



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 2:8 • 25 JANUARY 2019

Wollarah 2 mine approval shocks local residents

Federal Environment Minister Melissa Price's decision on last Friday (January 18) to give the go ahead to the Wollarah 2 Coal Mine will harm residents of the Central Coast and threatened wildlife, according to Lock the Gate Alliance.

Minister Price said the controversial proposal can be managed to minimise impacts on the Central Coast's water supply.

However, objectors say will cost the Federal Government a vital seat.

This will backfire on govt

"You can almost kiss the seat of Robertson goodbye with this one. This will backfire on the Federal Government," Australian Coal Alliance spokesperson Mike Campbell told the *Newcastle Herald*.

It's been estimated that the proposed mine will result in the loss of up to 300 ML a year from the Central Coast's drinking water catchment during its 28-year lifespan, though there is some uncertainty about the quantum of that loss.

It would extract five million tonnes of thermal coal per annum for export, resulting in total greenhouse gas emissions of more than 264 million tonnes of CO₂.

According to the *Newcastle Herald*, The NSW Planning Assessment Commission acknowledged subsidence of up to 2.6 metres beneath a state forest area; increased flooding impacts for more than 170 property owners that could require lifting or relocating homes and increased flooding impacts affecting 15 bridges and roads.

It also acknowledged that "economic costs and benefits of the project are



A mock-up of part of the railway associated with the Wollarah 2 coal mine on NSW's Central Coast. Graphic: KORES

finely balanced, with inevitable uncertainties about demand for thermal coal 20 years in to the future", after KORES' economic benefit estimate of \$1.56 billion to the state was reduced to \$32 million in a report commissioned by the Department of Planning.

Proponent KORES, which plans to export the coal for power generation, proposes to construct a pipeline to deliver compensatory water to the Central Coast Council, but has not demonstrated how this could be achieved.

Lock the Gate Hunter regional coordinator David Burgess said the approval was an indication that the Australian Government's priorities are still not sufficiently focused on water conservation.

Reckless and short-sighted decision

"We condemn this reckless and short-sighted decision. Environment Minister Melissa Price is acting like a drip in approving this water-draining project," he said.

"This summer is showing us how precious water is and how disastrous it can be and how vulnerable we are when it runs dry. It's reckless and unacceptable for a coal mine to undermine the water for the growing cities of the NSW Central Coast, which has suffered from water shortages in the past."

The NSW Government approved the project last year, however that approval is now the subject of a judicial review taken by local group, the Australian coal alliance, which was heard in November. The judgement is still pending.

Mr Burgess said, "Concerned citizens across the country will support the people of the Central Coast in opposing this project."

"At a time like this, our governments should not be putting precious water resources at risk, especially not for new thermal coal mines."

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• P2: UN calls for Adani to halt

• P3: Grata Fund pays W&J court bond

• P4: New coal plants more unreliable than old

ABC: United Nations says Adani mine may violate Indigenous rights; calls for suspension

In breaking news, the ABC reported on Friday (January 25) that the United Nations has asked the Australian Government to consider suspending the Adani project in central Queensland until it gains the support of a group of traditional owners who are fighting the miner in court.

ABC reporter, Josh Robertson, said a UN committee raised concerns that the Queensland coal project may violate Indigenous rights under an international convention against racial discrimination if it goes ahead, giving Australia until April to formally respond.

UN writes to Australian ambassador

The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination last month wrote to Australia's UN ambassador to raise concerns that consultation on Adani's Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) "might not have been conducted in good faith".

These allegations "notably" included that members of the W&J native title claim group were excluded, and the committee was concerned the project "does not enjoy free, prior and informed consent of all (W&J) representatives".

Canavan: Respect Aus legal system

Federal Resources Minister Matt Canavan told the ABC that the UN should "respect the Australian legal system" instead of trying to direct Australia on matters it "clearly does not understand".

UN committee chair Nouredine Amir in a letter told Australia's UN ambassador Sally Mansfield the committee was concerned ILUAs could lead to the "extinction of Indigenous peoples' land titles" in Australia.

Mr Amir said it was "particularly concerned" by 2017 changes to native title laws to recognise ILUAs not signed by all native title claimants, "which appears to be in contradiction" with an earlier landmark Federal Court ruling.

"Accordingly, the committee is concerned that, if the above allegations are corroborated, the realisation of the Carmichael Coal Mine and Rail Project would infringe the rights of the Wangan and Jagalingou people, rights that



Adran Burragubba (second from right) and supporters call for justice for the Wangan & Jagalingou (W&J) people in their fight against Adani.

Photo: Patrick Williams

are protected under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination," Mr Amir said.

The committee gave Australia until April 8 to outline steps taken to ensure proper consent "in accordance with Indigenous peoples' own decision-making mechanisms".

It asked Australia to "consider suspending" the Adani project until consent was given by "all Indigenous peoples, including the Wangan and Jagalingou family council".

Martin Wagner, a managing attorney with US-based legal outfit Earth Justice, who has advocated for the W&J to the UN, said writing to Australia was "not a step the committee takes lightly".

"I would hope that in being called out in this way, by an international institution that is an expert in international human rights, that Australia would take that seriously," Mr Wagner told the ABC.

"It wouldn't take more at this point than putting a halt on activities to slow down and to ensure that the representatives, as selected by the Wangan and Jagalingou, are the ones who are making the decisions, who are receiving the information to allow them to either consent or not to this project."

Australia and Adani risk reputations

Mr Wagner said both Australia and Adani risked their reputations by "moving forward with a project that international human rights institutions are calling out for concern about human rights violations".

Senator Canavan said the question of Adani's consent from traditional owners had been tested in Australian courts.

"The UN should respect the Australian legal system and its processes, and this particular committee should not try to direct our actions in matters which it clearly does not understand," he said.

"The Federal Court found that none of the grounds of the challenge by the mine opponents had any merit — the UN committee's letter does not even mention these facts."

Adani registered its ILUA after an authorisation meeting which voted 294 to 1 in favour. W&J opponents to Adani, who include Australia's first Indigenous senior counsel Tony McAvoy, boycotted the meeting, which they claim was stacked with outsiders.

They are appealing before the full Federal Court bench after Justice John Reeves earlier found "no merit" to their challenge.

UN calls on govt to stop Adani

• Continued from p2

Adani's lawyers asked the court to order the "impecunious" challengers to pay a pay \$161,000 bond in case they lost, or have their appeal dismissed.

Justice Alan Robertson ordered \$50,000 but found the challengers had a case.

Adani seeks to bankrupt challenger

Adani is seeking to bankrupt one of the five Wangan and Jagalingou challengers, Adrian Burragubba, over \$600,000 in unpaid cost orders from previous challenges.

An Adani spokeswoman said the issues raised by the UN committee had "received transparent consideration and assessment under Australian law and before the Australian courts".

"We will continue to engage with the traditional owners as identified on the National Native Title and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Registers, as we are legally bound to do under guidance of the Indigenous Land Use Agreements and the Cultural Heritage Management Plans in place since 2014," she said.

The spokeswoman claimed Mr Burragubba had been "urged on by environmental groups", including the "foreign-backed Sunrise Project that recently made a \$495,000 donation to GetUp".

She said it would donate any funds from Mr Burragubba to charity.

Adani donated almost \$27,000 to the Liberal National Party in Queensland last November.

Mr Burragubba claimed Adani was relying on a "bogus agreement".

"Their rent-a-crowd ILUA is not supported by the legitimate W&J Traditional Owners from the Carmichael Belyando native title claim area," Mr Burragubba said.

"Adani will not stop us by trying to trying to silence our voice with their awful bankruptcy tactic, which is intended to intimidate us."

• This story is extracted from Josh Robertson's ABC report at:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-01-25/adani-mine-should-be-suspended-un-traditional-owners/10686132>

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Grata Fund pays W&J court bond

According to the ABC's Josh Robertson, a public interest legal fund backed by former corruption fighter Tony Fitzgerald has stepped in with financial backing for a federal court challenge to Adani by its opponents within the Wangan and Jagalingou (W&J) people.

Robertson says the Grata Fund, which boasts the former federal court judge as a patron, agreed to pay a court-ordered \$50,000 bond so W&J representatives can appeal a court ruling upholding a contentious land access deal secured by the miner.

Grata Fund executive director Isabelle Reinecke said the organisation had approached the W&J and agreed to pay the bond.

"People shouldn't have to choose between fighting for the rights of their community and bankruptcy," said Ms Reinecke, who is a former legal director at activist group GetUp.

"In this case it is a legitimate legal question that needs to be resolved by the court which goes to the heart of the Native Title process in Australia

and to the heart of corporate and government accountability to the law in Australia.

"I think the significance of the United Nations raising the issue with Australia really points to the public interest question that's at the heart of this case."

Ms Reinecke said Grata's funds came from individual donations, and decisions were made by a board including former Victorian judge Marcia Neave and human rights lawyer Jennifer Robinson.

Grata's website says it enables people take cases to court that serve their interests and the interests of the broader community.

"We do this by bringing members of the public together with legal experts, public advocates and financial support, free from concerns of financial return or political risk," says the organisation, which is a partner of the University of NSW Law School.

See: <https://www.gratafund.org.au/>

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Recovery Hub director rejects Adani media claims

The Threatened Species Recovery Hub has rejected reports by the Courier-Mail media outlet that the Hub is an anti-coal activist group and is involved in a review of Adani coal mine environmental plans.

Hub Director Professor Brendan Wintle said the claim that the Hub, based at The University of Queensland, was conducting a review of the Adani plans was totally false.

Claims 'totally false'

"It is essential to set the record straight, which is why the Hub has written to the *Courier-Mail* and other outlets that have picked up the story to request a retraction and correction.

"It has also contacted the Press Council," he said.

"The Threatened Species Recovery Hub is not involved in the Adani environmental management review, and has nothing to do with coal research or activism.

"I have been engaged as a University of Melbourne expert by the Queensland Government to lead the review of

Adani's southern black throated finch management plan, due to my expertise in the area of threatened species conservation planning," Dr Wintle said.

"More than 150 independent scientists from many organisations collaborate on Hub projects, many of whom have simultaneous projects which receive funding from multiple sources.

"We collaborate with more than 200 partners across the country.

"The Threatened Species Recovery Hub is not involved in the Adani environmental management review.

"I will convene a review panel and the composition of the panel is close to finalised.

Dismayed: Attempt to tarnish hub

"However, the five other scientists named by the *Courier-Mail*, including UQ researchers Associate Professor Rod Fensham and Professor James Watson, are not involved in the review.

"I'm dismayed at this attempt to tarnish the hub and its researchers."

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Knitting Nannas hold four knit-ins in Lismore



Four knit-ins all on one hot Thursday, January 24!

TOP: Outside NSW National candidate for Lismore, Austin Curtin's office.

ABOVE LEFT: At Federal Nationals MP for Page Kevin Hogan's office.

ABOVE: Outside Federal Labor candidate for Page Janelle Saffin's office.

LEFT: "Westpac Bank increased their investment in coal by 140% in 2017-2018. When will they listen to their Nannas?"

Photos: Knitting Nannas Lismore, Facebook

New coal plants even more unreliable than old clunkers

Australia's newest coal plants, including 'supercritical' or so-called 'High Efficiency, Low Emissions' generators, have higher break-down rates per gigawatt than older power stations, according to new research from The Australia Institute's Climate & Energy Program.

"Australia already has supercritical coal plants. They break down even more often, gigawatt for gigawatt, than our old clunker coal plants," says Richie Merzian, Director of The Australia Institute Climate & Energy Program.

"These new supercritical coal plants are touted by proponents as 'High Efficiency, Low Emissions' (HELE) coal plants, but this could not be further from the truth.

HELE: Unreliable, emissions-intensive

"Our research shows that not only are these coal plants less reliable, but they are more emissions-intensive than renewable energy and even gas.

"Calls to build new supercritical coal plants in Australia are ill-advised.

"If the government builds new coal plants in Victoria, burning brown coal, these would produce higher emissions than most of our existing coal generators.

"Despite being newer, supercritical coal plants have the worst record of all Australia's coal plants when it comes to generating electricity for the grid.

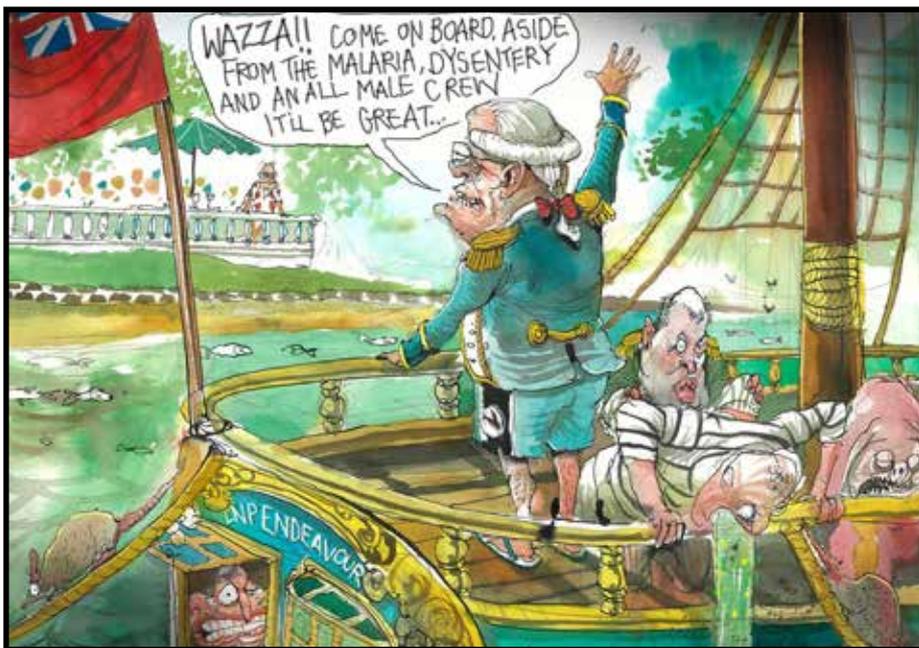
"With so much new renewable energy being added to the national grid, there is no place for new, unreliable coal plants in Australia – let alone with taxpayer money or government intervention, as coal advocates have proposed."

AEMO chief executive Audrey Zibelman said on Thursday, "Clearly as [coal] generators age, we are running them very hard and with the hot weather and the fact that the weather is getting hotter in Victoria, we're running them more."

ANNOYING ALL POLITICIANS EQUALLY

www.knitting-nannas.com



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

Atomic Scientists' Doomsday Clock set for 2019

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists' Doomsday Clock will remain at two minutes to midnight this year.

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists said, "Humanity now faces two simultaneous existential threats, either of which would be cause for extreme concern and immediate attention.

"These major threats – nuclear weapons and climate change – were exacerbated this past year by the increased use of information warfare to undermine democracy around the world, amplifying risk from these and other threats and putting the future of civilization in extraordinary danger.

"In the nuclear realm, the United States abandoned the Iran nuclear deal and announced it would withdraw from the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF), grave steps towards a complete dismantlement of the global arms control process.

"Although the United States and North Korea moved away from the bellicose rhetoric of 2017, the urgent North Korean nuclear dilemma remains unresolved.

"Meanwhile, the world's nuclear nations proceeded with programs of 'nuclear modernization' that are all but indistinguishable from a worldwide arms race, and the military doctrines of Russia and the United States have increasingly eroded the long-held taboo against the use of nuclear weapons.

It Is
Still
2 Minutes
To
Midnight

"On the climate change front, global carbon dioxide emissions – which seemed to plateau earlier this decade – resumed an upward climb in 2017 and 2018. To halt the worst effects of climate change, the countries of the world must cut net worldwide carbon dioxide emissions to zero by well before the end of the century. By such a measure, the world community failed dismally last year."

The last time the clock was as close to midnight as it has been in the past two years was in 1953, when the US-Soviet arms race escalated.

When the clock was created in 1947, it was set at seven minutes to midnight.

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 **Fossil Fool Bulletin**

Published by Eve Sinton
PO Box 555, Mullumbimby,
NSW 2482, Australia

 Fossil Fool Bulletin

 fossil.fool.bulletin@gmail.com
evesinton@gmail.com

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

Inside the news

The **Adani** saga is running hot as the company described by resources minister **Matt Canavan** as a 'little Aussie battler' **bullies traditional owners**, tries to **discredit scientists**, pressures the Queensland **Premier** and draws attention from the **United Nations** (p2-3 and 6-7). The mining giant will be the target of a major **protest in Canberra** on February 12.

Questions are being asked over Australian coal company **Mayur Resources'** use of **rugby league stars** Darren Lockyer and Sam Thaiday to **promote coal** development in Papua New Guinea (p8).

The founding companies behind a self-styled alliance to end **plastic waste** include a number of **fossil fuel companies** who are among the world's biggest investors in new plastic production plants (p9).

With power prices skyrocketing, the mining sector has called for the **nuclear option** with hopes a high-level review could end a ban on the prohibited energy source. **Minerals Council of Australia** (MCA) chief executive **Tania Constable** said removing the four words – "a nuclear power plant" – in one section of an Australian law would allow the industry to be considered for development (p10).

The MCA are no doubt pleased to see Scott Morrison's captain's pick candidate, **Warren Mundine** parachuted into the Gilmore electorate. Mundine has in the past advocated for a **nuke power station in Jervis Bay**. Murdoch mouthpiece, *The Daily Telegraph*, ran a Mundine opinion piece on Wednesday, titled '**Wealthy Western elites fund Green activists to keep poor people poor**'. He complained about "foreign-funded sabotage of our economy by Green activists determined to destroy regional Australia's future".

Lock the Gate got a headline in the *Tele* when it launched a **TV ad** calling for protection of Hunter Valley farmland from mining (p14). Special Minister of State **Anthony Roberts'** spokesman said he would refer the ad to the **Electoral Commission**. **NSW Minerals Council** CEO **Stephen Galilee** also slammed the Alliance.

In the news this week

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

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-01-17/adani-cleared-of-wrong-doing-by-federal-government-over-bores/10724086>

Adani cleared of wrong doing by Federal Government over bores but Qld investigation continues

Josh Robertson, ABC, 17/01/2019

Adani remains under investigation by the Queensland Government for alleged illegal works on its Carmichael mine site, despite federal authorities ruling out any wrongdoing.

State officials have confirmed the ongoing probe into whether the company breached its environmental authority by sinking six dewatering bores last year. ...

Their federal counterparts cleared Adani of breaching commonwealth laws in October after visiting the site once the previous month and requesting further information from the miner. ...

A spokesman for the Queensland Department of Environment and Science (DES) said the Government was aware of the Commonwealth findings.

"DES is undertaking a more comprehensive investigation under separate state legislation, and has made several information requests to Adani, and has also carried out site inspections," he said. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/anticoal-group-could-have-final-say-on-adani-mine/news-story/f9f61f143cab549e-a0f6627012fdd57c>

Anti-coal group could have final say on Adani mine

Steven Wardill, Courier-Mail, 21/01/2019

The fate of Queensland's Carmichael mine is in the hands of an environmental group whose members champion radical action on climate change, oppose coal and have appeared as expert witnesses against Adani.

In an extraordinary departure from normal processes, the Threatened Species Recovery Hub has been hand-picked by the Palaszczuk Government to review one of the mine's environmental management plans.

The review, which is holding up Adani from finally beginning construction,



RALLY! StopAdani – Climate Action Now! Tuesday 12 February 09:00 - 10:30 Parliament House, Canberra

will reassess plans to conserve 33,000 hectares of pastoral land, purchased around the 1300 hectare mine site to offset habitat loss for the black-throated finch. ...

Hub director Brendan Wintle, deputy director Martine Maron and project leaders James Watson, Ben Phillips and Hugh Possingham have all questioned widely-used government policies that allow land to be conserved nearby when habitat is lost.

Hub project leader Rod Fensham was part of an activist collective that funded Bill Shorten's controversial \$17,000 tour of Great Barrier Reef and charter flight over the Galilee Basin last year, which prompted the Labor leader to oppose the Carmichael mine. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/north-queensland-leaders-slam-state-governments-approach-to-adanis-finch-management-review/news-story/5a159f713617778f7c0cd7e2cf1e826a>

North Queensland leaders slam State Government's approach to Adani's finch management review

Clare Armstrong, Townsville Bulletin, 22/01/2019

The State Government has been accused of jeopardising hundreds of North Queensland jobs by allowing conservationists with "deep hostility" towards coal to review one of Adani's final environmental plans.

Townsville community leaders and

peak industry bodies are outraged at the appointment of an apparent anti-coal environmentalist to review Adani's Black-Throated Finch management plan, needed for its Carmichael mine in the Galilee Basin to progress. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/national/adani-receives-conflicting-advice-from-queensland-department-of-environment-and-science-on-finch-management-plan/news-story/86c348a11543f082818d4307ba7ee28f?csp=d-3220fbb5d90ee65f502d5c26f5e1ed6>

Adani receives "conflicting" advice from Queensland Department of Environment and Science on finch management plan

Clare Armstrong, Townsville Bulletin, 23/01/2019

Mining giant Adani says it still has "serious concerns" about anti-coal bias influencing a review into a crucial environmental management plan after "conflicting advice" from the Queensland Government.

After first telling Adani the Threatened Species Recovery Hub would lead a review of the company's Black-throated Finch Management Plan for its Carmichael coal mine, the Department of Environment and Science has since clarified that that would not be the case. ...

The letter said Professor Brendan Wintle, who is the national director of the Hub, would lead the review, but that others connected to the group would not necessarily be involved. ...

<https://www.miningmonthly.com/sustainability/international-coal-news/1354727/finch-experts-could-stymie-qld-adani-approval>

Finch experts could stymie Qld Adani approval

Lou Caruana, Mining Monthly, 22/01/2019

Federal resources minister Matt Canavan has blasted the Queensland government for bowing to environmental activists who claim the black throated finch will be endangered if the proposed Carmichael mine in the Galilee Basin goes ahead. ...

"Green activists appear to have hijacked the Queensland Labor government, with the Labor party referring Adani's finch protection plan to a bunch of greenies opposed to the Adani mine," Canavan said in a social media post. ...

An Adani spokeswoman said: "We hold very serious concerns as to how the Threatened Species Recovery Hub could provide independent advice on the Black-Throated Finch Management Plan when they are outspokenly biased on matters directly related to our project and coal more generally. ...

"Furthermore the Queensland government has now taken the inexplicable step of commissioning this supposedly independent review on the very same day that the federal Department of Environment and Energy approved our black throated finch management plan," she said. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/shorten-says-he-wont-be-bullied-on-adani/news-story/bc050841d1cc396c107376437d62bca1>

Shorten says he won't be bullied on Adani

Jared Owens, The Australian, 24/01/2019

Bill Shorten has cautioned against counting on a "miracle outcome" for Adani's divisive Carmichael coalmine, declaring he will not be "shouted into submission" by coal bosses or green activists.

One of the last key approvals for the thermal coal project has been delayed by the state Labor government, which has commissioned an expert review by Brendan Wintle, an environmental scientist who is viewed as hostile to mining. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/business/work-on-adani-mine-access-roads-begins/news-story/93c48df1294f9a4d8fc7bf43b5b88873>

Work on Adani mine access roads begins

Clare Armstrong, Townsville Bulletin, 24/01/2019

Roadworks for Adani's Carmichael mine site have started under the company's current approvals. ...

Work has commenced on grid bypasses, which will allow larger machinery and equipment to be moved around the existing cattle-grid infrastructure.

Adani Mining chief executive Lucas Dow said the works were permitted under current approvals, and would also benefit future mines in the Galilee Basin. ...

"We're getting on with doing everything we can under our current approvals, while we wait for the Queensland Government to sign off our final management plans and provide certainty on timing and process." ...

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/national/adani-calls-on-premier-annastacia-palaszczuk-to-clarify-environmental-review-process/news-story/4937695683df8aaf634242aadeb40906?csp=7e8b92f436ce0a912559c189f68b9bca4>

Adani calls on Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk to clarify environmental review process

Clare Armstrong, Townsville Bulletin, 25/01/2019

Adani has called on Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk to clarify the process and timeline of an external review of an environmental management plan for its Carmichael coal mine.

The mining company is awaiting State Government approval of its Black-throated Finch Management Plan, which the Department of Environment and Science (DES) has referred for an external review to be lead by University of Melbourne's Brendan Wintle.

Adani mining chief executive Lucas Dow said the company wanted clarity from Ms Palaszczuk, who is expected to visit Townsville today.

"We are simply seeking a fair go, so can the Premier please guarantee Adani will not be treated any differently to the other miners who have been given approvals to start new mines and expand existing ones in Queensland in recent years," he said. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/national/adani-the-key-test-for-labor/news-story/15347306b6401b2bf9f2003b8362044a?csp=eb0b823778e204fba1af5d79832e9803>

Adani the key test for Labor

Editor, Townsville Bulletin, 25/01/2019

[Herbert is] Australia's most marginal electorate with MP Cathy O'Toole winning in the last election by just 37 votes. ...

Mr Shorten ... will announce 200 local jobs will be created at a Department of Human Services call centre in Townsville. ... But as much as these sorts of announcements will be welcomed, there is an unsurpassable shadow of doubt hanging over Labor's position on coal mining and, in particular, Adani. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-01-25/adani-mine-should-be-suspended-un-traditional-owners/10686132>

Adani coal mine should be suspended, UN says, until all traditional owners support the project

Josh Robertson, ABC, 25/01/2018

The United Nations has asked the Australian Government to consider suspending the Adani project in central Queensland until it gains the support of a group of traditional owners who are fighting the miner in court.

Key points:

UN suggests Australia put Adani project on ice until all traditional owners give consent.

It says the project could violate an international convention on Indigenous rights.

Federal Resources Minister Matt Canavan says Un should respect Australian law.

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/business/bill-blocking-galilee-coal-mine-developments-slammed-by-townsville-enterprise/news-story/42bfc8c0ba8ee7f38c12957a62692cc>

Bill blocking Galilee coal mine developments slammed by Townsville Enterprise

Clare Armstrong, Townsville Bulletin, 19/01/2019

Peak economic body Townsville Enterprise has condemned calls to end new coalmines in the region in a scathing submission on proposed new laws by the Greens.

Chief executive Patricia O'Callaghan said 15,000 jobs and \$40 billion worth of taxes would be in jeopardy if the bill passed. ...

Fossil Fool Bulletin is published every Friday (in your email Saturday).



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



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The Australian Coal Alliance protested in Sydney against the Wollarah 2 coal mine last year. Photo: ACA, Water Not Coal, Facebook

<https://www.lakesmail.com.au/story/5861584/election-warning-after-federal-tick-for-controversial-coal-mine/>

Wollarah 2 coal mine's impacts on the Central Coast's water supply can be managed, says the Federal Government

Joanne McCarthy, Lakes Mail, 22/01/2018

A controversial Central Coast underground coal mine proposal can be managed to minimise impacts on the region's water supply, said Environment Minister Melissa Price after approving the Wollarah 2 mine in a decision objectors say will cost the Federal Government a vital seat. ...

Australian Coal Alliance founder Alan Hayes said the group would consider a court challenge to the Federal decision, similar to its challenge to the NSW decision heard in the Land and Environment Court. A determination on the NSW challenge is not expected until at least April. Central Coast Council, which strongly opposes the Wollarah 2 mine, contributed \$200,000 to the legal challenge. ...

<https://www.miragenews.com/community-say-on-tahmoor-south-coal-proposal/>

Community say on Tahmoor South coal proposal

Mirage News, 23/01/2018

The NSW Department of Planning is inviting the community to have its say on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Tahmoor South Coal Project, on exhibition for public comment until 5 March.

The project proposal includes extending existing underground mining areas to the south, and extraction, processing and rail transport of up to 4 million tonnes a year of coking and thermal coal. Existing mine facilities would continue to operate until approximately 2035.

The Department's Resource Assessments Director, Howard Reed, said the 42-day EIS exhibition period provided an opportunity for the community to have its say. ...

If there are more than 25 public objections received during exhibition, the Department's recommendation, including any conditions, will be referred to the IPC for a final decision.

If referred to the IPC, the Commission will also hold final public hearings at the end of the process once the Department's assessment report is complete, and the community will be able to raise any remaining concerns directly with the IPC before a final decision is made.

See the EIS here:

http://www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=8445

<https://www.amsj.com.au/north-goonyella-still-showing-elevated-co/>

North Goonyella still showing elevated CO

Australian Mine Safety Journal, 24/01/2019

In its' latest update to industry and stakeholders, Peabody has confirmed that the North Goonyella mine is still showing elevated Carbon Monoxide (CO) levels at some measurement points. Peabody says that the levels are reduced from the peak concentration encountered at height of the mine fire but remain 'elevated from targeted standards.'

The North Goonyella mine has been the subject of controversy across the underground coal industry since the mine caught fire in late September 2018. The actual cause of the fire still remains a state secret, with an on-going investigation being conducted by the Queensland Mines Inspectorate since November 2018. ...

https://www.radionz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/380760/league-stars-promotion-of-coal-in-png-questioned?fbclid=IwAR3AxhtfBjtp0T-Dy62_BG6_uCq7qo8fZ6u0ibEblW3A409Hngy7R_vStY0

League stars' promotion of coal in PNG questioned

Radio NZ, 23/01/2019

Questions have been raised in Papua New Guinea over the visit by Australia

rugby league stars to promote coal development in the country.

The Australian company Mayur Resources has an environmental permit to mine coal in PNG's Gulf Province, and is proposing a coal-fired power plant in Lae.

It's recently deployed a second former league star, Sam Thaiday, to PNG in a promotional capacity.

Former Australian captain Darren Lockyer is Mayur's head of Business Affairs. ...

GAS, GAS, GAS

<https://thewest.com.au/business/energy/regulator-wont-dig-deep-on-ichthys-safety-report-ng-b881077205z>

Regulator won't dig deep on Ichthys safety report

Peter Milne, West Australian, 18/01/2019

The offshore safety regulator has decided not to review the versions of reports that damned electrical safety on the offshore facilities of Inpex's Ichthys LNG project. ...

NOPSEMA head of safety and integrity Derrick O'Keefe said the regulator had inspected the Ichthys facilities 16 times in the past 18 months.

During an inspection in June last year, deficiencies in the suitability of electrical equipment were identified. ...

NOPSEMA was asked why gas was allowed to continue to flow to the platform after the need to verify the safety of the equipment was identified.

NOPSEMA said it was unable to respond in the time available. ...

<https://thewest.com.au/business/energy/regulator-nopsema-allowed-spark-risk-at-ichthys-ng-b881077806z>

Regulator NOPSEMA allowed spark risk at Ichthys

Peter Milne, West Australian, 19/01/2019

The offshore safety regulator allowed two Ichthys LNG project facilities to continue to operate after it determined they had faulty electrical equipment that exposed more than 700 workers on the facilities to the risk of a gas explosion.

Regulator NOPSEMA has now released a direction notice it issued to Inpex, operator of the \$US45 billion Ichthys Project, on August 3 last year, four days after gas first flowed to the Ichthys Explorer platform.

The notice said NOPSEMA inspectors had found faults in electrical equip-

ment designed to prevent an explosion from the ignition of any gas leak.

It said the faults showed the equipment checks by Inpex before first gas were unreliable and it was likely that electrical equipment in use could expose workers to hazards. ...

The NOPSEMA spokeswoman said that direction was lifted on October 16 after it was satisfied Inpex had fulfilled its requirements. ...

https://thenewdaily.com.au/money/finance-news/2019/01/20/ing-export-gas-price/?utm_source=Adestra&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Morning%20News%20-%2020190121

Why cutting Australia's gas exports won't reduce energy prices

Killian Plastow, New Daily, 21/01/2019

Australia dethroned Qatar in 2018 for the title of the largest global exporter of liquefied natural gas, yet domestic prices continue to rise.

But experts say that reducing our exports won't fix the problem. ...

Unfortunately, the likelihood of prices returning to the lows seen up until the late 2010s is unlikely for a slew of reasons. ...

Trying to enforce a reservation process that demands producers set aside gas for domestic use at prices lower than those foreign buyers will pay is also problematic, as it effectively acts as a tax on suppliers without providing the same financial benefits to the community that an actual tax would. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jan/21/founders-of-plastic-waste-alliance-investing-billions-in-new-plants>

Founders of plastic waste alliance 'investing billions in new plants'

Sandra Laville, The Guardian, 21/01/2019

The founding companies behind a self-styled alliance to end plastic waste are among the world's biggest investors in new plastic production plants, according to a European NGO.

A majority of the firms which announced this week they were collaborating to try to help tackle plastic pollution are likely to be at the heart of a global boom in plastic production over the next 10 years. ...

Rob Buurman, the director of environmental NGO Recycling Network, said: "It is interesting to see [the plastics industry] finally acknowledge that there is a problem with their plastics.

"But unfortunately, this initiative does not tackle the problem at its source:



Origin by country of unmanaged plastic waste in 2010 - metric tons. Source: Alliance to End Plastic Waste (endplasticwaste.org)

the gigantic production of 400m tonnes of plastic each year, with 60m metric tonnes produced in Europe alone."

More than 8.3bn tonnes of plastic have been produced globally since large-scale production began in the 1950s, creating almost 6bn tonnes of plastic waste. Only about 9% of this has been recycled. ...

About 8m tonnes of plastic waste is dumped in the seas annually, according to the UN. ...

The founding members of the Alliance to End Plastic Waste are: BASF, Berry Global, Braskem, Chevron Phillips Chemical Company LLC, Clariant, Covestro, Dow Chemical, DSM, Exxon-Mobil, Formosa Plastics Corporation, Henkel, LyondellBasell, Mitsubishi Chemical Holdings, Mitsui Chemicals, NOVA Chemicals, OxyChem, PolyOne, Procter & Gamble, Reliance Industries, SABIC, Sasol, SUEZ, Shell, SCG Chemicals, Sumitomo Chemical, Total, Veolia, and Versalis.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/dataroom/origin-energys-ironbark-sale-under-a-cloud/news-story/e943a77e1ed91dea30d02fea7f8d49df>

Origin Energy's Ironbark sale under a cloud

Bridget Carter & Scott Murdoch, The Australian, 22/01/2019

Origin Energy may have placed its sale plans for its Ironbark project in Queensland's Surat Basin on the backburner, according to sources.

The likely move has offered further fuel to the theory that it wants to spin off its entire gas operations, leaving it purely as an energy retailer.

Last month, it was believed that Australia Pacific LNG was on the cusp of buying Ironbark after it emerged

as the highest bidder in a Royal Bank of Canada-run sales process for the operation. ...

<https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/lifestyle/sa-weekend/cooper-energys-sole-gas-project-in-victoria-nears-completion-as-the-company-looks-to-the-next-wave-of-growth/news-story/5cac3df85368ce818166e9eb0554e4f1>

Cooper Energy's Sole Gas Project in Victoria nears completion as the company looks to the next wave of growth

Cameron England, The Advertiser, 23/01/2019

Cooper Energy is nearing completion of the construction of its flagship Sole Gas Project in Victoria and expects to start selling gas by July this year.

Managing director David Maxwell said the Sole project off the Victorian coast was 86 per cent complete by the end of December and the next six months would be "as momentous as any in the company's history".

Cooper also announced that it has contracted a rig to drill two more gas prospects in its offshore Otway Basin acreage. ...

<https://www.northweststar.com.au/story/5867574/falcon-and-origin-to-begin-gas-drilling-in-nts-beetaloo-basin/>

Falcon and Origin to begin gas drilling in NT's Beetaloo Basin

Derek Barry, North West Star, 24/01/2019

Falcon Oil & Gas Ltd has announced that Origin Energy has begun drilling in one of Northern Territory's key gas fields, with potential implications for the Northern Gas Pipeline and the Mount Isa economy.

Falcon and Origin are joint venture partner and operator of the Beetaloo project, 600 kilometres south of Darwin and Origin has now signed a rig contract with Ensight Australia Pty Ltd.

for Rig 963 for the 2019 Stage 2 Beetaloo drilling program, with an option to extend the contract into 2020. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/national/santos-says-gas-production-should-surge-by-a-third-this-year-after-delivering-a-strong-set-of-numbers/news-story/1465441ee6152cbbba4b5a5ec405069c?sp=bf82f08b10061d07d204c39f14ba1508>

Santos says gas production should surge by a third this year after delivering a strong set of numbers

Aditya Soni, AAP, Courier-Mail, 24/01/2019

Santos shares lifted yesterday after the Adelaide company said it expected 2019 production to rise by up to 32 per cent, boosted by the acquisition of the Quadrant assets last year. ...

However, the acquisition of Quadrant, which was funded through a combination of company's cash and new debt pushed Santos' debt as at December 31 to \$3.6 billion. ...

LEIGH CK STINK

<https://smallcaps.com.au/leigh-creek-energy-draws-closer-commercial-syngas-flows/>

Leigh Creek Energy draws closer to commercial syngas flows

Danica Cullinane, Smallcaps, 23/01/2019

Emerging gas developer Leigh Creek Energy is on the cusp of producing commercial quantities of syngas from its flagship energy project in the northern coalfields of South Australia.

In an operational update this week, the company reported gas flows at its pre-commercial demonstration plant rapidly increasing to now reach a consistent rate in excess of 1,000 standard cubic metres per hour. ...

A spokesperson said the company was

targeting a commercial flow rate of 6.8 million cubic feet per day, which equates to 8,000 standard cubic metres per hour (about eight times higher than current flow rates).

In addition, the composition of the syngas has consistently recorded up to 20% methane and between 5-10% hydrogen ...

NUKE MADNESS

<https://www.ntnews.com.au/business/ranger-mine-heads-toward-full-closure-with-rehabilitation-costs-now-more-than-800m/news-story/835c7a0b4ceb4033686e8b24588bc7f0>

Ranger mine heads toward full closure with rehabilitation costs to hit more than \$800m

Gary Shipway, NT News, 17/01/2019

While the Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Opposition Leader Bill Shorten were in Jabiru this week offering up hundreds of millions of dollars for new Kakadu National Park tourism infrastructure, Energy Resources of Australia's (ERA) Ranger mine is counting the millions to move the park mine towards full closure.

Ranger's rehabilitation program will now cost \$808 million – up \$296 million on the initial \$512 million.

The increase has been put down to costs that go with additional water treatment and infrastructure, revegetation requirements, higher site services and owner costs, and tailings transfer to pit three. ...

The Mirrar traditional owners of the region withdrew support for the mine's operation beyond ERA's January 2021 lease expiry and the company has an obligation to rehabilitate the site by 2026. Although mining has ceased at

the site, ERA is still processing an existing limited stockpile of ore. ...

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/mining-sector-pushes-for-nuclear-option-to-lowering-australia-energy-costs-and-emissions/news-story/3a38633b287f190b34421522a60d9086>

Mining sector pushes for nuclear option to lowering Australia's energy costs and emissions

Sheradyn Holderhead, Daily Telegraph, 22/01/2019

With power prices skyrocketing, the mining sector has called for the nuclear option with hopes a high-level review could end a ban on the prohibited energy source.

The Minerals Council of Australia has seized on the upcoming review of environmental protection laws under which nuclear power is banned.

Chief executive Tania Constable said removing the four words – “a nuclear power plant” – in one section of the law would allow the industry to be considered for development.

Federal Environment Minister Melissa Price said while the extent of the review had not yet been determined it must examine the full operation of the laws. “The review will involve extensive consultation and will consider all ideas put forward by industry, environment and community groups to improve and strengthen national environmental law,” she said.

Ms Price said under law the review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act had to be completed by October.

But Opposition leader Bill Shorten ruled out any changes under a Labor government.

“Labor has no plans to build nuclear power plants, full stop. We will deliver more renewables and cheaper power for Australians, and we will do it without building nuclear power plants in our cities and towns,” he said. ...

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/opinion/heatwaves-proof-positive-australia-needs-nuclear/news-story/5ac56694a4c8d09ff10d810c4eb583d1>

Heatwaves proof positive Australia needs nuclear

Tania Constable, Daily Telegraph, 22/01/2019

As the east coast of Australia sweltered last week, the need for reliable electricity supplies which don't bust family and business budgets was again clear when we switched on airconditioners at home, work or in shopping centres. ...

Leigh Creek Energy's pre-commercial demonstration plant. Photo: LCE



We need to have an honest conversation about the role of nuclear power ...

If we are truly serious about reducing emissions in a world where energy demand is only increasing, nuclear power must be on the table. ...

The good news is the nuclear ban can be reversed with a single amendment to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 – which happens to be due for review this year. ...

Along with upgrades to existing coal-fired generators, our regulators and politicians should open their eyes to this commonsense approach to dealing with what is now a major problem ...

• *Tania Constable is chief executive officer of the Minerals Council of Australia*

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/chinese-in-6bn-clean-coal-plan/news-story/9b7ca2c-c331921b653ca924df2bac7bc>

Chinese in \$6bn clean coal plan

Perry Williams, The Australian, 19/01/2019

Power baron Trevor St Baker has revealed a \$6 billion China-backed plan to develop Australia's first high-efficiency, low-emissions coal plants in Victoria and NSW and a pumped hydro facility in South Australia in response to the federal government's call for more "fair dinkum" baseload generation. ...

Mr St Baker has lined up a Chinese joint-venture partner which owns significant coal and renewables generation capacity including a number of existing HELE coal plants.

The centrepiece of Mr St Baker's proposal is a 1300MW coal-fired plant costing \$3bn-\$4bn and comprising two 660MW units. It would be built in Victoria's Latrobe Valley at the site of the former 1600MW Hazelwood plant closed by France's Engie at short notice in March 2017. Emissions would be about a third less than those from the highly polluting Hazelwood facility.

In NSW a \$2bn HELE coal plant with 660MW capacity is planned. This could either be built at AGL's Liddell facility in the Hunter Valley, which is controversially scheduled to be wound down in 2022, or at the site of the old Vales Point A power station, next to the 1320MW plant Vales Point B facility owned by Mr St Baker and billionaire Brian Flannery's Sunset Power.

In South Australia a \$500 million, 240MW Goat Hill pumped hydro proj-

ect near Port Augusta would also be developed to balance out what Mr St Baker describes as the "overbuild" of solar and wind capacity in the state.

Funding for the three projects will rely on the appetite of international lenders, with Mr St Baker confirming Australia's big four banks will not be considered, given their stance against financing new coal plants. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/call-for-new-coal-plants-as-grid-feels-the-heat/news-story/39f23e-52497975961ba42aac4b827a24>

Call for new coal plants as grid feels the heat

Perry Williams, The Australian, 21/01/2019

Australia's fragile electricity system needs additional supplies of reliable baseload generation – which may include Trevor St Baker's plan for coal-fired plants – to ease pressure on the grid during peak summer demand and lower prices, acting energy minister Matt Canavan says.

The record heatwave on the nation's east coast last week tested the resilience of the electricity network and underlined the need for new sources of supply to be considered, according to the federal government ...

Mr Canavan says introducing HELE facilities on the site of existing coal plants has merit, given Australia's abundant coal resources. ...

"What this shows is all those naysayers saying nobody wants to invest in coal are wrong," Mr Canavan said.

"Building where transmission infrastructure already exists is a way of getting prices down. ...

https://reneweconomy.com.au/coal-units-cut-out-as-report-warns-hele-plants-just-as-unreliable-23879/?utm_source=RE+Daily+Newsletter&utm_campaign=f167289107-EMAIL_CAM-PAIGN_2019_01_23_04_17&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_46a1943223-f167289107-40461137

Coal units cut out as report warns 'HELE' plants "just as unreliable"

Sophie Vorrath, Renew Economy, 23/01/2019

Around 1GW of coal-fired power generation has dropped out of the mix in Victoria as the state heads into another summer heatwave – and as the federal government puts together its short-list of proposals for subsidised "reliable" "24/7" power generation to shore up the national grid. ...

And it's not great timing for the Morrison government, either, which on Monday reaffirmed its view that new coal plant – or additional coal power capacity squeezed from old plant – was

a perfectly suitable contender for its tax-payer funded underwriting mechanism for new "firm" generation.

According to reports – although nothing official, as yet – the short list, whittled down from more than 40 submissions, includes a proposal from coal baron Trevor St Baker to build perhaps two new so-called high efficiency low emissions (or HELE) power plant.

And the *AFR* reports today that a bid from Alinta Energy to tap the funding for "marginal improvements" to its Loy Yang B coal generator has also been put forward, alongside a proposal for a new gas plant, also from Alinta. ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/electricity/coal-vies-with-storage-projects-for-govt-power-support-20190122-h1abz0>

Coal vies with storage projects for govt power support

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 23/01/2019

Labor has condemned any move to use funds from the Coalition government's new underwriting mechanism for "firm" power plants to fund coal generation, as it emerged that a coal upgrade is also among the projects that Alinta Energy wants to tap the mechanism for.

Alinta joins Trevor St Baker in wanting to use the mechanism to support investment in coal generation although for what chief executive Jeff Dimery described as a "marginal improvements" at Loy Yang B, not a multibillion-dollar investment in new coal as envisaged by Mr St Baker. ...

But the underwriting mechanism – intended to promote on-demand power that would complement intermittent wind and solar – is also firmly in the eye of clean energy players too.

Sanjeev Gupta's GFG Alliance and majority-owned SIMEC Zen Energy have pitched a \$1.3 billion solar, battery and pumped hydro storage plan for the group's Whyalla steelworks to the underwriting program, for which expressions of interest are due on Wednesday. ...

Alinta also wants to use the mechanism to support a new 300MW gas power plant in South Australia, gas upgrades in Victoria and Queensland and a pumped hydro project in NSW ...

Andrew Forrest-backed Australian Industrial Energy is meanwhile proposing the measure could support a near-\$1 billion gas plant planned as part of LNG import project in Port Kembla, NSW ...

The Australia Institute says neither the government nor any private sector investor should put any money into HELE coal power stations because they are even more likely to break down in hot weather than older, sub-critical coal plants.

The left-leaning thinktank says in a new report that CS Energy's Kogan Creek "super-critical" power station in Queensland broke down six times last year, "making it one of the most unreliable power stations in the country", and has already broken down this summer during a heatwave.



Opposition leader, Bill Shorten, checks press coverage of his hydrogen boost plans for Queensland.

Photo: Bill Shorten, Facebook

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/labor-1b-pledge-to-open-up-hydrogen-industry-in-queensland/news-story/bf8fb1408e3f626898eafb3b30f91fea>

Labor's \$1b pledge to open up hydrogen industry in Queensland

Matthew Killoran, *Courier-Mail*, 22/01/2019

Australia's hydrogen export industry would be opened up under an audacious \$1 billion Labor plan intended to revive the fortunes of struggling central Queensland, Opposition Leader Bill Shorten will announce today in Gladstone. ...

The election sweetener is aimed at tackling high unemployment rates in the regions, creating a booming new export industry and more blue-collar jobs.

A \$3 million National Hydrogen Innovation Hub would also be based in Gladstone with the aim of kickstarting early commercialisation of new hydrogen technologies. ...

Newcastle is also said to be capable of supporting a hydrogen industry. ...

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/federal-labor-targets-renewable-hydrogen-with-1bn-energy-policy-play-292437>

Federal Labor targets renewable hydrogen with \$1bn energy policy play

Sophie Vorrath, *Renew Economy*, 22/01/2019

The federal Labor opposition has unveiled a \$1 billion dollar plan to "supercharge" Australia's renewable-based hydrogen industry, firing a first shot in what is bound to be a fierce energy policy battle in the lead up to this year's federal election. ...

Labor's backing of green hydrogen follows the publication of two major reports last year – one from ANREA and another from a group led by chief scientist Alan Finkel – highlighting the enormous opportunities for Australia in pursuing "green" hydrogen exports, based around the country's enormous potential for wind and solar power. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/climate/labor-tempts-swing-seats-with-hydrogen/news-story/62fa2d3e681dbb498c3d4eba0c53cbb2?csp=a6943e-d3e1a0b653b0227d9eb63be628>

Labor tempts swing seats with hydrogen

Jared Owens, *The Australian*, 23/01/2018

The battle for central Queensland's marginal electorates is shaping as a fight between hydrogen and coal, as both major parties touted their plans to get voters back to work in the boom-bust region.

Bill Shorten yesterday blitzed the seats of Flynn and Capricornia, unveiling a six-point plan to transform Gladstone into a global hub to produce and export clean hydrogen fuel to power-hungry economies around the world. ...

As business groups applauded the initiative, Resources Minister Matt Canavan accused the Opposition Leader of selling "snake oil" to voters to distract from his "abandonment" of coal projects the senator said could deliver more jobs, more quickly. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/shorten-jobs-bonanza-promise-is-decades-away-says-matt-canavan/news-story/b4f4ac4098dcbfa9385ba7fb752abc02?csp=604a04b34aff7d6e66ecf1d9ca5fbc06>

Shorten's jobs bonanza promise is decades away, says Matt Canavan

Matthew Killoran, *Courier-Mail*, 23/01/2019

Promising a boom from a burgeoning hydrogen industry is "snake oil" and any "jobs bonanza" from it is still decades away, according to Resources Minister Matt Canavan. ...

Energy Networks Australia CEO An-

drew Dillon said hydrogen had a lot of potential and was being watched closely around the world.

"Funding support for research and development, led nationally, that supports the ultimate commercialisation of hydrogen technologies will provide important impetus," he said.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/jan/22/labor-promises-to-supercharge-hydrogen-industry-as-green-groups-say-no-role-for-coal>

Labor promises to 'supercharge' hydrogen industry as green groups say 'no role for coal'

Lisa Cox, *The Guardian*, 22/01/2019

A \$1.1bn plan announced by Labor to build up Australia's hydrogen industry has been welcomed by environmental groups, so long as it is backed by renewable power. ...

Hydrogen gas can be made from water, coal or natural gas.

While the definitions vary, generally "green" or clean hydrogen is made from water through electrolysis using electricity from renewable energy.

"Blue" hydrogen is made from natural gas and "brown" hydrogen is made from coal.

Both blue and brown hydrogen production usually uses electricity from fossil fuels and, for this to be zero-carbon, the process must use carbon capture and storage to offset the resulting greenhouse gases.

Some of the proposed regulatory reforms from Labor would support the use of existing gas pipelines for hydrogen, support the shipping of hydrogen, and the storage of CO2 from blue and brown hydrogen production. ...

Richie Merzian, the climate and energy program director at the Australia Institute, said it would "be disappointing if any proposed support for the new industry would go to hydrogen made using gas or coal, on the basis of businesses making dubious promises to capture and bury resulting greenhouse gases". ...

<https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/national/bill-shorten-steers-clear-of-qld-thermal-coal-mine-commitment/news-story/ed01f2c21852591a93aa389502ad80697c-sp=5782997381176b0b3d4bc77ef15db900>

Bill Shorten steers clear of Qld thermal coal mine commitment

Jack McKay, *Courier-Mail*, 22/01/2019

Opposition Leader Bill Shorten has avoided committing Labor to supporting new thermal coal mines in

Queensland. Touring a train manufacturer in Maryborough on Monday during his pre-election blitz of Queensland, Mr Shorten said he expected coal to play a role in the country's exports and energy grid for the "foreseeable future".

But he would not say if he would support new thermal coal mines in Queensland, pointing out instead that many Australians were keen to get into renewable energy. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-01-23/government-accused-of-doing-little-to-improve-fuel-security/10732978>

Government accused of doing 'bugger all' to shore up Australia's fuel security

Malcolm Sutton, ABC, 23/01/2019

A former high-ranking Air Force officer has accused the Federal Government of doing "bugger all" to bolster Australia's fuel security, saying it was "simplistic" to use the shortcomings as an argument to drill in the Great Australian Bight. ...

Retired air vice-marshal John Blackburn, who has been lobbying the Government to improve fuel security since 2014, said if the public panicked or an active military needed to draw from domestic stocks, reserves would be burned much faster.

He said he believed the country would be brought to its knees within a week of a major fuel disruption because Australia's food, pharmaceutical supplies, water and energy – including the distribution of fuel itself – were all reliant on petrol. ...

But a Liquid Fuel Security Review promised for release late last year by former prime minister Malcolm Turnbull has not yet been published, and a National Energy Security Assessment promised yearly since 2015 has again been delayed until the middle of 2019. ...

Resources Minister Matt Canavan admitted this month that fuel security was a problem, when he suggested drilling in the Great Australian Bight – a contentious proposal that has already been abandoned by BP and Chevron – was a solution. ...

But Mr Blackburn said drilling for oil was a "simplistic" approach that overlooked recent closures in refinery infrastructure and that the Minister was "playing a game" to advocate for mining in the Bight. ...

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/opinion/greens-drag-on-bush/news-story/aa4aa12704718118f95bf02817fb2180?csp=ddc5844d3b-804439cd2176bc6d5da083>

Wealthy Western elites fund Green activists to keep poor people poor

Warren Mundine, Daily Telegraph, 23/01/2019

I'm ... concerned about foreign-funded sabotage of our economy by Green activists determined to destroy regional Australia's future.

Green activists are fighting mining, industry and agriculture every step of the way, consistently opposing new projects and undermining existing business. Often with funding from foreign organisations and wealthy elites with deep pockets. ...

And when Green activists fight regional Australia they also fight Aboriginal people, the poorest people in the country and the most in need of economic development.

The Green movement comprises well-off elites from Western countries trying to stop poor people attaining the economic prosperity they enjoy.

Make no mistake. Green activists are at war with regional Australia.

• *Nyunggai Warren Mundine is the Liberal Party candidate for Gilmore.*

<https://www.theage.com.au/business/companies/watch-dog-widens-warnings-on-power-as-victoria-swelters-20190124-p50tat.html>

'Old car' coal plants aren't going to get any better warns AEMO

Cole Latimer, Adam Carey & Sumeyya Ilanbey, The Age, 24/01/2019

The energy market operator has warned the nation's coal fired power plants will break down more often after it had to ask businesses to shut down to keep the lights on during a scorching day in Victoria. ...

AEMO chief executive Audrey Zibelman said ... "Clearly as generators age, we are running them very hard and with the hot weather and the fact that the weather is getting hotter in Victoria, we're running them more," Ms Zibelman said.

"And so there is an expectation that like any old machines - think of old cars - that over time if you run them harder you are going to see more operating conditions that have to be fixed." ...

Australian tech billionaire and green energy advocate Mike Cannon-Brookes said AEMO should be commended for its efforts. ...

Mr Cannon-Brookes also took aim at supporters of new coal powered stations.

"The government supporting any more coal fired power stations being built is ridiculous idea - they're unstable, expensive and toxic. This is just yet another brick in the wall of proof of that. It definitely strengthens the case for a smarter, faster, more responsive grid." ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/aemo-taps-emergency-energy-powers-after-a-unit-at-agls-liddell-coalfired-power-plant-fails/news-story/a1132861dec100122fe3148cb62162c4>

AEMO taps emergency energy powers after a unit at AGL's Liddell coal-fired power plant fails

Perry Williams & Rachel Baxendale, The Australian, 24/01/2019

South Australia has been hit by a major electricity blackout with more than 20,000 households to endure a night without power after a severe heatwave buckled local poles and wires networks and stretched the state's grid to breaking point.

Power was knocked out from 90 'poles and wires' transformers on local streets after electric fuses shut down due to record temperatures with more than 21,000 homes losing access to electricity, SA Power Networks confirmed. ...

The fresh power crisis comes just over two years after the entire state was plunged into darkness when powerful storms knocked out 22 power pylons which triggered a shutdown in the electricity network. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/jan/25/coal-plants-in-mix-for-coalitions-electricity-guarantee-but-victoria-attacks-new-bid>

Coal plants in mix for Coalition's electricity guarantee but Victoria attacks new bid

Paul Karp & Lisa Cox, The Guardian, 25/01/2019

A mix of coal power plants, pumped hydro and gas-fired power have been presented to the federal government as options for its program to underwrite new electricity generation.

But an ambitious \$6bn plan by power baron Trevor St Baker for two new coal power plants has been criticised by the Victorian energy and environment minister, Lily D'Ambrosio, who said the bid proved the scheme was designed to boost fossil fuels. ...

At least one company that lodged an expression of interest complained to

News this week ... from previous page

Guardian Australia that the government has not explained who will decide which projects get support, how the government will fund it, whether legislation will be required, and what form of support is on offer, such as loans, grants or contracts-for-difference. ...

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-01-23/jacinda-ardern-and-attenborough-issue-climate-change-warning/10738994?fbclid=IwAR3XNBD3MpZiF0a-VABKdy-gCa5AxPEABpyilbQAZWTlnzYwV30Sdc6X_PM

Jacinda Ardern tells world leaders they have nothing to fear from acting on climate change

ABC, 23/01/2019

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and naturalist David Attenborough have issued a strong message to world leaders who do not believe in climate change while appearing together at the annual World Economic Forum meeting in Davos.

Joining a panel hosted by former US vice president Al Gore, Ms Ardern, a long-time supporter of efforts to combat climate change, said leaders do not have to cede power by acting on the matter.

"There's nothing to fear about your individual political status," she said.

"Actually, this is about being on the right side of history.

"Do you want to be a leader that you look back in time and say that you were on the wrong side of the argument when the world was crying out for a solution? ...

The 92-year-old veteran broadcaster [Attenborough], who was in Davos promoting his new Netflix series titled *Our Planet*, said "it's difficult to overstate the climate change crisis".

Attenborough was also interviewed by Britain's Prince William at Davos on Tuesday, and was given a standing ovation after warning the planet faces



destruction if climate change is not dealt with imminently.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/government-questions-if-anti-coal-mining-advertisement-breaks-electoral-laws/news-story/8655ca13dae1995a114ee215a93db168?csp=e6c1a54852e2f2cc34b806d9ceb46646>

Government questions if anti-coal mining advertisement breaks electoral laws

Anna Caldwell & Rose Brennan,
Daily Telegraph, 24/01/2019

An anti-mining movement has been accused of breaking election advertising rules.

Lock The Gate Alliance was referred by the state government for investigation – and has even sought advice itself.

It comes after it launched a TV ad [pictured above] in the Hunter Valley region on Monday which it claimed "highlights the need to protect farmland from destructive coal mining".

The ad was authorised by the group's spokeswoman Georgina Woods.

In a statement accompanying the ad, Ms Woods said the Alliance called for the state government and "all political parties to safeguard the productive farmland of the Hunter Valley by sup-

porting action to prohibit coalmining there". ...

But the TV ad – aired just two months out from the state election – will now be referred to the NSW Electoral Commission over serious accusations from the state government and NSW Minerals Council that it breaches rules. ...

The Nationals hold the seat of Upper Hunter – voters targeted by Lock The Gate's ad – on a wafer-thin margin and are at serious risk of losing the seat over local issues, such as mining and water. ...

Ms Woods said the alliance had approached the Electoral Commission for advice on whether the ad had breached the rules.

"Lock the Gate has not registered as a third party campaigner because we have not incurred electoral expenditure with a dominant purpose of influencing voting at the NSW election," she said.

"Our campaign is not for a political party: it is for farmland protection ... But we've approached the Electoral Commission to get further advice, as a precaution."

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