



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 2:12 • 1 MARCH 2019

Coal miners outbid farmers for water

Mining companies have outbid farmers from the Namoi Valley at an auction for Zone 4 groundwater, further disadvantaging landholders during a time of extreme drought.

Whitehaven Coal paid around three times market value for a temporary transfer of water, over \$900 per megalitre, pushed up by other miners in the region.

“There is no way farmers can pay over \$900/megalitre for groundwater, we question the financial viability of our crops when it gets to around \$350. We’re being totally outbid in the water market by mining giants,” said Dave Watt, a mixed cropping farmer from Gunnedah in the north west.

Miners offer 3x more for water

“Mining companies frequently say that they can coexist with agriculture, but outbidding farmers to pay three times the price for water during a drought, has a huge impact on our agricultural businesses. I can’t afford to grow my crops with water that costs \$900/ML.”

The extremely dry conditions are leading to mining companies desperately attempting to keep operating at full capacity.

Conditions of consent state that mining operations must match their water availability, so companies are buying up the majority of available water so they can keep operating at full capacity rather than reducing production due to limited water.

“Part of the mines’ conditions of approval are that they must change their operations based on the amount of water they have, just like farmers change their operations during dry times,” Dave said.



A Whitehaven Coal mine. Photo: Whitehaven Coal

Dave and his wife Janet and other farmers in the area are anxiously awaiting the next step in the government approval process of the Vickery Coal mine. The application for this mine includes predictions that it is predicted to operate at 10mtpa, and will require no new water licences beyond those already held by the proponent, Whitehaven Coal.

Models don’t account for dry times

Dave said, “Whitehaven is already short of water at Maules Creek, but at the same time they are saying they

don’t need any more licences to open up the new Vickery coal mine. It just doesn’t make any sense. It must mean their models don’t account for these kinds of dry times.”

The Independent Planning Commission expects to hand down its summary of the issues of Vickery Coal mine by March 28.

Meanwhile coal companies will continue to outbid farmers to get hold of desperately needed water and regional communities will bear the brunt of that injustice.

FFB

• **P2: Coal & tobacco: Killer industries**

• **P3: Renewables beat coal in summer heat**

• **P4: Gas guzzlers get go-ahead in Qld**

Coal and tobacco: These two industries literally kill more people than they employ

Mike McRae, Science Alert

History is a graveyard of lost industries. Many faded away for lack of customers.

Every now and then, a few get executed, their goods and services judged to pose unacceptable risks to society. Occasionally though, they just continue to go on killing – like in the case of the tobacco and coal industries.

Michigan Tech computer engineer Joshua Pearce argues the economic benefits of an industry should never outweigh the risks they pose to our lives. And when they do, we need to seriously consider sentencing the industry to economic ‘death’.

Coal and tobacco compared

Pearce recently conducted a study comparing the employment rates in the coal mining and tobacco industries with the risk of mortality each imposed on society.

These case studies form the basis of his argument that the political support for job numbers simply won’t wash in the face of an industry’s cost to human health.

Like beauty, a product or service’s benefit is in the eye of the beholder. What some appreciate as useful, others see as unnecessarily dangerous, either to the environment or our lives.

Kid’s chemistry kits were once praised as educational, for example, until perceived risks to the consumer forced them into extinction. Similarly, we no longer use radium to make paint glow, or chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) to make fridges cold.

Few of us pause to consider the loss of jobs in the educational toy factories or radium painting workshops. In those cases, health and safety came before employment figures.

The question is, where should a government draw a line and say enough is enough? Pearce suggests the answer might lie in a simple balance of jobs versus lives.

“The vast majority of jobs and industries involve no human sacrifice,” says Pearce.

“If we know that life trumps employ-



ment because you have to be alive to work, then for a company or industry to exist it must employ more people than it kills in a year.”

Whether you agree with the weight of these measures or not, Pearce’s logic is easy to follow.

If we accept that everybody has a right to a long, healthy existence, and assume we have a right to make money if it provides a benefit to society, there will be occasions where we need to make a hard choice – employment figures, or mortality rates.

Pearce outlines his case for using these metrics and then tallies the figures on each for two industries with a poor reputation when it comes to their effects on human lives.

According to the US Energy Information Administration, coal mining provides employment for just under 51,800 people across the nation, a figure that’s dropping as profitability steadily sinks in the face of competition and environmental regulations.

In itself, coal mining is far safer today than in the past, where fatalities could be listed in their thousands. Only 15 people lost their lives on the job in 2017, and just 8 the year before that.

Coal kills 52,000 a year in USA

As a fossil fuel, coal’s dark side is revealed. Estimates using US Department of Health and Human Services data put the number of premature deaths due to poor air quality from coal combustion in the vicinity of just over 52,000 a year.

That means for every job coal mining provides, it claims a life. More or less.

The tobacco industry fares even worse.

The North American Industry Classification System gives us a figure of 124,342 jobs along the entire process chain, from tobacco agriculture to the point of sale of cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and cigars.

Tobacco kills half a million

Adding up all of the deaths that result each year from both direct and passive smoking makes for a shocking figure of over half a million casualties. That’s four deaths for every job.

To Pearce, the statistic just don’t make sense.

“What this paper has done is set the minimum bar for industry existence,” says Pearce.

Axing tens of thousands of jobs wouldn’t be high on any politician’s list of mandates, no matter how many potential lives it would save.

Funding coal transition programs

But funding programs that help those employed in industries with a death sentence transition into new lines of work would be a huge first step into creating a healthier, fairer society.

“If the barrier is employing those specific coal workers, we can easily retrain them and put them to work in solar and it turns out they would even earn a little more money on average,” says Pearce.

As logical as it might all sound, governments don’t have the best track record when it comes to finding a balance between economics and the wellbeing of future populations. There’s far more at work than simple cost-benefit analyses in big money industries like coal and tobacco.

But having bleak figures like these is still a sobering reminder that some wages cost society more than it can afford.

• *This research was published in Social Sciences.*

Pearce, J.M. Towards Quantifiable Metrics Warranting Industry-Wide Corporate Death Penalties. Soc. Sci. 2019, 8, 62.

<https://www.sciencealert.com/these-two-industries-literally-kill-more-people-than-they-employ-claim-researchers?perpetual=yes&limitstart=1>

Renewables outperformed coal in summer of unprecedented heatwaves

The Australia Institute's Climate & Energy Program has released the latest National Energy Emissions Audit for the electricity sector covering the month of January 2019.

The Audit shows that renewables now account for 20% of total generation in the National Energy Market (NEM) – a share that is certain to continue growing – performing best of all energy sources during a record breaking summer of heatwaves.

Key findings:

- AEMO's intervention in the NEM during the unprecedented heatwave of 25th Jan (one of the highest ever days of total energy demand on the NEM) if Victoria's brown coal generators had not failed in the heat.
- Wind and grid scale solar now supply a larger share of annual grid generation than hydro - a relationship which is also most unlikely to be reversed, with a doubling in large scale wind and solar to be expected by 2021.
- South Australia is now firmly above 50% renewable electricity.

The rise of renewables and fall in coal generation has led to a 20% reduction

in emissions in the NEM.

"If we take one lesson from the record-breaking heatwaves this summer, it is that solar saved the day, [with] both home and large-scale solar delaying and diminishing peak electricity demand," says Dr Hugh Saddler, energy expert and author of the report.

"During the unprecedented heatwave on January 25th, large scale solar farms were running at 93% of their maximum output, which is in stark contrast to Victoria's brown coal generators of which two of the three stations were operating well below capacity.

"The era of coal is ending in Australia and around the world. Renewables are being backed as the most affordable, reliable and popular energy solution – despite the federal government's efforts to the contrary.

"The continued growth of solar and wind energy on the NEM, which now exceeds hydro energy, will do far more to reduce emissions than the drop in the bucket that is the Government's so-called Climate Solutions Fund."



Coalition climate funding 'woefully inadequate'

Greenpeace says this week's funding announcement by the Federal Coalition is woefully inadequate to address climate change and proves that the climate denying coal huggers like Tony Abbott are still in charge of energy policy.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced the amount of funding the government will set aside for climate initiatives over the next 10 years – a sum of less than \$8.01 per person a year.

"This announcement shows the Liberal Party thinks the right response to climate chaos is exactly \$8.01 a person – even as at the same time they funnel billions of dollars of taxpayers' money into making the problem worse, by subsidising coal and other fossil fuel projects," Greenpeace Australia Pacific campaigner Neneh Darwin said.

"The Coalition and PM Scott Morrison will never be serious about taking action on the climate unless they stop

pumping money into the biggest cause of climate change in Australia – coal."

The Australia Institute said the Prime Minister's announcement to channel \$2 billion over ten years to the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) falls drastically short of what is required to credibly tackle Australia's emissions.

"The Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) will not bring down emissions in the majority of our economy and cannot credibly be considered a centrepiece climate policy," said Richie Merzian, climate & energy program director at the Australia Institute.

"The ERF is just a warm-up act and we are still – 6 years on – waiting for the main performer.

"The ERF has a useful role in the land and agriculture sector, it is not capable of carrying out the heavy lifting to meet Australia's fair share of emissions reductions."



Australia's top 10 polluters

According to the recently released National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting fact sheet, Australia's top 10 carbon polluters for 2017-18 were:

1. AGL (COAL/GAS) – 43.1 million tonnes

Owner of Bayswater and Liddell coal-fired power stations in the NSW Hunter Valley and the Loy Yang A coal-fired power station in Latrobe Valley, Vic.

2. EnergyAustralia (COAL/GAS) – 21.7 million tonnes

Runs Yallourn coal-fired power station in Latrobe Valley Vic., Mt Piper coal-fired power station in NSW's Lithgow region, and a number of gas-fired power stations in NSW and Vic.

3. Stanwell Corporation (COAL) – 18.4 million tonnes

Owns Tarong coal-fired power station, Qld.

4. Origin Energy (COAL/GAS) – 18.1 million tonnes

Owns Eraring power station, on NSW's Lake Macquarie and a number of gas-fired power stations.

5. CS Energy (COAL) – 14.7 million tonnes

Qld state-owned generator runs three coal-fired power stations: Callide B & C and Kogan Creek. Also owns Kogan Creek coal mine.

6. Chevron Australia (LNG) – 12 million tonnes

Operates Gorgon, North West Shelf and Wheatstone LNG processing facilities.

7. Pioneer Sail Holdings (COAL) – 11.3 million tonnes

A subsidiary of Chow Tai Fook Enterprises (CTFE) and owns power company Alinta and the Loy Yang B power station.

8. OZGen Holdings (COAL) – 11 million tonnes

Owns InterGen Energy, which runs Millmerran power station and Callide C coal-fired power station in a joint venture with CS Energy.

9. Woodside Petroleum (LNG) – 10 million tonnes

Operates gas processing facilities in WA.

10. NRG Victoria (COAL) – 8.5 million tonnes

Industrial manufacturer and operates Gladstone coal-fired power station in Queensland, in a joint venture with Rio Tinto.

• *With additional information from Cole Latimer's SMH article, 28/02/2019:*

<https://www.businessinsider.com.au/the-dirty-top-10-these-are-australias-biggest-polluters-2019-2?nojs=1>

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

Gas guzzlers given the go ahead at the expense of water and prime agricultural land

Lock the Gate Alliance has expressed its disappointment over the continuing carve up of prime agricultural land for the benefit of greedy gas companies on the Darling Downs.

LTGA spokesperson Ellie Smith said the announcement on Thursday by Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk and Energy Minister Anthony Lynham that the destructive Arrow Energy gas project had been given the green light would do nothing to bring down the high price of gas.

“What’s more, it will cause even more farming bores to dry up, and will push the cumulative extraction of groundwater by the gas industry to well over 65,000ML per year” she said.

“We are witnessing the death of the Darling Downs by a thousand cuts.

“It is gobsmacking that at a time of severe drought throughout southern Queensland and the Murray Darling Basin that the greed of this water draining industry is being allowed to continue at an unrelenting pace.

“We call on the Queensland Government to end the releasing of land for coal seam gas development. This gas is predominantly bound for export markets, leaving consumers, farmers, and the environment worse off.”

Lock the Gate also hit back at remarks from the National Secretary of the AWU in response to NSW Labor’s

commitment to stop the Narrabri CSG project in north-west NSW.

The group said the comments revealed the national union was not aware of the breadth and scale of public opposition to the gasfield, and the risk it poses to livelihoods and the environment.

National Secretary of the AWU, Dan Walton, characterised opposition to the gasfield as ‘prioritising the imagined concerns of a noisy few.’

Lock the Gate NSW spokesperson Georgina Woods said, “The National branch of the union may not be aware that more than 100 communities across three million hectares in north-west NSW have surveyed their populations, going door to door, and declared themselves gasfield free.”

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

Inside the news

FFB returns with the Editor’s spine firmly **screwed** together after repairs by a Neurosurgeon last week. The operation was a great success.

Despite having to hold over last week’s edition, **the plot was never lost** and this edition comprises two weeks’ worth of news.

Adani hit the headlines again when it was revealed to have hired ‘**attack dog**’ lawyers (p6) whose strategy included **personal attacks** on scientists and targeting impecunious Traditional Owners for **bankruptcy**.

The company continued its **finch fight** over the Queensland government’s review of its plan for the endangered black throated finch. Sky News commentator **Peta Credlin**, an Abbott crony, attacked the government on their behalf. If Ms Credlin read FFB, she would realise the promised **10,000** job figure was long ago discredited.

The government was placed in a panic when **China** put a go-slow on **Australian coal imports** (p9), inspiring David Rowe’s cartoon at left. Nobody knows quite what its all about, but the Australian dollar took a dive over the news.

Former NSW Labor minister **Ian Macdonald** aka **Sir Lunchalot**, and his former union boss friend **John Maitland**, had their convictions over the granting of a multi-million-dollar **coal exploration licence** set aside and a retrial was ordered (p10). The pair **walked out of jail**, raising many eyebrows, and have strict bail conditions.

As **AGL** maintains its commitment to establishing a gas import terminal at **Crib Point**, project boss **Phaedra Deckart** suggested residents opposed to the terminal should ‘**take one for the team**’. AGL’s donations to local clubs have failed to buy off local opposition to date.

Federal Liberal backbencher **Craig Kelly** has taken issue with the characterisation of **climate change** in a NSW Year 10 textbook. Kelly has written to the NSW education minister, saying the book’s description of **Tony Abbott** as a climate change denier was “an **offensive slur**” equating it with Holocaust deniers (p13).

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In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 39,400 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/feb/15/queensland-government-rebukes-adani-over-endangered-finch>

Queensland government rebukes Adani over endangered finch

Ben Smee, *The Guardian*, 15/02/2019

The Adani mining group has chosen to “run a political campaign” rather than engage with the Queensland government about its plans to protect the endangered black-throated finch, the state’s deputy premier has said. On Friday, Adani launched a pre-emptive on the findings of an independent review of its conservation plans to protect the finch at the Carmichael mine site.

The company said a first draft of the report “reads like an anti-coal, anti-mining, anti-Adani lobbying brochure”, and contained unspecified errors. In a statement, it repeated its calls for the Queensland government to simply finalise its management plan ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/adani-carmichael-mine-project-could-come-to-standstill-over-cows/news-story/be62fae8f4684bde673cc6b6bea860a5>

Adani Carmichael mine project could come to standstill over cows

Steven Wardill, *Courier-Mail*, 15/02/2019

The controversial expert panel reviewing the Carmichael mine’s management plan for an endangered bird wants cows removed from the pastoral lease land to be set aside as a reserve.

The draft report, obtained by *The Courier-Mail*, argues that the presence of cattle within the 33,000ha biodiversity area around the mine site may hasten the extinction of the black-throated finch.

However, Indian miner Adani only proposed retaining cattle on the land based on a shared agreement with the Department of Environment and Science that grazing could be beneficial towards improving habitat for the finch.

The differing opinions between the panel and the department that hired them is just one of a number of conflict positions exposed in the draft report. ...



Meme from Post-romantic queerwave, Facebook.

<https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/news/politics/2019/02/16/matt-canavan-hijacks-native-title-fight-adani/15502356007467>

Matt Canavan hijacks native title fight on Adani

Mike Seccombe, *Saturday Paper*, 16/02/2019

Just before 1pm on Tuesday, most media attention in Parliament House was focused on the government’s historic embarrassment on medical evacuations of asylum seekers. So, relatively few were there to witness another embarrassment, in the senate courtyard.

Resources Minister Matt Canavan, chief government advocate for the coal industry in general and the Adani Carmichael mine in particular, had called a media conference with representatives of the Wangan and Jagalingou people, traditional custodians of the land Adani wants to mine.

Its purpose was to promulgate the line that the traditional custodians overwhelmingly support the giant coalmine. To that end, Canavan, along with his National Party colleagues Michelle Landry and George Christensen, had invited a member of the W&J people to spruik the benefits of the mine.

W&J spokesperson Patrick Malone began to speak of the employment benefits and alluded to a 294–one vote by traditional custodians in favour of the

establishment of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) with Adani.

But Canavan’s plan quickly went off the rails as other members of the W&J people crashed the media conference. W&J representative Murrawah Johnson interjected that it was “not appropriate” for Malone to be speaking for them, given the agreement is still subject to legal action. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/feb/16/scientists-unite-against-adani-attack-on-report-into-endangered-finch>

Scientists unite against Adani attack on report into endangered finch

Ben Smee, *The Guardian*, 16/02/2019

Several prominent scientists have defended their peers from attacks by the Adani group and compliant media outlets, saying the smearing of experts is “morally reprehensible”.

On Friday, Adani launched a pre-emptive attack on the Queensland government and the authors of an independent review, which has not been finalised yet, into the company’s plans to protect the endangered black-throated finch at the Carmichael mine site.

On the same day, the company’s international mining chief, Jeyakumar Jana-

kraj, told SBS Punjabi that the Carmichael mine would be “hugely beneficial to global climate change. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/feb/16/news-corp-attacks-scientists-assessing-adani-coalmine-and-ignores-science>

News Corp attacks scientists assessing Adani coalmine – and ignores science

Sarah Bekessy, Hugh Possingham, James Watson, Georgia Garrard & Alex Kusmanoff, The Guardian, 16/02/2019

The relentless, sustained, needlessly personal attacks on the scientists analysing the impacts of the Adani coalmine undermines the role of science – and scientists – in important decisions that affect our future.

Mediawatch last week called out the Courier-Mail’s bias in reporting on the proposed Adani coalmine in northern Queensland, including blatantly false statements. One example is a claim that the “endangered black-throated finch faces extinction if the Adani coal mine does not go ahead”, when mining is the very thing threatening the future of the species. ...

• *Sarah Bekessy, professor and Australian Research Council Future Fellow, RMIT University; Hugh Possingham, chief scientist of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Australian Research Council Laureate Fellow, University of Queensland; James Watson, director, Science and Research Initiative, Wildlife Conservation Society and professor, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, director, Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Science; Dr Georgia Garrard, senior research fellow, RMIT University; Dr Alex Kusmanoff, research fellow, RMIT University*

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/national/adani-to-totally-reject-final-version-of-controversial-independent-finch-review/news-story/1cf057d435cf6d8dd0539d62d6c2da542c-spt=1550893541jac91686349a1d7c5f2cf1d273638b0c8>

Adani to totally reject final version of controversial independent finch review

Madura McCormack, Townsville Bulletin, 19/02/2019

Mining giant Adani has rejected in full the findings of a controversial report crucial to the progress of its coal mine, alleging it still contains “false and inaccurate statements” and “hysterical claims”.

Adani has repeatedly called into question the independence of the external review, considering the “anti-coal sentiments” of review chair Professor Brendan Wintle. ...



Peta Credlin of Sky News still believes Adani has 10,000 jobs on offer.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/rendezview/do-coal-hating-hipsters-realise-their-hypocrisy/news-story/d72f0be63f7b5769cfe76f53c2acb3>

Do coal-hating hipsters realise their hypocrisy?

Peta Credlin, Courier-Mail, 16/02/2019

If you care about our future, then you really need to ponder this question: How long can we go on, as a country, spending the money that coal mining gives us, while simultaneously trying to shut down the industry and destroy the livelihoods of the 50,000 Australian coal workers (and their dependants) right across the country? ...

The Queensland budget is being propped up by a one-billion-dollar coal royalty windfall, but the Queensland government is finding excuse after excuse to block the development of the Adani mine, even though that mine ultimately means a \$20 billion investment in Queensland, 10,000 new local jobs, and electric power for 50 million plus people in India who currently cook their food and heat their homes through burning wood, and animal dung. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-02-19/adani-law-firm-put-forward-trained-attack-dog-strategy/10821470>

Adani’s new law firm put forward ‘trained attack dog’ strategy for waging legal ‘war’

Josh Robertson, ABC, 19/02/2019

Lawyers for mining firm Adani proposed waging “war” on opponents of its controversial Queensland mine by using the legal system to pressure government, silence critics and financially cripple activists, according to documents obtained by the ABC.

The draft copy of Adani’s new law firm’s aggressive strategy to bring the Carmichael mine to life is labelled “Taking the Gloves Off” and outlines a commercial proposal by AJ & Co to win a multi-million-dollar legal contract with the Indian mining giant.

In the document, the Brisbane firm promised to be Adani’s “trained attack dog”.

The strategy recommended bankrupting individuals who unsuccessfully challenge Adani in court, using lawsuits to pressure the Queensland Government and social media “bias” as a tool to discredit decisionmakers.

In a section called “Play the Man”, it recommended “where activists and commentators spread untruths, use the legal system to silence them”.

It also urged Adani to hire private investigators to target activists and work “with police and a criminal lawyer to ensure appropriate police action is taken against protesters”. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-02-25/adani-attack-dog-law-firm-facing-legal-services-commission-probe/10831088>

Adani’s ‘attack dog’ law firm could face Legal Services Commission probe

Josh Robertson, ABC, 25/02/2019

Lawyers for Adani who proposed acting as the mining giant’s “trained attack dog” could face a professional misconduct investigation by Queensland’s legal watchdog.

The Legal Services Commission has told the ABC it will “consider and assess” marketing material created by Brisbane firm AJ & Co, which pledged to use the legal system to wage “war” on Adani’s behalf. ...

A retired Supreme Court judge who is patron of Queensland’s Environmental Defenders office described the AJ & Co document as “profoundly disturbing”, while a leading law ethics expert said it damaged the reputation of the profession. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/feb/25/labor-given-new-legal-advice-that-it-could-revoke-adani-approvals>

Labor given new legal advice that it could revoke Adani approvals

Katharine Murphy, The Guardian, 25/02/2019

Federal Labor MPs have been given new legal advice arguing there is a valid pathway to revoke the environmental approvals for the controversial Adani coal project, and a summary of polling showing stopping the project would not necessarily cost seats in central Queensland.

Guardian Australia has seen a brief for Labor MPs prepared by the Stop Adani campaign, which quotes legal advice from Neil Williams SC, a specialist

in environmental and planning law, arguing “there is evidence to support revocation of Adani’s approval under section 145 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, including significant impacts on water resources that were not assessed when the mine was approved”. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/activists-gave-labor-mps-a-stop-adani-playbook/news-story/6d349aa871d13bf120a22e66a30a7a47cspst=155123281910e6e4c489b560a-ca1adac93db5b9a25e>

Activists gave Labor MPs a ‘stop Adani’ playbook

Jared Owens & Michael McKenna, *The Australian*, 26/02/2019

Green activists gave Labor MPs a playbook on how to overturn approvals for Adani’s coalmine in closed-door meetings late last year, days before the Queensland government ordered a controversial review into the black-throated finch.

The Stop Adani Alliance, which includes GetUp and the US-funded Sunrise Project, threatened to ramp up a campaign against Labor in critical marginal seats nationwide if the federal opposition “sits on the fence” over the proposed Carmichael mine in central Queensland. ...

<https://www.ntnews.com.au/news/national/adani-hurdle-could-hang-on-labor/news-story/64a279994e-047f5ec0333c839d1bcc3?cspt=1551233006lf-ba21394c3389367394f11c1e3d8b299>

Adani hurdle could hang on Labor

Matthew Killoran, *Courier-Mail*, 26/02/2019

The Labor Party could have a significant say on whether Adani clears one of its final federal approval before the election is even held. ...

Environment Department officials have told Greens senator Larissa Waters that if the final decision on Adani’s groundwater management plan comes up for approval during the election period, the Opposition would be consulted under usual caretaker provisions on whether or not to proceed with the approval. ...

<https://www.afr.com/news/politics/no-justification-for-adani-says-mark-butler-at-odds-with-leader-bill-shorten-20190225-h1bnng>

No justification for Adani says Mark Butler, at odds with leader Bill Shorten

Phillip Coorey, *AFR*, 25/02/2019

Labor’s climate and energy spokesman Mark Butler has taken a harder line than his leader Bill Shorten on the Adani coal mine, saying the proposed project in Queensland’s Galilee Basin

is not in the national interest. ... Mr Butler, a former union secretary, also gave short shrift to the Queensland CFMEU which is threatening to campaign against Labor candidates in the electorally critical state if they do not back the mine. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/latest-news/adani-mine-protesters-get-fines-slashed/news-story/b7537e0d4ea53d475aa04d0e84b2c753>

Adani mine protesters get fines slashed

Christine Flatley, *AAP/The Australian*, 27/02/2019

A group of nine protesters who twice shut down the Adani Abbot Point terminal by locking themselves onto a coal loading machine have successfully fought to have their fines cut.

The men and women - aged between 19 and 71 - were each fined \$8000 in Bowen Magistrates Court after pleading guilty to trespassing and interfering with the ports operation in January 2018. ...

In a written judgment published this week, the District Court in Townsville reiterated that the offences were “serious and dangerous”, but took into account the limited financial means of some of the protesters.

The court reduced all the fines to \$3000 or less.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/palaszczuk-climate-adviser-is-also-an-anti-coal-green/news-story/019e2360ffbe-16d02650331963aafeb?cspt=155138718115937a169653d-ac361388c942a94bbe77>

Palaszczuk climate adviser is also an anti-coal Green

Jared Owens, *The Australian*, 01/03/2019

A senior climate change adviser to Queensland’s Labor government is also a key strategist driving the Greens’ aggressive federal election campaign attacking the state’s coal industry.

Kirsten Lovejoy is one of a clutch of veteran environmental activists now holding influential positions within the state Environment Department, which has stalled Adani’s Carmichael coal project in central Queensland.

Ms Lovejoy, principal policy officer for the department’s climate change and sustainable futures section, was last year appointed to the Queensland campaign committee of the Greens, who want the mine stopped.

COAL ROCKS ON



<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/feb/15/toxic-black-snow-covers-siberian-coalmining-region>

Toxic black snow covers Siberian coalmining region

Mark Bennets, *The Guardian*, 16/02/2019

Residents of a coalmining region in Siberia have been posting videos online showing entire streets and districts covered in toxic black snow that critics say highlight a manmade ecological catastrophe.

In one video, filmed in Kiselyovsk, a town in the Kuzbass region, a woman drives past mounds of coal-coloured snow stretching to the horizon, covering a children’s playground and the courtyards of residential buildings. The scenes in the footage were described as “post-apocalyptic” by Russian media.

The coal dust that turns the snow black in the Kuzbass comes from numerous open pit mines that environmental activists say have had disastrous consequences for the health of the region’s 2.6 million people, with life expectancy three to four years lower than Russia’s national average of 66 for men and 77 for women. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/nsw-government-projects-big-jump-in-coal-shipments-20190216-p50y8n.html>

NSW government projects big jump in coal shipments

Peter Hannam, *SMH*, 16/02/2019

The Berejiklian government is projecting NSW will sharply increase coal shipments over coming decades, a forecast increase at odds with international climate goals and its own target for the state to reach net-zero carbon emissions by mid-century.

Figures used for the NSW Freight and Ports Plan 2018-2023 and obtained by the Greens, show transport projections out to 2056 also imply thermal coal use will increase by 2036 - even though four of the state’s five remaining coal-fired power plants are

scheduled to have closed by then. ... The government's figures, prepared in 2017-18 by Transport for NSW's analytics team, are even more bullish about exports of both thermal and coking coal.

The former is forecast to rise steadily from 139 million tonnes in 2016 to 158 million tonnes by 2056, counter to expectations that thermal coal use will have to be cut if Paris climate goals ... are to be met.

A spokeswoman for Transport for NSW said it was "uncertain whether the existing coal power stations in Australia are being closed down without like-replacement". ...

Transport's estimates contrast with the outspoken position of NSW senior ministers such as Don Harwin, the energy minister, who say the state must reduce reliance on coal for power generation.

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/queensland-miner-dead-six-injured-underground-collision-104804178.html>

Queensland miner dead, several injured in underground collision

AAP, 20/02/2019

A miner is dead and 10 others injured after two pieces of machinery collided underground in a central Queensland coal mine north of Mackay.

Paramedics were called to the site after an incident involving a grader and personnel carrier in Moranbah North Mine's access drift about 4.15pm on Wednesday. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/climate/coal-collapse-a-good-thing-labor-mp-richard-marles-says/news-story/7e3dc5427e9d-607007382638dc7bdfa42c5pt=1550894480|4940ea9a6d-59cf7ab408b74414f8ea67>

Coal collapse 'a good thing', Labor MP Richard Marles says

Ben Packham & Joe Kelly, The Australian, 21/02/2019

A senior Labor MP has declared it would be "a good thing" if the thermal coal sector collapsed, despite it being the nation's No 1 export industry, pumping more than \$25 billion into the Australian economy last year.

Just a day after the coal sector reached out to Labor leader Bill Shorten to stress its importance to jobs and exports, Labor frontbencher Richard Marles yesterday launched an extraordinary diatribe against one of the industrial pillars of Australia.

Deputy Labor leader Tanya Plibersek also forecast the end of the industry,

saying the world was moving away from coal-fired power, no matter how people felt about the industry and that its decline was a "a simple economic fact". ...

Mr Marles was forced to clarify his position, saying later: "I clearly didn't get anywhere near the point I was trying to make. I got it wrong and that's my fault.

"Coal clearly has an important and enduring role to play, even as we transition to more renewables, and I should have made that clear." ...

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5916103/hunters-biggest-miner-puts-cap-on-coal-production-levels/>

Glencore puts cap on production levels: instead focus on metals such as cobalt, nickel, vanadium and zinc

Cole Latimer, Newcastle Herald, 20/02/2019

The Hunter's largest coal miner Glencore will cap its global coal output at current levels in the wake of pressure from activist shareholders as part of a pivot towards minerals used in renewable technologies.

The miner announced on Wednesday night that, while it will continue mining thermal coal, which is used in power stations, and coking coal, which is used for making steel, it will limit production to current levels.

Glencore will instead focus on metals such as cobalt, nickel, vanadium and zinc, which are all key components of batteries ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/mining/coal/mammon-and-god-force-ivans-coal-concession-20190220-h1bi8v>

Why Glencore's Ivan Glasenberg buckled on coal

Matthew Stevens, AFR, 20/02/2019

It says everything about the intellectual savvy and raw power of the global anti-coal lobby that it has corralled Ivan Glasenberg into a profound public concession on coal mining.

His ear-battered competitors say the softest thing about Glasenberg is the enamel of his teeth. Glencore's chief executive and senior shareholder is hard. Well hard. But, after a three-year contest of the minds, he has buckled on coal under the weight of God, mammon and science. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/feb/21/glencore-pressured-to-withdraw-from-new-coalmines-to-prove-climate-change-commitment>

Glencore pressured to withdraw from new coalmines to prove climate change commitment

Lisa Cox, The Guardian, 21/02/2019

Green groups say Australia's biggest coal producer Glencore should commit to withdrawing from new coalmining projects if it is serious about aligning its business with the goals of the Paris agreement. ...

Lock the Gate, which has been campaigning for communities that would be affected by the Wandoan or United Wambo projects, said the company's statement on Wednesday sent "a powerful signal that thermal coal is in decline globally".

But Carmel Flint, the group's campaign coordinator, said it may not go far enough, because deep cuts were needed to meet Paris climate targets, "and maintaining current levels of production is not sufficient to deliver on that". ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/glencore-partner-seeks-expansion/news-story/8a5dc7dd276f98851e9683e62085aedb?csp=1551301321|483b651879d015d0edcf8578bf94e08c>

Glencore partner seeks expansion

Paul Garvey, The Australian, 27/02/2019

Glencore's controversial cap on its coal output is facing an early test after its joint-venture partner in the Hunter Valley operations, Chinese-backed Yancoal Australia, talked up expansion plans for the project.

Yancoal chief executive Reinhold Schmidt told The Australian yesterday that he did not envisage Glencore's production limits would affect either the market for coal or his growth plans for the Hunter Valley, noting that Glencore still had plenty of room to move under its new rules. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-02-21/china-bans-coal-import-and-send-dollar-tumbling/10835136>

Dollar tumbles as Chinese officials ban Australian coal imports; analysts say move 'crystallises fears' about possible crackdown

Stephen Letts, ABC, 22/02/2019

Australian coal producers have suffered another savage hit, with Chinese authorities placing an indefinite ban on imports ahead of a strict new regime of quotas. ...

The move appears political, with only Australian coal being targeted.

Reuters said imports from Russia and Indonesia would not be affected. ...

The Dalian custom officers oversee imports through five harbours – Dalian, Bayuquan, Panjin, Dandong and Beiliang – into the heavily industrialised steel-making heart of China's north. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/foreign-affairs/china-slaps-ban-on-coal-exports-prompting-dollar-dive/news-story/e84055fc05c84b12aa1e0e8dad7239b5?cspt=155096210710e99bfc7b4e36a1b-b725e459b5dd8a0b>

China slaps ban on coal exports prompting dollar dive

Glenda Korporaal & Perry Williams, *The Australian*, 22/02/2019

China has banned Australian thermal coal exports from entering five ports, in a provocative strike at the nation's top export earner, sending the dollar into a dive.

Trade Minister Simon Birmingham last night ordered an urgent investigation by Australia's ambassador in Beijing, Jan Adams.

Security experts warned that the indefinite halt on Australian coal exports at the large northern port of Dalian and four nearby ports could be linked to recent diplomatic tensions over the ban on Chinese technology company Huawei and investigations into cyber hacking. ...

https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/world/2019/02/27/co2-coal-research/?utm_source=Adestra&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Morning%20News%20-%2020190227

Scientists convert CO2 back into coal in carbon breakthrough

New Daily, 27/02/2019

Australian scientists have unlocked a new and more "efficient" way to turn carbon dioxide back into solid coal, in a world-first breakthrough that could combat rising greenhouse gas levels.

Researchers at Melbourne's RMIT University have used liquid metals to convert CO2 from a gas to a solid at room temperature.

The technique has potential to "safely and permanently" remove CO2 from the atmosphere, according to the new study published in the journal *Nature Communications*. ...

The new technique transforms CO2 into solid flakes of carbon, similar to coal, which can be stored more easily and securely. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-02-26/dozens-of-new-black-lung-cases-qld-advocates-say/10851482>

Black lung advocates say 20 Queenslanders diagnosed with coal dust diseases in a fortnight

Megan Hendry, *ABC*, 27/02/2019

A black lung advocacy group says there have been almost 20 new diagnoses of coal dust diseases in Queensland workers in the past two weeks and there are many more likely coming.

The diseases are solely caused by prolonged exposure to coal mine dust and are potentially fatal.

The Mine Dust Diseases Victims Group chair and former member for Mirani, Jim Pearce, said victims will meet with Federal MPs in the coming days about establishing an industry fund to support affected workers. ...

<https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/5924965/mining-companys-community-committee-labelled-box-ticking-exercise/>

Whitehaven Coal Werris Creek and Maules Creek mine CCCs labelled 'box-ticking exercise'

Jamieson Murphy, *Northern Daily Leader*, 26/02/2019

The committees designed to keep the community up to date on Whitehaven Coal's mines have been labelled a "box-ticking exercise" by some farmers, who say they fail at the one thing they're designed to do.

Community consultation committees (CCCs) are made up of various local representatives that meet with the proponent of a state-significant project, to bring up the concerns of residents or seek information on their behalf.

However, those near Whitehaven's Maules Creek and Werris Creek mines say that's difficult, given almost no contact details are listed for CCC members, as recommended by government guidelines.

Breeza farmer Peter Wills said there was a distinct lack of transparency surrounding Whitehaven's CCCs. ...

<https://www.theage.com.au/business/the-economy/coal-s-perfect-storm-hits-70-billion-australian-projects-20190227-p510ha.html>

Coal's perfect storm hits \$70 billion Australian projects

James Thornhill, *The Age*, 27/02/2019

It's been a tough few weeks for our coal industry. First there was a court ruling blocking a new mine on climate change grounds, then one of the

world's largest producers, Glencore, capped output growth, and finally China was seen to be slowing down Australian imports.

The developments are symptoms of the fossil fuel's decline and likely signal headwinds for the industry. Australia, which is the world's second-biggest supplier of coal used for power generation and steel making, has some \$70 billion of new coal projects in the pipeline, according to government estimates. ...

ROCKY REJECTION

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/these-residents-stopped-a-coal-mine-made-history-and-sent-ripples-through-boardrooms-around-the-world-20190214-p50xw9.html>

These residents stopped a coal mine, made history and sent ripples through boardrooms around the world

Peter Hannam, *SMH*, 17/02/2019

A NSW court sent shock waves through the nation's mining industry earlier this month when it rejected a coal mine planned in Gloucester, a dairy and beef farming area on the state's mid-north coast. The reason, in part, was the mine's impact on climate change.

That a court had taken into account climate change was lauded as a landmark. But this case is just part of a much bigger picture. All around the world, there is a growing push to use the law to nudge companies and investors to take action to curb global warming – particularly as our politicians are failing to do so. ...

Law firms quickly recognised the decision as a landmark – not just for its direct effect on the Rocky Hill project, but also for its palling effect on economic sentiment towards fossil-fuel industries. ...

As one lawyer put it, Gloucester Resources mounted "a curious argument" that total emissions would be hard to determine: "Is it 'decorative coal' they are digging up, with no anticipation it will be burned?" ...

The response from the mining industry and the Morrison government has so far been muted.

Gloucester Resources is yet to declare whether it will appeal the decision. ...

Professor van Asselt singles out the advance of "attribution science" – identifying the likelihood of specific extreme weather events (and the damage they cause) being linked to human-driven climate change.

“This development can increase the chances of success for any of the litigation strategies,” he says. ...

MINING MAYHEM

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-02-25/ian-macdonald-wins-appeal-against-misconduct-conviction/10845314>

Ian Macdonald wins appeal against misconduct conviction, set to walk free from prison

Jamelle Wells, ABC, 25/02/2019

A Sydney court has quashed the misconduct conviction of former NSW Labor minister Ian Macdonald, who has been behind bars since 2017.

Key points:

Ian Macdonald granted a mining exploration licence to a company run by former union boss John Maitland;

He was jailed in 2017 for 10 years for misconduct;

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian said her Government would consider whether fresh legal action can be taken ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/former-nsw-labor-minister-ian-macdonald-and-union-friend-john-maitland-s-convictions-thrown-out-20190225-p51002.html>

Ex-NSW Labor minister Ian Macdonald and union friend John Maitland's convictions thrown out

Angus Thompson, SMH, 25/02/2019

Former NSW Labor minister Ian Macdonald and his former union boss friend John Maitland have had their convictions over the granting of a multimillion-dollar coal exploration licence set aside and a retrial has been ordered. ...

GAS, GAS, GAS

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/companies/origin-sells-ironbark-csg-project-to-itself-20190219-p50yub.html>

Origin sells Ironbark CSG project to itself

Cole Latimer, SMH, 19/02/2019

Energy giant Origin will sell its disappointing Ironbark coal seam gas project to its joint venture Australia Pacific LNG for \$231 million, a third of what it paid for it a decade ago. ...

Last year, Orogen booked a \$355 million after-tax impairment on the Ironbark project after it halved the site's production potential from 249 petajoules to 129 petajoules of gas.

It originally bought the project for \$655 million in 2009 and once valued it at close to \$800 million. ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/gas/onethird-of-qlds-lng-industry-at-risk-of-closure-by-2025-report-20190220-h1bhhd>

A third of Qld's LNG industry at risk of closure by 2025: report

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 21/02/2019

One third of Queensland's new \$84 billion LNG export industry is likely to be forced to close down by 2025 due to shortages of coal seam gas reserves and the need for shipments to be diverted to local users, according to a detailed analysis of the sector.

The findings by consultancy EnergyQuest warn that the Queensland export plants may never reach full-scale production and that last year's utilisation rate of about 82 per cent on average may be the best it ever gets. ...

The three LNG ventures at Gladstone, Shell's QCLNG project, Santos's GLNG and Origin Energy's Australia Pacific LNG, have a combined capacity of 25.3 million tonnes a year but have never run at full capacity as GLNG, in particular, has been unable to source economical gas supplies.

Industry analysts warned from the start that the three ventures were over-estimating reserves and needlessly duplicating expensive export equipment ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/curtis-island-lng-facing-gas-squeeze/news-story/37972516328cbf57075b22c684aec09b?c-spt=1550895093j09d827142943ce31af7e0ab4d112226f>

Curtis Island LNG facing gas squeeze

Perry Williams, The Australian, 21/02/2019

Queensland's \$84 billion LNG industry faces a gas supply shortage by 2025 which could render a third of the state's gas export trains obsolete and ratchet up pressure on operators Origin Energy, Santos and Shell, consultancy EnergyQuest has warned.

Coal seam gas from the Bowen and Surat basins, which feeds the three competing LNG projects, is unlikely to be sufficient to fill the six LNG trains operating, EnergyQuest says in a report today. ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/gas/santos-picks-up-pace-on-narrabri-gas-after-profit-turnaround-20190221-h1bjmy>

Santos picks up pace on Narrabri gas after profit turnaround

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 21/02/2019

Santos chief executive Kevin Gallagher says domestic manufacturers are lining up to buy gas from the proposed \$3 billion Narrabri coal-seam gas project

in NSW as a cheaper option to LNG imports, with at least one considering shifting its operations into the area to eliminate gas transmission costs.

“There's no doubt it's a good option compared to LNG imports; the reality is it's going to be cheaper,” Mr Gallagher said after reporting a turnaround in full-year profits at Santos, which is now lining up growth projects. ...

Mr Gallagher flagged the NSW government was likely to decide in the September quarter whether the project could proceed. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/powering-australia/santos-csg-could-spur-narrabri-industry-hub/news-story/583c1ded16c1923829f0aad1a7c4f6f02c-spt=1550962674j62228146aab87fbabaa654f752c5ba8>

Santos CSG 'could spur Narrabri industry hub'

Perry Williams, The Australian, 22/02/2019

Santos expects a NSW industrial hub linked to its \$3.6 billion Narrabri coal-seam gas project could emerge if it wins environmental approvals for the project later this year. ...

It faces a test, however, to win environmental approval for its proposal following strong opposition over the effect it may have on water supplies and nearby farmland. ...

<https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/5921989/nsw-labor-commits-to-stopping-coal-seam-gas-field-near-narrabri/>

NSW Labor commits to stopping coal seam gas field near Narrabri

Northern Daily Leader, 25/02/2019

NSW Labor has reaffirmed that should it win in the upcoming state election, the Narrabri gas project would not go ahead “due to the risks it poses to local land and water”.

Party leader Michael Daley made his position clear during a meeting with Coonamble farmers over the weekend.

“For the last four years, Labor has fought to protect our precious land and water and the jobs and communities they support from the risks of CSG, including the Great Artesian Basin, inside the Parliament and out in the community,” Mr Daley said.

“I'm here today to tell you that our commitment remains unchanged.”

Lock the Gate spokeswoman Georgia Woods welcomed the announcement and called on the National Party to match the commitment. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/santos-gas-a-lure-for-perdaman-ammonium-nitrate-plant-in-nsw/news-story/364b341e0f39a6590acfa-c7a9e6e147f>

Santos gas a lure for Perdaman ammonium nitrate plant in NSW

Perry Williams, The Australian, 27/02/2019

Indian-Australian industrial company Perdaman Group is considering developing an ammonium nitrate plant near the NSW town of Narrabri after agreeing a 20-year gas supply deal with Santos.

The non-binding agreement could see Santos supply 14.5 petajoules of gas annually for two decades should its controversial \$3.6 billion Narrabri gas project receive environmental approvals and a final investment decision.

Perdaman's proposed ammonium nitrate plant could either supply fertilizer for agribusiness or explosives for the state's mining industry ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/wall-street-journal/frackers-funds-dry-up-as-wall-street-backs-away/news-story/32625ff558d742ec21de39f7c4596a617c-spt=155123333414a704c2c69545742d38da8a3678dbf4d>

Frackers' funds dry up as Wall Street backs away

Bradley Olson And Rebecca Elliott, Wall Street Journal, 25/02/2019

The once-powerful partnership between fracking companies and Wall Street is fraying as the industry struggles to attract investors after nearly a decade of losing money.

Frequent infusions of Wall Street capital have sustained the US shale boom. But that largesse is running out. New bond and equity deals have dwindled to the lowest level since 2007. ...

The loss of that lifeline is forcing shale companies — which have helped to turn the US into an energy superpower — to reduce spending and face the prospect of slower growth. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/queensland-tick-for-shell-and-petrochinas-10bn-surat-basin-coal-seam-gas-project/news-story/a97c899bdf773a58b8fe9c67356bb>

Queensland tick for Shell and PetroChina's \$10bn Surat Basin coal-seam gas project

Perry Williams, The Australian, 28/02/2019

Shell and PetroChina's \$10 billion Surat Basin coal-seam gas project has been approved by the Queensland government, paving the way for a boost to LNG exports and domestic supplies.

The oil and gas giants, which own Arrow Energy, expect the deal covering 14 petroleum leases will bring an extra

5000 petajoules of gas to the market over the next 27 years.

Shell previously agreed in late 2017 to buy the gas to feed its Queensland Curtis LNG operation and supply domestic gas markets.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/lpg-exports-offset-nations-greenhouse-gas-emissions/news-story/afecda8ae5381a7e685deaf8631d4d91>

LPG exports offset nation's greenhouse gas emissions

Graham Lloyd, The Australian, 01/03/2019

Cuts to Australia's greenhouse gas emissions from electricity, transport and agriculture are being offset by rising exports of liquefied natural gas.

National emissions for the September quarter of 2018 were 1.4 per cent down on the previous corresponding period but on an annual basis emissions were up almost 1 per cent. Federal Environment Minister Melissa Price said the figures showed emissions from the electricity sector were the lowest in a decade. ...

Despite the gains in electricity, emissions for the year to September were estimated to be 536 Mt CO₂-e, up 0.9 per cent (4.6 Mt CO₂-e) on the previous year. This was primarily due to increased LNG exports, up 19.7 per cent.

<https://thewest.com.au/business/public-companies/strike-back-on-track-at-jaws-1-in-the-cooper-basin-ng-b881120765z>

Strike back on track at Jaws-1 in the Cooper Basin

Mike Birney, (sponsored) West Australian, 28/02/2019

After some teething problems with a gas kick causing sand to be deposited into the wellbore, ASX-listed Strike Energy appears to be back on track for testing of its ground-breaking Jaws-1 deep coal seam gas well in the Cooper Basin, South Australia.

The company has now restarted depressurisation of the Vu Upper coal seam with the aim of returning the Jaws well to its critical desorption pressure and reinitiating gas flows.

LEIGH CK STINK

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/leigh-creek-energy-extracts-commercial-quantities-of-gas-during-controversial-underground-coal-gasification-trial/news-story/ec8a1527caa0fac1c8c317c8680987c67c-spt=155089330710549d49fab0e3f46b1f752e86747f0bb>

Leigh Creek Energy extracts 'commercial' quantities of gas during controversial underground coal gasification trial

Michelle Etheridge, The Advertiser, 19/02/2019

Leigh Creek Energy says it has reached another major milestone during a pilot program in the state's centre, extracting commercial quantities of synthetic gas for the first time.

The company has labelled the feat at its former Leigh Creek mine, a "boon for South Australia". ...

Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young said the news was a blow to regional communities, including traditional land owners who unsuccessfully tried to stop the project in the Supreme Court last year.

The project raised concerns after the practice has been banned in Queensland.

That followed a Linc Energy project which resulted in that company being successfully prosecuted for causing environmental damage.

"We are a proud renewables state, with new solar, wind, solar thermal and hydro projects in the pipeline," Senator Hanson-Young said.

"We do not even need this form of energy generation — we should not be taking the risk." ...

<https://smallcaps.com.au/leigh-creek-energy-up-grade-gas-resource-after-syngas-demonstration-success/>

Leigh Creek Energy to upgrade gas resource after syngas demonstration success

Danica Cullinane, Small Caps, 19/02/2019

Hailing the pre-commercial demonstration of its syngas plant in South Australia a "great success", Leigh Creek Energy has now begun the process of upgrading its large gas resource to reserve status.

The junior gas developer emerged from a trading halt this morning to announce that successful production of commercial synthesis gas (syngas) has been achieved with a peak flow of 7.5 million cubic feet of gas per day. ...

Most importantly, the data gained from the operation means Leigh Creek now has sufficient information to upgrade

SACRIFICE ZONE

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

<https://vimeo.com/257444267>

a significant portion of its contingent resources to a bankable 2P (proven) reserve. ...

In Leigh Creek's latest update, it said the pre-commercial demonstration confirmed the produced syngas is of "sufficient quality and quantity" to support a commercial project.

The recorded peak flow of 7.5MMcf/day works out to be 2.7 billion cubic feet per year from just one chamber. This far exceeds the stated goal of the pre-commercial demonstration ...

The company is planning to operate up to 20 or more chambers at any one time.

The demonstration also consistently produced all of its targeted commercial gases – carbon monoxide, methane, nitrogen and hydrogen – and achieved one of the highest syngas heating values in the world.

In addition, the facility continued to operate with no reportable environmental or safety incidents.

IMPORT INSANITY

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/companies/agl-signals-full-steam-ahead-with-lng-terminal-plan/news-story/41399758e8c0e60801593225f083d512>

AGL signals full steam ahead with LNG terminal plan

Perry Williams, The Australian, 15/02/2019

AGL Energy says it will press ahead with Australia's first LNG import plant to help fill a forecast gas supply squeeze on the east coast and conceded its relationship with the Morrison government has at times been "turbulent" due to a raft of contentious energy policies.

Despite delays, AGL says the case for constructing the Crib Point project in Victoria remains robust. ...

The country's largest power generator put back a final investment decision on its proposed Crib Point LNG terminal in Victoria to 2020 from this financial year due to a state environmental assessment of the facility which is expected to take most of this year. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/straight-talking-exxon-boss-running-on-empty/news-story/5a94744cb779ff46a5d49dc4b2256926>

Strait-talking Exxon boss in chase for Bass gas

Perry Williams, The Australian, 16/02/2019

The world's biggest oil company has a small problem. Fifty years after discovering its first offshore well in Victoria's

Bass Strait, the gas fields owned by ExxonMobil and BHP are running out faster than expected.

For gas users on Australia's east coast – reliant on the Gippsland Basin joint venture for 40 per cent of their needs – the decline of the strait's biggest fields is leading to concern amid predictions of a supply shortfall in the next few years. ...

Exxon's Australian boss is clearly under pressure to land a big find after coming up empty-handed from that pricey \$120 million drilling program. ...

Yet he's hedging the company's bets by studying plans for an LNG import terminal in Victoria, recognising the tight market on his doorstep. ...

While it had been assumed Exxon would take advantage of existing gas infrastructure at the Longford gas plant, Owen said it was considering the Western Port area near Hastings, where it operates the Long Island Point plant. ...



AGL project chief, Phaedra Deckart, says Crib Point residents should 'take one for the team':

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-02-24/why-victoria-is-facing-gas-shortage/10798554>

Australia is the biggest exporter of liquid natural gas so why is Victoria facing a future shortage?

Jessica Longbottom, ABC, 24/02/2019

Mornington Peninsula mussel producer Michael Harris is usually focused on growing the biggest and tastiest molluscs in Victoria.

So finding himself in the middle of the debate about Victoria's gas shortage was unexpected.

Yet here he is, wondering why AGL plans to build the country's first gas import facility near his mussel farm, at a cost of \$250 million, despite Austr-

lia being the biggest gas exporter in the world. ...

AGL, which is predominantly a gas retailer, said that situation was forcing the company to get into the gas supply market.

"We know there is a supply crisis coming from 2021," Phaedra Deckart, AGL's head of the project, said.

"People aren't going to be able to turn on their heaters or we're not going to be able to run gas-fired power generators because there just won't be enough gas. Manufacturers are going to suffer."

Those doomsday predictions are not echoed by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), which believes it will be another decade before demand outstrips supply.

But locals are asking if that is the case, then is an import terminal the best solution and worth the environmental risk? ...

"We will continue to ... do further studies to better understand the issue and to ensure the environmental impacts are dealt with, and that the community feels heard on these issues," Ms Deckart said. ...

In the meantime, the company is on a major public relations drive in Crib Point.

The ABC understands it has given more than \$100,000 to community groups such as the local football-netball club, and has sponsored a local film festival.

"We know [the community] are ... taking one for the team, I suppose, in helping Australia and particularly the southern states meet their energy supply needs," Ms Deckart said.

"We need to balance their needs as a community with the broader needs of Victoria and the other states in terms of gas supply." ...

PFAS POISON

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/toxic-waste-found-in-compost-blanket-sprayed-near-highway/news-story/c4fca519767458e7302210b8a4b28b51?fbclid=IwAR1k-QV605bN3nqgYwKJUwAhLcwEjhAvmFyJ7LcHT1JVMqvgIH0U21cy9S8>

Toxic waste found in compost blanket sprayed near highway

Rory Callinan, The Australian, 26/02/2019

A "composting blanket" sprayed beside one of Queensland's major highways had to be scraped off after it was found to contain unsafe levels of chemicals used in toxic firefighting foam.

The composting material was supplied by waste-recycling company Nugrow, now under investigation for receiving nearly a million litres of sludge and stormwater contaminated with per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) from a Queensland air force base.

A Transport Department spokesman said Nugrow removed the material sprayed beside an upgraded stretch of the Bruce Highway on the Sunshine Coast in December. ...

In 2017, the company was hit with an environmental protection order after receiving 940,000 litres of stormwater from the RAAF base at Amberley, about 45km southwest of Brisbane.

Nugrow also faced allegations the material was mixed into compost destined for sale to the public despite containing the chemicals.

But the company has denied any wrongdoing, rejecting the allegations, and has been fighting the environmental protection order in the state's Planning and Environment Court ever since. ...

CLIMATE CRISIS

<https://www.commondreams.org/news/2019/02/25/evidence-human-caused-climate-crisis-has-now-reached-gold-standard-level-certainty?fbclid=IwAR0hzL6wU40Tf0HGyc4bnAzDAsTdzmRc8grKMMbdVQrRLCCQJqGv5FK8aSS>

Evidence of human-caused climate crisis has now reached 'Gold Standard'-level certainty, scientists say

Julia Conley, Common Dreams, 25/02/2019

Most Americans now recognize the scientific community's consensus that human activity is fueling the climate crisis, according to polls – but for those who are still unconvinced of the conclusion reached by 97% of climate scientists, a new study makes an even more definite assertion.

Scientists at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California found that the information available can now be classified as “five-sigma” – a standard in the scientific community meaning that there is a one-in-a-million chance that the same data would be observable if humans were not causing the planet to grow warmer through activities like fossil fuel extraction. The classification represents a “gold standard” level of certainty. ...

The Nature Climate Change study also comes on the heels of reports that the melting of ice in Antarctica and the warming of the ocean are both occurring much faster than previously thought; that the last four years have

been the hottest on record; and that the warming of the globe could cause clouds to disappear from the sky in the next generation, leading to an 8^o Celsius (14.4^o Fahrenheit) jump in temperature. ...

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/how-to-vote-for-a-coal-seam-gas-ban.12383>

How to vote for a coal seam gas ban

Johanna Evans, Independent Australia, 18/02/2019

Protection of our water resources must be front and centre when NSW votes in March and Australia in May.

With political turmoil unfolding, state election and federal elections looming and what appears to be a manmade disaster the size of Murray Darling Basin, New South Wales must work towards enshrining protections from the gas industry ...

It makes sense then – if an industry threatens water security – that we would put legislation in place so that it can no longer do so. Unconventional gas threatens water security. We need a national gas ban — NSW needs it now. But how do we get there? ...

• *Johanna Evans is a graphic designer and member of North West Protection Advocacy, which campaigns for a CSG free NSW.*

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/questnews/logan/senator-canavan-distances-himself-from-brothers-coal-acquisition/news-story/443393da39c41f728089e653a7376abd>

Senator Canavan distances himself from brother's coal mine

Judith Kerr, Courier-Mail, 19/02/2019

Resources Minister Senator Matt Canavan has distanced himself from his brother's multimillion-dollar acquisition of a Central Queensland coalmine last week.

Senator Canavan told the Senate on Thursday his younger brother, John, had acquired a 7 per cent interest in the mine.

He also said as a result of the purchase, his brother-in-law, Logan lawyer James Stokes, would acquire just over 0.7 per cent interest in the mine. ...

STOP WATER MINING THE NEXT RESOURCES BATTLE



<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/mining-union-has-a-dig-at-labor-demands-support-for-coal-mines/news-story/9abc8c76140cb02c6edede810db3e41c7c-spt=1550962498|b65746322e9fa61452171a82d9f03e48>

Mining union has a dig at Labor, demands support for coal mines

Anna Caldwell & Edward Boyd, Daily Telegraph, 22/02/2019

The powerful CFMEU is targeting NSW Labor over abandoning coal as a split threatens to derail the party's campaign at the state and federal polls.

The union's NSW mining and energy arm is considering withholding electoral support for 11 ALP candidates across state and federal electorates in NSW on the basis of an unsatisfactory record in backing coal projects.

The Daily Telegraph can also reveal CFMEU district president Peter Jordan has written to new Labor leader Michael Daley, demanding his support for Wyong's Wallarah 2 coal project which received planning approval in January. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/feb/26/publisher-rejects-craig-kelly-complaint-school-text-book-inaccurate-on-climate-change>

Publisher rejects Craig Kelly complaint school textbook 'inaccurate' on climate change

Lisa Martin, The Guardian, 26/02/2019

The publisher of a NSW year-10 history book has rejected complaints from the federal Liberal backbencher Craig Kelly that it misrepresents facts about climate change.

Kelly took issue with the characterisation of climate change in the textbook *Pearson History New South Wales*.

Kelly has written to the NSW education minister, Rob Stokes, saying the book's description of Tony Abbott as a climate change denier was “an offensive slur equating it with Holocaust deniers ...

A spokeswoman for the publisher Pearson backed the book.

“Pearson builds textbooks to support the Australian curriculum and we stand by this text book and its author,” she said. ...

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/morrison-puts-lipstick-on-tony-abbotts-pig-of-a-climate-policy-16806/>

Morrison puts lipstick on Tony Abbott's pig of a climate policy

Giles Parkinson, Renew Economy, 25/02/2019

Prime minister Scott Morrison has finally unveiled his climate policy and it is clearly designed to do two things: Placate the core rump of climate deniers and ideologues within his own

News this week ... from previous page

party and the conservative media, and try to fool enough others that the Coalition is doing something to address a problem it barely admits exists, or worth doing anything about.

The \$2 billion funding over 10 years for emissions reduction projects shows that the Coalition's climate policy and commitment has barely moved in a decade. Tony Abbott's Direct Action funnelled more money in less than half the time – even if the emissions benefits of many of the projects funded are questionable and being questioned.

But Morrison, even as Australia lags ever further behind its modest commitments to Paris, and as the warning signs over climate change grow every stark, is putting on lipstick on a pig of a policy. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/feb/28/morrison-pledges-50m-in-energy-efficiency-grants-as-part-of-climate-policy-pivot>

Morrison pledges \$50m in 'energy efficiency' grants as part of climate policy pivot

Katharine Murphy, The Guardian, 28/02/2019

The Morrison government will persist with its attempted climate policy pivot by promising \$50m in grants for businesses and community organisations to embark on energy efficiency projects, and an additional \$17m to help building owners benchmark their energy use. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/coal-dead-under-labors-dramatic-renewables-plan/news-story/18fdefbd0649e7201602cfe81bc9249>

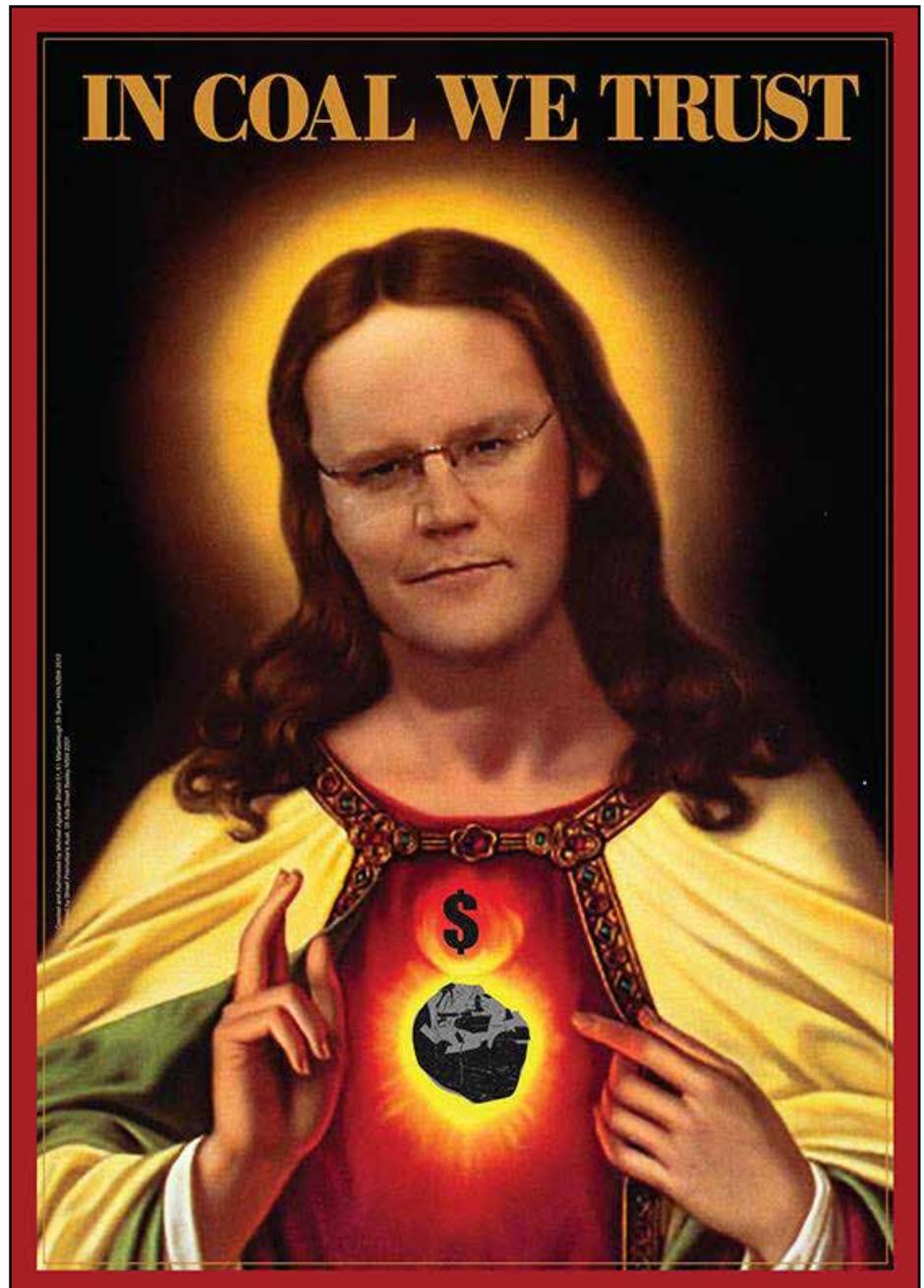
Coal dead under Labor's dramatic renewables plan

Andrew Clennell, The Australian, 01/03/2019

NSW Labor leader Michael Daley has pledged that half of the state's energy will come from renewable sources by 2030 and "as close as possible to 100 per cent energy from renewable sources by 2050" – a drastic move against coal-fired power.

It would be the first renewable energy target NSW has had, with the state currently obtaining less than 13 per cent of its energy from renewable sources. ... Mr Daley pledged to oppose the coal-seam gas project proposed by Santos at Narrabri, in the state's northeast, and after the mining union objected to Labor's failure to back a central coast coalmine. ...

FFB



FFB is unable to credit this meme to a source, but it's doing the rounds on Facebook, and sums up the Morrison government's thrall with fossil fuel industries.

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



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



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