



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 2:17 • 5 APRIL 2019

Coal baron pushes for public money: questions raised about influence

The Morrison Government must explain why it intervened on behalf of political donor and coal baron Trevor St Baker to commission a review of how coal power plants can receive funding under the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF), the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) says.

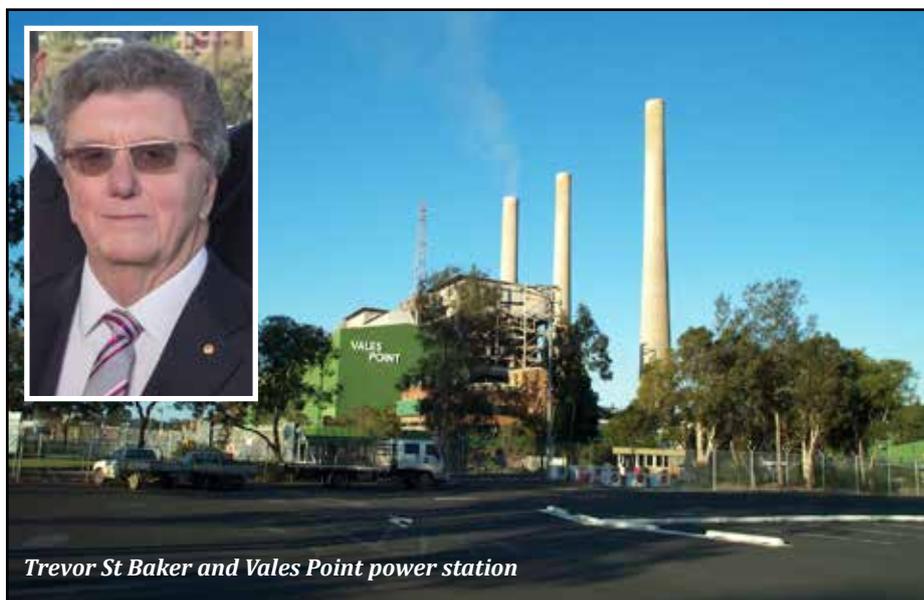
Documents obtained under Freedom of Information (FOI) show Environment Minister Melissa Price requested a review “the ways coal-fired power stations can earn credits under the [ERF facilities] method.”

The documents show that in December last year, Environment Minister Melissa Price requested a key oversight committee to review “the ways coal-fired power stations can earn credits under the [ERF facilities] method and seek advice on any changes that could be made to the method to improve its clarity and intent.”

This followed a decision by the independent Clean Energy Regulator (CER) ruling the Vales Point coal power station should not qualify for carbon credits and cash under the ERF for a project it had registered to upgrade parts at the plant.

Aggro lobbying, legal threats

This decision led to a flurry of aggressive lobbying, and even legal threats, from representatives for Mr St Baker’s Delta Electricity across the CER, Department of Environment, and the offices of Energy Minister Angus Taylor and Minister Price. The release of the FOI documents comes as a project to upgrade generating units at Vales



Trevor St Baker and Vales Point power station

“Australians are sick of big money and lobbyists trumping the public good.”

Point was included on a shortlist of power projects the Morrison Government is considering “underwriting”.

St Baker told the ABC his company was seeking \$15 million to \$16 million from the fund to replace turbine blades at the Vales Point Power Station, which he said would make the plant more efficient and reduce its carbon emissions.

According to *The Australian*, he and Brian Flannery’s Sunset Power paid a token \$1 million to the NSW gov-

ernment for the ageing Vales Point coal-fired power station in 2015. Last year the asset recorded a bumper \$113 million profit from \$505 million revenue.

ACF has been researching the outcomes and operation of the ERF. In February ACF wrote to the Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee (ERAC) requesting a separate review of several methods, including facilities, due to concerns about adverse outcomes. The ERAC has confirmed a review of the facilities method will commence soon and ACF’s concerns will be considered as part of that.

ACF Chief Executive Officer, Kelly O’Shanassy, said: “On one hand we have an independent regulator that has made a clear decision. On the

• Continued p2

• P3: Hydrogen blues – confusing claims

• P4: Gladys dumps environment dept

• P4: Budget subsidises pollution

Coal baron throws his weight around

• Continued from p1

other we have a well-connected donor and coal baron throwing his weight around.

“Minister Price was well within her rights to call for a review. But the timing and focus on coal in the intervention raises significant questions about the influence of Mr St Baker and the government’s support for fossil fuels.

“I commend the Clean Energy Regulator, which these documents suggest has stood firm against intense lobbying. The Morrison Government could have similarly stood firm against Mr St Baker’s push and let matter sit with the Regulator’s ruling.

“This issue reinforces the importance of strong, independent regulators making decisions free from political interference. It again bolsters the case for the establishment of a national Environment Protection Authority to oversee stronger environmental laws.

Push for public money to support coal

“The Morrison Government needs to explain its relationship with Trevor St Baker, a major party donor who is seemingly pushing hard to get public money and institutional backing for his coal business.

“Australians are sick of big money and lobbyists trumping the public good.

“ACF has consistently called for new funding allocations to the Emissions Reduction Fund, now known as the Climate Solutions Fund, not to occur until the scheme is overhauled. Methods that allow payments to big companies to burn more fossil fuels should be immediately scrapped.

“ACF believes programs like the Emissions Reduction Fund or Carbon Farming Initiative have a role in a comprehensive climate change strategy to encourage farmers and other landowners to cut emissions, protect forests and restore landscapes.

“However, the Emissions Reduction Fund is not a substitute for more substantial climate policies like regulations, caps and trading schemes. Five years of rising emissions are testament to that.”

CoalWire editor, Bob Burton, says that Trevor St Baker has a decades-long history in Australia’s coal power sector and has emerged as one of the most prominent opponents in the ranks of

the power industry of a rapid transition to greater renewables generation.

A darling of the Libs & Nats

“His criticisms of wind and solar power and support for coal power have made him a darling of Liberal and National Party politicians seeking power industry validation for their opposition to renewables.

“Aside from his successful business career and inclusion on the 2018 and 2019 Rich Lists, he has been a director of lobby groups including the Queensland Resources Council, the peak mining industry lobby group, the Energy Policy Institute of Australia and Chairman of the National Generators Forum,” Burton said.

St Baker founded ERM Power, a private power company known for its political donations and the use of well-connected lobbyists.

Today he is listed in *The Australian* as the 184th richest Australian and is worth \$556 million.

ERM Power has donated around \$200,000 to political parties over the last decade, mostly to Federal and Queensland conservatives, but also smaller amounts to Labor.

“Helping to guide ERM Power’s political strategy was SAS Consulting Group, a lobbying firm which boasts Larry Anthony, the former National Party member in the House of Representatives for the northern NSW seat of Richmond as its director,” Burton said. (Larry Anthony is the son of former National Party politician, Doug Anthony, who was Deputy Prime Minister under Malcolm Fraser.)

St Baker is also the director of SMR Nuclear Technology, which promotes the use of small modular reactors, and chair of Sunset Power, trading as Delta Electricity, which owns Vales Point power station.

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**HELP W&J PEOPLE GET JUSTICE
FROM ADANI:
MAKE A DONATION**

Wangan Jagalingou Traditional Owners
Aboriginal Corporation

**BSB: 034-003
Account number: 278038**

Adani launches new Qld ad campaign

Adani’s latest round of regional advertising targeting the Queensland Government has been criticised as “more misguided propaganda”.

The company’s groundwater plan is first and foremost with the Federal Government, and the federal approval must occur before construction can start.

Lock the Gate spokesperson Ellie Smith said Adani appeared fixated on the Queensland Government, despite it being clear for a very long time that the company had failed to deliver on the basic requirements that all mining companies must provide.

“Adani has so far submitted ten groundwater management plans, of which nine have been rejected and one is still being assessed,” she said.

“Adani has launched this new expensive advertising blitz in regional Queensland but it should be putting its efforts into doing the research required to prove its mine won’t damage 187 Great Artesian Basin springs in Central Queensland.

“The biggest delays on the Adani mine have been caused by Adani itself, who has simply refused to do the research that is needed to ensure they don’t cause ancient springs to dry up.

“Adani’s fixation on the Qld Government raises questions as to whether it has been given assurances from the Federal Government that it will be getting a green light for its groundwater plan.

“It’s a real worry, because Minister Canavan, who is not the decision maker, has repeatedly foreshadowed approval of the groundwater plan, and this undermines confidence in both the Federal Government and the approval system.

“Instead of doing the work required Adani is now trying to monster the state government into giving the final tick even though experts and the community are still deeply concerned about the impact the mine will have on Queensland’s water resources.

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Hydrogen blues: Is this the gas industry version of clean coal?

By Tim Forcey

You remember 'clean coal'. It bought the coal industry an extra decade of social licence. It was the technology promised as just around the corner. Eventually it would allow us to burn coal with no climate impact.

Clean coal attracted billions of dollars of taxpayer-funded government support, but today there's nothing to show. After cost blow-outs, technical failures and legal roadblocks, globally no projects are planned that will capture all the greenhouse gases from burnt coal and guarantee to lock them away underground (and here is the 'F' word), forever.

But clean coal did its job. This clever strategy, with its techno-hopes and shiny websites kept coal in business for an extra ten years. Indeed, it's only the plunging cost of electricity generated by the sun and wind that now point us to the end of coal.

And thanks for that, because as the kids in our streets and various United Nations committees remind, we have very little time left to fix our climate mess.

Fossil gas, cleaner than ... What?

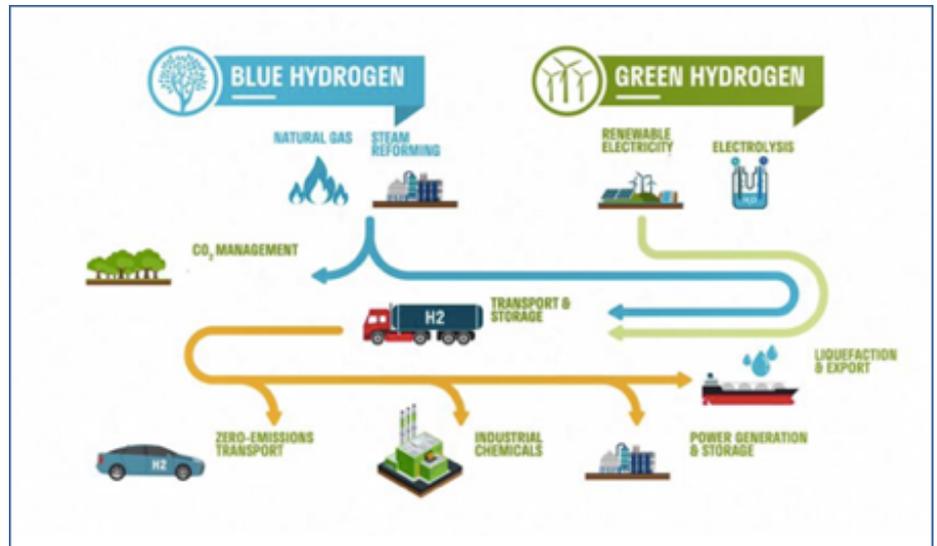
As coal wanes, people are now thinking about the impacts of fossil gas. For the last decade, the gas industry built its social licence on the theory that gas was "cleaner than coal". But with coal now facing its end, that makes gas cleaner than what exactly?

The gas industry needs a new social strategy. It's come up with one in 'blue hydrogen'.

If you've been keeping track of the full spectrum of hydrogens, 'green hydrogen', made with renewable electricity (via the hydrolysis of water), can play a large role in our future zero-emission societies, in Australia and around the world.

Green hydrogen can be used in the manufacture of steel and other metals and chemicals, and in other industrial processes. Green hydrogen may even have some transport applications.

Manufacturing hydrogen from water and electricity isn't hard – many of



If you can't lock away Blue Hydrogen's greenhouse gas emissions, plant a tree.

Image: Woodside

As once we waited for clean coal, we now wait for blue hydrogen. But in the meantime, fossil-gas emissions grow with no end in sight.

us did it in chemistry class. Splitting water with renewable electricity was the way hydrogen was made in the first half of the 20th century, before fossil fuels took over. Going back to the future, green hydrogen can do lots of things presently done by fossil gas.

This loss of market share is another problem for the fossil-gas industry. Especially now as green hydrogen begins to attract the attention of policy makers and technology funders.

So, is there a way to deal with, in one stroke, the fossil-gas industry's two problems:

- the lack of an ongoing social licence,
- and the rising popularity of renewable (green) hydrogen?

The solution lies in the marketing of blue hydrogen.

Hydrogen makeovers – blue is the new black

Blue hydrogen is where the gas industry takes fossil gas and converts it to hydrogen in the same greenhouse-gas-producing way it has been

doing for the last 70 years (using a steam reformer; call that 'black hydrogen').

But then with a marketing makeover, this familiar hydrogen product gets a new name: blue hydrogen.

But here's the really special part about blue hydrogen: it comes with a recognisable fossil-industry claim. Blue hydrogen might someday be emission-free, thanks to the same fabled technologies promised back in the 'clean coal' days: capturing emissions and storing them away underground ... forever.

So as once we waited for clean coal, we now wait for blue hydrogen. But in the meantime, fossil-gas emissions grow with no end in sight.

As the saying goes, "fool me once, shame on you, fool me twice, shame on me".

Hydrogen might be the simplest element known to chemistry, but we are in for some confusing times as the fossil-gas industry makes its next "blue" moves.

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

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NSW: Environment department dumped by Premier

Following the narrow Coalition win in NSW, Premier Gladys Berejiklian announced that Rob Stokes would return to the planning portfolio, Matt Kean would become Minister for Environment and Energy, and the mining and resources portfolio would be absorbed into Regional NSW, Industry and Trade, held by the Deputy Premier, John Barilaro.

However, less than a week after being returned to office, the Liberal-National coalition weakened environmental protections and local government powers by transferring them to the planning department and the premier.

The Office of Environment and Heritage has been scrapped.

The Office of Local Government will also cease to exist as a separate entity, while the Planning & Environment cluster will end its operations as of July 1 this year.

Greens MP David Shoebridge said, "The dramatic changes disempower these Ministers from having any official role in the administration of key legislation in their areas.

"NSW Planning has a history of abusing the environment, not protecting it, which makes these changes so dreadfully concerning. It's not just the Planning Minister who has seized control, so has the Premier by taking over all responsibilities under the Heritage Act 1977.

"What is the point of having a Heritage Minister who has no role in administering the Heritage Act?"



KAPOW! There goes the Environment department • **ZAP!** There goes the Local Government department. • **ZOINKS!** There goes Family and Community Services. • **WHACK!** There goes the RMS. • **THUD!** There goes Jobs NSW. Who knew? Did Gladys tell you before NSW elected her? What surprises could be up the Federal LNP's sleeve if this is how your State mates run the comic strip Kevin [Hogan, Fed Nats MP for Page, northern NSW]? The Knitting Nannas want to know. Photo: Knitting Nannas, Facebook

Kate Smolski, chief executive of the NSW Nature Conservation Council, told the *Sydney Morning Herald* protection of nature and the environment was "so important it needs a separate department".

"This [change] shrinks the status of the Office of Environment and Heritage further and appears designed to reduce it to a back-office function of enabling development," she said.

"Under a previous Coalition government, the environment was downgraded to an office and has suffered ever since due to the gutting of staff, the subordination to other departments and the junior position of the Environment Minister," Ms Smolski said.

The changes were criticised by the Knitting Nannas, with the photo and comments above appearing on their Facebook page.

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ACF says budget subsidises pollution, fails on climate action

The Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) said Budget 2019-20 fails by devaluing the environment that sustains all Australians, while increasing the climate-damaging diesel subsidy and paving the way for public money to be used to support coal and gas projects.

In this budget the government plans to spend \$4.36 subsidising pollution for every dollar it spends on climate action.

\$40 billion has been allotted for the diesel fuel tax credit subsidy across the forward estimates, nine times the total budget for the environment.

ACF's Chief Executive Officer, Kelly O'Shanassy, said since 2013-14 investment in protecting and restoring the environment has been cut by nearly 40 per cent, while the overall federal budget has grown by 17 per cent.

"While Australians live through multiple environmental crises – record-breaking heatwaves, bushfires in forests that were considered too wet to burn, a million fish dead in the Darling River and mass bleaching on the Barrier Reef – the proportion of the overall budget invested in the environment is just 0.2 cents on the dollar," O'Shanassy said.

"This budget devalues the environment that sustains all Australians, while paving the way for public money to be used to support new coal and gas projects and boosting fossil fuel subsidies.

"Coal mining companies alone will receive more than \$1.5 billion a year in diesel fuel subsidies over the forward estimates.

"In this budget the government plans to spend \$4.36 subsidising pollution for every dollar it spends on climate action."

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



Climate policy: Labor short of ambition

Labor's climate change policy is a clear improvement on Australia's woeful record on emissions, but falls short of the level of ambition needed to protect the future of the Great Barrier Reef, the Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) says.

Imogen Zethoven, AMCS strategic director, said: "Labor's announcement is clearly a big improvement, but we are so far behind due to many years of policy failure that we need to make giant leaps forward.

"However, Labor's plan does not yet tackle Australia's major contribution to climate change – the coal and other fossil fuels that we dig up and export. Currently, Australia exports about 44 tonnes of CO₂ per person – that's almost double our domestic per capita emissions.

"Failing to address our fossil fuel exports means any emissions cuts – backed by any political party – are easily cancelled out. The next Federal government must step up its level of ambition to address coal exports. We have to give the Reef a fighting chance.

"As the world's largest exporter of coal, Australia has a global responsibility to ensure no new thermal coal mines are opened – not just the Adani mine in the Galilee coal basin."

Meanwhile, the Australian Conservation Foundation says the climate change policies the Greens will take to the looming federal election reflect the scientific realities of global warming and our country's pollution problem.

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Inside the news

It's not surprising that world governments are failing to take effective climate action while the world's **five largest publicly owned oil and gas companies** spend approximately **\$200 million a year on lobbying** designed to control, delay or block binding climate-motivated policy (p11). **BP** has the highest annual expenditure on climate lobbying at \$53 million, followed by **Shell** with \$49 million and **Exxon-Mobil** with \$41 million. **Chevron** and **Total** each spend \$29 million.

The **fossil fools** are supported by the Murdochcracy, which is the subject of a three-part series in the *New York Times*, titled '**Murdoch and his children have toppled governments on two continents and destabilised the most important democracy on earth. What do they want?**' (See p11.) True to form, the Murdoch press spent much of the week demonizing climate policy announcements from Labor and the Greens, but **FFB** hasn't given them space in the news summary.

Queensland gas drillers have discovered their **well casings** are being **severely corroded** by bacterial activity, eating up to 20% of the thickness in short order (p9). Traditional repair methods involve **explosive safety hazards**, so special new patches have been developed. The corrosion is endemic in the Darling Downs gasfields and **FFB** notes this raises huge concerns for long-term **well integrity**.

Tim Forcey says (p9) that **AEMO** is using forecast **gas shortages** to call for fossil-fuel producers and pipeline builders to explore for **more gas**, frack for more gas, build more gas pipelines, and even build liquefied-natural gas (LNG) import terminals.

He points out that **AEMO** focuses only on the gas-supply side, and provides not one single recommendation of how gas use could be reduced. **FFB** recommends a click on the link to the *Renew Economy* article for the full story.

The Shovel says that **low-income** Australians are to get a **one-off lump of coal**, to help offset the threat of renewables (satire alert p13).

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In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 36,000 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/protesters-warned-they-wont-get-far-without-coal/news-story/bec2d1892c-cd028e89d64d3d41efdf5c0>

Protesters warned they won't get far without coal

Michael Wray, *Sunday Mail (Qld)*, 31/03/2019

Anti-coal protesters in a convoy of cars travelling from Tasmania to Adani's Carmichael megamine in central Queensland could not even reach the mainland without coal, according to miners.

Thousands of ecowarriors are planning to join former Greens leader Bob Brown's 2600km trek across the country next month for what's been billed as a public showdown with the coalmining industry.

But Queensland Resources Council chief executive Ian Macfarlane said the "stop Adani" convoy would not even make it off Tasmania without coal, which was used to forge the steel in the cars and power the electric batteries. ...

<https://www.michaelwest.com.au/hurley-berlei-adanis-desperate-compo-claim-doesnt-stack-up/>

Hurley Berlei: Adani's desperate compo claim doesn't stack up

MichaelWest.com, 01/04/2019

The price of a solar module has crashed 90 per cent since 2010. That was the year when Adani bought into its Galilee Basin coal project but it is now demanding compensation from Australian taxpayers in the event its mine doesn't proceed.

The chutzpah of this company is bewildering. But its recent jobs ruse takes the cake. Adani has set up a website asking for "Expressions of Interest" from those who would like a job at its Carmichael mine.

Only a handful of jobs actually exist but that has not stopped Adani from using the 14,500 Expressions of Interest it has apparently registered on a website to put pressure on the Queensland government. ...



Three different ways to say Stop Adani. What's not to love. Pin them to your jacket, bag etc. Featuring art by Brenna Quinlan, Tom O'Hern and First Dog on the Moon. Pledge on Pozible here:

<https://www.pozible.com/profile/bob-brown-foundation/>

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/crime-and-justice/court-date-set-for-adani-bid-to-bankrupt-traditional-land-owner-adrian-burrugubba/news-story/7088f1511b51143fc999e40c437b3ac>

Court date set for Adani bid to bankrupt traditional land owner Adrian Burrugubba

Vanda Carson, *Courier-Mail*, 03/04/2019

Indian mining giant Adani's bid to bankrupt a traditional land owner who fought to stop its \$2 billion Carmichael mine in the courts will be heard later this month.

The Adani Mining case against Wangan and Jagalingou traditional owner and lead spokesman Adrian Burrugubba, from Woolloongabba, was briefly mentioned in the Federal Court in Brisbane this morning before Registrar Michael Buckingham.

The case was adjourned for hearing on April 24 after a solicitor for Adani told

the court that Burrugubba had evaded service of a creditor's petition and further attempts had been made.

The company alleges that Mr Burrugubba owes them \$637,960 after the Federal Court and the Court of Appeal ordered he pay legal costs of failed fights against the miner.

Outside court Adani has previously been reported as saying it will donate the cash to charity.

<https://www.whitsundaytimes.com.au/news/sticking-with-adani/3688951/>

Sticking with Adani

Kyle Evans, *Whitsunday Times*, 03/04/2019

The Bowen business community has thrown their support behind Adani following the release of a bumper sticker which is being plastered in shopfronts around town.

More than 250 stickers have been handed out by the Bowen Chamber of Commerce during the past week. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/adani-gave-cash-to-one-nation/news-story/8ea88319cc69ach-c248432f80d29f98e>

Adani gave cash to One Nation

Jared Owens, *The Australian*, 04/04/2019

Mining firm Adani and the Pharmacy Guild have emerged as major contributors to One Nation, but insist their donations do not represent an endorsement of the group's fringe views. ...

Adani's \$15,000 donation to One Nation in August came before revelations of the party's dealings with the National Rifle Association, but after leader Pauline Hanson claimed Islam was "a disease we need to vaccinate ourselves against". Adani's spokeswoman said it had donated to many parties, including Labor. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/embattled-mps-ask-why-adani-coalmine-hasnt-been-signed-off/news-story/fcdfadb065cc81aaf31940a7273c-bacc>

Embattled MPs ask why Adani coalmine hasn't been signed off

Joe Kelly, *The Australian*, 04/04/2019

A delegation of Queensland MPs have held an urgent meeting with Scott Morrison at parliament house this morning expressing concerns that federal approval for the Adani coal mine has not been signed off despite being rubber-stamped by the Environment Department.

The Australian has been informed that a "face-to-face" meeting took place between several Queensland MPs and the Prime Minister.

The MPs, who are fighting to hold seats in the battleground state, asked why the approval for a groundwater management plan had not been ticked off by Environment Minister, Melissa Price, amid concerns that a refusal to take action could lead to a final decision being made by a future Labor government.

The Australian understands that Ms Price has refused to issue the approval in the face of intense lobbying by federal Liberal MPs in Victoria. Queensland MPs have warned that a go-slow on the federal approvals for the project would play badly in Queensland for the government. ...

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.smb.com.au/business/the-economy/australian-coal-at-risk-from-china-move-warns-government-report-20190328-p518gq.html>

Australian coal at risk from China move, warns government report

Cole Latimer, *The Age*, 29/03/2019

A new government report warns China's restrictions on coal imports is the number one risk for Australian coal this year and could lead to a significant price slump.

"Supply disruptions are likely to be the primary story in the short-term, with demand changes increasingly important the further we look out," the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science's chief economist Mark Cully said in the latest Resources and Energy Quarterly report.

"Lower Chinese imports could potentially push prices even lower." ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/mar/29/chinas-policies-put-australias-5bn-coal-export-earnings-at-risk>

Australia's mining exports hit \$278bn – but bonanza at risk, says report

Martin Farrer, *The Guardian*, 29/03/2019

Australia's booming earnings from coal exports could be in jeopardy if China switches to more domestic supply and if port restrictions continue to favour competing exporters, a federal government report has warned.

The country's energy and resources exports will rake in an extra \$20bn to rise to \$278bn this financial year, ... But the report, released on Friday, warned that Australia faced an imminent threat to the \$5bn thermal coal trade with China. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/mar/29/renewables-produced-more-energy-than-brown-coal-and-gas-over-summer>

Renewables produced more energy than brown coal and gas over summer

Lisa Cox, *The Guardian*, 29/03/2019

Growth in wind and solar energy over the past two years has almost entirely replaced the lost output from the Hazelwood power station during summer, a new report says.

The latest Green Energy Markets report says renewable energy produced 128% more megawatt hours of electricity than gas and 23% more than brown coal over the 2018-19 summer in the national electricity market states.

It also shows that output from solar

energy alone exceeded that from brown coal and gas when averaged across the 9am-5pm period. ...

<https://www.afr.com/news/policy/climate/qbe-to-abandon-thermal-coal-by-2030-20190329-p518ug>

QBE to abandon thermal coal by 2030

James Fernyhough, *AFR*, 30/03/2019

Insurance giant QBE will stop insuring new thermal coal mines, power plants and transport networks from July 1 this year, and will shut down its thermal coal underwriting business by 2030.

The \$16.5 billion company announced on Saturday it would also withdraw all direct investment in companies that generate more than 30 per cent of their revenue from thermal coal from July 1, and introduce a 0.5 per cent limit on indirect investments through managed funds. ...

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5986484/roads-and-maritime-services-not-told-of-ash-dam-concerns-by-origin-energy/?fbclid=IwAR2imBc-sUrASIUjMP-jNH6mXsxYIOMmVpAzeFPNNokzt0lzXwhoTg3C3dsg>

Roads and Maritime Services not told of concerns about Eraring power station's ash dam

Max McKinney, *Newcastle Herald*, 01/04/2019

Roads and Maritime Services has not been contacted about the apparent stability concerns of Eraring power station's ash dam, despite Wangi Road lying closer to the dam wall than the now closed Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre.

The state's roads department confirmed to the *Newcastle Herald* on Monday it had not had any dialogue with Origin Energy about the risks the dam posed should a major earthquake occur.

Lake Macquarie MP Greg Piper met with Premier Gladys Berejiklian on Monday to discuss the NSW Office of Sport's decision to close Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre.

Friday's unexpected closure caught the Independent MP [Greg Piper] off guard ...

"Origin Energy and the Office of Sport appear to have made deliberate use of the caretaker period of the government to plan and execute a coup in closing the Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation facility," he said in the letter.

"The aim is clearly to reduce the liability of Origin Energy in maintaining the safety of the Eraring power station ash dam wall to protect public assets



Eraring power station, ash dam, and endangered community areas. Pic: Google Maps & Newcastle Herald

against a possible future catastrophic event, being the unlikely, but not impossible failure of the wall in the event of a magnitude 5.9 or above earthquake.

<https://www.theage.com.au/environment/sustainability/coal-fired-power-coal-mines-continue-to-head-toxic-pollutants-list-20190331-p519f9.html>

Coal-fired power, coal mines continue to head toxic pollutants list

Peter Hannam, The Age, 01/04/2019

Toxic pollutants in Australia continue to be dominated by the nation's coal-fired power stations and coal mines, with one plant's shift to continuous monitoring suggesting pollution levels may be understated.

The analysis of the National Pollutant Inventory by Environmental Justice Australia (EJA) found power plants alone contribute slightly more than a quarter of the fine particulates pollution and oxides of nitrogen, and almost half of the sulphur dioxide reported by all sources. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/mar/31/japans-environment-minister-to-oppose-any-new-or-expanded-coal-fired-power-plants>

Japan to oppose new or expanded coal-fired power plants in blow to Australian exports

Ben Smees, The Guardian, 31/03/2019

Japan's environment minister has announced he will "in principle" oppose any new plans to build or expand coal-

fired power stations, as further signs emerge of a dramatic energy pivot by Australia's top export market for thermal coal. ...

A faster-than-anticipated transition by the Japanese energy sector, which buys 39% of Australian-mined thermal coal, would affect future volumes and the viability of some new mines.

The resources sector believes forecasts for slowing demand in north and east Asia will be offset by growth in demand in parts of south Asia and south-east Asia. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2019-04-01/coal-fired-power-emissions-mercury/10958128>

Victorian coal plants producing highest mercury pollution in the country, report shows

Nick Kilvert, ABC, 01/04/2019

Victoria's coal-fired power plants released more than a tonne of mercury into the atmosphere during 2017-18, according to data from Australia's National Pollutant Inventory.

Key points: Yallourn power station pumped out 435kg of mercury in 2017-18 • Emissions technology is available that could reduce Victoria's coal footprint • AGL and Energy Australia were Australia's highest greenhouse gas emitters for 2017-18.

But much of that could have been avoided if available emissions-capture technology was retrofitted. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/global-demand-growing-for-nsw-coal/news-story/773984d270dc7d0333964c7a958c5d436>

Global demand growing for NSW coal

Joe Kelly, The Australian, 01/04/2019

New analysis shows growing global demand has more than doubled NSW coal export volumes since 2001, from 75 million tonnes to more than 164 million tonnes last year.

The analysis from Coal Services, which aggregates statistics for the coal industry, shows a 118 per cent rise in export volumes since 2001, with exports over the past five years at near record highs.

The amount of coal exported by NSW peaked in 2014 at 172 million tonnes and began exceeding 100 million tonnes in 2008, with volumes over the past two years holding steady at about 164 million tonnes.

Resources, including coal, was yesterday rolled into the industry, trade and regional NSW portfolio held by Deputy Premier John Barilaro after being moved from Don Harwin's control. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/the-economy/unprecedented-energy-operator-in-daily-fight-to-keep-lights-on-20190403-p51abhh.html>

'Unprecedented': Energy operator in daily fight to keep lights on

Cole Latimer, SMH, 04/04/2019

The energy market operator is being forced to intervene daily in the electricity grid as an influx of renewable energy and ageing coal-fired power stations make the system unstable.

The Australian Energy Market Commission's (AEMC) latest grid performance report found the "unprecedented change" caused by an increasing level of wind and solar power has forced the power system to change faster than expected and that it was failing to keep up.

The AEMC said the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) has had to step in more frequently to keep the grid stable. ...

OIL & GAS LEAKS

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-03-29/nt-economic-depression-after-inpex-gas-boom/10947972>

Northern Territory's Inpex hangover provides 'effects of the bust' without 'benefits of the boom'

Jane Bardon, ABC, 29/03/2019

Key points: • Business closures are rising across the NT after the Inpex gas project finished construction • Firms

call for more effective stimulus measures from the NT Government • The NT Government is banking on a future onshore gas boom to help the economy recover.

With the wind-up of Inpex construction work last year, 10,000 mostly fly-in, fly-out (FIFO) workers left Darwin permanently. ...

https://www.einnews.com/pr_news/480473562/xpandable-patches-to-extend-the-life-of-corroded-csg-wells-in-queensland-australia

Xpandable Patches to extend the life of corroded CSG wells in Queensland, Australia

Charles Albouy, EINPresswire.com

• Full-covered Xpandable Patches successfully isolated bacterial corrosion in coal seam gas wells; • Microbiologically-influenced corrosion seems to be systemic in the region, and other operators might encounter similar issues in their CSG wells.

Saltel Industries was approached in 2016 by one of Australia's leading natural gas producers, to tailor a solution for their unusual problem: in some of their CSG wells in Queensland, the 7in production casing must cope with severe and localized external corrosion, developing at shallow depth. These corrosion cases are suspected to be caused by bacteria growing under specific pressure and temperature environments. ... The corrosion damage can occur at very shallow depths (e.g., as little as a few metres below the wellhead), and corrosion damage can leave less than 80% of the casing metal thickness. In this situation, traditional patch setting methods that require high-pulling or explosive alternatives are complicated and risky for the casing, and involve serious HSE downhole hazards. ...

<https://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/report-warns-of-possible-winter-gas-shortages-in-victoria-by-2023-unless-more-is-found-or-imported/news-story/92d6431ff4bab6e77ca07f161e6c4a66>

Report warns of possible winter gas shortages in Victoria by 2023 unless more is found or imported

Matt Johnston & Rob Harris, Herald Sun, 28/03/2019

Gas shortages are looming during winter cold snaps in Victoria unless more supplies are discovered or imported. A new report by the Australian Energy Market Operator released today shows depleting offshore sources and limits to how much gas can be piped from northern states could cause problems within a few years.

"Without additional gas supply capacity, gas supply restrictions and curtailment of gas-powered generation for electricity may be necessary on a peak winter day from 2023," the report says.

This could also cause problems in NSW and South Australia, which rely on Victorian exports, particularly if coal-fired power stations were down and gas-fired stations were needed instead. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/gas-supply-warning-intensifies/news-story/bdb369d-821b0ed48ecb971366cf8c23e>

National gas supply warning intensifies, with shortages forecast

Perry Williams, The Australian, 28/03/2019

NSW, Victoria and South Australia have been told they will experience gas shortages on peak demand days from 2023 in a shock warning that big users fear may force heavy industry and local manufacturers to shut operations. ...

If new reserves are not developed and plans for LNG import terminals stall, southern and southeastern Australia face an overall gas supply shortage from 2024 onwards. ...

https://reneweconomy.com.au/aemo-says-were-running-out-of-gas-again-62087/?utm_source=RF+Daily+Newsletter&utm_campaign=ef0ef20155-EMAIL_CAM-PAIGN_2019_03_31_09_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_46a1943223-ef0ef20155-40461137

AEMO says we're running out of gas – again

Tim Forcey, Renew Economy, 01/04/2019

It's that time of year when the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) publishes its annual "GSOO". This gets us all excited that the world's top gas-exporting nation is running out of gas ... again.

AEMO is an entity responsible for planning aspects of how the energy-service wants and needs of Australians can be satisfied. The "GSOO" is AEMO's annual Gas Statement of Opportunities.

To date, the GSOO seems to be a recurring opportunity for AEMO to call for fossil-fuel producers and pipeline builders to explore for more gas, frack for more gas, build more gas pipelines, and even build liquefied-natural gas (LNG) import terminals. ...

But when it comes to gas, AEMO focuses only on the gas-supply side. AEMO supports ever-more-costly, uneconomic, and environmentally-damaging ways in which this fossil industry can expand year after year.

AEMO provides not one single recommendation of how gas use could be

reduced either throughout the year or at critical winter peak-gas-demand periods. ...

• *Tim Forcey is an independent energy advisor. From 2010-2012, Tim was Gas Principal at the Australian Energy Market Operator, responsible for producing the Gas Statement of Opportunities. Before then, Tim worked for 30 years with ExxonMobil, BHP, and Jemena.*

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/world/2019/03/31/courts-shoots-down-donald-trumps-bid-to-dot-arctic-seas-with-oil-rigs/>

Court shoots down Donald Trump's bid to dot Arctic seas with oil rigs

Sudin Thanawala, New Daily, 01/04/2019

President Donald Trump exceeded his authority when he reversed bans on offshore drilling in vast parts of the Arctic Ocean and dozens of canyons in the Atlantic Ocean, a US judge has said in a ruling that restored the Obama-era restrictions.

US District Court Judge Sharon Gleason in a decision late on Friday threw out Trump's executive order that overturned the bans that comprised a key part of Obama's environmental legacy. ...

Erik Grafe, an attorney with Earthjustice, welcomed the ruling, saying it "shows that the president cannot just trample on the Constitution to do the bidding of his cronies in the fossil fuel industry at the expense of our oceans, wildlife and climate." ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-04-01/tax-credits-for-oil-and-gas-giants-rise-to-324-billion/10959236>

Tax credits for oil and gas giants rise to \$324 billion

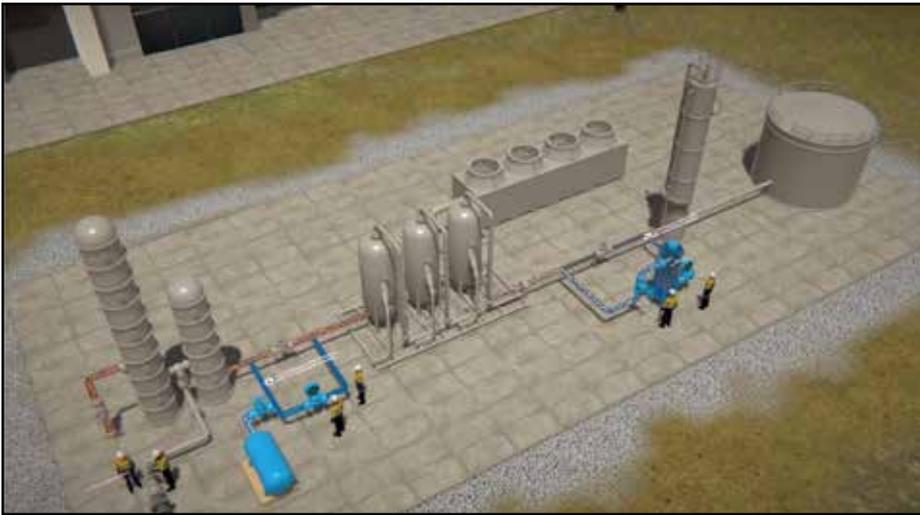
Nassim Khadem, ABC, 01/04/2019

Oil and gas giants operating in Australia may not have to pay tax for years to come, as they accumulated \$324 billion worth of tax credits in 2017-18.

Key points: Of 138 returns lodged, only six profitable projects paid the PRRT, a profits-based tax generated from the sale of gas and oil • Critics claim Australia is giving away natural resources cheaply compared to countries such as Qatar • The Government has proposed new laws, expected to raise about \$6 billion in additional revenue over 10 years.

Greens Treasury spokesman, Senator Peter Whish-Wilson, said \$324 billion equates to about 70 per cent of the Commonwealth Government's total revenue.

"The PRRT is the most egregious rort in the Australian tax code," Senator Whish-Wilson said. ...



The proposed LNG Futures Facility in Kwinana, WA. Graphic: Supplied

<https://thewest.com.au/business/oil-gas/lng-test-plant-for-cheaper-cleaner-wa-energy-exports-ng-b881153621z>

LNG test plant for cheaper, cleaner WA energy exports

Peter Milne, West Australian, 02/04/2019

Premier Mark McGowan will today offer land and \$10 million towards a micro-scale LNG plant in Kwinana to help the WA industry counter cheap US gas and customers wanting cleaner energy.

Mr McGowan, who will announce the support at the LNG19 conference in Shanghai, said the LNG Futures Facility would future-proof the industry. ...

A consortium of the University of WA, Chevron, Shell, Hyundai Heavy Industries and the Federal Government's National Energy Resources Australia has backed the facility.

LNG producers and equipment manufacturers would test and refine new processes and equipment on the plant that is expected to have a capacity of 10 tonnes of LNG a day.

The plant would also be used for training. For the plant to be built, the State Government's commitment of \$10 million over 10 years needs to be followed by industry and Federal Government funds. ... The centre's research will focus on exports and not address carbon storage. ...

<https://www.southburnettimes.com.au/news/construction-start-domestic-only-gas-project/3689502/?cspt=1554328405|4243308d9ad29597c23735e0ca4d79bf>

Qld-first gas project approved, 150 new jobs on the way

Brooke Duncan, Sth Burnett Times, 03/04/2019

Senex Energy's Project Atlas is moving to full development after the Queensland Government granted the

final environmental approvals, the company announced last week.

Together with satisfying federal environmental requirements, the approval means the company can begin construction of the project outside Wandoan. ...

A Senex Energy spokesman told the Chinchilla News Project Atlas remained on track to deliver the first gas by late 2019, with drilling of the initial 60 wells to start mid-year.

"Jemena has engaged Valmec to build the gas processing facility and this will start shortly," the spokesman said.

The project is centred on Queensland's first tenement dedicated to domestic gas supply, with Senex expecting to deliver more than 200PJ of gas for the domestic market over the life of the project.

The construction phase is set to create up to 150 jobs, and there will be a small, locally based operations team, the spokesman said. ...

<https://www.southburnettimes.com.au/news/resource-company-goes-voluntary-administration/3689590/?cspt=1554328382|9b26d4d0efeb-0161b27a1e28750e5e12>

Resource company goes into voluntary administration

Jordan Philp & Brooke Duncan, Sth Burnett Times, 03/04/2019

A Western Downs-based resource company has gone into voluntary administration in face of mounting financial issues, with its major gas company and small business clients unprepared for the announcement.

Based in Chinchilla, Dalby, Brisbane and Moranbah, iPipe Services and the six companies under its umbrella,

could be sold off to the highest bidder or recapitalised. ...

Founded in 2013, iPipe has been providing construction, maintenance and compression services to the oil, gas and mining industry, including Santos, QGC and Origin as well as smaller businesses operating in the Western Downs. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/commentary/taxpayers-money-to-fast-track-origins-shale-gas-project/news-story/88663e053bfd289e90500ee51227f1cc7c-spt=1554328371|fefc9c0ec20ccf31092e25f4255564ae>

Taxpayers' money to fast-track Origin's shale

John Durie, The Australian, 04/04/2019

Origin and Santos have a combined market value of \$30 billion yet taxpayers are spending \$8.4 million to help fast-track development of shale gas projects in the Beetaloo Basin, 600km south of Darwin.

Granted the money is not large given Origin will be spending close to \$100m to develop its site, but the question is just why are taxpayers spending money on a shale gas basin which is being canvassed by the big companies that stand to make a fortune from the fields. ...

The money would also help the Territory meet some of the 135 recommendations from the Pepper report to help launch the basin as a prospective gas field. ...

The money being made available is a sign that the feds will be prepared to step in to help develop new onshore gas production. ...

While Origin completes its next round of Beetaloo drill tests to see whether shale is viable, it has run into a storm by Lake Macquarie near Newcastle at its Eraring power station.

With tailings dams collapsing around the world, it tested the ash dam attached to the plant and found that "while the dam is stable, this could be affected in the event of a major earthquake".

"As a result, Origin contacted the NSW Office of Sport to discuss the findings of the review, given the proximity of the Myuna Bay Recreation Centre, which sits downhill from the ash dam. On our advice, the Office of Sport has agreed to close the centre to ensure the safety of clients and staff," a Origin statement said.

The recreation centre and camping ground on Lake Macquarie is used extensively by local schoolchildren and

the community and has operated for 74 years.

The locals are not impressed that their recreation fields were hurriedly shut. ...

IMPORT INSANITY

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/green-liberal-hunt-declares-opposition-to-lng-plant/news-story/9f8bca8467eedb9ab494b0f515a98f57c-spt=1554251111|292a99b1a865e30d43d914698626855a>

'Green' Liberal Hunt declares opposition to LNG plant

Alice Workman, *The Australian*, 03/04/2019

Health Minister Greg Hunt has been accused of running a "Greens-style" re-election campaign, after publicly declaring his opposition to AGL's plan to build Australia's first liquefied natural gas import plant in his outer Melbourne electorate of Flinders.

The senior cabinet minister said he "clearly, unequivocally and absolutely" opposed the \$250 million Crib Point gas plant and had called on locals to sign his online petition to stop it.

A spokesman for Mr Hunt told *The Australian* this wasn't a new position, insisting he had "consistently opposed" the re-industrialisation of Westernport, including Crib Point, throughout his career. ...

Senator Canavan said ... the government was not opposed to gas import terminals, but any proposal must get the support of the local community – and Crib Point had not.

A Liberal source said they suspected Mr Hunt was running a "Greens-style" campaign to pick up votes from the Left in order to retain his seat, which he holds on a margin of 7 per cent. Every candidate in Flinders is running on a platform to stop the floating gas plant and connecting 55km pipeline, including Liberal MP turned independent Julia Banks. ...

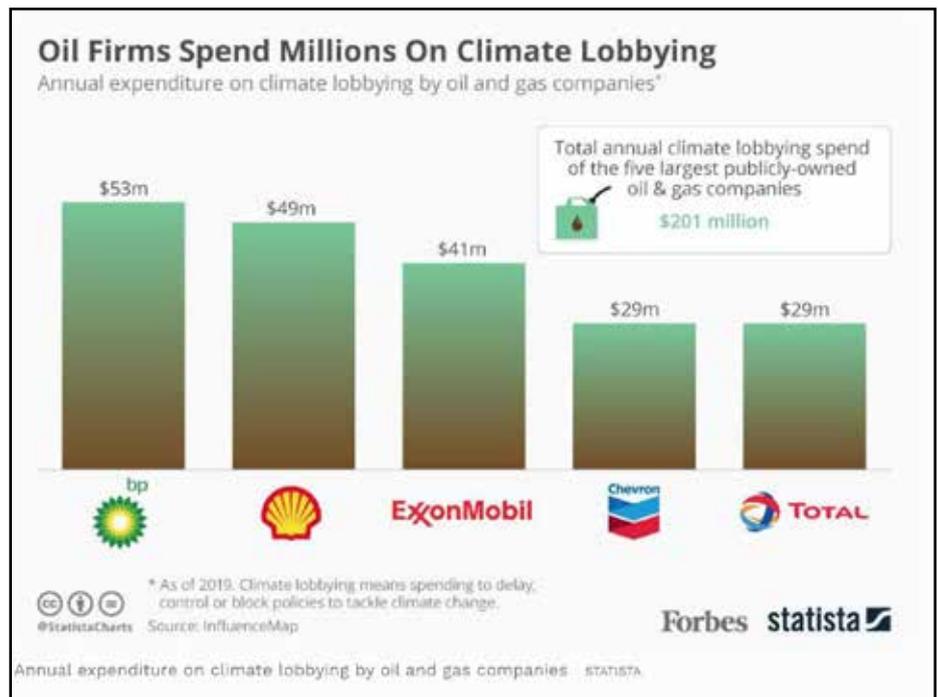
CLIMATE CRISIS

https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2019/03/25/oil-and-gas-giants-spend-millions-lobbying-to-block-climate-change-policies-infographic/?fbclid=IwAR2w0-5Be0jzOCRTvR-50Bh_TpPnF61RX5Hw7eeXtnvV-1jFoovYkYDA3PiU#7idecac37c4f

Oil and gas giants spend millions lobbying to block climate change policies

Niall McCarthy, *Forbes*, 25/03/2019

Every year, the world's five largest publicly owned oil and gas companies spend approximately \$200 million on lobbying designed to control, delay or block binding climate-motivated policy. This has caused problems for



Oil firms spend millions on climate lobbying – annual expenditure. Graphic: Forbes

governments seeking to implement policies in the wake of the Paris Agreement which are vital in meeting climate change targets. ...

BP has the highest annual expenditure on climate lobbying at \$53 million, followed by Shell with \$49 million and ExxonMobil with \$41 million. Chevron and Total each spend around \$29 million every year. *InfluenceMap* states that part of the lobby spend goes towards sophisticated efforts to engage politicians and the general public on environmental policies that could impact fossil fuel usage. ...

The research also found that the five companies listed support their lobbying expenditures with a financial outlay of \$195 million annually for focused branding activities which suggest they support action against climate change. The most common tactics employed are drawing attention to low carbon, positioning the company as a climate expert and acknowledging climate concern while ignoring solutions. ...

https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/meet-the-satellites-that-can-pinpoint-methane-and-carbon-dioxide-leaks/?fbclid=IwAR3iXICzdHNRUmSZi-BrmhR6ORx7-g-7ST6H2IV7ChwOyamWA_Aw_h6oujVY

Meet the satellites that can pinpoint methane and carbon dioxide leaks

John Fialka, *E&E News*, 09/03/2019

The world's first space-based system to help identify specific sources of greenhouse gas emissions is now circling the Earth.

The main unit in the network, an orbit-

er called the Tropospheric Monitoring Instrument (Tropomi), is a package of state-of-the-art sensors launched by the European Space Agency (ESA) in October. By December, it had begun to map the plumes of methane, carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and various aerosols over industrial facilities and cities as it passed over Europe, Asia, Africa and South America. ...

Under a cap-and-trade system to reduce emissions, like the one in California and Quebec, the cost of methane leaks can add up. Refineries, pipelines and remote fields of oil and gas well-heads can be hard to monitor, but an orbiting satellite traveling over 4 miles per second can measure a facility's emissions more cheaply, more accurately and more often. ...

Steven Hamburg, chief scientist for the Environmental Defense Fund, has spent years trying to find ways to quantify and reduce man-made methane emissions. He agrees that we're rapidly moving into a new, more robust world of verifying emissions. ...

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://thewest.com.au/business/energy/remote-communities-power-up-on-50m-plan-ng-s-1934239>

New Qld coal plant years in the works: CEO

Rebecca Gredley, *AAP/West Australian*, 28/03/2019

Construction could begin after 18 months on a new Queensland coal-

fired power plant which has piqued the government's interest, the company's boss says.

Shine Energy, an indigenous traditional owner company, is hoping to build a coal-fired power plant in Collinsville at an expected cost of \$2 billion.

CEO Ashley Dodd says financial close could occur in 18 months, paving the way for construction to begin.

Despite the prime minister and energy minister insisting the project was in its initial stages when they announced a \$10 million feasibility study earlier this week, Mr Dodd says it's gone beyond that stage. ...

Shine Energy are not looking for taxpayer finance, but exemptions from possible laws.

"We need guarantees on giving us some protection around any future legislative changes, around carbon pricing," he said. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/mar/29/scott-morrison-latest-stunt-continues-a-trend-of-captains-calls-replacing-policy>

Scott Morrison's latest stunt continues a trend of captain's calls replacing policy

Nicky Ison, The Guardian, 30/03/2019

Scott Morrison has announced his government's intention to potentially underwrite 12 gas, pumped hydro and coal projects.

Oh, and to fund a feasibility study into a new coal-fired power station in Central Queensland.

This election stunt is designed to firstly indicate to the electorate that this government is doing something on energy and secondly placate a cabal of coal-loving Queensland Nationals while not doing too much to damage the electoral chances of Victorian Liberals, particularly treasurer Josh Frydenberg.

I call it a stunt because that's what it is – given these projects lack detailed costings, there's no legal basis to sign contracts to underwrite these projects and the government is going into caretaker mode in the next two to three weeks. ...

The prime minister was an advertising executive, not an expert in how our electricity system works, he does not have the qualifications to make a decision on which electricity infrastructure projects are needed and which aren't. ...

When a government is divided, when a huge part of it denies the existence

of climate change and is ideologically committed to coal (the single largest cause of climate change), rational policy and the ability to listen to experts becomes impossible.

This in turn makes stable policy impossible.

• *Nicky Ison is a research associate at the Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology Sydney and co-founder of the Community Power Agency*

https://www.crikey.com.au/2019/04/01/energy-crisis-australia/?utm_source=insider&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&ins=NjdKK3R5VE8vRFB-SY2kvRXVRc0pmlUT09

How did the lucky country end up with an energy crisis?

Amanda Murphy, Crikey, 01/04/2019

When it comes to energy, it has been a while since Australia was the lucky country. There have been rolling blackouts in Victoria, warnings of natural gas shortages, extortionate gas and electricity prices; and this has all happened as we swelter through the hottest summer on record.

Australia has abundant coal and natural gas; the world's largest resources of uranium; and huge potential for solar, wind and even geothermal energy. There shouldn't be an energy shortage.

We produce enough primary energy – only consuming 15% of our coal and 36% of our gas production. We export the rest. ...

The sheer scale of Australia means we don't have one well-connected system. There are technological and social barriers to changing to renewable and sustainable energy across the world. But in Australia there has been a lack of foresight. LNG on the east coast was always going to make gas less affordable. ...

• *Amanda Murphy has a keen interest in the 21st Century energy challenge. She worked as a petroleum geologist in Queensland and has recently completed a PhD in the geotechnical and environmental research group at the University of Cambridge.*

<https://www.suratbasin.com.au/news/10b-surat-gas-project-to-create-1000-new-jobs/3687618/?c-spt=1554252375|beb59fd3c8ba3e60a8c7a4ba715a9b5a>

\$10B Surat Gas project to create 1000 new jobs

Matthew Newton & Meg Gannon, Surat Basin News, 01/04/2019

Up to 1000 jobs could be created across the Darling Downs, after Arrow Energy's long-planned Surat Gas Project was given the go-ahead by the State Government.

The \$10 billion project, which is expected to start construction later this year, will generate 800 jobs during the construction phase and 200 operational jobs over its three-decade lifespan.

The State Government yesterday approved 14 petroleum leases on land between Cecil Plains and Dalby in the south, stretching in a north westerly direction past Chinchilla, Miles, and up to Wandoan.

The project is still subject to a final investment decision by Arrow Energy shareholders. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-04-02/coal-fired-power-station-lobbied-environment-minister-foi-reveal/10960544>

Coal-fired power station lobbied Environment Minister for help, FOI documents reveal

Stephanie March, ABC, 02/04/2019

Environment Minister Melissa Price's office told an energy company the Minister would request a review of how coal-fired power stations can earn money from the Government's Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF), after the company complained it was not allowed to bid into the fund to upgrade its New South Wales power station.

Key points:

Delta Electricity wanted to bid for taxpayer-funded carbon credits to replace turbine blades and improve efficiency • An adviser for Ms Price promised Delta the Minister would ask for a review of the ways coal-fired power stations could earn money from the ERF • The Minister's office said the ERF was reviewed regularly to ensure projects from across the economy could participate.

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/the-economy/labor-should-target-coal-not-gas-to-cut-pollution-lng-industry-says-20190401-p51915.html>

Labor should target coal, not gas, to cut pollution: LNG industry says

Cole Latimer, The Age, 02/04/2019

The LNG industry says federal Labor's proposed pollution reduction policy should be targeting heavy emitting coal-fired plants rather than gas, which it argues is a much cleaner fuel source. ...

The emissions safeguard mechanism will drop the baseline level from 100,000 tonnes of carbon equivalent a year down to 25,000 tonnes.

Gas producers like Santos and Woodside would be affected under these new guidelines but power companies that make electricity, like AGL and

News this week ... from previous page

EnergyAustralia, would not have to follow these rules. ...

“It’s expensive for the LNG industry [to cut emissions] but cheap for electricity generators, so the power sector should carry more of the burden,” a Woodside spokeswoman said. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/millions-locked-in-to-tap-territory-shale-fields/news-story/b7cbb04569d6d55c282f49c813fa1be3?cspi=15542508611-faa47dc8f9a6312167bbb6a9b967137c>

Millions locked in to tap Territory shale fields

Joe Kelly, *The Australian*, 03/04/2019

The Morrison government has moved to open Northern Territory shale fields for exploration and development as part of a \$75 million package to support reliable energy infrastructure.

The commitment will be delivered over seven years from 2018-19 and support investment in reliable power generation, network infrastructure and more reliable energy supplies. ...

The new element buried in the government’s energy package is an \$8.4m pledge to support feasibility studies to accelerate gas supplies from the Northern Territory to the east coast market.

It represents a first step to creating a new gas province to help service the domestic market, with Resources Minister Matt Canavan saying in February that the Beetaloo sub-basin was the “best immediate prospect” for a new oil and gas hub. ...

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/04/03/magazine/rupert-murdoch-fox-news-trump.html?smid=ny-core-ios-share>

Murdoch and his children have toppled governments on two continents and destabilised the most important democracy on earth. What do they want?

Jonathan Mahler & Jim Rutenberg, *NY Times*, 03/04/2019

[Rupert Murdoch’s] 24-hour news-and-opinion network, the Fox News Channel, ... fused with President Trump and his base of hard-core supporters, giving Murdoch an unparalleled degree of influence over the world’s most powerful democracy. In Britain, his London-based tabloid, *The Sun*, ... led the historic Brexit crusade to drive the country out of the European Union – and, in the chaos that ensued, helped deliver Theresa May to 10 Downing Street.



THESHVEL.COM.AU

Low-Income Australians To Receive One-Off Lump Of Coal, To Help Offset Threat Of Renewables – The Shovel

In Australia, where Murdoch’s power is most undiluted, his outlets had led an effort to repeal the country’s carbon tax – a first for any nation – and pushed out a series of prime ministers whose agenda didn’t comport with his own.

(Three-part series.)

http://www.theshovel.com.au/2019/04/03/low-income-australians-to-receive-one-off-lump-of-coal-to-help-offset-threat-of-renewables/?fbclid=IwAR1vWcNlao-j2RQPOSMMGrysGq8qHvs4CbiG_5PFDuT56rhcgBsHQgYL08

Low-income Australians to receive one-off lump of coal, to help offset threat of renewables

The Shovel, 03/04/2019

• *Satire warning!*

Over 4 million Australians are set to receive a one-off hand-out of coal, as part of a special budget-night sweetener to help offset the threat of renewable energy.

Handing down his first federal budget on Tuesday, Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said the coal was a core policy of the Morrison Government. “It’s a signa-

ture policy. As in, Scott Morrison will literally sign each piece of coal,” Mr Frydenberg said.

The coal which will be inscribed with Mr Morrison’s famous words: ‘Don’t be afraid, don’t be scared, it won’t hurt you. It’s coal’ – is expected to be delivered to age pensioners, people on the Disability Support Pension, veterans, carers, single parents and voters in marginal seats in time for the Federal Election.

“We need to remind voters that renewable energy does not build coal powered stations,” the Treasurer noted, denying that the initiative was a grab for votes in the lead up to the election.



Fossil Fool Bulletin is published every Friday (in your email Saturday).
<https://knitting-nannas.org/bulletins.php>
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 Past issues available to download

SAVING THE LAND, AIR AND WATER FOR THE KIDDIES
www.knitting-nannas.com