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KNITTING NANNAS AGAINST GAS

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 2:3 • 4 DECEMBER 2018

WA govt lifts fracking moratorium, blocks MP briefing on negative impacts

Fracking in Western Australia would bring few jobs, little revenue and could increase gas prices, according to a new report by Canberra-based think-tank The Australia Institute (TAI).

The report comes after WA Premier Mark McGowan announced on Tuesday that the state would open up roughly five million hectares of the state to fracking.

Briefing cancelled after researchers arrive in Perth

The report authors were to brief government MPs in Parliament House on Thursday, but the briefing was cancelled late Wednesday after they had arrived in Perth.

“The WA government made no consideration of the social and economic impacts of fracking, even though it has been very disruptive in the eastern states,” said Rod Campbell, Research Director at The Australia Institute.

“It’s surprising that the Government would cancel our briefing, particularly at such late notice.

“Our research shows that fracking does not bring jobs. The gas industry employs less people per dollar of output than any other industry. If employment growth is the policy goal, then investment in virtually any other industry will deliver better results.

“In Queensland, there was a loss of 1.8 agricultural jobs for every new gas job created in rural areas. Gas jobs come at the cost of displacement of jobs in other industries.



Protesters in Broome express their feeling as WA Premier, Mark McGowan, announced five million hectares of the state would be opened for fracking. Photo: Frack Free WA

“Indigenous job opportunities from fracking are also likely to be minimal, with an estimated increase of between three and 19 jobs for Indigenous people.

Frack revenue equivalent to traffic fines

“Fracking is likely to generate little revenue for the state. Even a relatively large shale gas industry would be likely to generate revenue worth just 0.6 percent of WA state government revenue, roughly the value of traffic fines to the WA budget.

“Relative to conventional gas, shale gas is high cost to extract. Gas companies on the East Coast have mastered exporting cheap gas and selling expen-

sive gas to locals who have no other choice.”

TAI also said that allowing the WA fracking ‘carbon bomb’ could be equivalent to 120 new coal plants operating for 25 years.

“Australian Institute research has shown the devastating climate change consequences of a massive expansion of fracking in both Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

“WA is already heading for up to 6.5° warming within our children’s lifetimes according to the Government. Why is fracking in WA even being considered?”

• Continued p2

• P3: Stopping Adani becomes more urgent

• P4: National Party dresses up for miners

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

Opposition to fracking in WA will continue

• Continued from p1

Community group Lock the Gate has expressed its deep regret over the lifting of the fracking moratorium in the state, with very limited protection for a few small areas.

WA spokesperson for the group, Simone van Hattem, said fracking posed an unacceptable risk to groundwater, the production of food and fibre, and WA's unique environment.

"This announcement sees the Premier giving the green light for greedy gas companies to frack more than five million hectares of land in Western Australia – that's an area nearly the size of Tasmania," she said.

"Fracking will be allowed to proceed in all regions of the state where it is currently allowed, bar one.

"This approach divides Western Australians and creates two classes – those few who are protected from fracking, and those who will be sacrificed for the sake of a quick buck from the greedy gas companies.

"Instead of learning from Victorian Labor, which was swept to a massive electoral victory after promising to enshrine its fracking ban in the state's constitution, WA Labor has chosen to take the state down this risky road.

"Lock the Gate condemns this decision in the strongest terms possible, and vows to continue to work alongside communities in the fight against unconventional gasfields in WA.

Farmers, Traditional Owners can say no

"The only ray of hope here is that the government has committed to give farmers and Traditional Owners the right to say no, but it remains to be seen what that looks like.

"The fracking inquiry was based on extremely limited Terms of Reference



The WA government is given notice of continuing opposition to fracking. Photo: Frack Free WA

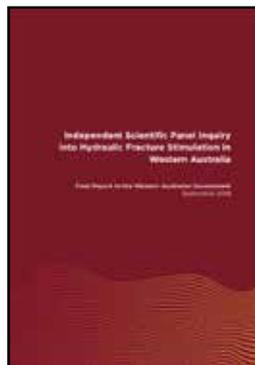
and it was too narrow to properly assess the full risks of unconventional gasfields on our communities and our environment.

"We have seen the devastation fracking can wreak in communities across Australia and overseas, and we will continue fighting so all West Australians have the right to live in healthy communities.

"This will be devastating for both the Kimberley and the mid-west of WA."

The WA fracking report can be downloaded here:

<https://frackinginquiry.wa.gov.au/>

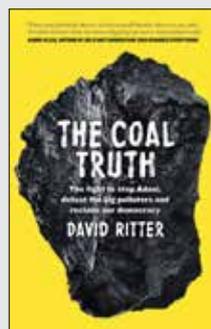


FFB

The Coal Truth: the fight to stop Adani, defeat the big polluters and reclaim our democracy (\$29.99)

A timely and colourful contribution to one of the most important struggles in our national history – over the future of the coal industry.

Contributors include Tara Moss and Berndt Sellheim, Adrian Burragubba, Lesley Hughes, John Quiggin, Hilary Bambrick, Ruchira Talukdar and Geoffrey Cousins. Lead author is David Ritter, CEO, Greenpeace Australia Pacific.



FFB

LTG calls for NSW mining inquiry

Lock the Gate Alliance is calling on Energy and Resources Minister Don Harwin to initiate a Special Commission of Inquiry into the handling of mining and exploration titles, and for a freeze on titles being processed.

The call comes following fresh revelations from a second NSW mining agency whistleblower.

The *Newcastle Herald* has reported a second whistleblower from the Resources and Geosciences Division of the Department of Planning and Environment was allegedly sacked after raising concerns about "inappropriate and potentially unlawful conduct" in the agency's dealing with whistleblower Rebecca Connor.

(See news items, p12.)

Lock the Gate NSW coordinator Georgina Woods said: "We have written to the Minister asking him to launch a Special Commission of Inquiry into the handling of mining titles.

ICAC: Mining "uniquely vulnerable to corruption"

"This is an area of Government activity that the ICAC has described as uniquely vulnerable to corruption, and half measures will not stamp out the culture described by whistleblowers.

"The people of NSW can no longer have confidence that the administration of mining titles in NSW is being managed in a fair and unbiased manner in the public interest. The integrity of the system itself is in question.

"Without a full inquiry we have no way of knowing how widespread the problems identified by whistleblower Rebecca Connor are in the Resources and Geosciences Division of the Department of Planning.

"The only way the Minister can restore confidence is to launch a Special Commission of Inquiry into the whole system, and cease processing all mining and exploration titles while the inquiry is underway."

Adani mine announcement condemned

Lock the Gate Alliance has dismissed Adani's announcement that it's ready to start construction as wishful thinking, with several approvals and a court challenge still outstanding.

In particular, the mining giant is yet to receive approval for its Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Management Plan – a vital requirement that it needs before major construction can start, which was only re-submitted to the Queensland Government last week.

The announcement also came as Queensland experienced extreme weather that is being driven by human-induced climate change: half the state is on fire and we are witnessing terrifying heat waves that have not just broken previous records, but smashed them by more than five degrees in some places.

This prompted Australia Institute deputy director, Ebony Bennett, to comment, "Watching a senior minister [Matt Canavan] tweet photos of bush-fire devastation in Queensland while applauding Adani's coal mine is like watching someone hand out cigarettes to cancer patients."

Battle far from over

Lock the Gate Queensland spokesperson Ellie Smith said the battle was far from over.

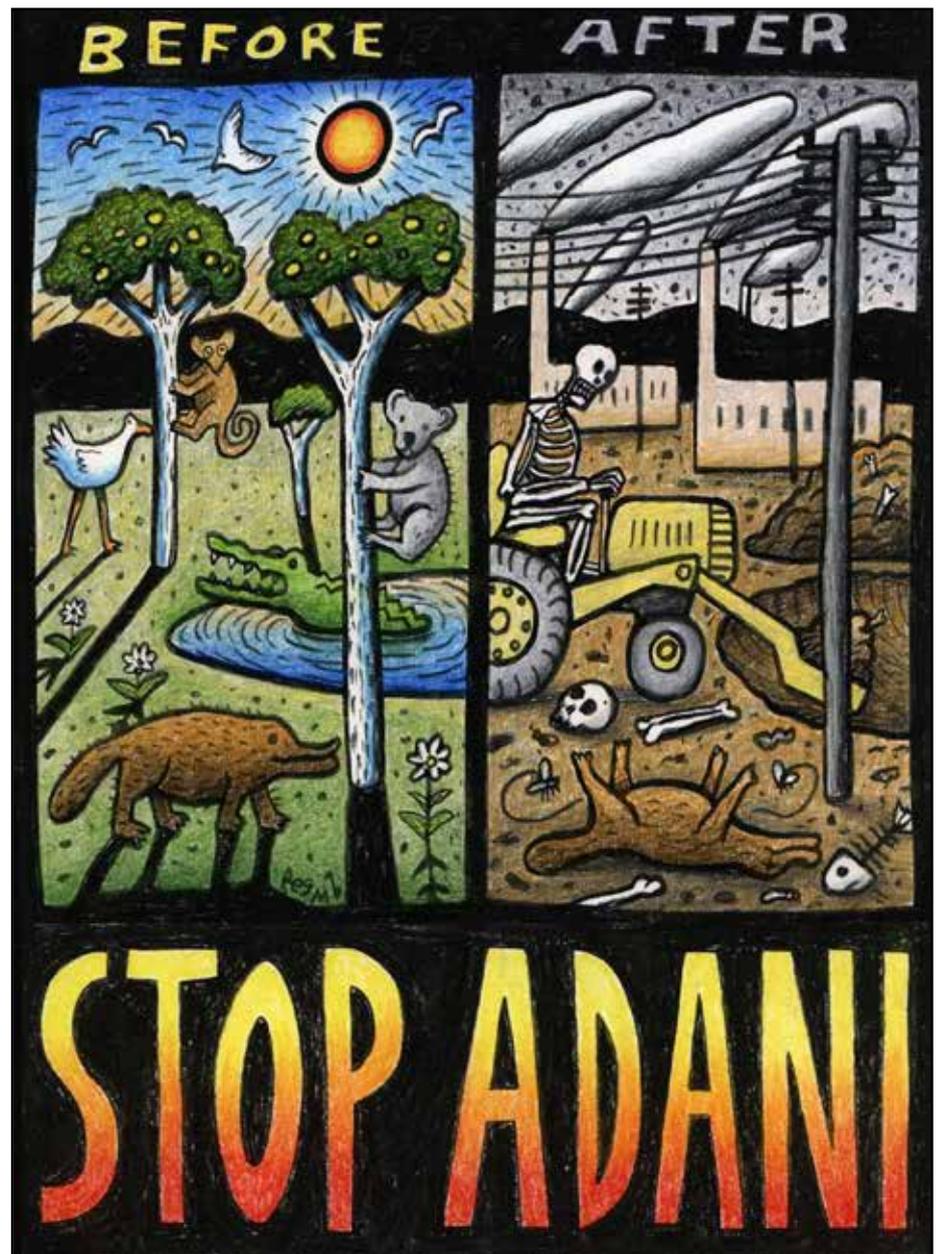
"This is just another attempt by Adani to put the pressure on politicians to rush through vital groundwater assessments which still require approval," Smith said.

"The Queensland Government must not be bullied into approving Adani's flawed management plans and they must require more research into the devastating impacts of this mine on water resources.

"While Central Queensland suffers from drought, heatwaves and bushfires, the last thing Queenslanders want is this colossal, water guzzling mine which will fuel extreme weather further.

"It's time for the Queensland Government to get off the fence and protect our water.

Adani is also still fighting a legal battle with the W&J Traditional Owners in relation to native title.



ACF calls for politicians to take a stand

In response to the news, Australian Conservation Foundation Chief Executive Officer, Kelly O'Shanassy, said:

"The mega-polluting Adani coal mine is one step closer to being built. Our elected representatives now have a clear choice on Adani.

"Do they support opening up a massive new coal basin right when the world's climate scientists desperately warn we must rapidly transition away from burning fossil fuels to halt global warming?

"Or do they stand with the millions of Australians who want this mine stopped to help secure a safe climate and stable communities?

"Adani remains under investigation from the Queensland Government for allegedly sinking illegal bore holes into groundwater aquifers. And Adani is being taken to court by the government for polluting the Great Barrier Reef with polluted coal water.

"The Stop Adani movement will fight this proposed mine every step of the way. There is too much at stake.

"Millions of Australia have shown up and spoken out against this climate wrecking mine. They will keep on until we stop Adani. It's time our elected representative stood with them."

• See media coverage, pages 8-11.

• 'Stop Adani' poster by artist Reg Mombassa. Picture: Stop Adani, Facebook

Nationals make it clear they represent miners, not farmers, in National Mining Day dress-up photo

By Eve Sinton

Nationals Senator Matthew Canavan last week marked National Mining Day with a hi-vis dress-up photo shoot.

“It was great to join my Nationals colleagues this morning [27/11/2018] to support our great Australian mining sector,” he said.

“We back new mines, we back new jobs and we back the great workers in our mining industry,” he wrote on his Facebook page.

Canavan was pictured (*at right*) with Ken O’Dowd MP, Senator George Christensen, Michelle Landry MP, Dr David Gillespie MP, Damian Drum MP, Barnaby Joyce MP and David Littleproud MP, and other, un-named men.

FFB has long thought the party, which purports to represent farmers and rural Australians, should be more accurately known as ‘The National Mining Party’.

The Nat’s interest in rural Australia is sharply focused on its value to resource companies, rather than representing constituents’ interests.

Meanwhile, coal mines devour prime farmland and even entire towns such as Acland and Wollar.

Gasfields industrialise and pollute entire regions, such as the Queensland’s Darling Downs.

Canavan is fond of dress-up photo opportunities. While preparing this edition of *FFB* a pair of photos emerged, showing he had attended a shoot with former Liberal mining minister, now Queensland Resources Council chief, Ian Macfarlane. (*Right, centre & bottom.*)

Both posed in a coal mine somewhere for photographer John Gass.

We hope they all washed their hands before climbing back on the corporate jet.

Michaelwest.com has been documenting high-level links between government and fossil fuel or other extractive industries (see p16).

The pollies in Canavan’s dress-up photo are only part of the picture. Michaelwest.com lists the following players in the revolving door game between government and industry:

Nationals: John Anderson, Larry Anthony, Mark Vaile.



Liberal: Peter Costello, Alexander Downer, Nick Greiner, Peter Lindsay, Ian Macfarlane, James McGrath, Nick Minchin, John Olsen, Arthur Sinodinos, Michael Photios, Michael Yabsley.

Labor: Nick Bolkus, Greg Combet, John Dawkins, Jim Elder, Craig Emerson,

Martin Ferguson, Gary Gray, Alan Griffiths, Wayne Matthew, Tony Mooney.

See more about the issue here:

<https://www.michaelwest.com.au/revolving-doors-top-24/>

Musical multi-media show captures victory



Last Thursday in Lismore, Cloudcatcher Media launched a new performance concept in artivism.

'Confusing Them With Our Joy' will be a live, two hour musical multimedia show about the Northern Rivers' historic victory against invasive gasfields and what it means for the future. It will premiere on the fifth anniversary of the Bentley win, in May 2019.

The experience will unfold across three big screens (a spectacular triple HD total image, twice as wide as Cinemascope), separated by two musicians, using a combination of documentary and new imagery. The musical spine will be provided by the much-loved bard of the movement, Luke Vassella. This show will be immersive and interactive, the closest thing to being back there on the frontline.

'Confusing Them With Our Joy' will honour the artists of all kinds who were such a big part of the movement's success, including many unseen gems, moments of pathos, comedy, animation and a big dose of the disruptive joyful

confusion that the Northern Rivers of NSW has been famous for since the Aquarius festival.

Inspiration for communities fighting gas

Not just a film, this will be a touring multimedia show about a community which refused to become a gasfield. 'Confusing Them With Our Joy' asks – what did we learn that could help other communities staring down the fossil fuel and climate change threat? Can we fight the global struggles we face with humanity, art and joy?

Along with tickets to the live shows in 2019, Cloudcatcher are pre-selling double CDs, a movie version of the performance and a number of other great rewards. The show is designed to be scaleable. It can play anywhere from community halls to large outdoor spaces.

Follow developments here:

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



Gas import terminal, pipeline must have EIS

Crib Point residents and the Save Westernport community group are delighted the Federal Department of Environment and Energy has announced AGL's gas import project will need to be assessed and approved under the federal EPBC Act before it can proceed.

As well as taking part in the Victorian Environment Effects Study (EES) already underway, AGL will need to provide further information such as an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The Department has also decided the associated APA gas pipeline from Crib Point jetty to the Pakenham gas hub will need to be assessed and approved under same legislation, as well as the Victorian EES process. Under the EPBC Act, wetlands of international impor-

tance and listed threatened species and communities will be a focus of the APA environmental assessment.

The Victorian government has released draft scoping requirements for the gas import jetty and pipeline EES process.

In related news, AIE's Port Kembla gas terminal preliminary environmental assessment documents, including a hazard and risk appendix, are available for download.

The Port Kembla project has attracted little public concern, despite being very close to a cruise ship berth and within two kilometres of residential areas, schools, community centres and public recreational land.



Australia's greenhouse gas emissions reach new peak

New government data released last week shows Australia's greenhouse gas emissions are still on the rise and Australia is still not on track to meet our Paris target.

New Australia Institute analysis shows emissions are at their highest since June 2011 (before the introduction of the carbon price).

"Over the last five years this Government has failed to put in place any policies that have reduced Australia's national emissions," said Matt Grudnoff, report author and senior economist at The Australia Institute.

"This also makes it the fourth year in row that emissions have been increasing.

"On the same day that the Prime Minister has been criticising children for striking for climate action the Government's own data shows that Australia's emissions continue to rise."

Embarrassment for enviro minister

"This data is an embarrassment for the Environment Minister right as she takes off for her first UN Climate Conference. It shows the Government's policies are not just failing to reach the target, they are failing to even reduce emissions," said Richie Merzian, Climate & Energy Program Director at The Australia Institute.

"If Australia is to meet its Paris Target then the Government needs actual climate policies in order to reduce our emissions.

"The Government can't claim credibility from the Kyoto Protocol to show it can reduce emissions and meet targets. Kyoto 1 allowed emissions to increase and used land clearing loopholes to reach target. Without those loopholes emissions would have increased by 28%.

"The Government banked credits from increasing emissions under Kyoto 1 in order to be on target to reach Kyoto 2. Without credits, rather than reduce emissions by 5%, emissions would be flat under Kyoto 2.

"To reach the Paris target emissions will actually have to reduce."



Armour Energy shareholders get message: Don't frack Surat



Armour Energy shareholders entering the company's AGM on Tuesday, November 27, saw there's another side to the gas projects they are being encouraged to support in Queensland's Surat Basin.

While the company is excited to have been granted new gas licences near the town of Surat, a group of Knitting Nannas and friends told them local residents and farmers are dismayed.

Knitting Nannas spokesperson, Dot Moller, said: "We want Armour Energy shareholders to know communities located in this new development have not given a social licence for the project.

"It's like a mini-goldrush in the Surat Basin and residents know their lives will be severely affected by these new

gasfields."

Surat Basin resident, Leanne Brummel, said she is dismayed that some of Armour Energy's Myall Creek projects have received funding from the federal government. She is concerned the developments will harm the Balonne River and impact on Aboriginal heritage in the area.

The Nannas (*top photo*) attracted plenty of attention, including chats with both Queensland and Federal police – who appeared to decide they weren't dangerous.

Amongst the Nannas' concerns are Armour's drill pad work practices, such as stacking highly toxic chemicals haphazardly alongside the fence (*photo below*).

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School kids' protest panics denialists

Thousands of kids took to the streets of about 30 cities and towns across Australia as part of the Student Strike 4 Climate Action on November 30.

The Australian Senate passed a motion in support of the student strikers, who were calling for a national policy to tackle dangerous climate change.

In response, Sydney Strike Organiser Jean Hinchliffe, 14 years old, from Fort Street High, said:

"As our Prime Minister chooses to ignore the ever increasing problem of climate change, our generation has decided to step up and fill the void. We thank the Senators who have chosen to stand with young people in Parliament today, and we call on more politicians from all sides of politics to do the same.

"We need all politicians and any future government to take the action scientists tell us we need – that means a commitment to stop Adani's coal mine and a plan to transition away from all fossil fuels to 100% renewable energy by 2030.

"To those who voted against our motion for climate action in Parliament today, we say: You may not have to live through 50 degree days, bushfires and crippling drought, but we will. Already, we are living with climate impacts and the toll it is taking on us as young people is huge. Right now, we're literally fighting for our lives".

Canavan: Head for the dole queue

The strike drew condemnation from climate denialist politicians, with Matt Canavan saying the kids' actions would only lead them to the dole queue. He said they should stay in class and learn how to drill for oil.

Coal crony, Craig Kelly, advised the students to give up icecream if they were worried about climate change.

On social media, the strike brought out dozens of trolls saying the lights will go out if we transition to renewables, and that we can't have modern technology without coal-fired power stations.

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

Inside the news

Two events dominated the news this week: **Adani** said it was about to start work on its self-financed Carmichael Mine, and the **WA** Premier has opened up five million hectares of the state for **fracking**.

In **India**, Adani was accused of **'looting' Mumbai** as power bills doubled after the company took over Reliance Infrastructure (p11).

The billionaire also chose not to appear in a court case, the prosecution of two men accused of **kidnaping Adani for ransom** 20 years ago. The pair was acquitted, as have been half a dozen fellow accused.

News that the **WA** fracking ban has been lifted in parts of the state caused a lot of reaction and demonstrations (p13-15). One person who won't be pleased is billionaire **Andrew Forrest**, whose **Squadron Energy** gas tenements fall outside the fracking area. Some commentators think Forrest will take the matter to court.

Acrimony over laws that would give **miners access to farmland** in **South Australia** spilled over in Parliament, with a Liberal MP crossing the floor to side with Labor on the legislation. This resulted in the debate being delayed until next year (p13). Meanwhile, the farmers and miners aired their cases in *The Advertiser*.

The *Newcastle Herald* continued its excellent series on **corruption** in the **NSW Planning** department concerning Hunter Valley coal mines (p12).

Gasco **Carbon Energy**, once fined for pollution caused by underground coal gasification on the Darling Downs, has gone into **administration** after a share purchase plan failed (p16).

As if proposed coal mines in the **Galilee Basin** are not enough of a worry, gas explorers are making their way into the area. **Comet Ridge** and **Galilee Energy** are both moving toward production, hoping to sell gas to power the Carmichael coal mine.

Meanwhile, in the NT, **Origin** and **Santos** are sinking groundwater monitoring bores ahead of drilling and fracking the **Betaloo Basin**.

Lighting up at Leigh Creek

Leigh Creek resident Carrie-Ann Smith's persistent questioning has revealed some details of the ignition process at the Leigh Creek Energy Project's underground coal gasification scheme.

A company official said LPG (liquid petroleum gas) was used in the initial ignition process. The company later reported a lack of progress to the stock exchange – i.e. the well fizzled out.

The official said an air/methane gas mixture is to be injected into the inlet well during the re-ignition process. When in contact with combusting coal, this mixture is expected to self-ignite and accelerate the gasification process.

Methane is produced by coal gasification so the gas components will be effectively unchanged, he said.

Gladstone carbon bomb

The draft terms of reference for an environmental impact statement for the Gladstone Energy and Ammonia Project are now available from the Queensland Coordinator General's website.

This project is a carbon bomb, and will emit 30 million tonnes of CO₂, as well as other noxious emissions, over a 30-year period.

It will use unsaleable, low-grade coal to produce ammonia for local industries and export. See a link to the overview on p13.

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>

In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 33,000 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/construction-to-begin-on-adanis-carmichael-coalmine/news-story/47e23f0792349d12d2bec973fd3eb0bf>

Adani's Carmichael coalmine to begin construction within weeks

Michael McKenna, *The Australian*, 29/11/2018

Adani's Carmichael coalmine in central Queensland will begin construction within weeks after the Indian conglomerate today announced it will fund the project itself following years of legal delays and protests.

Once touted as Australia's biggest-ever proposed coalmine, with a target to produce 60 million tonnes-a-year, the project has been scaled back to an initial output of 10 million tonnes-a-year before ramping-up to an annual 27.5 million tonnes within the decade.

The controversial project – once costed at \$16.5 billion – is now expected to initially cost less than \$2 billion and be in full production in two years.

An estimated 1500 jobs will be created in the construction and “ramp-up” stage of the mine and rail project, and several hundred people will be employed on a permanent basis.

The start of construction marks the first mine to tap the massive coal reserves in the Galilee Basin, west of Mackay, where there are at least five other major coalmines being proposed, potentially employing 15,000 people. ...

Local Adani boss Lucas Dow today addressed a meeting in Mackay of community leaders, mining industry leaders and suppliers, telling them that the Adani Group would now finance the entire project.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-29/adani-carmichael-coal-mine-go-ahead-plans-to-self-fund/10567848?fbclid=IwAR18yoFBXMcUGs0VpfPyAXTdohs11j2v5tM9YDEX-aWJmBosGkfcRkrwKsc>

Adani's Carmichael coal mine to go ahead with plans to self-fund entire operation

Michael Slezak, *ABC*, 29/11/2018

Indian energy giant Adani has announced its Carmichael mine and rail project in central Queensland will go ahead – and will be 100 per cent self-financed.



Adani Australia chief, Lucas Dow, pictured recently in the *Townsville Bulletin*.

The controversial mine in the Galilee Basin has been scaled back significantly from earlier plans, following years of legal and environmental disputes.

Adani Mining chief executive officer Lucas Dow said the mine would initially begin on a small scale and “ramp up” to a capacity of 27.5 million tonnes a year – less than half the size of the approved project. ...

Mining lobby group the Minerals Council of Australia welcomed the news, saying it would provide an economic boost. ...

The federal Resources Minister, Matt Canavan, congratulated the company on its “focus and commitment to the project”. ...

Australian Conservation Foundation CEO Kelly O'Shanassy said: “Make no mistake. Many on both sides of politics understand burning the coal from the Adani mine and the broader Galilee Basin will be terribly damaging for our climate.”

Ms O'Shanassy also said the announcement did not necessarily mean the mine would go ahead.

“There are numerous regulatory hurdles, approvals and management plans to clear. Adani still needs to sign contracts, secure access to rail lines and unacceptably move to extinguish native title,” she said.

“Adani remains under investigation from the Queensland Government for allegedly sinking illegal bore holes into groundwater aquifers.

“And Adani is being taken to court by the Government for polluting the Great Battier Reef with polluted coal water.”

Julien Vincent, executive director of financial activist group Market Forces, said the announcement of the financing was “highly questionable”.

“Financial close is what happens when everything is in place,” Mr Vincent said.

“This is a project that still doesn't have all of its approvals.

“Its claims of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement are being challenged in the High Court, there's a 200-kilometre gap with no rail line, no-one on the hook to build it, and no guarantee of access to the existing rail network at the other end.” ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-29/adani-mini-mine-gets-go-ahead-from-indian-parent/10568420>

Adani's Carmichael mini-mine opens the floodgates for more Queensland coal mines

Stephen Long, *ABC*, 29/11/2018

It's not the mega-mine promised, or feared – but, if we can believe Adani's assurances, it's nonetheless a game changer that will open a vast new

coal-mining region, the last major untapped coal resource in Australia. ...

One suspects there may be a political strategy in play in the timing of Adani's announcement.

In the debate about climate change versus coal mining, Adani has become a totemic issue.

Announcing a go ahead – even for a small, scaled-down project – could blunt the community and political campaign against the mine and reduce the likelihood of Adani's mine becoming a major focus of the coming federal election campaign. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/nov/29/adani-to-begin-work-immediately-on-self-financed-mine-but-hurdles-remain>

Adani to begin work 'immediately' on self-financed mine, but hurdles remain

Ben Smees, The Guardian, 29/11/2018

Adani has made a string of announcements in recent months that indicated the company would scale back its mine, rail and port plans, having been unable to find an outside investor.

The company's Australian mining chief, Lucas Dow, said on Thursday the mine would be a "smaller open-cut mine ..."

"The project stacks up both environmentally and financially," Dow said.

Dow made the company announcement in Mackay, while the surrounding areas of central Queensland were engulfed in a what is considered an "unprecedented" heatwave and bush-fire emergency. ...

But Guardian Australia has confirmed construction cannot start until two ... regulatory hurdles are cleared. Critical rail and royalties agreements, both which add more than \$100m to the cost of the project, also remain unsigned. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/dec/01/carmichael-mine-federal-election-rail-access-native-title>

Carmichael mine: federal election, rail access and native title stand in the way

Ben Smees, The Guardian, 01/12/2018

The Indian mining giant Adani could be left in limbo until September – well after the federal election – before learning whether its controversial Carmichael coal project will be allowed to access the Queensland freight rail network. ...

Adani is understood to be nervous about the prospect of Labor winning next year's federal election and subsequently imposing roadblocks or winding back approvals, and the company is eager to get the construction of Carmichael past a point of no return before that occurs. ...

Aurizon is required by law to enter into negotiations with Adani but has 12 months from September, when the company first applied for network access, to make a decision. Aurizon is also required to consult its existing users as part of the assessment process. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/insight/adanis-carmichael-mine-set-to-go-within-a-fortnight/news-story/b61414a1a902e601df1c1a62c1d17877>

Adani's Carmichael mine set to go within a fortnight

Steven Scott, Courier-Mail, 01/12/2018

Three years ago Anastacia Palaszczuk was happy to smile and shake hands with Indian billionaire Gautam Adani shortly after the state approved a lease for what was billed as Australia's biggest coal mine.

But fast forward to this week, when Adani Mining announced it would go ahead with a considerably scaled down project in the Galilee Basin, the Premier had little to say. ...

Bill Shorten, who is likely to be prime minister when the company forecasts its new mega mine will be operational, was similarly restrained. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/poll-reveals-state-split-over-adani-megamine/news-story/2076bb-b14129a69868f36486ce203680>

Poll reveals state split over Adani megamine

Steven Scott, Courier-Mail, 01/12/2018

Queensland voters are divided over the Adani coalmine, and opposition to the controversial project is hardening.

A new YouGov Galaxy poll conducted for *The Courier-Mail* showed 44 per cent opposed to the project while 38 per cent supported it.

A February poll this year had voters for and against equally split at 44 per cent.

One in five voters remain uncommitted, the poll of 839 voters found.

In a sign of division between city and country, there were more opponents (47 per cent) than supporters (34 per cent) in southeast Queensland while these numbers were reversed in re-

gional areas, with 47 per cent support and 38 per cent opposition.

Opinion is also divided among Labor and LNP voters. Just over half of LNP voters back the mine while close to a third oppose it.

Among Labor voters, about a quarter are in favour and half in opposition. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/mining-giant-adani-asked-to-guarantee-jobs-for-queenslanders/news-story/e1c70ed5e330a72a6bd18fc12ad40875>

Mining giant Adani asked to guarantee jobs for Queenslanders

Clare Armstrong, Townsville Bulletin, 01/12/2018

Adani has been asked to guarantee Queenslanders get priority for jobs on its long-awaited Carmichael mine. ...

On Friday, LNP leader Deb Frecklington sent a letter, seen by the Bulletin, to Adani Australia Mining chief executive Lucas Dow requesting an update on the jobs and opportunities promised to central and North Queensland residents. ...



<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/adani-says-it-has-the-finance-and-is-ready-to-start-building-a-mine/news-story/57951c02b0e7da5d46e97b411774b9d7>

Adani says it has the finance and is ready to start building a mine

Tony Raggatt, Townsville Bulletin, 01/12/2018

Indian-backed energy and infrastructure group Adani overcame eight years of setbacks and delays to announce the go-ahead for its contentious Carmichael coal and rail project in central Queensland. ...

Adani Mining CEO Lucas Dow has committed to maintain Townsville and Rockhampton as the primary sources for workers, although plans for the two cities to be fly-in fly-out hubs have also been scrapped. ...

https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/state/qld/2018/11/29/adani-mine-self-finance/?utm_source=Adestra&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=PM%20Update%2020181129

Adani to self-finance mine, with works 'imminent'

New Daily, 29/11/2018

Mining giant Adani will fund the entire cost of its controversial Queensland coal mine project by itself and says major works are imminent. ...

Adani could also open the entire Galilee Basin to exploration, with mine projects from GVK/Hancock and the China Stone already given preliminary approval. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/galilee-basin-coal-boom-looms-after-adani-start/news-story/3ba7b05087c93fa125feb63074c8b751>

Galilee Basin coal boom looms after Adani start

Michael McKenna & Jared Owens, The Australian, 29/11/2018

Australia is on the brink of opening up a massive, untapped coal province after Adani committed to begin construction of its controversial Carmichael mine project in central Queensland before Christmas. ...

Adani's decision to self-fund a scaled-down version of its original mine-rail proposal – involving what would have been Australia's biggest-ever coalmine – could pave the way for five other proposed mines in the basin. Its planned rail link to the Abbot Point port will be opened for use to Adani's rivals, with an initial coal-hauling capacity of 40 million tonnes a year that could be doubled within a few years. ...

Federal Resources Minister Matt Canavan congratulated the company's commitment despite having faced "longstanding, ill-informed protest" and state government indecision.

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/business/mixed-reaction-to-go-ahead-for-adanis-carmichael-project/news-story/af54302ee1b0a449adb59e1ffe25bc59>

Mixed reaction to go-ahead for Adani's Carmichael project

Tony Raggatt, Townsville Bulletin, 30/11/2018

The go-ahead to Adani's Carmichael coal project has been lauded and lambasted with politicians urging "law-breaking extreme greens" to accept defeat and conservationists vowing to continue the fight "every step of the way".

Somewhere in between is the ALP with State Labor Member for Townsville Scott Stewart welcoming the jobs but stopping short of support for opening



Adani has had no greater cheerleader than the Townsville Bulletin.

the Galilee Basin coalfields to development.

LNP Federal Member for Dawson George Christensen said that after eight years of green attacks and court challenges, Adani should be congratulated on their tenacity. ...

"Despite the naysayers, the relentless extreme green attacks, and the total lack of support from Labor, Adani will finance their own project," Mr Christensen said.

"I say to the reckless law-breaking extreme greens and your Labor mates – accept defeat because it's all go as far as Adani is concerned." ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/mining-council-chief-says-galilee-basin-coal-should-be-developed/news-story/5b67bad032704362f0e06ed1f0593700>

Mining council chief says Galilee Basin coal should be developed

Ian Macfarlane, Townsville Bulletin, 30/11/2018

The Adani announcement is great news for Queensland and great news for regional Queensland, in particular, because every new resources project benefits all of us. ...

All resources projects comply with the highest environmental standards that allow mining to coexist with other industries such as agriculture and tourism. There can be no more tolerance of anti-resources activists breaking the law to stand in the way of lawful projects. And there can be no more tolerance of activists abusing the law to delay projects on trumped-up grounds. ...

• *Ian Macfarlane is chief executive of the Queensland Resources Council*

<https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/business/companies/adani-to-begin-construction-on-scaled-back-carmichael-mine/news-story/9282ec26009dec03cbd7bc31e03b432a>

Adani to begin construction on scaled-back Carmichael mine

Charis Chang, news.com.au, 29/11/2018

Environmental groups have reacted with anger at Adani's announcement that it will self-fund the construction of its controversial Carmichael mine and that work will begin soon. ...

Environmental groups have already vowed to continue the fight against the mine, saying it was not in Australia's best interests.

The Australian Marine Conservation Society spokeswoman Imogen Zethoven said it defied belief that Adani was pushing ahead with the mine when "Queensland is experiencing record breaking heatwaves, bushfires are burning across the state and our beautiful Reef could suffer another major bleaching event this summer". ...

Environmentalist Bob Brown said his foundation would organise a cavalcade of cars from Hobart to the Central Queensland mine site in time for the next federal election.

"Let the issue be decided in the ballot box," he said. "Australians can choose between coal and coral." ...

https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/queensland/2018/11/30/adani-mine-queensland/?utm_source=Adestra&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=PM%20Update%2020181130

Queensland premier sceptical of scaled-down version of controversial Adani mine

Natalie Bochenski, New Daily, 30/11/2018

The Queensland premier has called on Adani to provide more details about its scaled-down Carmichael coal mine.

Annastacia Palaszczuk ... says Adani's new plans are very different from what it originally promised and will require

new negotiations, telling ABC television: "We will believe it when we see it." ...

Federal Minister for Northern Australia Matt Canavan, who lives in Rockhampton near where fires have threatened homes, described Adani on social media as "a little Aussie battler" that "just keeps chugging along".

Greens Senator Larissa Waters responded: "Min Canavan congratulating Adani for self-funding its climate-destroying coal mine as his hometown burns is tragic irony and neglect." ...

<https://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/senator-matthew-canavan-cops-backlash-over-tone-deaf-tweet-during-bush-fires/news-story/2efed2488ee3660cc6b556e9eb7ca75e>

Senator Matthew Canavan cops backlash over 'tone deaf' tweet during bushfires

Ben Graham, news.com.au, 30/11/2018

It was supposed to be a positive social media announcement about a "little Aussie battler" providing jobs for fair dinkum Aussie families – but Matthew Canavan is copping a backlash over a "tone deaf" and "shameful" tweet.

As ferocious bushfires raged across the Sunshine State yesterday, the Liberal senator took to social media to reveal some news on Adani's controversial proposed Queensland coal mine.

"It has been a tough couple of days in Central Queensland through the bushfires," he began. "We have had some great news today though with Adani announcing that they have secured finance and plan to start work before Christmas!"

Bizarrely, he goes on to describe Adani – an Indian multinational conglomerate headquartered in Ahmedabad in Gujarat, India – as a "little Aussie battler".

"So many have written it off but they just keep chugging along!" he cheerily wrote. "We need these jobs and this great news for the future of central and north Queensland."

However, the social media post has gone down like a cup of cold sick with hundreds who roundly mocked the senator.

Greens MP for Melbourne Adam Bandt tweeted, "Matt Canavan, you are a danger to human life." ...

Today, the Climate Council says the Adani decision poses a "grave risk" to Australia. ...

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/national/2018/11/26/mining-for-power-adani/>

Mining for power: How Adani hopes to get its way

New Daily, 26/11/2018

Adani's proposed Carmichael coal mine in Central Queensland is nothing if not controversial. Yet the Indian multinational conglomerate is determined to turn its mega mine dream into reality.

Pushing an uphill battle against public opinion, political appetite and fund sourcing, Adani's "people" are in the ear of Australia's decision makers consistently.

Like no other entity currently on the Australian political landscape, Adani needs representation at the highest levels of government.

And it is paying the big bucks to make sure it gets exactly that.

The Australian Government Lobbyists Register lists Govstrat Pty Ltd as Adani's chief lobbyist company.

Govstrat is headed by former Queensland Labor Party treasurer Damian Power.

The company employs as its senior counsel and principal adviser the former Queensland premier and Nationals Party leader Rob Borbidge.

Labor leader Bill Shorten's one-time chief of staff Ken Macpherson is also on the books as a Govstrat lobbyist as is Jeff Popp, who was chief of staff to the former Liberal National Party Queensland deputy premier Jeff Seeney. ...

Also on the lobbyists register is the firm Strategic Political Counsel Pty Ltd, a newish company founded by Michael Kauter – a personal friend of former deputy prime minister Barnaby Joyce.

Among the clients listed under Strategic Political Counsel are British American Tobacco Australia, the Australian Lotteries and Newsagents Association, and one Adani Australia. ...

Another Canberra powerbroker who asked for anonymity spoke somewhat more grimly about the current power of the mining lobbyists.

"Lobbyists' ability to influence legislation right now is zero because there is a federal election on the horizon," the contact said.

"To some degree, lobbyists are butt kickers, but the problem is right now that we don't know whose butt to kick. ...

"Adani wants the best and is willing to pay for it. But there is a fatigue factor setting in with a lot of mining lobbyists. Adani is no exception."

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/pm-modi-his-friends-adani-ambani-looting-mumbai-sanjay-nirupam-1393730-2018-11-22>

PM Modi, his friends Adani, Ambani looting Mumbai: Sanjay Nirupam

Mayuresh Ganapatye, India Today, 23/11/2018

Mumbai Congress chief Sanjay Nirupam produced documents comparing the rise in electricity bill charges in Mumbai's suburban areas after Adani Power came in.

Nirupam accused Adani Electricity Mumbai Limited (AEML) of looting Mumbaikars. He claimed that the electricity charges have doubled since Reliance Infrastructure (RInfra) sold its power business in Mumbai to Adani Transmission. ...

Calling Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani and Anil Ambani 'friends' of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Nirupam said, "Instead of encouraging privatisation in an honest way, the Modi-led BJP government has created an environment where private firms are looting the common people. Initially, Anil Ambani looted the people and now Adani is doing the same. Aren't Gautam Adani and Anil Ambani close friends with PM Modi?" ...

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/two-acquitted-in-adani-kidnapping-case/article-show/66888687.cms>

Two acquitted in Adani kidnapping case Times of India, 01/12/2018

Times of India, 01/12/2018

A sessions court at the Mirzapur rural court campus on Friday acquitted two men who were arrested and tried for kidnapping industrialist Gautam Adani twenty years ago.

Adani did not appear in court to depose and insisted that his earlier statement, made during the trial of the other accused person, ought to be taken into consideration ...

After the trial, the court did not find adequate evidence against Rehaman and Darji, and acquitted both of them. The court had earlier acquitted half a dozen other accused...

The alleged kidnapping had taken place on the evening of January 1, 1998, when Adani and Shantilal Patel were driving from Karnavati Club to Mohammedpura village. The car was intercepted and both of them were

kidnapped at gunpoint ... the kidnapers then demanded a ransom.

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/greenies-could-use-echidna-habitat-to-stop-china-stone-coal-mine/news-story/db676c37d6fd93d66c918eace732fc0>

Greenies could use echidna habitat to stop China Stone coal mine

Daryl Passmore, Courier-Mail, 24/11/2018

Greenies are trying to use an elusive echidna to spike plans for a \$7 billion new mine in Queensland. ...

“The Queensland Government has failed to protect our communities by giving this mine a tick,” said Australian Conservation Foundation chief executive Kelly O’Shanassy. “The Federal Government must now reject it ... Just like Adani, this mine also represents a major threat to Queensland’s precious clean water and would destroy habitat for native species like koalas, the black-throated finch and short-beaked echidna.” ...

<https://www.australianmining.com.au/news/macmines-gains-environmental-approval-6-7bn-qld-coal-mine/>

MacMines gains environmental approval for \$6.7bn QLD coal mine

Australian Mining, 26/11/2016

MacMines Austasia has received the environmental nod from the Queensland Government for its greenfield China Stone coal mine in the Galilee Basin. The proposed \$6.7 billion mine is expected to deliver 3900 construction jobs and 3400 operational jobs to the region if it is developed.

Queensland’s coordinator-general Barry Broe, who conditionally approved the project, said in an environmental impact statement (EIS) that “there are significant local, regional and state benefits to be derived from the China Stone coal project”.

The conditions for approval include the progressive rehabilitation of land used by the mine for animal grazing and habitats, and backfilling of open-cut mine pits to minimise groundwater impacts. ...

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5777455/artc-must-face-up-to-track-constraints/>

Opinion: Sandy Hollow rail line cannot take on any more trains

Bev Smiles, Newcastle Herald, 27/11/2018

It is very rare for community groups to agree with coal mining companies, but this is the case regarding Australia-

lian Rail Track Corporation’s (ARTC) management of the Sandy Hollow rail line. ...

The Sandy Hollow line is already over committed and cannot carry the volume of coal already approved across the three mines at the far western end of the Hunter Valley.

The Ulan, Moolarben and Wilpinjong coal mines have been approved to produce a combined volume of 50 million tonnes of coal per year.

Wollar Progress Association agrees with the submission lodged by Glenore to the Independent Planning Commission on the Bylong Mine proposal.

It states that constraints on the Sandy Hollow rail line allow for no more coal trains. ...

The Wollar community has had a long running debate with ARTC over coal trains blocking road access in our area.

Trains have stopped across level crossings for up to 20 minutes and have at times prevented emergency service vehicle access to local fires in the district. ... The Bylong Coal Project proposes to add up to another 10 trains a day on the line.

This means longer delays in passing loops and possibly more loss of road access through blocked level crossings. ...

• *Bev Smiles is the secretary of Wollar Progress Association*

https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5772398/lost-and-found-new-questions-about-the-department-of-planning-and-mining/?cs=7573&fbclid=IwAR2ly_URoSi4RvKbngvct-zogq1mUr4vtz146CD_6EMXxX05SCvp8yi0V2A

Department confirms employee mining link in Ridglands \$5 million community fund case

Joanne McCarthy, Newcastle Herald, 24/11/2018

A Hunter Department of Planning employee married to a coal miner played a key role in mining company Ridglands’ attempt to cut a community fund from \$5 million to \$500,000, prompting questions in NSW Parliament about associations with the mining industry and ending months of silence from the NSW Government about department involvement. ...

The department confirmed the department employee dealing with the Ridglands fund request was married to a Hunter underground coal miner. The employee had completed a conflict of interest form and her husband did not work for Ridglands, a spokesperson said. ...

The department denied misleading the public about Ridglands, including failing to ensure the company complied with its exploration licence conditions, failing to ensure the community fund’s establishment and promotion, and failing to confirm its involvement with the company’s attempt to reduce the fund to a tenth of the licence condition. ...

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5782497/second-whistleblower-accuses-department-of-be-silent-or-be-sacked-culture/?cs=12>

A sacked Department of Planning senior executive has backed a judicial inquiry

Joanne McCarthy, Newcastle Herald, 30/11/2018

A former professional standards director has accused the Department of Planning of having a “be silent or be sacked” culture after her job was abolished in May following a complaint about senior staff involved with a mining titles whistleblower investigation.

The former professional standards director’s employment was terminated under senior executive “no reason” legislation after lodging the December, 2017 complaint about the investigation, in which she also alleged “serious matters” were “kept hidden” from a resources governance unit established after damning NSW corruption inquiries. ...

She said referral of matters relating to the Connor investigation to ICAC was unlikely to address culture issues in the department.

“My concern is that ICAC is very limited in the work it can do, relating to serious and systemic corruption issues. But you have a whole body of stuff that falls outside the definition of corruption, that still provides a breeding ground for corrupt conduct,” she said.

“I just don’t think ICAC will necessarily be the best vehicle to address the serious issues in the department that need to be addressed.” ...

<https://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/5782882/wollongong-coal-finally-removing-200000-tonne-russell-vale-stockpile/>

Wollongong Coal finally removing 200,000-tonne Russell Vale waste stockpile

Ben Langford, Illawarra Mercury, 29/11/2018

Trucks will start rolling down Bellambi Lane within two weeks as Wollongong Coal starts removing the unlawful stockpile of 200,000 tonnes of waste coal from its Russell Vale mine.

But residents who have been waiting for years for action on the stockpile are

worried the six-month time limit given for the removal will risk damage in large storms. ...

Russell Vale resident Dave Bourke said he and other residents were concerned the stockpile had still not been cleared up after years on site, and went further, saying many didn't want the mine re-opened at all.

"With the rains, it may wash through the creek and turn it black again, potentially poisoning the animals and plants in the area," he said. ...

<https://theconversation.com/what-would-a-fair-energy-transition-look-like-107366>

What would a fair energy transition look like?

Franziska Mey & Chriss Briggs, The Conversation, 28/11/2018

Opposition Leader Bill Shorten announced last week that a federal Labor government would create a Just Transition Authority to oversee Australia's transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. This echoes community calls for a "fast and fair" energy transition to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

But disruptive change is already here for Australia's energy sector. ...

We must now urgently decide what a "just" and "fair" transition looks like. There are many Australians currently working in the energy sector – particularly in coal mining – who risk being left behind by the clean energy revolution. ...

• *Franziska Mey is a Senior Research Consultant, Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney*

Chriss Briggs is Research Principal, Institute for Sustainable Futures

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/consultation-period-opens-for-energy-and-ammonia-p/3589242/>

Consultation period opens for Energy and Ammonia Project

Matt Harris, Gladstone Observer, 29/11/2018

A consultation period has opened on a proposed \$1 billion Gladstone Energy and Ammonia Project to be located in the Gladstone State Development Area.

The Gladstone Energy and Ammonia project is estimated to commence construction mid-2020, with the first ammonia production proposed in mid-2022.

Minister for State Development Cameron Dick said public comment has opened on draft Terms of Reference

for the project's environmental impact statement. ...

The draft TOR is available online and in libraries for public comment until December 21.

The project overview can be found at:

<https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/assessments-and-approvals/gladstone-energy-and-ammonia-project.html>

MINING MAYHEM

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-28/liberal-mps-cross-the-floor-on-mining/10560422>

SA Liberal MPs cross the floor to oppose controversial mining bill

Tom Fedorowycsh & Cassandra Hough, ABC, 28/11/2018

A rebel Liberal MP "had no choice" but to cross the floor over debate on a contentious mining bill in South Australia's Parliament, leading to him being labelled as "destructive" and a "bloody fool".

South East MP Nick McBride, along with fellow Liberals Fraser Ellis, Dan Cregan and Steve Murray, yesterday sided with Labor on three consecutive votes to postpone debate on the amendments to the Mining Act until next year.

Mr McBride said farmers wanted the right to lock their gates to mining companies, but his own Government was not listening. ...

<https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/business/sa-business-journal/our-biggest-export-industries-farming-and-mining-argue-their-cases-in-mining-bill-debate/news-story/7b3f7e165ba7e8e0ca3b5bb1c7c56557>

Our biggest export industries, farming and mining, argue their cases in mining Bill debate

Adelaide Advertiser, 01/12/2018

Acrimony over laws that would allow mining companies access to farmers' land spilled on to the floor of State Parliament this week, delaying debate until next year. Our two biggest export industries argue their cases.

Caroline Rhodes, CEO, Grain Producers SA welcomes parliament's decision this week to adjourn the debate on the Mining Bill until February. ...

GPSA does not support the Government's Bill in its current form. We want improved land access arrangements backed by stronger regulatory oversight. ...

Rebecca Knol, CEO, SA Chamber of Mines and Energy said this week highlights the importance of consultation. Consultation with all stakeholders – particularly when the issue being

discussed has a profound impact on the financial health of a state.

There are two engine rooms in the state's economy – resources & agriculture. Combined they contribute 83 per cent of the state's exports and employ 65,900 people. ...

GAS, GAS, GAS

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/mark-mcgowan-ready-for-a-fight-over-fracking/news-story/dcdcd6b96d3a50cd8c6e4238735ff9847c-sp=5b08200b908250f6395f6d28a8b5fde5>

Mark McGowan ready for a fight over fracking

Andrew Burrell, The Australian, 26/11/2018

West Australian Premier Mark McGowan is bracing for a protracted war with green groups, celebrity activists and farmers amid speculation he will announce ... his government will lift a moratorium on fracking in the gas-rich state.

Environmentalists say the campaign against fracking – which is backed by singers Paul Kelly, Jimmy Barnes, John Butler, Peter Garrett, Missy Higgins and other stars – will dwarf the movement that helped sink Woodside's James Prince Point gas plant in the Kimberley.

The Labor government also faces a revolt from several of its own backbenchers, who last night were receiving a briefing on the issue. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-27/wa-fracking-ban-lifted-but-perth-peel-south-west-frack-free/10558892>

Fracking ban lifted by WA Government, but Perth, Peel and South West to remain 'frack free'

Eliza Laschon, ABC, 27/11/2018

The WA Government has lifted its moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, but has promised 98 per cent of the state will remain "frack free".

Premier Mark McGowan said a ban on fracking in the Perth, Peel and South West regions would be maintained.

Farmers, landowners and native title holders would also be allowed to refuse fracking on their land.

The decision comes after the release of findings from an inquiry the McGowan Government commissioned into the practice, with 44 recommendations handed down.

Mr McGowan said the Government would be adopting all of the recommendations, and would go even further to protect WA land and communities. ...

“To impose a blanket ban of fracking, when the evidence shows the risks can be managed, would undermine the state’s reputation as a safe place to invest and do business.

“We cannot turn our backs on the potential jobs, investment and new energy supply the onshore gas industry can supply.”

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/western-australia/wa-premier-mark-mcgowan-lifts-fracking-ban-20181127-p50iou.html>

Protest movement swells as Premier green-lights fracking

Emma Young & Nathan Hondros, SMH, 27/11/2018

The state government announced on Tuesday it would lift a moratorium on gas fracking in the Kimberley, Pilbara and Mid West of Western Australia on the grounds that the risks to people and environment were manageable and that it could not turn its back on industry. ...

Three unions attended a recent anti-fracking rally in Perth: United Voice, including chief executive Carolyn Smith who is also President of WA Labor; the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union; and the Maritime Union of Australia.

The McGowan government also faces potential revolt from backbenchers; insiders told *The Australian* the issue had divided caucus and there was deep anger. ...

In Broome, more than 250 people turned out with just 24 hours’ notice to protest at Entrance Point beach. There were further demonstrations on Monday night at Parliament House and in Geraldton and Exmouth.

Four Kimberley Aboriginal groups are now officially opposed to fracking on

traditional lands including Nyul Nyul, Nyikina Mangala and Ngurrara, though the Yungngora group is pro-fracking because it wants jobs for at-risk young people.

The Conservation Council of WA says that the government has broken the promise made in its 2016 election platform document “to analyse the full life-cycle of greenhouse gas emissions prior to any fracking activity”. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/fracking-ban-lifted-in-western-australia/news-story/24446378e223448836386c70caed596b>

Fracking ban lifted in Western Australia

Andrew Burrell, The Australian, 27/11/2018

Fracking will be permitted across 5.2 million hectares of Western Australia – an area about three-quarters the size of Tasmania – but gas companies will need to win approval from farmers and Aboriginal groups before using the controversial exploration technique.

WA Premier Mark McGowan said today a 12-month inquiry by an expert panel had found fracking for unconventional gas could be done safely as long as it was accompanied by strict regulation.

In a move that risks a protracted fight with green groups and celebrity activists, Mr McGowan said the government would lift its moratorium on fracking, which has halted onshore gas exploration in highly prospective regions such as the Kimberley and the Mid-West. ...

Mr McGowan said royalties from fracking projects would double to 10 per cent and the revenue would be funnelled into a new renewable energy fund. ...

<https://thewest.com.au/business/oil-gas/militant-unions-angry-over-mark-mcgowans-fracking-plan-in-was-north-ng-b881034221z>

Militant unions angry over Mark McGowan’s fracking plan for WA’s north

Nick Butterly, West Australian, 29/11/2018

Premier Mark McGowan is facing blowback from militant unions over his decision to allow limited gas fracking in WA’s north, with claims he defied the directives of WA Labor’s State executive.

Maritime Union of Australia national president Christy Cain blasted the State Government, suggesting Environment Minister Stephen Dawson should resign for “lobbying” in support of fracking.

Government backbenchers have expressed angst about the new regime ...

<https://thewest.com.au/business/energy/andrew-forrests-squadron-energy-hit-by-new-wa-fracking-restrictions-ng-b881033329z>

Andrew Forrest’s Squadron Energy hit by new WA fracking restrictions

Peter Milne, West Australian, 28/11/2018

Billionaire Andrew Forrest’s foray into Kimberley gas exploration with Squadron Energy appears to be the big loser from the State Government’s complex response to fracking. ...

Mr Forrest’s Squadron Energy together with its 20 per cent partner, the privately held Goshawk Energy, has eight permits covering over 75,000 square kilometres of the Canning Basin in the Kimberley. ...

Where fracking is not banned, permission will be needed from traditional owners and farmers.

A spokeswoman for Environment Minister Stephen Dawson said pastoralists would not have the right of veto.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-29/analysts-say-frackers-still-face-hurdles-after-moratorium-lifted/10564322?fbclid=IwAR2DF6PuCOvHoNsZgl4RWBwXr-BzDBuhGVevFQ3dXV6331DORGRQRNaNFQw>

Companies still face hurdles after WA fracking moratorium is lifted

Rhiannon Shine, ABC, 29/11/2018

Lifting a state-wide moratorium on fracking in Western Australia will lead to “very few” new jobs, despite hopes and promises of economic benefits, an independent mining analyst predicts. ...

Independent mining analyst Tim Treadgold said the key to a successful fracking industry in the state would be oil extraction.

“We have a huge gas surplus [in WA],

People in Broome quickly turned out to protest WA Premier Mark McGowan’s decision to allow fracking in parts of the state.



so the last thing we actually need is more gas," he said.

"The gas we've got we can't even develop and sell. The business case for fracking to produce oil and gas just does not add up at this point in time." ...

"It is a political hot potato, there is no doubt about that. But the commercial reality is that it is pretty much a non-event."

Mr Treadgold predicted "very few" new jobs would be created following the State Government's announcement.

"You might see a few extra field crews put out and you might see a few local people get jobs driving trucks or doing something like that," he said. ...

Bruce Robertson from the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis said this point had been proven in the United States.

"In the US you have tremendous advantages that obviously don't exist in the Kimberley," he said.

"Even with that tremendous natural advantage they have of imbedded infrastructure and cheap piping costs, the industry in the US has consistently been cash-flow negative.

"The frackers in the US have spent more on drilling than they have generated from selling oil and gas." ...

<https://thewest.com.au/opinion/nick-butterly-fracking-an-alp-reality-check-ng-b881035550z>

Nick Butterly: Fracking an ALP reality check

Nick Butterly, West Australian, 30/11/2018

Few stories better illustrate the growing gap between green idealism and the economic realities faced by Aboriginal communities than that of the Yungngora people at Noonkanbah Station in the Kimberley.

In 1980 Noonkanbah was the scene of one of Australia's seminal Aboriginal land rights clashes when WA Liberal premier Charles Court shamefully sought to force access to the area to allow American company AMEX to carry out oil drilling.

When drillers backed by police eventually got into the area it was revealed the country held no oil. But as it turns out, locals could be sitting on a rich bounty of gas.

Back then local Aboriginal groups were furiously opposed to the intrusion by resource companies, complain-



Knitting Nannas and friends let WA Premier, Mark McGowan, know they are angry at the announcement fracking will be permitted in WA.

ing drilling would violate sacred sites. Today the Yungngora people firmly back gas exploration, arguing industry will create jobs and keep local kids off the grog. ...

<https://www.greenleft.org.au/content/territorians-say-no-fracking>

Territorians say 'No' to fracking

Cathy Gill, Green Left, 29/11/2018

The Northern Territory Labor government was swept into power in 2016 promising a moratorium on horizontal hydraulic fracturing, or fracking.

However, with the lifting of the moratorium in April, the NT government is now moving to open up 51% of the Territory to the risky and highly controversial practice. ...

In response to the threat of fracking, First Nations communities are speaking out.

Protests have been held across the NT, such in Mataranka, 100 kilometres south of Katherine, where approval has been given for a fracking project.

When former prime minister and current special envoy on Indigenous Affairs Tony Abbott visited Borroloola, he was challenged about the fracking plans. The town, about 1000 kilometres out of Darwin, is already dealing with polluted water from Glencore's toxic MacArthur River mine.

Artists from NT First Nations communities have also brought exhibitions to Sydney to raise awareness of their struggles for water and against fracking. ...

<https://www.dalbyherald.com.au/news/the-countryside-grieves/3588360/>

'The countryside grieves'

Brooke Duncan, Dalby Herald, 28/11/2018

There's no shortage of opinions on fracking and unconventional gas, in Chinchilla more than most.

It makes the town a perfect stop for those wanting to learn more about the industry. And, after a moratorium on fracking in the Northern Territory was lifted earlier this year, a group of concerned NT residents has stopped in Chinchilla to do exactly that.

Co-owner of tourism company Ethical Adventures, Robert Woods, stopped in town last Thursday to meet with locals and discuss the unconventional gas industry, as he and others headed to Canberra to lobby against the reintroduction of fracking in their home state. ...

Jingili traditional owner and tour participant Janita Sandy said seeing the industry first-hand was like entering a "different dimension".

"We could feel the countryside was grieving, and the sorrows, it impacted us. We could feel it," she said. ...

<https://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/story/5784009/creating-a-premium-product/>

Certified organic and gas coexisting

Hayley Kennedy, Qld Country Life, 28/11/2018

As consumer expectations and trends continue to change the nature of all agricultural industries, many producers are being forced to reassess their operations.

For Owen and Brigid Price, Hillyvale, Arcadia Valley, achieving certified organic status across their three properties has been the ultimate goal. ...

Achieving certified organic status is no easy feat, and when you throw gas wells into the mix, it makes for an interesting balancing act.

Owen said this coexistence had been time-consuming and caused some issues, but they say the 21 appraisal wells are as much a part of their business as their organic beef operation. ...

<https://www.miningbusiness.net/content/carbon-energy-administrators-named-after-spp-collapse>

Carbon energy: Administrators named after SPP collapse

Mining Business Media, 28/11/2018

Australian-based coal to CSG specialist Carbon Energy has fallen into voluntary administration following the failure of a share purchase plan. Carbon Energy closed the planned \$A1.5M offer of shares at 8cps this month after it had attracted only \$280,820, insufficient to meet its purposes.

Voluntary administrators Jarrod Villani and Robert Hutson of Korda Mentha [have been appointed].

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/gas/galilee-gas-players-eye-coal-projects-to-kickstart-sales-20181127-118ft7>

Galilee gas players eye coal projects to kick-start sales

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 28/11/2018

Gas explorers in Queensland's inland Galilee Basin are harbouring hopes of an early start to production as momentum builds behind coal projects in the region, offering potential for sales ahead of the construction of pipeline to transport gas to the high-priced east coast market.

The basin is estimated to hold more than 8000 petajoules of gas resources, about 15 times the annual east coast domestic gas consumption, but the gas remains commercially unproven and it is currently stranded from the east coast gas grid network. ...

Comet Ridge and Galilee Energy, the other junior making strides towards production in the Galilee Basin, have seen buoyant gains in their share prices in the past several months on the back of test results and as investors wake up to the potential of the region. ...

RBC Capital Markets analyst Ben Wilson describes the Carmichael mine as "a strong potential taker" of any gas that Comet and Vintage produce as pilot projects "or for initial volumes ahead of a pipeline built connecting the basin with markets further south."

"A final go-ahead for the Carmichael mine would be a boost for the Galilee gas plays as it could possibly accelerate commercialisation of what we think is a very prospective resource," Mr Wilson said in a research note. ...

<https://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/story/5785057/gas-companies-to-start-drilling-water-test-bores-in-beetaloo/>

Gas companies to start drilling water test bores in Beetaloo

Chris McLennan, Qld Country Life, 29/11/2018

Origin and Santos have received NT Government approval to install groundwater monitoring bores near potential exploration sites in the Beetaloo Sub-Basin.

The companies have revealed their first targets for shale gas exploration are both east of Daly Waters.

Six months of baseline groundwater data is needed before well drilling and the controversial practice of fracking can begin to extract shale gas there.

The companies will be required to provide laboratory reports to the NT Government and the data will be published online, the government said yesterday. ...

Origin plans to drill two bores on its lease areas adjacent to the existing Velkerri N1-1 lease (formerly referred to as Amungee NW-1) near Daly Waters. ...

Santos plans to drill up to two bores at Tanumbirini 1 Well which was drilled in 2014 and later cased – again located east of Daly Waters. ...

NUKE MADNESS

<https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/business/sa-business-journal/woomera-must-be-considered-for-radioactive-waste-facility-senator-rex-patrick-says/news-story/3b8171ca619079bc36b1b35c19861cf9>

Woomera must be considered for radioactive waste facility, Senator Rex Patrick says

Erin Jones, Adelaide Advertiser, 28/11/2018

Renewed calls have been made for Woomera to be considered as the site for the national nuclear waste repository to end the divide in two South Australian country towns.

Centre Alliance Senator Rex Patrick said the 122,000sq km Woomera Prohibited Area should be revisited after a freedom of information document showed the reasons why it was rejected were "shallow".

His calls come as Kimba and Hawker remain in limbo as to whether they will be chosen to host the low-level waste facility, with community ballots delayed until early next year. ...

The Defence Department, in 2016, said it did not support the facility at Woomera as it was "incompatible" with its weapons testing range and missile launch site.

However, a 2002 Education, Training and Science Department report found the site would be a preferred location, in part because both low and intermediate-level radioactive waste had been stored there since 1994-95 without incident. This includes the CSIRO storing 10,000 drums of waste at the site. ...

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.michaelwest.com.au/revolving-doors-australias-fossil-fuel-networks/?fbclid=IwAR2drtz1BaRGbnLvi-2To2V1InYtiqZGMyBhCdbUtaa-rRAfECACjQRrNSG4>

Revolving Doors: Australia's fossil fuel networks

Michaelwest.com, 21/11/2018

The "Revolving Doors" between politics and big business are corroding democracy in Australia. Secret deals, mates' deals and the promise of riches after politics all undermine democracy and the power of ordinary citizens. The following investigation of fossil fuel networks in Australia – put together by Adam Lucas and curated by Simone Marsh – is designed to deliver public awareness.

Six weeks after resigning from federal politics in August 2013, former Federal Resources, Energy and Tourism Minister, Martin Ferguson became a board member of British Gas. Ferguson had given approval to BG's \$20 billion

News this week ... from previous page

Curtis LNG/CSG export project while resources minister in 2010.

In March 2014, he took on a senior role at peak industry lobbyists the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA).

After replacing Martin Ferguson as Minister for Resources, Energy and Tourism in March 2013, Gary Gray, a former Woodside executive, joined Mineral Resources Ltd as general manager of external affairs exactly one month after the 2016 federal election and his retirement from politics.

Former Labor cabinet ministers Greg Combet and Craig Emerson, both took up advisory positions for Santos and AGL within months of leaving public office. Former Federal Minister for Industry and Science (Sep 2013-Sep 2015) and Energy, Tourism and Resources (Nov 2001-Dec 2007), Ian Macfarlane, took up the role of CEO of the Queensland Resources Council four months after retiring from his federal seat of Groom.

Macfarlane was a self-confessed member of John Howard's 'Greenhouse Mafia'. Former leaders of the National Party, John Anderson, became Chairman of Eastern Star Gas which was bought out by Santos in 2014, while Mark Vaile, became a non-executive director and chairman of Whitehaven Coal shortly after they both left public office.

Former Liberal Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer, became a board member of Lakes Oil after iron ore baroness Gina Rinehart appointed him to this position following her purchase of an 18.6% share in this oil and gas exploration company. He is also a former board member of the Clive Palmer company, Resourcehouse Ltd. Former Liberal Premier of NSW, Nick Greiner, acted as a lobbyist for a consortium of coal companies during the privatisation of Queensland Rail.

<https://www.michaelwest.com.au/revolving-doors-top-24/>

Former Australian politicians with links to fossil fuel & resource extraction industries.

Liberal: Peter Costello, Alexander Downer, Nick Greiner, Peter Lindsay, Ian Macfarlane, James McGrath, Nick Minchin, John Olsen, Arthur Sinodinos, Michael Photios, Michael Yabsley.

Labor: Nick Bolkus, Greg Combet, John

Dawkins, Jim Elder, Craig Emerson, Martin Ferguson, Gary Gray, Alan Griffiths, Wayne Matthew, Tony Mooney.

Nationals: John Anderson, Larry Anthony, Mark Vaile.



<https://www.greenleft.org.au/content/student-tell-mps-dinosaur-parliament-house-need-open-their-eyes>

Students tell MPs: 'The dinosaurs in parliament house need to open their eyes'

Susan Price, Green Left, 28/11/2018

Hundreds of primary and secondary students went on strike and protested at Parliament House on November 28 calling for serious action on climate change.

This was followed by thousands of students taking to the streets of about 30 cities and towns across Australia as part of the Student Strike 4 Climate Action on November 30.

Solomon Vassarotti Brann, a student North Ainslie Primary School told the crowd: "If the government says it's committed to climate change, I want to know why it's still supporting coal mines like Adani which increase our greenhouse gas emissions. I want climate action."

Nia and Lolo Cornthwaite and Aisla

Hardie from Chapman Primary School told the crowd why they were on strike: "Because climate change is happening. It's caused by humans and it's happening fast. I can't vote but I have rights. One of my rights is the right to a future and a world fit to live in."

"I'm here today to make politicians think about the decisions they are making and how they impact on us." ...

Carys Connick, an 18-year-old student at Dickson College, told the protest about how afraid she was for the future of the planet ...

"And the dinosaurs who are sitting behind us in Parliament House need to open their eyes and to look up and see the asteroid plummeting towards our planet, because it is going to wipe us out." ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/climate-change-protest-will-lead-to-dole-queue-minister-tells-students-20181130-p50jbt.html>

Climate change protest will lead to dole queue, minister tells students

SMH, 30/11/2018

Thousands of Australian school-children have walked out of class to demand federal government action on climate change are only going to learn how to join the dole queue, a senior federal government minister says. ...

Resources Minister Matt Canavan said he wanted children in school learning about how to build mines, do geology and how to drill for oil and gas, "which is one of the most remarkable science exploits in the world".

"These are the type of things that excite young children and we should be great at as a nation," he told 2GB on Friday.

"Taking off school and protesting? You don't learn anything from that."

FFB

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



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