

Frazer Pearce, Gladstone Observer, 08/11/2018

Adani Mining will now need 1500 workers for the initial “ramp up and construction phase” at its Carmichael Mine Project, with 500 of those staff believed to be coming from Rockhampton. ...

There is still no start date locked in for the mine as Adani continues to finalise funding for the mine.

There has been speculation that will be locked in before Christmas.

<https://www.greenleft.org.au/content/under-pressure-adani-scales-down-its-coalmine-project>

Under pressure, Adani scales down its coalmine project

Margaret Gleeson, Green Left Weekly, 08/11/2018

Strong support for climate action is adding to the nationwide pressure on proponents of the controversial Adani coalmine in central Queensland.

On November 1 new Adani chief executive Lucas Dow (formerly of BHP Billiton) announced that its proposed mega coalmine for Queensland’s Galilee Basin would be “scaled down” and “staged”.

Dow was coy about a starting date saying it was “not too far away”. Asked about the still-to-be-secured finance, he gave the same reply. ...

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-05/coal-mine-rehabilitation-cost-could-hit-taxpayers/10463302>

Coal mine rejuvenation bill could be left with NSW taxpayers

Greg Miskelly, ABC, 05/11/2018

Taxpayers could one day be slugged hundreds of millions of dollars to backfill some of Australia’s biggest coal-mining pits, with a new report finding less than a third have been rejuvenated properly.

The report, from environmental group Lock the Gate, reviewed published data from nine major coal mines.

It found collectively less than a third of their disturbed lands have been restored with new soil and vegetation, leaving an area bigger than the Royal National Park unrehabilitated. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/port-bottlenecks-threaten-28-billion-of-queensland-coal-shipments-to-india-tata-steel/news-story/e433e12ecd70b296362e47e94e393ea9>

Port bottlenecks threaten \$2.8 billion of Queensland coal shipments to India’s Tata Steel

Glen Norris, Courier-Mail, 06/11/2018

Coal shipments to India valued at \$2.8 billion could be under threat because of worsening bottlenecks at Queensland ports.

Indian industrial giant Tata Steel says it could be forced to look elsewhere for metallurgical coal if current delays were not sorted out. ...

Tata Steel chief executive T V Narendran said of particular concern was the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal near Mackay where the time period to send a ship to India had blown out from 22 days to 44 days.

Coal loading at the terminal has been affected by maintenance in the past few months, with up to 40 ships anchored offshore waiting to come into the port. ...

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5741064/mind-the-gap-report-shows-disturbed-hunter-mine-areas-growing/?cs=12>

A report has called for mandatory higher progressive mine rehabilitation targets

Joanne McCarthy, Newcastle Herald, 05/11/2018

Eight of the Hunter region’s largest coal mines will disturb more land than they rehabilitate in the next few years, says a report calling for mandatory progressive rehabilitation targets to reduce escalating air pollution problems and create jobs.

NSW taxpayers face an increasing risk as the shortfall in mine rehabilitation escalates under a system where mines set their own targets and there are little or no penalties for failure, said RMIT University Department of Environmental Engineering Associate Professor Gavin Mudd in his report, Mind the Gap, released by Lock the Gate on Monday. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-07/bylong-valley-coal-mine-divides-locals/10472766>

Bylong Valley coal mine in Mudgee divides farmers and locals during planning meeting

Liv Casben, ABC, 07/11/2018

Environmentalists and farmers at an independent planning commission were locked in disagreement over a proposed South Korean-owned coal mine in Bylong Valley, north-east of Mudgee.

Hundreds of people, including dozens of protestors, turned out to the meeting in Mudgee to have their say on the Kepco mine, which is expected to generate more than 6.5 million tonnes of coal per year. ...

The commission heard from more than 60 speakers, both for and against the mine, as part of its decision-making process to approve the mine. ...

The independent planning commission is considering the revised plan and is expected to make a decision by the end of the year.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/900m-coalmine-expansion-a-step-closer/news-story/b86a3877d1712011e919fc1050ca785e>

\$900m coalmine expansion a step closer

Stephanie Bennett, Courier-Mail, 08/11/2018

After over a decade of legal wrangling, the \$900 million expansion of the New Acland coalmine on Queensland’s Darling Downs is one step closer to getting the green light.

Queensland’s Land Court yesterday recommended mining leases and environmental authority be granted, subject to a number of conditions.

Court president Fleur Kingham, who described the decade-long application to expand the mine as “tortuous”, highlighted issues including noise limit conditions and investigation of potential burial sites of children on the land. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/sustainability/inexplicable-power-plants-pollution-limits-weak-by-world-standards-20181106-p50ec8.html>

‘Inexplicable’: Power plants’ pollution limits weak by world standards

Peter Hannam, SMH, 08/11/2018

Pollution controls for major coal-fired power stations in NSW are so weak that they are comparable to “fairly under-developed third world countries”, a US energy expert says.

Dr Ron Sahu, a California-based air quality consultant, said the environment protection licences (EPLs) at the Mt Piper, Eraring and Vales Point plants were “very weak”. ...

Dr Sahu was commissioned by Environmental Justice Australia to examine the three power plants, all of which will have the EPLs reviewed by the Environment Protection Authority by January 2019. ...

MINING MAYHEM

https://thewest.com.au/business/mining/bhp-derails-268-car-pilbara-train-which-travelled-92km-without-driver-ng-b881012020z?fbclid=IwAR2s8ntUN1dfx-1GmNu2bIneNekSMfc54RDTjhGO_PQJFbKiUjffEIZSP7g

BHP derails 268-car Pilbara iron ore train which travelled 92km without driver

Peter Milne, West Australian, 05/11/2018

BHP deliberately derailed a runaway Pilbara iron train carrying 268 wagons early today after it travelled 92km across the Pilbara without a driver.

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau said about 4am the driver of a loaded ore train travelling from Newman to Port Hedland alighted to inspect a wagon.

The bureau said the train, consisting of four locomotives and 268 wagons, started to run away without the driver and with no one on board, travelling for 92km.

BHP then stopped the train by deliberately derailing it at a set of points about 120 km from Port Hedland.

A BHP spokeswoman said no one was injured ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-05/runaway-bhp-train-deliberately-derailed-near-port-hedland/10467616>

Runaway BHP train deliberately derailed near Port Hedland after travelling 92km with no driver

ABC, 05/11/2018

A runaway train laden with iron ore has been deliberately derailed by BHP after it travelled for more than 90 kilometres without a driver in WA's remote Pilbara region.

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) said the fully laden train, made up of four locomotives and 268 wagons, was travelling from the mining town of Newman to Port Hedland at 4:40am on Monday, when the driver

hopped out to inspect a wagon near Hester siding.

But the train took off from the siding before the driver could get back on board. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-06/investigators-visit-runaway-bhp-iron-ore-train-derailment-site/10469802>

BHP runaway iron ore train left a twisted wreck after derailment stopped it reaching WA town

Emily Piesse, ABC, 07/11/2018

Rail safety investigators have arrived at the site of a deliberate train derailment in Western Australia's Pilbara region, a day after a runaway train brought iron ore miner BHP's rail network to a halt. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/bhp-runaway-iron-ore-train-in-pilbara-raises-safety-concern/news-story/6275fc1d3a8d9a323e58f1020385f7ee>

How BHP's rogue ore train went off the rails

Paul Garvey, The Australian, 10/11/2012

In the early hours of Monday morning, just before sunrise, BHP's remote operations centre in the heart of Perth's CBD was in crisis.

A massive, fully laden iron ore train was out of control and hurtling across the Pilbara without anyone at the controls, at speeds well above anything seen in the region before.

The safety measures designed to bring the train to a safe halt in such circumstances had failed, and now the runaway train was careering towards Port Hedland. ...

From the Perth office, the operators used their computers to "throw the points" and switch the speeding train to a different line, triggering the derailment.

During the 50 minutes the train was

on the loose, it covered 92km – giving it an average speed over that period of just over 110km/h.

But given the substantial amount of time it takes for the monster trains to build up speed, there are estimates the train would have reached speeds of as much as 160km/h – double the top operating speeds normally seen among the Pilbara trains – by the time it derailed. ...

BHP is also facing potentially millions of dollars in fines if it is found to have breached national rail safety laws. And then there is the reputational damage to BHP, which is still working to recover from the 2015 disaster at its Samarco joint venture in Brazil. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/png-begins-new-legal-action-over-ok-tedi-mine/news-story/06dc-f594a46467da813580a3b816f7d5>

PNG begins new legal action over Ok Tedi mine

Ben Butler, The Australian, 07/11/2018

Papua New Guinea has launched legal action in Australia, opening a new front in a long-running stoush over control of a \$US1.4 billion (\$1.94bn) fund related to the controversial Ok Tedi copper and gold mine, the scene of one of the 20th century's worst ecological disasters.

In a claim filed with the Victorian Supreme Court a week ago, PNG accuses the PNG Sustainable Development Program of breaking the rules under which it was set up by changing the rules to allow its board to appoint directors and by spending about \$US48 million on administrative and exploration expenses. ...

In 1984, when BHP built Ok Tedi on difficult mountainous terrain in PNG's Western Province, it did not construct a tailings dam to store waste from the giant mine, instead pumping sludge directly into the river.

The tens of millions of tonnes of tailings discharged into the river every year over the next two decades killed fish and trees, devastating the area's economy and sparking a large-scale lawsuit by locals against BHP. ...



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with your comments & tips

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/companies/access-to-drinking-water-one-of-the-top-two-challenges-facing-the-world-bhp-boss/news-story/5c5053db5f4c4cb-62561314c871f1d24>

Access to drinking water one of the top two challenges facing the world: BHP boss

Matt Chambers & Luke Griffiths, The Australian, 08/11/2018

BHP chief Andrew Mackenzie says a growing population and, possibly, climate change are making access to drinking water one of the top two challenges facing the world (along with global warming), and that the mining industry should treat water policy as seriously as climate, safety and tailings dams policy. ...

Tailings dams are front of mind for the industry after the tailings dam burst at BHP's half-owned Samarco iron ore mine in Brazil, killing 19 people and causing widespread environmental damage.

<https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/politics/queensland/the-mining-industry-and-powerful-cfmmeu-join-forces-on-mining-reforms-20181109-p50f5j.html?fbclid=IwAR2HTc-fgDzMWw-0f99xxrzNqieaV8SwyhKTFMcTCRIP3ojRr2uj4IS8sqQ>

The mining industry and powerful CFMMEU join forces on mining reforms

Felicity Caldwell, Brisbane Times, 09/11/2018

The Queensland mining industry and a powerful union have joined forces to pressure the state Labor government to make changes to planned reforms that will force miners to clean-up their sites.

Earlier this week, the Brisbane Times reported state government officials were holding daily talks with the Queensland Resources Council over amendments to the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) bill, amid mining industry concerns about retrospectivity that could affect existing mines, and aspects of a public interest test.

Miners would have to pay, according to risk, into a pool of funds that would be used to clean up land.

It came after it was revealed taxpayers may have to pay up to \$40 million in clean-up costs after the collapse of Clive Palmer's Queensland Nickel refinery in Townsville.

On Friday afternoon, Queensland Resources Council chief executive Ian Macfarlane wrote to all 93 state MPs to say the industry was "deeply concerned" the government's proposed amendments had the "potential to be retrospective" and would "therefore put Queensland's multibillion-dollar resources industry at risk". ...

The QRC also sent a joint letter with the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union (CFMMEU) to cabinet members, which said the two bodies could not support the government's proposed amendments. ...

Earlier, Greens MP Michael Berkman called on Labor not to buckle to pressure and weaken reforms.

"It's time to pick a side: are you with the mining billionaires or with everyday Queenslanders?" he asked. ...

The government amendments were due to go before cabinet on Monday, with the bill to be debated next week.

PFAS POISON

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-07/pfas-contamination-warning-near-richmond-raaf-base/10473326>

PFAS contamination near Richmond Air Base prompts egg and meat consumption warning

Kathleen Calderwood, ABC, 07/11/2018

Residents near the Richmond Air Base should reduce their intake of locally caught fish and locally grown eggs and red meat because of PFAS contamination, the Department of Defence has warned.

The Air Force started phasing out the use of the firefighting chemical in 2004 and is now undertaking a national review of its impact on the environment around bases. ...

The Human Health Risk Assessment released today says people living in the area should limit their intake of locally grown eggs and red meat, and locally caught fish to reduce their exposure to the chemical.

The report said people living in the investigation area around the air base should not eat more than 24 eggs per month, 50 serves of red meat per month or 12 servings of fin fish per month that have been grown or caught locally. That amount is smaller for children. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/chemical-risk-at-richmond-sparks-warning-on-meat-eggs-and-fish-20181107-p50eme.html>

Chemical risk at Richmond sparks warning on meat, eggs and fish

Carrie Fellner, SMH, 07/11/2018

People living on toxic land surrounding the Richmond RAAF Base have been warned the consumption of large amounts of locally-grown meat, eggs and fish could pose an unacceptable risk to their health.

But levels of the potentially carcinogenic per- and poly-fluoroalkyl [PFAS] chemicals in livestock reared in the area and sold to the general public remains an area of "uncertainty", according to risk assessments released by Defence on Wednesday. ...

The report ... acknowledged that the absence of any blood test results for humans and livestock was a "data gap" in the investigation. ...

HYDROGEN PLAN

http://leader.smedia.com.au/mornington-peninsula/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=LM-PL%2F2018%2F11%2F06&entity=Ar00908&sk=D-12F6A5E&fbclid=IwAR31PRZ3IHfYcXpNUqDw80isE_YX-1L9MwafTpvoUxe2gPFphOkxykxwm8

Hastings pipeline project furore

Christian Tatman, Leader (Mornington Peninsula), 08/11/2018

Moves to fast track a hydrogen pipeline project including a terminal at Hastings have been slammed by environmentalists and Mornington Peninsula Shire Council.

Planning Minister Richard Wynne has written to Mayor Bryan Payne informing him of the move.

Mr Wynne wrote the Shire's planning rules would be bypassed and its planning scheme effectively amended to enable the project.

This will allow the land northeast of Bayview Rd Hastings to be developed into a hydrogen liquefaction and loading terminal as part of the Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain Pilot Project.

Mr Wynne said he took the action at the urging of GHD, a firm acting for the proponents. Save Western Port member Louise Page said Mr Wynne's decision showed complete disregard for the community and the sensitive bay environment. ...

However, a spokesman for Mr Wynne said it was only a small research pilot, "no larger than a house block", aimed at testing low-carbon hydrogen technology over 12 months.

"It is certainly not a hydrogen export plant," the spokesman said. "The use of hydrogen as a potential zero emissions fuel of the future remains a long term, experimental project — that is why research is needed."

GAS, GAS, GAS

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/nov/03/coalition-to-spring-unexpected-tax-hike-on-off-shore-gas-industry>

Coalition to spring unexpected tax hike on offshore gas industry

Gareth Hutchens, The Guardian, 03/11/2018

The booming offshore gas industry will be hit with an unexpected tax hike after the Morrison government revealed plans to change the tax treatment for some existing oil and gas projects.

Treasurer Josh Frydenberg says the government hopes to raise an extra \$6bn in revenue over the next 10 years by changing the settings of the petroleum resource rent tax (PRRT).

He said tax changes are a response to recommendations from the Callaghan review of the PRRT regime, which was initiated in 2016 by former prime minister Malcolm Turnbull to address concerns that Australians were not being properly compensated for use of their natural resources by large oil and gas projects. ...

Dr Malcolm Roberts, the chief executive of the Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association (Apepa), said the government's proposed changes to the treatment of exploration costs were "troubling", given exploration has fallen to historic low levels. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/chevron-aiming-to-lift-lng-output/news-story/9b1d3f17d155e0d9a855f582c4233aa0>

Chevron aiming to lift LNG output

Perry Williams, The Australian, 05/11/2018

Energy giant Chevron intends to boost gas production from its Gorgon and Wheatstone LNG plants in Western Australia as it lifts returns after the two mega-projects cost \$US88 billion (\$122bn) to bring online.

The facilities, which account for about a quarter of Australia's LNG capacity, have now overcome construction delays and the oil major has flagged a desire to lift output. ...

"With all five Australian LNG trains running reliably, we're focusing on finding opportunities to incrementally add production and enhance reliability," Chevron chief financial officer Pat Yarrington said. ...

<https://www.michaelwest.com.au/the-second-british-invasion-how-royal-cronies-and-the-gas-debacle-took-australia-for-billions/?fbclid=IwAR3z7P6ry6D5-lrecpob4rz1tH-hE4hfBpAWTHpul2gyxTVUKCT8qR5T4m0>

The Second British Invasion: how royal cronies and the gas debacle took Australia for billions

Sally McDow, Michaelwest.com, 05/11/2018

Senate Estimates confirmed last month that BG Group's gas bonanza has delivered diddly-squat to Australia in tax – despite claims it would contribute "more than \$1 billion". Whistleblower, Simone Marsh, investigates the crony capitalism behind the Gladstone debacle; the history of how politicians kowtowed to the Duke of York-led British BG Group by pulling strings, shifting guidelines and ignoring public opinion to unlock prime farmland for fracking.

Marsh raises new questions about the timing of the spill of former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. ...

• *Simone Marsh was an environment specialist and regulator of mining activities in both public and private sectors for over a decade. In 2010 she was called in to draft sections of the Queensland Coordinator-General's EIS evaluation report for the world's first onshore unconventional gas to LNG projects.*

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/origin-makes-35b-csg-deal-with-shells-arrow/news-story/c667c38a39dbc255df0a4b3e0f81c657>

Origin makes \$3b CSG deal with Shell's Arrow

Matt Chambers, The Australian, 05/11/2018

Origin Energy's Australia Pacific LNG has signed a deal to buy about \$3 billion worth of coal seam gas from Shell and agreed to toll-treat gas from Shell's Arrow joint venture with PetroChina at APLNG'S onshore Queensland plant.

The deal, which is conditional on Arrow reaching a final investment decision on development of its Queensland CSG fields, comes after APLNG chief Warwick King last month warned that the Queensland CSG fields that underpin long LNG contracts are not producing as well as had been expected. ...

https://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/story/5740879/basin-backers-welcome-senate-report-in-to-coal-seam-gas/?cs=4698&fbclid=IwAR222e4s0wwAy-HLlxHdKN14DVak5nHOF1JcJYdVdClAiX3ksfg_5P1bieUEK

Basin Sustainability Alliance welcomes water use in extractive industries report

Steven Trask, Qld Country Life, 05/11/2018

A grassroots movement concerned about the impact of coal seam gas developments on Queensland agriculture has been buoyed by the recent release of a joint parliamentary report.

Last month the Senate's environment committee released the results of a year-long inquiry looking at water use by extractive industries such as mining and coal seam gas.

Several individuals raised concerns during the inquiry about unsustainable water extraction by coal seam gas companies working within the Great Artesian Basin. ...

The Senate committee concluded that current Australian regulations did not properly value groundwater reserves, which are crucial to Queensland producers.

It also found that water use estimates for mining and gas activities did not account for the long-term impacts of water extraction. ...

Last Friday state Natural Resources Minister Dr Anthony Lynham announced more than 6,600 square kilometres of land would be opened for gas exploration in Queensland's Bowen and Surat Basins. ...

https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/major-oil-spill-off-australia-s-coast-would-dwarf-deepwater-horizon-disaster-documents-show-20181103-p50dry.html?fbclid=IwAR1Lmkff-k3_1DTDPGG-Pb7hkrw8k_4dcV-cyMJRm9Go_GSn7BYbUjrtDQTEg

Major oil spill off Australia's coast would dwarf Deepwater Horizon disaster, documents show

Nicole Hasham, SMH, 04/11/2018

A worst-case oil spill in the Great Australian Bight would be twice the scale of the Gulf of Mexico disaster, and rough seas and a lack of suitable equipment risk delaying the response effort, confidential plans show.

Documents released under freedom of information laws reveal the potential dangers involved in drilling for oil in the wild, isolated seas off the South Australian coast – a move Resources Minister Matt Canavan last week said was a "national priority" that would secure Australia's fuel supplies.

Norwegian energy giant Equinor plans to explore for oil in the Great Australian Bight and insists it can be done safely. Critics say the venture is too risky and an oil spill in the pristine region would damage coastal communities and devastate marine life, including endangered southern right whales. ...

Greenpeace Australia senior campaigner Nathaniel Pelle said [the] plans showed the massive challenges involved in drilling in the bight.

"No oil company knows what to expect

in terms of pressures and temperatures beneath the sea bed ... which makes the risk of an accident exceptional when compared to drilling in existing oil provinces," he said.

"Not only is there a greater than normal risk of an accident, but ... responding to it would be incredibly difficult and probably impossible before severe damage is already done." ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/lng-review-threat-to-oil-and-gas-companies/news-story/beb73943e1a8855fef18bd4a3485d76b>

LNG review threat to oil and gas companies

Matt Chambers, The Australian, 06/11/2018

Josh Frydenberg's planned review of LNG transfer pricing as part of an overhaul of the petroleum resource rent tax is looming as a bigger concern for oil and gas companies than \$6 billion of deduction clampdowns announced last week, analysts say, warning it could delay projects and reduce future earnings.

Analysts say an associated review of transfer pricing rules will create uncertainty over the next 18 months. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-06/darwin-boaters-hit-with-fines-for-playing-chicken-with-ships/10469286>

Water police crack down on skippers anchored in harm's way in busy Darwin shipping channel

Jesse Thompson, ABC, 07/11/2018

Darwin water police have cracked down on recreational fishers anchored in the harbour's busy shipping chan-

nel, amid fears skippers are playing chicken with huge vessels.

Over the weekend police issued a number of \$350 fines to fishermen anchored in the channel, which is prohibited because it can prevent a speedy getaway when larger ships approach.

In one incident, police say a number of small vessels were anchored in the path of a 300-metre, 130,000-tonne gas tanker.

Sergeant John Pini said the channel had become busier since shipments of gas from the INPEX Ichthys plant began regularly moving through the harbour, bound for Japan. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-07/chinese-backed-takeover-of-australian-gas-likely-to-be-blocked/10475004>

Federal Government set to block Chinese company's takeover of Australian gas network

Andrew Probyn & Jane Norman, ABC, 07/11/2018

A multi-billion-dollar Chinese-backed takeover of more than half of Australia's gas pipeline network looks likely to be blocked by the Morrison Government.

Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said his "preliminary view" was that CK Asset Holdings Limited's proposed \$13 billion purchase of APA Group was against the national interest. ...

"I have formed this view on the grounds that it would result in an undue concentration of foreign ownership by a single company group in our most significant gas transmission

business," the Treasurer said in a statement.

"I intend to make a final decision under the formal process within two weeks. ...

The takeover had been approved by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, but Mr Frydenberg acknowledged the "concentration of foreign ownership" was not a question considered by the watchdog. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/woodside-extends-life-of-nw-shelf/news-story/224b722f9ec1680cfcb5db661e2409>

Woodside extends life of NW Shelf

Paul Garvey, The Australian, 08/11/2018

The Woodside Petroleum-led North West Shelf liquefied natural gas plant looks set to operate for decades to come after the project's partners struck long-awaited agreements to bring in gas from third parties.

Woodside yesterday said it and its five partners in the North West Shelf had signed non-binding preliminary agreements to process gas from the Browse and Clio-Acme gas fields through the LNG plant on Western Australia's Burup peninsula. ...

<https://thewest.com.au/business/energy/woodside-chevron-deal-for-north-west-shelf-to-process-browse-and-clio-acme-gas-ng-b881014457z>

Woodside, Chevron deal for North West Shelf to process Browse and Clio-Acme gas

Peter Milne, West Australian, 07/11/2019

Woodside's growth plans have taken a step forward with the North West Shelf joint venture reaching preliminary agreements to process LNG for the Woodside-led Browse project and Chevron's Clio-Acme field.

The non-binding agreements signed yesterday are a step towards keeping the five LNG trains of the NWS Karratha gas plant operating at full capacity as gas supply from the NWS joint venture's own fields decline early next decade. ...

<https://www.ntnews.com.au/business/chief-minister-michael-gunner-chasing-more-gas-investment-from-japan/news-story/d5c250456a57bb555868824a9c5e853d>

Chief Minister Michael Gunner chasing more gas investment from Japan

Hayley Sorensen, NT News, 05/11/2018

With gas from Inpex's first shipment out of Darwin now powering Japanese homes, the Territory is courting Japanese investment in its onshore gas

Northern Territory Police say recreational fishers anchoring in the shipping channel, obstructing LNG tankers, are an accident waiting to happen. Photo: NT Police



industry which has the potential to dwarf the \$54 billion Ichthys project.

Chief Minister Michael Gunner is in Tokyo on a brief victory lap to mark the successful completion of the gas plant's construction phase. ...

<https://www.ntnews.com.au/business/japanese-gas-giant-inpex-keen-to-frack-the-northern-territory/news-story/70f346c8d4866619b247ac5be8d37ce8>

Japanese gas giant Inpex keen to frack the Northern Territory

Hayley Sorensen, NT News, 06/11/2018

Japanese gas giant Inpex is keen to frack the Northern Territory.

Gas is expected to flow from Inpex's Darwin gas plant back to the port city of Niigata in Japan for at least the next 40 years. ...

Now the company has turned its attentions onshore, to the Beetaloo Basin. ...

With the \$54 billion Ichthys project now complete, Inpex chief executive Takayuki Ueba said the company was "very interested" in exploiting the Territory's onshore gas reserves.

Inpex already has exploration rights in the Beetaloo.

Mr Ueba also flagged the potential to increase its LNG trains in Darwin from two to six. ...

NUKE MADNESS

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/nuclear-waste-site-to-remain-a-mystery-at-federal-election/news-story/af6a30c2fcd294fcbbaef37676fa1a5>

Nuclear waste site to remain a mystery at federal election

Luke Griffiths, The Australian, 05/11/2018

The location of Australia's first nuclear waste dump will not be announced before the federal election, extending the uncertainty for those living near proposed sites, Rex Patrick says.

The Centre Alliance senator said the government's selection process, which started in 2014, had been shrouded in "Soviet-style" secrecy and had divided communities.

He said Labor must reveal how it would proceed, given the "real possibility" it would form government after the election.

Two sites near Kimba, 465km north-west of Adelaide, and one site near Hawker in South Australia's mid-north have been shortlisted. ...

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.macrobusiness.com.au/2018/11/fossil-fuels-industry-taxes-us-death-literally/>

How the fossil fuels industry taxes us to death – literally

By Phil Soos, Macrobusiness, 06/11/2018

Australia's climate change culture war is a hideous spectacle. Despite the obvious reality of human-caused climate change and the urgent need to act, the powerful fossil fuels industry (FFI) has captured the Coalition Government to wring the last dollar of profit from their soon-to-be stranded assets.

The Coalition has proudly undone policies designed to mitigate climate change, notably in scrapping the carbon pricing scheme and reducing the federal Renewables Energy Target (RET). These government actions were driven by willful ignorance, lavish campaign contributions and the persistent revolving door between government and industry delivering financial reward and influence to those eager to act against the common good. ...

Philip Soos is an independent economist and PhD candidate investigating bank crime and mortgage control fraud.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/former-official-criticises-angus-taylor-over-extraordinary-coal-protection-measure-20181106-p50ebw.html>

Former official criticises Angus Taylor over 'extraordinary' coal protection measure

Nicole Hasham & Cole Latimer, SMH, 07/11/2018

A potential Morrison government move to shield new coal-fired power projects from the future costs of their carbon emissions amounts to a taxpayer-funded subsidy and would be an "extraordinary" and "irresponsible" move, the former chief of the federal government's green bank says. ...

Oliver Yates, former chief executive of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation and a veteran Liberal Party member, told Fairfax Media that the government was effectively "subsidising a coal-fired power station" if it underwrites its carbon risk.

"The government is going to expose itself to a risk that the private sector wouldn't take," Mr Yates said.

"If [Mr Taylor] thinks the taxpayer should take a risk that the private sector is unwilling to take then that's extraordinary ... Is it irresponsible for the government to take that risk? In this circumstance it is." ...

https://reneweconomy.com.au/taylor-confirms-race-is-on-to-get-new-coal-or-gas-finalised-before-federal-election-92029/?utm_source=RE+Daily+Newsletter&utm_campaign=b023c975c2-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_11_07_01_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_46a1943223-b023c975c2-40461137

Taylor confirms race is on to get new coal or gas finalised before federal election

Giles Parkinson, RenewEconomy, 07/11/2018

Energy minister Angus Taylor has made his intentions clear: Underwrite investment in new coal or gas generation before the next election is called. Because he knows it won't happen under what he calls a Labor/Greens government. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/nov/06/angus-taylor-to-try-and-cajole-energy-retailers-into-lowering-power-prices-before-election>

Angus Taylor to try and cajole energy retailers into lowering power prices before election

Katharine Murphy, The Guardian, 07/11/2018

The energy minister, Angus Taylor, will host the first of two stakeholder briefings about the Morrison government's controversial plans to underwrite new investments in power generation, and also attempt to cajole retailers into delivering out-of-cycle power price reductions before the next federal election. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/nov/07/angus-taylor-fails-to-get-price-cut-commitment-from-energy-retailers>

Angus Taylor fails to get price cut commitment from energy retailers

Katharine Murphy, The Guardian, 07/11/2018

Power retailers have advanced a proposal to standardise comparison rates for all customers but have given no undertakings they will lower prices by January, during a roundtable with the energy minister, Angus Taylor.

Taylor has claimed Wednesday's Sydney talks as a win because retailers had proposed voluntary action during "constructive discussions" by offering up a standardised rate, making it easier for consumers to "compare apples with apples" when they shop around between retailers for the best deal. ...

The energy retailers were warned by their legal advisers not to provide any undertakings about pricing behaviour during the meeting because of the risk of contraventions of competition law, and some say privately any concrete action on pricing by 1 January is a very tall order given the way pricing cycles work in the energy sector. ...

https://reneweconomy.com.au/industry-wants-capacity-payments-as-taylor-pushes-for-new-24-7-power-24619/?utm_source=RE+Daily+News+letter&utm_campaign=830a981631-EMAIL_CAM-PAIGN_2018_11_08_03_39&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_46a1943223-830a981631-40461137

Industry wants capacity payments, as Taylor pushes for new “24/7” power

Giles Parkinson, *RenewEconomy*, 08/11/2018

Big generators and other players in Australia’s energy markets are using energy minister Angus Taylor’s search for new “24/7” base-load power generation, and his preference for coal and gas investments, as an opportunity to push for so-called “capacity” payments in the market.

Taylor, on Wednesday, held two meetings with industry. The first didn’t turn out well, with the big retailers rejecting his demands that they cut the level of standing offers, agreeing only on the formulation of “comparison rates” that a consumer might be better able to comprehend.

There was more engagement with Taylor’s second meeting of the day – to get feedback on the Coalition government’s equally controversial proposal to underwrite new investment in “dispatchable generation”, which he defines as 24/7 power, and which many fear is a de-facto call to extend the life of ageing coal generators, or even investment in new facilities. ...

Several people told *RenewEconomy* the conversation was dominated by Trevor St Baker, the co-owner of the Vales Point coal powered station in NSW that Sunset Power picked up for a bargain. ...

St Baker is playing an increasingly prominent role in the national energy debate, addressing the Monash Forum of the Coalition’s coal-enthusiasts, and echoing their and Taylor’s concerns about the level of “intermittent” wind and solar on the grid. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-07/mike-cannon-brookes-calls-government-to-reinstate-carbon-price/10474702>

Mike Cannon-Brookes, Atlassian billionaire, calls on Government to reinstate carbon price

ABC, 07/11/2018

Atlassian co-founder Mike Cannon-Brookes has called for Australia to reinstate the controversial carbon price, as he pushes to influence government policy with his new green energy campaign.

Mr Cannon-Brookes said the “movement”, dubbed Fair Dinkum Power, would put forward policy suggestions



Businessman Mike Cannon-Brookes has challenged Scott Morrison’s ‘fair dinkum power’ slogan with a brand and logo to campaign for renewable energy.

around renewable energy ahead of the upcoming election, with the aim to move Australia to “200 per cent renewable energy”. ...

Mr Cannon-Brookes said he got fired up after seeing Prime Minister Scott Morrison use the term “fair dinkum power” – which he believes was code for coal power – and decided to “reclaim” the phrase by creating a movement of the same name.

What started as a tweet last week soon became a brand with its own website, logo and even printed t-shirts.

Mr Cannon-Brookes said the initiative aimed to influence public debate and “move the conversation to a pro-renewable stance”. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-07/anti-protest-laws-delay-due-to-high-court-says-bob-brown/10470380>

Anti-protest law delay due to Liberals’ inability to beat High Court ruling, Bob Brown says

Ellen Coulter, *ABC*, 07/11/2018

More than a year after the Tasmanian Government’s controversial anti-protest laws were shot down in the High Court, the Liberals are yet to unveil the new legislation they promised in the lead-up to the state election.

The 2014 laws allowed police to stop protests before they had started if they were on a business premises or an access area, and allowed on-the-spot fines for protesters as well as jail time for second offences.

But environmentalist Bob Brown challenged the laws and in 2017 the High Court found they were at odds with the implied right to freedom of political communication. ...

Mr Brown said it was taking the Government months to draft new legislation because the intent of the laws was unconstitutional. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/jackie-trad-threatens-to-hit-miners-for-billions/news-story/006ccde6afd4a685d5b9255a55b203c2>

Jackie Trad threatens to hit miners for billions

Perry Williams & Matt Chambers, *The Australian*, 08/11/2018

Thousands of jobs and investment could be at risk as the nation’s biggest miners face the threat of a \$20 billion bill to retrospectively cover the clean-up of mines under legal changes proposed by Queensland Treasurer Jackie Trad.

Ms Trad and the state’s big miners, which include BHP, Anglo American, Peabody and Glencore, are engaged in tense negotiations over amendments to the Mineral and Energy Resources Bill, which could impose financial imposts on existing mines.

Miners and the Queensland Resources Council are understood to be furious at the changes and considering a public campaign against the bill ahead of the legislation being introduced to cabinet on Monday. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/canavan-canes-crazy-changes-to-queensland-mining-bill-warns-billions-of-investment-at-risk/news-story/e3318e85e07fab85f818bc1977994e2e>

Canavan canes ‘crazy’ changes to Queensland mining bill, warns billions of investment at risk

Perry Williams & Jared Owens, *The Australian*, 08/11/2018

Billions of dollars of investment in Queensland’s mining industry may be

News this week ... from previous page

axed if the Queensland government proceeds with a controversial retrospective change to cover the clean-up of mines, Resources Minister Matt Canavan has warned. ...

Mr Canavan met with Ms Trad this morning at a summit in Mt Isa where he raised his concern over what he describes as a set of secretive amendments to the state government's existing legislation. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/nov/07/liberal-mp-craig-kelly-to-replace-ross-cameron-as-co-host-of-sky-news-outsiders>

Liberal MP Craig Kelly to replace Ross Cameron as co-host of Sky News' Outsiders

Anne Davies, The Guardian, 07/11/2018

The Liberal MP Craig Kelly, a leading climate change sceptic in the Liberal party, is set to become a regular co-host of Sky News' Outsiders program following the network's decision to sack Ross Cameron for racist comments.

Kelly confirmed he had a "verbal agreement" to co-host the program with commentator Rowan Dean once a week.

Kelly is currently the sitting member for Hughes in Sydney's south but faces a serious preselection challenge for his seat before the federal election next year. ...

<https://www.michaelwest.com.au/prrt-pipe-dream-gas-crackdown-really-a-fawning-tweak-on-a-failed-tax/>

PRRT Pipe-Dream: gas "crackdown" really a fawning tweak on a failed tax

Michael West, MichaelWest.com, 07/11/2018

The cartel which controls Australia's vast gas reserves has been beating a path to the doors of the Big Four accounting firms lately; for the government has sallied forth with its feted tax "crackdown" – in truth, less of a crackdown than the tweaking of a couple of loopholes in the failed tax they call the PRRT. Michael West reports. ...

The PRRT is a failed tax. It never worked. And lowering the uplift rate – the central plank of the latest brainstorm – won't suddenly make it work either. This is because it remains a profit-based tax and the tax giants are past-masters at eliminating profits (they funnel them offshore mostly by making big loans to themselves) so as to eliminate tax.

The more complicated the scheme, the more easily it is gamed.

What Australia needs is a "dumb old royalty" says gas analyst Bruce Robertson – a simple, flat rate on production; easy to administer; transparent, easy to collect. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/nov/09/craig-kelly-mocks-climate-change-exaggeration-in-presentation-to-liberal-party-members?fbclid=IwAR3ZsxxqDEQ0DXfp0RRPv236-Ln8hljOG7k3rorBb7MXLvtot94t1YoYFY>

Craig Kelly MP mocks climate change 'exaggeration' in presentation to Liberal party members

Anne Davies, The Guardian, 09/11/2018

The Guardian has obtained a tape of a presentation by Kelly at the right-aligned Mosman branch of the Liberal party in September that outlines in detail his climate scepticism. ...

Kelly's PowerPoint presentation veered between mocking "the lefties" and arguing that there was no need to tackle climate change because its impact had been grossly overblown. ...

"It's CO2 we are talking about: it's what turns water into soda water, it's what makes chardonnay into champagne," he said derisively, before claiming that the consensus view among the world's scientists that the planet was warming was wrong.

Kelly said that "30 years ago, the temperature was the same globally about where it was today" – even though the Bureau of Meteorology and other international agencies estimate the planet has already warmed more than 1 degree in the past century. ...

https://reneweconomy.com.au/coalition-plans-to-support-new-coal-investment-could-break-its-own-procurement-rules-19439/?utm_source=RE+Daily+Newsletter&utm_campaign=5b3d0cd4e1-EMAIL_CAM_PAIGN_2018_11_08_11_22&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_46a1943223-5b3d0cd4e1-40461137

Coalition plans to support new coal investment could break its own procurement rules

Oliver Yates, RenewEconomy, 09/11/2018

The proposed underwriting of new investments by what the Coalition government likes to call 'fair dinkum power' needs immediate clarification before the industry again wastes its time.

There are some core issues that jump to mind – and many of these revolve around the issue of a range of emissions and the government's own procurement guidelines that any contracts must have the environment in mind. ...

It has made it clear it favours coal, gas or pumped hydro, and energy minister Angus Taylor is insisting this must be "24/7" power and has indicated the government may indemnify any projects against future carbon restrictions and price impacts.

The reason the market is challenged, and why such support may make sense, is that traditional methods of power generation must be replaced because they produce damaging emissions that create significant external costs to society.

The external costs are increasingly evident in the form of climate change, but also involve localised heavy metal pollution and the production of NOx/SOx and ash. ...

FFB

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 FFB1.2 and FFB1.13. An update will be published soon. She needs to fund about \$30,000 in legal fees and medical costs.

If you can help, click this link: <https://www.gofundme.com/barrister-needed-for-fiona-wilson>

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

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