



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 2:18• 12 APRIL 2019

Coalition ticks off Adani water plan and calls May 18 election

“Federal Environment Minister Melissa Price’s tick for a go-ahead on the Adani mine is without integrity, sincerity or responsibility to Earth’s future”, veteran environment campaigner Bob Brown said when the news broke.

“The Stop Adani Convoy, due to leave Hobart and head north next week, is now more important than ever to remind voters of everyone’s obligation to keep the world beautiful and habitable for our children and theirs,” Brown said.

Melissa Price ticked off Adani’s water plan after being heaved by LNP Senator James McGrath, who wrote to her saying he would call for her resignation if the approval was not given before the election.

Senator Matt Canavan is reported to have threatened to resign himself, if the approval wasn’t forthcoming, but denies the allegation.

The day after Adani’s victory with the environment minister, PM Scott Morrison announced the long-anticipated election will be held on May 18. By ticking the Adani approval before the election announcement, Morrison avoided having to consult the Labor party over the decision, which would have happened had it occurred during the caretaker period.

W&J: approvals process corrupted

Traditional owners, the Wangan and Jagalingou Family Council said the

• Continued p2



Coalition Senators Christensen and Canavan were seen the morning Adani’s water plan was ticked off by the Feds, wearing pro coal gear at a coal investment seminar in Mackay. Photos were taken just hours before the announcement.

Photo: Mackay Conservation Group, Facebook

Coal-loving Coalition MPs appear to have strong-armed the Environment Minister into granting Adani access to Queensland’s precious groundwater on the eve of the election. – ACF

• P3: Tribunal finds frackers guilty

• P3: Fossil lobbying to be monitored

• P4: What’s wrong with Adani’s plan

Climate critical – Adani and fossil fuels a major election issue

• Continued from p1

decision by Minister Price to approve Adani's groundwater plan had been made under intense political pressure.

The Family Council believes the environmental approvals process has been corrupted and the science has not been properly followed, placing their country and cultural heritage at extreme risk.

W&J Council spokesperson Adrian Burragubba said: "This Federal Government decision shows the Coalition is prepared to place our sacred springs and the water from our country at extreme risk. All for an untrustworthy corporation and some false promises of jobs and money.

"We call on the Federal Labor opposition to commit to review all Commonwealth environmental approvals for Adani, given the extreme level of political interference in this decision and the outstanding scientific questions about the impact of Adani's mine on our water.

Dodgy agreement under appeal

"Adani is a long way off all the approvals they need for this mine. And it is often overlooked that we have Adani's dodgy Indigenous Land Use Agreement under appeal before the full bench of the Federal Court in late May. We are now seeking legal advice on our options to challenge Minister Price's decision.

"No-one should believe this approval means Adani can move ahead. This is nothing more than a politically convenient decision by the Liberal National Coalition" he said.

"The mine would pollute and drain billions of litres of groundwater, and obliterate our ancient springs", Burragubba said.

"The water is our life. It is our dreaming and our sovereignty. We cannot give that away. With this decision, the Commonwealth continues to violate our common law rights to our culture. Water is central to our laws, our religion and our identity. It is the Mundunjudra, the water spirit, the rainbow serpent", he said.

Graziers call on Qld to stop mine

Meanwhile, graziers hand-delivered an open letter to Queensland Environment Minister Leeanne Enoch,



Australian Farmers for Climate Action comment on the Adani decision.

Photo: FCA, Facebook

calling on the state government to reject Adani's water plan on scientific grounds including inadequate modeling and lack of analysis of cumulative impacts.

Central Queensland graziers Angus Emmott, Bruce Currie and William Graham joined Farmers for Climate Action (FCA) CEO Verity Morgan-Schmidt at the meeting with Minister Enoch in Brisbane at which they called on the Queensland Government to withhold approval of the plan until concerns are addressed.

Verity Morgan-Schmidt said: "Once again, politics appear to have trumped science and due process at a Federal level. Today Minister Enoch assured us the Queensland government would not be rushed in the decision-making process in relation to Adani's water approval process.

Jericho grazier Bruce Currie said farmers' ability to produce food and fibre was being jeopardised by political leaders who continue to put agriculture and the water supply behind short-sighted interests.

ACF: No green light

Christian Slattery, Stop Adani campaigner at the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF), commented that Australians are right to be deeply sceptical about the process that led to the decision.

"Coal-loving Coalition MPs appear to have strong-armed the Environment Minister into granting Adani access to

Queensland's precious groundwater on the eve of the election.

"There remain serious questions about how this contentious proposal to take at least 270 billion litres of precious groundwater was approved at the last minute.

"It is wrong to think Adani now has the green light start digging up coal in the Galilee Basin.

Approvals outstanding in Qld

"A number of approvals remain outstanding and the Queensland government is yet to sign-off on Adani's Black-Throated Finch Management Plan and Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Management Plan.

"And, importantly, Adani does not have federal approval for the proposed above-ground water infrastructure it requires to support its proposed thirsty coal mine," Slattery said.

Adani hopes to take up to 12.5 billion litres of water – 5000 Olympic-sized swimming pools – from the Suttor River in central Queensland, a river that floods and dries up at different times and on which farmers and wetlands rely.

In an ongoing Federal Court case ACF is challenging the Federal Environment Minister's failure to apply the water trigger to Adani's proposed water pipeline project.

LobbyWatch: monitoring the fossil fuels lobby in 'climate election'

Ahead of the Australian federal election in May, the Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility (ACCR) will be monitoring the policy advocacy of Australian listed companies and the lobby groups that represent them, on climate and energy issues. And they need your help!

This is the climate election. The current government repealed a nationwide carbon tax in 2014, then sat on its hands for five years while our emissions continued to rise year after year. We are so far behind, and we can't let anyone block climate policy in this country anymore.

Why does lobbying matter?

ACCR believes that vested interests—of companies that stand to profit from climate policy delay, and their lobbyists— are the primary cause of our national climate policy malaise.

Lobbyists exert influence in many ways, from direct meetings with politicians, to political donations, buying tables at political fundraising events, high profile media appearances, submissions to government inquiries, advertising in traditional and social

media channels, and operating under multiple 'brands' to spread their message. You can read more about ACCR's work in holding them accountable here <https://accr.org.au/lobbying/>.

In short, lobbyists create a lot of noise and they do it all the time. This makes the job of comprehensive monitoring of the activities of lobby groups a very big one.

And also, very important. Lobbyists leverage their political and media relationships to exert an outsized influence on our politics, and most voters lack awareness of how they wield their power to benefit polluters.

Voters need a way to understand the influence of lobbyists, and to hold their political representatives as well as big companies to account. LobbyWatch is where ACCR are going to start.

Over the course of the next six weeks, they're going to ramp up public scrutiny of the activities of lobby groups, including the Minerals Council of Australia (MCA), the Business Council of Australia (BCA), and the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA). Through a couple of blog posts a week, they will

document and respond to the activities of these groups in real time, throughout the 2019 Australian federal election. This will give voters an insight into how they work, and the political consequences of their activities.

How you can help

This job is so big that ACCR need everyone to be on the lookout! They will undertake the analysis, but need your help in gathering the information.

If you're a Facebook or Twitter user and you notice these groups mentioned in media, advertising in your feed, or doing anything at all, tag ACCR with #lobbywatchAU. Even if it doesn't seem interesting at the time, it is likely part of a broader strategy aimed at undermining ambitious climate action.

If you want to send ACCR tips or feedback, email them at lobbywatch@accr.org.au.

By building and being part of a community of active citizens on the lookout for dodgy lobbying, ACCR thinks we can get the fossil fuels lobby out of our politics for good.

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United Nations tribunal: Fracking found to violate human rights

A tribunal of international legal experts has delivered a scathing report on fracking, arguing the unconventional gas and oil drilling method is a human rights violation.

The Permanent Peoples' Tribunal has handed down its final report on its Session on Human Rights, Fracking and Climate Change, calling for a worldwide ban on fracking, and encouraging support for people's movements against the controversial drilling technique.

Recommendations for action

The report makes several recommendations for local, state, national and UN action, including that nations recognise the rights of nature in a similar way to human rights to help address the existential threat of climate change.

It also calls for the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment to be asked to investigate the violations of the rights of humans

and nature by the unconventional oil and gas extraction (UOGE) industry.

Convenor of the Australian tribunal sessions and impacted Chinchilla resident, Shay Dougall said she planned to use the document to pressure the Queensland and Federal governments.

"The Queensland Government has just recklessly approved the Arrow energy CSG expansion on the Western Downs, despite what we know about the unconventional gas industry," she said.

"We know CSG on the Western Downs has dewatered farmers' bores, it's led to a massive decline in agriculture, and has not supplied anywhere near the number of permanent jobs first touted by the industry.

Health concerns, climate impact

"There are also ongoing concerns about health impacts on people who are forced to live near this invasive, polluting industry.

"As well, the gas industry is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions due to the production and transport processes, and due to gas leaks from wells and pipelines."

The report also specifically notes the disappointing decision by the NT and WA Labor Governments to reverse their moratoria on fracking:

"Of course, a State moratorium can be reversed, as recently happened in the economically beleaguered former mining colossus, Western Australia, and in the Northern Territory of Australia desperately seeking "economic development", not heeding the experience of other jurisdictions where a "black gold rush" turned community life into a nightmare," Dougall said.

The report can be downloaded **here**:

<https://www.tribunalonfracking.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/A0-FINAL-3-28-19.pdf>

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Political pressure evident in water plan approval

The CSIRO/Geoscience Australia report identified major shortcomings with the Adani water management plans. This raises very serious issues about the approval granted by Minister Price and how it was granted, according to a review by Lock the Gate.

The report made significant criticisms of the modelling and assumptions that Adani used in its groundwater plan, while it's still unclear what work Adani will be required to undertake in response.

In particular, the report finds that Adani underestimates the possible impacts of the mine on 187 nationally significant Great Artesian Basin springs – the Doongmabulla Springs.

They also recommended substantial additional work to address concerns raised in their advice, including regarding the modelling employed by Adani.

Moreover, wider questions about the impacts of Adani's mine on water remain, with the Galilee Bioregional Assessment released last year finding far greater cumulative impacts on water than predicted by individual mine proponents and identifying significant knowledge gaps.

Drawdown at greater than 20cm

Adani's Federal approval effectively requires them to restrict drawdown in the Doongmabulla Springs to 20 cm. The approval seeks to 'ensure that groundwater drawdown as a result of the project does not exceed an interim threshold of 0.2m at the Doongmabulla Springs'.

However, in Appendix B of the report, CSIRO state that if hydraulic conductivity values in the groundwater model are adjusted to better reflect expected values (based on field measurement data), then 'the drawdown at the springs would be greater than 0.2m'.

Therefore, the CSIRO report foreshadows very strongly that the key restraint contained in the approval to protect the Great Artesian Basin Springs cannot be met.

Notably, the Queensland Land Court decision on Adani concluded that even very minor groundwater drawdowns could lead to some of the springs in the Doongmabulla Complex ceasing to flow entirely.

*The Doongmabulla Springs could be destroyed by Adani's mine.
Photo: Lock the Gate*



Groundwater modelling inadequate

The CSIRO report also found that the groundwater model:

- 1) 'under-predicts groundwater drawdown arising from mine development';
- 2) 'is not suitable to ensure the outcomes sought by the conditions of approval are met'.

As a result, it concluded that groundwater drawdown in the Carmichael River alluvium and at the Doongmabulla Springs will be greater than predicted.

Uncertainty over source of springs

The Queensland Environmental Authority requires that the source aquifer of the Doongmabulla Springs is identified before a Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Management Plan can be approved.

However, the CSIRO report concluded 'it is not possible to conclusively determine the source aquifer or aquifers for the Doongmabulla Springs Complex based on available evidence'.

Therefore, based on this advice, it would seem the Queensland Government will not be able to approve Adani's GDEMP.

Furthermore, the CSIRO report states in relation to threats to the Doongmabulla Springs that 'the precautionary principle should apply'.

Appendix B of the report identifies the CSIRO recommendations and Adani's response. The majority of CSIRO's

substantive recommendations relate to adjusting model parameters and re-running and improving the model.

However, in response to each recommendation, the Adani response is stated as 'Model review is outside scope/objective of GMMP'.

A further letter provided by CSIRO on April 5 – written on the day after Lucas Dow is reported to have had a 'frank' conversation about the GDEMP with Scott Morrison – fails to clearly confirm whether the model adjustments will be implemented.

Instead, there is a very ambiguous statement from CSIRO that 'Adani's responses should satisfy the recommendation to update the groundwater model' while also stating that 'there are still components of that advice that will need to be addressed through the approval of the research plan'.

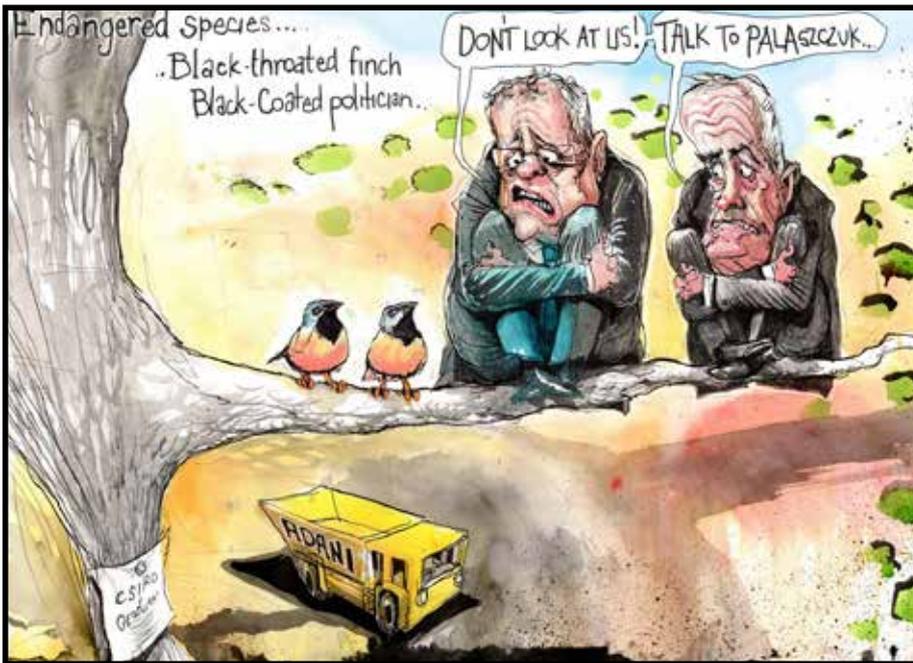
Substantial pressure applied to CSIRO

The letter raises concerns that substantial pressure was applied to CSIRO, given it was written on April 5 after a week of intense political pressure and that it refers to a meeting with the department on that very day where CSIRO were provided with a list of responses to their recommendations.

There was obviously major time pressure applied to CSIRO to provide this letter on the same day as the meeting.

– Lock the Gate Alliance

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



Elders appeal for support at Leigh Creek

Leigh Creek Energy's trial of UCG (Underground Coal Gasification) near the towns of Leigh Creek and Copley is due to end mid-May and the company is likely to apply to go into full production of this dangerous project.

The community is clearly saying no, with over 90% saying they don't want UCG.

The Leigh Creek coalfield has suffered enough damage and now is the time to let the land heal.

This UCG pilot process has distressed the Adnyamathanha elders, who are sad, angry and afraid about what Leigh Creek Energy are doing and propose to do further.

They are feeling ignored and disrespected once again.

You can write a submission to the South Australian State Government to support the community in their opposition to UCG.

Have your say before the public consultation period closes on April 15.

Many submissions needed

It is essential as many people as possible make submissions to Energy and Mining Minister Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP, calling on the Government to halt any more approvals on this dangerous project.

Use the email template at this link, or write your own.:

https://www.originalpower.org.au/copley_no_ucg?fbclid=IwAR2Hpt0_2rFH1FiQ3Dgw-QFl6fogYGMIfx183V3cix061r-dqyLibag30f8

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Inside the news

A pre-election furore over **Adani's** last federal Carmichael mine approval flooded the news this week. Predictably, the **Murdoch media** gloated over Adani's victory and gave Queenslanders **fake job hopes**, splattered over pages 6-10.

The *Courier-Mail* claimed the mine will create **1,500 direct jobs and 6,750 indirect jobs** – figures which are blatant nonsense promoted by Adani and the **Queensland Resources Council**.

Meanwhile, *The Monthly* published an impressive, very long, article by James Bradley covering the **Adani saga**, from its beginnings in the Permian era to current developments (p10) – a highly recommended read.

The writer reminds us that although coal accounts for almost 15% of Australia's total exports, **coal royalties** only accounted for around **6.4% of Queensland government revenue**, a figure that is projected to fall to 4.6 per cent by 2021-22 as coal prices decline.

In **New South Wales**, coal's contribution to government revenue is **less than 2%**. According to analysis by The Australia Institute in 2013, combined revenue from company tax and the Mining Resources Rent Tax from the coal industry accounted for less than **1% of Commonwealth government revenue**.

Mining in Australia is **86% foreign owned**, with most of the **profits flowing off-shore**. These figures need to be kept in mind as resources companies bully governments on climate policy.

Farmers on the **Namoi River** are furious that **Whitehaven Coal** has been allowed to continue pumping from the river, to wash coal, while farmers are forbidden to pump during the unprecedented drought (p11).

Airborne Research Australia's Diamond ECO-Dimona aircraft will be **monitoring methane emissions from gasfields** (p13) in a **UN-funded study**. This will provide essential info on the CSG industry's true greenhouse gas impact. Current monitoring regimes are hopelessly inadequate. **FFB** will be watching for the results.

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In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 40,600 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/environment/2019/apr/05/labor-warns-government-not-to-make-adani-coalmine-decisions-before-election>

Labor warns government not to make Adani coalmine decisions before election

Amy Remeikis & Gabrielle Chan, *The Guardian*, 05/04/2019

Labor has warned the government against making any major decisions on the Adani coalmine before the election, while Scott Morrison and his environment minister Melissa Price face internal pressure from some Queensland MPs to take action.

While playing down reports of a “split”, government MPs from Queensland, including James McGrath and Matt Canavan have kept up pressure inside Morrison’s office and the party room for key approvals for the Carmichael coalmine, including the ground water plan, to be signed off on as soon as possible. ...



Stop Adani protesters infiltrated a Valley Chamber of Commerce meeting in Brisbane on Monday, where Prime Minister Scott Morrison was speaking. Photo: Stop Adani

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/calls-for-both-sides-of-politics-to-respect-process-and-tick-off-adani-plan/news-story/43aabcea04ac3bb-55f68166011337e45>

Calls for both sides of politics to respect process and tick off Adani plan

Madura McCormack, *Townsville Bulletin*, 06/04/2019

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has dismissed claims the Federal Government has delayed signing off on a critical Adani environment plan.

It is understood Adani’s groundwater environment management plan is waiting to be signed off in the affirmative by Environment Minister Melissa Price.

Queensland MPs have reportedly met with Mr Morrison demanding why the approval has not been given. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/lnp-says-mine-delay-a-disgrace/news-story/17161ab8e500da09f7d3fad-a854b387d>

LNP says mine delay a disgrace

Jared Owens, *The Australian*, 06/04/2019

Queensland’s Liberal National opposition has condemned as “an absolute disgrace” the Morrison government’s delays in approving a key environ-

mental plan for Adani’s controversial Carmichael coalmine. ...

Scott Morrison has been personally lobbied by a delegation of Queensland MPs to ensure the plan is approved before calling an election, after which Labor must be consulted on any controversial decisions under caretaker conventions. Queensland senator Matt Canavan yesterday surprised LNP colleagues by denying reports he threatened to resign as Resources Minister over the row.

State opposition mines spokesman Dale Last blasted the go-slow approach, saying thousands of workers’ futures were at stake. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/opinion/opinion-anger-over-adani-could-split-liberal-nationals-coalition/news-story/a1c97a75bf794745bbaecc6d924b3d102>

Opinion: Anger over Adani could split Liberal-Nationals coalition

Renee Viellaris, *Courier-Mail*, 08/04/2019

Tensions are boiling over within the LNP.

So angry are some LNP Federal parliamentarians with their interstate colleagues that they have flagged sitting as a separate party after the next

election. Or at the very least, they will consider voting as a bloc.

How this plays out will depend on whether the Morrison Government wins or loses; if they lose, how much they lose by; whether Peter Dutton holds his seat (he is the most senior LNP Queensland and is unlikely to want to change the status quo); and how the Government handles the Adani issue. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/senator-james-mcgrath-warns-environment-minister-over-adani/news-story/c9ef702e32f242c3241e945bd503e62d>

Senator James McGrath warns Environment Minister over Adani

Renee Viellaris, *Courier-Mail*, 08/04/2019

Fired-up Federal Senator James McGrath has sensationally warned Environment Minister Melissa Price that he will publicly call for her resignation if she fails to treat the Adani project fairly.

In terse and blunt correspondence, Senator McGrath told the embattled Minister he would issue a press release calling for her ministerial scalp if Queensland jobs were thrown under the bus.

It comes as Barnaby Joyce “looked like he wanted to punch” Gold Coast MP Stuart Robert in the House of Representatives on Thursday over a back-and-forward comments about the Galilee Basin. Sources said Mr Joyce was ropeable and believed Mr Robert’s southern Liberal mates were trying to stop mining jobs in central Queensland. ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/adani-approval-unlikely-before-federal-poll-20190407-p51boz>

Adani approval unlikely before federal poll

Mark Ludlow, AFR, 07/04/2019

The Queensland government is in no rush to finalise approvals for Adani’s controversial \$2 billion Carmichael coal mine before the federal election.

The federal environment minister Melissa Price is under pressure to sign-off on the Indian company’s environmental management plan for groundwater before the election campaign starts.

But the Queensland Environment Department made it clear on Sunday there was no statutory timeframe on its own approvals. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/scott-morrison-bill-shorten-in-brisbane/news-story/c7c10b61fd21ce6f5a19ad777581130a>

Scott Morrison, Bill Shorten in Brisbane

Cloe Read, Courier-Mail, 08/04/2019

Two Adani protesters have stormed the stage while Prime Minister Scott Morrison addressed the Valley Chamber of Commerce in Brisbane today.

Mr Morrison began his speech asking “how good is Trevor Evans?” when a protester ran onto the stage holding a “stop Adani” poster. ...

<https://www.afr.com/news/policy/climate/commonwealth-super-fund-dumps-adani-stake-20190408-p51bxk>

Commonwealth super fund dumps Adani stake

Ben Potter, AFR, 08/04/2019

The manager of \$45.5 billion of federal public servants’ retirement funds dumped its stake in Adani in February, citing “recent events” at the controversial Indian energy group. ...

Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation, which is chaired by former bank director Patricia Cross, sold its Adani stake valued at \$10 million before 28 February.

The Adani sellout comes as Norway’s government proposes new rules that

could force the oil producing nation’s \$US1 trillion (\$1.4 trillion) sovereign wealth fund - The Norwegian Pension Fund Global or NPGF - to sell out of coal producers BHP, Glencore, South32 and Anglo American. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-04-09/lawyers-eye-coalition-threat-as-grounds-for-adani-appeal/10982834>

Coalition senator’s reported threat to Environment Minister could spark Adani appeal, lawyers say

Melissa Clarke, ABC, 09/04/2019

Environmental lawyers are examining reports of a threat to the federal Environment Minister from a colleague over the Adani coal mine, which could open avenues for appeal if the project is approved before the federal election.

Key points: Some members of the Liberals and Nationals are worried Adani could be killed off if Labor wins the election • There are pushes for the approval to be made before the Government goes into election caretaker mode • Senator McGrath said he would not speak about his reported threat or the approval process ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/apr/09/government-threatened-with-legal-action-if-it-rushes-adani-mine-approvals>

Government threatened with legal action if it rushes Adani mine approvals

Katharine Murphy, The Guardian, 09/04/2019

The Australian Conservation Foundation has warned the Morrison government will make itself vulnerable to a legal challenge if it rushes remaining approvals for the Adani coal mine before the election, or if the decision maker, the environment minister, has been subjected to political interference. ...

The ACF’s stop Adani campaigner, Christian Slattery, said, “The political interference revealed this week raises serious doubts about the probity of this government’s approval process for Adani’s mine. If the minister has been pressured by her Queensland colleagues to abuse the approvals process and rush through a decision before the election, that would make it vulnerable to legal challenge.” ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-04-09/adani-gains-commonwealth-groundwater-approval/10984134>

Adani coal mine a step closer with Environment Minister endorsing groundwater approvals

Dan Conifer, ABC, 09/04/2019

Adani has been given Commonwealth approval to start building its Queensland coal mine in a victory for the controversial project.

The Environment Minister Melissa Price has given the green light to the project’s groundwater management plans.

The future of the proposal for central Queensland now rests with the State Government, having received the final federal approvals needed before construction can begin. ...

Ms Price said in a statement that she had accepted the advice of the CSIRO and Geoscience Australia, which both gave the plan the green light. ...

The project still requires nine more approvals to be granted from the Queensland and Commonwealth governments before mining can commence.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/environment-minister-melissa-price-signs-off-on-adani-project-20190409-p51cc0.html>

Environment Minister Melissa Price signs off on Adani project

Nicole Hasham, SMH, 09/04/2019

Environment Minister Melissa Price has granted federal approval to the controversial Adani coal mine following intense pressure from her Queensland colleagues to sign off on the plan before the federal election. ...

If the plan was approved during the caretaker period, the government would have been forced to consult Labor before granting permission. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government-adani-plans-approved-a-day-after-job-threat-made-public/news-story/1c091b265b1d577a3f66391ed2e1a295>

Adani plans approved a day after job threat made public

Matthew Killoran, Domanii Cameron & Sonia Kohlbacher, Courier-Mail, 09/04/2019

Queensland Environment Minister Leeane Enoch has slammed the Federal Government’s approval of the Adani mine as reeking of political interference, while casting further doubt over the project’s future.

STOP WATER MINING
THE NEXT RESOURCES BATTLE



"I am very concerned that Barnaby Joyce's and Matt Canavan's political campaign reeks of political interference and may have compromised the integrity of the decision making process," Ms Enoch said in a statement this afternoon.

"After a month of multiple requests, the Queensland Government received the CSIRO and GeoScience Australia report less than 30 minutes before the Federal Minister's announcement. ...

<https://www.afr.com/news/politics/national/morrison-government-approves-adani-ends-internal-war-20190409-p51c9k>

Adani approved by Morrison government

Phillip Coorey & Mark Ludlow, AFR, 09/04/2019

The Morrison government has moved to end a damaging split over the Adani coal mine and granted the controversial project its final Commonwealth environmental approval. ...

Senator James McGrath, who helped engineer the dumping of both Tony Abbott and Malcolm Turnbull, had threatened to force the resignation of Ms Price if she does not grant the final Commonwealth environmental approval for the Adani mine before the election is called. ...

<https://www.afr.com/news/politics/national/we-won-t-rush-approvals-qld-20190409-p51cg6>

We won't rush approvals: Qld

Phillip Coorey & Mark Ludlow, AFR, 09/04/2019

The Queensland Labor government will not fast-track the remaining environmental approvals for the Adani coal mine, claiming there were unanswered questions about groundwater impacts, and that Tuesday's final Commonwealth approval reeked of political interference. ...

Queensland Environment Minister Leeanne Enoch said a "number of uncertainties" remain in Adani's groundwater plans. She also claimed the approval process may have been politicised and rushed.

"I am very concerned that Barnaby Joyce's and Matt Canavan's political campaign reeks of political interference and may have compromised the integrity of the decision-making process," Ms Enoch said. ...

Adani Mining chief executive Lucas Dow welcomed the federal approval but took aim at the Palaszczuk government for "shifting the goal posts" on their approvals. ...



Greypower Climate Protectors blockaded the Queensland LNP headquarters in Brisbane on April 11, protesting the approval of Adani's water plan.

Photo: Greypower, Facebook

<https://www.afr.com/news/policy/climate/adani-mine-climate-create-great-divide-20190409-p51ca4>

Adani mine, climate create great divide

Ben Potter, AFR, 10/04/2019

A new survey shows the gulf between Queensland and the southern capitals that has split the Morrison government – and the Labour movement – over the Adani mine approval.

Roy Morgan surveys of more than 40,000 Australians, broken down by federal electorates, show a much higher share of Canberrans, Melburnians and Sydneysiders nominate global warming and climate change as one of their top three election issues than voters in Brisbane and regional Queensland. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/apr/09/adani-coalmine-scientific-reviews-appear-to-give-queensland-trigger-to-block-project>

Adani coalmine: scientific reviews appear to give Queensland trigger to block project

Ben Smees, The Guardian, 09/04/2019

Scientific reviews of Adani's groundwater plans appear to hand the Queensland government a trigger to block the Carmichael coalmine by suggesting the company has not been able to satisfy a longstanding state environmental condition. ...

Some of the conditions necessary for state approval are more stringent. In particular, the Queensland government says Adani must identify the previously unknown source of the Doongmabulla Springs complex, a group of wetlands near the site of the proposed mine. Adani claims it has identified the source. But the CSIRO and Geoscience Australia assessment said the company's groundwater management plans were based on assumptions that were "not reasonable". ...

https://reneweconomy.com.au/adani-coal-mine-clears-another-hurdle-with-water-approval-from-price-37038/?utm_source=RE+Daily+Newsletter&utm_campaign=88d35b1bd0-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_04_09_03_11&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_46a1943223-88d35b1bd0-40461137

Adani coal mine clears another hurdle, with water approval from Price

Sophie Vorrath, *Renew Economy*, 09/04/2019

The federal Coalition has finally embraced the importance of scientific research – not on the existential threat of climate change or the enormous potential of renewable energy, mind, but to rush through an environmental approval for what would be the largest coal mine Australia has ever seen. ... What is also scientific is last October's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, warning that the internationally accepted goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C is drifting rapidly and dangerously out of reach. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/queensland-labor-uncertainties-stall-adani-go-ahead/news-story/9fcd6db1226954a90e611f0cd30e39bc?b-tr=419458eaf0ebc1310a1390a3d76d85b5>

Queensland Labor 'uncertainties' stall Adani go-ahead

Jared Owens, *The Australian*, 10/04/2019

Queensland Labor has sought to blame the Morrison government for a fresh wave of uncertainty over the stalled Adani coalmine, with the state's Environment Minister claiming "political interference" may have compromised the Coalition's election-eve decision to rubberstamp a crucial environmental approval for the project. ...

Wilderness Society federal policy director Tim Beshara said ... "unprecedented" letters raised questions about what the scientists were told in their briefings with Ms Price's officials.

"That is the regulator telling the supposedly independent advisory body that it'll be fine, and then asking them to put 'based on what you guys told me, she'll be right, mate' in an urgent letter," said Mr Beshara, who mooted referring the affair to the new national integrity commission. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/adani-mail-campaign-blames-qld-govt-for-job-delays-after-receiving-federal-approval/news-story/6c19e3a7a0f70be-b094a40a614d0f1e0>

Adani blames State Government for job delays after federal approval

Renee Viellaris, *Domanii Cameron*, *Courier-Mail*, 10/04/2019

Indian mining giant Adani will today letterbox bomb 130,000 households in the state's north to blame the State Government for stalling thousands of

jobs, after the coal miner was yesterday granted federal approvals.

The fate of Adani's 6750 direct and 1500 indirect jobs rests with Anastacia Palaszczuk and her Labor colleagues, dragging Bill Shorten into a political clash on the eve of a federal election. ...

The project cannot start the mine's construction or railway until the State Government approves the project's Black-throated Finch Management Plan and Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Management Plan.

There is no time frame that forces the State Government to decide. ...

With only the State Government now standing in the way of the project, Adani will today stuff letterboxes from Townsville to Rockhampton with campaign material that demands it "stop moving the goalposts so Adani can start kicking goals for workers and families".

All of those households are in marginal seats and key to Mr Morrison holding the keys to The Lodge. ...

• *Editor's note: Adani's job figures are a lie. They already admitted in court the original \$16 billion project would only generate 1,464 direct and indirect jobs. So how can they now claim the diminished \$2 billion project will create 6,750 indirect and 1,500 direct jobs? But we wouldn't expect Courier-Mail journalists to inform themselves and ask the question, especially when Adani advertising revenue is flowing in and the entire Murdoch press shamelessly promotes coal interests.*

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/short-ens-queensland-mps-gagged-after-adani-cleared/news-story/781067e6cd551ec5ddbbca26e47b56dc>

Shorten's Queensland MPs gagged after Adani cleared

Jared Owens & Michael McKenna, *The Australian*, 11/04/2019

Bill Shorten's Queensland MPs and candidates have been gagged by Labor headquarters from speaking about Adani's coalmine.

A day after the Carmichael project cleared all federal approvals to begin construction, the state ALP government ramped up its attacks on the Morrison government's "chaotic" process and encouraged its bureaucrats to take their time before backing their federal counterparts.

Queensland Environment Minister Leeanne Enoch said this could involve seeking new independent environmental advice, reversing the government's previous commitment to consider only the study by the CSIRO and Geoscience Australia.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/qld-govt-refuses-to-say-when-adani-approvals-will-be-granted-or-denied/news-story/3a1822f11ceaa051338cb0dfca951893>

Qld Govt refuses to say when Adani approvals will be granted or denied

Domanii Cameron & Matthew Killoran, *Courier-Mail*, 11/04/2019

Environment Minister Leeanne Enoch has all but confirmed Adani will not be approved before the federal election.

The Minister refused to say when the Government would either grant or deny approvals for the Carmichael coal mine, after the Federal Government checked off the controversial groundwater management plan.

"When you consider that the Federal Government utilised a number of weeks to assess the CSIRO and Geoscience Australia (groundwater report), it's only fair that we would allow the regulator (Department of Environment and Science) to do the same," she said.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/adani-still-has-a-long-march-ahead-before-its-carmichael-coal-mine-opens-20190410-p51cug.html?b-tr=4032e5480e3e6adcd2d024a78ad0c1c1>

Adani still has a long march ahead before its Carmichael coal mine opens

Peter Hannam & Felicity Caldwell, *SMH*, 10/04/2019

The final approval for Adani's plans to develop a coal mine in Queensland's Galilee Basin looks likely to come well after the federal election, with a slew of state and federal hurdles to clear. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-04-11/adani-damning-assessment-turned-into-approval/10990288>

Inside Melissa Price's decision to approve Adani's groundwater plan

Stephen Long & Michael Slezak, *ABC*, 11/04/2019

In terms of the careful language used by scientists and bureaucrats, the assessment was damning.

Adani's key water management plan for its coal mine in Queensland was so flawed its outcomes were unreliable, scientists from the CSIRO warned federal Environment Minister Melissa Price's department.

They were scathing about the modelling that underpinned the entire plan, which, they said, was replete with errors and false assumptions. ...

Adani had underestimated the toll on bore water that farmers in the region rely on, which would be drained more severely and more quickly than predicted, the scientists said. And the mine could drain an ecologically

sensitive and ancient natural springs complex, exceeding strict limits on draw-down of the springs' waters.

A barrier to approval?

Nothing that couldn't be overcome. ...

Influential figures in the Queensland LNP have been unflinching champions of the Adani mine.

With a federal election looming, powerful MPs and senators — who have long campaigned for Adani's mine — were anxious to see the Federal Government grant the approval.

The LNP saw the granting of federal approval as a way of wedging Bill Shorten and the ALP in Queensland electorates where the Adani mine is equated with jobs.

https://www.themonthly.com.au/issue/2019/april/1554037200/james-bradley/how-australia-s-coal-madness-led-adani?fbclid=IwAR0CfRzjPxQGTsTZqB_P6tgd_C17-kkx1Cjcy06vec6BqUBvLGLb5arjY

How Australia's coal madness led to Adani

James Bradley, *The Monthly*, April 2019

The Permian ended with the single largest extinction event in Earth's history so far. ... A burst of almost unimaginably violent volcanic activity ignited enormous beds of coal, oil and gas laid down during the Palaeozoic era, triggering the release of huge amounts of greenhouse gases. ...

Scientists and miners have known of the existence of the coal reserves beneath the Galilee for decades. Yet the recent history of the region really begins in 2008, when Clive Palmer's Waratah Coal reported the discovery of 4.4 billion tonnes of coal near the town of Alpha, and announced plans to invest \$8 billion in a mine in the area. ... Although GVK Hancock's Alpha mine was the first to be approved, it was Adani's Carmichael mine that pushed ahead the fastest. ...

• *Excellent 11,600 word article.*

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/millionaires-resuscitate-collapsed-mine-to-fuel-vales-point-coal-fired-power-station/news-story/2fe965c29c63b7e143a007e34a200c26>

Millionaires resuscitate collapsed mine to fuel Vales Point coal-fired power station

Perry Williams, *The Australian*, 08/04/2019

Coal barons Trevor St Baker and Brian Flannery have swooped to buy the NSW mine that supplies their Vales Point power station after its collapse

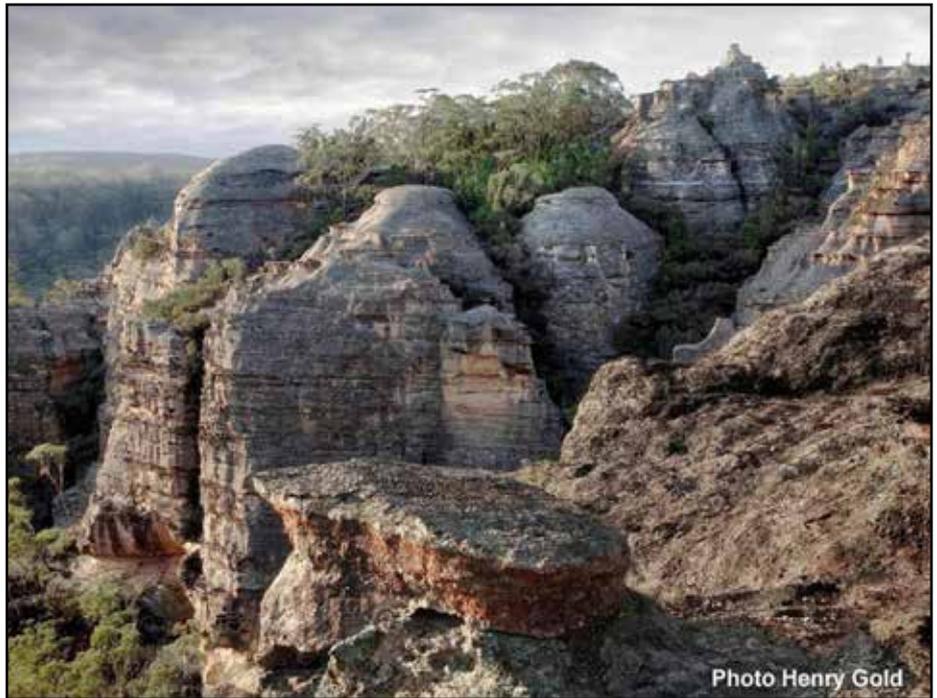


Photo Henry Gold

Environmentalists and a coal mine have joined forces to protect the spectacular Gardens of Stone in NSW's Blue Mountains. Photo: Henry Gold/gardensofstone.org.au

into administration last year forced the duo to pay premium prices for coal to ensure it could deliver electricity to the grid.

Delta Electricity assumed control of the Chain Valley mine on April 1 after it was placed into receivership in October, with the rescue deal safeguarding 250 jobs and handing the power entrepreneurs control of the underground facility.

The NSW government signed off on the transfer of mining titles from the previous private owners Lake Coal, with Delta lodging bond obligations as part of its commitment to the eventual rehabilitation of the site. ...

The 80-year-old energy industry veteran says the mooted investment will ensure the market's most dominant fuel source remains an integral part of the country's power mix and ensure power bills remain competitive as a surge of new wind and solar farms threaten to distort the grid and lead to a hike in prices. Vales Point itself does not come with any clean-up liability.

https://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/unlikely-alliance-aims-to-protect-promote-garden-of-stone-s-3000-sisters-20190405-p51bco.html?c_spt=1554670553|aefa1301c021877b6ca4e73b8634f9ee

Unlikely alliance aims to protect, promote Garden of Stone's '3000 sisters'

Peter Hannam, *SMH*, 07/04/2019

An unlikely alliance of environmental groups and an underground coal miner has formed to promote tourism to

protect the beautiful rock formations of the Gardens of Stone near Lithgow.

The plan, dubbed "Destination Pagoda" for the spectacular rock pinnacles and gorges in the region, brings together conservationists and their longtime opponents, Centennial Coal, the biggest mine in the Lithgow area.

Keith Muir, director of the Colong Foundation for Wilderness, is trying to build support for a new conservation area on the western edge of the Blue Mountains National Park. "Katoomba has three sisters, the Gardens of Stone has 3000," he said.

Katie Brassil, of Centennial Coal, said the initiative "is something we can support" and that the company would "like Lithgow to be a gateway" for a range of activities, including tourism. ...

<https://www.gloucesteradvocate.com.au/story/5987837/fight-against-more-mines-moves-to-the-upper-hunter/>

New community group hopes to replicate the success of Gloucester in halting the expansion of mines in the Upper Hunter

Gloucester Advocate, 07/04/2019

A group of Upper Hunter farmers, landowners, business people, health experts, parents and grandparents has united to call on decision makers to protect the Upper Hunter from additional mining.

The newly formed community group, Friends of the Upper Hunter will be

hoping their campaign proves as successful as Groundswell Gloucester's, that grabbed international attention last month when they won a landmark court case that rejected the proposed Rocky Hill open cut coal mine adjacent to their town.

Currently there are no open cut coal mines in the Upper Hunter but there are plans to reopen the Dartbrook underground mine near Aberdeen ...

Friends of the Upper Hunter want to make the community aware of the scale and impacts of this development especially on air quality and associated health risks, the Hunter River and other water supplies and need to protecting exiting sustainable industries. ...

"The Dartbrook Underground proposal is the thin end of the wedge. It would mean the re-opening of one of the most dangerous mines in this region. A mine that a top tier mining company mothballed in 2006 after three deaths and persistent issues with gas, spontaneous combustion and flooding.

"There have already been repeated failures at this mine. Now the Department of Planning and Environment is recommending that we give it another go - this time in the hands of a new and untried mining company - Australian Pacific Coal." ...

<https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/6009728/farmers-cop-river-pumping-embargo-while-mine-gets-an-exemption/?cs=12&fbclid=IwAR1HIRvCK2EhRs4TmEc-m5iFT-3WZjLaHa6v8RF4wR2211bE7XoldhVGmU>

Namoi farmers cop river pumping embargo, while Whitehaven Coal mine gets an exemption

Jamieson Murphy, Nthn Daily Leader, 09/04/2019

Farmers have questioned why Whitehaven Coal's Maules Creek mine has been allowed to continue taking water from the Namoi River during the biggest pumping embargo to ever hit the catchment.

The NSW government has barred all pumping from the Namoi catchment except by high-security licence holders, citing the "critical human need" in towns running out of water, such as Walgett. ...

Boggabri farmer Andrew Watson said, "My question is: does water for washing roads and coal take priority over critical human need?"

"If the answer is because of jobs at the mine, then what about the agricultural jobs?"

"Are they less important?"

Namoi Water chief executive Jon-Maree Baker is also frustrated by the mine's exception.

"Our capacity to produce is at the complete mercy of the elements - the mine is still able to continue whether it rains or not," Ms Baker said.

The only other high-security licence holder in the region is the Australian Cotton Research Institute, which does not pump outside the cotton season. ...

<https://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/6016190/wollongong-mine-will-be-closed-down-45-jobs-to-go/>

Wollongong mine will be closed down, 45 jobs to go

Ben Langford, Illawarra Mercury, 10/04/2019

About 45 Wollongong coal miners are likely to lose their jobs after Wollongong Coal made the decision to close its Wongawilli colliery.

The mine has been out of action since March 18 after the NSW Resources Regulator inspected and found safety issues were too serious for underground work to continue.

There had been a series of roof collapses leading up to this decision.

But another roof fall was discovered on the main belt road when mine staff went underground on April 1.

This has forced the mine's hand, and a reduced workforce will now focus on recovering equipment, before placing the operation into "care and maintenance" mode.

<https://www.singletonargus.com.au/story/6012629/stop-mine-creep-into-the-upper-hunter/>

Upper Hunter residents don't want their shire becoming a mining mono-culture like Muswellbrook

Louise Nichols, Singleton Argus, 10/04/2019

"People who want this mine don't live here, they don't love here, they just see dollars and cents," said seventh generation Hunter Valley resident Jason Chesworth.

Mr Chesworth was one of many speakers at an Independent Planning Commission (IPC) meeting, held in Muswellbrook on Tuesday, who were strongly opposed to the reopening of the Dartbrook underground coal mine near Aberdeen. ...

"The mono-culture of resource harvesting has to stop, we need diversity, so we have a future for our children and grandchildren," he told the IPC Commissioners in a passionate speech

where he said generations of his family relied on the health of the Hunter River to operate their dairyfarms. ...

John Robinson Jr who gave perhaps one of the shortest ever sales pitches for a coal mine in the history of independent mine reviews.

In just a few words he said the mine would provide jobs and economic benefits for the community. He left the meeting soon afterwards and unfortunately did not hear submissions that included one from former mine manager Michael White, on behalf of the Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association (HBTA), debunking the economic viability of the proposal.

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MINING MAYHEM

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/ship-fuel-reforms-to-hit-miners/news-story/d4f95bf6b-9121b51ce0687d5a0ec5164>

Ship fuel reforms to hit miners

Paul Garvey, The Australian, 08/04/2019

Australia's mining heavyweights are bracing for higher shipping and fuel costs ahead of the looming introduction of tough new environmental measures in the global maritime industry.

The world is now just 38 weeks away from the formal start of the International Maritime Organisation's new requirement of a 0.5 per cent cap on the sulphur content of all marine fuels, down from 3.5 per cent today. The policy effectively ends the burning of the high-sulphur fuel in its current form, forcing shipping companies to source more expensive, cleaner fuels or fit scrubbers that can capture the sulphur emissions from their vessels. ...

OIL & GAS LEAKS

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-04-07/cheap-and-portable-filter-waste-water-innovation/10977368>

Cheap and portable filter innovation makes wastewater safe to drink, QUT scientist says

Lily Nothling, ABC, 07/04/2019

A cheap filtration system resembling “a bunch of drinking straws” could hold the key to making salty wastewater pure enough for irrigation and even drinking, scientists say.

The systems can fit inside a shipping container and be self-powered ...

Professor Graeme Millar said ... “It goes all the way from individual farms ... small communities who are using bore water ... and in industry the potential applications are almost endless,” he said.

“For example, we’ve been working off the coal seam gas (CSG) industry – when they mine the gas, they get salty water from that.

“We’ve looked at purifying the CSG water, we’ve also looked many other areas, sea water desalination and of course ... farming for agriculture.” ...

• *Editor’s note: what about the radioactive elements in CSG water? They are unlikely to be removed by this type of filtration.*

<https://thewest.com.au/business/energy/lng-bosses-sell-the-clean-dream-in-china-ng-b881154691z>

LNG bosses sell the clean dream in China

Peter Milne, West Australian, 04/04/2019

Gas chiefs who travelled to Shanghai for the LNG2019 conference this week have focused more on justifying their industry to the world than selling their product to biggest future customer China.

Chief executives of four of the six partners in the North West Shelf project – which shipped the first LNG to China in 2006 – have sought to burnish its reputation as a cleaner fuel.

Woodside Petroleum chief executive Peter Coleman yesterday said despite forecasts of high demand “we need to show others why a lower carbon world needs LNG”. ...

Shell chief executive Ben van Beurden said gas was a cleaner power source than coal but unless leaks of methane were reduced, the environmental case for LNG would be harder to make. ...

Chevron chief executive Mike Wirth said there was no realistic plan to ad-



Grey nurse shark. Photo: Macquarie University

dress climate change without a major role for gas.

BP chief executive Bob Dudley said the industry was “not really a burning platform” – where immediate change was needed for survival – but there were trends it had to address. ...

<https://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2019-04-06/grey-nurse-shark-population-discovered-nt-tiwi-conocophillips/10978352?pfmredir=sm&fbclid=IwAR0g-2PvL0p4bYc24mFw85YS2AlgZ0ucDgvywIHKDvDPA7q-k0mkexW1ac0TI>

Grey nurse sharks discovered in NT waters could be genetic lifeline for species

Stephanie Zillman, ABC, 06/04/2019

Just off the coast of the Tiwi Islands in Northern Territory waters, there’s been a chance discovery of a population of grey nurse sharks, previously unknown to science.

ConocoPhillips discovered the sharks during preparations for a new gas pipeline.

In a statement, ConocoPhillips said its independent scientific advice was that its operations were not expected to have significant impacts on wildlife in the area, including the grey nurse sharks. ...

The Marine Conservation Society disputes that ConocoPhillips’ advice.

“The area where they want to lay the pipeline is through the oceanic shoals marine park. This Marine Park has been put there because it has a very, very high biodiversity values,” Mr Fowler from AMCS said.

“It involves sea floor modification and the other aspect is the long term impacts if you have increased shipping movements up and down that

coast of the West Tiwi Islands over the next 20 years, it has a massive impact on wildlife. ... The National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority has signed off on the pipeline’s environmental impacts, saying the risks can be managed to acceptable levels.

https://m.westernstarnews.com.au/news/st-george-mum-takes-on-csg-giant/3693512/?fbclid=IwAR1YzjMyf-N2ptylqpWoAPR0jhFIBPu_evTp_haN4R3EQz-pxH-8qjYp2nqk

St George mum takes on CSG giant

Ellen Ransley, Western Star News, 08/04/2019

A St George mother battling the coal seam gas industry has forced an energy company to rethink its plan to dispose of fracking fluids near Surat.

Leanne Brummell wrote to the Queensland Department of Environment and Science requesting a review, arguing against several conditions granted to Armour Energy’s plan to in-fill drill 21 wells, and frack what would be a total of 40 wells near Surat. ...

Ms Brummell said, “While I have as yet been unable to stop the company from fracking, I’m pleased I have convinced the department to amend the original approval for Armour Energy to place more constraints on waste fracking fluid management.

“This ruling by the department shows that ordinary people like myself can, when armed with the right information, successfully fight against the fracking industry.” ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/gas/papua-new-guinea-set-for-us14b-lng-expansion-20190409-p51cc7>

PNG set for \$US14b gas expansion

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 09/04/2019

Oil Search will finally move into the business end of its long-targeted \$US12 billion (\$16.8 billion) to \$US14 billion expansion of liquefied natural gas in Papua New Guinea after the signing of a critical, thrice-delayed deal with the PNG government on fiscal terms and other conditions. ...

It covers the Papua LNG project let by French oil major Total and is expected to be followed within two months by a similar deal for the expansion of ExxonMobil-led PNG LNG, which also involves Santos. ...

Oil Search is a partner in both projects, which jointly will add 8.1 million tonnes a year of LNG capacity, roughly doubling current output. Production would come online in 2024. ...

A separate set of deals has been inked between the Papua LNG and PNG LNG ventures on access to that venture's onshore LNG site north of Port Moresby and the sharing of some infrastructure.

That will avoid unnecessary duplication of equipment and inflated costs, which plagued the three Gladstone LNG export ventures, said Kumul Petroleum, the government-owned company that will hold PNG's 22.5 per cent interest in the projects, of which 2 per cent is on behalf of landowners.

As expected, the terms of the government deal require the Papua LNG partners to provide gas for the domestic market to help build local industry and for electricity production. It also lets the financially strained state, which will take up a right to a 22.5 per cent stake in the project, off the hook for the immediate payment of its share of past costs. Conditions have also been set around the involvement of local workers and businesses. ...

<https://www.kathrinetimes.com.au/story/6019944/so-it-begins-santos-first-to-ask-for-drilling-approval/>

So it begins, Santos first to ask for drilling approval

Chris McLennan, Katharine Times, 11/04/2019

The first application for shale gas exploration drilling has been made to the NT Government.

The exploration will include a limited fracking tests called a Diagnostic Fracture Injection.



Diamond ECO-Dimona research aircraft. Photo: Airborne Research Australia

Separate applications for permits will be need for full-blown fracking of the wells.

The public has 28 days to comment on the proposal by Santos, with comments accepted from [April 12]. ...

PCA spokesman Graeme Sawyer urged Territorians to write to the government and reject the proposal. ...

"Given the Codes of Practice are out for comment at the same time, it's a farcical process and shows the Government is not serious about open and transparent communication with the community, especially Indigenous groups on the frontline of these fracking projects."

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/aviation/fracking-test-results-wait-in-wings/news-story/8e89b464ce1ff53f18cc7a17ba4d9ee8?btr=815f33240c9a26dbf69849049f83fa1d>

Fracking test results wait in wings

Robyn Ironside, The Australian, 12/04/2019

A flying chemistry lab is shining valuable light on Australia's environment and the effects of fracking and other industries.

Operated by Airborne Research Australia, the Diamond ECO-Dimona aircraft was designed specifically to carry sensitive instruments worth about four times as much as the plane itself.

ARA director Andrew McGrath said only seven of the aircraft were in operation worldwide, two of which were based at Parafield Airport in Adelaide. ...

Dr McGrath said ARA was undertaking a study funded by the UN, looking at methane emissions from gas production facilities across Australia.

"It's not accurately known what leaks out of the ground when you do fracking in an area for example," he said.

"The production companies have their own sensors to measure what is in the air at ground level near their facilities, but the only way to measure how much is actually coming out is to take -sensors and move them in the air across the whole area." ...

HYDROGEN HYPE

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/apr/08/the-perfect-storm-woodside-energy-and-siemens-invest-in-australia-hydrogen-economy>

'The perfect storm': Woodside Energy and Siemens invest in Australia's hydrogen economy

Royce Karmelovs, The Guardian, 08/04/2019

Hydrogen is increasingly being seen as an alternative to LNG and other fossil fuels and Australia has a lot to gain from a new export industry, with companies such as Woodside Energy and Siemens already investing.

Each year the world consumes 55 million tonnes of hydrogen, a figure which is expected to increase dramatically over the next decade. ...

Dr Fiona Beck, a theoretical physicist working with an ANU team recently awarded \$10m in funding to conduct holistic research into setting up a hydrogen export industry in the Asia-Pacific, compared the current state of hydrogen to the early days of solar.

"With hydrogen, there is really the feeling right now that it's not just researchers and technologists talking about this. There is the alignment. The perfect storm," said Beck. ...

News this week ... from previous page

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/opinion/stephen-galilee-its-no-fantasy-green-schemes-will-drive-us-broke/news-story/1d53431409d9b8521db385c8eac6911a?btr=2137610d59f40428d37d58cfaa0bd34>

Stephen Galilee: It's no fantasy – green schemes will drive us broke

Stephen Galilee, Daily Telegraph, 10/04/2019

It has the same ring to the promises politicians make during election campaigns. Vote for us and we'll all live happily ever after. ...

Unless we get a sensible, open and frank discussion on the true costs involved in radically changing our energy mix our children will grow remembering that " ... once upon a time our lights came on at the flick of a switch, most of us had jobs, and we could pay our energy bills".

• Stephen Galilee is CEO of the NSW Minerals Council.

https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/national/2019/04/11/scott-morrison-election-call/?utm_source=Adestra&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=News%20Alert%2020190411

It's on: Scott Morrison calls May 18 federal election, dissolves Parliament

Samantha Maiden, New Daily, 11/04/2019

Australia will head to the polls on May 18 after the Prime Minister called the federal election with a warning that voters must decide "who do you trust" to manage the economy.

The Prime Minister confirmed the date just after 8am following an early-morning visit to the Governor-General, Sir Peter Cosgrove, and a late night flight from Melbourne to Canberra.

"Earlier this morning, I visited the Governor-General here in Canberra and he accepted my advice for an election to be held on the 18th of May," Mr Morrison said from the steps of Parliament House.

<https://www.dailyliberal.com.au/story/6007368/we-must-accept-there-is-no-future-with-coal/>

Hewson's view: There is no future with coal

John Hewson, Daily Liberal, 11/04/2019

There is an enduring and increasingly nasty debate in Australian politics concerning coal mining and coal-fired power. The spectrum of views ranges from those who believe that we have a natural comparative advantage in coal that we should continue to exploit, domestically and by export, through to the other extreme of those who would like all coal mining and coal-fired power to be abandoned as soon as possible. ...

There is no doubt that coal is a significant Australian industry and export, but this significance is often exaggerated in political debate. For example, it is said to be a significant employer, yet total employees are less than 35,000, and the industry is being rapidly mechanised. A recent survey by the Australia Institute found that people think that the coal industry employs nine times as many as it actually does.

A very emotive debate has developed over the proposed Adani coal mine in the Galilee Basin in Queensland, where proponents have clearly exaggerated the likely employment. ...

The final decision on the Adani mine now rests with the Queensland government that actually won the last state election by campaigning against the mine, and refusing to sign off on a federal government attempt to lend about \$1 billion from the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility. ...

Coal is now a clear test of political leadership, especially when some of the big miners have called for decisive action ...

The longer our governments take to accept the reality and urgency of the transition, the more they essentially

"steal" from future generations, as they kick the challenge down the road for them to address. ...

• John Hewson is a professor at the Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU, and a former Liberal opposition leader.

<https://www.smh.com.au/world/asia/china-s-coal-industry-lashes-australia-for-irresponsible-comments-20190411-p51dbh.html>

China's coal industry lashes Australia for 'irresponsible comments'

Kirsty Needham, SMH, 12/04/2019

A Chinese coal industry official has criticised Australia for biting the hand that feeds it at a coal conference in Beijing, a rare public acknowledgement that diplomatic tensions could be the cause of slowing trade.

"You can't earn Chinese money and then politically make irresponsible comments about China and become unfriendly," said Cui Pijiang, director of the China Coking Industry Association. ...

Mr Cui's comments in a speech at the Global Coking Coal Summit in Beijing, to an audience that included Australian embassy officials, and representatives from BHP, was a rare public articulation that political factors are at least partly behind Australian coal facing extended inspections.

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