



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 2:19• 19 APRIL 2019

Bob Brown's Stop Adani Convoy is on the road from Hobart to Clermont and Canberra

By Eve Sinton

Bob Brown's 5,000km Stop Adani Convoy rolled out of Hobart on Wednesday, April 17, and is heading up the east coast of Australia.

The convoy of over 700 registered vehicles, a few of them electric, is headed for Clermont – the nearest town to Adani's mine site in Queensland.

Later, it will culminate with a climate rally in Canberra on May 5.

Speaking at a stop-over in Albury, former Greens leader Bob Brown compared the campaign to that which stopped the Franklin dam from being built in Tasmania in the 1980s.

"That great [Queensland] politician, Joh Bjelke-Peterson, once came down to Tasmania and said, 'You should have that dam'. So why can't we go up there and say, 'You shouldn't have that mine'?"

"And that one Adani mine will lead to seven mines.

Convoy emits three minutes' worth of GHG

"Our whole convoy will be equivalent to three minutes of greenhouse gas output coming out of the Adani mine, and associated mines, if that mine goes ahead.

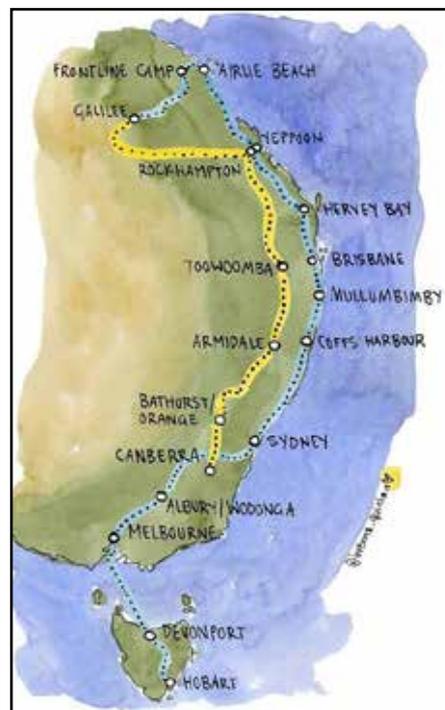
"They say we're hypocrites for burning oil in cars – of course we'll use the technology available to us.

"We are 93 million miles from the sun. That's as close as we need to be from any nuclear reactor, or any such large energy source. The sun supplies us with all the renewable energy we will ever need on this planet.



ABOVE: Bob Brown addresses a crowd at Albury, en-route to Queensland.

RIGHT: Map of the convoy route.



"And we only have one planet.

"This is the only planet in all the universe that has life, love, laughter, inspiration, creativity; the ability to alter itself and reflect on itself," Brown told a cheering crowd.

The convoy has provoked an orchestrated campaign of pro-Adani propaganda from News Corp – see page 5 and FFB's news summary, p 6-10.

Adani largesse concerns

ACF analysis of federal and Queensland donation return data shows Adani has given \$60,800 to the Liberal and National parties since the last federal election.

The admission by Liberal National MP Michelle Landry that Adani contributed to her election campaign, but she doesn't know how much the company contributed, raises major concerns about whether Adani is buying political influence to help push through approvals for its climate-wrecking coal mine, the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) said.

ACF analysis of federal and Queensland donation return data shows Adani has given the Liberal and National parties \$60,800 since the last federal election. One Nation has received \$30,000 from Adani. Labor received \$2,200, but later returned the money to the company.

• Continued p2

• P3: Chevron spews out toxic cocktail

• P4: Bylong needs protection from KEPCO

• P5: Murdoch's pro-Adani propaganda

Adani buys influence

• Continued from p1

ACF's Stop Adani campaigner, Christian Slattery, said Queensland has real-time donation disclosure laws, but at the federal level it can take up to 18 months for political contributions to be made public. That means there are likely to be more donations from Adani to political parties that have not yet seen the light of day, he said.

"A company like Adani that is going through a significant approval process does not hand out its cash to politicians without expecting something in return," Mr Slattery said.

"In the final days of the last parliament we saw extraordinary scenes where a handful of Queensland MPs bullied the Federal Environment Minister into rushing through an approval for Adani's plan to guzzle Queensland's groundwater.

"All parties and MPs, but especially those Coalition members who put pressure on the Environment Minister, should explain how much cash they are getting from Adani.

"We don't know how much more money Adani has donated to federal political parties for this election campaign.

Need for reform highlighted

"This highlights the need for reform of Australia's political donations regime to ensure real-time disclosure.

"Adani's massive coal mine is opposed by most Australians, who understand burning the coal that will be dug out of the mine will accelerate dangerous climate change and the destruction of the Great Barrier Reef.

"Adani's coal mine will also suck up billions of litres of Queensland's precious clean water and destroy some of the last remaining habitat for endangered creatures like the Black-throated finch.

"Australians should be able to feel confident that their elected representatives are working in the best interests of clean air, clean water and stopping climate change.

"Australians should rightly ask whose side our elected representatives are on when it comes to this coal mine – a multi-billion-dollar corporate looking to fill its coffers or the safety of our communities and the health of our environment?"

ADANI POLITICAL DONATIONS 2017-18: Australian Conservation Foundation analysis

Donor	Recipient	Date	Amount	Source
Adani Mining Pty Ltd	Liberal National Party of Queensland	16/11/18	\$13,450	ECQ
Adani Mining Pty Ltd	Pauline Hanson's One Nation Queensland Division	8/10/2018	\$15,000	ECQ
Adani Mining Pty Ltd	Liberal Party of Australia	6/05/2018	\$10,000	AEC
Adani Mining Pty Ltd	Liberal National Party of Queensland	23/05/18	\$1,450	ECQ
Adani Mining Pty Ltd	Pauline Hanson's One Nation	14/05/18	\$15,000	AEC
Adani Mining Pty Ltd	Liberal National Party of Queensland	14/11/17	\$2,300	ECQ
Adani Mining Pty Ltd	Liberal Party of Australia	13/11/17	\$12,500	AEC
Adani Mining Pty Ltd	Liberal National Party of Queensland	19/10/17	\$350	ECQ
Adani Mining Pty Ltd	Liberal Party of Australia	15/09/17	\$12,500	AEC
Adani Mining Pty Ltd	Liberal National Party of Queensland	7/12/2017	\$5,300	ECQ
Adani Mining Pty Ltd	Liberal National Party of Queensland	27/06/17	\$750	ECQ
Adani Mining Pty Ltd	Liberal National Party of Queensland	4/03/2017	\$2,200	ECQ
		Total	\$90,800	
		Liberal Party of Australia	\$35,000	
		Liberal National Party of Queensland	\$25,800	
		One Nation	\$30,000	

Adani objects to Whyalla solar farm: Worries about birds

According to *Renew Economy*, Adani has raised objections to a large solar farm proposed by Sanjeev Gupta's Simec Energy near Whyalla – because it says it is worried about the impact on two bird species.

The objection is revealed in planning documents filed to South Australia's State Planning Commission, and refers to the 280MW Cultana solar farm, designed to provide power to the Whyalla Steelworks, and which just happens to be located right next to a 132MW solar project proposed by Adani Renewables.

The planning documents show that Adani was the only party to raise concerns about the planning approval for the \$350 million project, and its particular focus was on the impact on the threatened Western Grass Wren and the slender-billed Thornbill.

It also expressed concern about the impact of dust, and the site entry, as well as the impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage. It asked whether the project should be referred to the federal minister for environment under the EPBC Act.

Renew Economy's Giles Parkinson commented, "Many will find this ironic, because Adani has been furiously fighting its own battles for the Carmichael coal project in the Galilee Basin, and against concerns about that mine's impact on southern black throated Finch, impacts on the water

table and on Aboriginal heritage, and what it means for the struggle to reduce emissions and address climate change."

Adani pays fine, fights another

Adani has paid off a fine for breaching its environmental licence at the Abbot Point coal terminal during the February flood catastrophe, according to the *Townsville Bulletin*.

The mining giant was fined \$13,055 by the Department of Environment and Science in late March after Adani released water containing nearly double the amount of contaminants allowed from Abbot Point into the Caley Valley Wetlands.

A spokeswoman for Abbot Point Operations confirmed that the company had paid the penalty.

"While the release only exceeded authorised levels by a small amount, we recognise that an exceedance occurred, and that's why we have accepted the Infringement Notice," she said.

This is the second time Adani has been fined for breaching its environmental licence.

It is still fighting a prosecution by the DES in relation to its 2017 release of contaminated water from Abbot Point during Cyclone Debbie.

That water was found to contain eight times the authorised concentration of suspended solids.

Knitting Nannas EV convoyette appears in Lismore



The Knitting Nannas, inspired by Bob Brown, arrived with their very own convoyette of Electric Flintstone vehicles to pop into Patrick Deegan's (Labor Candidate for Page) Lismore office last Thursday.

"We have an appointment for a chat about his and his party's promises, and to present him with our 2019 Federal Election KNAGging list," a spokesperson said.

"As the Nannas have a long-standing commitment to annoy all pollies equally, we are asking for appointments with all local candidates with our KNAGging list.

"Sadly, our current political employee, Kevin Hogan, is far too busy being important to make an appointment to give us 15 minutes of his time. Poor fellow, working so hard to help us save the land, air and water for the kiddies."

Nannas from all around Australia will be descending on their local candidates with the list, which asks the candidates for their firm position on five national environmental issues – fossil fuel mining, the transition to renewables, water security, biodiversity and food security, and a federal ICAC. Each KNAG loop will add two local issues to their list.

FFB

Chevron workers exposed to toxins

WA Today reports that the continuing failure of the carbon storage facility at Chevron's Gorgon LNG project in Western Australia's Pilbara has exposed workers to toxic chemicals.

Fears from workers on the ground at Barrow Island, 85 kilometres off the north-west coast, as well as documents made public by the WA government environmental regulator, saw both union officials and the Conservation Council of WA call for action.

Since beginning operations, Chevron has failed to commission the facility that was to bury a cocktail of carbon pollution underground to comply with its environmental approval conditions

It is now clear that as well as carbon dioxide, Chevron had also intended to

inject underground toxic chemicals including BTEX chemicals – benzene (a known carcinogen), toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene – and mercury.

Instead, along with the carbon dioxide it has vented into the atmosphere it has also been venting vapours containing 300 parts per million BTEX and 13,000 micrograms of mercury per cubic metre.

The department has now granted a 12-month approval to Chevron's application to implement a temporary measure: to burn, or 'flare', these toxic substances until the carbon injection system is ready – estimated in the document at the second quarter of 2020.

There have also been two recent safety incidents at the plant.

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Coober Pedy in gas fracking fight

Moves by the South Australian Government to open up the region surrounding the iconic Australian outback town of Coober Pedy to fracking have been condemned.

Last week, the Marshall Government approved an environmental impact report and statement of environmental objectives from fracking company Sapex, a subsidiary of Tri-Star Petroleum Group.

Tri-Star must now submit a further application with specific technical details before it receives the final go ahead.

Lock the Gate Alliance spokesperson Naomi Hogan said there were serious concerns about the impact fracking would have on water in the remote and arid region.

"To get the gas, Sapax needs to frack through the much larger Great Artesian Basin, the only water source for Coober Pedy's 2,000 residents," she said.

No social licence in this region

"There is no social licence for this activity in this region either from the majority of local residents or the broader South Australian community."

The local council's chief executive, Colin Pitman, expressed concerns about fracking in Coober Pedy, including the controversial practice's potential to trigger earthquakes.

"Thirty percent of buildings in Coober Pedy are underground – clearly an activity like fracking that has the potential to trigger earthquakes should not occur here.

"If allowed to proceed, the existence of an unconventional oil and gas mining industry will also have a negative impact on a region that relies heavily on tourism.

"Ultimately, the benefits of opening such an iconic region to fracking do not outweigh the costs to people's health, lifestyle, and the local economy."

Tri-Star and APPEA defended the proposal, saying the work could be done safely.

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Protesters call: Protect Bylong from KEPCO coal mine

Outraged representatives for landholders locked in a fierce battle against a multinational miner delivered a letter to the NSW Independent Planning Commission on April 16, demanding the authority reject the proposed Bylong coal project.

The picturesque Bylong Valley is an agricultural powerhouse located on the western slopes of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

Importantly, if the IPC gives the go ahead to multinational proponent KEPCO, it would be the first time coal mining would occur in the secluded valley.

Lock the Gate Alliance spokesperson Nic Clyde said recent changes to the law meant those opposed to the mine had “no choice but to personally beg the chair of the NSW IPC to reject the project”.

“When Rob Stokes was last planning Minister, one of his final acts was to remove merits appeal rights for this mine assessment, meaning no one in NSW can challenge the final decision the IPC makes in the Land and Environment Court,” he said.

Stripped of legal rights

“Stripped of our legal rights, we need confidence that the IPC will consider all relevant policies and information on this project prior to making a decision. That’s why we’re here today, to seek a written assurance from the IPC on these matters of public interest.”

Clyde said the group were demanding the IPC take into consideration the recent Rocky Hill judgement, which factored in that mine’s impact on global CO2 emissions.

“Burning the coal mined from Bylong would create five times the volume of greenhouse pollution that Rocky Hill would have created. And like Rocky Hill, there are environmental and social impacts from the Bylong coal project that are along grounds for its refusal,” he said.

Graham Tanner’s property borders the proposed Bylong mine site. He told the ABC that since negotiations broke down with KEPCO, which tried to buy his property, he is one of a dwindling number of inhabitants in the valley.

“There’s only 15 or 20 people left here now,” he said.



Protesters in the foyer of the Independent Planning Commission’s Sydney HQ, calling for the Bylong mine to be rejected. Photo: Lock the Gate

If the Bylong coal project is approved, it will be the first open-cut mine on Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Lands, or BSAL, created by the NSW Government to protect valuable farmland from mining and coal seam gas.

Tanner fears the mine’s drawdown on the water aquifer would destroy the nearby farming industry, which relies on bore water.

“If a mine goes in, we’re out of business,” he said.

Farmers refuse to sign water agreement

The *Newcastle Herald* reported that Bylong farmers are refusing to sign water agreements with KEPCO, which leave farmers having to prove any negative water impacts are caused by the mine.

The agreements do not include clauses that appear in other Hunter and Central Coast mine projects, requiring mines to provide “make-up” water within 24 hours of a mine-related adverse impact on water supplies being identified.

The water agreements, and a condition of consent proposed by the Department of Planning, instead recommend compensatory water be provided by KEPCO “as soon as practicable”, a term described by Lock the Gate and Bylong landowners as “vague and unenforceable”.

“It leaves the decision of when to supply water entirely to the discretion of KEPCO,” Lock the Gate and Bylong farmers said in their letter to IPC Bylong panel chair David Kirkby.

“The condition should state that water will be supplied within 24 hours.”

“The agreements only cover stock and domestic use but not irrigation allowances that are crucial for many farmers in the valley who grow hay,” farmers told the IPC.

They alleged KEPCO would need to truck two semi-trailers of water per day to most farms in the valley just to cover stock water in the event of mine adverse impacts on the aquifer.

Hundreds of loads of water per day

They alleged the company would need to truck 40 semi-trailer loads of water per day to cover the needs of one of the smallest Bylong irrigators in the event of substantial water loss, with at least eight larger irrigators requiring 80 semi-trailer loads of water per day.

“Where do they intend to get this water from?” Lock the Gate said.

Nic Clyde said the IPC must also consider the Bylong project in light of the damage it would cause to the local aquifer, and the resulting impact on agricultural land.

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



Murdoch's pro-Adani propaganda



ABOVE: Courier-Mail, April 18
LEFT: Townsville Bulletin, April 18

Fossil Fool Bulletin

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

Inside the news

It's all about **Adani** this week, with fall-out over the **federal Environment Minister's** approval for its water plan adding to the heat of election debate over the mine and climate change.

The **Murdoch media** has long spruiked the mine, and this week three of its north Queensland papers published the same cover, with a full-on PR campaign for the **Carmichael mine**. The *Townsville Bulletin*, *Mackay Daily Mercury* and *Rockhampton Morning Bulletin* were in unison: the mine must go ahead, or the deep north would be in economic ruin.

They interviewed businessmen who said the **Stop Adani Convoy would not be served** in their pubs or shops. They said southerners didn't understand coal communities and that **objecters** to the mine were all **on the dole** anyway.

FFB doesn't know how the **News Corpse** editors and journo's can sleep at night after chundering out such a **disgraceful fear campaign**.

How can the *Townsville Bully* manage to never run any story linking their recent **devastating floods**, and degradation of the Great Barrier Reef, to **climate change**?

How is it the **Murdochcracy** can continue to **exaggerate Adani's job opportunities**, such as the *Courier-Mail's* statement (see p9) that 18,600 prospective workers were now registered, up from 14,500 in January. The 18,600 figure is not job applications, merely registrations of interest. The mine will create **less than 1,500** actual jobs. How is it that journo's Renee Viellaris and Domanii Cameron can bring themselves to make such mis-representations to their readers?

No wonder the **IPA** wants the **ABC privatised** (p16) - the ABC has done an excellent story (p9) showing the extent of federal Environment Minister **Melissa Price's disregard for scientific evidence** when she ticked off the mine's water plan a day before the election was called.

The Murdoch media is a threat to democracy. It is essential we have our public broadcaster to **speak truth to power**.

In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 32,600 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links to view original articles.](#) (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-04-12/adani-carmichael-mine-rail-plans-not-submitted-premier-says/10995030>

Adani yet to submit rail plans to Queensland Government

Joshavas, ABC, 12/04/2019

With the Queensland Government facing mounting pressure by mining giant Adani to give final approvals for the proposed Carmichael mine, Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk has urged the company to fulfil its requirements and submit its outstanding rail plans.

Key points: The Premier wrote to Adani on April 5 asking about “outstanding requirements” • Last year, Adani revealed designs for a smaller rail line linking to Abbot Point terminal • A spokeswoman says Adani does not need to submit the rail plans to start digging.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/clermont-community-slams-decision-on-antiadani-protesters/news-story/fae747603475e9fe75243b10e5c1a81a>

Clermont community slams decision on anti-Adani protesters

Domanii Cameron, Courier-Mail, 12/04/2019

A coal mining community is up in arms – with some people vowing to vote against its council – after an anti-Adani convoy was given the green light to camp at the local showgrounds.

Isaac Regional Council has approved Bob Brown Foundation’s application to hire the Clermont Showgrounds for two nights, where protesters will camp.

The group will need to pay the council \$25,000 in bonds, which its campaign manager Jenny Weber said was unusual. ...

The convoy is expected to stay at the showgrounds for two nights, with a “special event Galilee area” planned for April 28. ...



Ready to roll – Bob Brown’s Stop Adani Convoy left Hobart on Wednesday, April 17. Photo: Stop Adani, Facebook

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/business/townsville-development-group-talks-up-40b-worth-of-galilee/news-story/bb29e6d0daa29ed97d705b3cbe261009>

Townsville development group talks up \$40b worth of Galilee

Tony Raggatt, Townsville Bulletin, 11/04/2019

More than 15,000 jobs and \$40 billion in taxes and royalties could be generated by opening Queensland’s Galilee Basin to coal mining, development body Townsville Enterprise says.

Townsville Enterprise ramped up its lobbying for Adani and the Galilee at the launch of the federal election yesterday, as India’s Adani group continues its long wait for final State Government approvals on its Carmichael mine project and conservationists campaign against coal. ...

<https://www.themonthly.com.au/today/paddy-manning/2019/12/2019/1555048402/adani-election?>

The Adani election

Paddy Manning, The Monthly, 12/04/2019

As far as Australia’s response to climate change goes, it’s a high stakes election, that’s for sure. Imagine a mandate for the reverse – for policies against climate action – which is what the Coalition’s hardliners will claim they have been granted should they defy the bookmakers and win in May. Nothing

crystallises the debate like Adani’s Carmichael coalmine in the Galilee Basin, one of a dozen or so globally significant “carbon bombs” that were identified almost a decade ago as collectively capable of releasing enough greenhouse gases to make maintaining a safe climate impossible. ...

The approval is manna from heaven for the Queensland Nationals senator Matt Canavan, who was out in Townsville championing the project today, but it has also fallen into the lap of the Stop Adani convoy, organised by the Bob Brown Foundation. ...

The Queensland media is hostile, and The Courier-Mail reports today that some residents are angry at the Clermont council for hosting the convoy. It’s almost a repeat of Strahan in 1983, when locals were hostile to the Franklin blockade – there won’t be a welcoming committee for the convoy.

“I’m not so sure about that,” Brown says. “For example, there’s a lot of farmers onside, and the traditional owners have asked us to come onto their country, so we’re very pleased about that.”

Brown was in Queensland a fortnight ago, including at Airlie Beach, and got “a fantastic reception; those people are

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

really worried about the Great Barrier Reef and are pleased somebody's speaking up about it." ...

The convoy will culminate in a rally in Canberra on May 5, and Brown says there will be a spot on the stage for Bill Shorten to announce that Labor will stop the project, just as Bob Hawke did at a 15,000-strong rally in Melbourne in 1983 ... We will also have a vacant chair at all our whistlestops along the way, for Gautam Adani, in case he should want to pop into his Learjet and come over and speak on behalf of the minority who want his mine to go ahead."

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/don-t-buy-into-the-fake-coal-war-union-calls-on-labor-candidates-to-back-mining-20190411-p51d8g.html>

'Don't buy into the fake coal war': Union calls on Labor candidates to back mining

Dana McCauley, SMH, 12/04/2019

Opposition Leader Bill Shorten insists his party is "united" ahead of the election despite a looming crisis in the key battleground state of Queensland, where uncertainty over Labor's position on the Adani coal mine could put key seats at risk.

The Queensland mining division of the powerful Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union on Thursday issued an ultimatum to Labor candidates in the state, asking that they sign a pledge outlining their support for coal industry jobs. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/leaked-premiers-letter-has-adani-boss-seeing-red/news-story/4d3116d252080b21a99fd9cee8397cd6>

Leaked Premier's letter has Adani boss seeing red

Madura McCormack, Townsville Bulletin, 12/04/2019

Mining giant Adani has lashed out at the 'farcical' State Government for interfering with approvals processes after a letter was leaked from the Premier's office.

It comes days after the Carmichael project's groundwater management plan was approved by the Federal Environment Minister Melissa Price at the eleventh hour.

In an email sent to Adani chief executive Lucas Dow, Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk urged him to lodge outstanding approvals for the mine's rail corridor, designed to take coal from the site to Abbot Point Coal Terminal. ...

https://theaimn.com/adani-some-inconvenient-truths/?fbclid=IwAR28Q4z_txlspHqYa7xwkEtPM1Mo0snst1H1fPmqb2d_jc2qai8Z459Fo

Adani: some inconvenient truths

Phil Gorman, AIM Network, 12/04/2019

Let the facts speak for themselves.

Queensland's workforce

- 2.36 million people are employed in Queensland.
- The tourist industry directly or indirectly employs 217,000 Queenslanders.
- Coal mining directly or indirectly employs around 20,000 Queenslanders.
- Adani's mine would directly or indirectly create about 1,500 jobs. ...
- Coal mining employs less than 1 percent of Queensland's workers. ...
- *Article continues with useful figures on the economics of mining.*

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/apr/12/adani-coalmine-can-labor-get-away-with-choosing-ambiguity-over-integrity>

Adani coalmine: can Labor get away with choosing ambiguity over integrity?

Katharine Murphy, The Guardian, 13/04/2019

When it comes to the controversial Adani coalmine, and the politics surrounding it, politics that will thunder throughout the election contest, it's useful to start with first principles.

The first thing to understand is that this issue isn't binary. Queensland doesn't love Adani and loves coal, unlike the rest of Australia, which doesn't love coal and loves renewables. It's often presented that way when the issue is viewed through the political lens, but that's not reality. ...

Labor flirted with the idea of toughening up opposition to Adani and stepped back because it wanted to try and be all things to all people – sort of for it, sort of against it.

The ambiguity is supposed to be artful.

But at what point, in the glare of a five-week election campaign, does it begin to look shifty?

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/opinion/comment-labor-treating-us-like-mugs-with-endless-adani-mine-delays/news-story/2fa0f854e3d4f447106983b8e3f51554>

Comment: Labor treating us like mugs with endless Adani mine delays

Peter Gleeson, Courier-Mail, 15/04/2019

Environment Minister Leeanne Enoch is a liability and should not be in charge of any decision-making on the Adani coal mine.

Enoch is hopelessly out of her depth. She is a perfect example of why the Labor quota system on factional representation delivers up mediocrity.

Her lame excuses for not approving Adani come straight out of Labor Left central casting. ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/mining/indian-high-commissioner-wants-quick-approval-of-adani-s-mine-20190415-p51ec9>

Indian high commissioner wants quick approval of Adani's mine

Mark Ludlow, AFR, 15/04/2019

The Indian high commissioner to Australia Ajay Gondane said Adani's controversial \$2 billion Carmichael mine should be approved as soon as possible, to ensure the crucial trade relationship continues between Australia and India.

While some Indian Australians have been increasingly uneasy about what they consider to be xenophobic comments about the Indian energy company's plans in Australia, Dr Gondane said the Carmichael mine should be treated like any other new mine. ...

"We would prefer that this particular project is offered bipartisan support because our relationship with the Australian government is bipartisan. Labor and the LNP support India and Australia engagement and both want it to be going to a higher level."

Trade between Australia and India accounts for about \$29 billion a year, which is expected to increase to up to \$100 billion by 2035. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-04-16/adani-confident-labor-will-honour-environmental-approvals/11019412>

Adani confident Labor will honour environmental approvals for its coal mine

Peter McCutcheon, ABC, 16/04/2019

The head of Adani Australia has said he does not believe a Shorten government poses a risk to the company's proposed Carmichael coal mine in central Queensland.

Key points: Adani Australia CEO Lucas Dow says Labor has given assurances it will not reject existing approvals if it wins government • LNP member for Capricornia Michelle Landry says Labor is not doing enough to support Adani • Capricornia Labor candidate Russell Robertson signed a pledge organised by the CFMEU mining union to support coal mining.

"I think [Federal Labor] has been crystal clear that if they are to form government they won't be in the habit of creating sovereign risk by ripping up the existing approvals," Adani Australia CEO Lucas Dow told 7.30.

He said he was pleased by recent assurances given by Opposition Leader Bill Shorten and his Treasury spokesman Chris Bowen. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/adani-boss-says-federal-labor-no-threat-to-mines-future/news-story/1c79443372e6642badd5b34e418ea6a1>

Adani boss says Federal Labor no threat to mine's future

Matthew Killoran, Courier-Mail, 17/04/2019

Adani boss Lucas Dow has dramatically revealed he does not believe a Shorten Government would overturn the mine's approvals, saying he has received direct assurances from the Labor leader. It follows the multinational company's Australian mining CEO very publicly criticising Labor over some of its Ministers comments about the controversial mine. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/aurizon-launches-safety-awareness-campaign-targeting-protesters/news-story/2e398a115e305235647e0d893af87eb6>

Aurizon launches safety awareness campaign targeting protesters

Jacob Miley, Townsville Bulletin, 17/04/2019

An Aurizon train driver is going through "mental torment" at the thought he might one day kill an anti-coal protester locked to a railway line.

The rail company will today launch a safety campaign targeting anti-mining activists amid ongoing action, and in preparation for the Stop Adani Convoy which will head north later this month. ...

The Newlands rail corridor, which runs to the Port of Abbot Point, has been targeted by anti-Adani protesters in the past. In March, five activists disrupted the rail network for 75 hours during a camp near Bowen.

Fully loaded coal trains can take up to 2km to stop, even when the train crew apply the emergency brake ...

"We just can't pull up on a whim," the driver said. "We've got 10,000 tonnes of coal at the back of us and when we're hurtling along at 80km per hour. If we come around the corner and they're on the track, all we can do is put the emergency brakes on and then close our eyes. ...



A little bird is endangered by the Adani mine. Photo: Stop Adani, Facebook

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/aurizon-warns-anti-coal-activists-campaigning-against-adani-mine-20190416-p51eqa>

Aurizon warns anti-coal activists campaigning against Adani mine

Mark Ludlow, AFR, 16/04/2019

Listed rail company Aurizon chief executive Andrew Harding has warned anti-coal protesters could be seriously hurt or killed if they continued to disrupt coal trains as part of a campaign to stop Adani's controversial \$2 billion Carmichael mine in Central Queensland. ...

Aurizon has been forced to take legal action against one group, Frontline Action Against Coal, also known as FLAC, to force them to stop disrupting coal haulage services.

Aurizon chief executive Andrew Harding has warned someone could be seriously hurt or killed if the protests continue. ...

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/national/save-the-franklin-warrior-bob-brown-to-lead-antiadani-convoy-from-tasmania-to-queensland/news-story/d5f56dce0d2c166b121d89ec9c356b08?btr=114c8346b9f634ed5cc165830139edf9>

Save the Franklin warrior Bob Brown to lead anti-Adani convoy from Tasmania to Queensland

Daily Telegraph, 16/04/2019

Veteran conservationist Bob Brown will lead a convoy of hundreds of anti-Adani protesters to rally against its proposed coal mine in Queensland.

The protesters will set off from Hobart on Wednesday and spend two weeks

winding their way up the east coast to Bowen, where coal dug from the Sunshine State is shipped across the globe. ...

Dr Brown said the convoy had two main aims.

"The first is to save the Great Barrier Reef from destruction due to the burning of the massive coal deposit Gautam Adani wants to exploit.

"The second is to bring hundreds of visitors on a tour which will leave small businesses better off all along the way." ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/federal-election-2019/coalition-mp-backs-adani-mine-to-stop-women-having-to-cook-with-cow-dung-20190417-p51evv.html>

Coalition MP backs Adani mine to stop women having to 'cook with cow dung'

Nick Bonyhady, SMH, 17/04/2019

The Coalition MP whose seat would house the controversial Adani coal mine said the project was necessary to stop women in India from being forced to cook with cow dung in poorly ventilated huts.

"It's going to hundreds of millions of Indians who do not have electricity ... this is about women and families that are cooking over open fires in huts," Michelle Landry said on ABC radio. ...

Ms Landry said Adani had donated to her campaign, but did not know how much the mining and energy giant had provided. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/apr/17/liberal-mp-says-she-doesnt-know-how-much-adani-donated-to-her-campaign>

Liberal MP says she doesn't know how much Adani donated to her campaign

Katharine Murphy, The Guardian, 17/04/2019

One of the Morrison government's strongest backers of the controversial Adani coal project, Michelle Landry, says the company has attended fundraisers for her re-election campaign, but she doesn't have a figure on how much has been donated. ...

She said taking financial support from a company trying to secure federal and state backing for the project "certainly doesn't sway me". ...

An analysis by the Australian Conservation Foundation of federal and Queensland donations data shows Adani has given the Liberal and National parties \$60,800 since the last federal election.

One Nation has received \$30,000 from Adani. Labor received \$2,200, but later returned the money to the company. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-04-18/adani-geosciences-approval-meeting-documents/11025724>

Adani did not 'accept in full' changes sought by scientists during approval stages, meeting notes show

Michael Slezak & Stephen Long, ABC, 18/04/2019

Handwritten documents obtained by the ABC appear to directly contradict the Environment Minister Melissa Price that Adani "accepted in full" changes sought by scientists to limit the impact of its controversial Queensland coal mine.

Melissa Price rejected suggestions pressure was placed on science agencies. ...

The ABC has obtained notes taken by three attendees of a phone hook-up on April 5 involving senior officials from the Department of Environment and Energy and staff from Geoscience Australia.

The documents show the government science agency was concerned the water plans could allow Adani's mine to breach the conditions of its environment approval.

However, Adani would not accept the need for corrective action if that occurred. ...

A separate briefing note from the Department of Environment and Energy shows Adani also refused to consider scaling back its mining operation to minimise its impacts, despite being

asked to do so.

The ABC requested the meeting notes under freedom of information (FOI) laws, but Geoscience Australia took the unusual step of releasing the documents immediately instead. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/clermont-businesses-refuses-to-serve-antiadani-protesters/news-story/bb1ae-2a5e8dc800728d063add55ca817>

Clermont businesses refuses to serve anti-Adani protesters

Renee Viellaris, Courier-Mail, 17/04/2019

Tough-nut locals in Clermont will refuse to serve activists in their pubs and cafes as their tiny town becomes ground zero for hundreds of anti-Adani protesters led by former Greens leader Bob Brown. ...

"Do not come up here. We don't want you coming here and wrecking our industry," Grand Hotel Motel publican Kelly Appleton warned. "You will not get a meal in my pub."

It is a message echoed by Leo Hotel Motel publican Les Boal and other businesses who are putting up signs telling activists they will not be served.

Communities across north and central Queensland are retaliating against the anti-mining blow-ins, printing pro-Adani material and rounding up support for a project that will become a defining issue of the federal election campaign. ...

Coal miner Peter Smith, 57, whose father was a coal miner and whose sons are also coal miners, said people in the cities had no idea what regional communities needed.

"I went to Byron Bay recently and I just shake my head. People down there aren't the same as us," he said. "We work and the Government gives them handouts." ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/the-jobs-up-for-grabs-at-adanis-carmichael-mine/news-story/a74758ea6a8a-54fe42705a03aaf75e92>

The jobs up for grabs at Adani's Carmichael mine

Renee Viellaris & Domanii Cameron, Courier-Mail, 17/04/2019

A growing number of desperate Australians are registering to work at Adani's Carmichael mine as the Palaszczuk Government yesterday raised the issue of the drought when pressed on its future.

The new language from Treasurer Jackie Trad comes as the project has

not dampened workers' enthusiasm for a job with the Indian miner, with 18,600 people now registering, up from 14,500 in January.

The *Courier-Mail* can today reveal the jobs Adani will need from day one if the Carmichael project finally gets a tick-off from the State Government.

Engineers, civil construction workers, heavy earthmoving equipment operators, planning and dam engineers, logistics personnel, administration workers, planning and scheduling specialists, health and safety professionals and environmental workers will be needed once the mine is approved. ...

• *FFB Editor's note: Adani continues to use expressions of interest in jobs to mislead the public about the mine's employment potential. The 18,600 figure is not job application, merely registration of interest. The mine will create less than 1,500 actual jobs.*



Power of the Murdoch press - three north Queensland News Corp papers launch a pro-Adani campaign.

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/stop-the-mine-games-give-us-the-real-story/news-story/861aa8aac015c3164319be9925723764>

Stop the mine games, give us the real story

Jenna Cairney, Townsville Bulletin, 18/04/2019

North and Central Queensland businesses and community leaders furious at political posturing over mining giant Adani's proposed Carmichael coal mine are taking matters into their own hands.

Groups in Townsville, Rockhampton and Mackay have launched advertising and social media campaigns demanding politicians and candidates at all levels of government make clear their position on mining in the Galilee Basin.

In a unique act of collaboration, today the *Townsville Bulletin*, *Mackay Daily Mercury* and *Rockhampton Morning Bulletin* have all run the same front page and open letter.

In today's *Townsville Bulletin*, a group of concerned business leaders have also banded together to launch a hard-hitting campaign calling for elected representatives to step up for the region.

Led by Parkside Group director Peter Tapiolis, the idea came out of a recent lunch in which Adani Mining Australia CEO Lucas Dow updated a section of the business community on the mine's lack of progress. ...

Today, economic development organisation Townsville Enterprise is also launching an open letter, supported by 20 local businesses, calling on politicians and candidates to sign a pledge if they support mining in the Galilee.

They have until 5pm Friday, April 26, to respond before Townsville Enterprise and the *Bulletin* make public the results. ...

Last week, Mackay-based Resource Industry Network launched its For the Future of our Region advocacy campaign designed to deliver facts around coal mining and to ensure the community is informed when it comes to vote.

The Capricornia Chamber of Commerce is poised to launch a similar advertising campaign after its executive meeting next week.

Queensland Resource Council chief executive Ian Macfarlane said there was a growing concern the Palaszczuk Government did not support new large coal mines. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/flow-on-effects-of-adani-mine-could-be-huge/news-story/39f2de3ba92fedbc9867064805d9c190>

Flow-on effects of Adani mine could be huge

Jenna Cairney, Townsville Bulletin, 18/04/2019

Brad Simmons started working in the mines when the GFC hit Townsville and he reckons the Adani coal mine would be a game-changer for people like him.

With four young mouths to feed and another baby on the way, Mr Simmons was a builder by trade but when times got tough, he needed the guaranteed pay cheque his mining job provided. ...

Mr Simmons said the thing that irked him the most was that anti-mining protesters ignored the benefits of min-

ing on the Australian economy. "Everyone has the right to voice their opinion but the majority of those against it are probably on the dole and reaping the rewards of what we do to stop something that's good for the community and the country."

<https://www.ntnews.com.au/news/number-one-white-man-bob-brown-calls-for-an-end-to-adani-coal-mine/news-story/dad5c15e532ce10edfe2c26b9f135af2?btr=f39f10e97c84703a95b50a2bb8860c7f>

'Number one white man' Bob Brown calls for an end to Adani coal mine

Jim Alouat, Mercury, 17/04/2019

More than 100 anti-Adani protesters lined up at a rally in Hobart to farewell an 80-vehicle strong convoy intent on stopping the controversial coal mine. ...

They will pick up 700 more vehicles along the way, with Australian music legends John Williamson, Neil Murray and Paul Kelly joining the calvary.

Former Greens leader Christine Milne told the crowd Hobart's Parliament House lawns it was a historic day.

"This is the beginning of an epic journey and it will stop Adani," she said

"We are going to sock it right to you in terms of Canberra, Adani, in terms of the future.

"This convoy is not just about stopping Adani, it is about saying we want our democracy back from the corporates who stole it from us." ...

Theresa Sainty, from the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, introduced the man who will lead the convoy – veteran Tasmanian conservationist Bob Brown – as the "number one white man".

Dr Brown pointed to the sun and said it provided all the energy humanity needed to thrive on this planet into the future. ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/cool-reception-when-adani-convoy-hits-coal-country-20190417-p51ext>

Cool reception when Adani convoy hits coal country

Mark Ludlow, AFR, 17/04/2019

Locals in the coal mining towns of Mackay, Rockhampton and Clermont are not planning a warm welcome when Bob Brown's "Stop Adani" convoy comes into town next week. ...

Dr Brown's comments on Wednesday equating coal miners to heroin dealers will only fire-up locals who believe coal mining is the backbone of the Queensland economy. ...

Dr Brown, who retired from Parlia-

ment in 2012, said he was not fussed about the reception he would receive in Queensland's coal country. ...

"There will always be people who won't want freedom of expression in the way we are doing it, but we're coming peacefully and we're abiding by the law," Dr Brown said in an interview with AFR Weekend. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/convoy-emissions-cant-compare-with-adani-output-says-bob-brown/news-story/3d3173255a3fb4e08c599f293fee-a9b2btr=f75aa141cc887cecd7c415fe3dee57>

Convoy emissions can't compare with Adani output, says Bob Brown

Matthew Denholm, The Australian, 18/04/2019

Organisers of a "Stop Adani" convoy concede the protest caravan will emit about 455 tonnes of carbon dioxide, but argue this pales next to emissions from burning the proposed mine's coal. ...

They argued this was nothing compared with the 210,000 tonnes of CO2 per day they said would be released from the coal extracted from the Carmichael mine, proposed for Queensland's Galilee Basin.

"I had it calculated that this whole convoy will produce greenhouse gases equivalent to less than half a minute of a year's operation of the Adani mine," Dr Brown said.

About 50 of the 750 cars involved are electric, but organisers said this could be an underestimate. ...

Dr Brown rejected the argument it was futile stopping Adani, given coal would be mined elsewhere. "That's the heroin dealer's lament – if I didn't do it somebody else would," he said. "It's not an ethical argument. The argument really is: do I want this wealthiest of nations per capita on Earth to be disproportionately responsible for the worst outcomes for our children?" ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/queensland/aurizon-suing-to-silence-coal-protesters-in-queensland-20190417-p51f36.html?csp=155554327014563436037aefe24e22c1d46e66537ba>

Aurizon 'suing to silence coal protesters' in Queensland

Warren Barnsley, SMH, 17/04/2019

Aurizon has stepped up its war against anti-coal protesters ... The Queensland company launched a new campaign on Wednesday urging activists against blocking coal trains with "their unsafe and illegal trespass" of rail lines.

It comes as five activists claim they are being sued for \$750,000 by the com-

pany in Brisbane Supreme Court after stopping coal trains.

“The Aurizon Five are school teachers, volunteers and students, for whom a successful damages claim would be financially crippling,” the respondents said in a statement on Wednesday.

They have vowed to “preserve their right to protest” by fighting the company’s action in court, also demanding Aurizon refuse to work with Adani and any new coal mines. ...

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.theage.com.au/business/the-economy/chinese-resume-australian-coal-buying-may-signal-end-of-restrictions-20190415-p51e95.html>

Chinese firms lift Australian coal orders, as curbs tipped to end

Cole Latimer & Kirsty Needham, 15/04/2019

Chinese private power companies have started to buy contracts for Australian thermal coal, which could signal an end to China’s import restrictions that have sent prices plummeting.

Earlier this year, China placed unofficial restrictions on Australian low-grade coal imports ...

A source, who preferred to remain anonymous, said any change on the restrictions will not come until the end of May.

“Everything is pointing to this being on hold until the end of the Australia election,” he said. ...

<https://www.amsj.com.au/105-mine-workers-now-diagnosed-in-queensland-with-black-lung/>

105 mine workers now diagnosed in Queensland with Black Lung

Mining editor, Aus Mining Safety Journal, 16/04/2019

One hundred and five (105) current or former mine workers have been diagnosed in Queensland with Black Lung and the numbers are set to rise according to the mine dust diseases victims support group.

Victims Group advocate Jim Pearce said 105 current and retired Queensland coal industry workers have now been diagnosed with industrial lung disease. “We are aware that there at least 200 more workers going through the testing and diagnosis process,” Mr Pearce said. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-04-17/black-lung-victim-terry-blanch-claims-wrong-diagnosis/11020624>

Retired coal miner says company-appointed doctors didn’t detect silicosis

Erin Semmler & Jacquie Mackay, ABC, 17/04/2019

Retired Queensland miner Terry Blanch worked in the underground coal mining industry for 30 years, but was diagnosed with silicosis at the beginning of 2017.

He said it took him two-and-half-years, three specialists and a number of doctors to be officially diagnosed. ...

Mr Blanch said he was disappointed mining company-appointed doctors – who told him he had bronchitis – did not know how to read chest X-rays correctly. ...

The Mine Dust Diseases Victim Group is demanding coal producers pay one cent per tonne, per week, into a fund to assist victims.

He said no coal mining companies had shown interest in supporting the fund so far. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-04-17/mining-companies-feel-heat-on-climate-change-after-rocky-hill/11021312>

Mining companies feel the heat over climate change precedent

Eliza Goetze, ABC, 17/04/2019

A landmark decision in the NSW Land and Environment Court to knock back a new open-cut coalmine in the Hunter Valley based on its contribution to climate change is looming over other projects around the state.

Environmentalists and mining companies alike have referred to February’s Rocky Hill mine decision in two very different pleas to the Independent Planning Commission on two controversial projects currently under the commission’s remit: the proposed new Bylong Valley coal mine, north-east of Mudgee, and the Wambo Open Cut expansion, near Singleton. ...

Dozens of protesters crowded the foyer of the IPC headquarters in Sydney on Tuesday morning, presenting a letter signed by a raft of community groups including the local Bylong Valley Protection Alliance, calling on the commission to reject the proposal. ...

The Bylong coal project and Wambo open cut project remain before the Independent Planning Commission, which has not given a date for either determination.

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/6072816/bylong-farmers-fight-david-and-goliath-water-battle-with-korean-miner/>

Farmers have made an 11th hour bid to stop a controversial Upper Hunter coal mine proposal

Joanne McCarthy, Newcastle Herald, 17/04/2019

Bylong farmers are refusing to sign water agreements with the Korean owners of a controversial mine proposal which leave farmers having to prove any negative water impacts are caused by the mine.

Property owners, backed by Lock the Gate, have urged the NSW Independent Planning Commission to reject the KEPCO mine proposal or substantially tighten water agreements they allege leave them in a “David and Goliath” position with a Korean Government-backed company if things go wrong.

The agreements do not include clauses that appear in other Hunter and Central Coast mine projects, including Ulan and Wallarah 2, requiring mines to provide “make-up” water within 24 hours of a mine-related adverse impact on water supplies being identified.

The water agreements, and a condition of consent proposed by the Department of Planning, instead recommend compensatory water be provided by KEPCO “as soon as practicable”, a term described by Lock the Gate and Bylong landowners as “vague and unenforceable”. ...

“The agreements only cover stock and domestic use but not irrigation allowances that are crucial for many farmers in the valley who grow hay,” farmers told the IPC.

They alleged KEPCO would need to truck two semi-trailers of water per day to most farms in the valley just to cover stock water in the event of mine adverse impacts on the aquifer.

They alleged the company would need to truck 40 semi-trailer loads of water per day to cover the needs of one of the smallest Bylong irrigators in the event of substantial water loss, with at least eight larger irrigators requiring 80 semi-trailer loads of water per day.

“Where do they intend to get this water from?” Lock the Gate said. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/townsville/950-mining-jobs-a-step-closer-after-government-announcement/news-story/56d7c52825e7a95ca03b35844003ed82>

950 mining jobs a step closer after government announcement

Chris Lees, Townsville Bulletin, 18/04/2019

A \$1 billion coal mining project that could create about 500 jobs during construction is a step closer after being declared a co-ordinated project by the independent Coordinator-General.

The Winchester South facility, near Moranbah in the Bowen Basin, is owned by mining giant Whitehaven Coal.

The operation proposes an open-cut metallurgical coal mine that could produce up to 8 million tonnes of coal for 30 years. Townsville MP Scott Stewart said the proposed mine would deliver an estimated 950 jobs to regional Queensland. ...

The decision to declare Winchester South a co-ordinated project will help facilitate the complex approvals process. ...

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/brown-coal-generators-failed-the-grid-in-victoria-heat-wave-blackouts-55696/>

Brown coal generators failed the grid in Victoria heat-wave, blackouts

Giles Parkinson, Renew Economy, 18/04/2019

A report into the Victoria "load-shedding" events in the January heat-wave, which sparked yet another political battle over Australia's energy policy, has highlighted the critical failure of the state's main brown coal generators, as well as the important contributions of rooftop solar at key times.

The report by the Australian Energy Market Operator confirms observations made at the time that its efforts to keep the lights on in the face of a record heat-wave were undermined by a series of failures and capacity reductions at all three of Victoria's big brown coal generators.

In contrast, AEMO notes, renewables performed better at the time of the major load-shedding at 11am on January 25 than had been anticipated when modelling for the anticipated hot summer was completed.



One of the Lynas hills of radioactive residue in Malaysia. Photo: Lynas

MINING MAYHEM

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/companies/lynas-still-has-to-move-a-radioactive-mountain-say-malay-officials-20190417-p51f1k.html>

Lynas still has to move a radioactive mountain, say Malay officials

Colin Kruger, SMH, 18/04/2019

Malaysian Environment Minister Yeo Bee Yin accused Lynas Corp of putting its bottom line before the environmental concerns of local Malays in a letter to the company's employees last year, and it appears that her hard-line stance against the controversial rare earths group is prevailing.

Malaysian Government officials told the Sydney Morning Herald and The Age on Wednesday that Lynas Corp still needs to remove more than 450,000 tonnes of radioactive waste from the country for its licence to be renewed in September.

Minister Yeo laid down the law in a letter to Lynas employees in December just days after her ministry effectively ordered the company to remove 450,000 tonnes of low level radioactive waste.

"As of now, there is no viable near-term solution to manage the accumulated residue, which is stored at the open landfill temporary site," Minister Yeo said in the letter.

"The risks to the surrounding communities and environment increases with the increasing amount of accumulated residue as it is exposed to the threat of natural disasters such as major flooding." ...

In the Lynas employee letter, which was posted to her official Facebook page, Minister Yeo emphasised that the government was holding Lynas to its promise of removing the waste from

Malaysia and seized on Australian analyst reports indicating that the cost of removing the residue could be as low as \$60 million. ...

"The whole drama Lynas management is trying to stage – the myriads paid advertorials in all major newspapers, the press conferences that paint bad picture of the ministry and so on, eventually boils down to this: to protect the company bottom line by not honoring the commitment made. As a minister, my job on the other hand, is to protect the public interest and people of Malaysia." ...

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad that appeared to give a green light to Lynas continuing its operations if it agreed to extract the problematic radioactive residue before the ore was shipped to Malaysia.

"... they can continue if they promise that the raw material from Australia would be brought here only after, what they call, cracking and cleaning it up," Dr Mahathir told a local press after his cabinet had met to discuss Lynas following public disagreement among his ministers. ...

• *FFB Editor's note: This raises two interesting questions – where is Lynas going to dump its radioactive mountain; and how is it going to store the radioactive waste if it processes the rare earth in Australia before export to Malaysia?*

OIL & GAS LEAKS

<https://thewest.com.au/business/energy/woodside-opens-its-pluto-lng-to-trucks-facility-ng-b881167039z>

Woodside opens its Pluto LNG-to-trucks facility

Peter Milne, West Australian, 12/04/2019

Woodside today opened a facility to load trucks with LNG from its Pluto

plant near Karratha. When operational the facility will be able to load seven trucks a day, with each delivering more energy than 80,000 litres of diesel, and could double its capacity with 24-hour operations.

The LNG will be marketed to miners and communities in the Pilbara and Kimberley and used to fuel Woodside's LNG-powered Siem Thiima supply vessel.

Woodside chief operations officer Meg O'Neill said the Pilbara imported about three billion litres of diesel a year, mainly for the mining industry, and ships exporting iron ore consumed approximately five billion litres of heavy fuel oil a year. ...

Woodside said in a statement that in the longer term LNG trucked from Pluto could support the transition towards cleaner fuel for trucks and trains in the region's heavy transport sector. ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/due-diligence-santos-making-good-on-harbour-rejection-arguments-20190412-p51dng>

Due Diligence: Santos making good on Harbour rejection arguments

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 14/04/2019

Santos met its net debt reduction target of \$US2 billion more than a year ahead of plan, allowing it to snap up the low-cost Western Australian domestic gas business Quadrant Energy for \$US2.15 billion, its biggest move since the Harbour rebuff.

Free cash flow reached a record just north of \$US1 billion in 2018, while proven and probable reserves rose to 1.022 billion barrels, with organic additions also making a contribution. Last year Santos set a target to lift production to at least 100 million barrels of oil equivalent by 2025, up as much as 41 per cent from the 71 million – 78 million expected this year, which is bolstered by Quadrant. ...

The next step is to implement the growth strategy, he notes, pointing to the integration of the Quadrant business, finalising plans for replacement gas for the Darwin LNG plant and the next stage of LNG expansion in Papua New Guinea.

The contentious \$3 billion Narrabri coal seam gas project in NSW remains a sleeper, hinging on critical government approvals ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/apr/16/australia-accused-of-siphoning-millions-in-timor-les-ite-oil-revenue>

Australia accused of 'siphoning' millions in Timor-Leste oil revenue

Helen Davidson, The Guardian, 16/04/2019

Australia has been accused of "siphoning" millions of dollars a month in oil revenue that should belong to Timor-Leste, because the government is yet to ratify last year's maritime border treaty.

Estimates suggest the revenue taken by Australia since the signing of the treaty now totals more than it has given to Timor-Leste in foreign aid, and more than Timor-Leste spends on health in a year. ...

At the time of the signing, Australia insisted the treaty would not take effect until both countries had ratified it. But the Australian government has now failed to ratify the deal before the announcement of the federal election. Critics have blamed this on the "dysfunction" of the Coalition government and 45th parliament. ...

<https://thewest.com.au/business/energy/east-timor-secures-majority-stake-in-woodsides-sunrise-ng-b88117070z>

East Timor secures majority stake in Woodside's Sunrise

Peter Milne, West Australian, 16/04/2019

East Timor is now the majority owner of the Woodside-operated Sunrise gas field after it completed the purchase of equity from Shell and ConocoPhillips.

The East-Timorese national oil company Timor Gap paid Shell \$US300 million (\$420 million) for a 26.6 per cent interest in the Greater Sunrise fields. ...

The Greater Sunrise gas and condensate fields in the Timor Sea have remained undeveloped due to a dispute between the joint venture that wanted the gas to flow to an LNG plant in Australia and the East Timorese Government that has held out to host the development.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/agl-plans-250mw-pumped-hydro-plant-in-south-australia-as-replacement-for-gas-17008/>

AGL plans 250MW pumped hydro plant in South Australia as replacement for gas

Giles Parkinson, Renew Economy, 16/04/2019

AGL Energy, the owner of the biggest gas generation fleet in South Australia, has announced plans to build a massive 250MW/2000MWh pumped hydro energy storage project in an old

copper mine about 55km south-east of Adelaide.

The company said on Tuesday that it has agreed to pay \$31 million for the rights to develop the pumped hydro project at the old Kanmantoo mine from Hillgrove Resources, using the existing open mine pit, with a new upper pond to be built on nearby land.

The move reflects the major shift to a state grid that will be nearly all renewable energy within 10 years. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/santos-gas-find-can-fill-north-west-shelf-void/news-story/f38ee85dd0a7d566f7a6c1f173c37a39>

Santos gas find 'can fill North West Shelf void'

Perry Williams, The Australian, 17/04/2019

Santos may have struck its largest offshore gas find, with the Corvus discovery in Western Australia's Carnarvon Basin already mooted as a new supply source for the Woodside-operated North West Shelf LNG plant.

The Corvus-2 well – wholly owned by Santos and acquired as part of its \$US2.15 billion (\$3bn) takeover of Quadrant Energy – struck gas over a depth of 638 metres in one of the largest columns ever discovered across the North West Shelf.

The Corvus find may hold 2.5 trillion cubic feet of gas and 25 million barrels of condensates, consultancy Wood Mackenzie estimates. ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/gas/santos-signals-earnings-impact-from-retrospective-tax-changes-20190416-p51ern>

Santos signals earnings impact from 'retrospective' tax changes

Angela Macdonald-Smith, 17/04/2019

Santos says it will examine the impact of "retrospective" new petroleum tax legislation on its earnings after posting its second-highest quarter revenues in the January-March period.

The new rules, passed this month and taking effect on July 1, close a loophole that enabled onshore explorers to offset their offshore tax liability under the Petroleum Resource Rent Tax. They also wipe off the tax value of previous onshore investment. ...

<https://www.pesa.com.au/drilling-planned-4350m-deep-gas-well-sas-south-east/>

Otway Basin can play a lead role in gas famine

Dale Granger, PESA News, 15/04/2019

New sources of gas need to be found to offset the emerging gas crisis in the east coast market and the Otway Basin bordering the South Australian-Victorian border can be part of that solution, according to one of Adelaide's newest ASX-listed petroleum explorers.

Addressing the first day today of the two-day Paydirt 2019 South Australian Resources and Energy Investment Conference in Adelaide last week, Vintage Energy's Managing Director, Mr Neil Gibbins, said the Victorian gas supply market alone is expected to fall from 435 petajoules (PJ) two years ago to around 187PJ by 2022. ...

The PEL 155 Joint Venture in which Vintage is a 50% equity holder is moving towards signing a contract for the drilling of the new Nangwarry-1 gas well between Penola and Mount Gambier in SA's South East and which is within 10 kilometres of existing gas processing facilities. ...

<https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/business/sa-business-journal/mining-project-approvals-spark-fears-fracking-project-could-cause-earthquakes-water-problems-in-coober-pedy/news-story/cbeeb330c2535fc5561b7c0ef137d8fa?btr=db3b1611018408fdddb65ec98e464954>

Mining project approvals spark fears fracking project could cause earthquakes, water problems in Coober Pedy

Michelle Etheridge, The Advertiser, 15/04/2019

The Coober Pedy community is seeking assurances a trial fracking project in the Arckaringa Basin won't compromise the town's precious water supply or place locals at risk of earthquakes.

Sapex, a subsidiary of Tri-Star Petroleum Group, wants to use fracture stimulation on a series of wells so it can measure the quantity of oil and gas in the area.

The company would drill about 1km deep in an area about 100km away from the opal mining town.

The State Government this month approved the company's environmental impact report and statement of environmental objectives, and Tri-Star now must submit a further application with specific technical details before it receives the final go-ahead.

Coober Pedy Council chief executive Colin Pitman was worried about the project's potential impacts on the

Great Artesian Basin, which sits above the Arckaringa Basin and nearby Cooper Basin, and is the water source for the town's 1600 residents.

"We're also concerned about the effect on seismic activity in this area because about 30 per cent of Coober Pedy's buildings are underground," Mr Pitman said. ...

LEIGH CK STINK

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/south-australian-gas-cache-owner-battles-market-sceptics-20190410-p51cnu>

South Australian gas cache owner battles market sceptics

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 14/04/2019

Independent confirmation of a large volume of gas reserves in South Australia that could help solve the east coast gas crisis is being largely dismissed by energy analysts and some buyers amid doubts about the economics and environmental credentials of a production process that has been banned in Queensland.

Leigh Creek Energy's success last month in securing certification of 1153 petajoules of "2P" reserves for its underground coal gasification (UCG) project in an abandoned coal field has increased interest in the project, and has triggered "a lot of phone calls," said managing director Phil Staveley. (2P reserves are those deemed "proven and probable".)

The junior, whose share price has more than trebled since early February, is describing the resource as the "east coast market's largest uncontracted 2P gas reserve" and is running a tender process for the gas.

It is negotiating with potential joint venture partners that could help fund development of a \$3 billion project, involving a 200-kilometre pipeline, gas plant and associated fertilisers plant, about 550 kilometres north of Adelaide, Mr Staveley said. ...

But UCG, which involves burning coal underground to create synthesis gas, or "syngas", has a poor reputation in Australia because of environmental damage caused by proponents in Queensland, including former Rich Lister Peter Bond's Linc Energy. The Queensland government prohibited it in 2017, saying risks from the process "outweighed any potential positives". ...

Still, Mr Staveley said a demonstration project late last year proved Leigh Creek Energy could carry out the process environmentally, technically and

safely and that the South Australian regulator remained "open minded". The company now was starting the approvals process for a much larger commercial project, expected to take about two years, targeting coals lying between 500 and 800 metres underground, he said.

Environmental groups, including Conservation Council SA, have called for the SA government to rule out granting a commercial licence for the project. The state Department for Energy and Mining says the company would have to demonstrate compliance with all regulatory requirements to gain approval. ...

But analysts are still questioning the costs of upgrading the syngas – a mix of carbon dioxide, hydrogen, carbon monoxide, methane, nitrogen steam and gaseous hydrocarbons – to sales quality, and of a pipeline to connect the site to the east-coast grid. The inclusion of a fertiliser plant also suggests a value-added product is needed to make the economics work. ...

Mr Staveley gave a possible capital cost of about \$1 billion for the gas plant and pipeline, plus \$2 billion for the fertiliser plant.

IMPORT INSANITY

https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/federal-election-2019/flinders-battle-heats-up-as-voters-home-in-on-agl-gas-project-20190418-p51f80.html?ref=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_source=rss_feed

Flinders battle heats up as voters home in on AGL gas project

Sumeyya Ilanbey, Brisbane Times, 18/04/2019

The controversial Adani mine is not the only environmental issue on the minds of Mornington Peninsula voters, with locals also fighting against what they say is the "commercial exploitation" of their region by energy giant AGL.

Candidates vying for the federal seat of Flinders, held by the Liberals' Greg Hunt, are all united in their opposition to AGL's Gas Import Jetty Project at Crib Point and have vowed to help stop the project from going ahead.

The energy provider is planning a project to import liquefied natural gas via Western Port Bay. But locals have described the proposal as futile, saying Australia is the world's biggest gas exporter. ...

FOSSIL POLITICS

https://www.skynews.com.au/details/_6026182201001

Quitting coal use by 2050 is 'nonsense': Canavan

Sky News, 15/04/2019

Resources Minister Matt Canavan says the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's warning to stop coal by 2050 is 'nonsense' and will not happen. Senator Canavan has pointed to Australia's soaring coal use for his prediction, which he says has increased by 60 per cent this century. The Nationals Senator has told Sky News the 'demonisation of one type of fuel and the thousands of workers that rely on it is the wrong approach to protecting the environment.' He warns a would-be Labor government will be controlled by the Greens, in exchange for the party's support, to bring down the coal industry and scrap the Adani project.

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/national/senator-matt-canavan-eats-an-onion-to-draw-attention-to-coal/news-story/7f0c6d88e1e2708832e1acc73b55f8c52b-tr=11d39237c14a915a1a1ceed2603bbe99>

Senator Matt Canavan eats an onion to draw attention to coal

Michael Madigan, Courier-Mail, 15/04/2019

Queensland Senator Matt Canavan has emerged as the campaign's master media manipulator by leveraging the consumption of a brown onion to secure valuable airtime spouting the benefits of coal mining.

Canavan ate the onion at a Brisbane market on Sunday, following in the footsteps of Tony Abbott who pioneered onion munching in Tasmania in 2015.

The incident has transfixed media, with some suggestions the act of onion eating may become a potent symbol of solidarity among Conservative politicians – the dietary equivalent of the Masonic handshake.

By this morning Canavan was on Sky News, happily allowing himself to be quizzed on onion eating and even boldly speculating on nibbling on a chilli before segueing into his favourite subject, coal mining.

Canavan reassured his audience that the black stuff was no sunset industry under a Coalition Government.

"Coal use will increase until 2040."

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/rio-tinto-promises-not-to-undermine-renewables-and-not-to-prop-up-coal-44276/>

Rio Tinto promises not to undermine renewables – and not to prop up coal

Sophie Vorrath, Renew Economy, 15/04/2019

Australian mining giant Rio Tinto has pledged to support renewable energy and climate action – and to "publicly argue against" government subsidisation of coal power – while using its significant clout to urge associated industry groups to do the same.

The former coal mining giant, which sold off the last of its coal assets less than a year ago, said in an Industry associations and climate change statement late last week that it recognised global warming as "a critical global challenge."

And in what looks like a thinly veiled threat to fossil fuel lobby groups like the Mining Council of Australia – which has notably supported the federal Coalition's push to underwrite new coal power – Rio calls on industry associations to likewise align themselves with the Paris climate goals, or lose its support. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/experts-find-integrity-issues-with-coalition-s-direct-action-policy-20190416-p51eoj.html>

Experts find 'integrity issues' with Coalition's direct action policy

Nicole Hasham, SMH, 17/04/2019

A panel of government-appointed experts has uncovered "integrity issues" with the Coalition's flagship climate change policy, triggering a warning that some of the emission reductions claimed by Australia may not be genuine.

The findings relate to the Abbott-era Emissions Reduction Fund, established in 2014 to replace Labor's so-called "carbon tax". The Morrison government extended the fund in February with a \$2 billion injection of taxpayer funds, and renamed it the Climate Solutions Fund.

The direct action initiative gives financial incentives, in the form of credits, to projects that reduce carbon emissions or draw them from the atmosphere, such as by revegetating land.

An official panel of experts has identified "integrity issues" with two revegetation methods under the fund. Among the committee's findings are that some projects may have received credits for carbon sequestration that has not yet occurred and may never occur – for example, because the land is not capable

of growing forest cover. ...

The findings pose a concern because half the 193 million tonnes of emissions cuts claimed by the Coalition government under the fund relate to projects using one of the methods under a cloud. ...

Australian Conservation Foundation chief executive Kelly O'Shanassy said the concerns identified in the review "aren't minor technical issues".

"It is further evidence the Morrison Government's climate plan is riddled with holes and cannot be relied upon to do the heavy lifting to cut Australia's growing climate pollution," she said. ...

<https://www.katherinetimes.com.au/story/6067523/coalition-says-fracking-the-nt-could-create-6500-jobs/>

Coalition says fracking the NT could create 6500 jobs

Chris McLennan, Katherine Times, 17/04/2019

The Federal Coalition was in Darwin today to again push the job opportunities to flow from the development of an onshore gas industry in the NT.

Minister for Resources Matt Canavan was with CLP Candidate for Solomon Kathy Ganley and Lingiari hopeful Jacinta Nampijinpa Price on the Darwin wharf to re-announce the surprise Budget cash.

The Federal Government said on April 2 it would invest \$8.4 million to "accelerate" the development of the NT's onshore shale gas industries. ...

"The NT's independent inquiry found that even small-scale developments in the Beetaloo could create more than 6500 fulltime jobs and positive economic impacts of up to \$2.8 billion for the Northern Territory and over \$9 billion for Australia as a whole over 25 years," Kathy Ganley said.

The issue of job creation has been a point of contention.

The Pepper inquiry's own independent economic assessment by ACIL Allen Consulting focused on a number of potential direct and indirect economic benefits, impacts and risks over a 25-year period. ...

The ACIL report said on average 524 direct and indirect jobs would be created and maintained over a 25-year period if the moratorium is lifted and larger-scale development occurs with 670 wells.

The 6500 jobs used by Ms Ganley comes from the Deloitte Access Economics' report commissioned by the

News this week ... from previous page



Traditional owners protesting fracking in the Northern Territory brought drilling equipment to the front lawns of the Northern Territory's parliament. Photo: Supplied

<https://www.smh.com.au/federal-election-2019/coalition-mps-urged-to-sell-the-abc-and-support-a-flat-tax-in-ipa-call-20190416-p51enu.html>

Coalition MPs urged to sell the ABC and support a flat tax in IPA call

David Crowe, SMH, 16/04/2019

Coalition candidates are being urged to endorse a conservative manifesto that includes selling the ABC, slashing the company tax rate and pulling out of the Paris agreement on climate change.

The Institute of Public Affairs is also calling on Liberals and Nationals to repeal the ban on offensive speech in the Racial Discrimination Act and scrap the Fair Work Act including its provisions on the minimum wage. ...

The conservative think tank not only wants Parliament to withdraw from the Paris agreement to reduce carbon emissions but also abolish the Renewable Energy Target and launch a royal commission into climate change data.

"The Bureau of Meteorology appears to have tampered with temperature and climate data and to have re-written history to make it appear as if the temperature is higher than it actually is, and that it has risen faster than it actually has," the IPA said. ...

The other proposals from the IPA are to implement a flat income tax rate, reduce the company tax rate to 20 per cent, remove all references to race in the constitution, re-introduce a debt ceiling to stop government lending, abolish compulsory superannuation and legalise nuclear energy. ...



Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association in 2015.

The head of the fracking inquiry, Justice Rachel Pepper, described the Deloitte jobs forecast as "courageous". ...

https://www.buzzfeed.com/hannahryan/traditional-owners-fracking-nt?fbclid=IwAR0_KIWu3HEdgBcyZkKzfid-0cy6vYr3LePym2kXxkqB0k07kNhlbtBHKvNmY

Aboriginal traditional owners have drilled parliament lawns to fight fracking

Hannah Ryan, Buzzfeed, 16/04/2019

Traditional owners protesting fracking in the Northern Territory have brought drilling equipment to the front lawns of the Northern Territory's parliament.

They say they want to let politicians know how it feels to have unwelcome machinery on your land, and that they have not given their consent for gas companies to undertake exploration on their country.

Wednesday marks one year since the Northern Territory government lifted the moratorium on fracking. ...

Conrad Rory, a 32-year-old Borroloola resident, told BuzzFeed News the protest aimed to show politicians how fracking exploration would affect Aboriginal communities.

"We're trying to protect our country and protect our water," he said.

Rory sat in the seat of the mini-bulldozer as the group cordoned off an area of the grass and began to drill.

Rory said he fears that fracking could contaminate water and animals, ultimately leading to Aboriginal communities being moved to urban centres like Darwin and Alice Springs. ...

Rory said he wants fracking to be banned entirely. "Just stop it completely," he said. "What letter between N and O don't they understand?"

SACRIFICE ZONE
 Cloudcatcher Media's feature-length film:
 battle to save the Pilliga
<https://vimeo.com/257444267>

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